

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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.

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

Chimes, Welcome, and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

“Fun” Raising Events and Opportunities ~ Amy Feidler

- RaiseRight gift card order forms – due September 30
- Wooden crosses made by Pete Mohr from pews – \$10 donation
- St. John’s Bazaar – November 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 *O God You Search Me
New Hymn for Worship*

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: We gather as a people returning — returning to grace,
returning to community, returning to the love that binds us
together.

All: **This Sanctuary holds our stories, carries our burdens,
and teaches us how to hope again.**

One: We are reminded that love is the one debt we always owe,
the gift we never finish giving.

All: **It is here, in this Church, that Christ is present among us
— whenever two or three gather, He stands in our midst.**

One: So come home, people of God. Come back to worship, back
to community, back to the One who clothes us in light.

All: **Let us worship the God who welcomes us back and
makes us whole.**

***Opening Hymn WR #1**

*God Is Here!
Verses 1, 2, and 4
The United Church of Canada*

***Affirmation of Faith**

All: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Scripture teaches that when relationships fracture, Christ calls us to seek reconciliation, truth, and healing. Let us come before God with honesty, trusting that divine mercy meets us even in the places we struggle to love as we offer our prayers first in silence.

Time for Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, You call us to love one another, yet we confess that we have not always lived in that love. We have held onto resentment where You call for forgiveness. We have turned away from community where You call us to return and be restored.

Clothe us again in Christ. Awaken us to Your presence among us. Make us people of reconciliation, compassion, and courage. In Your mercy, welcome us back and make us whole. Amen.

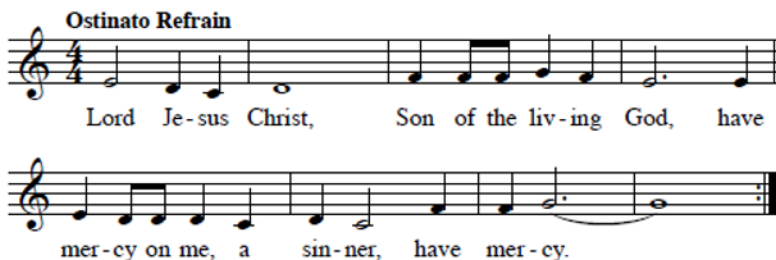
Sung Response

First sung by the Choir; then All

LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Jesus Prayer

Carol Browning



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Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Hear the good news: Christ stands among us with grace stronger than our failures and love deeper than our fears.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and welcomed home. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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, 2, and 3

Found on Page 4

*Scripture

Reader: Samantha Kistler

Romans 13: 8-10

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

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

© 1992, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP.

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Love is the Way

Song of Praise

Sacred Ground
Benjamin Harlan

To wonder, Lord, awake my sight, to see that Christ is all around, so fill my gaze with heavenly light, 'til common things are sacred ground.

You gift us, Lord, the world You own, to mirror here Your grace above. A child's embrace, the neighbor known, in simple signs we see Your love.

Come now to us in stranger, in friend; In daily meals, on table shared; In simple cup, in common bread, renew our vision to see Your care.

All earth is filled with heaven's light, bid wondering eyes to see all around; When Christ, diffused in all our sight: The common things, are sacred ground.

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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Steve Davis

& Samantha Kistler

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2026.*

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: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

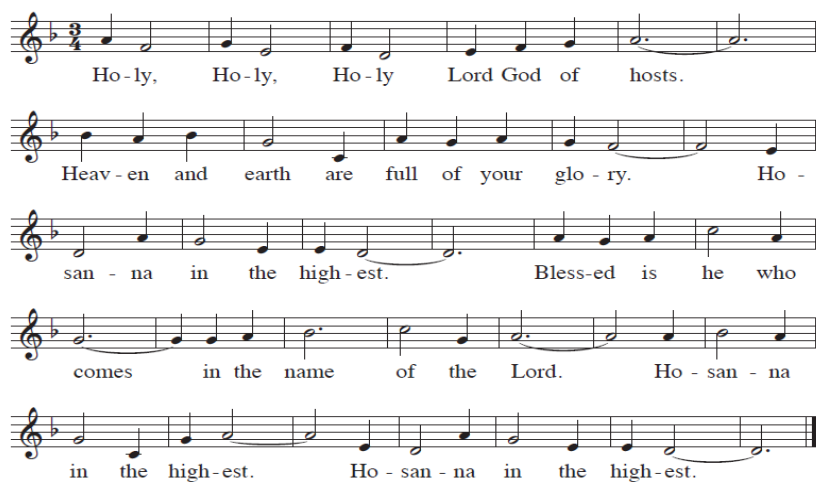
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Holy God, You formed us in love and called us into community.

All: **When we wandered, You sought us. When we fractured, You healed us. When we felt far away, You welcomed us back.**

One: In Jesus Christ, Your Son, You showed us the fullness of love — a love that forgives, restores, and makes all things new. And so, with all who have returned to You in every age, with angels and saints, and with the whole creation, we lift our voices in praise:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Text: ICEL, © 2010

Music: *Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations*. Tonv E. Alonso. © 2016. GIA Publications, Inc.

One: Holy and gracious God, from the beginning you have welcomed your people. You welcomed creation into being, calling light from darkness and life from the dust. You welcomed wanderers and seekers, prophets and children, strangers and friends.

All: Your welcome has no end. Your mercy opens every door.

One: In Jesus Christ, your living Word, you showed us a welcome beyond all measure. He ate with the forgotten, blessed the overlooked, embraced the outcast, and taught us that your table is wide enough for every soul you have made.

All: Gather us in, O God. Make us one in your love.

One: On the night before he gave himself for us, Jesus gathered with his friends around a table. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: “Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the meal was finished, he took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying: “Drink from this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my love, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

And so, remembering Christ's life, death, resurrection, and promise to come again, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Sung Response



Text: ICEL, © 2010

Music: *Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations*, Tony E. Alonso, © 2016, GIA Publications, Inc.

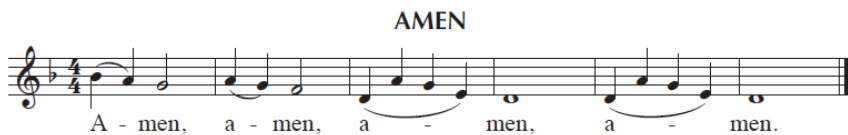
One: Welcoming God, send your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ—the feast where all are invited, all are fed, all are loved.

Send your Spirit upon us, that we may become a people of wide tables and open hearts, a community where strangers become friends and every person finds a home in your grace.

All: Make us a welcome to the world. Open our eyes to those who long for belonging. Open our hands to those who hunger for bread and justice. Open our hearts to those who seek compassion and peace. Make your church a doorway of grace, where all who enter find rest, renewal, and joy.

One: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, loving God, now and forever.

Sung Response



Music: *Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations*, Tony E. Alonso, © 2016, GIA Publications, Inc.

Communion Hymn

Behold the Lamb

Please join in singing the refrain. As the elements of bread are distributed, the choir will sing verses 1 and 2. As the elements of wine are distributed, the choir will sing verses 3 and 4.

Hymn found on page 9

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Samantha Kistler

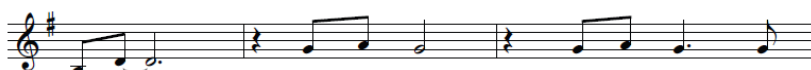
All: Gracious God, we thank You for feeding us with this holy meal, for welcoming us back to Your table, and for renewing us in the love of Christ. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation. Send us out as bearers of grace, builders of community, and witnesses to Your transforming love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Behold the Lamb

Verses



1. Those who were in the dark are thank - ful for the
2. Peace - ful now, those whose hearts are blessed with un - der -
3. Gen - tle one, Child of God, join with us at this
4. Lord of all, give us light. De - liv - er us from



sun - light; We who live, we who die are
 stand - ing Of the wheat, of the wine u -
 ta - ble. Bless our lives; nour - ish all who
 e - vil. Make us one; be our shield. Make



grate - ful for this gift, thank - ful for God's love.
 nit - ed with God's word and the love we share.
 hung - er for this feast; shel - ter them with peace.
 still the winds that blow; cra - dle us with love.

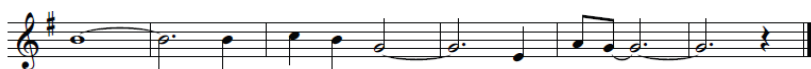
Refrain



Be - hold, be - hold the Lamb of God. All who eat,



all who drink shall live; and all, all who dwell in



God, shall come to know God's glo - ry!

