

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



***We Worship, We Love, We Serve
– No Matter What!***



March 30, 2025

**4th Sunday in Lent
9:30 am**

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation
of the Penn NE Conference United Church of Christ!*

You are WELCOME HERE!

***Our Offering** is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts of praise and gratitude to God, to be presented during the service. While guests are welcome to contribute, please know there is no obligation; the financial support of our church is primarily the responsibility of our congregation members.*

***Sunday Social** is a time to gather for light refreshments and connection time, to visit, make new friends and build relationships. Join us in Fox Hall following worship each Sunday, hosted by various congregants and groups.*

***Children's Faith Formation** begins in the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom and meet the leaders. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.*

*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Lent Dinner & Devotionals, Wednesdays at 6:00pm in Fox Hall, Soup & Bread Sign Up
- Quinn Family Wildfire Donations
- Easter Flower Orders — DUE TODAY
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – Today
- Men's Breakfast, Saturday, April 5, 8:30am
- Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 12, 10am-12pm
- Holy Week Schedule
- Holy Humor Weekend, April 26-27
- Basket Social, May 31-June 1

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Come Home
Craig Courtney

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Return to the Lord your God,

All: For God is gracious.

One: Confess to the Lord your God,

All: For God is merciful.

One: Repent to the Lord your God,

All: For God is slow to anger.

One: Praise the Lord your God,

All: For God abounds in steadfast love.

One: Worship the Lord your God.

All: Together, let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

Our Father We Have Wandered

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

The United Church of Canada Creed

All: We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We in believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God,

We are called to be the church:

To celebrate God's presence,

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God, Amen.

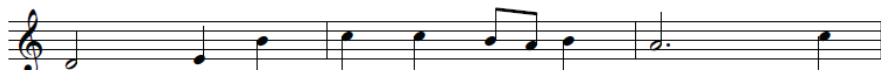
Our Father, We Have Wandered



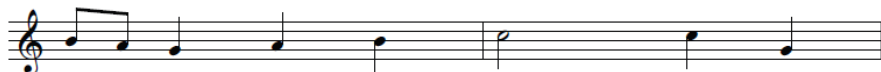
1. Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered And
2. And now at length dis - cern - ing The
3. O Lord of all the liv - ing, Both



hid - den from your face; In fool - ish - ness have
e - vil that we do, Be - hold us, Lord, re -
ban - ished and re - stored, Com - pas - sion - ate, for -



squan - dered Your leg - a - cy of grace. But
turn - ing With hope and trust to you. In
giv - ing, And ev - er - car - ing Lord, Grant



now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, We
haste you come to meet us And
now that our trans - gress - ing, Our



rise with fear and shame, As, dis - tant but com -
home re - joic - ing bring, In glad - ness there to
faith - less - ness may cease. Stretch out your hand in



pell - ing, We hear you call our name.
greet us With calf and robe and ring.
bless - ing, In par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006, © 1980, ICEL

Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 6 7 6 D; Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Within the strength of community, in the power of silence, we come before God with the truth of our lives, trusting in the mercy and love of our Creator. Let us offer our confession before God and each other.

Time for Silent Prayer

Sung Response

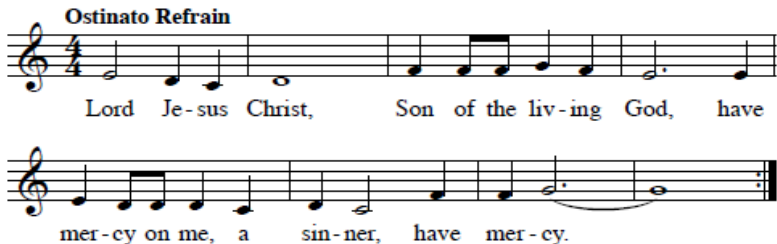
Choir, then All

LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Jesus Prayer

Carol Browning

Ostinato Refrain



Lord Je-sus Christ, Son of the liv-ing God, have
mer-cy on me, a sin-ner, have mer-cy.

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Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: Lord Jesus, you chose to be called the friend of sinners. By your saving death and resurrection free us from our sins. May your peace take root in our hearts and create in us a harvest of love, holiness, and truth. This we pray in your most holy name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: God rolls away everything that stands in our way – our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace.

All: Broken, we are made whole, lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness. We rejoice and give thanks to God who has forgiven us with mercy. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

Children and youth are welcome to come up to the chancel steps.

Hymn

Broken for the Broken

Verses 1 and 9

found on page 6 of the bulletin

*Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 20-32

Reader: Robin Brensinger

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: The son set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Broken for the Broken

Refrain



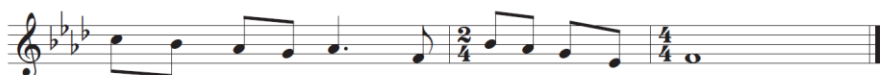
Bro-ken for the bro-ken, poured out for the poor:



Bless-ed feast of God's cre - a - tion, giv-en for us all.



