

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!*

**October 29, 2023
22nd 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.

Children's Faith Formation takes place with the worship service through the Children's Message time, then the children are led to their classroom for our "Blessed to Be a Blessing" lesson in Rm.101.

Parents are welcome to go with the children to see the area and sign in their children, then pick them up following the worship service.

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

As the Deer

Arranged by Douglas Wagner

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cliff Herring

- Welcome to Our Guests – please sign the guest book!
- Visitation Committee receiving donations for Christmas bags
- Neighbors in Need offering received through October
- Crafters and Venders Fair, Saturday, November 4
- Water Remembrance and Holy Communion will be shared throughout our "Because of YOU!" series to November 12
- Welcome to Rev. Genie Watson, Lehigh Valley Conference of Churches

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

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Fortress Chryst

One: Our hearts are lifted up toward God.

All: God created all that is!

One: We celebrate that great love of God.

All: God gifted us with God's only son, Jesus the Christ.

One: Rejoice and be glad today!

All: Our hearts and spirits praise God for all God's blessings. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

O God Beyond All Praising

Found on page 4 and 5 of the bulletin

***Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Fortress Chryst

All: Lord of light and hope, be with us this day as we have gathered to hear your word. Help us open our hearts to the commandments to love, even when loving is difficult. Give us the courage to be people who will commit their whole lives in your service. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Fortress Chryst

One: Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors.

All: But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love. We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you.

One: Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness.

Give us the courage to be people who will care for others.

All: Let us dedicate our lives to your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Time for silent Prayer

Declaration of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Fortress Chryst

One: Though our hearts were hardened to the needs of others, God has touched them with God's compassionate care, healing our wounds and giving courage and strength to our souls. Be assured that God's love is poured out for you and rejoice!

All: Thanks be to God, Amen

Children's Message

Rev. Herring

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

***Hymn**

Healer of our Every Ill

Verses 1,2, and 4

Found on page 5 of the bulletin

64 O God Beyond All Praising

Unison

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-ery gift you send,
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end;
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996)

MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

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

THAXTED
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we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your Word,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad-ness; Spir-it of all com-fort, fill our hearts.
still un-fold-ing, give us all your vi-sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir-it of all kind-ness, be our guide.
way of heal-ing; Spir-it of com-pas-sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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***Scripture Reading**

Matthew 22: 34-46

Scripture Reader: Kay Chryst

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Cliff Herring

Leading with Love

Anthem

Lord I Stretch My Hands to You
Jay Althouse

~ We Love ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Herring

Loving God, hear our prayers...

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying...

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**

Sung Response

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Sung Response

Jim Strathdee

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three staves. The first staff is for a soloist, with lyrics: "To seek jus-tice and love kind-ness, and walk hum-bly with your God." The second staff is for the congregation, with lyrics: "What does the Lord re-quire of you? What does the Lord re-quire of you?" The third staff continues the soloist's part with lyrics: "Jus - tice, kind - ness, walk hum-bly with your God."

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2023.*

We Are an Inclusive Community!

**In the United Church of Christ, we observe an
“Open Communion.” ALL persons are welcome to receive.
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.
In The UCC, ALL means ALL!**

The Invitation to Receive

One: Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity. Christ has gathered his people around the earth to commune at this table. Across political lines and economic lines, in places of powerfully protected affluence, and among the poorest of the poor, we share a meal, remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible. And so, come you from the East and you from the West, from the North and from the South. Come.

All: Let us come with our doubts, come with our hopes, come with our inadequacies and with our strengths. Let us come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Meal

The elements will be passed in the pew, and we will receive the bread and eat at the same time, then the cup passed and all drink together.

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

All: Amen

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

All: Amen

Music During Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: God our Father, you have satisfied our hunger for love by giving us your Son Jesus Christ. Following his example, let us send no one away empty, exclude no one, classify no one, build no walls around ourselves or others. Let our happiness not be complete as long as our brothers and sisters suffer. Help us to take all the risks of love, for it is not so much our love we want to give but yours, which became visible in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Offering Our Gifts to God

Rev. Herring

Rev. Genie Watson, Lehigh Valley Conference of Churches
Hunger and Homeless Week

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

***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: Fortress Chryst

All: Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified, and your name be praised. Amen

~ We Serve ~

***Closing Hymn # 439**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Verses 1 and 4

***The Benediction**

Rev. Herring

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress is our God
Arranged by John Carter

When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship is concluded and our service in the world continues.

The Benediction and Postlude send us out to be the people of God in our community.

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A Word of Thanks!

Our sincere appreciation for Rev. Cliff Herring and his leadership with worship and sharing the word of love with us today! We are grateful for his partnership in the gospel as a member of St. John's. Also, thank you to Jesus Pagan and Elijah Fox for filling in at the Worship Tech desk. A word of thanks to Emilie Moyer for coming out of retirement to assist this morning with the music as Patrick is recovering from getting stitches in his left hand.

