

St. John's United Church of Christ
36 S. Sixth Street, Allentown, PA 18101
Phone 610-433-0146
Email: stjohnsucc2@verizon.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccallentown.org
Pastor Rebecca Sausser
Phone: 570 – 581 - 0594
Email: revsausser@gmail.com
Like us on Facebook at
St Johns UCC Allentown

Personal hearing devices are available from an usher.

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

July 19, 2026, 10:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

arranged by Anne Crosby Gaudet,

Copyright 2021

Ann Kunkel, Harp

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather from different homes, different experiences, and different walks of life.

People: Yet God gathers us into one family.

Leader: The Holy Spirit calls ordinary people to extraordinary acts of love.

People: We are ready to listen and ready to serve.

Leader: Christ calls us beyond these walls into our neighborhoods and our city.

People: We will share God's love with our words and our actions.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who sends us into the world.

People: With joyful hearts, we worship God!

Hymn #419 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Profession of Faith

One: Friends, every week we gather because we believe God is still speaking. We also recognize that we sometimes lose sight of God's mission. Rather than remaining trapped in guilt, we honestly bring our lives before God, trusting that God's grace transforms us and continually calls us into new life.

Let us pray together.

ALL: Gracious God, we believe you have called your Church to be a light in the world. Yet too often we become comfortable behind familiar walls. We confess that fear keeps us from reaching new

Nun danket alle Gott
(Now Thank We All Our God)

Martin Rinkart, 1647

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1. Nun dank-et al-le Gott, mit Herz-en, Mund und Händ-en,
der gro-sse Ding-e tut an uns und al-len End-en;
der uns von Mut-ter-leib und Kind-es-bein-en an
un-zäh-lig viel zu gut bis hier-her hat ge-tan.
1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic-es,
Who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joic-es,
Who, from our par-ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
With ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God our Mak-er now be giv-en,
To Christ, and Spir-it, too, our help in high-est heav-en,
The one e-ter-nal God, whom earth and heaven a-dore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

Sir. 50:20-24; 39:35; Ps. 67

people. Busyness keeps us from noticing those who are hurting. Comfort keeps us from taking risks for the sake of your Kingdom. Forgive us when we mistake maintaining the church for being the Church. Renew our passion for serving our neighbors. Open our eyes to opportunities already surrounding us. Give us courage to love without conditions, to seek justice, to extend compassion, and to proclaim your hope through both our words and our actions. Shape us into disciples who follow wherever Christ leads. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession 🎵 Hymn #448, V2

**Take my spirit let it move
At the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use
all its powers as you choose.**

Words of Reassurance

Leader: Hear the Good News. God does not abandon us when we fall short but renews us with grace. Christ continues to call imperfect people into meaningful ministry. The Holy Spirit equips us with gifts for serving others.

**People: Thanks be to God! We are forgiven,
renewed, equipped and sent into the world. Amen**

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵Hymn #493, V1

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end,
Remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend!
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my
side,
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my
guide.**

Service of Baptism

Rev: I would like to invite the parents and
godparents of Emilio Alberto Cotes & Leland Denzel
Cotes forward at this time for the sacrament of
Baptism!

Rev: They were bringing children to Jesus that
Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked
them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant,
and said, the children come to me, do not hinder
them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I
say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of
God like a child shall not enter it." And Jesus took
them in his arms and blessed them, laying his
hands upon them.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible
sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise

of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Rev: Do you desire to have your children baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do

Rev: Will you encourage these children to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Rev: Will you teach them, that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Rev: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the world and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

(To the Congregation)

Rev: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all the nations and to offer them the gift of grace and baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, your prayers to the children being baptized as they live and grow in Christ?

Congregation: We promise our love, and our prayers.

Rev: Emilio Alberto Cotes & Leland Denzel Cotes, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Rev: The Holy Spirit be upon you Emilio and Leland, children of God, disciples of Christ, members of the church!

Emilio Alberto Cotes & Leland Denzel Cotes, born on April 27, 2026

Parents: Hugo and Cherlynn Cotes

Godparent: Kyla Bowers, Erica Smith, Michael Stepp

Siblings: Donevin, Cateleya, Kasandra, Jayvion, and Zaryah Cotes

Grandparents: Sandra Keiser, Edith Gonzalez

Scriptures

Rev Becky Sausser

Reading 1: Acts 13:1-3

(Page 893)

Reading 2: Acts 14:21-28

(Page 895)

Congregational Response 🎵 (aka prayer for grace)

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.

Children's Moment

Sermon: Sent to Build a Wider Circle

Amanda Muschett

Hymn "I the Lord of Sea and Sky"

I, the Lord of sea and sky,

I have heard My people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin,

My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear My light to them?

Whom shall I send?

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them,
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.**

**I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.**

**I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.**

I will go Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart

(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews.)

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 #520 Verse 3

**Come with the vision and the strength
I need to serve my God, and all humanity;
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured –
My life in you, O Christ, your love in me.**

Special Music

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

arranged by Brook Boddie

Copyright 2020 Seraphim Music

Rev. Becky Sausser, vocalist and Ann Kunkel, Harp

Announcements
Offering

Jeff Rissell

Offertory "Whispering Hope"

Septimus Winner

Copyright 1961 California Music Press

* Doxology 

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* **Hymn #607 "We Would Be Building"**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

"Tell Out, My Soul"

J. Wayne Kerr

Copyright 2000 Augsburg Fortress

Permission to stream copyrighted material granted
by Christian Copyright Licensing
International Streaming Licensing #20215522

We Would Be Building

607

Purd E. Deitz, 1935; alt.

1. We would be build-ing; tem-ples still un-done
o'er crum-bling walls their cross-es scarce-ly lift,
wait-ing till love can raise the bro-ken stone,
and hearts cre-a-tive bridge the hu-man rift.
We would be build-ing, Ar-chi-tect Di-vine,
re-veal the shape of life in your de-sign.
2. Teach us to build; up-on the sol-id rock
we set the dream that hard-ens in-to deed,
ribbed with fine steel, both time and change to mock,
the un-fail-ing pur-pose of our no-blest creed.
Teach us to build; O Mak-er, lend us sight
to see the tow-ers gleam-ing in the light.
3. O keep us build-ing, Sav-ior; may our hands
ne'er fal-ter when the dream is in our hearts,
when to our ears there come di-vine com-mands
and all the pride of sin-ful will de-parts.
We build with you; O grant en-dur-ing worth
un-til your prom-ised realm shall come on earth.

Matt. 7:24–27; Luke 6:47–49; 1 Esd. 5:56–7:15

***The Altar Flowers are in Celebration of
Louise Gutt's Birthday and in Memory of Tom
Heinze by Esther Heinze.***

Special Announcements/Reminders:

You can give **Electronically** from your mobile device using the **VancoMobile app**. You can download it from the Apple and Google Play store. The church's name is - **stjohnsuccallentown** - exactly as shown. You can also give on our homepage by clicking the "**Donate**" button **www.stjohnsuccallentown.org**

In emergencies, please use exits found to the left and right of the altar, to the right of the front pew, and at the rear of the sanctuary. Follow **EXIT** signs
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

God is still speaking, ...

Serving St. John's...

Rev. Becky Sausser.....Pastor
Lucia Guido.....Admin Assistant
Lois Mease.....Music Director and Organist
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton

And too many volunteers to list!

Office Hours

Sunday: 9am-2pm

Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm

Closed on Fridays and Saturdays