

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



*Astounded Us*

**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**April 19, 2026**  
**9:30am**

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

# We Worship

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation  
of the Keystone Conference of the 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.*

## **Hymnal Abbreviations**

**WR**—Worship and Rejoice

**NC**—New Century Hymnal

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

## **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

- St. John's Clean Up — April 24<sup>th</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup>  
Sign-up on the red display board
- Basket Social — May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Fun-Raising with St. John's at IronPigs games
- New Member's 5G Connection Class  
May 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am; alternatives May 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at  
7pm online. Received into church on May 24<sup>th</sup>
- Prayer Shawl for David "Shadey" Shade

### **\*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*

Paul Tate

### \*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week overwhelmed with news reports, social media posts, and reels that drown us with information, worry, and stress.

**All: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.**

One: We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

**All: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.**

One: We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

**All: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.**

One: Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

**All: May the good news of the Resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God! Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn WR #293

*Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Verses 1 and 2

### \*Easter Gathering Prayer

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: O Risen Christ, on the road to Emmaus, you were the disciples' companion. Be at our side on the journey of faith on life's pathways and at every encounter, so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories.

**All: Kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word. May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture and open our hearts to recognize you. Grant us the courage to become vulnerable so that our siblings may know you through us and that we may know you through them. Amen.**

## Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: Risen from the dead, Jesus Christ longs for us to know life in all its fullness, offering us renewal, hope, and forgiveness. Let us trust in the promise of Easter as we make our confession to a generous and loving God, first in silent prayer.

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

## Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

All: Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. Forgive us, Dear One. Press us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that someone who hungers for spiritual food may be filled by our witness to your grace. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died. Amen.

## Sung Response

### Kyrie Eleison

*A Call to Confession Response*

Michael Ware

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 78. The score consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a fermata over the first two notes, followed by a '2' above the staff. The second staff begins with a fermata over the first two notes, followed by a '1' above the staff and the word 'All' in bold. The third staff begins with a fermata over the first two notes. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Chri - ste Chri - ste e - le - i - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Ky - ri - e e - lei - son Chri - ste Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: Hear the good news: Out of God's great love for us, we have been ransomed by the precious blood of Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

# Children's Message

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

## Hymn

## *Touch That Soothes and Heals*

All Verses



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."

## \*Scripture Reading

Read By: Tyler Shankweiler

### *Luke 24: 13-35*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from

recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**Sermon**

Rev. Steven Davis

**Stories that Matter: "Astounded Us"**

## Song of Praise

*The Risen Christ*

Arranged by Tom Fettke

*O breath of God, come fill this place; revive our hearts to know Your grace;  
and from our slumber make us rise that we may know the risen Christ.*

*O word of God, so clear and true, renew our minds to trust in You; and give to  
us the bread of life that we may know the risen Christ.*

*O love of God, so unrestrained, refresh our souls in Jesus' name. Let us reflect  
Your sacrifice that we may know the risen Christ.*

*May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit make us one. In holiness  
let us unite that we may know the risen Christ. In holiness let us unite that we  
may know the risen Christ, that we may know the risen Christ.*

# We Love

## Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

*(Requests shared from the entry table basket)*

Rev. Davis &  
Samantha Kistler

## 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**

## 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 of mercies yet untold;  
Praise Christ whom graves could never hold:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Spirit life creating breath;  
Praise Love that breaks the chains of death!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

**All:** Astounding God of the road and the table, you walk with us even when we don't recognize you. You speak, and our hearts burn within us. You break the bread, and our eyes are opened. Today, we bring these offerings as signs of our gratitude and hope. May our giving reflect the joy of being found, the wonder of Resurrection, and the call to share good news. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## We Serve

**\*Closing Hymn WR #291**

*Alleluia No. 1*  
Verses 1, 2, and 4

**\*The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

**\*Postlude**

*The Day of Resurrection*  
Arranged by Brian Glyncannon

**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

**Flower Sponsorship**

In Loving Memory of my father, Arlington W. Blose's Birthday  
on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1919, by daughter, Sandy Koch

**Attendance – April 12**  
Onsite – 72 Online - 29

**Third Sunday of Easter, April 19**

**Lectionary Readings**

*Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19*

*1 Peter 1:17-23 and Luke 24:13-35*

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

Scripture Reader: Tyler Shankweiler

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corinna Purdon

Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalner and Carole O'Connell

Greeters: Kim Hillegass

**Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25**

**Lectionary Readings**

*Acts 2:42-47 and Psalm 23*

*1 Peter 2:19-25 and John 10:1-10*

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

Scripture Reader: DonnaLee Yeatts

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Linda Apple

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

Greeters: Charlie and Linda Apple

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Linda Apple, Phyllis Ambeable, Gracie Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Christina Bach, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass, Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John Hoff and Charlee Hoff, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Barbara Jennings, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Dawn Luckenbill, Jean McGonigle, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Eleanor and Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Lori Stocker, Barry Stephens and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, and George Williams.

