

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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

Faith TO CHANGE



October 5, 2025 9:30am



We Worship, We Love, We Serve
- No Matter What!
World Communion Sunday

**World Communion Sunday** Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

# We Worship

# **World Communion Sunday**

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

- Choir Breakfast October 12 (See page 13)
- New Worship & Rejoice Hymnals order by October 12
- 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of German Reformed Church, October 15, 6:30pm at UCC Greenawalds (See page 16)
- BINGO Tickets for October 17 (See Tom Moyer)
- CROP Walk October 19 envelopes for donations
- St. John's "Road Rally" October 19 (See Tom Moyer)
- Missions and Fun-Raising Events NIN Offering, Bazaar Nov. 8, RaiseRight Gift Cards (See page 14)

## \*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** *I Will Dwell in You*Cynthia Gray

O Lord, I am not worthy, that you should come to me. I am weak and in need, with no strength except in thee. So I come before this altar with grave humility. And when I eat this food, this holy food, I am touched and healed by thee.

Take and eat, Take and drink. Do this when you remember me. For I am with you all the while, Put your hope in me. Trust in me. Come to me. Know my mercy has no bounds. So, take and eat. Take and drink. I will dwell in you.

O Lord, I am not worthy, that you should come to me. I am weak and in need, with no strength except in thee. So I come before this altar with grave humility. And when I eat this food, this holy food, I am touched and healed by thee. I will dwell in you.

\*Call to Worship Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: Welcome to this place:

All: Where children and adults sit side by side, where heaven and earth embrace in peace, where God has been, is, and always will be.

One: Welcome to this place:

All: As we gather with all of God's children: where we find God's love, where we hear the tender voice of Jesus, where the Spirit teaches us new songs.

One: Welcome to this place, where all is made ready by our God:

All: Where we bring our hunger and find food; where we bring our brokenness and find healing; where we bring our very selves and find acceptance. Let us worship God.

\*Gathering Hymn We Come as Guests Invited found on page 3 All Verses

# We Come as Guests Invited 702



WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-) MUSIC: Johann Steurlein (1546-1613) Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Company WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN 7.6.7.6.D.

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

Liturgist: Joy Gravely Written by Rev. Nolan Palsma Reformed Church of America, retired

We share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and All: one mind: have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one Name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope.

> Together we come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and build up one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness.

Together we pray; together we serve God in this world. Amen.

#### **Invitation to Confession**

One:

Liturgist: Joy Gravely Our faith may be small, but God's power is great. Our sins may loom large, but God's promise of forgiveness is sure. Trusting that God is able to do for us what we could never

(Time for Silent Prayer)

do for ourselves, let us make our confession.

**Prayer of Confession** 

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

God of grace, we confess that the seed of faith within us All: often feels small. Hope is often absent. Love is frequently inconvenient. Our sin keeps us from responding to you. Tend to us in mercy, so that we may grow in the ways of faith, hope, and love, after the example of Jesus Christ.

**Sung Response** 

Lord Have Mercy On Us

found on page 5

# Lord Have Mercy On Us



**Words of Assurance** 

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: The grace of God is given to us in Jesus Christ. This is the

good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Children's Message

Samantha Kistler

Hymn

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart Verses 1, 2, and 5

found on page 6

**Scripture Reading:** 

Luke 17: 5-10

Read by: Sharon Antrim

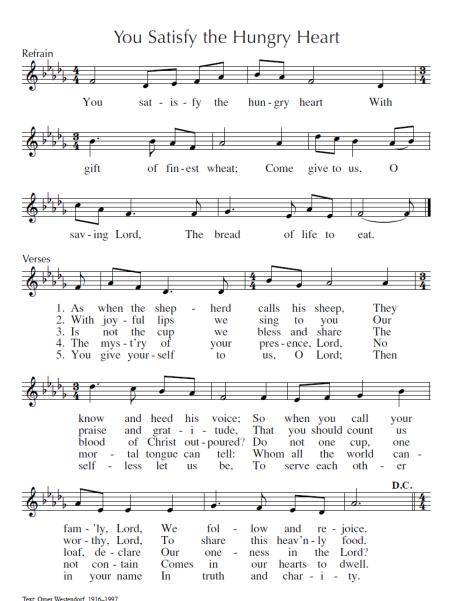
The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith! The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'?

Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"

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

All: Thanks be to God!



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Tune: BICENTENNIAL, CM with refrain; Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996 © 1977, Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Published by International Liturgy Publications

## **Choosing Faith: Faith to Change**

# **Song of Praise**

I Am Light, I Am Life, I Am Love Mary McDonald

At this table, come and dine, feast on bread, partake the wine. Do this in remembrance of Me. This, my body and my blood, for the weary soul outpoured. Do this in remembrance of Me.

I was given for you. Come and taste of the Father's love. As you drink from the cup, remember the blood shed for you. I am Light. I am Life. I am Love.

At this table, come and dine, feast on bread, partake the wine. Do this in remembrance of Me. I was given for you. Come and taste of the Father's love. As you drink from the cup, remember the blood shed for you. I am Light. I am Life. I am Love.

Let us break bread together on our knees. Let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

# We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

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

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Rev. Todd Fennell

Please sign the communion book in the back of the church if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2025.

# We are an Inclusive Community! In the United Church of Christ, we observe an "open communion." ALL people 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

Samantha Kistler

One: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the One who cradles our hearts in loving hands.

One: People of God, let us give thanks to the God who sets a Table for us.

All: We praise the Lord our God who welcomes us with open arms.

One: How lonely was chaos, Gardener of the Universe, until you spoke a Word, and your Spirit created:

All: Leaves that burnish gold and red in autumn, snow that drifts lazily in winter skies, frozen brooks that burst in spring, ponds splashing with children in summer.

One: When we wander the lonely streets of the world, it is Jesus, your son, who takes us by the hand, to lead us into your joy. When others would pass on bitterness and hate to us, it is Jesus who fills us with the gifts of hope and love.

All: Splashing in sin's puddles, he washed our feet and dried them with his love, leading us into the kingdom. He gathers us in his arms of mercy wiping out death, and sits us down at the family Table.

One: Holy Spirit, as we offer the gifts of bread and the cup for your blessing, so we present ourselves:

All: Our accomplishments, our failings, our hopes, our realities. As we have heard the Word, may we listen to the cries of the poor. As you hold out the bread and the cup to us, may we reach out to enemies to clasp hands as family and friends.

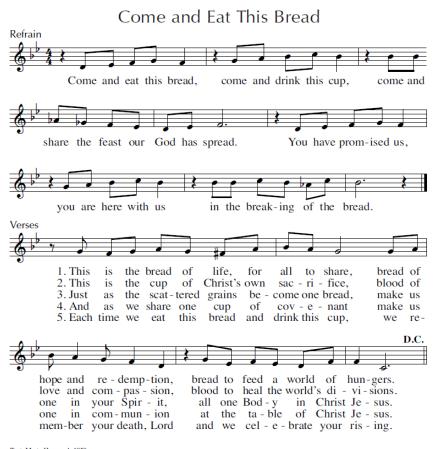
### **Sharing the Meal**

Please come forward using the center aisle, receive the elements of bread and wine and return to your pew using the side aisles.

# **Hymn during Communion**

Come and Eat this Bread by Marty Haugen

Please join in singing the refrain after the Choir.



**Prayer of Thanksgiving** 

Rev. Todd Fennell

All: God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Christ and with that great multitude of the faithful. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life, until we join the choir of the redeemed. This we pray in your most holy name, 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**

Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines

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

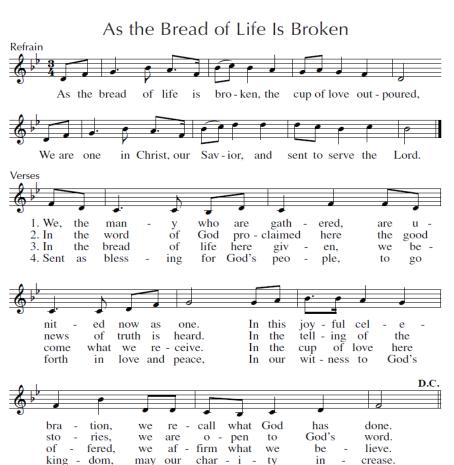
Liturgist: Joy Gravely

All: Faithful God, our source and sustainer, even when our faith feels small, you multiply our offering into acts of healing, welcome, and justice. Take these gifts as seeds of trust, planted in hope and watered with gratitude. In the name of the one who came to serve, we pray. Amen

