

St. John's United Church of Christ
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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**

September 13, 2026,

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr"

Zachau/Vetter

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***Welcome**

Call to Worship based on Psalm 104

One: May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

All: May the LORD rejoice in God's works—

**One: who looks on the earth and it trembles, who
touches the mountains and they smoke.**

**All: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will
sing praise to my God while I have being.**

One: May my meditation be pleasing to God, for I rejoice in the LORD.

All: Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

Hymn #300 “Jesus Shall Reign”

Blessing for the School Year

Loving God, be with our students, teachers, staff, and administrators; Be with them and help them as they begin a new year of learning, teaching, growing, and serving. May their minds and their pencils be sharp and may their erasers help them to remember that mistakes are okay. Mistakes are one of the most important parts of the process when learning. God, thank you for old friends and new friends, and the chance to learn and grow together. Thank you for schools and libraries and teachers; thank you for the gift of curiosity and for your Wisdom that is all around. Keep them safe and healthy this year, and help them to make good decisions based in your love. Amen!

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Have you noticed the leaves are changing color? Have you

felt the gentle breeze move around you like an embrace? Look at this incredible world, and remember that you are a beloved and important part of creation.

All: Holy God, we see the majesty of your glory in everything around us. From little blades of grass peaking up in between sidewalks in our city, to fluffy clouds rolling lazily above us, beckoning us to take a few moments to rest and enjoy the show. We thank you most of all for the beauty that meets us in every person's face as we take notice of the image of God in each other. When we become preoccupied with busyness that tries to distract us, help us to come back to the breath, your Spirit moving in us, so that we might breathe in your peace, and exhale your love. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession♪ Hymn#586 V2

**As we tend God's garden, from its furrows rise
Stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the
skies!**

**Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root,
Unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!**

Words of Assurance

One: Today as we behold the beauty of the earth,
let us remember that we are part of that beauty!
That every person hold within them imago Dei, the
image of God!

**All: “I praise you God, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made”** -Psalm 139:7

Response to Words of Assurance♪ Hymn#611, V5

**O Day of God, draw near
as at creation’s birth;
Let there be light again,
and let your reign begin on earth.**

Scriptures

Reading: Psalm 19:1-10

Judy Garrigan
(Page 441)

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: For the Beauty of the Earth

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #28 For the Beauty of the Earth"

(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 #506 Verse 1

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and
griefs to bear!**

**What a privilege to carry everything to God in
prayer!**

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,

Oh, what needless pain we bear,

**All because we do not carry everything to God
in prayer.**

Chancel Choir "With One Heart" Mark Patterson

Copyright 1998 Choristers Guild

Amanda Muschett, flute

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “Passacaglia”

Andre Raison

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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 #298 “O Savior, for the Saints”**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth “Triumphant Fanfare”

Thomas Cesterton

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The Altar Flowers are in Memory of Tom 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