

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 21, 2024
4th 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

DonnaLee Yeatts

- New Picture Directory Dates, May 13-16
- Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates leading worship April 28
- Basket Social - Mike Borgman
- IronPigs, Pasties and Furnace Loan - Carol Raszler

***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

Prayer for A Loved One by John Turner
Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Jesus said, "I AM the good shepherd."

All: The one who tends us, guides us into pastures, who recognizes the sounds of our names.

One: Jesus said, "I AM the good shepherd."

All: The one who bends to heal us and travels through the deepest valleys with us, who gives up everything for us.

One: Jesus said, "I AM the good shepherd."

All: The one whose rod and staff comfort us, whose strength and love holds us, whose cup of love runneth over.

One: Jesus said, "I AM the good shepherd."

All: And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen

***Opening Hymn**

This is the Feast of Victory

Verses 1 and 5

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Easter Gathering Prayer

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: Thank you, loving God, for bringing us to this time of worship. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed our lives with your abundant love and your presence. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words and our souls may be stirred into active service to your people. In the name of the Good Shepherd, who leads us to life, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths, You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others who seem to have it all.

All: Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

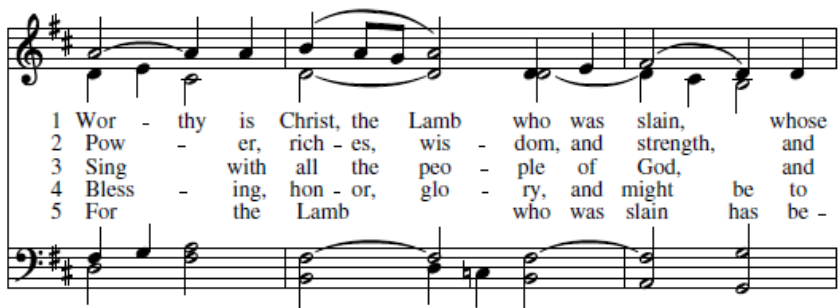
315 This Is the Feast of Victory

Refrain (Unison)


This is the feast of vic-tory 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-)

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

FESTIVAL CANTICLE

Irregular

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The Good Shepherd knows the sheep.

All: **We are part of the flock; we are part of Christ's body. In Christ we find forgiveness, wholeness, and restoration. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

Children's Message

DonnaLee Yeatts

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

Scripture Reading:

John 10:14-16

Read By: Linda Powell

**Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Gospel*

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

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sermon

Spiritual Council Elders

DonnaLee Yeatts, Wendy Fox, Paul Raszler

We Are Witnesses!

Enfolded by Love

Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 5 of the bulletin

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 440

1 Sav - ior, like a Shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;
 2 We are thine, do thou be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare:
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray:
 thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill:

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

WORDS: Attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847); *Hymns for the Young*, 1836
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

BRADBURY
 8.7.8.7.D.

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Elders

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

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 - joyce and be glad!
ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God

Paul Raszler



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: Sharon Czekner
One: The good shepherd calls us to love one another.
All: **We come, abiding in love.**
One: The shepherd of love calls us to give of ourselves.
All: **We come, abiding in faith.**
One: The shepherd of life calls us to be a blessing to others.
All: **We come, abiding in God's blessings.**

We Serve

***Closing Hymn** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
Verses 1 and 2
found on page 8 of the bulletin

***Benediction** Wendy Fox

***Postlude** *Fanfare on Diademata*
Noel Rawsthorne
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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317 Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 his glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,
 no an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 but down-ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey (1816-1893)

DLADEMATA
 S.M.D.

The Wheat Basket is sponsored by:
Nancy Weaver, in memory of Robert Weaver

Altar Flowers

Two vases in loving memory of my father, Arlington W. Blöse's birthday,
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 14

Onsite – 110 Online - 22

Serving in Worship Leadership

April 21

4th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist – Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader – Linda Powell

Acolyte – Zachary Szoke

Worship Tech – Bill Castello,

Social Hour Host – Colleen Kulhamer

Jesus Pagan

Ushers – Staci and Sophia Pagan

April 28

5th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist – Sharon Antrim

Scripture Reader – Joy Gravely

Acolyte – Open

Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan

Social Hour Hosts – Open

Ushers – Carole O'Connell

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, Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Clarence Biehn, Joe Catalini, 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**.

