

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



We Are Witnesses

EASTER SEASON WORSHIP SERIES



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

**April 14, 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter
9:30am**

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We are a place where love can grow!

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.

Children's Faith Formation is integrated into the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the 'Blessed to Be a Blessing' lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom for a brief orientation and to sign them in. 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

- Worship Leadership April 21, April 28 and May 5
- Basket Social – May 3 & 4

***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

E. Englert

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Dewey Yates

One: Fear hung over the disciples as a dark cloud.

All: Huddled in the upper room, they spoke in soft whispers, afraid of the sound of their own voices.

One: Lightning flashed in their souls.

All: Jesus, the risen Christ, was standing with them, eating with them, talking with them.

One: Where doubt had reigned, hope now grew.

All: Where fear and panic had laid claim, faith was again planted.

One: Come, let us worship the God of great miracles.

All: Let us lift our voices in praise to God for Christ is risen, Christ is risen, indeed! Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

The Strife Is O'er
Verses 1 and 4

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Dewey Yates

One: Gracious God, you give to us your greatest gift, your Son Jesus Christ. You call us to be people of courage and hope; and yet we run and hide, doubting and fearing. You challenge us to proclaim our faith; but we huddle in darkness whispering our words of discouragement. Give us faith that seeks understanding.

All: Help us to see the presence of the risen Christ in our lives. Remind us of all that Jesus taught us, to help us to live as disciples, serving you by serving others. Change and renew us, to be disciples who follow Jesus. Amen.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Dewey Yates

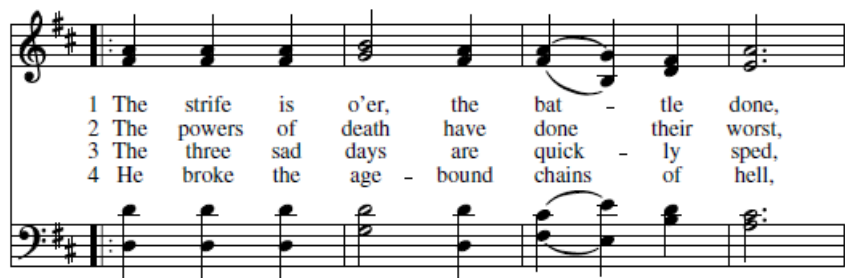
One: Do not be afraid. We are forgiven. The Light of God has vanquished the darkness!

All: Christ is risen! Doubts are erased. Let us rejoice! God's love is poured upon us, now and forever. Amen.

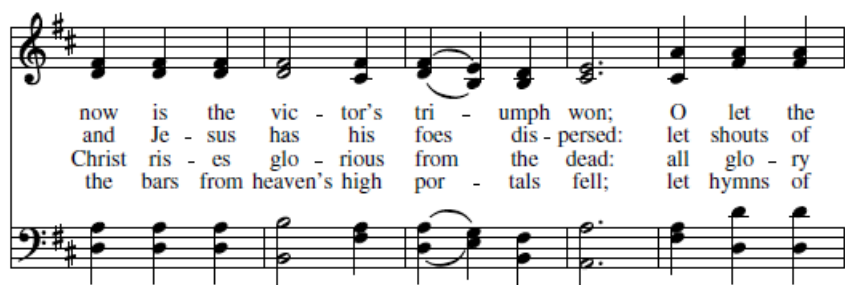
The Strife Is O'er

Refrain (before verse 1 and after verse 4)

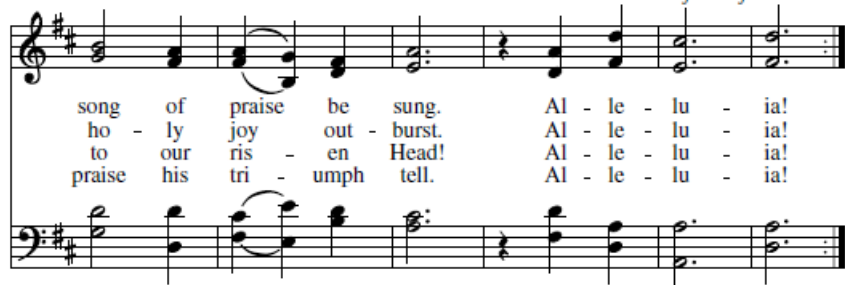

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done,
 2 The powers of death have done their worst,
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped,
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell,



now is the vic - tor's tri - umph won; O let the
 and Je - sus has his foes dis - persed: let shouts of
 Christ ris - es glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry
 the bars from heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of

to Refrain after verse 4


song of praise be sung. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Latin, 17th c.; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909)

