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**

November 8, 2026, 11:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "By Peaceful Streams"

Carl Maria von Weber Arr. Franklin Ritter

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship Psalm 95

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

One: For the LORD is a great God and the great King above all.
All: In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also.
One: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
All: For God is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Hymn #469 "O Grant Us Light"

Profession of Faith
One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! We come to God with prayer and praises, knowing that we are heard, and seen, and loved!
All: Holy God, we are overwhelmed with your love! It is hard for us to imagine your unchanging steadfast love for us, and yet we feel your love in our lives when we draw our senses to awareness. Today as we examine wisdom and prayer, bless us with understanding so that we may best carry your steadfast love into the world, while also loving ourselves. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

469 O Grant Us Light

Lawrence Tuttiett, 1864; alt.

1. O grant us light, that we may know
wis-dom that you a-lone can give,
That truth may guide us as we go,
and vir-tue bless the lives we live.

2. O grant us light that we may find
where er-ror lurks in hu-man lore,
And turn to you our seek-ing minds,
and love your ho-ly Word the more.

3. O grant us light, that we may learn
how dead is life from you a-part,
How sure is joy for all who turn
to you an un-di-vid-ed heart.

4. O grant us light, when soon or late,
all earth-ly scenes shall pass a-way,
In you to find the o-pen gate,
to death-less home and end-less day.

Ps. 43:3

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Response to prayer of confession♫ Hymn #489,V6

I looked to Jesus, and I found
my guiding Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll go
till traveling days are done.

Words of Assurance

One: When we come to God in prayer we find a loving parent, always ready to listen, ready to wipe away our tears, and wrap us in love.

All: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:6-7

Response to Words of Assurance ♫ Hymn #13, V1

O My Soul, bless your Creator,
All within me bless God's name,
Bless your Maker, and forget not
All God's mercies to proclaim.

Dedication of Prayer Room

Becky: Where two or three are gathered in God's name

Nancy: God's presence is there also.

Mandy: Creator, Son, and Spirit one, surrounding us!

Becky: Today we gather as one congregation to honor the past, the present, and the future of the prayer life in this beloved community.
Nancy: Today we recognize the importance of journeying together.
Mandy: Today we dedicate and bless a portion of our building for prayer and contemplation.
All: We remember the words of Saint Paul reminding us to, "Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints."
Becky: We dedicate the Prayer room at St. John's UCC that it may be a space for gathering in prayer and lifting one another up in Christ's name.
All: Thank you God! Amen!

Scriptures — Rick Guhl
Reading 1: Matthew 25:1-13 — (Page 801)
Reading 2: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

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: Using Resources Wisely
Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #465 "Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way"
(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 #503 Verse 3
Teach me your patience; let me be
in closer dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

Chancel Choir "Simple Gifts/Pachelbel's Canon"
Arr. Donald Moore
Copyright 2000 Alfred Publishing Co, Inc.
Amanda Muschett, flute

465 Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

William Matson, 1866; alt.

1. Teach me, O Lord, your ho-ly way,
and give me an o-be-dient mind,
That in your ser-vice I may find
my heart's de-light from day to day.

2. Help me, O Sav-ior, here to trace
the sa-cred foot-steps you have trod;
and ful-ly trust-ing in my God,
to grow in good-ness, truth, and grace.

3. Guard me, O Christ, that I may ne'er
for-sake the right, or do the wrong;
A-gainst temp-ta-tion make me strong,
and keep me in your shel-tering care.

4. Bless me in ev-ery task I face,
be-gun, con-tin-ued, done for you;
Ful-fill your will in all I do,
and grant me your a-bun-dant grace.

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Announcements Jeff Rissell

Offering
Offertory "Sarabande" Archangelo Corelli
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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 #475 "God's Eye Is on the Sparrow"**
* Commission and Blessing
* **Threefold Amen**
Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth "Earth and All Stars"
Wayne L. Wold
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475 God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.

1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,
Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and home,
When God is ev-er my por-tion? My con-stant friend will be:
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me;
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.
I sing because I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free,
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,
And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path God leads me but one step I may see:
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me;
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.
I sing because I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free,
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

3. When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,
When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies,
I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from care I am set free:
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me;
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.
I sing because I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free,
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

Matt. 10:26–30; Luke 12:4–7

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The Altar Flowers are in Memory of William Knauf from the Sausser Family

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