

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



September 28, 2025 9:30am



We Worship, We Love, We Serve

- No Matter What!

Sixteenth 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 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

- "Ask the Pastor / Elders" at Sunday Social TODAY
- World Communion Sunday October 5
- Choir Breakfast October 12 (See page 16)
- BINGO Tickets for October 17 (See Tom Moyer)
- New Worship & Rejoice Hymnals order through October
- CROP Walk October 19, envelopes for donations
- St. John's "Road Rally" October 19 (See Tom Moyer)

*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: Sharon Czekner

One: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord:

All: My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.

One: The Lord executes justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down, watches over those who are estranged, and upholds the orphan and the widow.

All: The Lord loves the righteous, but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

One: Come, people of God, to this time of worship.

All: Let us pursue righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Let all generations praise the Lord!

*Gathering Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise Verses 1, 3, and 4

found on page 3

Invitation to Confession Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Looking at Jesus, we see that we have fallen short of the glory of God. Yet Jesus looks at us with mercy and grace. Therefore, let us offer our confession in faith.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: God of justice and righteousness, you lift up the lowly and fill the empty; yet we adore the high and the mighty. You reach out to the poor; yet we ceaselessly pursue wealth. Correct our misguided ways. Forgive our lack of generosity. Free us from striving for more and more. Change our hearts so that we can tend to things that matter and find our life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 48



Lord Have Mercy On Us



Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Without regard for the cost, the precious love of God is

poured out in Jesus Christ. This is our good news!

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 6 and 7

Scripture Reading:

1 John 3:1-2

Read by: Corrina Schneck

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one

another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Rev. Steve Davis

Sunny Days: Open Sesame

Song of Praise

Like A Sacred Rain Jay Rouse

O Son of God, can You see my need? My broken heart and my desperate plea? My sinful soul is lost in shame. O Son of God, do you know my name?

Then, in one blessed moment, He whispers your name And your soul feels all the ongoing of Love's holy flame. If your heart is broken, your life filled with pain, He's pouring out His love like a sacred rain.

One trace of hope, Can you hear me, Lord? All that I have, all I can afford is emptied Lord, here at Your feet. O Son of God, please make me complete.

Then, in one blessed moment, He whispers your name And your soul feels all the ongoing of Love's holy flame. If your heart is broken, your life filled with pain, He's pouring out His love like a sacred rain.

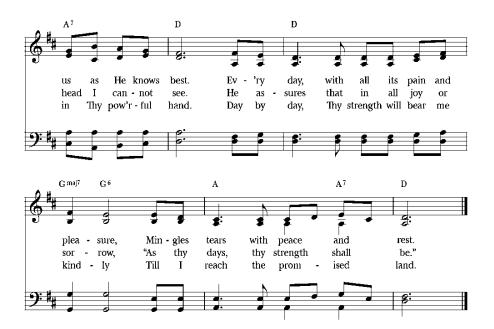
River pouring, hearts adoring, worship's falling, Love is calling, hearts are breaking, spirits waking, worship's falling down!

Then, in one blessed moment, He whispers your name And your soul feels all the ongoing of Love's holy flame. If your heart is broken, your life filled with pain, He's pouring out His love like a sacred rain.

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. | BLOTTEN DAG Text alt. © 2021 RR; music alt. © 1993 RN

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

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Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



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

Special Offering for World Communion Sunday

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: Sharon Czekner

Help us to put our faith into practice through the All: offering of our lives — giving food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and shelter to the poor; all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, your Word made flesh. Amen.

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

God of Day and God of Darkness Verses 1,4, and 5

found on page 9

God of Day and God of Darkness



Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1985, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc. Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; The Sacred Harp, 1844

*Benediction Rev. Davis

"Ask the Pastor / Elders" at Sunday Social

*Postlude

Postlude on Beach Spring
Noel Rowesthorne

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

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

Attendance – Sept 21 Onsite – 88 Online – 25

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
Worship Tech: Bill Castello
Greeter: Sherri Gangewere

Scripture Reader: Corrina Schneck
Altar Guild: Corrina Schneck
Ushers: Kim Hillegass
Wayne Lichtenwalner

17th 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 Scripture Reader: Sharon Antrim Worship Tech: Bill Castello Altar Guild: Kim Hillegass

Greeters/Ushers: Sharon Antrim, Robin Brensinger, Wendy Fox,

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, 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.

Prayers for the family of Roberta Haberern, who died this past Sunday. A memorial service at St. John's is pending for October.

