



# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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[www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org)  
610-264-8421



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

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

**April 27, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
9:30am**

# We Worship

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

*Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton! We are a place where love can grow!*

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

**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.

## Holy Humor Sunday

### What is this day about?

Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity-"Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "**Bright Sunday**" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced.

The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "**Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh,**" the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."

## Chimes

### Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- 😊 **Holy Humor** 😊
- Kentucky Derby Gift Card Bingo – Friday, May 2
- Mothers' Day Celebration – May 11
- New Members Connection classes – Received on May 18
- Outdoor Worship at The Pavilion – May 52
- Basket Social Donations and Event – 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** *He is Risen, Alleluia!*  
Eugene Englert

### \*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: Christ is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

One: Now, our mourning becomes dancing by God's gracious love.

**All: Our sobs become belly laughs, and new songs are written from our sighs.**

One: The punchline sat in the grave's shadows, until God played the best joke ever on life.

**All: So, break out loud guffaws, fill the room with giggles, May our joy sound like April Fool's noisemakers!**

One: Come, stoic old folks and snickering kids, come, all you curmudgeons and worriers.

**All: We join the God who laughs with us, Who raised Jesus with a wink and a grin, Welcoming everyone to joy everlasting!**

### \*Gathering Hymn

*When Tommy Heard from Jesus*  
Verses 1, 2, and 4

*found on page 3 of the bulletin*

# When Thomas Heard from Jesus

1. When Thom-as heard from Je - sus, "Now come and fol - low me," he  
 2. When Je - sus spoke of heav - en, bold Thom-as dared to say, "We  
 3. When crowds be - gan to mur - mur and lead - ers raised their cry, brave  
 4. What joy on Eas - ter eve - ning when man - y saw the Lord! Yet  
 5. That man of faith saw Je - sus at break-fast by the sea; at

sure - ly went with glad - ness, for there was much to see. He  
 don't know where you're go - ing! How can we know the way?" He  
 Thom - as spoke out firm - ly, "Let's go with him and die." He  
 Thom - as was not with them and would not trust their word. When  
 Pen - te - cost he wit - nessed so oth - ers would be - lieve. O

wit-nessed Je - sus' teach - ing and saw his heal - ing touch; he  
 want - ed un - der - stand - ing of what he could not see. Then  
 ate at Je - sus' ta - ble, par - tak - ing wine and bread; yet  
 Christ ap-peared be - fore him, his doubts were quick - ly gone; he  
 Lord, may we, like Thom - as, keep grow - ing day by day; in -

found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.  
 Je - sus re - as - sured him, "The way is here, through me."  
 lat - er with the oth - ers, he saw the cross and fled.  
 glad - ly knew that eve - ning the joy of Eas - ter dawn.  
 crease our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2012. Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16;  
 John 11:11-16; 14:1-7; 20:19-29; 21:1-7; Acts 1:12-14  
 MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

AURELIA  
 76.76 D

## Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

**One:** When we keep our faults and failures locked safely away, we have no need to confess. But God comes into our hearts when we least expect, so we can be filled with forgiveness, with hope, with peace. Together, let us come before God in silence, offering our own prayers of Confession.

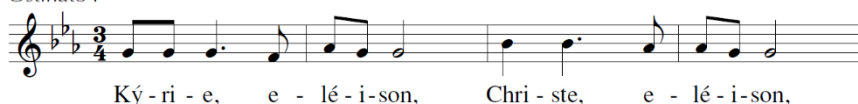
*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

## Sung Response

*First time Choir, then All*

### Kyrie

Ostinato I



## Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

**All:** God of empty tombs, when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us a voice. When we find it difficult to love one another, give us fresh compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, seat us next to the poor and oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, fill us with your joy.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

**One:** Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter. Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults and gifts us with grace and hope.

**All:** Christ comes to fill us with peace, so we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness for all. Christ is Risen indeed, Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Children’s Message

Rev. Davis

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

😊 Holy Humor 😊

Aubrey Funches

Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks  
Tall Verses

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give praise to his Name.

