



**ADAM  
RARICH**

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

A monthly update from the people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton

**Volume 19 • Issue 161 • February 2026**

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## On The Cover...



### ADAM RARICH

Hello, my name is Adam Rarich. I just turned 40 years old, and I have been a member of St. John's UCC since I was a baby. My entire family are members of this church! My wife is Emma Rarich, and I have two children Zander (9) and Maura (6), and we love to travel. My wife and I just crossed off our seventh and final continent this past year. We brought a travel mini bottle back to the church with water from Antarctica. We are always looking for our next travel adventure.

I am currently a member of the Property Committee. I love how the church has grown over the years, and it is a joy to see my children and family enjoy this church as much as I do.

## In Case You Missed This...

Our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith, had an article posted in the "Faith and Values" column of the Morning Call on Saturday, December 20. It was entitled "Christmas is a Reminder of the Values of Christianity," inspired by Isaiah 43:10.

To read the entire article, you can find the link by going online at [www.mcall.com/2025/12/20/faith-values](http://www.mcall.com/2025/12/20/faith-values). Pastor Becky is currently serving as Intentional Interim Pastor at St. Thomas UCC in Bethlehem.

## Ordination Anniversary

We celebrate the following ordination anniversary in February: Michelle Funk, whose 6th Anniversary will be on February 23. Michelle is currently serving as pastor at Heidelberg Union Church in Slatington.

## Steadfast Love

### A February Playlist for the Soul and the Beginning of Lent

February often arrives wrapped in the language of love. We share cards, candy hearts, and sentimental songs that promise affection as long as feelings remain warm. Yet the love at the heart of our faith is deeper, steadier, and far more resilient than romance or mood. Scripture speaks again and again of God's steadfast love, a love that endures, persists, and refuses to let go, even when we wander or forget who we are. A love that calls us to God's heart of grace to wrap us in unconditional love.



This February, that reflection on Steadfast Love also becomes the doorway into our Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday, February 18, we will be marked with ashes and reminded of our humanity, our fragility, our mortality, and our deep need for grace. Lent does not begin with shame or fear, but with honesty, and it is honesty held by love. We begin this season not by proving our worth, but by trusting that we are already beloved as we affirm our baptism.

Music has always been a companion to faith. Long before most people could read, they learned theology by singing it. Hymns shaped belief, comforted grief, and carried hope across generations. Contemporary faith music continues that sacred work today, giving voice to the same truth in new language and fresh sound. We create playlists of our favorite kinds of music. Playlists to match our activity. Maybe you have a playlist for working out or walking. Playlists for our moods, to calm us or to excite us, others for styles of music like classic jazz, pop rock, classical or rap, organ music or trumpet fanfares or playlists to help soothe our rattled nerves or inspire us with a great beat. Together, these musical expressions form a kind of spiritual playlist, reminding us that God's love is unconditional, faithful, and wide enough for all, even as we enter a season of reflection and return to God's Steadfast Love. Here's some old and new which make my playlist of "go to" music.

Our hymn tradition is rich with songs that proclaim God's enduring



mercy. ["Great Is Thy Faithfulness"](#), often associated with Thomas Chisholm, anchors us in the promise that God's compassion "fails not."

["O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"](#) names the divine love that refuses abandonment, even when life feels uncertain. I love loud and triumphant organ music, so for me, the [Widor "Toccatta"](#) from his 5th Symphony inspires me like nothing else, as does the instrumental brass version of the tune ["Jupiter" by Gustav Holst.](#)

Holst's tune has been used by many lyricists to share a powerful text with a known and cherished tune, such as with ["I Vow to Thee, My Country."](#)

I cannot hear ["Highland Cathedral"](#) and the sounds of the Scottish bagpipes without tears moving me in gratitude to God for the gift of the music.

I'm moved in moments of honoring the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives for the cause of freedom, justice and liberty. ["Mansions of the Lord"](#) reminds me of the "divine embrace, eternal light," received by those who lay down their lives for others.

["There's a Wideness in God's Mercy,"](#) which has been set to many memorable tunes, sings of a love broader than human limits, challenging narrowness with grace.

And ["Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,"](#) Charles Wesley's soaring hymn, celebrates a love that transforms, heals, and makes room for grace to grow within us.

These hymns and music are not relics of the past; they are living prayers. When sung today, they remind us that God's Steadfast Love carried earlier generations through war, loss, repentance, and renewal, carrying us still today.

Alongside these familiar hymns, contemporary artists continue to give voice to the same enduring truth. ["Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury](#) speaks of a God who pursues us relentlessly, not because we earn love, but because love is God's nature.

["You Say" by Lauren Daigle](#) offers a powerful affirmation of our identity as beloved children.

["Build My Life" by Pat Barrett](#) calls us to root our lives in a love that will never fail.

["Loved" by JJ Heller](#) tenderly names the healing power of being

seen and cherished exactly as we are.

Adding a powerful and timely voice, [Mark Miller's "I Believe"](#) based on the hope shared by a Jewish person in Cologne, Germany during the mass exterminations by the Gestapo by the Nazi regime.

["Draw the Circle Wide"](#) reminds us that God's love is never meant to be restricted or hoarded. With its call to widen the boundaries of welcome, the song echoes the gospel truth that steadfast love always moves outward toward inclusion, justice, and compassion, especially as Lent calls us to examine how we live that love.

["Hope" by Jason Robert Brown](#), might come to mind in the midst of turbulent and chaotic times when we need the reassurance of God's presence, and the Light of Hope shines through our darkness.

You might also include another modern set of praise songs, ["How He Loves" by John Mark McMillan](#) or ["Beloved" by Tenth Avenue North](#), songs that echo the same promise sung by the psalmists: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases." "I've never heard of some of these modern songs," you might say. Well then, it's time to create a new playlist and open yourself to a fresh experience of God's Steadfast Love.

As we move from February's Light into Lent's reflection, I invite you to create your own playlist or enjoy this one of God's steadfast love. Let it accompany your commute, your prayer time, or quiet moments of reflection. Sing along. Listen deeply. Allow the words to settle into your spirit. In a world where love often feels conditional or fragile, these songs and melodies remind us that even in repentance, even in return, in our crying out for God and in the gentle reminder of Christ's hope, we are held and renewed.

