

St. John's United Church of Christ
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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**

October 11, 2026,

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Let All Things Now Living"

David Cherwien

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship by Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber

**One: Today we reflect on our call to be servants, as
we prepare to act in the name of Christ to do good.**

All: We do not do good to those around us. We do not do good for those around us. We seek to do good with those around us.

One: As we serve, who stands – or sits – in the place of Jesus? Who “gets to be Jesus” in this situation?

All: It is not we who stand in Jesus’ place. It is those we serve. As we do it for – and with – the least of these who are members of Jesus’ family, we do it for and with Jesus.

One: Yet we are the hands and feet of Christ. So we too sit and stand in the place of Jesus.

All: Let the Jesus in me speak to the Jesus in you. Let the Jesus in me receive from the Jesus in you. It is all about Jesus.

Hymn #52 “O How I Love Jesus”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Today we gather in love and harmony remembering that each one of us is a reflection of Christ’s love in the world!

All: Holy Jesus, today as we gather together in this time and place, we ask that you would fill

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There Is a Name I Love to Hear

(O How I Love Jesus)

Frederick Whitfield, 1855; alt.

- 1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like mu-sic to my ear, the sweet-est name on earth.
O how I love Je-sus, O how I love Je-sus,
O how I love Je-sus, whose love has first found me.
- 2 It tells my Sav-ior's love for all; Christ died to set us free;
What-ev-er prob-lems may be-fall, we'll live in dig-ni-ty.
O how I love Je-sus, O how I love Je-sus,
O how I love Je-sus, whose love has first found me.
- 3 It bids me serve a-mid the wrath God's peo-ple face each day,
And sheds a-long life's trou-bled path bright sun-shine on my way.
O how I love Je-sus, O how I love Je-sus,
O how I love Je-sus, whose love has first found me.

us with your Spirit! We sing our praises for the many ways that you have blessed our lives! We lift up prayers to those within this beloved community who are in need to healing, both physically and spiritually. As we nourish our bodies, minds, and souls today, refresh us and renew us for the work that we are called to do, performing ministry in the heart of the city. Amen!

Response to prayer of confession 🎵 Hymn #416, V1

**I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord, till I die.**

**I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord, till I die.**

Words of Assurance

One: We are called to live in Christian unity! We are called to be the body of Christ! And we are blessed and so incredibly loved by our savior and friend Jesus!

All: “**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life**”

-John 3:16

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵 Hymn #361, V1

**Your love, O God, has called us here,
for all love finds its source in you.**

**The perfect love that casts out fear,
the love that Christ makes ever new.**

Mission Moment by Bill Falla

Scriptures

Amanda Muschett

Reading: Colossians 3:12-14

(Page 956)

12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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: Love Feast

Rev. Becky Sausser

Explanation of the Lovefeast

Sharing the Lovefeast

Hymns for the distribution of the Lovefeast

I come with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
In love laid down for me,
In love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, with grace and care,
The new community of love
In lovefeast as we share,
In lovefeast as we share.

And thus we meet, and better know
The Presence, ever near
And join our hearts and sing with joy
That Christ is risen here,

That Christ is risen here.

We love your realm, O God,
All places where you reign.
We recognize, with hope and joy,
the world as your domain.

We love your church, O God,
for Christ has given life
To form communities of love
That seek to heal our strife.

Come, let us join with faithful souls
our song of faith to raise;
One family in heart are we,
and one the God we praise.

And faithful are the gentle hearts
to whom the power is given
Of every hearth to make a home,
of every home a heaven.

Before our God we come

and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
a sympathizing tear.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling,
All your faithful mercies drown;
Jesus, you are all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Grace for the Lovefeast

Be present at our Lovefeast, Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
From Thine all-bounteous hand, our food,
May we receive with gratitude. Amen.

Sharing the Lovefeast

Chancel Choir "A Little Love" Natalie Sleeth

Copyright 1978 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Hymns for collection of the Lovefeast leftovers

Take my life, God, let it be
consecrated, faithfully.

Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love and help it grow;
let my loving overflow.

Take me now, and help me be
part of Christ's community.

Holy Spirit, love divine,
Glow within this heart of mine.
Kindle every high desire,
Purify me with your fire.

Holy Spirit, power divine,
Fill and nerve this will of mine,
Boldly may I always live,
Bravely serve, and gladly give.

(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 2

**Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day:
Help me to see you purpose and your will,
When I have failed, what I have done amiss;
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.**

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "Duet" George Frideric Handel

Copyright 1973 Harold Flammer Music

* 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 #539

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth “Andante”

Karl Heinrich Zollner

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Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

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Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

1. Won't you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
2. We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-ellers on the road;
We are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad-ow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with
you.
I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney
through.
5. When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har-mo-ny,
Born of all we've known to-geth-er of Christ's love and ag-o-ny.
6. Won't you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.

Rom. 12:9–18; Col. 1:24–29

***The Altar Flowers are in
Honor of Pastor Becky
in Appreciation for All She Does!***

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



*Walk in love, as Christ loved us
Ephesians 5:2*

Advocating for Change

In 1999, General Synod affirmed four Special Mission Offerings for the United Church of Christ. Out of the four, the Neighbors in Need offering was highlighted as the offering for justice and compassion. The offering was tasked to help the church “advocate for a society where all people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.”

Today, this legacy continues as we follow the mandate for the offering to create justice not only through direct aid, but also through advocating for change. These advocacy efforts take place in partnership with the Washington, D.C. Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, the Education for Faithful Action Team, and recipients of the Neighbors in Need grants. Together, folks across the UCC work together to affect policy change guided by our faith.

When you give to Neighbors in Need, you make sure the United Church of Christ continues to be a leader for justice. Two-thirds of the offering supports justice projects across the church, and one-third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries.

Thank you for your gifts!



**Scan QR Code to
Donate Now**

There is an inherent connection between the Gospel call to respond to the hungry – the thirsty, the stranger, those in prison, and those who are sick – and the policy decisions that determine funding for issues such as school meal programs, global peacebuilding programs, standards for clean air, sentencing for nonviolent offenders, and health care access for all. Advocacy is essential to participating in God's mission in the world.

-From Building A Just World For All: A Toolkit For Faithful Advocacy

www.ucc.org/nin



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