St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Steven Davis

- Nov. 14, Bazaar, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (pg 12)
- Mitten Tree – "Operation Santa" (pg 12)
- Nov. 15, Annual Meeting / Potluck, 11:00 am
- Nov. 25, Combined Thanksgiving Service, 6:00 pm
- Advent Candle Lighting Volunteers—Red Board (pg 13)

***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 *Come to Us*
New Hymn for Worship

***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: We gather carrying the questions, uncertainties, and burdens of life. Yet we come knowing that our hope is greater than our fears, and God's promises are stronger than our doubts.

All: We come seeking the light of Christ, trusting that even in the darkest moments, God's presence will never abandon us.

One: Jesus tells us to keep our lamps burning, to remain watchful, and to live with hearts prepared for the coming of God's kingdom.

All: May our faith never grow dim, may our love never grow cold, and may our lives reflect the light of Christ.

One: We are not promised that every road will be easy, nor that every answer will come when we desire it. Yet we are promised that God walks with us through every season.

All: So let us worship with courage, live with purpose, love without hesitation, and hold tightly to the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus!

***Gathering Hymn** *The Mighty God with Power Speaks*
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on page 7

***Gathering Prayer** Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

All: Ever-present and faithful God, we come into Your presence with searching hearts, longing spirits, and lives filled with both questions and possibilities.

When grief weighs heavily upon us, remind us that we do not walk through sorrow alone. When uncertainty clouds our vision, help us see beyond our fears and trust in Your unfailing presence. Awaken our faith. Reignite the flames of our spirits. Do not allow us to become so distracted by the demands of yesterday or the worries of tomorrow that we fail to recognize the opportunities You place before us today.

May this experience of worship strengthen our hearts, challenge our thinking, and inspire our living. Let the words we speak, the prayers we offer, and the songs we

sing draw us closer to You. This we pray in your most Holy Name, Amen.

Invitation to Confession Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: There are moments when life moves so quickly that we forget what matters most. God calls us to examine our hearts, to acknowledge where we have fallen short, and to make room for renewal. Let us now pause, turning toward God, and reflect upon the ways we have lived, the opportunities we have missed, and the light we have failed to share. Let us offer our silent reflection and prayer.

Time for Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious and merciful God, we confess that too often we have allowed fear to become louder than faith and worry to become greater than hope.

Forgive us for the moments when our faith has grown weary and our hearts have become unprepared. Renew our spirits. Replenish our hope. Teach us to live with greater purpose, to love more generously, and to shine more brightly. May our lives become a reflection of Your grace, and may our faith be more than words we speak. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Sung Response *First sung by the choir, then All*

Assurance of Forgiveness Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

Kyrie



One: Hear these words of hope and promise: God's love is not measured by our perfection, nor is God's grace limited by our failures. We worship God who continually calls us back, lifts us up, and gives us another opportunity to begin again.

All: Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and renewed.

Children's Message Rev. Steve Davis and Rev. Samantha Kistler

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

Hymn: WR # 349 *Seek Ye First* All Verses

***Scripture Reading** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13 Reader: Tom Moyer

Sermon Rev. Steve Davis

Living in This Moment with Integrity and Hope
"Our Stories of Faith"

Song of Praise *Come to Us* All Verses

Hymn found on page 8

We Love

A Prayer Remembering and Honoring our Veterans

One: Eternal God, Giver of Peace and Keeper of Every Life, today we remember with grateful hearts those who answered the call to serve. We honor their courage, their sacrifice, and their willingness to face uncertainty so that others might know freedom.

All: God of mercy, we remember and honor those sent to serve and sacrifice, whose love for country and the cause of freedom have guided their convictions.

One: We remember those who never returned home, whose dreams were left unfinished and whose absence is still felt in the hearts of those who loved them.

All: May the fallen rest in your eternal peace and the grieving find comfort.

One: We lift before you the veterans who walk among us today, along with the families who have shared in the cost of their service with sacrifices of their own.

All: Teach us to honor their sacrifice not only through remembrance, but through lives of kindness, justice, appreciation and service.

One: Let us never forget that the greatest tribute we can offer those who served is not simply to remember the battles of yesterday, but to build a world where tomorrow's generations need not fight them again.

