

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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

April 6, 2025

**5th 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. Parents are asked to accompany their child if they are at the kids' table in the back. On Communion Sundays, the children remain in 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
- Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 12, 10am-12pm. Register on our website or Facebook. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
- Holy Week Schedule, April 13, 17 and 18
- Holy Humor Weekend, April 26-27, Sign Up Today! Register online.
- FUN Raising!

*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

Ah, Holy Jesus

Arr. by Jason Krug

Bells of St. John's

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Come to this sanctuary, this house, this home, Holy Christ,

All: And let us receive you with lavish welcome.

One: You are The Restorer of our fortunes, The Promise of new life.

All: We pour out our praise to you.

One: Fill this room with your Spirit:

All: The sound of wind, the warmth of flame, the scent of perfume. Fill our hearts with your compassion.

One: Not just in this time and place,

All: But in all times and in all places.

One: So that as we celebrate the great things you have done for us.

All: We may also embody the love you give to all. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

O Christ the Same

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 and 4 of the bulletin

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

The Apostle's Creed

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*universal

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O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto-ry's pag-es,
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin-ners, shar-ing
 3 O Christ the same, se-cure with-in whose keep-ing

our loves and hopes, our fail-ures and our fears;
 our in-most thoughts, the se-crets none can hide,
 our lives and loves, our days and years re-main,

e-ter-nal Lord, the King of all the a-ges,
 still as of old up-on your bod-y bear-ing
 our work and rest, our wak-ing and our sleep-ing,

un-chang-ing still a-mid the pass-ing years:
 the marks of love, in tri-umph glo-ri-fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea-sure and our pain:

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)

MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. John Barnard (1948-)

Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Company

Music Arr. © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LONDONDERRY AIR

11.10.11.10.D.

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power,
 for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days,
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour,
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to the home of Lazarus and received hospitality like no one had seen before: generous, loving, whole-hearted, and even a little bit undignified. His disciple Judas could only see the inefficiency of the gift, not the spirit of loving-kindness with which it was offered. We, like Judas, often want to expedite our giving without really engaging with those we are called to serve.

Let us consider the depth of our relationships with those we encounter and with the One who calls us to faith, as we confess our sin in silence.

Time for Silent Prayer

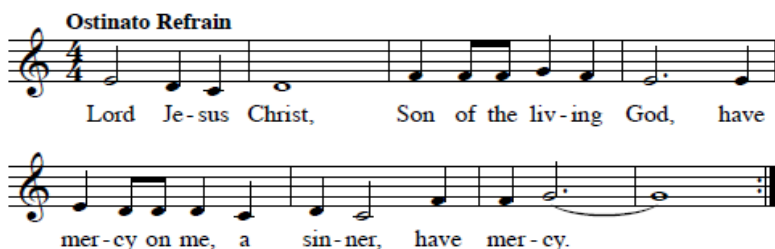
Sung Response

Choir, then All

LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Jesus Prayer

Carol Browning



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Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: We confess, Anointed One, that we excuse ourselves from reaching out to those who need your care. Forgive us, and help us to change. Renew our determination to live as faithful followers, faithful disciples, faithful Christians. Help us to work with you for the well-being of your creation, that the fortunes of all your peoples may be restored. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: We are called, through Christ Jesus, to strive for restoration of all God has created, yet we do not do this work alone.
The Anointed One of God is with us.

All: **The One who has made a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, empowers us to attain all the potential God has placed within us. Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Hymn

Healer of Our Every Ill

Verses 1, 2, and 4

found on page 7 of the bulletin

***Scripture Reading**

John 12:1-8

Reader: Janet Boyd

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him.

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

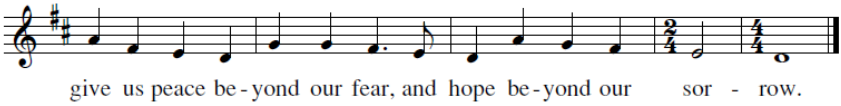
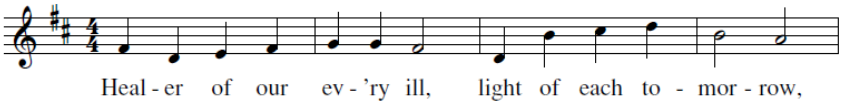
Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

One: The Word of God for the People of God

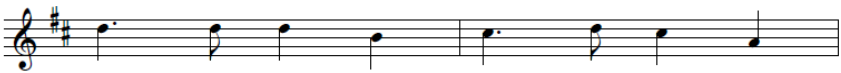
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain



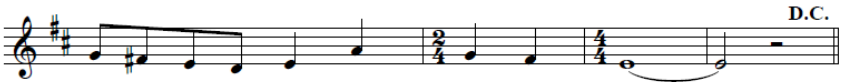
Verses



1. You who know our fears and sad - ness,
2. In the pain and joy be - hold - ing,
3. Give us strength to love each oth - er,
4. You who know each thought and feel - ing,



Grace us with your peace and glad - ness,
 How your grace is still un - fold - ing,
 Ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er,
 Teach us all your way of heal - ing,



Spir - it of all com - fort: fill our hearts.
 Give us all your vi - sion: God of love.
 Spir - it of all kind - ness: be our guide.
 Spir - it of com - pas - sion: fill each heart.

D.C.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
 Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk!
Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans
 by John Pavlovitz

“If God Is Love: Love Your *Bleep* Neighbor”

Song of Praise

God So Loved
Mary McDonald

God so loved the world; God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. They shall have life, everlasting life!

God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Whoever believes is not condemned, but whoever believeth not in the Son of God is condemned to die, to die.

God so loved the world. God so loved the world. God so loved.

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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Davis

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2025.*

We are an Inclusive Community!

In the United Church of Christ, we observe an "open communion."

**ALL people are welcome to receive
the gifts of God's grace and love with us at the table.**

In the UCC, ALL means ALL!

The Invitation to Receive

One: Though you are holy, God of restoration, you were willing
to set aside all we had done, so Jesus might anoint us with

new life. He could have clung to his glory, but set it aside to become one of us; he could have been surrounded by your love, but walked into the forest of our fears, to make a way out for us; he could have avoided pain and suffering, but went into sin's cold embrace to bring back death's captives; his tears sowing the seeds of hope which brought forth a bouquet of grace.

All: Christ lost his life so we might find ours; Christ was raised, his resurrection life springing forth in us; Christ came that we might gain eternity with God.

One: When we take the bread which has been broken and eat of it;

All: We forget about our past and embrace your kingdom where we share in the sufferings of our sisters and brothers everywhere.

One: When we drink from the cup, the fragrance of your grace fills us to go and serve your people;

All: The poor with whom we share so all have enough, the lonely who can be offered a family and place to belong, the grieving who can be held in love and receive peace.

One: Holy God, when the past is finally behind us and we are gathered in the new Jerusalem with our siblings of every time, faith and place,

All: We will join our hands around your feast and sing your praises from the depths of our hearts, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Words of Consecration

Rev. Davis

Sharing the Meal

The elements will be passed in the pew. We will receive the bread and eat at the same time, then the cup is passed and all drink together.

Hymn during Communion

We Remember—M. Haugen

Please join in singing the refrain after the Choir.

We Remember

Refrain



The musical notation is for a refrain in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'We re - mem - ber how you loved us to your death, and still we cel - e - brate, for you are with us here; and we be - lieve that we will see you when you come in your glo - ry, Lord. We re - mem - ber, we cel - e - brate, we be - lieve.'

We re - mem - ber how you loved us to your death,
and still we cel - e - brate, for you are with us here;
and we be - lieve that we will see you when you come
in your glo - ry, Lord. We re - mem - ber, we
cel - e - brate, we be - lieve.