# We Serve

### \*Closing Hymn

As the Bread of Life is Broken Verses 1,2, and 4



Text: James J. Chepponis, b.1956, © 2002, Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Tune: THAXTED, 14 14 15 15; Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

#### \*Benediction

Samantha Kistler

\*Postlude

Postlude on Thaxted Arranged by Noel Hawesthorne

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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#### Flower Sponsorship

In Loving Memory of Kevin J. Stewart By Susan Rarich

## Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule 8:15am Friendship Class 9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly 10:30am Sunday Social

### Attendance - Sept 28

Onsite -86 Online -28

# 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (World Communion Sunday), October 5 Lectionary Readings

Lamentations 1:1-6 and Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 37:1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14 and Luke 17:5-10

#### Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Kim Hillegass
Greeters/Ushers: Sharon Antrim, Robin Brensinger, Wendy Fox, Charlotte
Kerrigan

## 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, October 12 Lectionary Readings

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and Psalm 66:1-12 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:8-15 and Luke 17:11-19

### Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Tom Moyer Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere Worship Tech: Bill Castello Altar Guild: Marion DeMillio Greeter: Pam Repetz/Jackie Maxon Ushers: Carole O'Connell Charlotte Kerrigan

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: 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 and 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 <u>use the church code</u>, <u>473</u>. To add someone to our prayer list please contact the Church Office.



# BREAKFAST WITH THE MUSIC MINISTRY Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

beginning at 10:30AM until 12PM

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children over the age of 5.

Tickets will be available the morning of the event.

# 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 Stoisits. <u>Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include other stores' receipts</u>.

## 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 area. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase.

# ST. JOHN'S MUSIC MINISTRY IS HAPPY TO INTRODUCE WORSHIP AND REJOICE

Worship and Rejoice, a hymnal published by Hope Publishing in 2003, is an extensive collection of 749 titles containing all the essential traditional hymns, plus over 100 of the top contemporary worship songs. The broad scope of Worship & Rejoice makes it the richest resource available for blending different styles of music together in one service.

As we take this next step in growing our worship experience, we are providing you, our faithful members of the congregation, with an opportunity to dedicate each new hymnal purchased. Each hard cover book is valued at \$20.00. <u>Deadline for Purchasing new hymnals is</u> OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

#### 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 Stoisits at (610) 262-0746 or littlekdr@yahoo.com.

#### **BAZAAR ITEMS NEEDED**

<u>Deadline to receive items is Sunday, October 31.</u> 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 nonperishable 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. <u>Deadline for reservations and payment is Sunday, November 9.</u> 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 **Sunday, October 19,** 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.

#### **PASTIE PICKUP**

Reminder: For those who ordered pasties, pickup is today after worship down in Fox Hall. See Carol Raszler.

#### ST. JOHN'S BAZAAR

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

### 300th ANNIVERSERY OF GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH

On October 15, 6:30pm at UCC Greenawalds, the Penn Northeast Conference will be celebrating our Reformed tradition heritage in worship. Come join us and others from around the commonwealth!

#### 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.

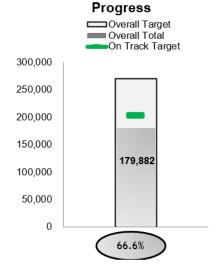
## FINANCIAL UPDATE

#### **MONTHLY OFFERINGS Progress** SEPTEMBER 2025 ■Overall Target ■ Overall Total Overall Overall Target 22,500.00 25,000 Overall Total 16,315.08 20,000 Overall Percent 72.5% 15,000 Last Week 16,315 9/27/25 Start: End: 10,000 10/3/25 Total: 2,792.63 5,000 Amt needed to reach Target SEPTEMBER 2025 6,184.92 0 72.5%

# YTD OFFERINGS

SEPTEMBER 2025

	Overall
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	202,500.00
Overall Total	179,882.26
Overall Percent	66.6%



## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 – OCTOBER 12

Sun 10/5	8:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class Worship, World Communion Faith Formation
Tues 10/7	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Staff Meeting Stewardship and Finance
Wed 10/8	9:00 am 12 noon 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Verso Chat Painting Group Painting Group Zumba SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 10/9	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 10/10	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 10/11	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 10/12	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
		Choir Breakfast
		Newsletter Deadline

#### **OUR STAFF**

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Sue Weldner Treasurer

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