

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 30, 2025

**First Sunday of Advent
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. 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.

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

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Movie & Ice-Cream Night, December 6, 6:30pm (page 9)
- Prayer Shawls – Prayer Quilts at the back as you come in.
- Quiet Christmas with Asbury UMC, December 18, 7:00pm
- Service of the Nativity, December 21, 5:40pm Pre-Music, 6:00pm Worship Service
- Poinsettia Order DUE TODAY
- World AIDS Day, December 1

*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

O Come Divine Messiah

New hymn for worship, found on page 3

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: Silently and gently, falling and failing, changing and resting
seeking you, Lord...

All: **We watch, we wait, we dream, we pray. For the earth to
renew, for our hearts to soften, for your grace to cover us,
for your justice to pour out, for time and space to listen, for
courage to act.**

One: On the edge of Advent,

All: **We sit with you, we pause, we hurt, we repent, we rage.**

One: When will it be? Will it ever be?

All: **Come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

*Opening Hymn

O Come Divine Messiah

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Corrina and Jeff Purdon

One: This is the season to be ready. This is the day to keep awake.

All: **We do not know, O God; we do not know when your
goodness will be complete. But we are awake; we are
waiting; we are trusting.**

One: Keep your candles lit. Keep your hope warm.

All: **Too long, O God, we have chased after false prophets.
Too long, we have looked among ourselves for a messiah.
Now we set our hearts on readiness for you.**

One: By the light of Advent

All: **We keep awake and wait for Emmanuel.**

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

An Advent Response



WORDS: Revelation 22:20, adapt.

MUSIC: Dean McIntyre, 2004

BEERSHEBA

5.5.5.5

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O Come, Divine Messiah!



1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah! The world in si - lence
2. O come, De - sired of na - tions, Whom priest and proph - et
3. O come in peace and meek - ness, For low - ly will your



waits the day When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And
long fore-told. Come break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re -
cra - dle be: Though clothed in hu - man weak - ness We



sad - ness flee a - way.
deem the long - lost fold. Dear Sav-ior, haste! Come, come to
shall your God - head see.



earth. Dis-pel the night and show your face, And bid us



hail the dawn of grace. O come, Di - vine Mes -



si - ah! The world in si - lence waits the day When



hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: *Venez, divin Messie*; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663–1745; tr. by Mary of St. Philip, SND, 1825–1904, alt.
Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE, 7 8 7 6 with refrain; French carol, 16th C.

Invitation to Confession and Response Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: This is the time for us to wake from sleep; salvation is near to us. Let us then lay aside the tatters of sin, and put on the armor of righteousness, asking our Savior for forgiveness.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

All: O God, we are steeped in a world of violence. Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty. Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can be when you forge them into instruments of peace.

Sung Response

Lord Have Mercy

Based on "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Kevin Weed

$\text{♩} = 88$

The musical notation is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff contains four measures of music. The first measure is labeled 'Choir/Soloist' and the second 'All'. The third measure is labeled 'Choir/Soloist' and the fourth 'All'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy Christ, have'. The second staff begins with a measure rest of 8 measures, then continues with the same melody. The lyrics are: 'mer - cy. Lord, have_ mer - cy. Lord, have_ mer - cy.'.

Choir/Soloist All Choir/Soloist All

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy Christ, have

8 Choir/Soloist All

mer - cy. Lord, have_ mer - cy. Lord, have_ mer - cy.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: Beloved, know this: the God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of Peace, hears our prayers and gives us power to love.

All: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Rev. Davis &
Samantha Kistler

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

Hymn # 232

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Verses 1, 2, and 4

*Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

Advent through the Movies: *Wonka* (2023)

"Hope"

Song of Praise

Advent Lullaby — by Mark Burrows

*I am the hands to comfort and hold you. I feel your longing, I hear your cry.
Now let the warmth of My love enfold you. There is no need to fear, I am
hope, I am here. Rest, my dear one. Lullaby.*

*I am the voice of wholeness and healing, singing assurance, heaven's reply.
Trust in the promise God is revealing. There is no need to fear, I am peace, I
am here. Rest, my dear one. Lullaby.*

*Let wonder and joy surround you. You are cherished, you are known.
Emmanuel: God with you. You are loved, you are never alone.*

*I am the light and I will be with you, sure as the stars that brighten the sky.
My very heart, forever I give you. There is no need to fear, I am love, I am
here. Rest, my dear one. Lullaby. Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby. Lullaby.*

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis &
Samantha Kistler

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**

In the Bleak Midwinter

What can I give him, Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him — Give my heart.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

**All: Ever-Watchful God, as we offer these gifts, we do so as
people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world
for your coming reign. Let these offerings be signs of
readiness, trust, and hope as we wait. In the name of the
one who comes, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

We Serve

***Sending Hymn #154**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 1 and 2

***The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

Postlude

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Arranged by Lee Dengler

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

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Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:15am Friendship Class

9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly

10:30am Sunday Social

First Sunday of Advent, November 30

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5 and Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangwere

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Kim Hillegass

Greeters: Aubrey Funches and Constance Arnold

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

Second Sunday of Advent, December 7

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10 and Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13 and Matthew 3:1-12

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Sharon Antrim

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon

Ushers and Greeters: Sharon Antrim, Robin Brensinger, Kay Chryst, Tom

Chryst, Wendy Fox, Kirby Hower, Corrina Purdon

Page | 7

Flower Sponsorship

In honor of daughter, granddaughter and wife, Alyssa Kathi Amaral's birthday by her parents Robert and Lee Ann Lopez, grandparents, Nancy Keister and Robert Lopez Sr, and husband, Christopher Amaral.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Shirley Abel, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Christina Bach, Clarence Biehn, Bob Bold, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Roxanne DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass and Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Geraldine Keim, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Carol Raszler, Joey Raszler, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Barry Stephens and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICES

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter.