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.

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. 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.

Is this a needed investment? While these hymnals open new possibilities for Sunday Worship, one of the main reasons New Century was not used as often is the extent of the wording changes made to beloved hymns in pursuit of inclusive language. A prime example is the Christmas Carol, *O Come All Ye Faithful*. In the New Century hymnal, the text is the following:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come now, O come now to Bethlehem. Come and behold the ruler of all angels; Refrain: O come in adoration, O come in adoration, O come in adoration: Christ is Lord! (Changed text is in bold)

Worship and Rejoice offers familiar traditional language for the hymns we all know, plus makes room for new tunes and lyrics. As we take this next step in growing our worship experience, we would like to introduce this hymnal for usage. We are providing the opportunity to dedicate each new hymnal purchased. Each hard cover book is valued at \$20.00.

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 Page | 13

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 October 12 for contributions. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP. Walkers please see Cindy Reck or Marion DeMilio.

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.

PASTIE PICKUP

Reminder: For those who ordered pasties, pickup is this Thursday, October 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 5, after worship down in Fox Hall. See Carol Raszler.

DINE & DONATE – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Come to the Dine & Donate event at Grove Street Pub & Grill located at 1092 Howertown Rd. in Catasauqua from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It's Clam Night! Menu also includes appetizers, soups, salads, burgers, wraps, wings, chicken, steaks, and fish. Flyers are needed and available in the lounge, in newsletter, and on the church's website. The church will receive 10% back from all sales excluding alcoholic beverages.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY - CHRISTMAS GIFTS BAGS

Each year our Homebound Ministry tries to find some small items of cheer to share with our members who can no longer be in worship and other activities with us. These cherished friends love the ways we remember and include them in our holiday celebrations. Whether it be some warm slippers or a cozy blanket, snack or stationary, they always appreciate the people of St. John's sharing their wishes of care and support.

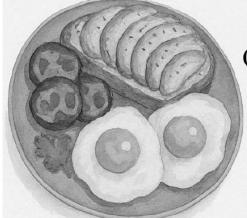
St. John's members have shared generously in years past, so much so that last year, the Homebound Ministry needed very little support from the congregation. This year, our numbers have increased, and we will be preparing 30 bags to share. During the month of October, we invite you to share a gift for our Homebound Bags which will be assembled and shared in early December. Please make your donations noted accordingly. Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity and love shared all year, and especially in the Christmas season.

The Visitation / Homebound Ministry



St. John's Music Ministry cordially invites you to

Breakfast with the Music Ministry

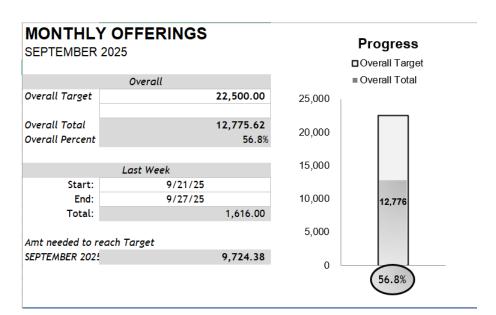


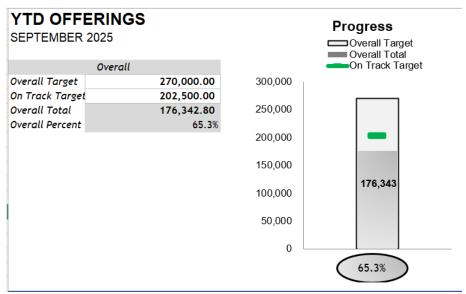
Sunday,
October 12th
2025
beginning at
10:30AM
until 12PM

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.



FINANCIAL UPDATE





CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 5

Sun 9/28	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation - Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	±
	10:30 am	
Mon 9/29	6:00 nm	"Fun Paicine" Committee
WOII 9/29	6:00 pm	"Fun-Raising" Committee
Tues 9/30	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Confirmation Mixer at St. John's
Wed 10/1	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 10/2	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 10/3	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 10/4	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 10/5		World Communion Sunday
	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		- Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour

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 Michelle Gutekunst

& Coordinating Custodian financialsecretary@sjuccf.org

custodians@sjuccf.org

Worship-Media Tech Bill Castello

& Connections Newsletter Editor stars@sjuccf.org

newsletter@sjuccf.org

Custodian Christina Bach

ironton1@verizon.net

Custodian Geoffrey Jackson

geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com