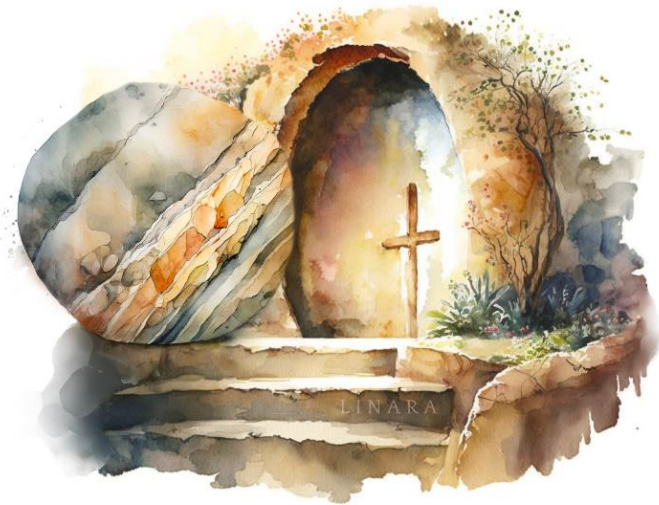




St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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

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



**May 4, 2025
9:30am**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Third Sunday of Easter

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We celebrate the life and hope we find together in God's love!

*As the music begins, please find your place and
quietly center your spirit for our worship of God together.*

Our Offering is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts to God of praise and gratitude, 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

- New Members Connection classes – Received on May 18
- Outdoor Worship at The Pavilion – May 25
- Basket Social Donations and Event – May 31 & June 1
- Confirmation – June 1
- Ocean City Bus Trip – Saturday, June 28 (See pg.14)
- General Synod Expense (See pg. 14)

***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

He Has Risen - Paul Tate
St. John's Choir

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: We are here today because the weeping Mary the Magdalene once said:

All: "I have seen the Lord!"

One: We are here because Jesus still comes into our locked spaces and says:

All: "Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit."

One: We are here like Peter, tempted to forget the call of Jesus:

All: "I'm going fishing."

One: We're here because of Jesus, who asks us face-to-face:

All: "Do you truly love me?"

One: We gather here to whisper timidly.

All: "Yes, Lord, you know that we love you."

One: We are here as a congregation only because many faithful disciples have listened to Jesus' words:

All: "Do not be afraid. Go and tell, 'Jesus has been raised!'"

***Opening Hymn**

Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna!

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

The Apostles' Creed

One: Let us together unite in our statement of Christian faith.

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

Christ Is Risen

307



1. Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days.
2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of des - pair.
3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der; all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend;
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1984

MUSIC: Polish carol; arr. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1926

Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

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Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: In the beauty of this space, in this sacred moment, in the fellowship we have with one another, we speak with God about our lives, about how we have followed and how we have faltered. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us make our confession.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Sung Response

Kyrie

Ostinato I

Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son, Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son,

Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son, e - lé - i - son, e - lé - i - son. *Last time*

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

All: Merciful God: you sent Jesus to us to take away the sin of the world. Help us not to focus on what sin means, but to acknowledge that we do things that hurt other people, ourselves, and you. Come into our hearts, and give us the strength and courage to be more loving. These things we pray in your most holy name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: God does not remember our transgressions. God's steadfast love lasts a lifetime.

All: The Lord forgives our shortcomings and brings restoration through Christ. Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

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

Hymn

Touch that Soothes and Heals

All Verses

found on page 5 of the bulletin

Touch That Soothes and Heals

See My Hands and Feet



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
 2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
 3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion, all earth's
 4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
 ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
 peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
 wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
 shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
 kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
 tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMey, b. 1972

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Music © 2008 Re>Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

***Scripture Reading:**

John 21:15-19

Read By: Sherri Gangewere

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After this he said to him, "Follow me."

One: The word of God for the people of God!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

God of Light, Love and LIFE! "Relationship Restored"

Song of Praise

I Believe, Help My Unbelief
Lloyd Larson

I believe in the sun; I believe in the sun; even when it is not shining, I believe in the sun.

I believe in love; I believe in love; even when I cannot feel it, I believe in love.

I believe, O Lord, help my unbelief. When my life is filled with unending grief, when despair prevails in the dark of night, Lord, restore my hope till the morning light. I believe, help my unbelief.

I believe in God; I believe in God; even when it seems He's silent, I believe in God, I believe in God.

I believe, O Lord, help my unbelief. When my life is filled with unending grief, when despair prevails in the dark of night, Lord, restore my hope till the morning light. I believe, help my unbelief.

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: God is alive.

All: New birth is given.

One: Hope is alive.

All: A new age is dawning.

One: Joy is alive.

All: Redemption is here.

One: Love is alive.

All: Death cannot harm us.

One: We are alive.

All: New life is within us.

One: The church is alive.

All: God's spirit is within us. God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you. God of revelation, we learn from you. God of resurrection, we come to truly live and celebrate you.