Text: Martin Willett, b.1960, alt.
 Tune: Martin Willett, b.1960; acc. by Craig S. Kingsbury, b.1952
 © 1984, OCP

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: Sharon Czekner
All: **Holy God, receive these gifts. Use them to strengthen**
Your church, heal relationships, and build communities
where Christ is truly present. Make our giving an act of
witness to Your grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn WR #595** *They Will Know We Are Christians*

***Benediction** Rev. Steve Davis

***Postlude** *Trumpet Tune*
Anthony Gianmanco

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

We look forward to coming together again on September 6.

Attendance – August 30

Onsite – 75 Online – 42 Total – 117

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 6

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149

Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14 and Matthew 18:15-20

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Samantha Kistler

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon

Greeters and Ushers: Tom and Kay Chyrst, Corrina Purdon and Bobbie Pope

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

Readings for Service: *Romans 14:7-12 and John 12:1-8*

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: George Isleib &

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Sherri Gangewere

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

Greeter: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Carole O'Connell and Karen Stoitsits

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers James Cupples, father of Christina Bach, who entered into eternal life this past week.

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, Christina Bach, Nicholas Bach, Tammy Beitzel, Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass, Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John Hoff 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 and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, Pat Thompson 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 **use the church code, 473**. To add someone to our prayer list please contact the Church Office.

IN OUR PRAYER UPDATE

Beginning in the month of September, we will be introducing Our Monthly Prayers which will be taking the place of “In Our Prayers.” A binder will be placed in the back of the church where you are encouraged to list individuals you would like to add to the prayer list. Our “In Our Prayers,” will then be a monthly update with prayers of the congregation, our homebound members, and members of the military.

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.**

GAME NIGHT "PASTORWORD" & POTLUCK SUPPER

Come & enjoy a fun night of playing St. John's version of the TV game show "Password" on **Saturday, September 12, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Fox Hall.** Bring a covered dish to share. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the lounge area or call the office. Be sure to list what item you will be bringing & number coming.

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.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

AUGUST 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	17,775.05
Overall Percent	79.0%

Last Week	
Start:	8/28/26
End:	9/3/26
Total:	1,655.20

Amt needed to reach Target	
AUGUST 2026	4,724.95

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total

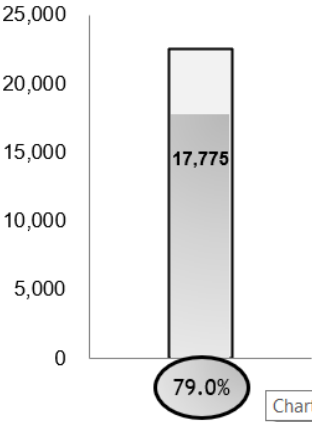


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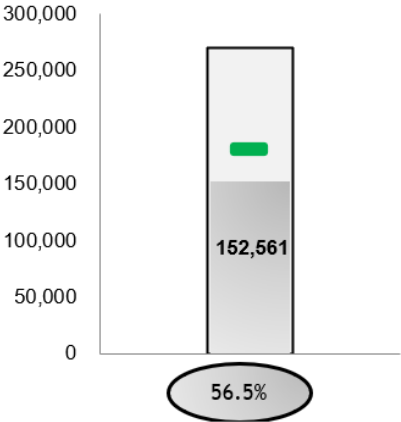
YTD OFFERINGS

AUGUST 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	180,000.00
Overall Total	152,561.23
Overall Percent	56.5%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



CHURCH CALENDAR—SEPTEMBER 6 – 13

Sun 9/6	9:30 am	Worship (Welcome Back)
Mon 9/7	Labor Day	Office Closed
Tue 9/8	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Bells Practice
	6:30 pm	Stewardship & Finance
Wed 9/9	9:00 am	Verso-Chat
	12:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thu 9/10	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri 9/11	5:00 pm	St. George's School
Sat 9/12	9:30 am	Zumba
	6:00 pm	"Pastorword" & Potluck
Sun 9/13	8:15 am	Friendship Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship (Faith Formation)
	11:00 am	Reflections

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Steve Davis
srpastor@sjuccf.org

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music@sjuccf.org

Ministry Intern

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samanthamkistler@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Samara "Sam" Bush
officesecretary@sjuccf.org

Treasurer

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