This week, Pastor Steve is traveling out of state for the 100th Anniversary of McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, his alma mater. He will be part of a 120+ voices choir singing at three different celebration events for the Anniversary Homecoming Weekend. Pastor

Steve and his mom, Jackie, will then be traveling to the San Antonio, Texas area to see her sister, Kathy Meyerson, who we’ve been praying for in her diminished bodily and memory health.

Pastor Steve’s husband, Bill Castello, is in Washington state for a work project with friends. Your prayers are appreciated for them all in their travels and return on November 2.

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

Attendance – October 22

Onsite – 108 Online -

Altar Flowers

One Vase in Loving Memory of Carol Carr

By Jim, Dona, Lori, grandchildren Nick, Allie, Tyler and Leia: “Still loved, still missed each second of every day.”

Sponsorship Opportunities: You can sponsor:

Altar flowers for \$25 a vase

Bulletins for \$20

Wheat basket (donated to the Food Pantry) for \$15,

The monthly newsletter for \$100.

Serving in Worship Leadership

October 29

Liturgist – Fortress Chryst	Scripture Reader – Kay Chryst
Ushers – Consistory	Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan
Social Hour Host – Kenda Catalini	Acolyte – Matthew Buskirk

November 5

Liturgist – Open	Scripture Reader – Linda Powell
Ushers – Consistory	Worship Tech – Bill Castello
Social Hour Host – Colleen Kulhamer	Acolyte – Gabriella Ferioli

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: Anita Beil, Clarence Biehn, Marion DeMilio, Sandra Diefenderfer, Robert and Nancy Dougherty, Shirley Downing, Milton Focht, Sally Gibson, Tracey, Ron and Sandy Glass, Gary and Ruthann Hallman, Blaine Holden, Travis Kaintz, Geraldine Keim, Adrienne Kiesbar, Jean Litzenberger, Kathy and Bruce Meyerson, Betty Millham, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Brenda Pascoe, Joey, Carol and Paul Raszler, Marietta Seyfried, Gene Shankweiler, Madeline Slivka, Nancy Weaver, Arline Yoder, Tessa and children.

Continued prayers for those suffering from natural disasters across the world, especially those impacted in the Russian war against Ukraine and between Israel and Hamas. Prayers for the families of the victims in the shooting in Maine, and for that community.

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.

NOTE: Prayer List Update on November 5 If you would like your person or to remain on this weekly listing, please contact the Church Office by phone or email. You may always include a name using the prayer basket on Sunday mornings to be named in worship.

GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Contributions received in October will go to World Central Kitchen. WCK provides meals and food immediately after a crisis or a disaster strikes. It continues to respond to the war in Ukraine, the wildfires in Hawaii, earthquakes in Morocco and most recently to the earthquake in Afghanistan and the war in Israel and Gaza. Donations can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or by on-line and text giving. Be sure to designate "WCK" in the memo section. You can also find General Disaster Relief envelopes on the table in the lounge area.

CALLING ALL LEGO PEOPLE

If you have some Legos stashed away with no one to use them, 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.

SCRIP GIFT CARD SALES

Our annual Scrip gift card sale is here. What better way to shop for those on your Christmas gift card list. 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.

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.

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.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of **October** we are collecting for Thanksgiving. St. John's was asked to collect 100 cans of turkey gravy, 100 cans of vegetables and 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.

HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CANDY

St. John's Chocolatier, Ginny Brokenshire, is again offering semi-sweet chocolate peanut butter eggs and coconut cream eggs for the holidays. \$14.00/lb. Order forms are available online or on table in 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.

POWER INTERFAITH CONNECTION

We at St John's care about our community. That's why we support the Whitehall Food Pantry and the CROP Walk. That's why we provide school supplies to the Whitehall School District. ***And I wonder why? Why is there so much need in Whitehall?*** Please join Becca Stephens, ***Tuesday, October 31st at 6:30 in Room 201*** for conversation about your concerns for our communities and how POWER Interfaith seeks to address them.

CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

Join us on Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm for our annual Craft and Vendor Fair. It's the perfect time to start your Christmas shopping. Vendors will be down in Fox Hall and throughout the church. Look for our own St. John's Crafters to make your purchases. Still time to rent a table at \$25. Food will be available so come by and stay for lunch. Contact Kenda Catalini at (484) 358-7453 or kpcatalini@aol.com.

"FUN-RAISING" EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

Saturday Nov. 4 – Craft & Vendor Fair – 9am to 2pm in Fox Hall.

\$25.00 per table to rent space. Food available. Contact Kenda Catalini.

Saturday Dec. 2 – Bus Trip to NYC – Tour the "Big Apple" on your own.

Cost \$50.00. See Brian Strauss for reservations.

Pastie Sale – Thank you to everyone who placed an order for our fall Pastie Sale. Pickup is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8 from 6pm to 8pm and on Sunday, November 12 after worship in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler.