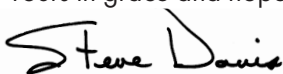
May these melodies carry you through the weeks ahead as a reminder that you are known, grounded in grace, and endlessly loved.

<https://bit.ly/PlaylistForLent>

We are the people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton, where...

**"We Worship, We Love  
and We Serve  
~ No Matter What!"**

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



## Faith Formation & Worship Celebrations!

### Light that Guides us to Reflection

A playlist for Lent? It might sound unexpected. Lent is often imagined as a quiet, even austere season, marked by silence, reflection, and a turning inward. And indeed, there is holy space in stillness, in listening for God beneath the noise of daily life. Yet for many of us, music is one of the ways that stillness opens up, a companion that helps us listen more deeply.

As we begin this new Lenten worship series on Steadfast Love, we offer these experiences in worship as a gentle guide for the journey. Each week is designed to lead us from the Glory of Christ's Transfiguration, to a moment of humility in worship on Ash Wednesday, all the way through Easter Sunday, not as a prescription for worship itself, but as an invitation to prepare the heart. These celebrations of worship are meant to help us make connections between scripture and lived experience, between faith and the wider world, between what we carry and the love that holds us. However you choose to engage them, we pray these moments together draw you more fully into worship and into the enduring, steadfast love that meets us throughout this Lenten season.



## Music at St. John's

Scene One: A young boy—whose grandmother was a pianist, whose grandfather played the tuba and sang, and whose great-grandmother taught voice, with a mother and brother who both played the clarinet—decided he wanted to go to church with his family. There he sat in the pew, fascinated not so much by the beautiful stained-glass windows around him or the priest speaking from the pulpit, but by his grandfather's voice, not to mention the choir that was singing. *Hey, if these people can do it—plus my grandfather—why can't I?* the young boy wondered.

But could he even carry a basic tune? It was soon discovered that the boy had a clear soprano voice, and that the question of whether he could sing was only the beginning of the journey. Before long, he was asked to sing a duet at the 10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Soon more opportunities followed: singing *Panis Angelicus* in Latin for Maundy Thursday, singing for the church's Easter Vigil, and—at the ripe age of thirteen—being introduced to the organ and realizing that church music wasn't just something reserved for Sundays, but was quickly becoming a passion.

Scene Two: A mid-sized congregation in an eastern city called a new music director. For several decades they had enjoyed a significant music ministry, including students and faculty at a local college and several area musicians who called this church home. Over the years, however, most of that had faded. This new music director was hired to "create the magic" once again, but the neighborhood, the congregation, and the world had changed.

Shortly after the new director arrived, a teenager from the neighborhood was hanging out in the church yard, clearly bored and looking for mischief. The music director got to know the kid and found out that he had always wanted to play timpani. Ironically, just a few days before, the director had discovered a neglected set of timpani locked in a basement room—a relic from a more glorious time. He dug them out and gave the kid some basic instruction. That Easter, the worshiping congregation sang accompanied by their spirited new organist—and a grinning teenager playing timpani, his first time in a worship service.

Scene Three: A suburban congregation of more than 3,000 members was deeply committed to outreach to the homeless population. This congregation was served by a music minister who consistently discovered and nurtured people's gifts. As a result, the

congregation enjoyed an enormous and flourishing music ministry, including a principal adult choir of more than 100 voices.

One day a homeless man showed up. He was fascinated by the music and the spirit of the congregation and stayed around. As he got to know people, including the music minister and some members of the choir, he confessed that once upon a time he had been a decent trumpet player. Full disclosure: this man had challenges. In addition to being homeless, he experienced several phobias, including a need to keep a bag of rocks under each arm—only he knew why. Other members of the choir befriended him, and in time the choir pooled their resources and bought him a used trumpet, which became a prized possession. He turned out to be not only quite gifted but also deeply loyal to the choir and the music ministry. Several times after that, in the chancel of this elegant legacy congregation with a truly big heart, stood a somewhat shabby trumpeter wearing an old overcoat (to keep the rocks under his arms), joining in the worship of God with his trumpet.

What do these stories have in common? For one thing, they're all true—the first story is actually mine. Beyond that, they illustrate a common reality: most people think church musicians are hired to create music for the church. Our actual calling, however, is to help other people create the church's music. Whether you're the only musician in a small congregation or the principal professional responsible for a large and diverse ministry, music ministry is about using the gifts God has given us to discover and nurture the gifts God has given others.

Music ministry allows us to be invested in our people, starting with the congregation as a whole. How can we nurture more enthusiastic singing? How can we make hymns and the liturgy more meaningful? How can we draw out musical gifts and expand the congregation's repertoire?

Music ministry also requires us to be constantly on the lookout for people who have gifts and interest in music—especially children and youth—and to make room for them to discover the joy of sharing those gifts.

Finally, music ministry asks us to respond with grace and humility when—not if—those who are first sharing their gifts may fall a little short of the congregation's expectations, or even our own. In doing so, we develop a healthy, gospel-shaped humility, discovering the joy of growing alongside the people we serve while cultivating an atmosphere of grace and gratitude.

**Musically Yours, Patrick**





**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

*Holy Communion -*

*Annual Meeting and Potluck following Worship*

**Glory Revealed: What is Good**

Lectionary Readings: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1  
Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12.

At the center of worship today is...worship. Micah 6:1-8 is about worship. Now, we can get caught up in the final three verses of this passage, which, to be fair, are profound and worth deep exploration. When we get to verses six through eight, we find out that the fruit of what we do outside the walls of the worship space matters more than what happens in the worship space.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026**

**Glory Revealed: Call to Action**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
(13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

Rooted in Micah's vision of justice, mercy, and humility, we hear Isaiah gently but firmly calling us to act, beginning with confession. As Lent draws near, this practice becomes an opening of the heart, making room for love to move within us. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds us that such love is never meant to stay contained; it flows outward as blessing. Confession, then, is not about shame, but about healing, restoring wholeness in ourselves so we may help bring wholeness to others.

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

## *Transfiguration Sunday* **Glory Revealed**

Lectionary Readings: **Exodus 24:12-18**; Psalm 2  
or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; **Matthew 17:1-9**

Transfiguration Sunday offers us a bridge from the Light of the season of Epiphany to the Reflection of Light into Steadfast Love in the season of Lent. The Transfiguration is a foretaste of the glory of Resurrection, a revelation of Jesus' divinity that has been hidden in mystery, yet is no less real. The Transfiguration does not erase Jesus' humanity, it demonstrates the union of full humanity and full divinity in the person of Jesus.

# ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

## *The Season Of Lent Begins* **Steadfast Love: Sustain in Me**

Lectionary Readings: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12;  
Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon Scripture Text: **Psalm 51:1-17**



## **"Ash & Dash"**

8-9am and 4-5pm in the Grape St. parking lot. Receive ashes and a prayer and blessing to begin your journey of faith through this season of experiencing God's **Steadfast Love**.

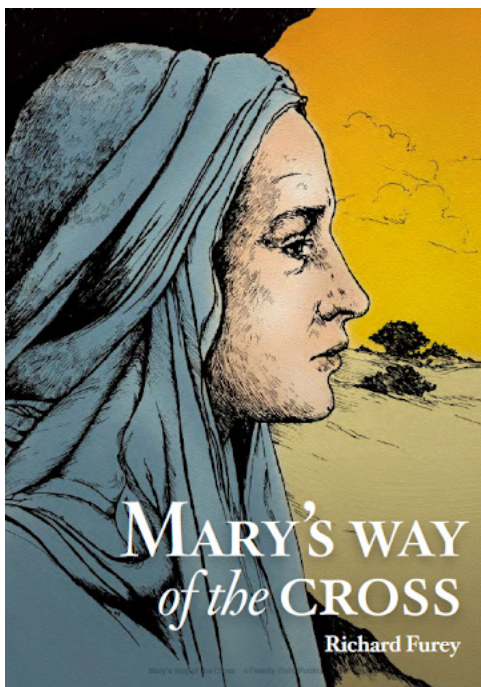
## Lenten Season Soup & Bread Dinner & Devotionals

### Wednesday evenings 6pm

Enjoy a simple meal of various soups and breads shared each Wednesday during Lent in Fox Hall. Take part in a spiritual walk through this ancient rhythm of prayer and reflection. A sign up sheet for donations of crockpots of soup and bread will be in the back of the sanctuary on the red display board. We ask for 3 volunteers to bring a crockpot of soup each, and 3 others to bring bread.

After Ash Wednesday, our evening devotionals will focus on Mary's Way of the Cross by Richard Furey, through the practice of Praying the Stations of the Cross. Isn't the Way of the Cross the way of every person's life? Doesn't every life have suffering, falls, hurts, rejections, condemnations, death, burial...and resurrection?

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, made that first Way of the Cross. These Stations attempt to present that viewpoint. In this booklet we see through Mary's eyes what Jesus was going through on the way to Calvary. Then we try to make practical applications to our own lives.



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

*The First Sunday in Lent*

### **Steadfast Love: Rescue Me**

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32;  
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon Scripture Text: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Luke 4:1-13



## SUNDAY, MARCH 1

*The Second Sunday in Lent*

### **Steadfast Love: Conceal Me**

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon Scripture Text: Psalm 27 and Luke 13:31-35



**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

*The Third Sunday in Lent*

**Steadfast Love: My Soul Clings**

Lectionary Readings: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon Scripture Text: Psalm 63:1-8 and Luke 13:1-9

## **Annual Meeting and Potluck**

### **February 1 following Worship**

Every year, we gather to share our year in review as well as our plan moving forward for the year to come. At our Annual Meeting, we will note those whose membership relationship with St. John's has changed, those who have passed to the Church Triumphant, and those who have been received in covenant relationship with us. These are important and sacred moments of witness.

We will also present our plan for utilizing the estate gift of Adrienne Keisbar. Various ministry area groups have prepared project ideas with estimates of funding needs. The Stewardship & Finance Committee and Consistory have reviewed the projects and shared recommendations to advance these opportunities to grow and improve our facilities and our outreach. They will also share a recommendation for retaining a portion of the estate funds to be added to our endowment to provide for ministry support for years to come.

There will also be some minor language changes to our Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate the transitions from the Penn Northeast Conference (PNEC) to the new Keystone Conference UCC in 2026, as well as our previous area now being in the governance model of the Mountain Valley Association.

In addition, each area of our ministry, and there are many, shares a report of their activity in 2025. Our focus this year builds once again on our mission affirmation... "We Worship, We Love, We Serve - No Matter What!" Each ministry area is asked to describe how our ministry has risen above challenges and changes to grow St John's.



[Our report book is available for you](#) to view online and download, and it was emailed to those for whom we have this preference selected. We are only printing 20 copies of the 51 page report book for those who want a copy. Please let the church office know so we can reserve a copy for you. Per our Bylaws, the Annual Meeting report book has been prepared and circulated two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Join us as the congregation gathers in Fox Hall following worship on February 1. Bring your favorite food item to share. Our lunch will be potluck.



## The Keystone Connection



Now that we are a unified new commonwealth of congregations as the Keystone Conference of the UCC, there are many wonderful things to learn and share about who we desire to be together. Our leaders are diligently working to share support and opportunities for local congregations and clergy to know our joy of being together at the table of God's love in Christ.

Each week, just as was available in the former PNEC, [the KEYSTONE CONNECTION](#) will share upcoming opportunities for continuing education, congregational training and support, and important news from around our area. <https://keystoneucc.org/>

[Here's the link to the weekly news!](#)

## About Our St. John's Cross Logo

Thank you for your encouragement and interest in our St. John's Cross. Several have recently shared that they checked out our YouTube video sharing how this image was developed back in January 2022.

This St. John's Cross logo is used on our website, in our YouTube livestream and on our digital bulletins and Facebook in color. Since we don't often print our publications in color due to the cost, we often miss the beauty of the digital publications and presentations that help others come to experience the warm and inclusive welcome we share at St. John's, often for the first time when they explore our online and social media presence.

We intentionally share and visually communicate our warm and inclusive welcome to the community and congregation, reminding us and all others that "you are... welcome here!"

To see the video and more information about the design and creation of the St. John's cross, please visit:

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/about-st-johns>

## Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) Confirmation Class

Our Confirmation collaboration with UCC Greenawalds and Grace UCC, Allentown, has now completed four months of activities. Please pray for the 11 people going through our G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Confirmation Class from the 3 congregations. Pray for our confirmand, Ryan Szoke. The class will meet for lessons at St. John's for in January, meeting the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm.

## Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Here's some things you can take part in to grow in faith and celebrate God's presence:

Verso-Chat Lectionary Study - Wednesdays at 9:00am on Zoom

Friendship Class - Sundays at 8:15am, a time for adult study and sharing

## Sunday Socials

### Building Belonging, One Host at a Time

At St. John's, we trust that something sacred unfolds whenever people gather around a table. From potlucks to midweek meals to that first taste of friendship after worship, food and conversation have a way of opening hearts - drawing us closer to one another and to God.

That's the spirit behind Sunday Socials, our after-worship time to linger, laugh, reconnect, and savor the gift of community. These moments may feel simple, but they do something profound: they build belonging. Every shared cookie or savory treat, every welcoming smile, every unhurried conversation strengthens the warm, connected heart of our church family.

This is where you come in. We're inviting you to be a Sunday Social host.

Hosting isn't about perfection — it's about presence. You can host solo or team up with a friend or two, or a group. By offering hospitality, you help ensure that everyone who walks through our doors feels seen, welcomed, and at home.

**Stop by**  
**the red display board**  
**at the back of the sanctuary.**  
**Call the church office**  
and let Alison know which Sunday works for you.  
**Want a quick kitchen tour**  
**or have questions?**  
Colleen Kulhamer is happy to help.  
**Together, let's cultivate**  
**a community**  
**where food, fun,**  
**and fellowship flourish.**

Ready to help build belonging? Signing up is easy:

Sign up to host a Sunday Social—and be part of what makes St. John's feel like home!



## **We LOVE ~ Giving to Make a Difference**

At St. John's, generosity is one of the ways we live our love - for God, for our neighbors, and for one another. We give because love doesn't stay abstract; it takes shape in real, tangible support that sustains ministry and changes lives, including our own.

Your faithful financial gifts make ministry possible. They support mission partners, strengthen outreach in our community, and sustain worship, learning, and pastoral care. Week after week, your generosity turns compassion into action and helps St. John's be a place of welcome, healing, and hope.

Each month, Pastor Steve and the Stewardship & Finance Committee share stories that show the impact of your giving. These glimpses remind us of the kind of church God is forming among us - one that cares deeply, welcomes generously, and shines Christ's light far beyond our walls.

As we look ahead, our hope is not just to maintain these ministries, but to grow them - reaching more people with Christ's message of



love, justice, and belonging. While we are meeting our expenses, we continue to fall short of our monthly giving goals that help us have resources to expand our programs and leadership support with staff. We ended 2025 with a shortfall of just over \$4,000, paid out of our reserves. Now is the time to make a meaningful difference for the year ahead.

One powerful way to express steady, sustaining love is through automatic recurring giving via ACH (Automatic Clearing House - a direct transfer from your bank). ACH giving is simple, secure, and dependable. It provides consistent support throughout the year and reduces processing fees, allowing more of every gift to go directly into ministry where it matters most.

Would you prayerfully consider becoming an ACH giver or increasing your current recurring gift? Michelle Gutekunst and our finance team are happy to help - it only takes a few minutes to set up, yet the impact lasts all year long. With your partnership, we can begin 2026 stronger and grow on a more firm, faithful footing.

Every gift is an expression of love. Every gift helps share Christ's love with our world. Thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your commitment to this community. Together, we continue answering God's call with open hearts, open hands, and hopeful spirits.

## **Bus Trip to Sight & Sound: "Joshua"**

June 3, 2026

Get ready for an inspiring day! St. John's is planning a bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, to see their new show, "Joshua."

The bus leaves St. John's at 8am for an 11am show. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a buffet lunch at Yoder's Restaurant.

Total Cost: \$150 per person (Includes show ticket, bus, driver tip, and buffet lunch).

Reserve Early! A \$75 deposit per person is needed to hold your spot. See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler to sign up!





Postlude

# Masters in this Hall

Arranged by Gordon Young

Patrick Sandt - Director of Music





# February 2026

<b>1</b> 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	<b>4</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recover
<b>8</b> <b>Newsletter deadline</b> 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	<b>11</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recover
<b>15</b> 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	<b>16</b> 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	<b>17</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm PEEPS	<b>18</b> 8:00am Ash & Das 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 4:00pm Ash & Das 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Lenten So - Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA-Recover
<b>22</b> 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Class	<b>25</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Lenten So - Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA-Recover

## Inclement Weather Notices

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or [www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter](http://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter)

<b>4</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall y Support-Room 302	<b>5</b> 9:30am Visitation Committee 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	<b>6</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School 6:00pm Tailgate Party & Church Family Feud - Fox Hall	<b>7</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast - Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
<b>11</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall y Support-Room 302	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>13</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School	<b>14</b> 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
<b>18</b> h with Pastor Steve Group h Group up and Devotional y Support-Room 302	<b>19</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Zumba-Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir	<b>20</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School	<b>21</b> 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
<b>25</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group up and Devotional y Support-Room 302	<b>26</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Zumba-Fox Hall 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir	<b>27</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School	<b>28</b> 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall

## Upcoming Events & Fundraising

Super Bowl Tailgate Party and Church Family Feud Night Friday, February 6 – 6pm to 9pm in Fox Hall. The excitement is building! By the time this newsletter reaches you, we may know what teams are heading to Super Bowl LX in Santa Clara, California.



Our "Fun-Raising" and Mission Committees are getting ready for the big event and you're invited!! Come for a meal that includes chili, cornbread, dessert, and beverage. Afterwards, we'll assemble teams to play Family

Feud, based on the popular TV game show where families or teams compete with each other trying to supply the most popular answers to survey questions. Regardless of what teams are in the Super Bowl, be sure to wear clothing of your favorite football team.

We are also asking everyone to bring a can of soup to support the "Souper Bowl of Caring" hunger drive. Look for a sign-up sheet in the lounge area or contact the church office. Let us know the number attending and if you would like to donate any food items for the meal. The festivities will then continue at worship on Sunday, February 8, when it's Super Bowl LX gameday. Wear clothing of your favorite football team to church. Bring a can of soup for "Souper Bowl of Caring." Our Confirmation Class will have soup pots for you to place any monetary contributions. All the proceeds will go to the Whitehall Food Pantry. Afterwards, come down to Fox Hall for the Social Hour as we root for your favorite team, enjoy the refreshments, and spend a time of fellowship together.





