

# 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!*

**November 24, 2024**

**Reign of Christ Sunday  
9:30 am**

# We Worship

**Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!**

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation  
of the Penn NE Conference 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. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom and meet the leaders. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.

**Children and Holy Communion** – We strongly encourage children to have the experience of participating in the sacrament of holy communion in the context of worship. We also know this is a personal spiritual matter parents may want to have their children receive upon Confirmation. ALL are welcome to receive at St. John's. On Communion Sundays, children in our Faith Formation activities will return to the sanctuary to be joined with their parents for this part of the service, whether they receive or not, so they may begin to grow in their understanding of these sacred moments in worship.

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

## Chimes

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- All Occasion Cards for Visitation Committee Gift Bags
- Mission Moment: Clean-Up Buckets / Mitten Tree
- Expanding Our Welcome – Pre-Service Hospitality
- Advent Decorating, Nov. 24 and Nov. 27 following worship
- Advent/Christmas Poinsettia Orders due December 1
- SAVE THE DATE – Dec. 22, 6pm Service of the Nativity

**\*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**

*Who but The Lord*

Craig Courtney

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Michael Borgman

One: Come to worship God, through Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and is to come.

All: **We come to worship the one who rules justly.**

One: Come to worship the faithful witness.

The firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth!

All: **Bread of Heaven, God with us!**

One: Good Shepherd, True Vine!

All: **Eternal Word, Great I AM!**

One: Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace!

All: **We come to worship God, through Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords! To God be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*O God Beyond All Praising*

*found on pages 3-4 of the bulletin*

Verses 1 and 2

**\*Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Michael Borgman

All: **O God, all people are your Beloved, across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations and identities, and all the ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all manifestations of your image. Bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny, You call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love. Let us know your presence among us now: Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope filled action. Under the shadow of your wings may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## 64 O God Beyond All Praising

*Unison*

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
2 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-ery gift you send,  
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end;  
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996)  
MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

THAXTED  
13.13.13.13.13.13.

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your Word,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

**Prayer of Confession and Response** Liturgist: Michael Borgman

One: Creator God, you made us to be neighbors, members of one family blessed with great diversity. You created us to be helpers and friends to one another, entrusting to us your justice and your joy. Yet to many, we have denied justice and joy, creating worlds of poverty, pain, lost opportunities, and absence of hope. In so many ways, we break each other's hearts. Still, you do not reject us. We ask your forgiveness and pray to be transformed.

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

All: **Loving God, you restore us to each other and to you, mending our hearts and repairing the world. Through the power of your Spirit, you shape us to be for others what Christ is for us: pardon and peace, new life and blessing. We give you thanks for your love, forgiveness, and constant presence. Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness** Liturgist: Michael Borgman

One: Scripture tells us if we are "kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, God in Christ has forgiven us." Rest assured, my friends, our sins are forgiven.

**All: Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, proclaiming Jesus' love for all. Through Him, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message**

Rev. Davis

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

**Hymn**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*

All Verses

**ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME**

CORONATION

1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate  
2. Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line Whom Da - vid Lord did  
3. Crown him, you ho - ly saints of God, Who from his al - tar

1. fall; Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem To  
2. call, The God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, And  
3. call; Ex - tol him in whose path you trod, And

1. crown him Lord of all; Bring forth the roy - al  
2. crown him Lord of all; The God in - car - nate,  
3. crown him Lord of all; Ex - tol him in whose

1. di - a - dem To crown him Lord of all.  
2. Man di - vine, And crown him Lord of all.  
3. path you trod, And crown him Lord of all.

Text: 86 86 86; Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, alt. by John Rippon, 1751-1836.  
Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844.

