

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026

9:30am

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

We Worship

*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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*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Receiving new members—Today
- Trinity Sunday Hymn Festival—Sunday, May 31st, 5:30pm
- Fun-Raising – Pie Sales and IronPigs in August
- Keystone Conference in Worship—11:00am
- June 12 – Gift Card Bingo celebrating Flag Day

***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

Spiritus Sanctus
Thomas Grassi

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, the followers of Christ gathered together in one place, waiting with hope and expectation.

All; Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the fire of your love.

One: Suddenly a sound like a rushing wind filled the house, and tongues of fire rested upon them all.

All: Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the fire of your love.

One: The Spirit gave them voices to proclaim the mighty works of God so that every nation and every people could hear the good news.

All: Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the fire of your love.

One: Young and old, daughters and sons, servants and strangers—
God pours out the Spirit upon all people.

All: Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the fire of your love.

One: Here in this gathering of believers, as you did with those so long ago, breathe on us now. Breathe on us, blowing away our fears and our hesitations. Breathe on us, transforming our hard-heartedness into passion-filled lives. Breathe on us, for we need peace, peace that only you can give.

All: Come, Holy Spirit of God! Be with us in our words and our deeds. This we pray in your most holy name

***Opening Hymn: WR # 149** *God, the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*
Verses 1, 3, and 4

Gathering Prayer

All: God of all creation, we come at last to be united in the Spirit, your gleaming fire among us, setting our hearts ablaze. We praise you with our whole being. Live in us, that we may love with your love, speak with your truth, and serve with your mercy. Keep us faithful until the very end, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Invitation and Prayer of Confession Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

One: Merciful God, we know that the fruit of the Spirit consists of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Yet so often we put conditions on our love—and joy and peace are difficult to discern when our words and actions deny their presence.

All: Come Holy Spirit

One: We confess that we forget what it's like to be patient. By desiring instant results to most things, we find ourselves neglecting the needs of others because we run out of time to be kind, not only to ourselves, but also to others.

All: Come Holy Spirit

One: We confess that when we persistently make self-centered decisions rather than Christ-centered ones, our understanding of your goodness and faithfulness is weakened and our discipleship lacks credibility.

All: Come Holy Spirit

One: We confess that in this aggressive world, it's easy to believe one can't get anywhere by exercising a spirit of gentleness or even self-control.

All: Gracious and merciful God, grant us your forgiveness and your love so that we may truly care for one another. Refresh and renew us with the Holy Spirit so that we are fruitful and vital disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time for Silent Prayer

Kyrie Eleison

A Call to Confession Response

Michael Ware

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 78 and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody consists of several phrases of the Kyrie Eleison text. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Chri - ste Chri - ste e - le - i - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Chri - ste Chri - ste e - le - i - son. The score includes measure numbers 9 and 16. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

One: Those who are in Christ are a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All: **All this is from God with whom we have been reconciled through Christ. Through Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

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

Presentation of "God and Me" Scouting Award to Zander Rarich

Hymn: WR # 326

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Verses 1 and 2

***Scripture Reading:**

1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

Luke 24:44-53

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Read by Melissa Szoke

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of power deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Luke 24: 44-53

Read by Ryan Szoke

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

Stories that Matter: Living the Sequel

Choir Anthem

Come Holy Spirit, Fill Us

Marty Parks

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with your eternal power to stand and face with courage each dark and fearful hour. The world around us rages with war throughout the lands. But we are nestled firmly in God's Almighty hands.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with everlasting peace. Let daily stresses leave us and anxious striving cease. Help us confront the future with confidence and calm; and let Your loving comfort become a soothing balm.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with never ending grace, so when we look at others, we'll see our Saviors face. Come stir your gift within us and fan a fervent flame to spread the word of Jesus and praise His precious name.

Come Holy Spirit fill us with unrelenting love that will not rest till others can share our home above. Compel us with Your whispers and help us to obey to show your loving kindness that Jesus is the way Come Holy Spirit fill us, O spirit fill us now.

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Rev. Davis and

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!

***Strengthen the Church
Offering***

*Doxology

O Holy Spirit, Sweet Embrace

**O Holy Spirit, sweet embrace
O great Belonging, welcome space;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You heal division and despair,
You make communion everywhere
O sing praises, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

**All: God, you have given us absolutely everything we have.
You gave us melody and harmony, forgiveness and
poetry, so that we could know what love sounds like.**

**We pray that you might be able to use these humble gifts
we offer today, to bring your kingdom here, so that more
may know what beauty looks like, what love sounds like**

and what peace feels like. For you have given us everything we have. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Receiving New Persons in Covenant Relationship and Welcome

*Pat Demmy, Phyllis Gutekunst,
Joan Hottle, Sueann Hregician
Ethel Lavenburg, Marcie Wolfe*

One: Let us, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: **We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

We Serve

***Closing Hymn: NC # 391**

In the Midst of New Dimensions
Verses 1 and 2

***Benediction**

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

Postlude in G Minor
Martin Ellis

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship

During the Summer months, June, July and August, Adult and Children's Faith Formation activities take a break with special opportunities announced. We look forward to coming together again on September 6.