## Pastie Sale

It's time for our biannual Pastie Sale. These traditional turnovers are made by hand at the Mr. Pastie bakery in Pen Argyl and come frozen. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. You can choose from the following:

Item	Description	Size	Cost
Traditional Beef	Ground beef, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$7.50
Beef (no onion)	Ground beef, potatoes	12 oz.	\$7.50
Traditional Chicken	Chicken, peas, carrots, potatoes, onions, gravy	12 oz.	\$7.50
Italian Sausage	Pork sausage, green peppers, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$7.50
Traditional Ham	Naturally-smoked ham, onions, cheddar cheese, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.50
Chicken Cordon Bleu	Chicken, Swiss & American cheese, ham, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$8.50
Cheeseburger	Burger, American cheese, onions, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.50
Philly Cheese Steak	Steak, potatoes, pepper, American cheese, onions	12 oz.	\$8.50
Mexican Burrito	Beef, beans, cheddar cheese, onions, peppers, tomato, taco sauce	12 oz.	\$8.50
Pizza	Pepperoni, sausage, peppers, onions, mozzarella cheese, pizza sauce	12 oz.	\$8.50
Veggie Melt Pastie	Peas, carrots, corn, green beans, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cheddar	12 oz.	\$7.50
Spinach Melt Pastie	Spinach, potatoes, onions, cheddar cheese	12 oz.	\$7.50
Fruit Turnover Pastie	Choose from apple, cherry, or blueberry	6 oz.	\$4.50

An order form was included in the January newsletter and is also available [on the church's website](#) or on the table in the lounge area. The deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 1.

Please ensure payment is included with your order (checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton). Return forms to the church office, the offering plate, or Carol Raszler. Be sure to specify your pick-up date on the form: either Thursday, April 9, or Sunday, April 12. If you have questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)

## Men's Breakfast Group



The St. John's Men's Breakfast Group meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant (2027 Hamilton St., Allentown). Our next meeting is February 7 at 8:30am with Bob Stevens speaking. We would be pleased to have you join us! If you would like to know more, please contact Pastor Steve.

It is with sadness that we note the passing in December of both Bob Bold and Rev. David Mohr. Both members will be sorely missed. Bob was instrumental in forming and leading the Men's Breakfast over the past ten years, securing speakers and managing reservations. Rev. Mohr was a frequent speaker who provided interesting lessons and discussions over the years.

Dear St. John's,

On behalf of everyone at Pinebrook Family Answers, I want to take the opportunity to thank St. John's UCC for its contribution of \$590. As supporters and friends of Pinebrook Family Answers, St. John's and its parishioners are part of something special—a community dedicated to building a stronger and more resilient community. Please share our gratitude with everyone, who, during a season of giving that fosters kindness, love and joy, opened their hearts to help make a difference by providing for families participating in our High Fidelity Wraparound program who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the joy of the holidays. We thank you again for everyone's support and generosity and belief in our service mission.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Trimble Chief Operating Officer  
Pinebrook Family Answers

## **"SaveAround Lehigh Valley" 2026 Books**

### **Savings for a Whole Year**

These coupon books contain hundreds of "buy one get one free" deals, 50% off discounts, and a 12-month Savings App with over 400,000 additional local and national offers to save on the go. Featuring popular local merchants, these books make life more affordable whether you are shopping for dining, clothing, recreation, services, or travel—all while helping St. John's raise funds.

A sample copy is available to view on the table in the lounge area. The books are \$25.00 each. Please make checks payable to St. John's. When you receive your book, be sure to read the front cover to register the App on your phone for thousands of additional savings. Purchase books through the church office or see Carol Raszler before or after worship on Sundays.

### **Grocery Shopping is as Easy as A, B, C**

We all need groceries, whether you drive to the store, order online, or have them delivered. Did you realize that by purchasing Giant and Weis gift cards, or by saving Redner's register tapes, you are contributing financially to St. John's?

**Giant and Weis:** For every gift card sold, the church receives 5% back. You also get gas discounts at both stores. Purchase cards through the church office or see Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler on Sunday mornings.

**Redner's:** Through the "Save-A-Tape Program," the church receives 1% back for every tape collected. Mail tapes to the church office or place them in the collection jar in the lounge area. (Please do not roll the tapes or include receipts from other stores).

Think of St. John's every time you fill up your cart or your car! If you have questions, please see Karen Stoitsits.

## **“Keeping You in Stitches” News**

**Upcoming Craft Sale:** Come to our Easter and Spring Craft Sale before and after worship on Sundays, March 8 and March 15, in the lounge area.

**Volunteers Needed:** We need help with sewing, knitting, and crocheting projects. We supply the materials, and you work from home—no meetings required!

**For Sale Now:** During these cold winter months, pick up our 12-Bean Soup Mix (\$5.00) for some real comfort food. Also available are Women’s Group Church Cookbooks (\$5.00), featuring 350 delicious recipes ranging from appetizers to desserts.

**Thank You:** A big thank you to everyone who purchased craft items in 2025, and to our amazing team of crafters. We ended the year with a profit of \$1,224.51! The Mission Committee has designated these funds to the Property Fund to help purchase a new kitchen stove.

If you are interested in joining our crafters or purchasing items throughout the year, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com).



## Lady PEEPS



Celebrating the Holidays Instead of their regular monthly nighttime meeting, our Lady PEEPS got together for a holiday lunch. Seventeen members gathered at the City View Diner in Whitehall on Wednesday, December 17, for good food, great company, and fellowship. A wonderful time was had by all!



## A-Ticket, A-Tasket...

Bring Us Your Basket! We are looking ahead to our Basket Social on May 2 and May 3, and we need both empty and filled baskets. If you have empty baskets you no longer need and would like to donate, please bring them to the church office now or give them to Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler. Stay tuned for the March newsletter, which will detail themes for filled baskets and information on purchasing tickets for this yearly fundraiser.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Sharing Prayers and Love

Thank you for helping St. John's renew this beautiful ministry of compassion and care. Through the loving hands of those who knit and crochet, our Prayer Shawl Ministry offers tangible expressions of prayer, presence, and love. Each shawl and prayer square is lovingly made and prayerfully given to accompany people through illness, grief, hospitalization, or other tender seasons of life - offering warmth, comfort, and a reminder that they are not alone.