**\*Scripture Reading**

Revelation 1: 4b-8

Scripture Reader: Michael Gravely

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Steven Davis

**“This Hope!” The Beginning AND The End**

**Song of Praise**

*None Like You—Craig Courtney*

Soloist: Julie Mertus

*Creator of the moon and stars, of mountains reaching high,  
Creator of the galaxies who hears a baby's cry.*

*Eternity, with all its years, stands present in Your view.*

*Alpha and Omega, Lord, there is none like You.*

*You make the wilderness to bloom and in the desert sand,  
Provide the gentle, soaking rain, refreshing thirsty land.*

*You send the warming of the sun, the fragile snowflake too.*

*We bow in gratitude, O Lord, there is none like You.*

*You paint the rainbow on the storm and tell the wind to cease,  
You reach out with tender hand, creation is at peace.*

*You speak Your Word and it is done, the universe obeys,*

*But we are free to choose, Your children sing Your praise.*

*Creator of the moon and stars, of mountains reaching high,  
Creator of the galaxies who hears a baby's cry.*

*Eternity, with all its years, stands present in Your view.*

*Alpha and Omega, Lord, there is none like You.*

# We Love

**Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People**

Rev. Davis

## **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!

### **\*Doxology**

*Praise God*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, you heavenly host:**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Michael Borgman

**All: With gratitude for all the blessings you have poured into  
our lives, Lord Jesus, we come bringing these our gifts  
that they may be used in service to those in need. Bless  
these gifts and those who have given them, that they may  
truly be a blessing in your holy name. Amen.**

## **We Serve**

### **\*Sending Hymn**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Verses 1 and 2

*found on page 9 of the bulletin*



## **\*The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

## **Postlude**

*Postlude on Diademta*

Arr. by Douglas Nolan

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

*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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## **Attendance – November 17**

Onsite – 104    Online – 21

## **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Did you know? You can sponsor Sunday bulletins for \$20 and altar flowers for \$25 (one vase). The monthly newsletter can be sponsored for \$100.

### **Altar Flowers**

One vase in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of my daughter, Sue Weldner,  
by Nancy Bowman

One vase in loving memory of brother, Edward Weaver and nephews  
Scott and James Weaver by sister and aunt Barbara Seeds

One vase in honor of Kendra's 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday by her family

### **Lectionary Readings for Reign of Christ Sunday**

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93;

Revelation 1:4b-8 and John 18:33-37

### **Lectionary Readings for First Sunday of Advent**

Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Luke 21:25-36

## Crown Him with Many Crowns



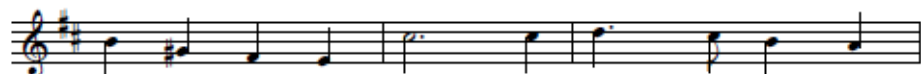
1. Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his
2. Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the
3. Crown him the Lord of love, Be - hold his hands and
4. Crown him the Lord of peace, Whose power a scep - ter
5. Crown him the Lord of years, The ris - en Lord sub -



throne; Hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All  
grave, And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For  
side, Rich wounds yet vis - i - ble a - bove In  
sways From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Ab -  
lime, Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, The



mu - sic but its own. A - wake, my soul, and sing Of  
those he came to save. His glo - ries now we sing, Who  
beau - ty glo - ri - fied. No an - gel in the sky Can  
sorbed in prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, And  
Mas - ter of all time. All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For



him who set us free, And hail him as your  
died and rose on high, Who died, e - ter - nal  
ful - ly bear that sight, But down - ward bends his  
round his pier - ed feet Fair flow'rs of Par - a -  
you have died for me; Your praise and glo - ry



heav'n - ly King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
life to bring, And lives that death may die.  
burn - ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
dise ex - tend Their fra - grance ev - er sweet.  
shall not fail Through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Revelation 19:12; St. 1, 3-5, Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894; St. 2, Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903  
Tune: DLADEMAIA, SMD; George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