Verses

1. Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.  
2. Spread the good news o’er all the earth:  
3. We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.  
4. God has pro - claimed his gra - cious gift:  
5. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.  
Now we shall live for ev - er.  
Life e - ter - nal for all who be - lieve.  
Joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

Text: Donald Fishel, b.1950  
Tune: ALLELUIA NO. 1, 8 8 with refrain; Donald Fishel, b.1950  
© 1973, Word of God Music

\*Scripture Reading

John 19: 19-31

Reader: Barbara Seeds

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Ahwomen.

Sermon

Rev. Davis

**God of Light, Love and LIFE!  
"That's a Great Trick! Do It Again!"**

# 7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch

## We Love

**Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People**

Rev. Davis

**The Lord's Prayer**

**(Holy Humor Version)**



**Our God in heaven,  
let Your holy name be known,  
let Your kingdom come,  
and Your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today the bread that we need,  
and forgive us our wrongs,  
and OK, we'll forgive those who have  
done wrong to us, too.  
Do not lead us into trial,  
but save us from evil.  
For we want for You alone to rule in  
our hearts.  
You have power to transform,  
and in the light of Your smile is Your  
glory. Amen.**

😊 **Holy Humor** 😊

???

**Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God**





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

**\*Doxology**

Praise Dog

*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: Robin Brensinger

**All: God of great gifts: We joyfully present these gifts to you,  
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for  
your kingdom come! This we pray in your most holy  
name. Amen.**

## We Serve

**\*Closing Hymn:**

*Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*

All Verses

*found on page 9 of the bulletin*

**\*Eggs Benediction**

Rev. Steve Davis

**\*Postlude**

*Fanfare on Ode to Joy*

By Noel Rawesthorne

*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.*

😊 **Holy Humor** 😊

There are 7 INTENTIONAL “mistakes” in the bulletin today.  
Can you find them?

## Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

*Alternative Melody: Hymn to Joy*

1.Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where he died, as he said and  
2.Christ has ris-en for the peo-ple whom he died to love and save; Christ has ris-en

as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de-nied. Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing;  
for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave. Christ has ris-en for dis-ci-ples

let the sun sus-tain the cheer; let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en,  
hud-dled in an up-stairs room. He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced

God is here!  
by the tomb.

### **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**

Maundy Thursday Onsite – 62 Online - 19

Good Friday Onsite - 62 Online - 27

Easter Onsite – 201 Online - 44

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 27**

### **Lectionary Readings**

*Acts 5:27-32 and Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150*

*Revelation 1:4-8 and John 20:19-31*

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger                      Scripture Reader: Barbara Seeds  
Worship Tech – Bill Castello                      Acolyte: OPEN  
Greeter: Kim Hillegass and Palm Repetz                      Ushers: Charlotte Kerrigan  
Social Hour: Bob Bold and Colleen Kulhamer

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

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: 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: 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.

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## **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](mailto: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.

## **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.

## **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 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](mailto:QVRRBold@aol.com).

## **INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?**

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

**To the Members of St. John’s, Fullerton:**

I am deeply grateful for the concern and generosity you have shown for my son, Ben, and his wife, Jennie, who were burned out in the LA fires. May God bless you all in this Easter season!

Pastor Dave Quinn

**ST. JOHN’S GIFT CARD BINGO**

You can help with donations of:

- Hot Dogs, 2 dozen
- Baked Goods
- Sponsor a \$50 gift card for 1 of our 17 games
- Donate item to Tricky Tray (\$25-\$30 value) - Things like gift cards or any other new items

Please contact Tom Moyer if you can donate any of the above items. Tickets are available from Tom Moyer or Carol Razler, or from the church office during the week.

**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 <a href="mailto:ironton1@verizon.net">ironton1@verizon.net</a>

# **CHURCH CALENDAR** **FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27 – May 4**

Sun 4/27	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship – Holy Humor Sunday
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Walking Challenge begins
Tues 4/29	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 4/30	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	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 5/1	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 5/2	7:00 pm	Kentucky Derby Bingo
Sat 5/3	8:30 am	Men’s Breakfast
Sun 5/4	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Confirmation