



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



**September 21,
2025
9:30am**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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

Fifteenth 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 is back!! Faith Formation for children begins in the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the "Holy Moly" Faith Formation lesson.

Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom for a brief orientation and to sign them in. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.

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

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

- Ministry Fair during Sunday Social, September 21
- Walking Challenge, begins September 21
- Emma's Celebration of Life, September 22, 3:00pm at Zentz Hall of Fellowship Communities
- BINGO Tickets for October 17 (See Tom Moyer)
- New Hymns—Worship and Rejoice — Order through October
- CROP Walk envelopes

***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

An Offering
Jason W. Krug

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: We call on our Loving and Gracious God, the Holy One of Israel, the tender One to all who call upon God with repentant and believing hearts:

All: Bless us with your presence today. Teach the little ones to learn your ways, inspire those who seek your wisdom, energize those who are exhausted, comfort those who grieve, and strengthen those who are weak.

One: May God fill all of our hearts with your praise:

All: Let us be led in holiness and righteousness in this time of worship and in the days to come. We come to follow Jesus and worship in his name.

***Gathering Hymn**

This Day God Gives Me
Verses 1, 2, and 4

found on page 3

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: Jesus Christ gave himself as a ransom for all who fall short of the goodness of God. Trusting in God's mercy, let us turn to God and make our confession.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

All: Holy God, we confess that we are too concerned with our own peace. We seek the comfort of silence and ignore the cries of the oppressed. We are inwardly focused, missing your call to serve the world in justice and love. Forgive us, O God. Equip us to fulfill your will for a world in which all know dignity, and all are treated with equity, as your beloved children. Amen.

Sung Response

Lord Have Mercy On Us

found on page 4

THIS DAY GOD GIVES ME

James Quinn, SJ

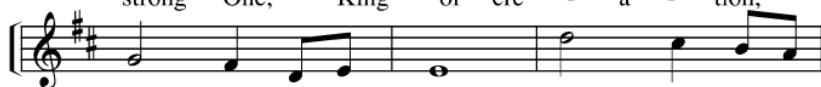
David Haas



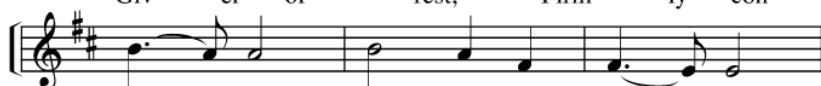
1. This day God gives me strength of high
 2. This day God sends me strength as my
 3. God's way is my way, God's shield is
 4. Ris - ing I thank you, Might - y and



heav - en, Sun and moon shin - ing,
 guar - dian, Might to up - hold me,
 round me, God's host de - fends me,
 strong One, King of cre - a - tion,



Flame in my hearth, Flash - ing of
 Wis - dom as guide. Your eyes are
 Sav - ing from ill. An - gels of
 Giv - er of rest, Firm - ly con -



light - ning, wind in its swift - ness,
 watch - ful, Your ears are lis - t ning,
 heav - en, Drive from me al - ways
 fess - ing God in three per - sons,



depths of the o - cean, firm - ness of earth.
 your lips are speak - ing, friend at my side.
 all that would harm me, stand by me still.
 One - ness of God - head, Tri - ni - ty blest.

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Lord Have Mercy On Us

Leon Roberts

$\text{♩} = 88$

First time through Choir/Soloist, then all

The musical notation is written on a single staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 88. The melody consists of half notes and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'Lord have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy Lord have mer - cy have mer - cy on us.' The first line of music covers the first 11 measures, and the second line, starting with a '12' measure mark, covers the remaining 5 measures.

Lord have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy Lord have mer -
-cy have mer - cy on us.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: God our Judge is also our Savior. The good news is sure:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Children's Message

Rev. Steve Davis & Samantha Kistler

Hymn

God's Gracious Love

All Verses

found on pages 5 and 6

Scripture Reading:

1 John 3:1-2

Read by: Tyler Shankweiler

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Sunny Days: Choose Your Character

God's Gracious Love

Matthew 6:33-34 | Isaiah 12:2

♩ = 69-76

Chords: D, G maj7, G⁶

1. Day by day, God's gra - cious love sur - rounds me As a
 2. Day by day, the Lord is ev - er near me, Grant - ing
 3. Help me rest in qui - et con - so - la - tion. Help me

Chords: A, A⁷, D, Bm

balm to soothe my trou-bled heart. Count-less cares and wor-ries that con -
 lov - ing mer - cies for each hour, And my care He glad - ly bears, and
 trust Thy prom - is - es, O Lord. When I'm faced with dai - ly trib - u -

Chords: G maj7, G⁶, A, A⁷, D

found me Fade a - way or qui - et - ly de - part, For His
 cheers me With His coun - sel pure and ho - ly pow'r. I'll not
 la - tion, Help me find the strength to live Thy word. Then, dear

Chords: D/F#, D maj7(sus4)/G, G, G⁶, E m

heart is kind be - yond all mea - sure, And He com - forts
 fear for what may come to - mor - row, Though the path a -
 Lord, when toil and trou - ble find me, Hold me stead - fast

us as He knows best. Ev - 'ry day, with all its pain and
 head I can - not see. He as - sures that in all joy or
 in Thy pow'r - ful hand. Day by day, Thy strength will bear me

plea - sure, Min - gles tears with peace and rest.
 sor - row, "As thy days, thy strength shall be."
 kind - ly Till I reach the prom - ised land.