### **November 24<sup>th</sup> (Reign of Christ Sunday)**

**Liturgist:** Michael Borgman      **Scripture Reader:** Michael Gravely  
**Leader of Song:** Julie Mertus      **Worship Tech:** Bill Castello  
**Acolyte:** Open      **Greeters:** Pamela Repetz  
**Ushers:** Wayne Lichtenwalner & Tom Moyer  
**Social Hour:** Kathy Roth and Barbara Seeds

### **November 27<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Eve)**

**Liturgist:** Regi Mohr      **Scripture Reader:** Joy Gravely  
**Worship Tech:** Bill Castello      **Acolyte:** Open  
**Greeters and Ushers:** Kim Hillegass  
**Ushers:** Open

### **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (First Sunday of Advent)**

**Liturgist:** Regi Mohr      **Scripture Reader:** Barbara Seeds  
**Worship Tech:** Bill Castello      **Acolyte:** Lucas Williams  
**Greeters and Ushers:** Members of the Consistory  
**Ushers:** Members of the Consistory  
**Social Hour:** Open

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer:

Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Kate Asbill, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Christina Bach, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, Rick Borgman, Ginny Brokenshire, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Bob Czekner, Joshua Davis (Steve and Bill's grandson), Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Janet Ebert, Tracey Glass, Donna Held, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Jean Litzenberger, Judy Luckenbill, Robert Menges, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Leona Snyder, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

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.

## 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE

What is the deadline for 2024 contributions? Members can make their 2024 contributions count for the current year through December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If you would like your contributions to count for the 2024 tax year, please ensure they are received in the office or offering plate no later than Sunday, December 29, 2024. **All contributions received after Sunday, December 29, 2024, will be counted towards 2025.**

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ORDERS

Help enhance the beauty of St. John's this Christmas season by ordering Poinsettias! Order forms are available in the parlor. **Deadline to order is Sunday, December 1, 2024**

- Chancel Greenery Display: (**\$50.00 each** -2 displays),
- 6 1/2" Red, White, and Pink Poinsettias (**\$12.00 each**)
- 7 1/2" Speckled Red & White Poinsettia. (**\$18.00 each**)

## 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](mailto:estupp@asburylv.org) or (610) 428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, November 26**.

## APPLEBEE'S BURGER CARDS

**NOW AVAILABLE!** Applebee's \$10 Burger Cards. Good for any burger and fries on Applebee's menu. Burgers are priced from \$14 to \$19, so you will save with this card. See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler.

## WAYS TO SUPPORT ST. JOHN'S

It's a simple thing to do! Buy Giant & Weis gift cards, and the church receives 5% back. Save the register tapes from Redner's, and the church receives 1% back. Cards can also be used to purchase gas as well. Get your gift cards from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday before or after worship. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area.

## WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Our goal in November is to collect 200 boxes or bags of stuffing mix to distribute for the Thanksgiving meal. Please bring what you can as soon as possible and place it in the shopping cart found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. Monetary contributions are also needed to purchase gift cards to buy turkeys and hams. Any other food donations, such as Christmas foods, are always welcome. For more information or to volunteer on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com).

## VISITATION

The Visitation Committee has moved its meeting day to the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 9:30am, in Rm 201. If you would like to participate in this ministry of caring through cards, calls, or personal visits, we invite you to come see what it's all about and how you can help. Contact the Church Office or Pastor Steve for more information.

## “OPERATION SANTA”

It is that time of year again when the Mission Committee is again sponsoring our Mitten Tree Project “Operation Santa.” **We are encouraging everyone to consider giving a donation to Phoebe Ministries and Valley Youth House.** From your contributions, the staff at VYH will shop and purchase Christmas gifts for their clients. From your contributions, the staff at Phoebe will purchase Christmas gift certificates for Phoebe’s beauty salon/barber shop and for Phoebe’s gift shop to give to their residents. Look for the Mitten Tree at the back of the sanctuary. Take a purple or yellow mitten for Phoebe or take a turquoise or pink mitten for VYH. Your contribution can be mailed to the office, put in the offering plate, or donated online or by text. All checks are payable to St. John’s but be sure to specify Phoebe or VYH in the memo section. Deadline to receive your contribution is Sunday, November 24.

## HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF

Hurricanes Helene and Milton have caused significant devastation, impacting countless lives and communities. In response to this disaster, The Mission Committee and the Confirmation Class are asking for your support to UCC Disaster Ministries and Church World Service. Along with 3 other churches, we are collecting items for CWS’s Emergency

Cleanup Buckets. St. John's is responsible for collecting the following specific items which are on display in the lounge area:

1. 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (if used, please scrub clean). No buckets that held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid.
2. Scrub brush with or without a handle.
3. 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent. Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes are also acceptable.
4. Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves. Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple- use.

Monetary donations are also being accepted with funds going to UCC Disaster Ministries Hurricane Relief. Checks should be payable to St. John's with Hurricane 2024 in memo section.

### **SAVEAROUND 2025 BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED!**

This Lehigh Valley book contains hundreds of buy one get one free, 50% off, plus many more discount offers and includes a 12-month Savings App with over 400,000 additional local and national offers...save on the go! Whether you are shopping for food, clothing, sporting goods, shoes, fun recreation, reliable services, hotels, or car rentals, SaveAround Coupon Books makes life more affordable and helps us raise much needed funds for our church! Cost is \$25 per book. See Carol Raszler before or after worship.

### **SERVICE OF THE NATIVITY**

Mark your calendars! Please plan on joining us on **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** as St. John's will be holding our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Service of the Nativity, with music beginning at 5:45PM and service beginning at 6PM. This is a beautiful service centered on our spiritual journey through the season of Advent and bringing us to the story of nativity. Volunteers are needed. For more information, please contact Patrick.

### **FAMILY FUN & MOVIE NIGHT**

Christmas activities begin early at St. John's as we present a Family Fun & Movie Night on **Saturday, December 6, in Fox Hall**. A choice of several soups and breads are on the dinner menu starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by the movie "**Polar Express**" an animated film starring Tom Hanks. The movie has wonderful messages about the importance of believing, the value of friendship, respect for leadership and courage,

and the beauty of being kind to others. We suggest you bring comfortable lawn chairs to watch the move. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office to let us know the number of people coming and if you are willing to bring an item for the meal.

### **HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTS HERE AT ST. JOHN’S**

A vast selection of crafts by our own “Keeping You in Stitches” crafters are available for sale in the lounge area on Sundays, December 1 and December 8. You can select from kitchen and household furnishings, baby or children’s items, thank-you or birthday gifts, and Christmas decorations. Be sure to see Carol Raszler before or after worship to make your purchases.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE**

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or [www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter](http://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter)

### **CONCERT INVITATION**

Fox Hall will be the site of a recital/talent show on December 1, at 3:00 pm. You are invited to come and hear the children perform. See the poster on the red board. Refreshments follow.

### **ANOTHER CONCERT INVITATION**

Our sister congregation, St. John’s Lutheran, would like to invite the people of St. John’s UCC to “Because of Bethlehem” a Christmas concert by the Pocono Praise Band on Sunday afternoon, December 8, at 2:00 pm. Doors open at 1:30, refreshments will follow the concert. The concert will feature songs by Anne Wilson, Phil Wickham, MercyMe, Selah, Casting Crowns, JJWeeks, and Chris Tomlin. Come help celebrate the Birth of Jesus!

**CHURCH CALENDAR  
FOR THE WEEK OF NOV 24 – DEC 1**

Sun 11/24	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour Church Decorating
Tues 11/26	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	6:30 pm	Service of the Nativity rehearsal
Wed 11/27	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
	7:00 pm	Decorating of trees
Thurs 11/28	Thanksgiving – Office Closed	
Fri 11/29	Thanksgiving – Office Closed	
Sat 11/30	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 12/1	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour