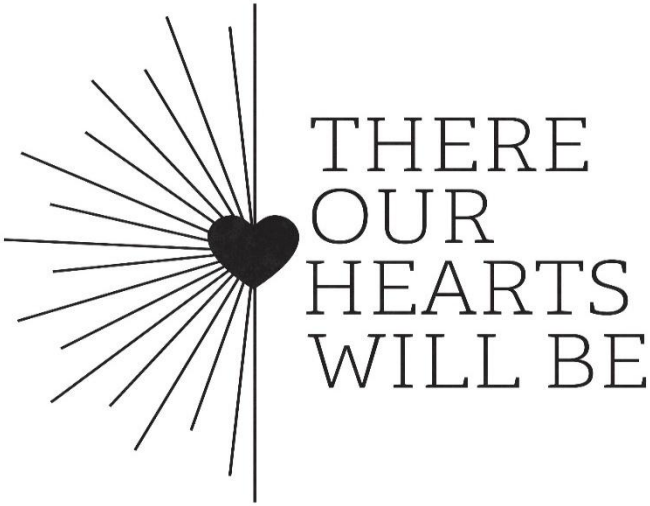
St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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!

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 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 St. John's is the responsibility of our congregation members.*

Sunday Social *is our gathering 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. 1, All Saints Day Remembrance
- Nov. 1, Samantha Kistler Ordination Service, 3:00 pm
- Nov. 14, Bazaar, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Nov. 15, Annual Meeting / Potluck, 11:00 am
- Nov. 25, Combined Thanksgiving Service, 6:30 pm
- January 2027, Iron Pigs

***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 *My Prayer*
Richard Burchard

***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Before the earth was formed, God was, is, and ever shall be.
All: O God, you are our dwelling place. In you, we find our refuge and our hope.
One: Though our days are brief and our strength fades,
All: We are held in your unfailing grace.
One: Teach us to number our days,
All: That we may live each moment in love, gratitude, and service.
One: Though we carry burdens and weariness,
All: We are not abandoned; the light of Christ is within us.
One: Establish the work of our hands and make us a blessing to the world.
All: Come, let us worship the Eternal God, whose love endures forever! Amen.

***Opening Hymn WR #551** *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*
Verses 1 and 2

***Gathering Prayer** Liturgist: Regi Mohr

All: Eternal God, we come to you with grateful yet restless hearts. Though our days are brief and fragile, you love us as your own and place the light of Christ in our imperfect lives.

May the light of Christ shine through our worship to a weary world, and establish the work of our hands — not for our glory, but for your purpose. In the name of Jesus Christ, our light and hope, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to Confession Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: We are reminded that we are fragile vessels, yet how often we pretend to be strong enough to manage everything on our own. We are entrusted with the light of Christ, yet how often we allow our selfishness, resentment, indifference, and fear to hide that light from others. We have been given days

to live, gifts to share, neighbors to love, and a world in need of mercy. Yet sometimes we spend our days chasing what will not last while neglecting what matters eternally.

Let us come before God honestly, asking God to reveal where we have fallen short and to give us courage to begin again.

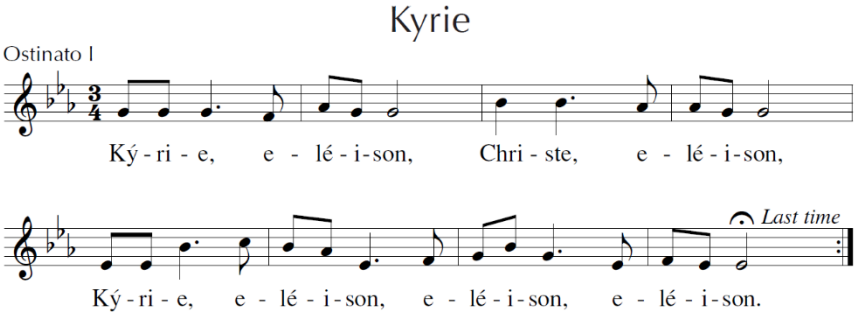
Time for Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful and everlasting God, we confess that we often forget how precious our days truly are. We live as though time were ours to waste. Forgive us for hiding the light of Christ behind our pride, impatience, and indifference, and for turning away from those in need.