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

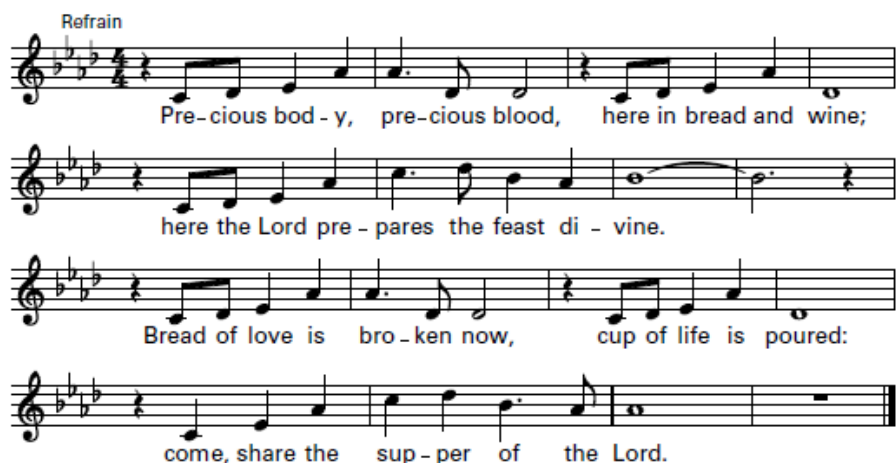
The Supper of the Lord

Please join in singing the refrain after the Choir

THE SUPPER OF THE LORD

Laurence Rosania

Refrain



Pre-cious bod - y, pre-cious blood, here in bread and wine;
here the Lord pre - pares the feast di - vine.
Bread of love is bro - ken now, cup of life is poured:
come, share the sup - per of the Lord.

Refrain sung twice while the elements of bread are passed.

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

All: Alleluia!

Refrain sung twice while the elements of wine are passed.

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

All: Alleluia!

Refrain sung twice as elements are returned

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

All: Most gracious God, you have fed us with the bread and wine of life, and renewed us for your service. We give

ourselves to you; and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



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

*Doxology

Praise God

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

All: God, we offer these gifts, given for the healing of creation, to you. Bless them and us to support the survival and thriving of all creation. Amen.

We Serve

Closing Hymn

The Strife Is O'er
Verses 1, 2, and 4

found on page 10 of the bulletin

The Strife Is O'er

Refrain

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Verses

1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; Now is the
 2. Death's might - iest pow'rs have done their worst, And Je - sus
 3. He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; The bars from
 4. On the third morn He rose a - gain, Glo - rious in

Vic - tor's tri - umph won; Now be the song of
 has His foes dis - persed; Let shouts of praise and
 heav'n's high por - tals fell; Let hymns of praise His
 maj - es - ty to reign; O let us swell the

praise be - gun: Al - le - lu - ia!
 joy out - burst: Al - le - lu - ia!
 tri - umph tell: Al - le - lu - ia!
 joy - ful strain: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Finita iam sunt praelia*; Latin, 12th C.; tr. by Francis Pott, 1832–1909, alt.

Tune: VICTORY, 888 with alleluas; Giovanni da Palestrina, 1525–1594; adapt. by William H. Monk, 1823–1889

***Postlude**

March in D Major
Phil Lehenbauer
Patrick Sandt

*The Benediction and Postlude send us out
to be the people of God in our community.*

*When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship is concluded
and our service in the world continues*

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Flower Sponsorship

In memory of Ron's parents Alfred and Bernetta Eichman
By Ron Eichman

In memory of my mother Rita Gangewere
By Sherri Gangewere

In memory of Albert D'Argenio
by daughter Karen Stoisets and family

**Two vases in loving memory of my father,
Arlington W. Blose's birthday on April 23, 1919,**
by daughter, Sandy Koch

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 – April 27—2nd Sunday of Easter

Onsite – 85 Online - 34

3rd Sunday of Easter, May 4

Lectionary Readings

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) and Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14 and John 21:1-19

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere
Worship Tech – Bill Castello Acolyte: Nicholas Santee
Ushers: Robin Brensinger, Kay Chryst, Wendy Fox, Kirby Hower,
Corrina Schneck
Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan and Corrina Schneck
Social Hour: Consistory and Friends

4th Sunday of Easter, May 11

Lectionary Readings

Acts 9:36-43 and Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17 and John 10:22-30

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger Scripture Reader: Kim Hillegass
Worship Tech – Bill Castello Acolyte: OPEN
Ushers: Tom & Emilie Moyer Greeter: Sharon Antrim
Altar Guild: Corrina Schneck
Social Hour: Colleen Kulhamer, Jackie Maxon, Pam Repetz

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 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, Gail Hanzl, Donna Held, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, Bob Lopez, Judy Luckenbill, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Bobby Sherman, Madeline Slivka, Leona Snyder, Martha Strauss, and 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.

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. Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include other stores' receipts.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of May, 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, May 20**.

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.

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.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Upcoming classes for new members will be held Monday, May 5th at 10:30 am, and Wednesday, May 7th at 7:00 pm. Please let Pastor Steve know if you are interested in attending.

OCEAN CITY BUS TRIP

Would you like to join us for our annual bus trip to Ocean City, NJ, on June 28th? We leave at 7:00 am and leave Ocean City at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$50. Money for the bus trip is due to Brian Fisher or the office by May 28th.

GENERAL SYNOD EXPENSE – Special Offerings

This year, the PNEC has selected both Rev. Steve Davis and Tyler Shankweiler to represent our conference at the national level of our global denomination, July 11-15, in Kansas City, Missouri. The PNEC will reimburse travel, food and General Synod expenses by 50% for all delegates. To help offset the expense for Pastor Steve and Tyler, for the communion Sundays of May, June and July, we will have a special offering plate and envelopes available for your donations. Contributions may also be made online or shared any Sunday, noting General Synod Expense. Thank you for your generosity and support.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 4 – MAY 11

Sun 5/4	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Sunday Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
Mon 5/5	10:30 am	New Member meeting
Tues 5/6	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance

Wed 5/7	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	New Members class
	7:00 pm	Mission Committee via Zoom
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 5/8	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 5/10	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 5/11		Mother's Day
	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Sunday Social Hour
		Newsletter deadline

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
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Custodian	Eric McWilliams ericmcwill1@hotmail.com