Sunday Social will also take a break, with the exception of the first Sundays in July and August.

Attendance –May 17 – 7th Sunday of Easter

Onsite – 78 Online - 35

Pentecost Sunday, May 24

Lectionary Readings

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

Scripture Readers: Melissa and Ryan Szoke

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Ushers: Charlotte Kerrigan

Greeters: Melissa and Ryan Szoke

Wayne Lichtenwalner

Trinity Sunday, May 31

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 and Matthew 28:16-20

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

Scripture Reader: Dewey Yeatts

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeter: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Karen Stoitsits and Tom Moyer

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

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, Nicholas Bach, Tammy Beitzel, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass, Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John Hoff and Charlee Hoff, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Barbara Jennings, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Dawn Luckenbill, Jean McGonigle, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Eleanor and Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bobby Sherman, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder,

Lori Stocker, Barry Stephens and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, Pat Thompson 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.

GOD IN THREE PERSONS: A HYMN FESTIVAL

Join us for our first ever Hymn Festival Concert on **NEXT Sunday, May 31st beginning at 5:30 PM**. This special evening of scripture, prayer, congregational singing, and choral and bell music will celebrate the rich tradition of hymnody, tell the story of the Holy Trinity, and bring the 2025–2026 choral season to a joyful close.

We hope you will join us for this inspiring night of worship and music as we celebrate another wonderful season together.

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.

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.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of May, we are collecting **pancake mix, pancake syrup, jelly, 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.

WALKING CHALLENGE

Don't forget to keep track of your steps every day and let Sharon Antrim know your week's total on Saturday.

SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Our June 3 trip to Lancaster to see Sight and Sounds' new production of "Joshua" is sold out. If you want to put your names on a waiting list (sometimes someone has a last minute emergency) please tell Tom Moyer.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be held this year on **Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31**. Keep an eye on your Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters – more news is coming!

BASEBALL AT IRONPIGS

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand at Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. RailRiders baseball game on **Tuesday, August 11**, at 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$14,00, which includes ticket to the game and \$2.00 ballpark credit. It's "Dollar Dog Night," where hot dogs are \$1.00 all night long. **Deadline to reserve your seat is Sunday, June 21**. For reservations and payment, see Carol Raszler.

PIE SALE

Delicious pies made by Andie Dallago are available to purchase as a fundraiser for St. John's. You can choose from Whipped Cream Coconut Cream Pie (\$12.00) or Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie (\$14.00). Orders forms can be found in the May newsletter, the church's website or on the table in the lounge. Pickup is scheduled for either June 19 or June 21. **The deadline for orders and payment is Sunday, May 31**. Only a total of 50 pies will be made and sold on a first-come, first-served basis. See Carol Raszler.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

This 5-for-5 special offering of UCC National furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, support new churches, fund leadership development, and provide new programs for youth and young adults. The theme this year is "Sent Forth in Love," based on the scripture John 20:21. Special offering envelopes and inserts were in the May newsletter and last week's bulletin and are on the table in the back. Contributions will be received the entire month of May.

OCEAN CITY, NJ BUS TRIP

Join St. John's for a day trip to Ocean City, NJ on Saturday, July 25th! The cost is \$50 per person. Epic Tours will depart from the church parking lot at 8:00 AM and will leave Ocean City at 7:00 PM for the return trip. Beach tags are \$10 for anyone age 12 and older. Children 11 and under are free. Active-duty military members and veterans receive free beach admission with proper military or veteran ID. Please sign up on the sheet located on the red board and see me, Michelle G., or any member of the fundraising committee to submit payment. The deadline to sign up and submit payment is Sunday, July 12th.

**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24 – MAY 31**

Sun 5/24	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	6:00 pm	IronPigs Party Porch (game starts at 6:30 pm)
Mon 5/25		Office Closed - Memorial Day
	9:00 am	Food Pantry
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
Tues 5/26	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Hymn Festival Concert run through
Wed 5/27	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Brownies
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 5/28	6:30 pm	Property
	6:30 pm	Choir
Fri 5/29	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 5/30	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 5/31	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	1:00 pm	Friendship Class luncheon
	5:30 pm	Hymn Festival Concert

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org
Ministry Intern	Samantha “Sam” Kistler samanthamkistler@gmail.com
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