St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street ⊕ Whitehall PA 18052 www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org ⊕ 610-264-8421





We Worship, We Love, We Serve – No Matter What!

March 3, 2024 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30am

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We are a place where love can grow! As the music begins, please find your place and quietly center your spirit for our worship of God together.

Our Offering is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts to God of praise and gratitude, to be presented during the service. While guests are welcome to contribute, please know there is no obligation; the financial support of our church is primarily the responsibility of our congregation members.

Children's Faith Formation is integrated into the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the 'Blessed to Be a Blessing' lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom for a brief orientation and to sign them in. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.

* Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome to Our Guests please sign the red guest book!
- Lenten Soup & Bread Hosts Needed see red display stand
- Lehigh University Choirs Concert Today, March 3, 3pm
- Order Your Easter Flowers Today!
- BINGO March 15
- Easter Egg Preparation and Hunt March 23, 12-3pm
- Holy Week Services
- ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING March 10

*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ

- One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
- All: And also with you!

*Call to Worship

- One: Weary and overwhelmed, we gather.
- All: God's holy word revives us.
- One: Simple and confused, we yield.
- All: God's word gives us wisdom.
- One: Blind and uncomprehending, we await.
- All: God's word enlightens our eyes.
- One: More precious than gold is God's word.
- All: Sweeter than honey are God's commands.

*Opening Hymn

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

- *Gathering Prayer Liturgist: Robin Brensinger All: God of wisdom, we rejoice to worship you today. Open our hearts and discipline our will. Teach us to follow your perfect ways. Test us with your righteous decrees and turn us toward your holy light. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, comfort and redeem us with your holy gospel. Amen.
- Call to Confession
 Liturgist: Robin Brensinger
 One: With hearts of gladness for your grace, we come before you, O God, to confess what you already know. We have failed to keep your commands. Again and again, we have followed our own will, rather than your holy and life-giving will for our lives. We have twisted your decrees and institutions to suit our preconceptions and interests rather than your own.
- All: Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from hidden faults, that the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts, may be acceptable to you, our rock and our redeemer.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

THE CHURCH: ITS NATURE AND FOUNDATION



Assurance of Forgiveness Liturgist: Robin Brensinger One: God shows steadfast love and blesses to the thousandth generation those who walk in God's ways. In love, God sent Jesus to bless and redeem all of God's people.

All: God forgives us of our sins and restores us to new life. Let us rejoice in God's mercy. Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

Children and youth are welcome to come up to the chancel steps.

Hymn

To Mock Your Reign Verses 1 and 3

found on page 5 of the bulletin.

*Scriptu	Ire ReadingLuke 23: 13-25		
-	Scripture Reader: Corinna Schneck		
One: All:	The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.		
Sermon	Rev. Steve Davis		
	Lantan Sarias: Cod Did This for Voul		

enten Series: God Did This for You! I Invite You Into My Presence

Anthem

My Savior, My All Jay Althouse

To Mock Your Reign 2781 To mock your reign, O dear-est Lord, they made a crown of thorns; mock ac - claim, O gra-cious Lord, they snatched a pur - ple cloak; 2 In 3 A scep-tered reed, O pa-tient Lord, they thrust in - to your hand, you with taunts a - long that road from which no one re - turns. set your pas - sion turned, for all they cared, in - to a sol - dier's joke. and act - ed out their grim cha - rade to its ap - point-ed end. They could not know, as we do now, how glo - rious is that crown; They could not know, as we do now, that though we mer-it blame. They could not know, as we do now, though em - pires rise and fall. that thorns would flower up - on your brow, your sor-rows heal our own. you will your robe of mer - cy throw a - round our na - ked shame. your king-dom shall not cease to grow till love em-brac-es all.

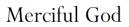
WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000); para. Matthew 27:27-31, Mark 15:16-20, John 19:1-5 MUSIC: English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) World © 1973 Hope Publishing Company KINGSFOLD C.M.D.

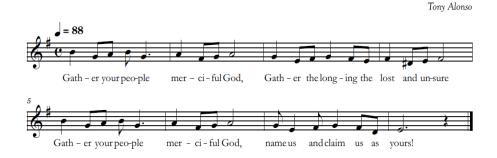
HOLY WEEK

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayer of the PeopleRev. Davis					
The Lord's Prayer	Bill Wallace, Aoote	earoa/New Zealand			
O most Compassionate I	Life-Giver,				
may we honor and praise	e you;				
may we work with you to establish your new order					
of justice, peace and love					
Give us what we need for	r growth,				
and help us, through for	0	forgiveness.			
Strengthen us in the time		0			
for all tenderness, streng		,			
Amen.	,				

Sung Response





Sacrament of Holy Communion

Please sign the communion book in the back of the church if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2024.