Remind us that you do not ask us to be invincible, only faithful. Make us generous where we are selfish, compassionate where we are indifferent, and courageous where we are fearful. In the name of Jesus Christ, our light and redeemer, we pray. Amen.

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



Assurance of Forgiveness Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Hear the good news: God knows our fragility and meets us with mercy.

All: Through Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and called to walk in hope. Thanks be to God!

Children's Message Rev. Steve Davis and Samantha Kistler

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

Hymn *God's Gracious Love*
All Verses

Hymn found on page 5

Introduction to the Word of God George Isleib

One: God's word inspires us and sustains us.
All: May we build communities of generosity.
One: God's word challenges and provokes us.
All: May we build communities of justice.
One: God's word renews and heals us.
All: May we build communities of the heart.

***Scripture Reading** *Psalm 90: 1-6; 13-17*

Reader: George Isleib

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us and as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands -- O prosper the work of our hands!

2 Corinthians 4: 5-15

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God's Gracious Love

Matthew 6:33–34 | Isaiah 12:2



Text: Lina Sandell-Berg, 1865;
English transl. Andrew L. Skoog, 1921; alt.
Music: Oscar Ahnfelt, 1872;
harm. Albert Lindström, 1885; alt. | BLOTT EN DAG
Text alt. © 2024 IRI; music alt. © 1995 IRI

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

One: The word of God for the people of God!
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Rev. Steve Davis

There Our Hearts Will Be: "Subversive Generosity"

Song of Praise *Always*
Maureen Howell

In the darkness of the valley, you are with me; I will not fear. Surely goodness and mercy lead me all my journey home. To the mountains I look up, and ask from where comes my help. The one who made and loves me will keep me all my life.

"And remember, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."

You search me and know me when I sit or when I rise. In the heavens or farthest oceans, you are there, you are there.

"And remember, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." You are near, you are here, you are breath and peace. You are light, you are hope and joy. You are grace, you are comfort and kindness. You are wholeness, you are love.

"And remember, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."

We Love

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

One: God has blessed us with gifts beyond measure — gifts of love, grace, faith, and abundance. In gratitude, we are invited to share what we have received for the work of God's church.

All: With grateful hearts, we offer our gifts, our resources, and our commitment to God's ministry.

One: As we present our commitment cards, may they represent more than what we give. May they reflect our faith, our gratitude, and our willingness to serve God through the life of this congregation.

All: May our giving be an act of worship, a promise of faithfulness, and a sign of our love for God and one another.

One: I invite all who have prepared their estimate of giving commitment cards to come forward and present them as an offering of gratitude and commitment. Let us bring them with joyful hearts, trusting that God will use our generosity to make a difference in the lives of others.



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

***Doxology** *Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** Liturgist: Regi Mohr

All: Bless these gifts to care for those in need, support the ministry of your church, and share the hope of Christ. Help us to offer our time, talents, and resources freely, placing our entire lives in your hands. With grateful hearts, we dedicate our gifts and our service to you today. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn WR #571** *Christ You Call Us All to Service*
Verses 1 and 2

***Benediction** Rev. Steve Davis

***Postlude** *Rondeau*
David Lasky

Bulletin Sponsorship for October 25th

In Honor of Mother and Nana's Birthday, Nancy Kesiter and in memory of Father and Pop-pop, Edward Keister

By Robert and LeeAnn Lopez and Alyssa and Christopher Amaral

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 – October 18

Onsite – 84 Online – 38 Total – 122

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, October 25
Lectionary Readings

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 and Matthew 22:34-46

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Regi Mohr Scripture Reader: George Isleib
Worship Tech: Bill Castello Greeters: Pam Repetz and Jackie Maxon
Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalter and Charlotte Kerrigan
Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon

All Saints Day, November 1
Lectionary Readings

Revelation 7:9-17 and Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3 and Matthew 5:1-12

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts Scripture Reader: Dewey Yeatts
Worship Tech: Bill Castello Altar Guild: Cindy Reck
Ushers and Greeters: Members of the Consistory

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.***

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Phyllis Ambearle, Gracie Arnold, Margaret & Richard Baatz, Tammy Beitzel, Jim Carr, Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Robin Dougherty, Janet & Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass, Tracey Glass, Joy & Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John & Charlee Hoff, JoAnn Hower, Barbara Jennings, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Ethel Lavenburg, Dawn Luckenbill, Dale Millham, Karen Moyer, Eleanor & Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bobby Sherman, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Joan Stocker, Susan Stocker, Barry Stephens, Martha Strauss, Pat Thompson, and George Williams.