MUSIC: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); arr. William H. Monk (1823-1889)

VICTORY
8.8.8. Alleluia

Sacrament of Baptism

Aiden Charles Kline

Family: Tessa Scherer, Zoey Moss

Sponsor: Cassandra Kenyon



Questions to Parents and Godparents

Congregational Response

All: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, Aiden Charles Kline, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. Amen

Hymn #351

I Was There to Hear your Borneing Cry

Children's Message

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

Hymn

This is the Feast of Victory

Verses 3 and 4

found on page 5 of the bulletin

Scripture Reading:

Luke 24: 36b-48

Read By: Barbara Seeds

**Please rise as you are able for the reading of God's word.*

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Davis

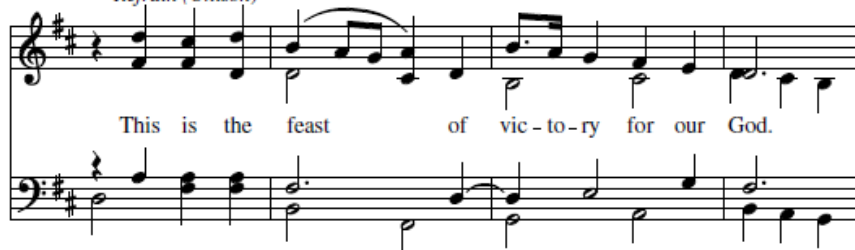
We Are Witnesses!

Anthem

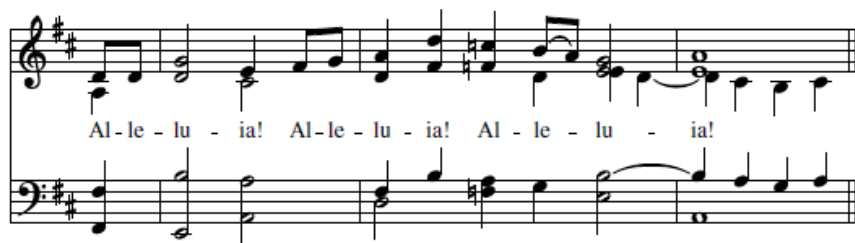
Rejoice

J. Martin

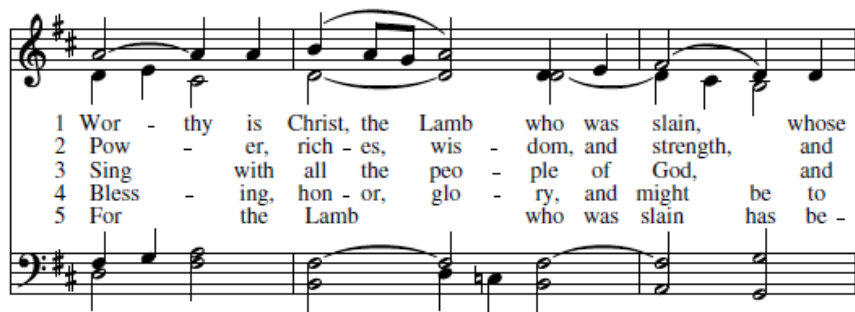
315 This Is the Feast of Victory

Refrain (Unison)



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia! *(to Final Refrain)*

WORDS: John W. Arthur (1922-1980); para. Revelation 5:12-13
MUSIC: Richard Hillert (1923-)

FESTIVAL CANTICLE
Irregular

Words © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)
Music © 1975, 1988 Richard Hillert

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

Sung Response:

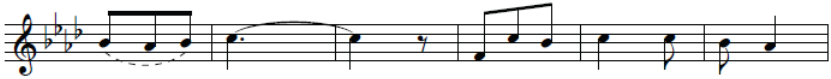
First time sung by Choir, then repeated by All

Psalm 118: Let Us Rejoice

Refrain



This is the day the Lord has made, let us re -
Or: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



joice and be glad; this is the day the Lord has
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



made, let us re - joice and be glad!
ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** Liturgist: Dewey Yates

All: Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night,
but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of
blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our
redeeming God who has created a world of abundance
with all that we need. May we remain thankful witnesses
to your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings
to you and your beloved creation.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn** *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*
Verses 1 and 2
found on page 8 of the bulletin

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 293

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 de - spair.
 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 (1936-)
 MUSIC: Polish folk tune; adapt. A. E. Rusbridge (1917-1969)

♯ ZLOBIE LEZY
 8.7.8.7.D.

Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Company
 Music Arr. © Rosalind Rusbridge

The Benediction

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

Fanfare for Easter

J. Althouse

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

*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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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 7

Onsite – 111 Online - 16

Serving in Worship Leadership

April 14

3rd Sunday of Easter

Liturgist – Dewey Yeatts

Scripture Reader – Barbara Seeds

Acolyte – Matthew Buskirk

Worship Tech – Elijah Fox

Social Hour Hosts – Colleen Kulhamer

Ushers – Matthew and Angela Buskirk

April 21

4th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist – Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader – Linda Powell

Acolyte – Zachary Szoke

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Social Hour Hosts – Open

Jesus Pagan

Ushers – Staci and Sophia Pagan

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Mike Agrippine, family of Freda Albright, Phyllis Ambeable, Clarence Biehn, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Tracey Glass, Phyllis Gutekunst, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

Continued prayers for those suffering from weather disasters across the US, as well as the war against Ukraine by Russia, now over 700 days, and the war between Israel and Hamas, and the Palestinian people. Pray for all the innocents killed and suffering in Gaza. Pray for actions to change policy and practice.

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

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**. If you have someone for us to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

WALKING CHALLENGE

The next St. John's Walking Challenge begins April 20 and ends May 11. Contact Sharon Antrim to sign up. (610) 216-6207 or sharonantrim@yahoo.com Looking forward to lots of good weather and flowers blooming along the way!

SCRIPTURE READERS/LITURGISTS

Readers and Liturgists for the months of May and June are needed. In trying something new, beginning in May, a two-month schedule for readers and liturgists will be scheduled. If unable to make your scheduled assignment, you are kindly asked to find a replacement and notify the church office no later than Thursday. For additional information, or interested in becoming involved with this wonderful ministry for our Church community, please contact Regi Mohr (regimohr@live.com) or Patrick Sandt (music@sjuccf.org)

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 23.**

DISASTER RELIEF – UKRAINE

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, a war that has become the largest attack on a European country since World War II and now in its third year. Thousands of lives lost; homes, schools, hospitals bombed and destroyed—there’s no end in sight. If you would like to continue our support of Ukraine through UCC National, World Central Kitchen, and Project HOPE, you will find special Disaster Relief Fund offering envelopes on the table in the lounge or donations can be made online or by text giving. Be sure to indicate Ukraine in the memo section.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For April, we are collecting **mac and cheese, canned corn, canned meats, peanut butter, pancake mix and syrup.** Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given online or by text. For more information, contact Gary Black at gary.t.black@outlook.com (484) 274-2405.

AN EASY WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN’S

Do you realize that by purchasing **Giant and Weis gift cards** and by **saving Redner’s register tapes**, you are contributing money to St. John’s? For every Giant and Weis card sold, the church receives 5% back. For every Redner’s tape collected, the church receives 1% back. Gift cards can be purchased through the church office or by seeing Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler every Sunday morning before or after worship. The Redner’s tapes can be mailed to the church office or placed in a collection jar found on the table in the lounge area. It’s a simple way to give financially to the church. Think of St. John’s every time you go grocery shopping.

PHILLIES GAME

Do you have Phillies fever?? The Phillies Phundraising program helps out non-profitable organizations by giving back if you buy Phillies

tickets. There are 25 tickets available to purchase for the Phillies game vs the Cleveland Guardians on Friday, July 26 at 6:40pm. It is first come, first serve. The tickets cost \$55 each and the seats are in section 110 which is right along the first base side. It is also Trea Turner Bobblehead night! For each ticket sold St Johns receives a rebate for \$4. If all tickets sell, we get a rebate check back for \$100.00. The deadline is June 2nd to purchase tickets. **This does not include transportation. This is for tickets only.** Please see Brian Strauss.

BASKET SOCIAL – DONATIONS NEEDED NOW

We need donations of baskets for our annual Basket Social in May. There are so many themes you could choose from, some of which are the following: Books, Sports, Camping, Picnic, Crafts, Puzzles, Linens, Baby Items, Baking, Beverages, Snacks, Car Care, Movie Passes, Park Passes, Beauty/ Spa Items, Children's Games/Toys, Restaurant Gift Cards, Pet Supplies, Gardening/Plants

Monetary donations are accepted if you would like us to put together a basket for you. Be sure to include a tag listing the items in your basket. **We have room now to store the baskets, so get started and bring them into church as soon as possible.** If you have any questions or plan to donate, contact our Co-Chairs: Amy Feidler, Carol Raszler, and Mike Borgman.

