

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



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



March 23, 2025

**3rd Sunday in Lent
9:30 am**

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation
of the Penn NE Conference 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. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom and meet the leaders. 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

- Lent Dinner & Devotionals, Wednesdays at 6:00pm in Fox Hall, Soup & Bread Sign Up
- Sunday Socials for March and April, volunteers needed
- Quinn Family Wildfire Donations
- Easter Flower Orders—DUE NEXT WEEKEND
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 12, 10am-12pm
- Holy Humor Weekend, April 26-27

*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

A Still Small Voice
Arr. by Jason Krug

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr
Written by Ann Siddall

One: Only the hungry search for bread. Only the thirsty look for water.

All: This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

One: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it. Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

All: This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more. So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst, our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings, and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

***Opening Hymn**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

The Apostles' Creed

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy *catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*universal

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy Like the wide-ness
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ures
3. Trou-bled souls, why will you scat-ter Like a crowd of



of the sea; There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice
of our mind, And the heart of the E-ter-nal
fright-ened sheep? Fool-ish hearts, why will you wan-der



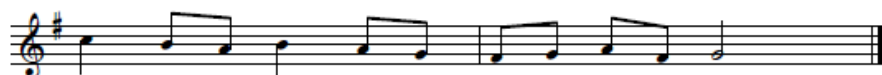
Which is more than lib-er-ty. There is plen-ti-
Is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were
From a love so true and deep? There is wel-come



ful re-demp-tion In the blood that has been shed;
but more sim-ple We should take him at his word,
for the sin-ner And more grac-es for the good;



There is joy for all the mem-bers
And our lives would be thanks-giv-ing
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior,



In the sor-rows of the Head.
For the good-ness of our Lord.
There is heal-ing in his blood.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.
Tune: IN BABYLONE, ♯ 7 8 7 D; *Chade en Nieuwe Hollandsche Boerenliedjes*, c.1710

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: God of abundance, you have promised to provide us with more than mere survival; in seeking to satisfy our deepest hungers, we shall find an even more profound sustenance than human imagination could envision.

All: **In your holy love, you have given us so much: talents and treasure in unlimited supply, but often, we spend these on superficial needs. We throw away our plenty on little hungers and petty desires. We seek the fleeting delight of novelty, of prettiness, and of veneer. We follow the urges to momentary importance; to the notice of a fickle society more interested in noise and sparkle than in mundane sturdiness. We chase after happiness while neglecting joy; we chase after romance while neglecting love; we skim the surface while fearing the depths.**

Time for Silent Prayer

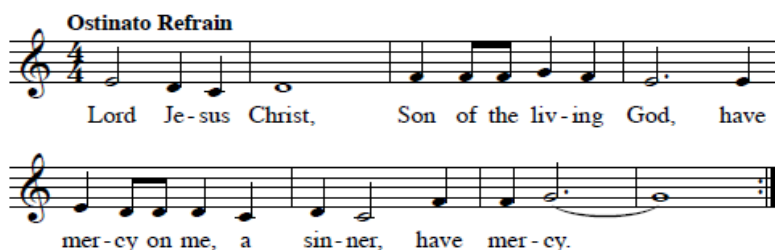
Sung Response

Choir, then All

LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Jesus Prayer

Carol Browning



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Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

All: **Forgive us, we pray, for our fearfulness, as we rely more upon our own human illusions of control and satisfaction, even though we know that these illusions separate us from you. Forgive us for not trusting in your grace, in your abundance, in the covenant promises that you have renewed with every generation. In Christ, may we learn to love you more than we love ourselves. Amen**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Come, all who are thirsty. If we take the first step, if we are willing to plunge once again into the waters and to emerge into new life, we will receive love beyond all we can envision.

All: We turn our hearts to God, and by grace our hungers are satisfied, our thirsts are sated; through Christ we are made whole; by the Spirit we are led forth as God's people. Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Hymn

