



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



October 19, 2025
9:30am



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We celebrate the life and hope we find together in God's love!

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

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

- CROP Walk – October 19 envelopes for donations (Page 11)
- St. John's "Road Rally" – October 19 (See Tom Moyer)
- Boscov's Day – October 22 (Page 9)
- Missions – Food Bank – 180 Boxes of Stuffing
- NYC Bus Trip – December 13 (Page 11)
- Worship Leaders' Schedule – On the red table

***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

Reflections
Erwin Stroobach

Bells of St. John's

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

One: We lift up our eyes to the hills, from where will our help come?

All: **Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. God will not let our foot be moved; The One who keeps us will not slumber.**

One: The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.

All: **The Lord will keep us from all evil; and will keep our going out and coming in from this time on and for evermore. Let us worship God!**

*Gathering Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness
All Verses

found on pages 3

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

One: Turning to the Lord with humility, and trusting in his love, we confess our sin and the sins of the world, first in silent prayer.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

All: **Grace-filled God, we confess that we pursue our own needs, neglecting the needs of others. Have mercy on us, O God. Open our eyes to the truth of the gospel, that whatever the time or wherever we are, we may fully embody your love and justice for all the world. Amen.**

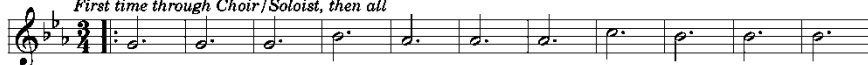
Sung Response

Lord Have Mercy on Us

Leon Roberts

$\text{♩} = 88$

First time through Choir/Soloist, then all



Lord have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy Lord have mer -

12



-cy have mer - cy on us.

Lord of All Hopefulness



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953, © 1931, Oxford University Press
Tune: SLANE, 10 11 11 12, Irish melody

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

One: Whoever we are, wherever we are, however we are, we belong to God.

All: **Through Jesus Christ, God cleanses us from all unrighteousness and leads us from sin. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

Presentation of Bibles

The Confirmation Bible is presented to Ryan Szoke
in gratitude and in honor of
Linda Powell and Wayne Lichtenwalner
for the many years of devoted and faithful leadership,
and love in our Confirmation program

One: Our God has given us the sacred Word, both to be our guide through life and to show us God's good, gracious and saving will. It is in the Bible's message of the gospel that we meet our Savior Jesus Christ, hear his Word, and come to know God as the Holy Spirit, Giver of compassion, grace and love.

All: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

One: May the Word of the Lord give us wisdom.

All: May it bring joy to our hearts and light to our eyes.

One: May it instruct us in the fear of the Lord,

All: And guide us in his truth.

Song of Praise

A Humble Heart
by Sandra Eithun

Bells of St. John's

Scripture Reading:

Luke 18:1-8

Read by: Michael Agrippine

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a

widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.'

For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

One: The Word of God for the people of God!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Choosing Faith: Persistent Faith

Song of Praise

What A Savior, What A Friend—Marianne Foreman

Soloists: Corrina Schneck and Jeff Purdon

***Solo:** Jesus, what a friend for sinners, Jesus, lover of my soul, friends may fail me, foes assail me, He my Savior, make me whole.*

***Solo:** Jesus, what a strength in weakness, let me hide myself in Him, tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my strength, my victory wins.*

Hallelujah, what a Savior, Hallelujah what a Friend, hallelujah, what a Friend.

Jesus, what a help in sorrow while the billows o'er me roll, even when my heart is breaking, He my comfort helps my soul.

Hallelujah, what a Savior, Hallelujah what a Friend, hallelujah, what a Friend.

Jesus, I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find, He has granted me forgiveness, I am His, I am his and He is mine! Hallelujah, what a Savior, Hallelujah, what a friend! Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Hallelujah, what a Friend!

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Steve Davis
and 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
Based on Old Hundredth

***Praise life that makes us change and grow
Praise love that makes compassion flow
Praise peace that ends all strife and fear
Praise hands that work for justice here. Amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

All: Persistent and just God, receive these gifts as acts of our faith — faith that keeps moving, faith that keeps hoping, faith that keeps working for justice, even when the world says it's too late or too little. Make us a people who do not lose heart. In the name of Christ, who still stands and knocks. Amen.

We Serve

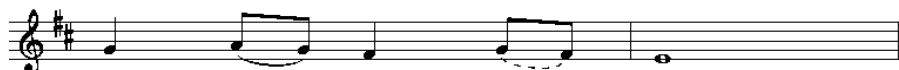
*Closing Hymn

Seek Ye First
Verses 1 and 2

Seek Ye First



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,
3. You do not live by bread a - lone,
4. Where two or three are gath - ered in my name,



and seek, his right - eous - ness,
and you shall find,
but by ev - 'ry word
there am I in their midst;



and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you;
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you;
that comes forth from the mouth of God;
and what - so - ev - er you ask I will do;



Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Benediction

Rev. Steve Davis

Postlude

March in G
John S. Dixon

*All music in this bulletin is copyrighted and reprinted
under OneLicense #A-735634*

Flower Sponsorship

In Loving Memory of Gary A. Fink
Bill Fink

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:15am Friendship Class

9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly

10:30am Sunday Social

Attendance – Oct 12

Onsite – 75 Online – 31

19th Sunday after Pentecost, October 19

Lectionary Readings

Jeremiah 31:27-34 and Psalm 119:97-104

Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 and Luke 18:1-8

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

Scripture Reader: Michael Agrippine

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

Greeters: Carole O'Connell

Ushers: Charlotte Kerrigan/Corrina Schneck

20th Sunday after Pentecost, October 26

Lectionary Readings

Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65

Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 and Psalm 84:1-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 and Luke 18:9-14

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

Scripture Reader: Sharon Czekner

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeters: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Emilie and Tom Moyer

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, Larry Albright, 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, 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, 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.