**Reserve the dates: Saturday, May 4, 10am-2pm
Sunday, May 5, 8am-9:30am and 10:30am-11:30am**

Tickets will be pulled at 12:00 noon on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 a sheet (26 tickets per sheet).

Come to Fox Hall for the event. There will also be a Bake Sale on both days. Attention Bakers: a pie or cake (or two) would be a great donation – and much appreciated!

SAVE AROUND THE LEHIGH VALLEY BOOKS

The "Fun" Raising committee is selling Save Around the Lehigh Valley books. This is a discount book that has coupons for restaurants, services and retail plus fun and recreation merchants that are local and national. Weis Markets, White Castle, Zandy's, Becky's Drive-In, Sherwin Williams are just a couple examples of the offers in the

discount book. Please see Kathy Haggerty (610) 390-6989 to purchase a book and start saving.

OCEAN CITY TRIP

Ocean City, New Jersey bus trip - we will try again to go to Ocean City, NJ this year. The date is Saturday, June 22nd. The cost is \$45.00 per person. We will leave the church at 8:30 AM and leave Ocean City at 7 PM. There will be a designated time during the day to bring your items back to the bus. The deadline is May 22nd to sign up. Please see Brian Strauss.

IRONPIGS PARTY PORCH

St. John's annual night at the IronPigs Party Porch will be on Sunday, May 26 (Memorial Day eve) at 6:35. Tickets sell for \$39, the same as last season. Price includes baseball game, buffet, soft drinks, bottled water, and fireworks. Contact Tom Moyer for reservations ASAP.

WATER GATHERING

Help create a ritual to touch us with the waters of life from all over the world. Water bottles are available for you to take home. Please take them along on vacation to collect water from your travels, and then bring the water back and give it to Pastor Steve for safekeeping. In the Fall we will combine all the water and purify it to use for the coming year.



Moving to PA in May! Hello from Jackie Maxon

Hello everyone, I'm Jackie, Steve's mom. I look forward to getting to know you with my move to PA to live with Steve and Bill and becoming part of St. John's!

I would love your help making all kinds of new connections with a hair dresser (Aveda products), dermatologist, periodontist. I enjoy playing bridge and mahjonn, and will want to find a group. I will appreciate your recommendations, knowing your favorite restaurants and why you love them. I'm excited to get to know you more over a meal together. Blessings, Jackie Maxon

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

APRIL 2024

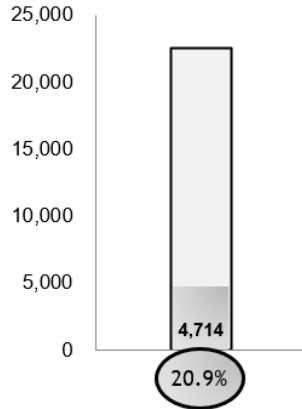
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	4,713.63
Overall Percent	20.9%

Last Week	
Start:	4/7/24
End:	4/13/24
Total:	2,449.33

Amt needed to reach Target	
APRIL 2024	17,786.37

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



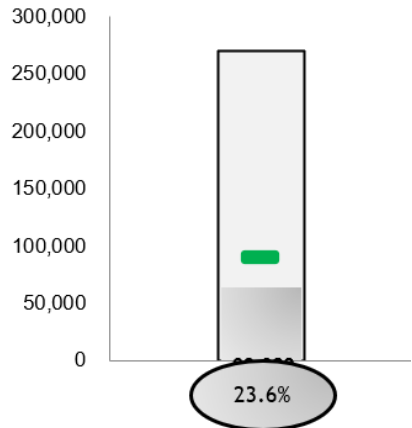
YTD OFFERINGS

APRIL 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	90,000.00
Overall Total	63,629.24
Overall Percent	23.6%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



Furnace loan balance = \$1,063

Church Calendar for the Week of April 14 through April 21

Sun 4/14	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Newsletter deadline
Tues 4/16	9-12	Clergy Community of Practice
	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 4/17	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/18	6:30 pm	Property Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 4/20	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 4/21	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music Ministries	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	Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com
Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net