

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026
9:30am

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

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation
of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ!*

You are WELCOME HERE!

Our Offering is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts of praise and gratitude to God, 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.

Sunday Social is a time to gather for light refreshments and connection time, to visit, make new friends and build relationships. Join us in Fox Hall following worship each Sunday, hosted by various congregants and groups.

Children's Faith Formation begins in the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. Parents are asked to accompany their child if they are at the kids' table in the back.

On Communion Sundays the children remain in the worship service.

Hymnal Abbreviations

WR—Worship and Rejoice

NC—New Century Hymnal

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Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

We are proud to say... "You are... **Welcome Here!**"

Please "check in" on Facebook and "Like" and "Subscribe" to the St. John's YouTube channel and help us share hope in our area.

- Wednesday Evenings in Lent – 6pm Soup & Bread meals signups, and devotional series, Mary's Way of the Cross
- Fun-Raising Opportunities – Phantoms Hockey Game, Gift Card Bingo – Friday, March 13!
- Egg Hunt Preparations – Egg Cartons and Candy
- Easter Flower Sponsorship – **due March 15**
- Prayer Shawl for Chao Ho, requested by Carole O'Connell
- Holy Week Services – March 29-April 5

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

By the Babylonian Rivers

by Anne Marie David

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: Only the hungry search for bread.

Only the thirsty look for water.

All: This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

One: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

All: This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

One: So let us come with our hunger and thirst,

our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

All: And may the God of life satisfy our souls.

***Opening Hymn: NC# 400**

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Verses 1 and 2

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: We are wounded, worried, betrayed, afraid, and injured. We are physically, mentally, and emotionally challenged.

All: May we drink from these waters and never thirst again.

One: We chase thrills, happiness, wealth, health, longevity, him, her, peace; the right job, the right look, anything to lessen our pain.

We exhaust even ourselves with our efforts.

All: May we drink from these waters and never thirst again.

One: We continue, broken - day in and day out, hopelessly applying quick fixes. The pain will not subside. We are beckoned by an eternal yearning. We long for relief, we seek it, search for it,

yearn for it - relief that can't be purchased or bartered.

All: May we drink from these waters and never thirst again.

All: God we are grateful that your thoughts and your ways are higher than our own. We offer our gratitude for forgiving our sins, for giving us new mercies each new day and for always welcoming us back into fellowship with you. Thank you for providing waters from which we may drink and never thirst again.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Sung Response

Eleison, Have Mercy
Translation: Lord Have Mercy

Eleison, Have Mercy

Lenten Call to Confession

Joel Raney

♩ = 60 **Choir Only**

The musical score is written for a choir in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: Ky-rie e-lei-son Ky-rie e-lei-son Ky-rie e-lei-son Have mer-cy, I pray Ky-rie e-lei-son Ky-rie e-lei-son Have mer-cy, have mer-cy, I pray.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: God’s grace and mercy abounds. God is with us in the change. God’s everlasting arms embrace us.

All: Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free. Thanks be to God!

Children’s Message

Rev. Davis & Samantha Kistler

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

Hymn:

The Cross of Jesus All Verses

The Cross of Jesus



1. Come, O God, re - new your peo - ple, We who long to
2. Deep with - in cre - ate a new heart; Melt a - way the
3. In the dark - ness that sur - rounds us We have lost you
4. Call us forth to walk in jus - tice. Res - cue us from



see your face. Strength - en hearts that have grown fee - ble;
win - ter chill. Help us now to make a new start,
from our sight. E - ven though your love has found us,
sin and grave. Through the pow - er of your Spir - it,



Fill our lives with truth and grace. On - ly you can
Help us now to know your will. Washed in wa - ters
We em - brace the powers of night. Scat - ter now our
Breathe in us the breath that saves. Strength - en us in



win our free - dom; On - ly you can bring us
of for - giv - ness, Cleansed in wa - ters of new
deep - est dark - ness. Guide our hearts in - to the
our com - mun - ion, One in Word and cup and



peace. On - ly in the cross of Je - sus
birth, Lead us to the cross of Je - sus,
light. Join us to the cross of Je - sus.
bread. Here with - in the cross of Je - sus,



Will the cap - tives find re - lease.
Bring - ing life to all the earth.
Help us set our liv - ing right.
All who hun - ger will be fed.

*Scripture Reading

Scripture Reader: Tom Moyer

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night, for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"

No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem?

No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

Steadfast Love: My Soul Clings

Song of Praise

Let Me Thirst With You
Ruth Elaine Schram

Let me thirst with You, in the wilderness. Let me hunger with You as You fast and pray. Help me learn to resist every temptation. Let me thirst with You, thirst with you, thirst with you.

