

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

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St Johns UCC Allentown

**Personal hearing devices are available from an
usher.**

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

August 16, 2026, 10:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Now Praise, my Soul, the Lord"
Johann Gottfried Walther

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Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 56

**One: O Most High, when I am afraid, I put my
trust in you.**

**All: In God, whose word I praise, in God I
trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to
me?**

One: God is with us through everything, keeping a count of our tossing's and turnings at night.

All: God places my tears in a bottle and watches over me.

One: This is what I know, God is for us!

All: In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid.

Hymn #318

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! For some of us, when we encounter a question, we try to learn all about the subject so that we can gain insight. This act of research is holy! Let us profess to our loving God that we do not know everything so that we can find comfort in God's presence with us in uncertainty.

All: Holy God, Creator, Son, and Spirit One, we praise your holy name! When we stumble along the path and find things that cause us

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

John Cawood, 1815; alt.

1. Al-might-y God, your Word is cast
like seed in-to the ground;
Now let the dew of heaven de-scend
and righ-teous fruits a-bound.
2. Let not the sly sa-tan-ic foe
this ho-ly seed re-move,
But give it root in ev-ery heart
to bring forth fruits of love.
3. Let not the world's de-ceit-ful cares
the ris-ing plant de-stroy,
But let it yield a hun-dred-fold
the fruits of peace and joy.
4. So when the pre-cious seed is sown,
your quick-en-ing grace be-stow,
That all whose souls the truth re-ceive
its sav-ing power may know.

Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23

to ask good questions, we know that you are there with a hand to help us up and point us in the direction of where our answers may be found. Bless us Lord, in the research that we do to make ourselves feel more comfortable when things feel uncertain. Bless us also in knowing that you are with us always. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession♪

Hymn #571 V3

**Whom shall we trust, O God, but you?
For you are constant, strong and true.
None ever called on you in vain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again.**

Words of Assurance

One: The 56th Psalm tells us that even when we toss and turn at night, or tears roll down our cheeks, that God is there!

All: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Psalm 23:4

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #573 V2

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,

For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:

That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,

Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

Scriptures

Reading 1: Ephesians 1:3-14

Reading 2: Writings from Josephus

Trudi Egan

(Page 948)

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: Dialogue with Documents

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #315 “O Word of God Incarnate”

(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 #557 Refrain

**Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

Special Music

“I Will Trust in You”

Rebecca Sausser and Amanda Muschett

O Word of God Incarnate

William W. How, 1867; alt.

1. O Word of God in-car-nate,
O Wis-dom from on high,
O Truth un-changed, un-chang-ing,
O Light of cloud-ed sky:
We praise you for the ra-diance
that from the hal-low-ed page,
a lan-tern to our foot-steps,
shines on from age to age.
2. O God, we hold this trea-sure
from you, its source di-vine,
a light that to all a-ges
through-out the earth will shine;
It is the chart and com-pass
that all life's voy-age through,
'mid mists and rocks and tem-pest,
still guides, O God, to you.
3. O make your church, dear Sav-ior,
a lamp of pur-est gold,
to bear be-fore all peo-ple
your true light as of old!
O teach your wan-dering pil-grims
by this their path to trace,
till, doubt and striv-ing end-ed,
they meet you face to face.

Ps. 119:105

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "A Prayer" Ludwig von Beethoven

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* 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 #27

"From All that Dwell below the Skies"

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth "Fugue" Dietrich Buxtehude

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Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. From all that dwell be-low the skies
let the Cre-a-tor's praise a-rise;
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Let the Re-deem-er's name be sung
through ev-ery land, by ev-ery tongue.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
2. E-ter-nal are your mer-cies, God;
your truth stands ev-er high and broad:
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Ps. 117

The Altar Flowers are in Memory of Walter and Michael Yenolevich by Cindy Dannenhower.

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