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!



Easter Sunday April 20, 2025 9:30AM

We Worship

Happy Easter! 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.

The Resurrection Cross: As you enter into our Sanctuary today, you are encouraged to please take a flower and place it on the wooden cross prior to taking your seat. The Resurrection Cross will then be presented in our Service today.

* Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

One: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

- All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.
- Sunday Social Next Week!
- Holy Humor Weekend, April 26-27, **Sign Up Today!** Dinner and Laughs Fund-raiser on Saturday, 6:00-8:00pm with "Open Mic" comedy! Please Register online or call/email the Church Office.
- Holy Humor Sunday, April 27
- Kentucky Derby Gift Card Bingo Friday, May 2

*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

Elysium Jason Krug

Bells of St. John's

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

- One: This is the day the Lord has made:
- All: When tears are wiped away; shattered hearts are mended; fears are replaced with joy.
- One: This is the day the Lord has made:
- All: That rolls away the stone of fear; throws off death's clothes; goes ahead of us into God's future.
- One: This is the day the Lord has made:
- All: Death has no fear for us; sin has lost its power over us; God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.
- One: This is the day Easter Day!
- All: Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today All Verses

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts The Apostles' Creed

- One: On this great celebration of Easter, let us 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



Invitation to Confession Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts One: Very early in the morning, God created all that is good and beautiful. Very early in the morning, the good news was shared with frightened friends, that Jesus was risen and alive in our midst. Together, united with the Risen Lord, let us come before him to confess the fears and the amazement we bring this morning.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Sung Response

First Sung by Choir, then All



Prayer of Confession

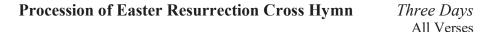
Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

All: On this morning of "Alleluias," we confess how human we are. We easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, yet find it difficult to share this good news with our family, friends and neighbors. Bring us new life! Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us for all the damage we have done, and fill us with the joy of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus, the Risen Christ, who gives us new life, we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: God, our Creator, gives us new life; Christ, our Redeemer, prepares a Table for us; The Holy Spirit, our Joy, calls us to bear witness and serve. This is the most excellent news: the tomb is empty, sin is powerless, death is defeated forever! All: On this Day of Resurrection, and every day, we rise as God's people, forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



THAXTED days ken: the Three our world was bro 2. Three third daysand the day, the on 3. Three days world bro and our was ken "Take 1. Lord of life lay dead. your cross," he up 2. wom - en His tomb. came at dawn. they said, was 3. healed, God's in in - stant nant of an cov e -1. told us who fol-lowed where he led. Would bro - ken emp ty, his bod - y gone. Who mer _ су in mys - ter y re vealed. Two we now hang in tor-ment with thieves 1. on ev-'ry side, 2. could be _ lieve their sto _ ry? The dead do not a _ rise, 3. thou _ sand years are one day in God's e_ter_nal_sight, our Pass - o - ver shat-tered, our hope cru - ci - fied? yet he walks a - mong us, and with our own eyes 3. and yes - ter-day's sor - rows are this day's de - light. 1. Three days we hid in si lence, in we've seen him this ble: we've 2. at ta 3. Though still Christ's bod v suf fers, pierced _ bit - ter fear and grief. Three days we clung to -1 2. shared his bread and wine. Hearts burn ing bright with -3 dai - ly bv the sword. yet death has no do where he had washed our feet. 1. geth er 2. we've in us, seen his glo - ry shine. 3. min ion: the ris - en Christ Lord! is

THREE DAYS

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Text: 13 13 13 11 13 13; © 1999, M.D. Ridge. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Music: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934, alt.

Children's Message

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

Song of Praise

Empty Now Joseph Martin

There is a manger far away where once a tiny child was laid, where angels sang and shepherds bowed, long ago, far away; the manger is empty now.

There is a temple far away where once a teacher went to pray. He spoke of truth to an angry crowd, long ago, far away; the temple is empty now.

There is a cross far away where once a Lamb for sin was slain. A crown of thorns adorned His brow; the cross is empty, the cross is empty now.

There is a tomb far away where once the Lord of Life was laid. Come and see His linen shroud. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The tomb is empty now! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Scripture Reading:

Luke 24:1-12 Read By: Sherri Gangewere

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again."

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

"Believe the Women"

Song of Praise

This is What is Meant by Love Jay Rouse

In the gray half light of dawn, no hope to light the way, just perfect love compelling them to the tomb where Jesus lay. And standing there with broken hearts and nothing left to say, they could not see the One they loved, the stone was rolled away!

O, this is what is meant by love, the ransom has been paid! This is what is meant by love, He has risen from the grave! He has risen from the grave!

Welcomed to this holy place, the veil is torn in two. Salvation won by nail pierced hands, He is making all things new! O, this is what is meant by love, never more a slave. His blood was shed for all the world in a victory o'er the grave!

O, this is what is meant by love, the ransom has been paid! This is what is meant by love, He has risen from the grave! He has risen from the grave!

He lives, He lives! He has risen from the grave!

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

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: When the world was young at that first sunrise and the new light held a promise of new days and fresh mornings, The Word spoke.
- All: The Word spoke and creation sparked and the alleluias unfolded the dawn was set free.
- One: When the dawn was set free, the trees clapped hands and mountains bowed and the birds sang a new song fresh every morning.
- All: Fresh every morning the day holds a hope that this day is God's, and this day holds the promise and this day is a new beginning.
- One: A new beginning is the song of the morning that takes the shadows of night and paints them gold and green, for the earth rejoices.
- All: The earth rejoices for stones have rolled and tombs have been empties and angels are whispering, and death has been conquered.
- One: Death has been conquered, and resurrection has left footprints in the dew that tell us he has gone ahead of us
- All: He is not among the dead, he is not here, for he has risen from the grave! Alleluia!

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 *Please join in singing the refrain after the Choir Soloist on Verses: Emily Sutzer*



Refrain sung twice, verse, Refrain while the elements of bread are passed.

One: The body of Christ, given for us. All: Alleluia!

Refrain, verse, Refrain, verse, Refrain while the elements of wine are passed.

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

All: Alleluia!

Refrain, verse, Refrain as elements are returned.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

All: Resurrected Lord, here at this Table your promise of life is made real. We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; We have welcomed you into our lives. Together, at this Table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer, and give you thanks. This we pray in your most holy name. 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 from whom all Blessings Flow

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!

*Prayer of Dedication Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts All: Radiant God, whose love endures forever, we dedicate these gifts to your service, trusting that, in your hands, they will bring forth new life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Serve

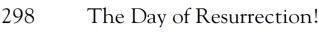
Closing Hymn

The Day of Resurrection Verses 1, 2, Interlude and Verse 3 found on page 11 of the bulletin

The Benediction

Rev. Davis

EASTER





*Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus Handel / Arr. by David Len Allen 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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Bulletin Sponsorship

The bulletins today are sponsored by The Fox family in memory of George and Kammy Franz

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 6 – Palm Sunday Onsite – 108 Online - 52

Serving in Worship Leadership

April 20th (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 and Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 and John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere Worship Tech – Bill Castello Acolyte: Confirmand Greeters/Ushers: Sharon Antrim, Robin Brensinger, Kay Chryst, Wendy Fox and Kathy Roth Altar Guild: Cindy Reck **NO SOCIAL HOUR**

April 27th (2nd Sunday of Easter/Holy Humor Sunday)

Acts 5:27-32 and Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 and John 20:19-31

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger Scripture Reader: Barbara Seeds Worship Tech – Bill Castello Acolyte: Confirmand Greeter and Ushers: Kim Hillegass and Pam Repetz Altar Guild: Marion DeMilio Social Hour Host: Colleen Kulhamer Page | 12

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, 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, Ron Glass, Tracey Glass, Joy Gravely, Gail Hanzl, Donna Held, Audrey Hower, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, 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.

We pray for the family of Jean Litzenberger, who died April 12th.

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 Stoisits.

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 is a registration link to RSVP for the meal together on our website, or call / email the Church Office to save your place.

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.

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 <u>sharonantrim@yahoo.com</u> 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.

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.

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.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22. It is a day when humans everywhere in the world take time to be grateful for this planet and the amazing natural resources we've benefited from it thus far. It is a day where we do our best to make sure future generations can continue to enjoy those resources. This year's theme is **"Our Power, Our Planet,"** inviting everyone to unite behind renewable energy. Renewable energy comes from a source that won't run out, produces little or no harmful emissions when used, and plays a crucial role in preventing further global warming. Some examples of renewable energy are solar power, wind energy, and geothermal energy. To learn more about Earth Day, go to <u>www.earthday.org</u>.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant, 2027 Hamilton St. in Page | 15

Allentown. Our next meeting is on May 3 at 8:30 am. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at 610-393-6123 or email at QVRRBold@aol.com.

INCOME REPORT (BETWEEN 4/8 AND 4/14/2025)

Membership Giving/Operating:	\$3,548
Property Needs:	\$65
Our Churches Wider Mission:	\$87
Lent Offering:	\$173
Monthly Operating Giving Target:	\$22,500
Membership Giving Year to Date	\$60,912

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 20 – APRIL 27

Sun 4/20	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	1
Mon 4/21	6:00 pm	Office Closed "Fun-Raising" Committee
Tues 4/22	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Staff Meeting PEEPS
Wed 4/23	9:00 am 12 noon 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Verso Chat Painting Group Painting Group Zumba SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/124	6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts Bell Choir Property Committee Choir
Sat 4/26	9:30 am 6:00 pm	Zumba Comedy Night
Sun 4/27	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:00 am	Friendship Class Worship – Holy Humor Sunday Social Hour Confirmation Walking challenge begins

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Office Administrator

Treasurer

Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian

Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor

Custodian

Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org

Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org

Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjuccf.org

> Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com

Michelle Gutekunst financialsecretary@sjuccf.org custodians@sjuccf.org

> Bill Castello stars@sjuccf.org newsletter@sjuccf.org

Christina Bach ironton1@verizon.net