Text: Lina Sandell-Berg, 1865;
 English transl. Andrew L. Skoog, 1921; alt.
 Music: Oscar Ahnfelt, 1872;
 harm. Albert Lindström, 1883; alt. | BLOTTEN DAG
 Text alt. © 2024 IRI; music alt. © 1993 IRI

Song of Praise

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours Ephrem Freely

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
 Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on the world. Yours
 are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which
 he blesses all the world.*

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes: you are his body.

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
 Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on the world. Christ
 has no body now on earth but yours.*

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. 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

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: Robin Brensinger

All: Unshakable and merciful God, receive these gifts, given not from abundance alone but from hearts that still dare to trust. May they be signs of your presence in broken places, tools of healing, hope, and grace in a hurting world. This we pray in your most holy name, Amen.

We Serve

Receiving New Persons in Covenant Relationship and Welcome

Patti Skvoretz (sister of Kathy Roth and Aunt of Melissa Szoke)

One: Let us, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

***Closing Hymn**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 9

***Benediction**

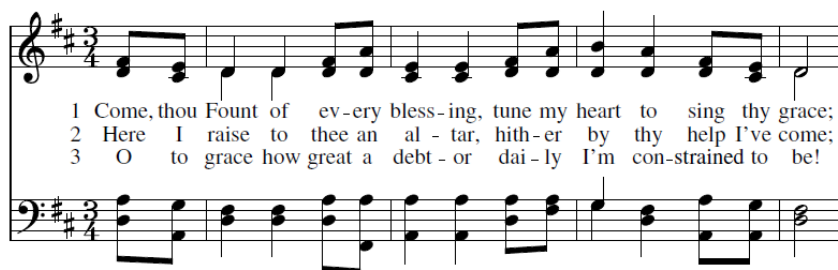
Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

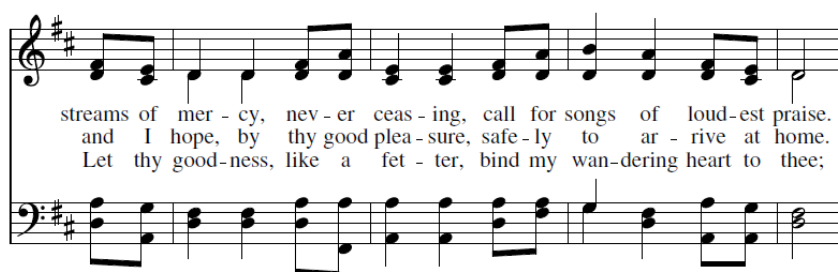
March in G
John S. Dixon

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

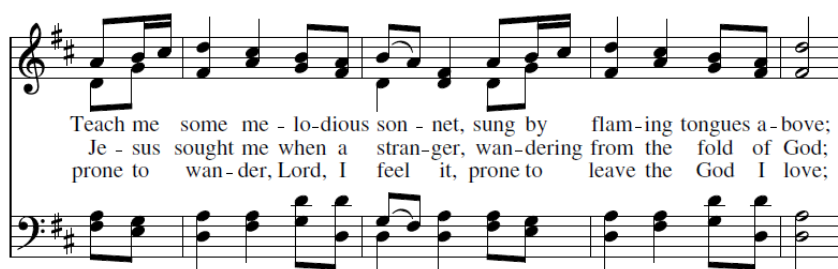
68 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



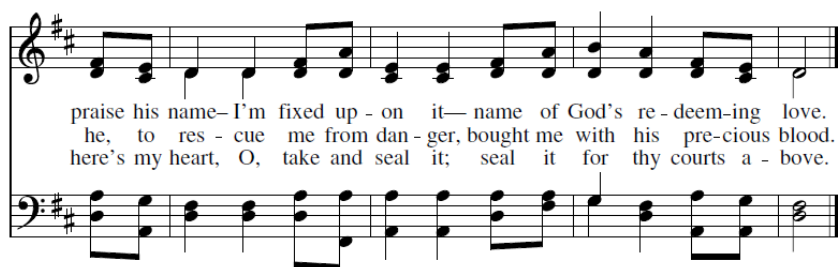
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise to thee an al - tar, hith-er by thy help I've come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let thy good-ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee;



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise his name— I'm fixed up - on it— name of God's re - deem-ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson (1735-1790)
 MUSIC: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

NETTLETON
 8.7.8.7.D.

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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Altar Flowers Sponsorship

In honor of Ron and Nancy's Anniversary and In Memory of Ron's
Beloved Wife Nancy
by Ron Eichman

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:15am Friendship Class

9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly

10:30am Sunday Social

Attendance – Sept 14

Onsite – 111 Online – 40

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 21

Lectionary Readings

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and Psalm 79:1-9

Amos 8:4-7 and Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7 and Luke 16:1-13

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

Scripture Reader: Tyler Shankweiler

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

Greeter: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Emilie and Tom Moyer

16th Sunday after Pentecost, September 28

Lectionary Readings

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 and Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19 and Luke 16:19-31

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Corrina Schneck

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corrina Schneck

Greeter: Sherri Gangewere

Ushers: Kim Hillegass

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: Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Christina Bach, Clarence Biehn, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Roxanne DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Roberta Habern, 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.

