St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026
9:30 am

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, visiting, making new friends, and building 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 and Welcome and Announcements Rev. Steven Davis

- Mitten Tree – "Operation Santa" (pg 10)
- Nov. 15, Fall Congregational Meeting / Potluck, TODAY
- Nov. 25, Combined Thanksgiving Service and Advent Decorating, 6:00 pm
- Advent Candle Lighting Volunteers—Red Board (pg 10)
- Movie & Ice Cream Night – Klaus – Dec. 11, 7:00 pm

***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 *Harvest*
James Tonioli

***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

One: We gather not as people lost in darkness, but as children of the light, awakened by the promise of God's presence and called to live with faith and purpose.

All: We are children of the day! Let our hearts be awake, our spirits renewed, and our lives reflect the light of Christ!

One: God has entrusted each of us with gifts—not to be hidden in fear, but to be shared in love.

All: May we have the courage to use what we have been given, the wisdom to recognize our calling, and the faith to serve without hesitation.

One: The hour is before us, and the world is waiting.

All: We will not surrender to fear or remain silent in the face of need. We will walk in faith, stand in hope, and live in love!

One: So come, people of God! Awaken your hearts and rejoice in the sacred calling placed upon your lives.

All: We are God's children, called into the light and entrusted with grace, Let us worship the Living God!

***Gathering Hymn** *The Works of the Lord Are Created in Wisdom*
Verses 1 and 2

Found on Page 6

***Gathering Prayer** Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

All: Gracious and ever-present God, you call us from the shadows of fear into the transforming light of your love. You have entrusted each of us with gifts, not to be hidden in uncertainty, but to be shared with courage, compassion, and faith.

Awaken our hearts, O God! Give us the strength to live boldly, the wisdom to serve generously, and the courage to answer your call without hesitation. Remind us that faith is not measured by what we possess, but by the love we share and the lives we touch.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation, we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism: Dak Paul Heffelfinger

Parent: Brooke Noel Heffelfinger

Sponsors: Trevor Paul Heffelfinger, Michelle Posch, and Victoria Marzen



Led by Rev. Steven Davis & Rev. Samantha Kistler

Congregational Response

All: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, Dak Paul Heffelfinger, 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 Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith
Children and youth are welcome to come up to the chancel steps.

Hymn *Gather Us In*
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on pages 6 and 7

***Scripture Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30
Reader: Linda Powell

Sermon Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith
"Stepping Up"

Song of Praise *How Can I Keep From Singing*
Jantz Black

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer Rev. Samantha Kistler
(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

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.

Presenting 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 (Owens)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

All: Generous and loving God, bless these offerings, that they may bring hope to the weary, comfort to the hurting, and light to those living in darkness. Remind us that our greatest offering is not simply what we give, but how faithfully we live. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

We Serve

***Hymn to Send Us Forth WR #48**

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise
All Verses

***Benediction** Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith

***Postlude** *Festive Voluntary*
Robert Lau

Honored by Your Leadership and Friendship
Pastor Emerita Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith

St. John's is blessed to have pastors who embrace the power of partnership and share the common passion of building up God's people in love and faith. We are grateful for the gifts of our Pastor Emerita, and the continuing relationship we share with Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith. Steve and Samantha celebrate her friendship and leadership, personally and professionally.

