

St. John's United Church of Christ  
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Like us on Facebook at St Johns UCC Allentown

**\*Indicates that people may stand as they are able.**

September 25, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Music to gather

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

Johann Gottfried Walther

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Welcome

Call To Worship: Psalm 91

One: You who live in the shelter of the Most High and who abide in the shadow of the Almighty

**Many: We will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”**

One: God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence; God will cover you with his pinions, and under God's wings you will find refuge;

**Many: God's faithfulness is a shield and defense. I will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

**All: Because we have made the Lord our refuge, God the Most High is our dwelling place!**

**Hymn#412.....“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”**

Prayer of Confession

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Let us come before the God of hope and love to receive tender mercies and grace.

**Many: God over all things, we humbly come before you to profess that sometimes we feel hopeless. We move around in the glory of your creation, but struggle to see your presence amidst the storm. We are under siege by injustice, hatred, and violence.**

**Help us to remember that even in the middle of the chaos, you are there. You protect us, and guide us, and give us hope! May we always remember that you are with us in the storm, and that your rainbow shines above us to remind us of your love. Amen.**

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn # 375, Verse 1

Christ Jesus, please be by our side,  
Your Holy Spirit send as guide;  
With gracious help, your people may  
Keep to the true and righteous way

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness:

One: There are many storms that we must weather in this life time. Even when we feel like there is no hope left, and that the last candle has been snuffed out, we must remember that the one true light that came into the world was Jesus Christ!

**Many: “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” -John 8:12**

Assurance Response 🎵 Hymn #407, Verse 2

Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
For I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand  
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.

Scriptures:

Ralph Todd

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15  
1 Timothy 6:6-19

Prayer for Grace (sung)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Mission Moment

Bill Falla

Children’s Moment:

Pastor Becky Sausser

Sermon: “Keeping Hope & Faith”

Pastor Becky Sausser

**Hymn #44.....“Beautiful Jesus”**  
**(Note: Ushers will collect “Prayer Cards” during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews. We invite you to fill one out if you have a joy or prayer request to share.)**

Morning Prayer and 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.

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #563 Verse 3

God calls humanity to join as partners in creating  
A future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.  
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,  
That all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

**Hymn #460**.....“ Be Not Dismayed”

\* Commission and Blessing

\* **Threefold Amen** 🎵 #812

Amen, amen, amen

Music to go forth

“Voluntary”

Leon Brellmann

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### Special Announcements/Reminders:

You can give ELECTRONICALLY from your mobile device using the VancoMobile app. You can download this app from the Apple and Google App stores. The church's name is - stjohsuccallentown - exactly as shown. You can also give on our homepage at [www.stjohsuccallentown.org](http://www.stjohsuccallentown.org) by clicking on the "Donate" button.



In September we will be collecting backpacks for the children of Central Elementary. You may purchase a backpack and bring it into church. If you're giving cash, a check, please put it in an envelope clearly marked "Central Backpacks". If you give on-line, please look for the Central Elementary column.

The tentative date for the annual BOO-ktacular event is 10/28.

**Parking Passes!** If you come to St. John's during the week, we ask that you park in the lower lot, which is reserved for St. John's church members. If you regularly come and use the upper parking lot, please contact Pastor Becky with your license plate number, make, model, and color of your vehicle and she will give you an updated parking pass.

This is not required for Sunday mornings.

*The altar flowers are in honor of St John's UCC.*



**Our hands.  
God's work.**

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's  
journey, you're welcome here.  
God is still speaking, ...**

Personal **hearing devices** are available from an usher in rear of church.

Use of **electronic devices** during worship may be distracting to your neighbor. Please refrain unless a personal emergency.

**In emergencies**, please use exits found to left and right of the altar, to the right of the front pew, and at the rear of the sanctuary.

Follow **EXIT** signs.

Please make sure your name has been added to the church attendance each Sunday. Then if contact tracing is necessary, we will be able to notify you. Thank you.

**Please note:** If you have a **prayer request**, please fill out a card found in the pew and the **ushers will pick it up during the second hymn.**

### **Serving St. John's...**

Pastor Rebecca Sausser.....Pastor  
Lois Mease..... Music Director and Organist  
April Riddick.....Custodian  
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton  
Claudia Ewald.....Administrative Assistant

And too many volunteers to list!