Let me thirst with You, in the garden. Let me seek to do the will of God, God's and not my own. Help me learn to obey every instruction. Let me thirst with You, thirst with You, thirst with You.

And as you journey to the cross, help me carry its weight. Let me feel the burden You have borne for me. And let me know the depth of Your pain as You suffered on the tree; let me thirst with You. Let me thirst with You!

Let me taste the wine, let me taste of the wine of redemption! Let me know the grace and mercy of Your sacrifice. Let me never forget the price of forgiveness. Let me thirst with you, thirst with You, thirst with You. Let me thirst with You. Let me thirst.

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Rev. Davis &
Samantha Kistler

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. 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!

Prayer Shawl for Chao Ho
requested by Carole O'Connell

*Doxology

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Verse 4

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

All: Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.

We Serve

*Sending Hymn:

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 8

The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Lenten Playlist

How Beautiful

(You are free to go when the video in song concludes)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I



un - to me and rest; Lay down, O wea - ry
hold, I free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter;
am this dark world's light; Look un - to me, your



one, lay down Your head up - on my breast." I
thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live." I
morn shall rise, And all your day be bright." I



came to Je - sus as I was, So
came to Je - sus, and I drank Of
looked to Je - sus, and I found In



wea - ry, worn, and sad; I found in him a
that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was quenched, my
him my star, my sun; And in that light of



rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Tune: KINGSFOLD, C.M.D.; English melody

Attendance – March 1

Onsite 99 Online 52

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:15am Friendship Class

9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly

10:30am Sunday Social

Third Sunday in Lent, March 8

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11 and John 4:5-42

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

Scripture Reader: Tom Moyer

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon

Greeter: Sherri Gangewere

Usher: Charlotte Kerrigan and Marion DeMilio

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 15

Lectionary Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-13 and Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14 and John 9:1-41

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Regi Mohr

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

Greeter: Pam Repetz and Jackie Maxon

Usher: Carole O'Connell and Kim Hillegass

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, Gracie Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Christina Bach, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass and Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John Hoff and Charlee Hoff, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Dawn Luckenbill, Jean McGonigle, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Eleanor and Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Lori Stocker, Barry Stephens and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, and George Williams.

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

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**. To add someone to our prayer list please contact the Church Office.

EASTER FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Your help is needed in enhancing the beauty of St. John's this Easter by decorating the sanctuary in Easter flowers. To order, please complete an order form and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office with payment. **Order forms are due no later than Sunday, March 15th**.

Flowers available for \$12.00

White, Orange, and Yellow Lilies

Tulips and Easter Mums

\$50.00 Chancel Altar Spring Arrangements

GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one, you are invited to attend a monthly daytime grief support group at Asbury UMC, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown. Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries, leads the group. For more information and to indicate your interest in attending, please contact her at estupp@asburylv.org or 610-428-9095.

APPLEBEES BURGERS FOR A CAUSE

Now available! Applebee's burger gift cards are good for any burgers on their menu (Some cost over \$17.00), for the price of \$10 per card. The certificates never expire, and are good at Applebee's in our area. They make great stocking stuffers! See Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer to purchase these certificates.

GIANT, WEIS, REDNER'S

Buy Giant and Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Also good for purchasing gas. You can get your gift cards from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday. Save the register tapes from Redner's and the church receives 1% back. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area or see Karen Stoitsits. **Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include other stores' receipts.**

EASTER & SPRING CRAFT SALE

Our crafters group "Keeping You in Stitches" has been hard at work to offer you a variety of items for the Easter and Spring season. From bowl cozies, T-towels, and table runners to baby and household items, there's so much to choose from. We also have a new supply of 12-bean soup mix. Come to the lounge area before or after worship, March 8 and March 15!

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of March, we are collecting items for the Easter meal—canned corn, canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, and coffee. Any other food donations as well as monetary donations are always welcome. Your donations can be placed in the shopping card found in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary. For more information or to volunteer on the 4th Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com.

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS 2026

This coupon book, good for all of 2026, contains discount offers for restaurants, hotels, car rentals, entertainment venues, amusement parks, clothing, food, and much more. Cost is \$25 per book. A sample copy is on display in the lounge area. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase.

IRONPIGS PARTY PORCH, FOOD, FUN, AND FIREWORKS, PLUS A BASEBALL GAME

Spring training has begun, so it is time to "think spring." St. John's annual outing for the IronPigs party porch will again be on Memorial Day eve, Sunday, May 24, 2026. Tickets cost \$40 for great seats in the party porch, buffet supper, and unlimited soft drinks and water. Fireworks will follow the game.