Please remember in your prayers the intentions of the members 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, Phyllis Gutekunst, Jennifer Henninger who was diagnosed with Lung Cancer.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio, Kaden Rossanese, and Nathan Unger.

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 FUNDRAISING

PASTIE SALE

These traditional turnovers are made by hand at the Mr. Pastie bakery in Pen Argyl and come frozen. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. We have 14 selections to choose from. Order forms can be found on the table in the lounge area, the church's website, and in this bulletin.

Pickup is Thursday, November 19, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, or Sunday, November 22, after worship in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, see Carol Raszler. **Order deadline is Sunday, TODAY.**

NEWS FROM VISITATION

HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND
Receiving Donations Now!

A Ministry of Love from St. John's
through the Visitation / Congregational Care Committee

For almost 20 years, the active congregation of St. John's has provided holiday gift bags filled with useful items for our homebound members. In addition to offering a ministry of care, the congregation makes it possible for us to bring something of our love to people who might otherwise feel isolated from the regular holiday festivities.

The Visitation Committee has already started gathering items for the holiday bags which will be distributed during visits in November and December by the pastors and committee members.

Our goal is to raise an additional $650 in donations this year. Because St. John's has been incredibly generous in years past, we have a head start toward the total needed amount to get gift bags for our 30 homebound members. THANK YOU!

Make your donations to St. John's with a note for Homebound Bags. Also, if you have extra cards for Birthdays, Get Well, or Condolences, please bring them to the Church Office. They are used throughout the year to share greetings and messages of love every month with our homebound and congregational care support.

CHURCH CALENDAR
OCTOBER 25 — NOVEMBER 1

Sun 10/25	8:30 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Sunday Social
	PASTIE	ORDERS DUE
Mon 10/26	9:00 am	Food Pantry
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
Tue 10/27	9:00 am	Newsletter Collating
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Bells Practice
Wed 10/28	9:00 am	Verso-Chat
	12:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	CELC Meeting (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thu 10/29	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
	6:30 pm	Property
Fri 10/30	5:00 pm	St. George's School
	6:00 pm	Trunk or Treat
Sat 10/31	9:30 am	Zumba
	BAZAAR	ITEMS DEADLINE
Sun 11/1	8:30 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship (All Saints Day)
	10:45 am	Sunday Social
	3:00 pm	Samantha Kistler's Ordination



"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- Matthew 6:21

The scriptural metaphor of the clay jar (2 Cor. 4) calls to mind one of the most important teachings of Christianity: the incarnation, that the presence of God was embodied in Jesus Christ, who is fully human and fully divine.

This ancient Christian teaching provokes the faithful to wonder about their own relationship between material and non-material life. As Christians, we are meant to ponder that life itself is a combination of the two. Human life is a combination of our physical and spiritual realities. The jar and what is in the jar are separate while connected.

People of faith are reminded of this so that we do not become overly invested in material or spiritual life, but remain invested in the connection of those things, the incarnate life. The abundant, eternal promises of God, and salvation as we understand it…this is what is contained in the clay jar of the church, our faith, our very selves.

A clay jar is breakable, a world as we know it can end. But the spiritual contents spill out into the future, somehow unending.

Subversive generosity exists at the same intersection. It means using your gifts to create the world that God calls us to build AND experiencing transformation in the process.

What if we saw our estimates of giving as gifts that connect us to one another? That is a powerful shift of perspective from our regular spending, where spending dollars means receiving good and services.

Subversive generosity is way to see our giving as building God's world and playing by the rules of the Gospel to create a better world, a just world for all!

CONSIDER YOUR GIVING AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.
Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

Our faith tells us to present our "first fruits" to God as our response to God's faithfulness. We begin with God, rather than see what is leftover. The tithe (the first 10%) is a reflection of our gratitude for God's generosity toward us in life. As we look at our generosity response, how are we demonstrating who Jesus is to us? How will the ways of Jesus become more evident through us?

OUR STAFF

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