These handmade gifts become quiet witnesses of faith. With every stitch, we proclaim: You are held. You are remembered. You are surrounded by love. We are deeply grateful for the faithful work of Connie Viglione, Emilie Moyer, Nancy Weaver, Donna Held, and many others who give their time and talents to this ministry.



Near the sanctuary elevator lobby, you will notice shawls prepared and waiting - ready to be shared are placed on the stand near the offering plates, inviting the whole congregation to join in prayer.

Know someone who could use a prayer shawl? Contact the church office with their name. A shawl will be placed out before worship so the congregation may pray over it. The recipient will be named during the Prayers of the People, and after worship, you - or one of our pastors or visitors - may deliver the shawl as a personal blessing.



Want to help create shawls or prayer squares? If you knit, crochet, quilt, or would like to learn, please contact the Church Office. New hands and willing hearts are always welcome in this ministry of comfort and care.

Pause, pray, and bless as you come and go. Take a moment before or after worship to pray over the shawls on display, adding your own prayers to this shared expression of love.

Together, we wrap one another in God's love—one stitch, one prayer, one act of compassion at a time. Thank you for participating in this ministry and for adding your prayers to its holy work.



### Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Phyllis Ambearle	Sandy Glass	Mary Jane Ott
Anita Beil	Tracy Glass	Helen Ryer
Sherry Castello	Lucille Hicks	Bert Smith
Shirley Downing	Geraldine Keim	Leona Snyder
Jeanne Fischl	Bill Meckes	Nancy Weaver
Milton Focht	Dale Millham	Bonnie Weikel
Sally Gibson	Karen Moyer	

To protect privacy, please contact the church office for a listing with mailing addresses.

Dear Pastor Steve & Mission Committee,

I am writing to extend my deepest gratitude for St. John's incredible support during our Christmas gift drive fundraiser.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised a significant amount of money that will greatly benefit the youth and families in our Pinebrook Family Answers, High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) program who are facing challenges related to low income, mental health, and other hardships. The contributions will not only help provide Christmas gifts for these families but will also allow us to support them throughout the year with funds for future youth graduations and other activities that can help our youth achieve their milestones. Thank you again for your unwavering support and for helping us create a brighter future for our community.

Sincerely, Emma Rarich\*

High Fidelity Wraparound Coach

Pinebrook Family Answers

(\* Emma is also a member of St. John's & serves on our Mission Committee.)



## Upcoming "Fun-Raising" Events at St. John's

### Month of January through Sunday, February 8 – "Souper Bowl of Caring"

Bring cans of soup all month long & place on shelves in coatroom area. Goal is 250 cans. Donations go to Whitehall Food Pantry. See Carol.

### Friday, February 6 – Super Bowl Tailgate Party & Family Feud Night

6pm to 9pm in Fox Hall. Menu: chili, cornbread, dessert & beverage followed by teams playing Family Feud. Bring a can of soup for "Souper Bowl of Caring." Wear clothing of your favorite team. Sign-up sheet in lounge area or call the church office. See Amy.

**Sunday, March. 1 – Pastie Order Deadline** Order forms can be found on church's website or on table in lounge area. See Carol.

**Friday, March. 6 – Hoagie Sale Pickup** 4pm to 7pm in Fox Hall. Sign-up sheet of available items and costs on bulletin board in lounge area. **Deadline to order Sunday, February 22**. See Brian S. or Amy.

### Sunday, March. 8 & Sunday, March. 15 – Spring & Easter Craft Sale

Before and after worship in the lounge. See Carol.

**Friday, March. 13 – St. Patrick's Gift Card Bingo** – Doors open at 6pm, games at 7pm. Food available to purchase. 50/50 raffle & Tricky Tray. Tickets \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Tickets available through the office or see Tom.

**Sunday, March. 15 – Phantoms vs. Penguins Hockey** – 3:05pm at PPL Center, Section 121. Tickets cost \$28 per person. See Brian F. for ticket reservation.

**Applebee's "Burgers for a Cause"** – \$10 coupon entitles you to a gourmet burger and French fries. Good at any location. No expiration date. See Tom.

**Lehigh Valley SaveAround Coupon Books 2026** – Discounts to restaurants & businesses & more. Cost \$25. Good all year. See Carol.

**Giant & Weis Gift Cards** – Church gets 5% back. See Tom or Carol.

**Redner's Register Tapes** – Church gets 1% back. See Karen.

**Now taking reservations for bus trip to see "Joshua" at Sight & Sound in Lancaster on Wednesday, June. 3. Includes meal at Yoder's. Cost \$150. See Tom.**

### Committee Contacts: Amy Feidler, Chairperson (835) 210-5944

Ginny Brokenshire (610) 439-0443  
 Bill Castello (651) 492-1399  
 Pastor Steve Davis (610) 264-8421  
 Brian Fisher (610) 762-1134  
 Tom Moyer (610) 432-3372

Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572  
 Karen Stoitsits (610) 262-0746  
 Lori Stocker (610) 703-2666  
 Brian Strauss (610) 248-9119



## God Is Still Speaking!

Verso-Chat — Grounded in Scripture, Open in Conversation

Wednesdays, 9am and Online Anytime!

Looking for a meaningful, weekly way to stay rooted in Scripture? Verso-Chat is a welcoming, open-hearted space where we explore the upcoming Sunday lectionary readings with curiosity, honesty, and attentiveness to God's still-speaking voice.

Join us on Wednesday mornings for thoughtful, Spirit-guided conversation. Whether you're new to Bible study or seeking something more reflective than a traditional verse-by-verse approach, Verso-Chat invites you to wonder, ask questions, and listen together for how God's Word is shaping our lives today. Can't attend in person? Each session is recorded and available for viewing upon request. We will be happy to send you the link.

As we move through the seasons of the Christian year, these readings draw us into themes of hope, light, compassion, calling, and community — helping us notice God's presence in the everyday practice of following Jesus. Together, we discover how ancient texts continue to form how we love, serve, and grow as God's people.

Everyone is welcome as always. Click the Verso-Chat link below or visit our website to learn more. Interested in an evening option? Let Pastor Steve know — we're always open to creating new spaces for connection.

Come listen, wonder, and discover something new in Scripture each week at Verso-Chat.

