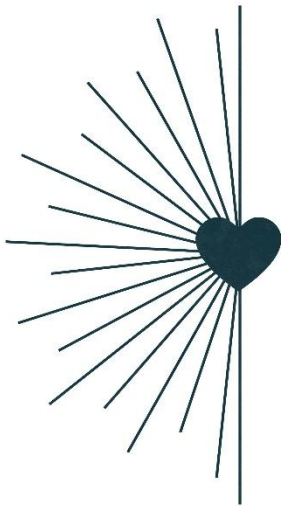


St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



THERE
OUR
HEARTS
WILL BE

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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 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.

Hymnal Abbreviations

WR—Worship and Rejoice

NC—New Century Hymnal

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*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Chimes

Celebration in C – Bells of St. John

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Mum Orders due TODAY
- Children's Faith Formation returns today!
- Red Board sign up for activities / Reflections at Sunday Social
- Ecclesiastical Council for Samantha Kistler

***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

Awakening

Jason Krug

Bells of St. John

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

One: We gather from busy schedules, crowded minds, and
distracted hearts.

All: Yet God calls us to this moment, and we are here.

One: The world measures worth by productivity, success, and
influence.

**All: But Christ measures devotion by love, faithfulness, and
sacrifice.**

One: Mary poured out her most precious gift at the feet of Jesus.

All: We come to offer our lives in worship and gratitude.

One: We do not belong to ourselves alone.

**All: Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the
Lord.**

One: God welcomes the joyful and the weary, the confident and
the uncertain.

**All: We come as we are to meet the One who knows and
loves us completely. Let us worship God with all that we
are.**

***Opening Hymn**

The Master Came to Bring Good News

Verses 1, 2, and 4

Found on page 3

***Gathering Prayer**

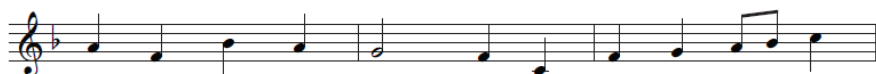
**All: Loving God, open our hearts to your presence and our
minds to your Word. As Mary sat at the feet of Jesus,
help us to draw near with humble devotion. As Paul
reminds us that our lives belong to you, teach us to
surrender our fears, our ambitions, and our judgments
into your gracious hands.**

**Center us in your love so that our worship may be
genuine and our lives transformed. Through Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

The Master Came to Bring Good News



1. The Mas - ter came to bring good news, The
 2. The Law's ful - filled through Je - sus Christ, The
 3. To seek the sin - ners Je - sus came, To
 4. For - give us, Lord, as we for - give And



news of love and free - dom, To heal the sick and
 man who lived for oth - ers. The law of Christ is:
 live a - mong the friend - less, To show them love that
 seek to help each oth - er. For - give us, Lord, and



seek the poor, To build the peace - ful king - dom.
 Serve in love Our sis - ters and our broth - ers.
 they might share The king - dom that is end - less.
 we shall live To pray and work to - geth - er.



Fa - ther, for - give us! Through Je - sus hear us!



As we for - give one an - oth - er!

Text: Ralph Finn, b.1941, © 1965, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: ICH GLAUB AN GOTT, 8 7 8 7 with refrain; Mainz *Gesangbuch*, 1870

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

One: Jesus received Mary's costly gift with compassion, yet the voices around her questioned her devotion. We, too, often struggle to love freely, serve generously, and trust God's purposes. We judge others while overlooking our own shortcomings. We cling to what we have rather than offering ourselves fully to the Lord. Trusting in God's mercy and grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Time for Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, you call us to live for you, yet we often live for ourselves. You invite us to devotion, but we give you our leftovers. You call us to love, but we withhold our compassion. You urge us to trust, but we cling tightly to what we possess.

Forgive us when we judge the faithfulness of others while ignoring the condition of our own hearts. Forgive us when fear, pride, or comfort keeps us from following Christ wholeheartedly. Like Christ, teach us to love generously and serve humbly. Renew us by your grace, that our lives may reflect the One to whom we belong. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Sung Response

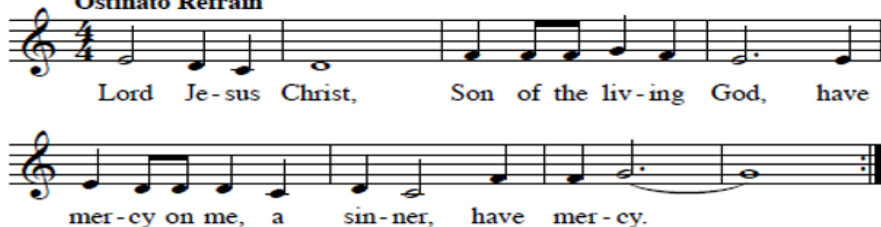
First sung by the choir, then All

LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Jesus Prayer

Carol Browning

Ostinato Refrain



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Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

One: Hear the good news: You do not stand alone before the judgment seat of God; you stand cloaked in the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ. The debt is paid. The perfume of His mercy covers you.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, claimed, and fiercely loved. 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.

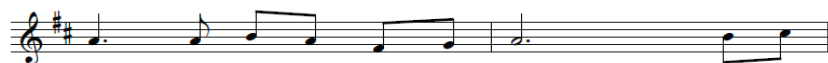
Hymn

O God, You Search Me
Verses 1, 4, and 5

O God, You Search Me



1. O God, you search me and you know me. All my
2. You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -
3. Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, You have
4. Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, Still I
5. For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, Gave me



thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I
cern my pur - pose from a - far, And with
known its mean - ing through and through. You are
search for shel - ter from your light. There is
life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the



walk or lie down you are be - fore me: Ev - er the
love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me: In ev - 'ry
with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my
no - where on earth I can es - cape you: E - ven the
won - der of who I am, I praise you: Safe in your



mak - er and keep - er of my days.
mo - ment of life or death, you are.
pres - ent, my past and fu - ture, too.
dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Text: Based on Psalm 139; Bernadette Farrell, b.1957

Tune: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957

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Introduction to the Word of God

Sherri Gangewere

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

Romans 14:7-12

Reader: Sherri Gangewere

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each one of us will be held accountable to God.

John 12: 1-8

Reader: George Isleib

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them^[a] with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it^[b] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Samantha Kistler

A Life in Right Order

Song of Praise

God of Hope, God of Mercy

Joel Raney

God of hope and God of mercy on your people pour out your power. Hate and fear too long have bound us, grant us strength for facing this hour. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days. God of Hope and God of Mercy, on your people pour out your grace, amazing grace.

*Through many dangers, toils and snares we have already, already come.
Your grace has brought us safe thus far and grace will lead us home, lead us
home. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days, God
of hope and God of mercy, on your people pour out your grace, amazing
grace.*

Lord we pray, rain down your love, pour out your grace.

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



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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

All: Lord Jesus, we offer these gifts as an act of devotion, recognizing that we do not live to ourselves, but belong entirely to You. Bless this offering. May it be poured out into this world to bring Your healing, Your justice, and the sweet fragrance of Your love to those who need it most. We pray this in Your holy name. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn WR #124**

*Open Your Hearts
All Verses*

***Benediction**

Samantha Kistler

***Postlude**

*Variation on Yisrael V'oraita
Arranged by John Ferguson*

Bulletin Sponsorship

*In Celebration of our 57th Wedding Anniversary
Paul and Carol Raszler*

**Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule
9:30 am Worship**

Attendance – September 6

Onsite – 89 Online – 46 Total – 135

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

Romans 14:1-12 and Matthew 18:21-35

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

Scripture Reader: George Isleib &

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Sherri Gangewere

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

Greeter: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Carole O'Connell and Karen Stoitsits

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

Scripture Reader: Carolyn Miller &

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Matthew Horne

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeter: Robin Brensinger

Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalter and Linda Powell

Open / Close Building: Gracie Funches / Wayne Lichtenwalner

IN OUR PRAYERS

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 and Richard Baatz, Tammy Beitzel, Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass, Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John and Charlee Hoff, JoAnn Hower, Barbara Jennings, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Ethel Lavenburg, Dawn Luckenbill, Dale Millham, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Eleanor and Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bobby Sherman, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Ronald Stocker, Barry Stephens, Martha Strauss, Pat Thompson and George Williams.

Please remember in your prayers the prayers of our congregation: Staci Palmer, Tood Brokenshire, MaryJane Ott, Christine, Sally Gibson, Cindy and Chuck, Laurie, Bob, and Joel, Josh, Eric, Starlisa and Naomi, The Funches Family, Constance and Geoffrey.

We also offer our condolences to the family of Shirley Downing who passed away August 29 in Florida.

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

REFLECTIONS — Sundays at 11:00 am in Fox Hall **NEW OPPORTUNITY begins Sunday, September 20**

What did you hear in worship today? What question stayed with you? Where did the Scripture or sermon connect with your own life? When you look at light through a prism, you find all kinds of colors and dimensions you would not normally see without seeing light through different angles.

Reflections offers a new opportunity to continue the conversation after worship. Grab some refreshments during Sunday Social in Fox Hall, then join us at the designated table closest to the kitchen and coffee for conversation about the morning's Scripture, theme, and sermon.

Facilitated by members of our Pastoral Team and Generosity Team, Reflections is an invitation to linger a little longer with what we have experienced in worship. Together, we will explore how God's Word speaks into our lives and how our response to God's grace and love can shape the way we live. If enjoyed by those who can attend, we will revisit this kind of short-term learning opportunity on Sunday mornings as part of our Sunday Social time. Come with a thought. Come with a question. Come simply to listen. There is room at the table for you.

GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one, you're invited to attend a monthly daytime grief support group at Asbury UMC, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown. Rev. 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.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of September, we're collecting **jelly, pork & beans, and coffee**. Any other food donations, as well as monetary donations, are always welcome. Your donations can be placed in the shopping cart found in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary. For more information or to volunteer on the 4th Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com.