Prayers for the family of Ron Eichman, who died on Saturday, September 13. A graveside service for Ron will be held on Monday, September 22 at noon at the Forks Cemetery.

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

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 Ginny Brokenshire or Carol Raszler before or after worship. Save the shopping date at Boscov's: **Wednesday, October 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

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 would like to introduce this hymnal for usage. 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**. Your generosity and commitment is vital to serving others through our beautiful services.

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS

We offer these books to you at a reduced cost of only \$10.00. You'll find coupons for restaurants (both dining and fast food), clothing, sporting goods stores, businesses, fun & recreation activities & more. Checks are payable to St. John's. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase.

BAZAAR ITEMS NEEDED

Time to clean out your closets, basement, garage, and shed. 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. So, start bringing 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. Be sure to put the Bazaar date on your calendar—Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of September, we are collecting cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, baked beans, canned fruit, instant mashed potatoes, and coffee. 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. Cost of the trip is \$50 per person with the bus leaving St. John's parking lot. Additional information regarding drop-off at the Big Apple will be provided shortly. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. If you have any questions, see Brian Fisher or Amy Feidler.

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. Envelopes will be in the bulletin on September 28 and October 12 for contributions. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP. Walkers please see Cindy Reck or Marion DeMilio.

PEEPS IS BACK!

The PEEPS Women's Group will kick off the new season on **Tuesday, September 23, starting at 6:30 p.m.** in Fox Hall. The theme will be "Happy New Year," a celebration of the start of our new year together. There will be games and activities to participate in, and we'll share ideas and make plans for this coming year's monthly meetings. 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 **October 4 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

SEPTEMBER 2025

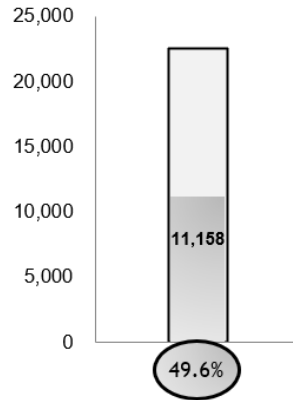
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	11,157.98
Overall Percent	49.6%

Last Week	
Start:	9/14/25
End:	9/20/25
Total:	5,829.90

Amt needed to reach Target	
SEPTEMBER 2025	11,342.02

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



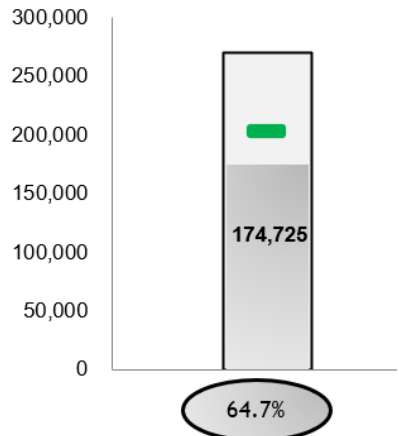
YTD OFFERINGS

SEPTEMBER 2025

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	202,500.00
Overall Total	174,725.16
Overall Percent	64.7%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



CHURCH CALENDAR

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 – SEPTEMBER 28

Sun 9/21	8:15 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour, Ministry Fair
		Emma Repp Kucezk birthday acknowledgement Walking Challenge begins
Tues 9/23	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	3:00 pm	Emma Repp Kucezk Celebration of Life – Zentz Hall, Fellowship
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed 9/24	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	STARS
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 9/25	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Property
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 9/26	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 9/27	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 9/28	8:15 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour, Q&A with Pastor Steve and Elders

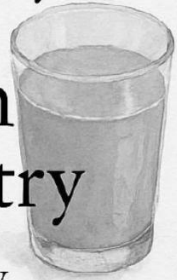
OUR STAFF

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



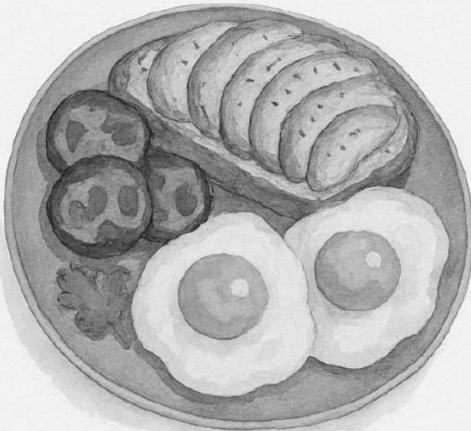
St. John's Music Ministry
cordially invites you to

Breakfast with the Music Ministry



Sunday,
October 12th
2025

beginning at
10:30AM
until 12PM



Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children
over the age of 5. Tickets are available
after service, in addition to contacting the
church office, or the morning of the event.



Tickets are now available after service in the parlor.