REMINDER PASTIE PICKUP

Pastie pickup is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and on Sunday, April 28, following worship down in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, at 8:30 a.m. at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. If you would like to know more about this group, please see Bob Bold.

GREAT FINDS AT THE BASKET SOCIAL

Saturday, May 4 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5 – Before & After Worship

Imagine finding baskets with gift cards for the Olive Garden, Barnes & Noble, Boscov's; a certificate for a free ice cream cone every day for a year; a Vera Bradley purse and wallet; or a bucket of car supplies from Auto Zone. There are baskets with many themes such as teas and coffees, wines, picnic and beach collections, baby items and children's activities, fishing, gardening, & more. Sheets of tickets (26 tickets per sheet at \$5.00) will be available ahead of time on Sundays before and after worship as well as on the dates of the Social. There will also be a Bake Sale and beverages available.

GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The recent air strike in Gaza resulted in the killing of six World Central Kitchen volunteers and a Palestinian driver. They had just unloaded 100 tons of food at a warehouse and were heading out in a car branded with the organization's logo and two armored vehicles. While just over 1200 miles away in the Ukraine, WCK has served more than 260 million meals to Ukrainians and refugees since the initial attack there by Moscow in February of 2022. The importance of our contributions for food and aid to these regions is crucial. We will continue to receive donations for Disaster Relief for both Ukraine and Gaza. You will find special offering envelopes on the table in the lounge. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, or give online or by text.

IRONPIGS GRANDSTAND

We have 80 seats reserved in the grandstand at Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. the Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders. Game day is Tuesday, August 6, at 7:05 p.m. Cost is \$13, which includes a ticket to the game and a \$2 ballpark credit. It's Dollar Dog Night where hotdogs are \$1 and a Cap Giveaway for any youth 17 or younger. The Phillies Phanatic will make an appearance. Checks are payable to St. John's. **Deadline is Sunday, June 16.** For reservations see Carol Raszler.

WAYS TO SUPPORT ST. JOHN'S

It's a simple thing to do! Buy Weis & Giant gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Save the register tapes from Redner's and the church receives 1% back. You can get your gift cards from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area.

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.

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.

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

APRIL 2024

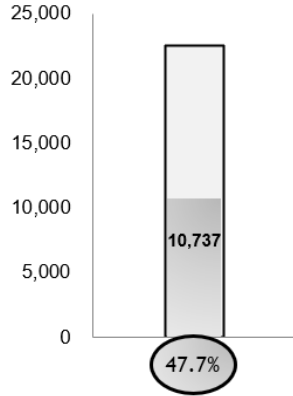
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	10,736.78
Overall Percent	47.7%

Last Week	
Start:	4/21/24
End:	4/27/24
Total:	0.00

Amt needed to reach Target	
APRIL 2024	11,763.22

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



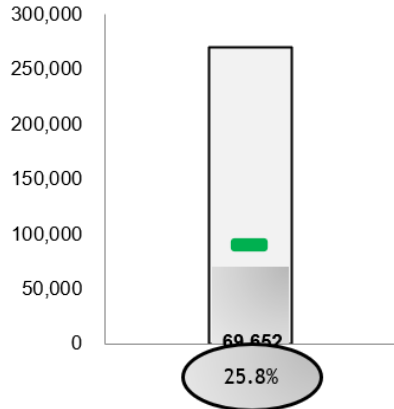
YTD OFFERINGS

APRIL 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	90,000.00
Overall Total	69,652.39
Overall Percent	25.8%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



Furnace loan balance = \$928

Church Calendar for the Week of April 21 through April 28

Sun 4/21	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
Tues 4/23	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed 4/24	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/25	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 4/27	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 4/28	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour

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
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Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net