GROCERY OPPORTUNITIES – GIANT, WEIS & REDNER'S

Buy Giant and Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Also good for purchasing gas. 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.

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS

This coupon book, good for all of 2026, contains discount offers for restaurants, hotels, car rentals, entertainment venues, amusement parks, clothing, food, and much more. Cost is \$25 per book. A sample copy is on display in the lounge area. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase.

RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS

Orders have been placed for RaiseRight gift cards. You will be notified when the cards arrive for pickup. Thanks for your support of St. John's.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Many young adults with children and senior adults on fixed incomes rely on Federal assistance for their food needs. Area food banks continue to see significant increases in people looking for assistance. Federal funding for SNAP (food stamps) has only been partially funded. Monetary donations help us provide the food banks with the ability to acquire produce, meat and dairy. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary for you to place your food donations.

FAMILY MOVIE & ICE CREAM NIGHT



Join us on Saturday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. for a fun-filled event. Choose from a big selection of ice cream flavors with all the toppings, eat some popcorn, and watch the movie "WONKA."

The movie depicts a young Willy Wonka (played by Timothée Chalamet) as he arrives in the city with a dream of opening his own chocolate shop. He becomes entangled with a ruthless boarding house owner and greedy chocolatiers who want to crush any new competition. With the help of an orphan Noodle and other new friends, he sets out to make his unique chocolates and defeat his rivals. The story is a heartwarming tale of determination, friendship, and the idea

that it only takes a dream to make a difference. A signup sheet can be found on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND: "JOSHUA"

Wednesday, June 3, 2026. Bus leaves St. John's at 8am for 11am show. After the show we will enjoy a lunch buffet at Yoder's restaurant in nearby New Holland, PA. Cost of trip, including chartered bus, downstairs theater tickets, lunch buffet, and tips is \$150 per person. (Children may be a little cheaper.) Because we need to know how many are interested in this trip, we ask that you make your reservations ASAP. Please include a \$75 deposit with each reservation, and give to Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler.

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.

APPLEBEES BURGERS FOR A CAUSE

Now available! Applebee's burger gift cards are good for any burgers on their menu (Some cost over \$17.00), for the price of \$10 per card. The certificates never expire, and are good at Applebee's in our area. They make great stocking stuffers! See Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer to purchase these certificates.

GOBBLE, GOBBLE, GOBBLE

During the upcoming holidays, many of you will win turkeys, get them as gifts, or earn them with the supermarket rewards program. If you would like to donate your turkey for our fundraising events, please contact Carol Raszler to make arrangements.

Service of the Nativity

A Night of Meditation, Prayer and Song



Sunday, December 21, 2025
Music beginning at 5:40pm - Service at 6pm

St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton
575 Grape Street
Whitehall, PA 18052
(610) 264-8421

Refreshments to follow in Fox Hall.

Please join us using the stairs or elevator to the basement level.

A free will offering for the Music Ministry will be taken.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

NOVEMBER 2025

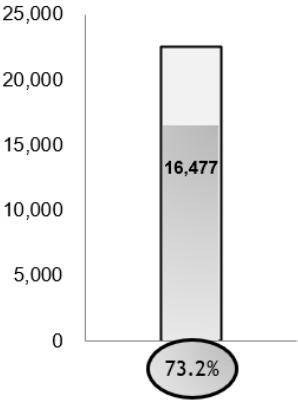
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	16,477.15
Overall Percent	73.2%

Last Week	
Start:	11/23/25
End:	11/29/25
Total:	1,690.55

Amt needed to reach Target	
NOVEMBER 2025	6,022.85

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



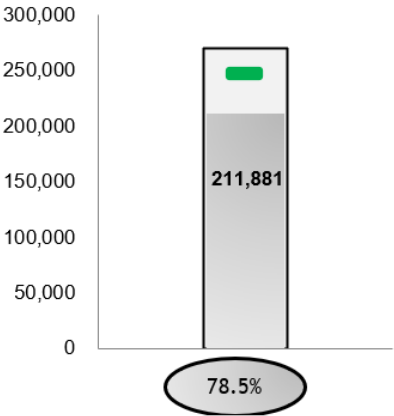
YTD OFFERINGS

NOVEMBER 2025

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	247,500.00
Overall Total	211,880.50
Overall Percent	78.5%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



CHURCH CALENDAR **FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 7**

Sun 11/30	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship – First Sunday of Advent
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Tues 12/2	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 12/3	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 12/4	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Property Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 12/5	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 12/6	8:30 am	Men’s Breakfast
	9:30 am	Zumba
	6:00 pm	Movie and Ice Cream Night
Sun 12/7	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship – Second Sunday of Advent
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
		Newsletter Deadline

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
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