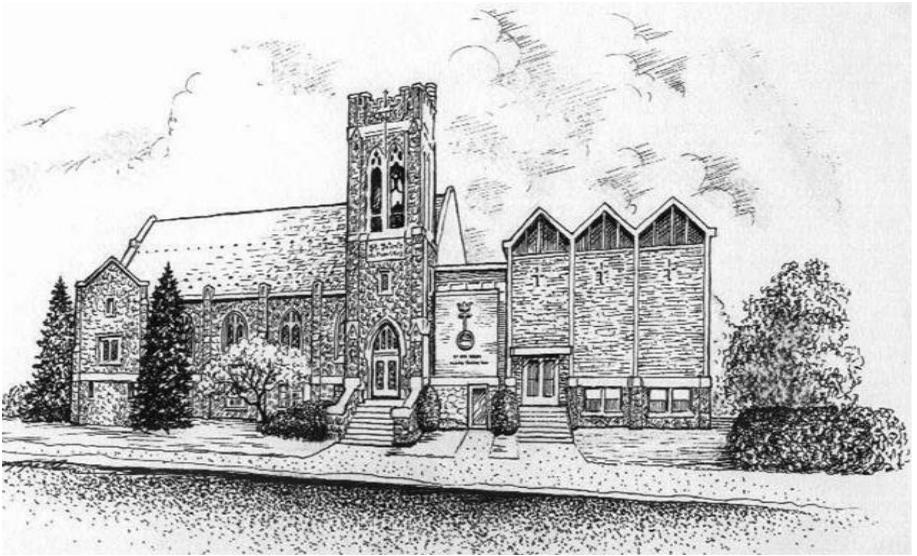


St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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!*

**November 19, 2023
Fall Congregational Meeting
& PNEC UCC Covenant Day
25th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am**

The Order of Worship

~ We Worship ~

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

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We are a place where love can grow!

*As the music begins, please find your place and
begin to center your spirit for our worship of God together.*

Our Offering is received as we gather for worship.

The offering plates are on pedestals at the back.

*We welcome your gifts to God of praise and gratitude in our ministry. The
offering is presented later in the worship service.*

Guests, please don't feel obligated to contribute financially.

The support of the church is the responsibility of our congregation.

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship *Prayer of Refuge*
James Michael Stevens

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome to Our Guests – please sign the red guest book!
- Visitation Committee receiving donations for Christmas bags
- Thanksgiving Eve Service, Wednesday, November 22, 7:00pm
- Dinner & Decorating, Thursday, November 30, 6:00/7:00pm
- Staff Christmas Luncheon donations – Paul Raszler
- PNEC UCC Covenant Day
- Opening our Fall Congregational Meeting – Bill Fink

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

***Call to Worship ~ Living Psalm 98** Liturgist: Nancy Bowman
Written by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson
General Minister and President of the UCC

One: O sing to the Lord a new song. God has done marvelous things. God made known the beauty of all God made. Let us give thanks to God as we steward the earth. Let us give thanks to God as we give of the gifts we received.

All: We give generously to all from all God has given to us.

One: The sea roars as do all that fills it, the sky invites our participation in rejoicing. We care for the oceans, the rivers and the seas. We care for the flowers, the trees, the grass and the earth, singing praises to God, making a joyful noise to God with the birds of the air.

All: We give generously to all from all God has given to us.

One: We give of our time to care for each other, we give of our time to care for the earth, we give of our time to care for all of creation. We give of our talent and treasure, clapping our hands and rejoicing that we are a part of the world and all those who live therein.

All: We give generously to all from all God has given to us.

One: God's steadfast love and faithfulness extends to the ends of the earth. We are invited to steward the earth, to join with the Divine to care for all created. We give as God has given to us with love and joy.

All: We give generously to all from all God has given to us.

***Opening Hymn**

This Day God Gives Me
Verses 1, 2, and 3

Found on page 3 of the bulletin

THIS DAY GOD GIVES ME

James Quinn, SJ

David Haas



1. This day God gives me strength of high
 2. This day God sends me strength as my
 3. God's way is my way, God's shield is
 4. Ris - ing I thank you, Might - y and

heav - en, Sun and moon shin - ing,
 guar - dian, Might to up - hold me,
 round me, God's host de - fends me,
 strong One, King of cre - a - tion,

Flame in my hearth, Flash - ing of
 Wis - dom as guide. Your eyes are
 Sav - ing from ill. An - gels of
 Giv - er of rest, Firm - ly con -

light - ning, wind in its swift - ness,
 watch - ful, Your ears are lis - t - ning,
 heav - en, Drive from me al - ways
 fess - ing God in three per - sons,

depths of the o - cean, firm - ness of earth.
 your lips are speak - ing, friend at my side.
 all that would harm me, stand by me still.
 One - ness of God - head, Tri - ni - ty blest.

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***Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

One: Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you.