All: God of remembrance and hope, bless our veterans, comfort our grieving, heal our wounded, and lead us toward lasting peace. May our lives become instruments of your peace. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer Rev. Steve Davis and
(Requests shared from the entry table basket) Rev. 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.

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: Robin Brensinger

All: Everything we have and everything we are, comes from Your abundant grace. As we bring our offerings before You, may they reflect hearts willing to serve, hands willing to give, and lives willing to make Your love known. In Christ's name, pray Amen.

We Serve

***Hymn to Send Us Forth:** *God of Day and God of Darkness*
Verses 1, 4, and 5

Hymn found on page 9

***Benediction** Rev. Steve Davis

***Postlude** *Festive Praise—Lloyd Larson*

Flower Sponsorship for November 8th, 2026
In Memory of Linda Apple with love on her birthday
By Charlie Apple, Keri Neil, Mindy Marciniak

Bulletin Sponsorship for November 8th, 2026
Gregg and Valarie Fisher for Loved Ones

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

13 The Mighty God with Power Speaks

(Psalm 50)



This paraphrase, set to a familiar English folk melody, focuses on the opening narrative section of Psalm 50 without attempting to summarize God's speeches in the latter portion of the psalm. Both parts bear witness to God's sovereignty, God's justice, and God's providence.

TEXT: Michael Morgan, 1999; rev. 2011
MUSIC: *English Country Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Text © 1999, 2011 Michael Morgan (admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources)

KINGSFOLD
CMD

Come to Us

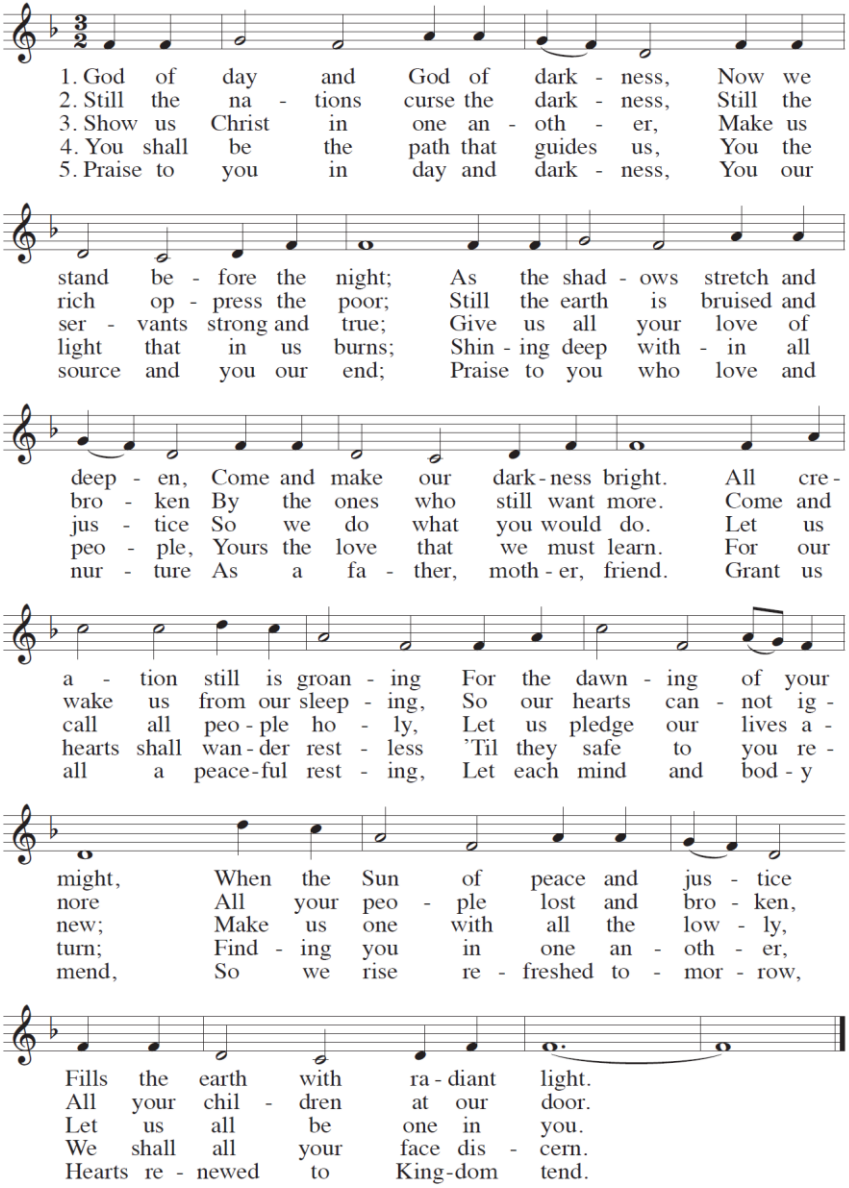
Rory Cooney



Text: Rory Cooney. Text and music © 1986, OCP. All rights reserved.

