

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



So That They May Be One



Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 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

- St. John's Clean Up—Last day to help
- Receiving new members—Sunday, May 24
- Trinity Sunday Hymn Festival—Sunday, May 31st, 5:30pm
- 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

Unfailing Love
Wanda Cooley

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Easter people, Christ has completed the work of salvation, reconciling us to God so that we may know eternal life.

All: Through Christ, we are made one with God.

One: In life, death, and Resurrection, Christ guides us into eternal life with God here and now.

All: Through Christ, we are made one in God.

One: Through prayer and teaching, healing and serving, Christ draws us together as the people of God, diverse members of the one body.

All: Through Christ, we are made one with God and one another.

One: So, come, let us worship God who saves us into eternal life with God and one another!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord

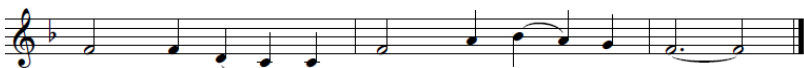
I Come with Joy



1. I come with joy, a child of God, For -
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To
 3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, Each
 4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, Un -
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound By



giv - en, loved, and free, The life of Je - sus
 find, as all are fed, The new com - mu - ni -
 proud di - vi - sion ends. The love that made us,
 seen, but ev - er near, Is in such friend - ship
 all that God has done, We'll go with joy, to



to re - call, In love laid down for me.
 ty of love In Christ's com - mu - nion bread,
 makes us one, And strang - ers now are friends.
 bet - ter known, A - live a - mong us here.
 give the world The love that makes us one.

Text: Brian Wren, b.1936, © 1971, rev. 1995, Hope Publishing Company
Tune: LAND OF REST, CM, American, adapt. by Annabel M. Buchanan, 1888-1983, © 1938 (renewed), this arr. © 2011, The H.W. Gray Company

***Easter Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: God of all creation, who called every being into life, who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity, who embodies us with dignity, granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world, we ask for your Spirit to unite us where we face lack of understanding and disunity in our churches, in our communities, in our countries.

All: We ask for your Spirit to unite us in the face of the conflicts, hatred, and violation of life experienced in so many regions of the earth.

We ask for your Spirit to unite us wherever fear prevents us from caring for our neighbor, from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures, and faith communities with respect.

God of all creation, in Christ we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit to help us to overcome all our divisions that we may live in peace. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: God, we believe you have called us to unity, but often we have isolated ourselves from others.

All: God, forgive us for the times we have turned our backs on those who are different.

One: God, we believe you have called us to live together as one body.

All: God, forgive us for the times we have created division within your worldwide church.

One: God, we believe you ask us to look, listen, and learn from others.

All: God, forgive us for the times we have ridiculed and attacked those with different viewpoints.

One: God, we believe you ask us to accept and seek to understand all who are called by your name.

All: Forgive us for the times we have offended you by failing to love others as we do ourselves.

One: God, we believe you call us to be one, even as you are one.

All: Forgive us for the disunity we have harbored and make us one.

Time for Silent Prayer

Sung Response

Kyrie Eleison

A Call to Confession Response

Michael Ware

Musical score for 'Kyrie Eleison' in G major, 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 78. The score consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff starts with a 2-measure rest, followed by the lyrics 'Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Chri - ste Chri - ste e -'. The second staff starts with a 1-measure rest, followed by the lyrics '- le - i - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son'. The third staff starts with a 16-measure rest, followed by the lyrics 'Chri - ste Chri - ste e - le - i - son'.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Gracious God, you desire unity for your people and have promised that your Son, Jesus Christ, is with us always, even to the end of the age.

All: As we wait in hope, we are assured that our sins are forgiven, our lives are hidden in yours, and we are guarded by your power. Resting in your grace, we go forth as witnesses, knowing we are loved, united, and set apart for your work. Amen.

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 5

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

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***Scripture Reading**

Read by: Barbara Seeds

John 17: 15—21

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.

I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

Stories that Matter: "That They May Be One"

Song of Praise: WR # 83

Children of the Heavenly Father

All Verses

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 (*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: Sharon Czekner

All: As Jesus prayed that we might be one, we bring these gifts as a sign of our shared commitment to your mission in the world. Use these offerings to strengthen the church, to bless our neighbors, and to glorify your name. In Christ, we belong to you. In Christ, you are glorified in us. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn WR #553**

Go to the World
Verses 1 and 2

***The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

Give Thanks Unto God
Arranged by Michael Ryan

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 10

Onsite – 122 Online - 40

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

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 Reader: Ryan Szoke

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Ushers: Charlotte Kerrigan

Greeters: Melissa and Ryan Szoke

Wayne Lichtenwalner

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17 – MAY 24

| | | |
|------------|----------|--|
| 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 Members Class |
| Mon 5/18 | 6:00 pm | Fun Raising |
| | 7:00 pm | 5G New Members Class via Zoom |
| Tues 5/19 | 9:00 am | Newsletter Mailing |
| | 9:30 am | Staff Meeting |
| | 10:00 am | Community of Practice |
| | 6:00 pm | Bell Choir |
| | 7:00 pm | PEEPS |
| | 7:00 pm | Hymn Festival Rehearsal (Church) |
| Wed 5/20 | 9:30 am | Preschool Graduation |
| | 12 noon | Painting Group |
| | 6:00 pm | Painting Group |
| | 6:00 pm | Brownies |
| | 6:30 pm | Zumba |
| | 7:00 pm | SAA Recovery Group |
| Thurs 5/21 | 6:30 pm | Choir |
| Fri 5/22 | 5:00 pm | St. George Church School |
| Sat 5/23 | 9:30 am | Zumba |
| Sun 5/24 | 8:15 am | Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class |
| | 9:30 am | Worship |
| | 10:30 am | Social Hour |
| | 6:00 pm | IronPigs Party Porch (game starts at 6:30 pm) |

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

MAY 2026

| Overall | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Overall Target | 22,500.00 |
| Overall Total | 7,295.71 |
| Overall Percent | 32.4% |

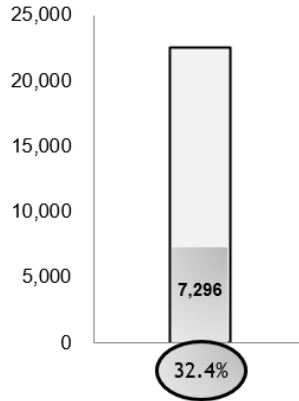
| Last Week | |
|-----------|----------|
| Start: | 5/10/26 |
| End: | 5/16/26 |
| Total: | 2,402.50 |

Amt needed to reach Target

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| MAY 2026 | 15,204.29 |
|----------|-----------|

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



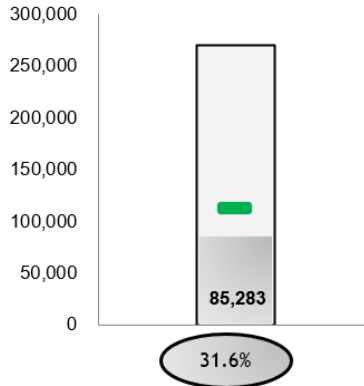
YTD OFFERINGS

MAY 2026

| Overall | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Overall Target | 270,000.00 |
| On Track Target | 112,500.00 |
| Overall Total | 85,282.53 |
| Overall Percent | 31.6% |

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 |