Bro-ken for the bro-ken, shared for hu-man-kind, we pro -



claim your death, O Lord: God's sac-ri-fice and sign.

Verses



1. For the hun - gry ones,	for the thirst - y ones,
2. For the ones a - bused,	for the ones con-fused,
3. For the voice-less ones,	for the help-less ones,
4. For the wound-ed ones,	for the shat-tered ones,
5. For the ones in chains,	for the ones in fear,
6. For the ail - ing ones,	for the hurt - ing ones,
7. As we break this bread,	as we take this cup,
8. As we trust your word,	as we live your way,
9. Change our hearts, O Lord,	give us will - ing hearts,



for the lone - ly ones, you call us to serve,	to be
for the ones re - fused, you call us to love,	to be
for the home-less ones, you call us to speak,	to be
for the ti - red ones, you call us to help,	to be
for the ones in debt, you call us to give,	to be
for the dy - ing ones, you call us to care,	to be
as we share this meal, you call us to change,	to be
as we walk by faith, you call us to share,	to be
hearts that rec - og - nize the cour - age to serve and share	

D.C.



1.-8. Christ for each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.
9. Christ with each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk!

by John Pavlovitz

“If God is Love: “Holy Ferocity”

Song of Praise

Softly and Tenderly

Arr. by T. Fettke

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me.
See on the portals He's waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me.
Come home, come home, You who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling, “Oh sinner, come home.”*

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, Mercies for you and for
me?*

*Time is now fleeting; the moments are passing, Passing from you and from
me. Shadows are gathering, death's night is coming, Coming for you and for
me, for me.*

*Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised, Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for
me.*

*Come home, come home; You who are weary, come home. Earnestly,
tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, “Oh sinner, come home, come home.*

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

The 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**

Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministry of St. John's UCC!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

*Doxology

A Lenten Doxology

*Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church,
PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003*

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's Love in Christ into our Hearts. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: As we observe this holy time of Lent, may our offerings reflect hearts that are turning back to you. Bless these gifts and our lives so that we may share your steadfast love with the world. In the name of Christ, we pray.

We Serve

Amen

*Sending Hymn

Amazing Grace
Verses 1, 2, and 3

found on page 9 of the bulletin

*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Postlude

Amazing Grace
Verses 4, Interlude and Verse 5

Amazing Grace!

422

G G/D D7 Em C G G/D D/C G/B

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
 3 The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
 5 When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!
 he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship is concluded and our service in the world continues. The Benediction and Postlude send us out to be the people of God in our community.

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Lectionary Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 and Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 and Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Lectionary Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 and Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14 and John 12:1-8

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:30am Adult Faith Formation

- Friendship Sunday School Class

9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation

- with Sunday Social time following worship

11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth

Attendance – March 23

Onsite – 90 Online – 32

Serving in Worship Leadership

March 30, 2025 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner **Scripture Reader:** Robin Brensinger
Worship Tech: Bill Castello **Acolyte:** Aiden Hannis
Greeters: Charlie & Linda Apple **Ushers:** Marion DeMillio
Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan **Social Hour:** Keister/Lopez families

April 6, 2025 (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner **Scripture Reader:** Janet Boyd
Worship Tech: Bill Castello **Acolyte:** Aiden Hannis
Greeters and Ushers: Kay Chryst, Wendy Fox, Kirby Hower
Kathy Roth, Tyler Shankweiler **Altar Guild:** Charlotte Kerrigan
Social Hour: Pam Repetz, June McCracken, Karen Schmoyer

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambeable, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Diana Beck, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Bob Czekner, Rob Czekner, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Janet Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Lynn Gilbert, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Joy Gravely, Gus Geissinger, Gail Hanzl, Donna Held, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, Jean Litzenberger, Bob Lopez, Judy Luckenbill, Robert Menges, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Bobby Sherman, Madeline Slivka, Leona Snyder, Martha Strauss, George Williams.

We pray for the families of Nancy Bowman and Arline Yoder, both of whom died on Thursday, March 27.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio, Kaden Rossanese, and Nathan Unger. To add someone to our prayer list please contact the Church Office.

HOSPITAL CODE REMINDER

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, tell them you are a member of St. John's or use the church code, **473**.

EASTER FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Order forms are due TODAY, Sunday, March 30th.

Your help is needed in enhancing the beauty of St. John's this Easter by decorating the sanctuary in Easter flowers. To order, please complete an order form and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office with payment.