All: **Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

One: You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy of acclaim. We squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we have been given. We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the giver. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world; remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today.

All: **Forgive us when we have treated Jesus' message as a nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. In Jesus' blessed name, we pray.**

Time for Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

One: We are loved by God and given so many gifts to be used to help others. We do not fear to use these gifts, for God is with us, continually blessing us and our gifts of service.

All: **We are loved, we are forgiven, Thanks be to God. Amen**

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

*Hymn

O Christ the Same
Verses 1 and 2

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es,
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide,
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main,

e - ter - nal Lord, the King of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love, in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)
MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. John Barnard (1948-)

Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Company
Music Arr. © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LONDONDERRY AIR
11.10.11.10.D.

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days,
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

***Scripture Reading**

Matthew 25:14-15, 19-25
Scripture Reader: Alex Bach

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

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Because of You: Enter Into Joy

Anthem:

I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger

Arr. by Tammy Waldrop

The Bells of St. John's featuring Peter McKeon on Bass

~ We Love ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

Holy and gracious God, generous and abundant giver of hope, unconditional in your love; we pray to be in greater covenant with you and each other, with our sister congregations, our conference and national partners in ministry, and with all those who share faith in your love and grace for a world in need. We pray for those we name in our hearts and these we call by name...

O God, in your steadfast love and faithfulness, we are bold to worship, love and serve in your Spirit, sustained and equipped for the good work of ministry. In our prayers, let our actions be wed with our intention, our deeds joined with words of promise and covenant as Jesus taught us together to pray...

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

Our Proposed 2024 Budget Presented for Adoption

Sue Weldner, Treasurer



Thank you for your
generosity and faithfulness
in
supporting the ministry of
St. John's UCC!

We are in Covenant Together

Pastor: Let us, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton, together affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Congregation: We come with joy into the common life of this church. We promise 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.

***Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

All: Merciful God, receive our humble offerings as a testimony to your provision and a demonstration of our love. May they be magnified and multiplied for the benefit of our community and all creation. Amen

~ We Serve ~

Celebrating our Leadership

Our Consistory Nominations

2024

2025

2026

Wayne Lichtenwalner

Wendy Fox (E)

Kay Chryst

DonnaLee Yeatts (E)

Sharon Antrim

Kirby Hower

Kim Hillegass

Kathy Roth

Fortress Chryst (Y)

Joy Gravely

Tyler Shankweiler

Paul Raszler (E)

*Closing Hymn:

Soon and Very Soon

Verses 1, 2, and 4

Found on page 10 of the bulletin

*The Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on “Soon and Very Soon”

Arr. by Mark Hayes

*When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship
The Benediction and Postlude send us out
to be the people of God in our community.*

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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

11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth

384 Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

Attendance – November 12

Onsite – 89 Online - 25

Serving in Worship Leadership

November 19

Liturgist – Nancy Bowman

Scripture Reader – Alex Bach

Ushers – Open

Worship Tech – Elijah Fox

Acolyte – Zachary Szoke

Social Hour Host – Bruce and Bobbi Pope

November 26

Liturgist – Regi Mohr

Scripture Reader – Rev. Dave Mohr

Ushers – Open

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Acolyte – Sophia Pagan

Social Hour Host – Open

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass

Continued prayers for those suffering from natural disasters across the world as well as the war against Ukraine and the war between Israel and Hamas.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio.

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**.

If you have someone for us to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

ST. JOHN'S SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship for 2024 is now available for anyone wishing to sponsor the following: Altar flowers are \$25.00 a vase, Bulletins are \$20, Wheat Basket, where the donation will go to the Food Pantry, is \$15, and the monthly newsletter is \$100.00. Please contact the church office for additional information or sign up!

CHRISTMAS POINTSETTIAS ORDERS

Order forms for this year's Christmas Poinsettias are now available in the parlor. New this year is the addition of White, Pink and Red poinsettias. For the 6 ½ size, the price is \$12.00, for 7 ½ size, the price is \$18. The larger size is only available in red. **Deadline for order forms is December 3rd, 2023. Any orders received after December 3rd, due to ordering from our florist, will only be allowed to purchase the color RED.**

GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND

For the month of November, contributions will be directed towards Project HOPE for their work in the Ukraine. Project HOPE's humanitarian assistance focuses on supporting Ukraine's primary and secondary health facilities with essential medicines, insulin, medical supplies, equipment and generators, as well as the reconstruction of critical health care facilities. Project HOPE's team in Ukraine is also addressing mental health, water, sanitation, and hygiene needs as well. General Disaster Relief Fund envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge area or you can send in your donation to the church office, put in the offering plate, or give on-line or by texting. Be sure to note in the memo section it is for "Ukraine Relief Fund."

CALLING ALL LEGO PEOPLE

We are in need of *Lego people* for our Sunday Faith Formation program. We are averaging 6-8 children and it is gratifying to watch them reflecting on the day's Bible story with their Lego creations. If you have Lego people you are willing to donate, please put them in the container on the back table.