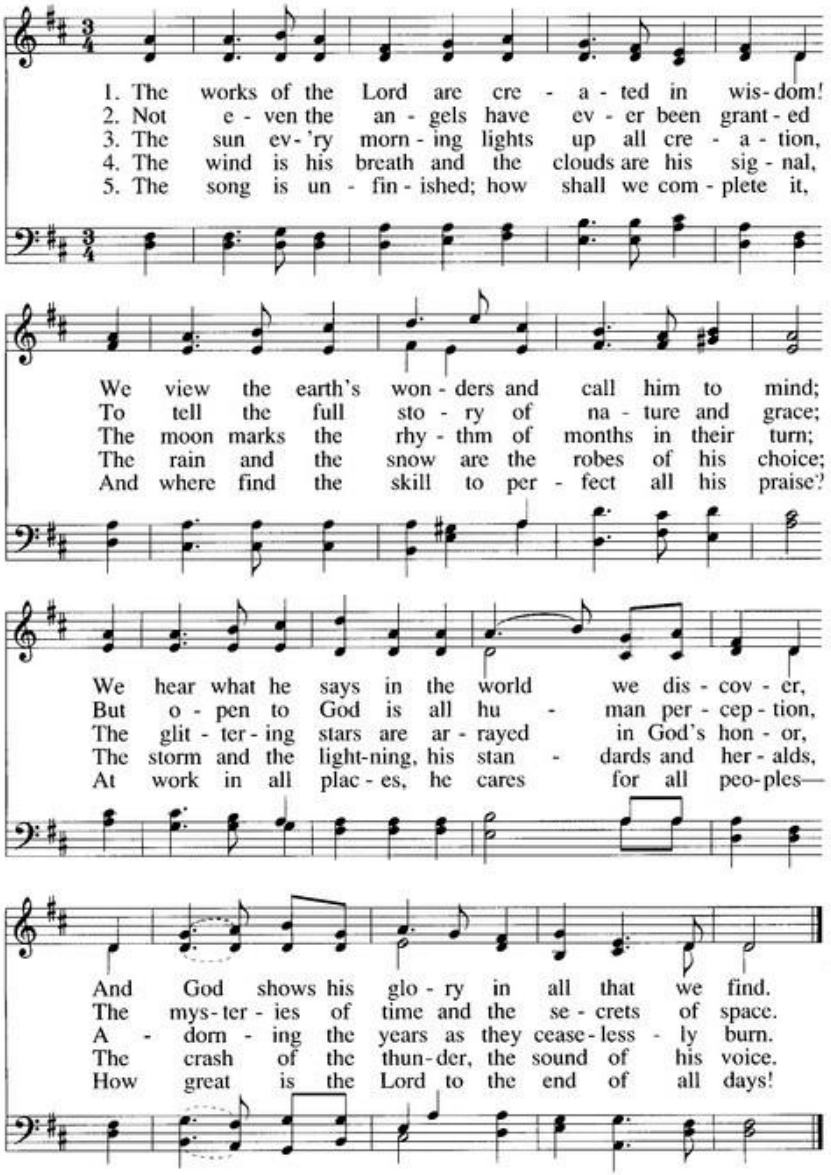
Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:30 am Adult Sunday School—RM 201
9:30 am Worship
Faith Formation takes place during Worship, immediately following the Children's Sermon
Sunday Social follows Service downstairs in Fox Hall

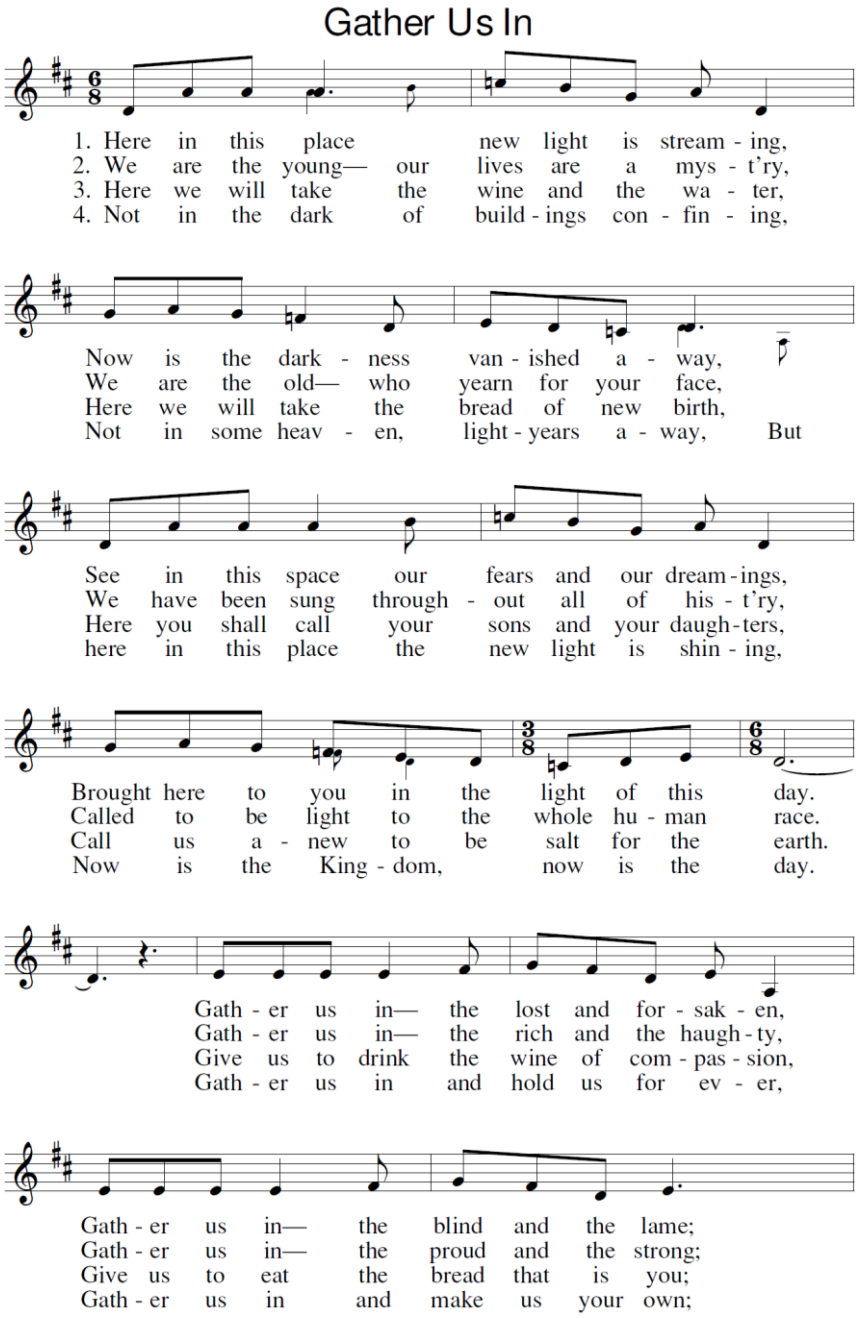
Attendance – November 8
Onsite – 92 Online – 30 Total – 122

