

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



We Are Witnesses

EASTER SEASON WORSHIP SERIES



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

**April 28, 2024
5th 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 &

Introduction of Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

Penn Northeast Conference Minister

DonnaLee Yeatts, Consistory President

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ** DonnaLee Yeatts

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Reverent Praise

J. Krug

Bells of St. John's

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

All: **We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

One: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

All: **We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

One: If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

All: **We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

One: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

All: **May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

***Opening Hymn**

Now the Green Blade Rises

Verses 1 and 2

EASTER

Now the Green Blade Rises 311

Unison

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain, wheat that in
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain, think - ing that
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain, he that for
 4 When our hearts are win - tery, griev - ing, or in pain, your touch can

dark earth man - y days has lain; love lives a - gain that
 he would nev - er wake a - gain, laid in the earth like
 three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my
 call us back to life a - gain, fields of our hearts that

with the dead has been;
 grain that sleeps un - seen; love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.
 liv - ing Lord is seen;
 dead and bare have been;

*Gathering Prayer

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: Lord, may we grow with you.

All: New shoots reaching out, hands stretched upward like leaves newly formed soaking up your light and warmth.

One: Lord, may we grow with you.

All: In sunshine and rain, in darkness and light, in cold days and summer days, from springtime to winter.

One: Lord, may we grow with you.

All: Bring forth fruit that is pleasing to you. Fed by your living water giving sustenance to others. We pray this in your most holy name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: Come with what you have. For you who grieve this day know that you are invited to bring the broken pieces of your heart.

All: Loved by one another, we discover God's love for us.

One: Come with what you have. For you who come with gladness know that your melody will find harmony.

All: Accepting God's love for us, we are called to love one another.

One: Come with what you have. For you weighed down by too many “shoulds” and “what-ifs” know that here you may lay down the burdens of guilt and shame.

All: Loved by one another, we discover God's love for us.

One: Come with what you have. For you who have the answers, know that new questions await you.

All: Accepting God's love for us, we are called to love one another.

One: Come with what you have. For you who come seeking, know that your questions are safe in the presence of God.

All: Loved by one another, we discover God's love for us.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

One: Christ is the vine.

All: We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us.

One: Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name and it will be granted.

All: In the name of Christ, we who seek forgiveness are forgiven! Thanks be to God, Alleluia!

Children's Message

DonnaLee Yeatts

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

Hymn

Touch That Soothes and Heals

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 5 of the bulletin

Scripture Reading:

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Read by: Joy Gravely

**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. Dr. Bonnie Bates

PNEC Conference Minister

We Are Witnesses! - Abiding in Love

Anthem

Love Filled the Cup

Lloyd Larson

Touch That Soothes and Heals

See My Hands and Feet



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.”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMey, b. 1972
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We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Bates

The Lord's Prayer

New Zealand Anglican Version

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Peace I Leave With You My Friends

Ray Repp

Musical score for the hymn "Peace I Leave With You My Friends" by Ray Repp. The 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 = 100. The lyrics are: "Peace I leave with you, my friends, Sha-lom, my peace in all you do. Peace I leave with you my friends. I give to you so you can give to others too." The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line.

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God

DonnaLee Yeatts



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 Antrim

All: Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 8 of the bulletin

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Bates

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling,
2. Come, al - mighty - y to de - liv - er,
3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion,



Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Let us all your life re - ceive;
Pure and spot - less, gra - cious Lord,



Fix in us your hum - ble dwell - ing,
Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
Let us see your great sal - va - tion



All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Nev - er more your tem - ples leave.
Per - fect - ly in you re - stored.



Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion,
Lord, we would be al - ways bless - ing,
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



Love un - bound - ed, love all pure;
Serve you as your hosts a - bove,
Till in heav'n we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion,
Pray, and praise you with - out ceas - ing,
Till we sing be - fore the al - mighty - y



Let your love in us en - dure.
Glo - ry in your pre - cious love.
Lost in won - der, love and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Tune: HYFRYDOL, 8 7 8 7 D; Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

***Postlude**

Grateful
Mark Hayes
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 21

Onsite – 86 Online - 25

Serving in Worship Leadership

April 28

5th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist – Sharon Antrim

Scripture Reader – Joy Gravely

Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan

Social Hour Hosts – PEEPS

Ushers – Carole O'Connell, Pete Mohr

May 5

6th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist – Robin Brensinger

Scripture Reader – Sharon Antrim

Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan

Ushers – Sharon Antrim, Wendy Fox, Michelle Gutekunst, Wayne

Lichtenwalner, DonnaLee Yeatts

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, Rev. Dave Mohr, 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.

REMINDER PASTIE PICKUP

Pastie pickup is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, following worship down in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BAKE SALE

We're looking for volunteers to donate baked goods for the Basket Social on May 4 & May 5. Please contact Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler to say you'll bake.

GREAT FINDS AT THE BASKET SOCIAL

Saturday, May 4 – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Sunday, May 5 – Before and 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 and more. Sheets of tickets (26 tickets per sheet at \$5) 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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast is schedule for Saturday, May 4, at 8:30 am 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.

VBS MEETING

There will be a VBS meeting on Tuesday, May 7th at 6:30pm in the church parlor. Anyone available to help should plan to attend.

BINGO!

Tickets for the June 14 Flag Day Bingo are now available at the church office or from Tom Moyer after church on Sunday.

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 28**.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Dollars at Work!

We have been doing great work together for a long time and want you to know that we appreciate all you do to support the mission work we provide with your OCWM dollars.

What we do together has a great impact on our world. As a Penn Northeast Conference church, you support all the work we do, including:

- Supporting PNEC local churches in search and call as well as providing members with seminars in church governance, important legal issues, and health and wellness.
- Supplying our PNEC church students and higher education candidates with helpful scholarships to pay for professions we need such as teachers, ministers, and nurses.
- Helping PNEC churches revitalize with new ministries, or special curriculums, and with conversation groups to brainstorm new ideas.
- Providing PNEC church members with retreats and youth programs to build the Community of Christ.

You enable all this together with PNEC within our covenant agreement - and so much more!

The Generosity Team was created to strengthen those ties and promote a spirit of generosity, support, and community as we live and learn together. That is why we believe it is so important to continue, and strengthen, our connections wherever we can.

So many people are uplifted as they support PNEC; but perhaps there are some individuals that can and would like to do more. The Friends of Conference campaigns give that opportunity.

Soon each church will receive a postal mailing from us regarding our "Pentecost" campaign. We understand that not everyone can give more but we also know that many may have that ability and may feel the Spirit moves them to individually support our ministries together.

With our gratitude, we wish you well and May the Spirit move you to Generosity for Pentecost!

PNEC Generosity Team/Friends of Conference

Church Calendar for the Week of April 28 through May 5

Sun 4/28	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Tues 4/30	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 5/1	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 5/2	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	Mission Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 5/3		Confirmation overnight
Sat 5/4	8:30 am	Men's breakfast
	10:00 am	Basket Social
Sun 5/5	8:00 am	Basket Social
	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Confirmation Class, parents and mentors

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
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