GET YOUR APPLEBEE'S COUPON

Applebee's "Burgers for a Cause" are still available for \$10 each. They do not expire and can be used at any Applebee's in the Lehigh Valley. The coupon entitles you to any hamburger on their menu and fries. See Kenda Catalini or contact her at (484)358-7453 or email at kpcatalini@aol.com.

SCRIP GIFT CARD SALES

Our annual Scrip gift card sale is here. The order form with the list of stores, restaurants, businesses, etc. that are available to purchase can be found online or on the table in the lounge. Checks are payable to St. John's and must accompany the order form. **Deadline is November 19.** Pickup will be on or after December 10. If you have any questions, contact Tracey Glass at (610)905-8426.

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

Thanks to all of you who bring in receipts from Redner's. They do have some guidelines we need to follow. The whole receipt, and it needs to say Save-A-Tape. If you are not a member of Redner's Save-A-Tape program, please join – then make sure you use your customer card as you check out. If you use a charge card and do not want any numbers to show on the receipt, you can black them out. Thanks for your support.

HOMEBOUND GIFT BAGS

The Visitation Committee is looking for monetary donations for Christmas gift bags for the homebound. Envelopes are on the back table. They are also looking for unused cards (Christmas, Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Blank, etc.) to put in the bags for the people to use. If you have any cards, please drop them off at the office.

HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CANDY

St. John's Chocolatier, Ginny Brokenshire, is again offering semi-sweet chocolate peanut butter balls and coconut cream balls for the holidays. \$14.00/lb. Order forms are available online or on the table in the lounge area. Give or mail orders to Ginny at 5368 Vera Cruz Rd., Center Valley. **Deadline to order is Sunday, November 26.** Pick-up will be on December 17.

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 or 610-428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, November 28.**

“OPERATION SANTA”

For the month of November, our Mission Outreach is “Operation Santa”—the Mitten Tree Project. We are accepting donations for Phoebe Ministries and/or Valley Youth House. From your contributions, gifts will be purchased by the staff at VYH for their young clients. Gift certificates for the beauty salon/barber shop and the gift shop will be used at Phoebe for their elderly residents. Look for the Mitten Tree in the lounge area. Take a red or yellow mitten for Phoebe and a green or purple mitten for VYH. Your contribution can be mailed to the office, put in the offering plate, or donated on-line or by text. All checks are payable to St. John's. Be sure to specify Phoebe or VYH in the memo section. **Deadline to receive your contribution is Sunday, November 26.**

HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTS AT ST. JOHN'S

The Crafters Group will have their crafts for sale before or after worship on **Sundays, November 26 and December 3.** You can choose from holiday furnishings, household items, and a collection of baby items. We have the perfect items for birthdays or for thank-you gifts. Look for the

many new items our crafters have made. If you have any questions, see Carol Raszler or call her at 610-393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com

WE HAVE EXTRAS! – NUT & FRUIT SALE

For those of you who didn't place an order, we have extra items available to purchase. Prices vary from \$12.00 to \$13.00. Stop by the lounge area before or after worship and see Carol Raszler to make your purchases.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the months of November and December we are collecting items for the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. St. John's was asked to collect:

- **100 cans of turkey gravy**
- **100 cans of vegetables**
- **100 cans of cranberry sauce**

A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or by online or text giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, please contact Gary Black at 484-274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com.

There is also an outstanding opportunity to SERVE at the Whitehall Food Pantry this Holiday Season. Whitehall Food Pantry can use your help on **Monday, November 20th** in preparation for Thanksgiving meals and **Monday, December 18th** in preparation for Christmas meals for families in Whitehall experiencing food insecurity. We meet at St. Stephens Episcopal church on Mechanicsville Road at 9 AM until about 11:30 AM to set up for distribution and then that evening from 5:30 PM until about 8 PM to give out food to about 35 families. We can use your help at any of the sessions. Come out. It is fun.

SERVICE OF THE NATIVITY

Join us on **Sunday, December 17**, as St. John's will be holding our 2nd annual Service of the Nativity, 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, told through the eyes of each character instrumental in the birth of our Lord.

Church Calendar for the Week of November 19 – November 26

Sun 11/19	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship/Congregation Meeting
	9:30 am	No Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
Mon 11/20	6:00 pm	“Fun” Raising
Tues 11/21	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
	7:00 pm	Choir
Wed 11/22	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	7:00 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 11/23	Office Closed - Thanksgiving	
Fri 11/24	Office Closed - Thanksgiving	
Sat 11/25	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 11/26	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music Ministries	Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjuccf.org
Treasurer	Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst (FS) financialsecretary@sjuccf.org (CC) custodians@sjuccf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello (W-MT) stars@sjuccf.org (CNE) newsletter@sjuccf.org
Custodian	Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com
Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net