GIANT, WEIS, & REDNER'S

Buy Giant and Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Also good for purchasing gas. You can get your gift cards from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday. Save the register receipts from Redner's and the church receives 1% back. A collection jar for the receipts is on the table in the lounge area or see Karen Stoitsits. **Please do not roll the Redner's receipts and do not include receipts from other stores.**

KEEPSAKE CROSSES

Pete Mohr has made palm-held crosses out of the old wooden oak pews that were in the sanctuary. Attach a magnet or picture hanger and they can also be placed on the wall or refrigerator. This keepsake item is a church fundraiser for a donation of at least \$10 or more per family. To receive a cross and make a contribution, see Amy Feidler on any Sunday or purchase one from the church office.

COLLECTING ITEMS FOR BAZAAR

Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

While the Bazaar isn't until November, we continue to collect items for the event. If you have items left from your yard or garage sale; if you are moving and downsizing; if you received gifts you don't like or will never use; or if you have items you don't need anymore, we will take them. Items must be clean and in working condition. They can be brought into the church office or given to Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler on a Sunday morning. **Items not accepted: clothing, furniture, bowling balls, computers, monitors, printers, encyclopedias, magazines, and records.**

WALKING CHALLENGE

Attention St. John's Walkers...it's almost time for the Fall Walking Challenge. It begins on Sunday, September 20 and ends Saturday, October 17. You just need a pedometer to track your steps. On Saturday evenings, report the total for the week to Sharon Antrim, and she will keep track of all steps. During the Spring Challenge, you all walked at total of 70,443,539 steps, which is 31,308.22 miles! Amazing job!

RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS

We begin our annual fundraising event of RaiseRight gift cards for the Christmas holidays. An order form was in the newsletter & bulletin and can also be found on the table in the lounge area and on the church's website. **Deadline to receive orders along with payment to St. John's is September 30.** Contact Karen Stoitsits if you have any questions.

DINE & DONATE AT COPPERHEAD GRILLE

Come out for dinner at the Copperhead Grille at 1731 Airport Road in Allentown on **Wednesday, September 30, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm!** Present the flyer available in this week's bulletin to ensure that 15% of your food purchase (dine in or take out) is donated to St. John's.

30TH ANNUAL ROAD RALLY

This fun event is scheduled for **Sunday, October 4, starting at 1:30 p.m.** from the Grape St. parking lot. You will be given directions and clues to follow along the way ending at a restaurant. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the lounge area—need driver's name & number in the car. See DonnaLee Yeatts if you have any questions.

BOSCOV'S "FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS"

Boscov's will run this annual event on **Wednesday, October 21, from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm.** You can **purchase a shopping pass for \$5.00**, and St. John's keeps the funds. It entitles you to 25% off the lowest sales price – shop in-store or online. See Ginny Brokenshire before or after worship to get your pass.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	6,255.43
Overall Percent	27.8%

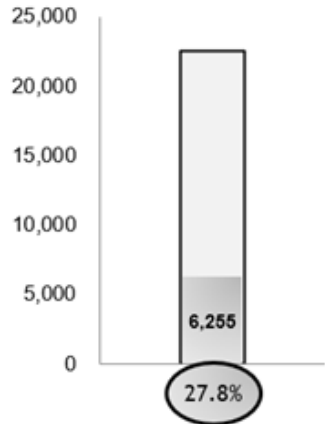
Last Week	
Start:	9/6/26
End:	9/12/26
Total:	4,489.35

Amt needed to reach Target

SEPTEMBER 2026	16,244.57
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



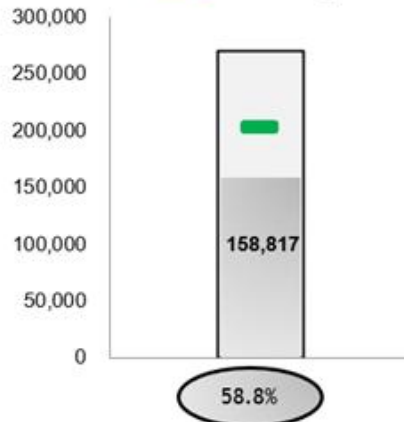
YTD OFFERINGS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	202,500.00
Overall Total	158,816.66
Overall Percent	58.8%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



CHURCH CALENDAR—SEPTEMBER 13 – 20

Sun 9/13	8:15 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship (Faith Formation)
	10:45 am	Sunday Social
Tue 9/15	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 9/16	12:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thu 9/17	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri 9/18	5:00 pm	St. George's School
Sat 9/19	9:00 am	Ecclesiastical Council for Samantha Kistler
Sun 9/20	8:15 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Sunday Social
	11:00 am	Reflections – Conversations

OUR STAFF

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srpastor@sjuccf.org

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music@sjuccf.org

Ministry Intern

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