Broken for the Broken

Verses 3 and 4

found on page 6 of the bulletin

*Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

Reader: Carole O'Connell

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

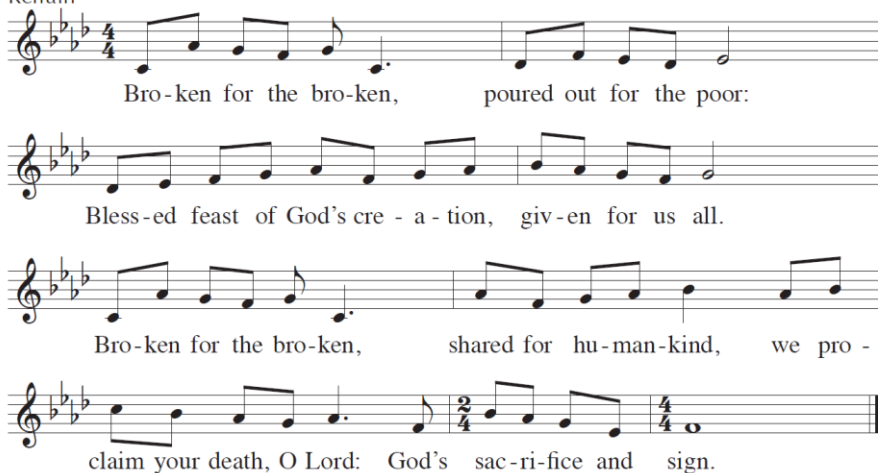
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

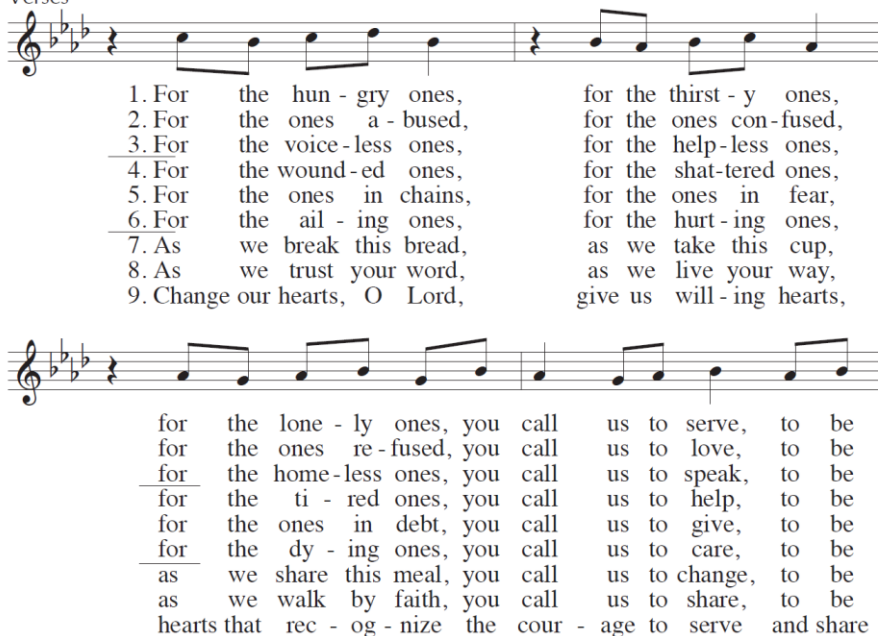
Broken for the Broken

Refrain



Bro-ken for the bro-ken, poured out for the poor:
 Bless-ed feast of God's cre - a - tion, giv-en for us all.
 Bro-ken for the bro-ken, shared for hu-man-kind, we pro -
 claim your death, O Lord: God's sac-ri-fice and sign.

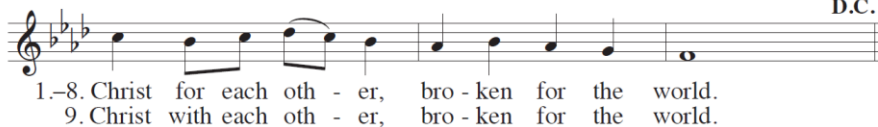
Verses



1. For the hun - gry ones,	for the thirst - y ones,
2. For the ones a - bused,	for the ones con - fused,
3. For the voice - less ones,	for the help - less ones,
4. For the wound - ed ones,	for the shat - tered ones,
5. For the ones in chains,	for the ones in fear,
6. For the ail - ing ones,	for the hurt - ing ones,
7. As we break this bread,	as we take this cup,
8. As we trust your word,	as we live your way,
9. Change our hearts, O Lord,	give us will - ing hearts,

for the lone - ly ones, you call us to serve, to be
for the ones re - fused, you call us to love, to be
for the home - less ones, you call us to speak, to be
for the ti - red ones, you call us to help, to be
for the ones in debt, you call us to give, to be
for the dy - ing ones, you call us to care, to be
as we share this meal, you call us to change, to be
as we walk by faith, you call us to share, to be
hearts that rec - og - nize the cour - age to serve and share

D.C.