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

We share our prayers and condolences to Jim Ebert and family and the passing of his brother, David Ebert.

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.

## **GOD IN THREE PERSONS: A HYMN FESTIVAL**

Mark your Calendars! Join us for our first ever Hymn Festival Concert on Sunday, May 31st beginning at 5:30 PM. This special evening of scripture, prayer, congregational singing, and choral and bell music will celebrate the rich tradition of hymnody, tell the story of the Holy Trinity, and bring the 2025–2026 choral season to a joyful close.

We hope you will join us for this inspiring night of worship and music as we celebrate another wonderful season together. Oh, and there are snacks after!!!

## **COMING SOON—MUSIC MINISTRY SPONSORSHIP**

Beginning this June, a new opportunity will be added to our sponsorship form that allows members of the congregation to play a more direct and meaningful role in supporting our music ministry. Individuals and families will now have the opportunity to sponsor either a choral or handbell piece to be presented during the 2026/2027 choral season. This offering offers a unique way to honor a loved one, celebrate a meaningful occasion, or simply contribute to the continued growth of our worship life through music.

While the music budget and music ministry restricted funds have helped develop and shape the program into what it is today, it is only through the congregation's continued support and appreciation of the program that we can continue to grow and enhance our weekly services. Your involvement ensures that we can bring in new, inspiring repertoire, expand our musical offerings, and maintain the level of excellence that has become a hallmark of our ministry. **Sponsoring a choral piece will be \$65.00**, which will help offset the cost of music as it continues to rise in price. Each sponsored piece becomes part of the fabric of our worship, enriching not only a single service but the spiritual life of our entire congregation.

We invite you to prayerfully consider taking part in this new initiative. Together, through our shared support, we can ensure that our music ministry continues to flourish—lifting hearts, deepening worship, and proclaiming the joy of the Gospel. Help our music ministry continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

## **GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY**

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one, you are invited to attend a monthly daytime grief support group at Asbury UMC, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown. Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries, leads the group. For more information and to indicate your interest in attending, please contact her at [estupp@asburylv.org](mailto:estupp@asburylv.org) or 610-428-9095.

## **APPLEBEES BURGERS FOR A CAUSE**

Now available! Applebee's burger gift cards are good for any burgers on their menu (Some cost over \$17.00), for the price of \$10 per card. The certificates never expire and are good at Applebee's in our area. They make great stocking stuffers! See Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer to purchase these certificates.

## **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 April, we are collecting canned corn, canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, and coffee. Any other food donations as well as monetary donations are always welcome. Your donations can be placed in the shopping card found in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary. For more information or to volunteer on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com).

## **IRONPIGS PARTY PORCH, FOOD, FUN, AND FIREWORKS, PLUS A BASEBALL GAME**

Spring training has begun, so it is time to "think spring." St. John's annual outing for the IronPigs party porch will again be on Memorial Day eve, Sunday, May 24, 2026. Tickets cost \$40 for great seats in the party porch, buffet supper, and unlimited soft drinks and water. Fireworks will follow the game.

Please see Tom Moyer to make your reservation. This trip is organized by St. John's "Fun-raising" committee.

## **WALKING CHALLENGE**

Welcome all St. John's 2026 Walking Challenge participants. Please sign up for our Spring Walking Challenge beginning Sunday, April 26 and ending Saturday, May 23. Contact Sharon Antrim at [sharonantrim@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonantrim@yahoo.com) or call/text me at 610-216-6207 to sign up. 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.

**BASKET SOCIAL & BAKE SALE**  
**Saturday, May 2 – 9:00am to 2:00pm**  
**Sunday, May 3 – Before & After Worship**  
**Drawing 11:30am on Sunday in Fox Hall**

We hope to have 100 baskets including gift cards and lots of mouth-watering baked goods for this event. Tickets cost \$5.00 per sheet of 26 tickets. Tickets are available for sale on Sundays during the month of April and on the days of the event.

You could be the winner of gift cards to restaurants and department or hardware stores. Baskets have themes like Eagles, Steelers & Penn State merchandise, baby & children's activities, wines, gardening, items made by St. John's Crafters, Vera Bradley purses, snacks & candies. If you're a collector of snowmen, gnomes, or angels, you'll find it there.

Our baked goods offer a large variety to choose from like cut-out cookies, funny cakes, wet bottom shoofly pies, confetti angel food cake, brownies and much more. If you have any questions, see Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

**Basket & gift card donations must be brought to church no later than**  
**Sunday, April 26.**

**Baked goods must be brought to Fox Hall by Friday, May 1, during the**  
**day and up to 8:00 p.m.**

**SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3**

Our June 3 trip to Lancaster to see Sight and Sounds' new production of "Joshua" is sold out. If you want to put your names on a waiting list (sometimes someone has a last minute emergency) please tell Tom Moyer.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

VBS will be held this year on **Sunday, July 26, through Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.** Keep an eye on your Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters – more news is coming!

**PEEPS MEETING**

The Lady PEEPS (Positive Extraordinary Encouraging Prayerful Sisters) will meet on **Tuesday, April 21, at 7:00pm** in Fox Hall. The theme is "Words with Friends" and our discussion leader will be Jackie Maxon. What scripture passages do you hold onto either in difficult times or in times of celebration? If you don't have specific favorite scripture passages, this is a great time to reflect on what others have found most inspiring. If there is something else that you turn to, you are welcome to share that as well. Light refreshments will be served. Please use the elevator entrance. You can contact Regina Mohr at (610) 390-0872 to learn more about PEEPS.

## **CELEBRATE EARTH DAY**

Earth Day is on Wednesday, April 22. It's 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 and to make sure future generations can continue to enjoy those resources. It raises awareness and takes action on critically important environmental issues—health of the planet, our air, oceans, soil, eco-systems, wildlife, and human health. This year's theme is "A Future with Hope" based on Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." If you would like to know more, please go to [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org).

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets the first Saturday of every month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on **May 2 at 8:30am**. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Pastor Steve.

## **GRADUATES**

St. John's wants to honor ALL our graduates on **SUNDAY, MAY 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please share the names of High School and College grads and any others receiving degrees so we may celebrate them.

**CHURCH CALENDAR  
FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19 – APRIL 26**

Sun 4/19	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Mon 4/20	6:00 pm	“Fun-Raising” Committee
Tues 4/21	9:00 am	Staff Meeting
	9:00 am	Newsletter Mailing
	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	PEEPS
Wed 4/22	9:00 am	Verso Chat Lectionary Study
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Brownies
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/23	6:30 pm	Property
	6:30 pm	Choir
Fri 4/24	5:00 pm	St. George Church School Church Clean Up
Sat 4/25	9:30 am	Zumba
		Church Clean Up
Sun 4/26	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour
		Walking Challenge Begins Church Clean Up

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

APRIL 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	19,094.67
Overall Percent	84.9%

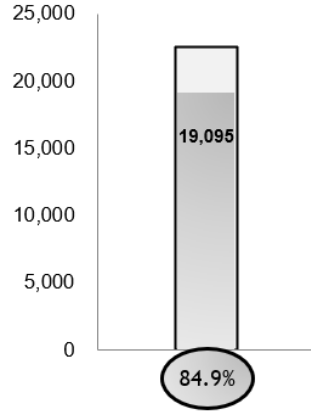
Last Week	
Start:	4/12/26
End:	4/18/26
Total:	3,929.25

Amt needed to reach Target

APRIL 2026	3,405.33
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### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



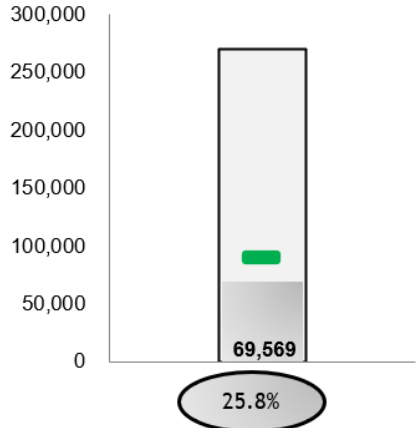
## YTD OFFERINGS

APRIL 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	90,000.00
Overall Total	69,568.68
Overall Percent	25.8%

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



## OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis <a href="mailto:srpastor@sjuccf.org">srpastor@sjuccf.org</a>
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt <a href="mailto:music@sjuccf.org">music@sjuccf.org</a>
Ministry Intern	Samantha “Sam” Kistler <a href="mailto:samanthamkistler@gmail.com">samanthamkistler@gmail.com</a>
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor <a href="mailto:officesecretary@sjuccf.org">officesecretary@sjuccf.org</a>
Treasurer	Sue Weldner <a href="mailto:sbweldner@gmail.com">sbweldner@gmail.com</a>
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst <a href="mailto:financialsecretary@sjuccf.org">financialsecretary@sjuccf.org</a> <a href="mailto:custodians@sjuccf.org">custodians@sjuccf.org</a>
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St. John’s Christian Early Learning Center Director	Jazmin Smith <a href="mailto:staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com">staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com</a> 610-443-0254