Nut & Fruit Sale – We received confirmation from TerriLynn Company regarding the order for our annual Nut and Fruit Sale. The anticipated time of arrival should be by the end of October to the beginning of November. We will be in touch with you when the products arrive to arrange a drive-by pickup at the Pavilion. For those of you who missed out on this opportunity, we will have a few extra items to sell from the assortment of nuts, fruit and chocolate items. Costs vary from \$12 to \$13 for 1 lb bags. Stay tuned! If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler.

Scrip Gift Card Sales – Shop for those on your gift card list. Deadline Sunday, November 19, with pickup on Sunday, December 10. Order forms available online or on table in lounge. Contact Tracey Glass.

Christmas Candy – Semi-sweet chocolate peanut butter and coconut cream eggs, \$14.00/lb. An order form can be found on the table in the lounge area or accessed from the church website. Deadline to order is Sunday, November 26; pickup is Sunday, December 17th. Contact Ginny Brokenshire.

"Burgers for a Cause" – Applebee's \$10.00 coupon. Good at any Applebee's at any time. See Kenda Catalini to purchase a coupon.

Weis & Giant Gift Cards – Available in various denominations.

5% comes back to St. John's. Contact Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler.

Redner's Receipts – St. John's will get money back when you send your grocery receipts to the church. Basket is also on the table in the lounge. Contact Karen Stoitsits.

Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	ginny@posleader.com
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	bill.castello@gmail.com
Kenda Catalini	(484) 358-7453	kpcatalini@aol.com
Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372	tommoyer54@gmail.com
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Karen Stoitsits	(610) 262-0746	littlekdr@yahoo.com
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A Theology of Sufficiency

by **Rev. John Dorhauer**

Rich Biblical traditions shaped Jesus' vision, including Micah 4: 3-4:

"God shall judge between many peoples and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; 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; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

It is my personal belief that this concept, one that I call a theology of sufficiency, provides a strategic pathway to the just peace we seek. It is the unjust distribution of wealth that keeps the wheels of war turning.

Micah rightly discerns in the heart of God that the beating of swords in plowshares can only be possible when the conditions envisioned by God and described in that final verse come into play. When all on Earth have their own vine and their own fig, just enough to sustain themselves

and free from the wanton greed of others who covet their neighbors' goods.

At the heart of God's vision of all nations laying down their weapons and no longer learning the ways of war is the collective distribution of God's bounty to ensure that all are fed and sheltered. These are the underlying conditions that render the sword and the spear obsolete and that mandate their repurposing as implements of agriculture rather than of devastation.

I remember with great fondness and deep appreciation the first Sunday I walked into the church I served right out of seminary, Zion United Church of Christ in Mayview, Missouri. A town of 250 people ten miles from a gallon of gas and a loaf of bread, this farm rich community was deeply dedicated to the work of a just peace. On the wall inside the front door as you entered the sanctuary was a poster that hung for all the years I served there. It was a quote from UCC theologian and biblical scholar Luke T. Johnson and it read quite simply: "Whatever you possess that someone else needs already belongs to them."

Generosity, as a spiritual practice, provides a way for us to think together as a Church about a theology of sufficiency so that there can be enough resources for all. Together, we can relate to each other so that "all sit under their own vines and their own fig trees, and not one shall make them afraid."



FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

OCTOBER 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	16,498.71
Overall Percent	73.3%

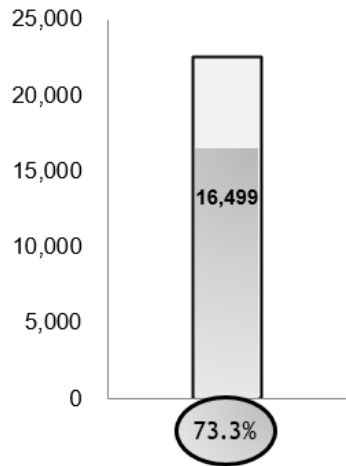
Last Week	
Start:	10/22/23
End:	10/28/23
Total:	2,642.00

Amt needed to reach Target

OCTOBER 2023	6,001.29
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



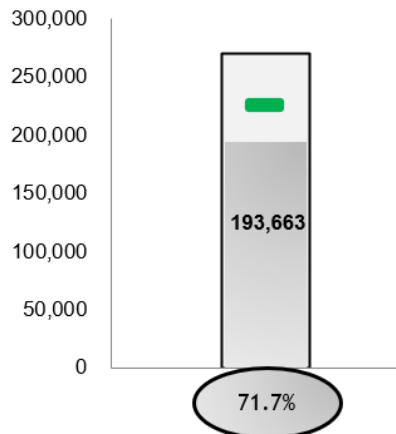
YTD OFFERINGS

OCTOBER 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	225,000.00
Overall Total	193,663.17
Overall Percent	71.7%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



Church Calendar for the Week of October 29 — November 5

Sun 10/29	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Wed 11/1	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	STARS
	7:00 pm	Choir
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Sat 11/4	8:30 am	Men’s Breakfast
	9:00-2:00	Craft Fair
Sun 11/5	Daylight Savings Time Ends – Fall Back!	
	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship – All Saint’s Day
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation

OUR STAFF

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