Sending Forth Hymn

God of Day and God of Darkness



Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1985, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

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 1

Onsite – 108 Online – 42 Total – 150

24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 8
Lectionary Readings

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 and Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger
Scripture Reader: Tom Moyer
Worship Tech: Bill Castello
Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon
Ushers: Charlotte Kerrigan and Karen Stoisits
Greeter: Kim Hillegass

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

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
Joy & Mike Gravely
Donna Held
George Williams, Sr.
Rev. John & Charlee Hoff
JoAnn Hower
Barbara Jennings
Mary Jane Kistler
Ethel Lavenburg
Dawn Luckenbill
Elaine Parsons
Brenda Pascoe
Joey Raszler
Rebecca Schneck
Bobby Sherman
Bert Smith
Susan Stocker
Barry Stephens
Martha Strauss
Pat Thompson

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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH SPONSORSHIP

There are many meaningful ways to support the life and ministry of St. John's through sponsorship – helping to beautify our sanctuary with seasonal flowers given in honor or memory of a loved one, sponsoring our weekly worship bulletins, or sponsoring our monthly newsletters. Your generosity helps make the ministry of St. John's possible. You can also support our Music Ministry by sponsoring the purchase of new music, helping our choirs continue to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Every sponsorship, large or small, becomes a meaningful gift to our church family.

Your sponsorship is more than a contribution—it is a way to celebrate a loved one, remember someone special, support our worship, and help St. John's continue its ministry for generations to come.

Consider sponsoring today and help us continue to worship, love, serve, and make a joyful noise together!

NEWS FROM "FUN-RAISING"

What to Know About Our BAZAAR

Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in Fox Hall

What's one man's trash is another man's treasure!

*Jewelry * Purses * Linens * Knick Knacks * Books * CDs*
*Small Appliances * Dishes * Glassware * Pots & Pans*
*Crafts * Toys & Games * Puzzles * Sports Equipment*
*Household Furnishings * Seasonal Décor * Tools*

Come to the **CRAFTERS** table where our St. John's crafters, "Keeping You in Stitches," have been busy all year long with a vast assortment of t-towels, table runners, bowl cozies, dishcloths, household decorations, baby bibs, baby sweaters, and so much more. They will also have Christmas holiday items to choose from.

Our **BAKERS** have been hard at work offering a wide variety of goodies including such favorites as shoofly pies, funny cakes, and cut-out cookies. If you have a sweet tooth, our **CANDY MAKERS** have a selection of candies that include peanut clusters and white chocolate covered pretzels, among other tasty treats.

STOP IN FOR LUNCH. You will find a choice of hamburgers & cheeseburgers, hotdogs, pulled pork BBQ sandwiches, turkey vegetable soup, chili, snacks, and beverages. Dine-in / take-out available.

"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 IS COMING

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.

ADVENT DECORATING

Volunteers are needed to help with decorating the church on Wednesday, November 25, immediately following the 6:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve service. If available to help, please email or see Patrick.

CHURCH CALENDAR
NOVEMBER 8 — NOVEMBER 15

Sun 11/8	8:30 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship – All Saints Day
	10:45 am	Sunday Social
	BAZAAR	SET-UP
Mon 11/9	BAZAAR	SET-UP
Tue 11/10	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
	BAZAAR	SET-UP
Wed 11/11	OFFICE	CLOSED
	12:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
	BAZAAR	SET-UP
Thu 11/12	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
	BAZAAR	SET-UP
Fri 11/13	5:00 pm	St. George's School
	BAZAAR	SET-UP
Sat 11/14	9:00 am	Bazaar
Sun 11/15	8:30 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship (Baptism)
	11:00 am	Annual Fall Meeting

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve 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
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St. John's Christian Early Learning Center Director	Jazmin Smith staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com 610-443-0254