We Are an Inclusive Community! In the United Church of Christ, we observe an "Open Communion." ALL persons are welcome to receive the gifts of God's grace and love with us at the table. In the UCC, ALL means ALL!

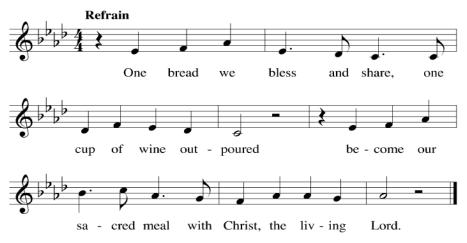
The Invitation to Receive

- One: God of love, as we come to share in this great feast, hear the cry of those who yearn for love;
- All: Fractured families, broken relationships, neglected, unwanted, lonely, or alone.
- One: Hear those who yearn for justice;
- All: Persecuted and oppressed, exploited, ill-treated, broken, marginalized and "othered."
- One: Hear the cry of those who yearn for peace;
- All: In battle zones and broken states, frightened, anxious, longing for freedom, fearing genocide.
- One: Hear the cry of those who yearn for healing;
- All: Physical and spiritual hurting, weakened, depressed
- One: Hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy; convicted, in need of your grace, contrite, humble, bowed down.
- All: Compassionate Life-Giver, as we share in the breaking of the bread and wine of everlasting life, may we know the peace, love, justice, healing and mercy of God in this and all days. Amen.

Words of Institution and Consecration

Music During Communion

One Bread We Bless and Share R. Manalo



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Sharing the Meal

The elements will be passed in the pew. We will receive the bread and eat at the same time, then the cup is passed and all drink together.

Music

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

All: Amen

Music

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

All: Amen

Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

All: Having shared in this holy meal, may it bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministry of St. John's UCC!

*Doxology

A Lenten Doxology

Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

> Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spirit whom imparts God's Love in Christ into our Hearts. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

All: O God, whose richness is not found at the tables of those willing to exchange goods for the sake of acquiring earthly riches, but rather is found at the table of extravagant love for neighbor, we entrust these gifts to your care that they may abound in your steadfast love for all persons. Use them for the building of your beloved community here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

Near the Cross Verses 1 and 2

found on page 10 of the bulletin

*The Benediction

Postlude

When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship is concluded and our service in the world continues.

The Benediction and Postlude send us out to be the people of God in our community.

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Altar Flowers

One vase in loving memory of my parents', Betty and Arlington Blose's, 72nd wedding anniversary on March 1, 1952, by daughter Sandy Koch

> Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule 8:30am Adult Faith Formation

Friendship Sunday School Class
9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation
with Sunday Social time following worship
11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth

Attendance – February 25 Onsite – 89 Online – 31

Serving in Worship Leadership

March 3

Liturgist – Robin Brensinger Scripture Reader – Corinna Schneck Ushers – Consistory Worship Tech – Bill Castello Acolyte – Zachary Szoke Social Hour Hosts – Kathy Roth and Melissa Szoke

March 10

Liturgist – Open Ushers – Bruce and Bobbi Pope Acolyte – Open Social Hour Hosts – Amy Feidler, Cindy Reck, Karen Stoisits

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Phyllis Ambearle, Clarence Biehn, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Tracey Glass, Phyllis Gutekunst, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, David and Grace Mohr, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

Continued prayers for those suffering from weather disasters across the US, as well as the war against Ukraine by Russia, now over 700 days, and the war between Israel and Hamas, and the Palestinian people. Pray for all the innocents killed and suffering in Gaza. Pray for actions to change policy and practice.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio and Kaden Rossanese.

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, tell them you are a member of St. John's or use the church code, **473**. If you have someone for us to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 10. Be sure to set your clocks ahead!

ST. JOHN'S SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship for 2024 is now available for anyone wishing to sponsor the following: Altar flowers are \$25.00 a vase, Bulletins are \$20, Wheat Basket, where the donation will go to the Food Pantry, is \$15, and the monthly newsletter is \$100.00. Please contact the church office for additional information or to sign up!

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHORAL ARTS

Join us TODAY, March 3rd at 3PM for a special afternoon of music presented by the Lehigh University Choral Arts program under the direction of Steven Samtez. Light refreshments will be served after the concert in Fox Hall. A free-will offering will be taken at the door for those wishing to donate to the university's music program. All Are Welcome!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING "SHARE THE LIGHT"

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), now in its 75th year, is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. OGHS programs also include health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing, and women's empowerment. Your contribution will be received in worship on **Sunday, March 10, and during the entire month of March**. Please place your offering in the collection plate, mail to the church, or give on-line or by text.

BINGO!

St. John's first Gift Card Bingo of 2024 will be held on Friday, March 15th. Tickets are now available, see Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer. You can help make this event successful by donating:

Hot Dogs (Beef)
Hot dog and Hamburger rolls
A carton of Sprite (Regular and/or Diet)
A crockpot of Perogie Casserole (Any recipe)
Items for "Tricky Tray" table. These can be gift cards or baskets or anything worth around \$20 - \$30.
Sponsor a game. Each game costs \$50.
Your help and assistance on Bingo night.

Please contact Tom Moyer if you are able to donate any of these items. Thanks for your help. Don't forget to get your tickets early!

EASTER & SPRING CRAFT SALE

Hop to it—our Crafters have Easter items for sale. Choose from bunnies, chicks, table runners, T-towels, decorations, and baskets. **Please look for our table in the lounge area on Sundays, March 10 and March 17, before and after the worship service.** We will also have available, among other things: 12-bean soup mix, tank covers and look for our newest items— heat resistant pot handle mitts and extra-large bowl cozies. You'll also find a large selection of baby items and doll sweaters. Contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572.

DISASTER RELIEF – UKRAINE

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, a war that has become the largest attack on a European country since World War II and now in its third year. Thousands of lives lost; homes, schools, hospitals bombed and destroyed—there's no end in sight. If you would like to continue our support of Ukraine through UCC National, World Central Kitchen, and Project HOPE, you will find special Disaster Relief Fund offering envelopes on the table in the lounge or donations can be made online or by text giving. Be sure to indicate Ukraine in the memo section.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For March, we are collecting mac and cheese, canned corn, pancake mix and svrup. For Easter, we are collecting canned fruits, canned vegetables, and canned sweet potatoes for our Easter meal distribution. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the where you can place vour donations. sanctuarv Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given online or by text. For more information, contact Gary Black at gary.t.black@outlook.com (484) 274-2405.

AN EASY WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S

Do you realize that by purchasing **Giant and Weis gift cards** and by **saving Redner's register tapes**, you are contributing money to St. John's? For every Giant and Weis card sold, the church receives 5% back. For every Redner's tape collected, the church receives 1% back. Gift cards can be purchased through the church office or by seeing Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler every Sunday morning before or after worship. The Redner's tapes can be mailed to the church office or placed in a collection jar found on the table in the lounge area. It's a simple way to give financially to the church. Think of St. John's every time you go grocery shopping.

PASTIE SALE

It's time for our spring Pastie Sale. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these frozen pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. You can choose from the following: beef, beef (no onion), chicken, sausage, ham, veggie melt, spinach melt, and apple, cherry, and blueberry turnovers. Try our newest selections: Philly cheese steak, cheeseburger, chicken cordon bleu, Mexican, and pizza pasties. Prices range from \$7.25 to \$8.25 for the meat pasties & melts and \$4.25 for the fruit turnovers. Orders forms can be found on the table in the lounge area and on the church's website. **Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton**. You can return your order form and payment to the church office or place it in

the offering plate or give it to Carol Raszler. Please be sure to specify your pick-up date on the form—either Thursday, April 25, or Sunday, April 28. **Deadline to place your order is Sunday, April 7.** If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at <u>craszler@aol.com</u>.

OCEAN CITY TRIP

Ocean City, New Jersey bus trip - We will try again to go to Ocean City, NJ this year. The date is Saturday, June 22nd. The cost is \$45.00 per person. We will leave the church at 8:30 AM and leave Ocean City at 7 PM. There will be a designated time during the day to bring back your items to the bus. The deadline is May 22nd to sign up. Please see Brian Strauss.