Music while the elements of bread are passed.

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

All: Amen

Music while the elements of wine are passed.

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

All: Amen

Music as elements are returned

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

All: Gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer and give you thanks for this priceless gift. 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!

*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: Loving God, source of all joy, during this reflective
Lenten period, may our offerings remind us of the
abundance you've poured into our lives. In Christ's
name, we pray. Amen.**

We Serve

*Sending Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 12 of the bulletin

*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Postlude

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Verses 3

*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.*

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I



un - to me and rest; Lay down, O wea - ry
hold, I free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter;
am this dark world's light; Look un - to me, your



one, lay down Your head up - on my breast." I
thirst - y one, Stoop down, and drink, and live." I
morn shall rise, And all your day be bright." I



came to Je - sus as I was, So
came to Je - sus, and I drank Of
looked to Je - sus, and I found In



wea - ry, worn, and sad; I found in him a
that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was quenched, my
him my star, my sun; And in that light of



rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

Tune: KINGSFOLD, CMD; English; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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Flowers on the Chancel

In memory of one awesome Poppop/Dad, George Franz on his 83rd birthday. Love from the Foxes.

Lectionary Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 and Psalm 126

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

Lectionary Readings for Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 and Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11 and Luke 22:14-23:56

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 30

Onsite – 86 Online – 35

Serving in Worship Leadership

April 6th, 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 Stoitsits

April 13th, 2025 (Palm/Passion Sunday)

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

Scripture Reader: Tyler Shankweiler

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Acolyte: Aiden Hannis

Greeters: Nicholas & Heather Santee

Ushers: Carole O'Connell

Altar Guild: Linda Apple

Social Hour: Colleen Kulhamer

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Michael Agrippine, Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Kate Asbill, 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.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio, Kaden Rossanese, and Nathan Unger.

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**. To add someone to our prayer list please contact the Church Office.

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.

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.

WANTED!

A sewing person is needed to join our Crafters group, "Keeping you in Stitches." We are looking for someone 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.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of April, 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.

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 me 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.

REQUESTING DONATIONS FOR OUR “BASKET SOCIAL & BAKE SALE”

It's not too early for us to receive filled basket donations for our Basket Social on May 31 and June 1. Gift cards or gift certificates to restaurants and businesses as well as any monetary donations are always welcome. If you feel you are not talented enough to make a basket, bring your items to church, and we'll make a basket for you. Re-gifting items are also accepted for anything you received as a gift but will never use or wear. Empty baskets are available if you need one. Donations of baked goods are also requested. See Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

EASTER BASKETS FOR YOUTH

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

PEOPLE NEEDED TO SERVE ON “FUN-RAISING” COMMITTEE

Help is needed for anyone interested in serving on St. John's "Fun-Raising" Committee. If you have thoughts on ways to raise money for the church, ideas for new fundraisers, suggestions for current fundraisers, we need you to consider becoming part of this committee. For more information, contact any committee member listed in the church newsletter.

INCOME REPORT (BETWEEN 3/25 AND 3/31/2025)

General Operating:	\$2,023.32
Property Needs:	\$160.91
One Great Hour of Sharing:	\$95.00
Our Churches Wider Mission:	\$107.00
Membership Giving for March	\$18,159
Needed Each Month	\$22,500
Difference	\$4,341

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjuccf.org
Treasurer	Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst financialsecretary@sjuccf.org custodians@sjuccf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello stars@sjuccf.org newsletter@sjuccf.org
Custodian	Christina Bach iron1@verizon.net

CHURCH CALENDAR

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 6 – APRIL 13

Sun 4/6	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Newsletter Deadline
Tues 4/8	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
	6:00pm	Choir
Wed 4/9	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 4/10	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 4/12	10:00	Easter Egg Hunt
Sun 4/13	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship – Palm Sunday
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation