

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



Astounded Us



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 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
- Basket Social — May 2nd and 3rd
- New Member's 5G Connection Class
May 10th and 17th at 11am; alternatives May 11th and 18th at
7pm online. Received into church on May 24th
- Graduate Recognition Sunday May 17

***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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Arranged by Jason Krug

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: Easter people, we gather to worship and listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

All: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

One: We gather to worship and discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

All: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

One: We gather to worship and find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

All: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

One: Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

All: We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.

***Opening Hymn WR #311**

Now the Green Blade Rises
All Verses

***Easter Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

**All: Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.
When we face darkness and death, journey beside us.
When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.
When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell
in your house of goodness and mercy all the days of our
lives. Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: Friends, as we gather under the care of the Risen Shepherd, let us acknowledge the ways we have wandered from His path and trust in His unfailing mercy to lead us home as we offer our prayers in silence.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

**All: God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways,
and our failure to follow you in your paths of right
relationships –with you and with others. We have gone**

astray; we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We have failed to be generous with the poor and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice and open ourselves to developing relationships.

We feel the stains of our sins, God; have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash the sinfulness out of us and help us to live more faithfully as your children. We seek your unfailing leadership and ask for your guiding hand on our lives. You are the immortal, invisible One. To you belong honor and glory, now and forever. 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 2-measure rest, followed by a series of quarter and eighth notes. The second staff starts with a 9-measure rest, then continues with quarter and eighth notes. The third staff begins with a 16-measure rest, followed by quarter and eighth 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 - lei - i - son.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: "Even in the darkest valley, we need not fear, for the Good Shepherd knows His sheep and lays down His life for us.

All: **In Christ, we are forgiven and restored. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

Children's Message

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

Hymn NC #247

My Shepherd Is the Living God
Verses 1 and 2

*Scripture Reading

Read by: DonnaLee Yeatts

John 10: 1-10

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

Stories that Matter: "Knowing That Voice"

Song of Praise

Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Mary McDonald

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.

We are thine, do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray; when we pray.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will; blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our beings fill:

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, loved us still, love us still.

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer
Davis

Rev.

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

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: Dewey Yeatts

**All: Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us
into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in**

compassion. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. We ask this through Your most holy name. Amen.

We Serve

*Closing Hymn WR #72

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Verses 1 and 2

*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

*Postlude

Fanfare on Faithfulness
Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

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

Attendance – April 17

Onsite – 71 Online - 35

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26

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: Corinna Purdon

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

Greeter: Sherri Gangewere

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 3

Lectionary Readings

Acts 7:55-60 and Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10 and John 14:1-14

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Ushers and Greeters: Robin Brensinger, Kirby Hower, Charlotte Kerrigan,

Linda Powell, Dewey Yeatts

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Phyllis Ambearle, 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.

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!!!

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 or 610-428-9095.

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 4th Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at 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 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 30th**. Keep an eye on your Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters – more news is coming!

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, with Rev. Dennis Schappell** bringing our thoughts for the day. Bring a friend with you to breakfast, then come to St. John's for the Basket Social. 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 17th**. 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 26 – MAY 3**

Sun 4/26	8:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class Worship Faith Formation for Children Social Hour Walking Challenge begins
Mon 4/27	9:00 am 5:30 pm	Food Pantry Food Pantry
Tues 4/28	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 4/29	9:00 am 12 noon 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Verso Chat Lectionary Study Painting Group Painting Group Brownies Zumba SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/30	6:30 pm	Choir
Fri 5/1	5:00 pm	St. George Church School Basket Social set-up
Sat 5/2	8:30 am 9:00 am	Men's Breakfast Basket Social
Sun 5/3	8:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class Worship - Communion Social Hour Basket Social before and after church

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

APRIL 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	25,463.48
Overall Percent	113.2%

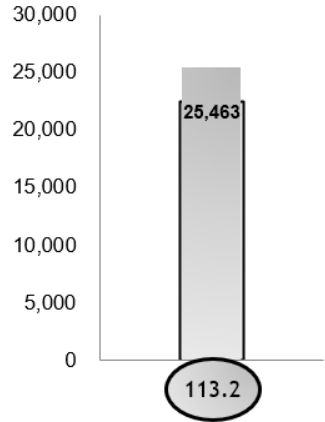
Last Week	
Start:	4/19/26
End:	4/25/26
Total:	2,697.70

Amt needed to reach Target

APRIL 2026	(2,963.48)
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



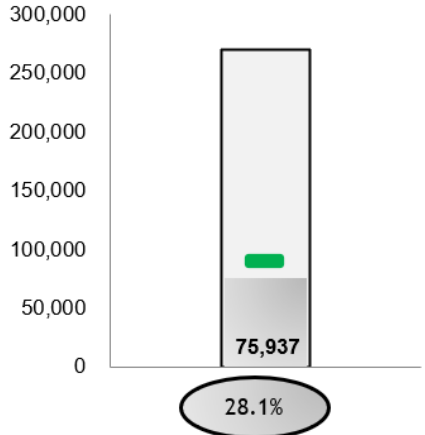
YTD OFFERINGS

APRIL 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	90,000.00
Overall Total	75,937.49
Overall Percent	28.1%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org
Ministry Intern	Samantha “Sam” Kistler samanthamkistler@gmail.com
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