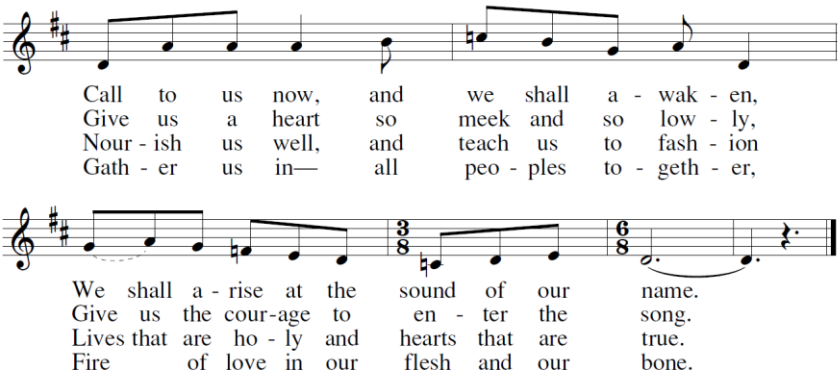
CREATION

The Works of the Lord Are Created in Wisdom 493



Text: Ecclesiastes 42-43; Christopher Idle, b.1938, © 1982, Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: KREMSER, 12 11 12 11; *Neder-landtsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; harm. by Edward Kremser, 1838-1914


Gather Us In
1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,
Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
We are the old— who yearn for your face,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But
See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
Now is the King - dom, now is the day.
Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,
Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: GATHER US IN, Irregular; Marty Haugen, b.1950
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25th Sunday after Pentecost, November 15
Lectionary Readings
Judges 4:1-7 and Psalm 123
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25:14-30

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere
Scripture Reader: Linda Powell
Worship Tech: Bill Castello
Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan
Ushers: Emilie and Tom Moyer
Greeter: Jean Fennell

Regin of Christ, November 22
Lectionary Readings
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23 and Matthew 25:31-46

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Joy Gravely
Scripture Reader: George Isleib
Worship Tech: Bill Castello
Altar Guild: Cindy Reck
Ushers: Carole O Connell
Greeters: Pam Repetz and Jackie Maxon

IN OUR PRAYERS

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, tell them you are a member of St. John's or ***use church code 473.***

We pray for our homebound and convalescents especially:

Phyllis Ambearle
Anita Beil
Dorothea Biehn
Lucille Hicks
Geraldine Keim
Dale Millham
Karen Moyer
Eleanor O'Donnell
Frank and Phyllis Csaszar
Janet and Jim Ebert
Milton Focht
Mary Jane Ott
Bert Smith
Leona Snyder
Susan Stettler
Joan Stocker
Sally Gibson
Sandy Glass
Tracey Glass
Nancy Weaver
Bonnie Weikel
Joan Yura

We pray for the ill of our congregation and those needing prayers of comfort especially:

Gracie Arnold
Margaret & Richard Baatz
Tammy Beitzel
Rob Czekner
Marion DeMilio
Nancy Dougherty
Amy Feidler
Joy & Mike Gravely
Richard Gangewere
Donna Held
Rev. John & Charlee Hoff
JoAnn Hower
Barbara Jennings
Mary Jane Kistler
Ethel Lavenburg
Dawn Luckenbill
Elaine Parsons
Brenda Pascoe
Joey Raszler
Blaine Riley
Rebecca Schneck
Bobby Sherman
Bert Smith
Susan Stocker
Barry Stephens
Martha Strauss
Pat Thompson
George Williams, Sr.

We pray for those serving in our military, especially for

Dominic DeMilio
Kaden Rossanese
Nathan Unger.

We pray for the special intentions of our congregation especially:

Joel, for reuniting with his family,
Staci, who is healing from a liver transplant,
David Deutsch, who is going through cancer treatments,
Sally Gibson,
Jennifer Henninger who was diagnosed with Lung Cancer.

NEWS FROM "FUN-RAISING"

"OPERATION SANTA"

The Mitten Tree is up and in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider donating to Phoebe Ministries (seniors) and/or Valley Youth House (youth). From your contribution, VYH will purchase Christmas gifts for their clients, and Phoebe will purchase gift certificates to Phoebe's beauty salon/barber shop and gift shop for their residents. Be sure to take a mitten off the tree. Your contribution can be mailed, put in the offering plate, or paid online. Checks are payable to St. John's. Be sure to specify Phoebe or VYH in the memo section. Deadline to receive contributions is Sunday, November 22.

ADVENT SEASON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, we invite members and friends of our congregation to help us celebrate the beautiful season of Advent by lighting the Advent candles during worship over the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

You don't have to be a traditional family to participate—everyone is welcome! Whether you are a couple, a group of friends, an individual, roommates, or a family of any kind, we would love for you to be part of this special tradition. Advent reminds us that hope, peace, joy, and love are gifts meant to be shared by all. If you would like to help light the candles on one of the four Sundays of Advent, please let us know.

Together, we can fill our sanctuary with light, share in the anticipation of Christ's coming, and remind one another that there is a place for everyone in God's family.

A sign up sheet can be found on the red bulletin board as you enter and leave the church. For additional information, please see Patrick.

SAVE THE DATE





Get into the Christmas spirit with a fun evening of movies, ice cream, and fellowship! Join us for a showing of Klaus, one of the featured films in our Advent message series.

This heartwarming animated film follows Jesper, a reluctant postman who befriends a mysterious toymaker named Klaus. Together, their acts of kindness transform a divided town and bring a delightful new twist to the legend of Santa Claus.

Nominated for an Academy Award and winner of seven Annie Awards, Klaus is a holiday treat for all ages!

Enjoy ice cream with a variety of toppings, popcorn, snacks, hot chocolate, and other beverages.

Plan to attend! Sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary (available soon), or contact the church office with the number attending.

A NEW YEAR IS UPON US!
CONSIDER BECOMING INVOLVED



CHURCH CALENDAR
NOVEMBER 15 — NOVEMBER 22

Sun 11/15	8:30 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship (Baptism)
	11:00 am	Potluck & Fall Congregational Meeting
Mon 11/16	6:00 pm	"Fun-Raising"
Tue 11/17	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Bells
Wed 11/18	9:00 am	Verso-Chat
	12:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thu 11/19	6:00 pm	Pastie Pickup
	6:30 pm	Choir
Fri 11/20	5:00 pm	St. George's School
Sat 11/21	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 11/22	8:30 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Sunday Social / Pastie Pickup
	MITTEN TREE	DEADLINE

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steven Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Samantha "Sam" Kistler samanthamkistler@gmail.com
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org
Office Administrator	Samara "Sam" Bush 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