Please see Tom Moyer to make your reservation. This trip is organized by St. John's "Fun-raising" committee.

SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

There are only 2 seats remaining for our bus trip to Lancaster for the Sight & Sound production of "Joshua." Please see Tom Moyer for your reservation. Cost of the trip (including buffet lunch at Yoder's restaurant) is \$150.00. **For those who have paid the \$75 deposit, your remaining balance of \$75 can be paid at any time, since the trip is now definite. Please give payments to Tom Moyer, or send to the Church office.**

WE NEED FILLED BASKETS FOR OUR BASKET SOCIAL

It's time to start thinking and getting items together to fill baskets for our Basket Social on Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3. If you do not wish to make a basket, monetary donations are being accepted, and we will put a basket together for you. We are also looking for gift card donations to restaurants and businesses. If you need a basket, many can be found in Room 303 for you to use. If you have any questions, see Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

EASTER BASKETS FOR YOUTH

A total of 10 baskets were given out to members of the congregation to be filled with goodies such as candies, fidgets, knickknacks, or whatever else is going to make it an “eggstravagant” Easter basket! The baskets will then be delivered by **Pinebrook Family Answers’ High Fidelity Wraparound Process** to youth in the Lehigh Valley between the ages of 8-18 years old who are in low-income families and have a mental health diagnosis. **Baskets are due back in the church office no later than Sunday, March 29.** Contact Emma Rarich at (484) 714-6757 or email at erarich@pbfalv.org if you have any questions or need further information

GIFT CARD BINGO – THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 13

20 Chances to win Gift Cards worth \$50 or more!

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM TOM MOYER,
OR THE CHURCH OFFICE - \$20 OR \$25 AT THE DOOR**

We are looking for more helpers, especially between 6 and 7 pm. We also still need the following donations to help make this evening a success: Sponsor a game - \$50, Tricky Tray Prize - Something new, or gift cards (\$20-\$30 range), Bottled water/ Baked goods

JOIN US FOR A GREAT EVENING OF FUN!!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. For over 75 years, the OGHS offering has been helping Christians bring God’s hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS’s mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. It provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners. We will be receiving contributions for OGHS on March 15 and continue for the rest of the month.

PEEPS MEETING

The Lady PEEPS (Women’s Group) will meet on **Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m.** in Fox Hall. Rev. Janet Boyd will share with us her faith journey. Please contact Regi Mohr at (610) 390-0872 to learn more about PEEPS.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

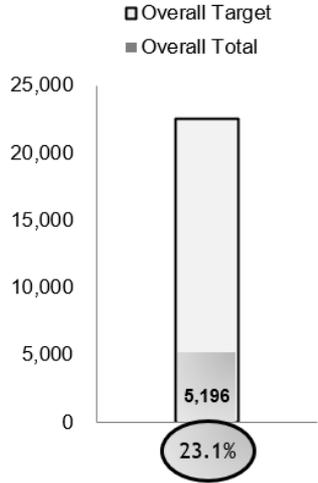
MARCH 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	5,196.46
Overall Percent	23.1%

Last Week	
Start:	3/1/26
End:	3/7/26
Total:	5,196.46

Amt needed to reach Target	
MARCH 2026	17,303.54

Progress

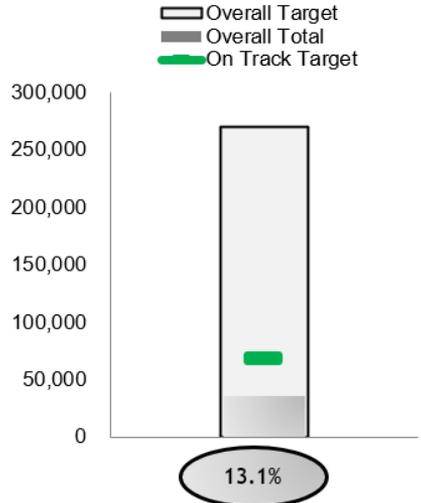


YTD OFFERINGS

MARCH 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	67,500.00
Overall Total	35,275.65
Overall Percent	13.1%

Progress



**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 8 – MARCH 15**

Sun 3/8	8:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class Worship Social Hour
Tues 3/10	1:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Staff Meeting Elders Consistory
Wed 3/11	9:00 am 12 noon 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Verso Chat Lectionary Study Painting Group Dinner and Devotions Painting Group SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/12	7:00 pm	Bingo Setup Choir
Fri 3/13	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	St. George Church School Bingo
Sat 3/14	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 3/15	8:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 3:00 pm	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class Worship Faith Formation for Children Phantoms game, PPL Center Newsletter deadline Easter flowers deadline