



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



**September 7,
2025
9:30am**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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

Thirteenth 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 returns **next Sunday!** 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

- Sunday Socials after worship – Sign up today!
- Faith Formation Registration for children and youth
- Dine & Donate – Sept. 15 at P. J. Whelihan's (See pg. 15)
- BINGO Tickets for Oct. 17 available now!
- Fall Mums—orders due next Sunday, September 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

Celestial Charm
Malcolm C. Wilson

Bells of St. John

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: All-knowing God,

All: We gather together with praise and thanksgiving for who You are, and for all that You have done for us.

One: You know us better than we know ourselves;

All: All our thoughts and actions—and yet You love us.

One: No matter where we go or what we do,

All: Your love encircles us—ahead and behind—gently leading and guiding and blessing. We praise You for Your love and Your faithful presence in our lives.

One: Move in our hearts and minds as we worship together;

All: Examine our attitudes and actions, lay bare the things we need to confess, challenge us with Your Word, and guide us on to paths that lead to life. For we are Your people, called by Your name.

***Gathering Hymn**

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3

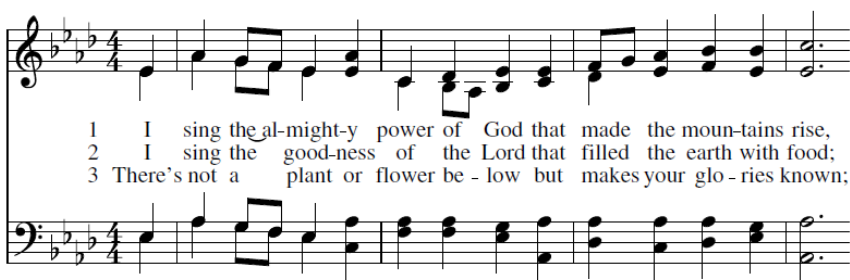
Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

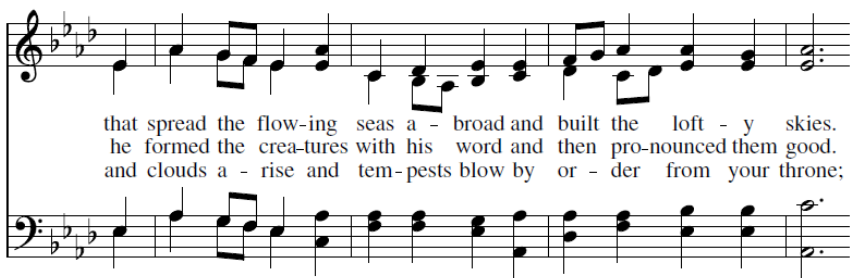
The United Church of Canada Creed

**All: We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We in 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 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, Amen.**

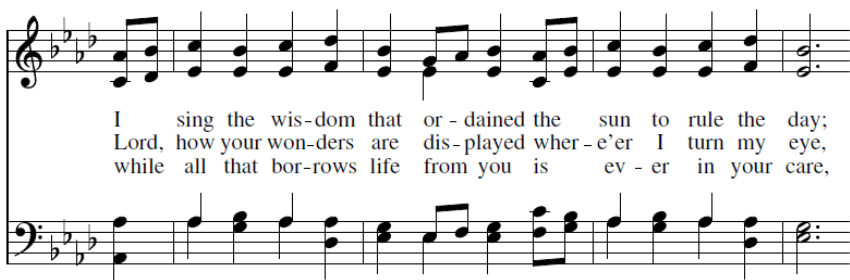
31 I Sing the Almighty Power of God



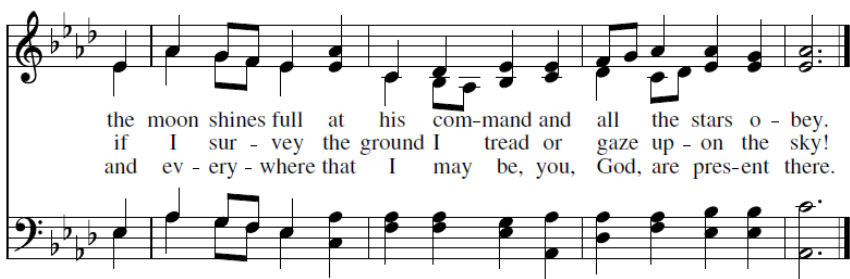
1 I sing the al-might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes your glo - ries known;



that spread the flow-ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y skies.
 he formed the crea-tures with his word and then pro-nounced them good.
 and clouds a - rise and tem-pests blow by or - der from your throne;



I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how your won-ders are dis-played wher - e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor-rows life from you is ev - er in your care,



the moon shines full at his com-mand and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery - where that I may be, you, God, are pres-ent there.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE
 C.M.D.

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: Jesus calls us to follow him, knowing that the path is difficult and that sin lurks at every turn. Trusting in God's mercy, let us seek forgiveness, that we may follow more nearly in the way of Jesus.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Sung Response

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 quarter notes and half 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 syllables, and the second line covers the remaining syllables. A repeat sign is at the end of the second line.

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

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

All: Merciful God, in Jesus, you show us a way that is humble, that seeks the good of others. We confess that we go our own way; we elevate ourselves and ignore the needs of others. Free us from the temptation to pursue our own pleasure only. Help us to live in harmony with all your people, sharing one world and eating around one table, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the Good News - we are God's new creation.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Message

Samantha Kistler and Rev. Davis
"Water Gathering"

Hymn

All Are Welcome
Verses 1, 2 and 4

found on page 6

Scripture Reading:

1 John 1:5-7
Read by: Kay Chyrst

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Sunny Days: Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?

Song of Praise

Have You Not Heard—Craig Courtney
Violinist: Stephani Bell

Who tends to His children like a shepherd and who gently gathers them as lambs? Whose breath blew the stars across the heavens from the palm of His almighty hand? Whose wisdom defies our understanding? Whose mind knows our secret thoughts and plans? Who is and will ever be eternal, and who was before all time began, who was before all time began?

Do you not know? Have you not heard who spoke you into being with a word? That Word endures forevermore: the Everlasting God, He is the Lord! Like grass, you will wither and fade. Without Him, you will stumble fall and faint. But all those who wait upon the Lord, will be renewed, their strength will be restored, renewed, their strength will be restored.

We will run and we will not grow weary. We hope in the Sovereign God of all. He who watches will not sleep or slumber. He steadies our feet against the fall. It was told to us from the beginning: One day we will rise to meet the Lord, He will lift us on His wings like eagles. We will walk, we will run, we will soar, we will soar, we will soar. Amen.

ALL ARE WELCOME (Interfaith Version)

Let Us Dream a Home

TWO OAKS

Words and Music: Marty Haugen



1. Let us dream a home where love can dwell and
2. Let us dream a home where proph - ets speak with
3. Let us dream a home where hands will reach be -
4. Let us make a home where all are named, their



all can safe - ly live, a place where young and
words so strong and true, where all God's chil - dren
yond the wood and stone to heal and strength - en,
songs and sto - ries heard, and loved and treas - ured,



old can tell how hearts learn to for - give.
dare to seek a bro - ken world made new.
serve and teach, and live the love they've known.
taught and claimed— each verse and eve - ry word.



Built of long - ings, hopes and vi - sions, rock of
Here the love of God might teach us, and re -
Here the out - cast and the stran - ger bear the
Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of



faith and vault of grace, as we seek a way to
veal in time and space how we share this com - mon
im - age of God's face. Let us bring an end to
faith and songs of grace, may this home pro - claim from



end di - vi - sions
home be - tween us: all are wel - come, all are wel - come,
fear and dan - ger:
floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come in this place.

We Love

**Prayers of the People
and Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Davis
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. Davis

*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: God be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**One: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling
forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of
your being.**

**All: We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and
for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean
scarcity for none.**

One: We remember the covenant you made with your people, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith.

All: **We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.**

One: We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news.

All: **We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your people of faith in all places and times. We praise you with joy.**

Words of Consecration

Rev. Davis

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.

found on page 9

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Samantha Kistler

All: **The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ. The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Come and Eat This Bread

Refrain

Come and eat this bread, come and drink this cup, come and
share the feast our God has spread. You have prom-ised us,
you are here with us in the break-ing of the bread.

Verses

1. This is the bread of life, for all to share, bread of
2. This is the cup of Christ's own sac - ri - fice, blood of
3. Just as the scat - tered grains be - come one bread, make us
4. And as we share one cup of cov - e - nant make us
5. Each time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we re-
D.C.
hope and re - demp - tion, bread to feed a world of hun - gers.
love and com - pas - sion, blood to heal the world's di - vi - sions.
one in your Spir - it, all one Bod - y in Christ Je - sus.
one in com - mun - ion at the ta - ble of Christ Je - sus.
mem - ber your death, Lord and we cel - e - brate your ris - ing.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God Appreciation for the Ministry of Rev. Becca Stephens



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: Sharon Antrim

All: Tender and knowing God, you have searched us and known us. Receive these gifts, offered not from perfection but from hearts seeking you. Use them to shape a world more reflective of your love. This we pray in your most holy name. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn**