<https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



# VERSO-CHAT

## Our 2026-2028 Consistory Members Installed

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, we shared in the joy of installing our 2026 Consistory, 3 Elders and 9 Deacons, who will serve along with Pastor Steve and our staff in guiding St. John's UCC.

Together, we pledged to be in "covenant and share the joy of being partners with you in the service of Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you as we worship, love, and serve, that together we may be faithful as the Church in the spirit of Christ."

### Spiritual Council Elders:

Paul Raszler (Elder/President) 2026;

Colleen Kulhamer (Elder/Vice President) 2027;

Linda Powell (Elder, newly elected) 2028

### Deacons:

Youth Deacon – To Be Selected

2026 – Kay Chryst, Kirby Hower, Bill Fink (filling Bob Bold's term)

2027 – Corinna Purdon, Robin Brensinger, Charlotte Kerrigan

2028 – Rev. Janet Boyd, Bobbi Pope, Dewey Yeatts (newly elected)

Consistory meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm, are announced in our monthly calendar and worship bulletin, and are open to all, including participating on Zoom. Contact the church office for the link to participate or join us.

### Deadline for March Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the March newsletter, please email [newsletter@sjuccf.org](mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org) by Sunday, February 8.

If you have photos to accompany your story, please attach them to your email. Comments and suggestions are always welcome!

[Style guide recommendations here](#)



## February Birthdays

If you have an upcoming birthday or notice an omission, please update the church office.

2/1 .....	Gavin Phillips	2/14 .....	Aaron Mill
2/2 .....	Dewey Yeatts	2/15 .....	Richard Baatz Sr.
	Aubrey Beckwith		Conner Strauss
2/4 .....	Robert Beckwith	2/16 .....	Gracie Funches
2/5 .....	Christopher Rowe		Gerald Yanavok
2/6 .....	Andrew Doyle	2/17 .....	Rev. George Eckstein
2/7 .....	Peter Mohr		Janice Blaker
	Halie Holderman	2/18 .....	Marion DeMilio
2/8 .....	Brian Fisher	2/19 .....	Sandy Koch
2/10 .....	Bruce Pope	2/20 .....	Ashley Kuhns
	Todd Heffelfinger	2/21 .....	Kelly Weiner
	Brian Strauss	2/22 ..	Michelle Bergeris-Cortright
	Janet Williams	2/24 .....	Elizabeth Reck
2/11 .....	Janet Ebert		Mary Jane Ott
	George Williams	2/25 .....	Thomas Chryst
2/12 .....	William Dovico	2/26 .....	Wayne Lichtenwalner
2/13 .....	Kaylee Pagan	2/28 .....	Heather Santee
	Eleanor O'Donnell		Anthony DeMilio





## February Wedding Anniversaries

If you have an upcoming anniversary or notice an omission, please update the church office.

2/10

Edward & Cynthia Sommers

2/21

Barrie & Judith Carr



Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!



## **“Souper Bowl of Caring”**



Each year thousands of individuals and groups from all 50 states participate in the “Souper Bowl of Caring.” In the last 35 years, over 300,000 groups have participated and have generated more than \$220 million in monetary and food donations for food banks and community-based charities.

It’s an annual event where communities come together, inspired by football’s Super Bowl, to tackle hunger locally. As millions of people tune in to watch football’s Super Bowl, we’re also tuning in to the needs of our neighbors. The “Souper Bowl of Caring” is about taking action to fight hunger at the local level, ensuring that no one has to go without the food they need.

For all of January and up to February 8, we are collecting all kinds of canned soups for “Souper Bowl of Caring.” Our goal is to



collect 250 cans of soup. We particularly request everyone to bring a can of soup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8. Our Confirmation Class will be on hand with soup pots after worship if you would like to give a monetary donation. All contributions will go to the Whitehall Food Pantry.

Whether you're a sports fan or not, it's a chance to be part of something bigger. Let's come together as a team to tackle hunger. Every can and every dollar count in the fight against food insecurity and make a real difference in the lives of those who need it the most. Together, we can ensure this year's "Souper Bowl of Caring" is the most successful yet.

### Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 6pm. WCHI will post a meal reminder on Facebook and Instagram and state if it is an inside sit-down meal, take out, or a version of both. The meal being served will also be posted. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karen Haberern, Program Chair, at (610) 730-3184. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Place	Address	Phone
Sunday, 2/1	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, 2/17	St. John Baptist Church – Social Hall (Meal provided by WAWA)	3024 S. Ruch St., Coplay	(610) 730-3184
Sunday, 3/1	Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church	3355 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall	(610) 435-0451
Tuesday 3/17	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 Seventh St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661

### About The Whitehall Food Pantry

The Whitehall Food Pantry was established in 1974 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, located at 3900 Mechanicsville Rd. in Whitehall, and has been serving Whitehall and surrounding community residents ever since.

About 50% of the food supplies have been obtained from Second Harvest Food Bank (state and federal grants based on the number of recipients). Second Harvest serves six counties in Northeastern PA, distributing over four million pounds of food each year through 84 food pantries like the one in Whitehall. However, in more recent months, the pantries along with Second Harvest are experiencing serious declines in food supplies due to political and economic pressures.

The remaining food supply comes from individual donations and a generous community effort with the active collaboration of Whitehall churches: Faith Lutheran (Whitehall), St. John's Lutheran (Fullerton), First Presbyterian (Hokendauqua), St. John's UCC (Mickley), and St. John's UCC (Fullerton). Individuals from other churches and the community will also drop off food and volunteer.

Civic groups and area businesses play a large part in the pantry support as well. Every Monday morning, Whitehall Food Pantry volunteers pick up several cases of food from the Giant Food Store (Coplay), Redner's Markets (Whitehall), and Weis Market (Whitehall). Chick-fil-A and Egypt Star Bakery also provide regular food donations.

Many volunteers across our community give of their time, which is the cornerstone for sustainability and growth of the food pantry. The pantry continues to expand its outreach, serving about 200 different families each month and over 4,600 individuals in the course of a year. Some of their families just need short-term emergency aid while others suffer continuing situations. If you are in need of food assistance, the pantry is accepting new and returning clients and you can contact Doreen Wagner at (484) 246-5715 for an appointment.