PHILLIES GAME

Do you have Phillies fever?? The Phillies Phundraising program helps out non-profitable organizations by giving back if you buy Phillies tickets. There are 25 tickets available to purchase for the Phillies game vs the Cleveland Guardians on Friday, July 26th at 6:40 PM. It is first come, first serve. The tickets cost \$55 each and the seats are in section 110 which is right along the first base side. It is also Trea Turner Bobblehead night! For each ticket sold St John's receives a rebate for \$4. If all tickets sell, we get a rebate check back for \$100.00. The deadline is June 2nd to purchase tickets. Please see Brian Strauss.

GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

You are invited to attend a grief support group at Asbury UM Church, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the upper-level Parlor and is led by Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries. Please contact her at estupp@asburylv.org or (610) 428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, March 26**.

BASKET SOCIAL – DONATIONS NEEDED NOW

We need donations of baskets for our annual Basket Social in May. There are so many themes you could choose from, some of which are the following:

Books, Sports, Camping, Picnic, Crafts, Puzzles, Linens, Baby Items, Baking, Beverages, Snacks, Car Care, Movie Passes, Park Passes, Beauty/ Spa Items, Children's Games/Toys, Restaurant Gift Cards, Pet Supplies, Gardening/Plants

Monetary donations are accepted if you would like us to put together a basket for you. Be sure to include a tag listing the items in your basket. We have room now to store the baskets, so get started and bring them into church as soon as possible. If you have any questions or plan to donate, contact our Co-Chairs: Amy Feidler, Carol Raszler, and Mike Borgman.

Reserve the dates: Saturday, May 4, 10am-2pm Sunday, May 5, 8am-9:30am and 10:30am-11:30am

Tickets will be pulled at 12:00 noon on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 a sheet (26 tickets per sheet).

Come to Fox Hall for the event. There will also be a Bake Sale on both days. Attention Bakers: a pie or cake (or two) would be a great donation – and much appreciated!



Lenten Prayer Gatherings

The 4 PA UCC Conference Ministers and UCC Staff Members will lead weekly prayer gatherings during Lent on **Wednesdays from**

12:00-12:30pm. The first prayer time is Wednesday, February 21 and will follow each Wednesday until March 20th.

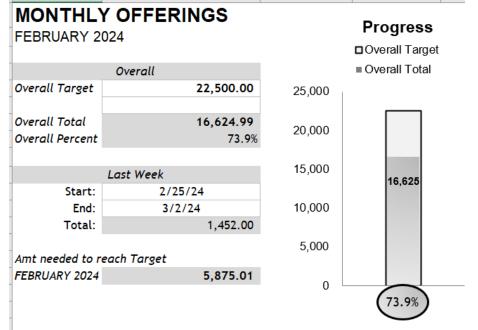
4 Conference Lenten Study Looking Back to Look Forward

The Penn West, Penn Central, Penn Northeast and Penn Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ cordially invite you to participate in this virtual Lenten opportunity! Meeting each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm, this Bible Study explores the foundations of our identity as Christians and members of the UCC as we explore what the future may hold! Each week is unique so if you cannot attend every date you can still participate in as many as you are able. If you have any questions, or you would like to participate in this study, please email pattyr@pnec.org to receive the link. Thank you!

March 6: Lent in Context March 13: The Priesthood of All Believers March 20: Communion

GOOD FRIDAY ~ STATIONS OF THE CROSS Community Worship at St. John's UCC, Mickley 11:00am – 12:00pm ~ Come and Go 12:00 – 1:00pm Worship Service

FINANCIAL UPDATE



YTD OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2024

ĺ		Overall	
ĺ	Overall Target	270,000.00	
	On Track Target	45,000.00	
	Overall Total	32,760.64	
	Overall Percent	12.1%	
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Progress Overall Target Overall Total On Track Target 00,000 50,000 50,000 0 12.1%

Furnace Loan balance = \$4,271

Church Calendar for the Week of March 3 through March 10

nui en Calen	ual for the w	cer of march 5 through ma
Sun 3/3	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship/Communion
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
	3:00 pm	Lehigh University Choir
Tues 3/5	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
	7:00 pm	Choir
Wed 3/6	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Soup and Devotions
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/7	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Mission Committee
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 3/9	9:00 am	Zumba
Sun 3/10	Daylight Sav	vings Time
	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
		Craft Sale
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Newsletter Deadline

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor

Director of Music Ministries

Office Administrator

Treasurer

Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian

Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor

Custodian

Custodian

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