For the Beauty of the Earth
Verses 1, 2, and 5

found on page 11

***Benediction**

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

Festive Postlude on Dix
Noel Rawesthorne

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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For the Beauty of the Earth

40

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4 For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our race so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love,
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

A word of thanks to Stephani Bell, our violinist, for sharing her time and talent once again with St. John's

Altar Flowers Sponsorship

In loving memory of my grandmother, Myrtle Saylor's birthday on
 Sept 11, 1898, by granddaughter Sandy Koch

Church Bulletin Sponsorship

In celebration of their 56th wedding anniversary
 By Paul and Carol Razsler

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

Adult Faith Formation – 8:15am

9:30am Worship and Children's "Holy Moly"

Attendance – August 31
Onsite – 67 Online – 10

13th Sunday after Pentecost, September 7

Welcome Back Sunday

Lectionary Readings

Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Psalm 1

Philemon 1:1-21 and Luke 14:25-33

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

Scripture Reader: Kay Chyrst

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeters and Ushers: Members of the Consistory

14th Sunday after Pentecost, September 14

Lectionary Readings

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 and Psalm 14

Exodus 32:7-14 and Psalm 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17 and Luke 15:1-10

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

Scripture Reader: Kim Hillegass

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Linda Apple

Greeter: Charlotte Kerrigan

Ushers: Charlotte Kerrigan

Carole O Connell

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 Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, 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 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.**

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.

PASTIE SALE

Choose from meat pasties, melts, and fruit turnovers. Order forms can be found on the table in the lounge. Pickup is Thursday, October 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 5, down in Fox Hall. Deadline to order is TODAY. Checks, payable to St. John's, must accompany all orders. Give your orders to Carol Raszler.

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.

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.

To obtain an order form, please see the back table in the parlor, or connect with a member of the music ministry who will be in the back of the church after service.

DINE & DONATE – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Come to the Dine & Donate event at **P. J. Whelihan's Pub & Restaurant** located at **3395 High Point Blvd., in Bethlehem** (near Lehigh Valley Airport) from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Menu items include appetizers, salads, soups, burgers, wraps, tacos, wings, chicken, fish, and desserts. Gluten-free and children's menus are also available. Flyers are available in the lounge area but not needed—be sure to tell the server you are from St. John's. The church will receive 15% back from all sales including beverages.

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.

CARD SHOWER FOR EMMA KUCZEK REPP

Emma will be celebrating her 103rd birthday on September 22. If you would like to send her a card, her address is: Emma Kuczek Repp, 3020 Fellowship Dr., Room 312B, Whitehall, PA 18052. She can also be reached on her cell at (484) 951-3830.

WATER GATHERING

We received water from:

Robin and Dennis Brensinger (Mohonk Mountain House, NY; Bethany Beach, Delaware); Rarich and Lord families (Bethany Beach, Del)
Susan Rarich and Frank Colosimo (Lake Superior; Tahquamenon Falls MI; Minges Creek, MI; Colorado River at Grand Canyon, AZ; Seneca Falls, NY); Lehigh River; Rarichs (water from the South Pole); DonnaLee Yeatts (Belgium, Netherlands); Pete and Regi Mohr (Redmond, OR); Regina Hickman (Erlandgen, Germany); Pastor Steve and Tyler Shankweiler (General Synod 35, Kansas City, MO)

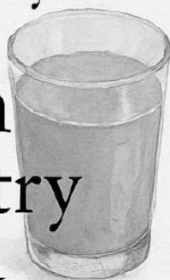
CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7 – SEPTEMBER 14

Sun 9/7	9:30 am	Worship, Communion
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Tues 9/9	noon	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
Wed 9/10	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 9/11	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 9/12	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 9/13	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 9/14	8:15 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour Newsletter Deadline



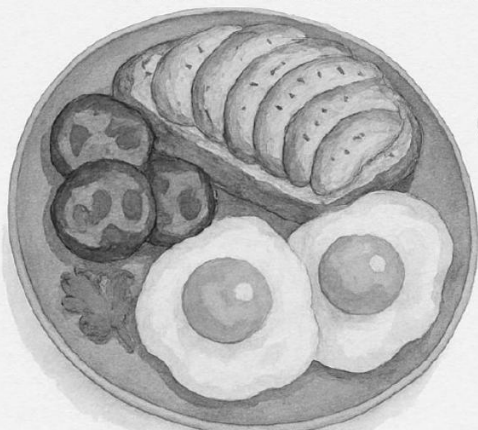
St. John's Music Ministry
cordially invites you to

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.

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 iron1@verizon.net
Custodian	Geoffrey Jackson geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com