Flowers available

White, Orange, and Yellow Lilies
Tulips and Daffodils

GIANT, WEIS, REDNER'S

Buy Giant and Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Also good for purchasing gas. You can get your gift cards from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday. Save the register tapes from Redner's and the church receives 1% back. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area or see Karen Stoitsits.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES APPEAL

We will continue to accept monetary contributions for the California wildfires until the end of March. General Disaster Relief Fund envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge area. Donations can be mailed into the church office, put in the offering plate, made online or by text. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton with "California Wildfires 2025" in the memo section.

QUINN FAMILY FIRE SUPPORT

Our former visitation pastor, Rev. Dave Quinn's son and family lost their home and possessions to the California wildfires. Please note any gifts for "Quinn Family Fire" on your check or envelope. This is the

last Sunday we will be collecting these gifts. Thank you for your heartfelt support and generosity.

WANTED!

Sewing persons are needed to join our Crafters group, “Keeping you in Stitches.” We are looking for those willing to help sew our table runners, bowl cozies, baby bibs, etc. Fabric and directions will be provided along with help if needed. Please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or crazler@aol.com if you are interested.

LOTS OF LAUGHS (We Hope)

Saturday evening and Sunday morning, April 26-27, will be our “Holy Humor Weekend” and a time for us to share in fun, food, laughs and love with each other in celebration of our eternal life in Christ.

We will share a meal and raise funds for St. John’s projects. \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids age 12 and under. There will also be a registration link to RSVP for the meal together on our website.

If you would like to participate in our “Open Mic Comedy” time during our Saturday evening meal or share something funny in our worship, please let Pastor Steve know and sign up on the red display board in the back.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING “BE THE LIGHT”

For over 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been helping bring God’s hope and healing to hurting people domestically and around the world. OGHS’s mission is to bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster; to provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons; to support domestic and international development; to fight poverty and its consequences; and to combat injustice in its many forms. Your contribution will help meet urgent as well as long-term needs. Special offering envelopes for OGHS will be received on Sunday, March 30, as well as during the entire month of March.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of March, we are collecting pancake mix, jelly, and coffee. Any other non-perishable food items as well as monetary contributions are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the

coatroom area by the sanctuary for you to place your food donations. If you would like to volunteer at the pantry on the 4th Monday of each month from 9am to 11am or 5:30pm to 7:30pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com.

REMINDER: PASTIE SALE PICKUP

If you placed an order for pasties, you can pick up your order this following worship in Fox Hall. See Carol Raszler.

BASEBALL IS COMING!

Time to make your reservations for St John's night at the IronPigs Party Porch. Sunday, May 25, 6:35 pm. The price of \$40 includes admission to the porch, buffet from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and unlimited soft drinks and bottled water throughout the evening. It is Memorial Day eve, so Fireworks will follow the game. Please see Tom Moyer with your paid reservation.

GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

You are invited to attend a grief support group at Asbury UM Church, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the upper-level Parlor and is led by Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries. Please contact her at estupp@asburylv.org or (610) 428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, April 22**.

WALKING CHALLENGE

Welcome all St. John's 2025 Walking Challenge participants. Please sign up for our Spring Walking Challenge beginning Sunday, April 27 and ending Saturday, May 24. Contact Sharon Antrim at sharonantrim@yahoo.com or call/text at 610-216-6207. As always, it will be a lot of fun accumulating all the steps. And remember, you'll be doing your body good!! Let's get healthier.

GET AN EARLY START FOR OUR BASKET SOCIAL

We are starting to collect empty baskets for our annual Basket Social in May. If you would like to donate a basket you are no longer using, please bring it into the church office. We also will need donations of filled baskets. Start thinking of creating basket themes and start

collecting items. Please see Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler if you have any questions or if you plan to donate a basket(s).

EASTER BASKETS FOR YOUTH

Reminder: Filled baskets for youth at Pinebrook Family Answers' High-Fidelity Wraparound are due back into the church office by Sunday, April 6. Contact Emma Rarich at (610) 462-6777 or email erarich@pbfalv.org if you have any questions

KENTUCKY DERBY BINGO

Ticket sales for the May 2 Kentucky Derby Bingo begin today!
See Tom Moyer.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Reminder: There is a Men's Breakfast at the Hamilton Family Restaurant next Saturday, April 5 at 8:30 am. with Rev. James Robison of Good Shepherd UCC, Slatington.

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor Rev. Steve Davis
srpastor@sjucf.org

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music@sjucf.org

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Custodian Christina Bach
ironton1@verizon.net

**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30 – April 6**

Sun 3/30	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour Pastie Pickup
Tues 4/1	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	7:00pm	Choir
Wed 4/2	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Soup and Study
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/3	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 4/5	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast, Ham Fam
	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 4/6	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Newsletter Deadline