

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

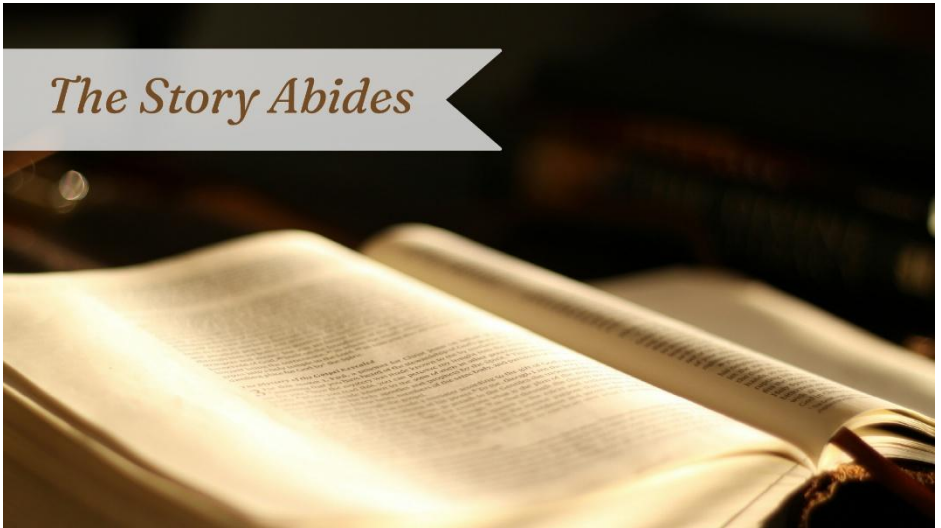
575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

The Story Abides



**Sixth Sunday of Easter/
Mother's Day
May 10, 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

- Pentecost Flowers—Sponsorship forms due TODAY
- New Member's 5G Connection Class starts today!
May 10 & 17 at 11am; Zoom May 11 and 18 at 7pm online.
- St. John's Clean Up—May 15th through May 17th
- Graduate Recognition Sunday May 17
- May 24, Pentecost & Joining & IRONPIGS Party Porch
- Hymn Festival—Sunday, May 31st, 5:30pm
- 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

Unfailing Love
Wanda Cooley

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Easter people, no matter the bends and curves in our path,
Jesus does not leave us alone on this journey of faith.

All: God gives us the Spirit, our Advocate and Helper.

One: The Spirit lives in and among us, pointing us all toward the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus.

All: God gives us the Spirit, our Guide and Guardian.

One: The Spirit draws us into God's story, showing us how to cooperate in writing God's dream into reality.

All: God gives us the Spirit, our Dream-Giver and Story-Keeper.

One: Easter people, God's story abides in you, calling you to live as co-creators of love and abundant life.

All: We come to worship God and listen for the Spirit who inspires, guides, and helps us join in God's story, until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Opening Hymn NC #249

Peace I Leave with You My Friends
Verses 1 and 2

*Easter Gathering Prayer

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

All: God of all time and space, you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation at a time before and beyond all knowing.

**Through the Word and the Spirit, you continue in eternal love for all beings. Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence, your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world. Shape us into the people you have made us to be – poured out in creative mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ in all creation.
Amen.**

Sacrament of Baptism: Elliot and Finnley Gross

Parents: Thomas Albert Gross III and Julie Michelle Gross

Sponsors: Rebecca Lynn Hendershot and Gregory Michael Bankos



Questions to Parents and Family

Congregational Response

All: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that these children, Elliot and Finnley Gross, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. Amen

Hymn WR #680

Borning Cry

All Verses

Children's Message

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

Hymn

Christ Still Rises

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 4

CHRIST STILL RISES

David Bjorlin

HICKS
Benjamin Brody

1. Christ still ris - es when fear grips our cit - y,
2. Christ still ris - es when we give to neigh - bors,

when death takes no pit - y, when much is un - known.
when we share our la - bors, when stran - gers be - long.