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.

BOSCOV'S "FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS" SHOPPING PASS

Shop at Boscov's on Wednesday, October 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Purchase a \$5.00 shopping pass from St. John's and the church gets to keep the funds. The pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sales price, in-store and online. To get your pass, see Carol Raszler before or after worship.

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. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase.

RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS

What better way to shop for those on your holiday gift list than by purchasing gift cards through RaiseRight. While you're shopping, don't forget to add a few for yourself. Choose from almost 150 vendors in various dollar amounts. Order forms can be found on the church's website, in October's newsletter, and on the table in the lounge.

Deadline for order form and payment is October 31. Checks are payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. If you have any questions, contact Karen Stoitsits at (610) 262-0746 or littleldr@yahoo.com.

ST. JOHN'S BAZAAR AND ITEMS NEEDED

Saturday, November 8, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- * Crafts * Yard Sale Treasures * Bake Sale * Candy Sale
- * Come for Lunch - Beef Vegetable Soup, Chili, Hot Dogs, Burgers, Snacks and Beverages

Deadline to receive items is Sunday, October 26. Clean out your closets, basement, and garage. We're looking for items you no longer use or need such as: **jewelry, purses, linens, toys & games, puzzles, CDs, dishes, pots & pans, glassware, knickknacks, attic treasures, household furnishings, books, small appliances, small furniture, tools, craft supplies, and seasonal décor.** All items must be clean and in working order. We will **NOT accept:** clothing, encyclopedias, magazines, records, bowling balls, computers, monitors, printers. Bring in your items now and drop them off in the office or in Rooms 303 & 306. If you have any questions, need items to be picked up, or would like to help in any department, contact Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the months of October & November, we are collecting boxed or packaged stuffing mix for the Thanksgiving meal. Any other non-perishable food items as well as monetary contributions are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary for you to place your food donations. If you would like to volunteer at the pantry on the 4th Monday of each month from 9am to 11am or 5:30pm to 8:00pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com.

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. Pastor 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.

BUS TRIP TO NYC

Spend Saturday, December 13, in NYC and enjoy the city during the holiday season. See a play, visit a museum, or do some Christmas shopping. Cost of the trip is \$50 per person with the bus leaving St. John's parking lot at 9:00 a.m. & leaving NYC at 7:00 p.m. **Deadline for reservations and payment is Sunday, November 9.** Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. If you have any questions, see Brian Fisher, Amy Feidler, or Pastor Steve.

CROP HUNGER WALK

This year's walk is scheduled for **this afternoon**, starting at 1:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church located at 140 S. Ott St. in Allentown. Take the 10K Route or the "Golden Mile" Route through the Hamilton Park neighborhood. The CROP Walk helps food-insecure neighbors locally through the Lehigh Conference of Churches, and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and across the U.S. and globally through Church World Service. If you would like to make a contribution to the CROP Walk or volunteer to be a walker, please see Cindy Reck or Marion DeMilio. Special offering envelopes can be found on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. Checks are payable to **CWS/CROP**.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Two-thirds of the NIN offering is used by UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry, witnessing to Native values and culture. Special offering envelopes were in the October newsletter and in the bulletin. Contributions will be received up until the end of October.

PEEPS MEETING

The PEEPS Women's Group will meet on **Tuesday, October 21, starting at 6:30 p.m.** in Fox Hall. We will reflect on scripture for encouragement and direction, followed by time in small committees to plan activities for future meetings. It'll also be a time to relax and socialize by playing favorite board games. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to know more about this Women's Group, contact Regi Mohr.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on **November 1 at 8:30am.** We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or email at QVRRBold@aol.com.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

OCTOBER 2025

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	11,898.10
Overall Percent	52.9%

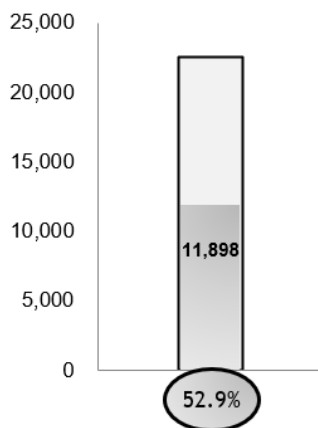
Last Week	
Start:	10/12/25
End:	10/18/25
Total:	5,303.90

Amt needed to reach Target

OCTOBER 2025	10,601.90
--------------	-----------

Progress

□ Overall Target
■ Overall Total



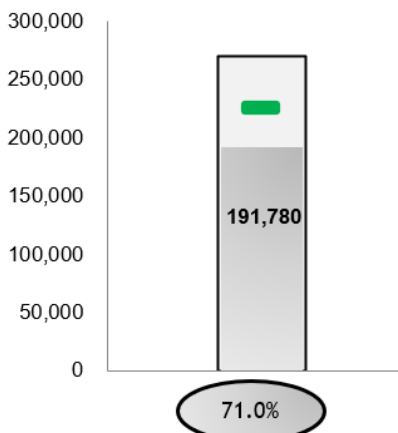
YTD OFFERINGS

OCTOBER 2025

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	225,000.00
Overall Total	191,780.36
Overall Percent	71.0%

Progress

□ Overall Target
■ Overall Total
■ On Track Target



**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19 – OCTOBER 26**

Sun 10/19	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	1:30 pm	Road Rally
	1:30 pm	CROP Walk
Mon 10/20	6:00 pm	“Fun-Raising” Committee
Tues 10/21	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed 10/22	8am-11pm	Boscovs Friends Helping Friends
	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 10/23	6:30 pm	Property Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 10/24	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 10/25	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 10/26	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour

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
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor 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
Custodian	Geoffrey Jackson geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com