For the month of February, we are collecting cans of soup for "Souper Bowl of Caring," pancake mix, pancake syrup, and coffee. Items can be placed in the shopping cart found in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary. Other food items as well as monetary donations are always welcome. If you would like to volunteer at the pantry on the 4th Monday of every month, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email him at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com)



## Update on Other Mission Outreaches

- December's special offering for the Christmas Fund amounted to \$470,00. It is an annual UCC offering for retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need. A check was sent to UCC National.
- At the end of 2025, the profit received from the sales of our Crafters "Keeping You in Stitches" amounted to \$1,224.51. The funds were given back to St. John's for the Property Fund to be used to help purchase a new kitchen stove.
- At the end of 2025, the 10% tithing from all our fundraisers amounted to \$1,981.08. Those funds were divided in half with \$990.54 each given to Lehigh Conference of Churches and the Whitehall Food Pantry.

## How did St. John's Family do?

Mission	Dec. 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$832.00	\$11,393.00	\$13,176.00	\$12,823.00
Christmas Fund	\$445.00	\$ 470.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 347.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$405.00	\$ 4,575.49	\$ 3,375.00	\$ 4,180.00
Mountain Valley Assoc.	\$ 90.00	\$ 115.00	N/A	N/A

**Mission Outreach giving for December 2025  
totaled \$1,772.00 and YTD giving totaled \$23,104.15**

## Beware Of Scams

As a reminder, if you receive a text message or email supposedly "from Pastor Steve" or any other staff person, asking you to respond to a need or by purchasing something, these are scams and email phishing. Please DO NOT open or reply to these messages. Block the number or email address and delete the message.

If you ever question a message, please call Pastor Steve or contact the church office to confirm. Thank you! Let's help keep each other safe from these predatory practices.

# BUDGET UPDATE

## St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

Dec 2025

Income	Electronic	12/7/2025	12/14/2025	12/21/2025	12/28/2025	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$7,057.62	\$2,273.00	\$1,205.00	\$3,169.00	\$5,151.00	\$18,855.62
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,425.50					\$1,425.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp	\$710.76	\$90.00		\$70.00	\$52.64	\$923.40
Endowment Interest						\$0.00
Flowers			\$138.00	\$135.00		\$273.00
Faith Formation	\$15.00	\$5.00		\$10.00	\$5.00	\$35.00
Special Gifts	\$206.81					\$206.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,415.69</b>	<b>\$2,368.00</b>	<b>\$1,343.00</b>	<b>\$3,384.00</b>	<b>\$5,208.64</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
						<b>\$21,719.33</b>

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$8,955.66	\$10,258.50	\$1,302.84
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$8,952.56	\$9,329.75	\$377.19
Building Services	\$4,611.30	\$2,937.50	\$(1,673.80)
Faith Formation	\$(10.00)	\$104.17	\$114.17
Parish Programs	\$1,641.31	\$2,219.25	\$577.94
Fundraising Tithe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,150.83</b>	<b>\$24,849.17</b>	<b>\$698.34</b>

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$21,719.33	\$303,433.69
Total Expenses	\$24,150.83	\$307,356.95
***** Net INCOME (LOSS) *****	\$(2,431.50)	\$(3,923.26)

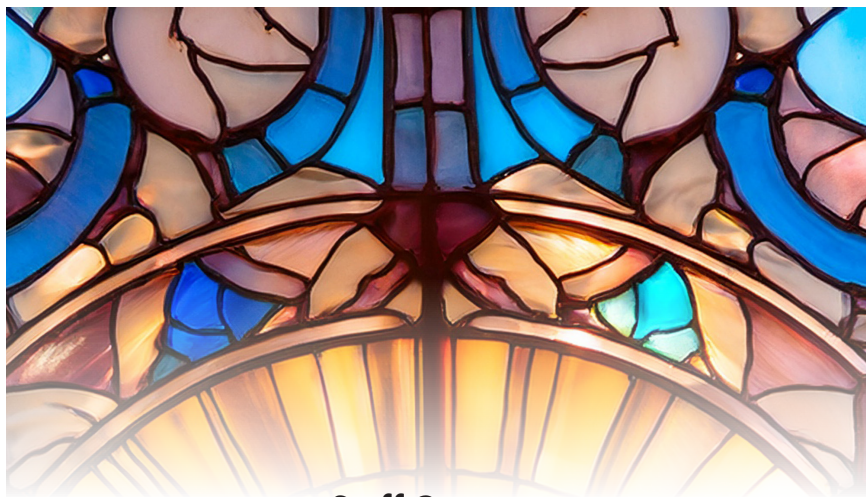
### Mission Giving, Dec 2025

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$832.00
Christmas Fund	\$445.00
Mountain Valley Assoc	\$90.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$405.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,772.00</b>

### St John's UCC Fullerton Account Balances For Month Ending, Dec 2025

Account	Nov-25	Dec-25	Difference
Checking Account	\$75,632.16	\$72,006.45	\$(3,625.71)
Giant Card Funds	\$2,147.76	\$787.00	\$(1,360.76)
Weis Card Funds	\$1,451.00	\$1,816.00	\$365.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$79,230.92	\$74,609.45	\$(4,621.47)
Restricted/Property Checking	\$34,650.76	\$34,127.02	\$(523.74)
Restricted/Property Investments	\$784,380.00	\$361,212.00	\$(423,168.00)
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$819,030.76	\$395,339.02	\$(423,691.74)
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$568,116.00	\$996,676.00	\$428,560.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,466,377.68</b>	<b>\$1,466,624.47</b>	<b>\$246.79</b>
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(81,060.36)	\$(80,928.29)	\$132.07
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$(81,060.36)</b>	<b>\$(80,928.29)</b>	<b>\$132.07</b>
<b>NET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,385,317.32</b>	<b>\$1,385,696.18</b>	<b>\$378.86</b>





## **Staff Contacts**

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## Entered the Church Eternal



*"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

*- 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Paul "Gus" Geissinger, was received to the Church Triumphant, January 8, 2026. Services were held Saturday, January 17, 2026 at Gilbert Funeral Home with our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith officiating. Our prayers are shared for the whole family.

<https://www.legacy.com/legacy/paul-geissinger-jr>

Additionally, William Hausman, passed on January 10, 2026. Our prayers are extended to his wife, Debra. They were members of the former Dubbs Memorial UCC and were received to St. John's in 2015.