Christ still ris - es when friends are di - vid - ed,
Christ still ris - es when we come to - geth - er,

when joy feels mis - guid - ed, when we are a - lone.
when love is our teth - er, when hope is our song.

Christ still ris - es when church - es are shut - tered,
Christ still ris - es when griev - ing is end - ed,

when prais - es are mut - tered, when prayers go un - said.
when bod - ies are mend - ed, when beau - ty heals pain.

Christ still ris - es when peace has all fad - ed,
Christ still ris - es when fear has re - treat - ed,

when we are most jad - ed, when faith turns to
when death is de - feat - ed, and joy will re -

dread,
main, when faith turns to dread.
and joy will re - main.

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*Scripture Reading

Read by: Robin Brensinger

John 14: 15—21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

Stories that Matter: "The Story Abides"

Song of Praise

If You Love Me
Joel Raney

My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you, and I will comfort you in times of trouble. And if you love me, if you love me, if you love me keep my commands.

Though I may leave you, I will return for you, I'll go prepare a place beside me. And if you love me, if you love me, if you love me keep my commands.

Because I live, you too shall live. I bring you peace that the world cannot give.

My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you, and I will comfort you in times of trouble. And if you love me, if you love me, if you love me keep my commands. If you love me.

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Bobby Sherman and Richard Baatz

Rev. Davis and
Samantha Kistler

The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

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!

*Doxology

*Praise God whose mercies never cease;
Praise Christ the Dawn, our Easter peace!*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Praise Spirit, making all things new;
One God, we sing our thanks to you!*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

All: As Jesus offered himself in love and obedience, so we offer these gifts today. Take them, bless them, use them—to remind the world that Christ’s story abides in us. In the name of the one who promised never to leave us. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn WR #595**

They’ll Know We Are Christians
All Verses

***The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

The March of Faith
Arranged by Paul Taylor

Flower Sponsorship

In honor of Pastor Steve’s Birthday
By Jackie Maxon

In Honor of Jonathan Gravely’s Birthday
By Mom Joy and Dad Mike Gravely

In Loving Memory of Janet M. Samusevich and Dorothy M. Unangst
By Gregg Fisher

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

Attendance – May 3

Onsite – 89 Online - 44

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 10
(Mother's Day Weekend)**

Lectionary Readings

Acts 17:22-31 and Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22 and John 14:15-21

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

Scripture Reader: Robin Brensinger

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Kim Hillegass

Greeter: Sherri Gangewere

Ushers: Corinna Purdon

Robin Brensinger

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 17

Lectionary Readings

Acts 1:6-14 and Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 and John 17:1-11

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Barbara Seeds

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corinna Purdon

Ushers: Carole O'Connell

Greeters: Pam Repetz

Kim Hillegass

Jackie Maxon

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, 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

Mark your Calendars! Join us for our first ever Hymn Festival Concert on 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.

MUSIC MINISTRY SPONSORSHIP

Beginning this June, a new opportunity will be added to our sponsorship form that allows members of the congregation to play a more direct and meaningful role in supporting our music ministry. Individuals and families will now have the opportunity to sponsor either a choral or handbell piece to be presented during the 2026/2027 choral season. This offering offers a unique way to honor a loved one, celebrate a meaningful occasion, or simply contribute to the continued growth of our worship life through music.

While the music budget and music ministry restricted funds have helped develop and shape the program into what it is today, it is only through the congregation's continued support and appreciation of the program that we can continue to grow and enhance our weekly services. Your involvement ensures that we can bring in new, inspiring repertoire, expand our musical offerings, and maintain the level of excellence that has become a hallmark of our ministry. **Sponsoring a choral piece will be \$65.00**, which will help offset the cost of music as it continues to rise in price. Each sponsored piece becomes part of the fabric of our worship, enriching not only a single service but the spiritual life of our entire congregation.

We invite you to prayerfully consider taking part in this new initiative. Together, through our shared support, we can ensure that our music ministry continues to flourish—lifting hearts, deepening worship, and proclaiming the joy of the Gospel. Help our music ministry continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

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 April, 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.

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.

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 will be in the bulletin. Contributions will be received the entire month of May.

GRADUATES

St. John's wants to honor ALL our graduates on **SUNDAY, MAY 17th**. Please share the names of High School and College grads and any others receiving degrees so we may celebrate them.

PEEPS MEETING

The Lady PEEPS (**P**ositive **E**xtraordinary **E**ncouraging **P**rayerful **S**isters) will meet on **Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00pm** in Fox Hall. Please use the elevator entrance. You can contact Regina Mohr at (610) 390-0872 to learn more about PEEPS.

**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10 – MAY 17**

| | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| Sun 5/10 | 8:15 am | Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class |
| | 9:30 am | Worship |
| | 10:30 am | Social Hour |
| | 11:00 am | 5G New Members Class Newsletter Deadline |
| Mon 5/11 | 7:00 pm | 5G New Members Class via Zoom |
| Wed 5/13 | 9:00 am | Verso Chat Lectionary Study |
| | 12 noon | Painting Group |
| | 6:00 pm | Painting Group |
| | 6:00 pm | Brownies |
| | 6:30 pm | Zumba |
| | 7:00 pm | SAA Recovery Group |
| Thurs 5/14 | 6:30 pm | Choir |
| Fri 5/15 | | Preschool Family Day Church Clean-up Day 1 |
| | 5:00 pm | St. George Church School |
| Sat 5/16 | 9:30 am | Zumba Church Clean-up Day 2 |
| Sun 5/17 | 8:15 am | Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class |
| | 9:30 am | Worship |
| | 10:30 am | Social Hour |
| | 11:00 am | 5G New Member Class |

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

MAY 2026

| Overall | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Overall Target | 22,500.00 |
| Overall Total | 4,851.78 |
| Overall Percent | 21.6% |

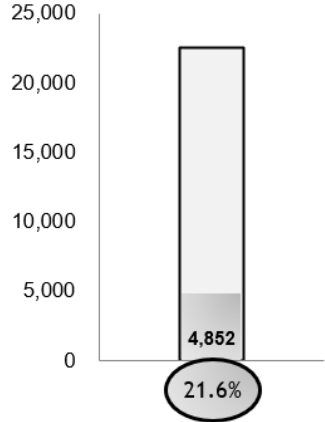
| Last Week | |
|-----------|----------|
| Start: | 5/3/26 |
| End: | 5/9/26 |
| Total: | 2,526.00 |

Amt needed to reach Target

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| MAY 2026 | 17,648.22 |
|----------|-----------|

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



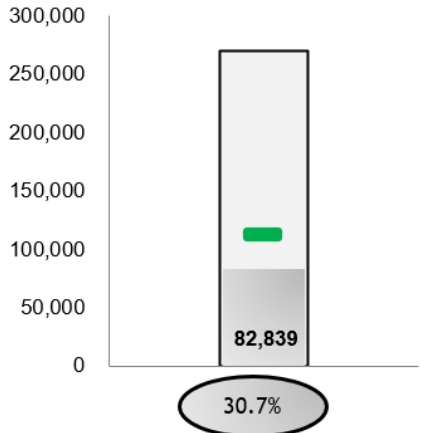
YTD OFFERINGS

MAY 2026

| Overall | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Overall Target | 270,000.00 |
| On Track Target | 112,500.00 |
| Overall Total | 82,838.60 |
| Overall Percent | 30.7% |

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



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 |
| Office Administrator | Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjuccf.org |
| Treasurer | Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com |
| Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian | Michelle Gutekunst financialsecretary@sjuccf.org custodians@sjuccf.org |
| Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor | Bill Castello stars@sjuccf.org newsletter@sjuccf.org |
| Custodian | Christina Bach ironton1@verizon.net |
| St. John’s Christian Early Learning Center Director | Jazmin Smith staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com 610-443-0254 |