1.-8. Christ for each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.
 9. Christ with each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.

Text: Chris de Silva, b.1967
 Tune: Chris de Silva, b.1967
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If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk!

by John Pavlovitz

“This Mess is Never Getting Together”

Song of Praise

Before the Cross of Christ We Stand

L. Larson

Before the cross of Jesus our lives are judged today; the meaning of our eager strife is tested by His way. Across our restless living the light streams from His cross, and by its clear, revealing beams we measure gain and loss.

The hopes that lead us onward, the fears that hold us back, our will to dare great things for God, the courage that we lack, the faith to keep in goodness, our love, both low or pure, on all, the judgment of the cross falls steady, clear, and sure.

Before the cross of Christ we stand, and gaze upon the nail pierced hands, the hands of Him who died that we might live eternally! Before the cross of Christ we stand.

We pray for strength in our striving as we face life's greatest tests. Guide our steps as we journey in our quest. Then send us forth in service; let the Holy Spirit fall, and fill our hearts with grace and joy in answer to the call.

Before the cross of Christ we stand, and gaze upon the nail pierced hands, the hands of Him who died that we might live eternally! Before the cross of Christ we stand.

Before the cross of Christ we stand.

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

The Lord's Prayer

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**

Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



Thank you for your generosity and
faithfulness in supporting the ministry
of St. John's UCC!

***Doxology**

A Lenten Doxology

*Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church,
PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003*

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's Love in Christ into our Hearts. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

**All: Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, in this solemn
season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and
renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we
may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. Use
these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to
those in darkness. In the name of Christ who calls us to
new life, we pray. Amen.**

We Serve

***Sending Hymn**

What Wondrous Love is This?

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 9 of the bulletin

***The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

LENT

257 What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down; when I was sink - ing
God and to the Lamb I will sing! To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
down be - neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

WORDS: Appalachian folk hymn
MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835

WONDROUS LOVE
12.9.12.12.9.

Postlude

What Wondrous Love is This?

Verses 3 and 4

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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Lectionary Readings for the Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9 and Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 and Luke 13:1-9

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 – March 16

Onsite – 84 Online – 37

Serving in Worship Leadership

March 23rd, 2025 (Third Sunday in Lent)

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

Scripture Reader: Carole O'Connell

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Acolyte: Nicholas Santee

Greeters: Kim & Aiden Hannis

Altar Guild: Marion DeMillio

Ushers: Cindy Reck and Karen Stoitsits

Social Hour: Gracie Funches and Aubrey Funches

March 30th, 2025 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Robin Brensinger

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Acolyte: Aiden Hannis

Greeters: Charlie & Linda Apple

Ushers: Marion DeMillio

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

Social Hour: Keister/Lopez families

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Michael Agrippine, Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Kate Asbill, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Diana Beck, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, Nancy Bowman, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Bob Czekner, Rob Czekner, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Janet Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Lynn Gilbert, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Joy Gravely, Gus Geissinger, Gail Hanzl, Donna Held, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, Jean Litzenberger, Bob Lopez, Judy Luckenbill, Robert Menges, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Bobby Sherman, Madeline Slivka, Leona Snyder, Martha Strauss, George Williams, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden. Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio, Kaden Rossanese, and Nathan Unger.

Prayers for the family of Owen Eberhart, who died Saturday, March 8. Prayers for the family of Jean (Marilyn) Piskula, who died this past Wednesday, March 19.

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.

EASTER FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Your help is needed in enhancing the beauty of St. John's this Easter by decorating the sanctuary in Easter flowers. To order, please complete an order form and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office with payment. **Order forms are due no later than Sunday, March 30th.**

Flowers available

White, Orange, and Yellow Lilies

Tulips, Daffodils and \$50.00 Chancel Altar Spring Arrangements

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.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES APPEAL

We will continue to accept monetary contributions for the California wildfires until the end of March. Your gift will support long-term recovery efforts, ensuring communities can rebuild stronger and more resilient. General Disaster Relief Fund envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge area. Donations can be mailed into the church office, put in the offering plate, made online or by text. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton with "California Wildfires 2025" in the memo section.

QUINN FAMILY FIRE SUPPORT

Our former visitation pastor, Rev. Dave Quinn's son and family lost their home and possessions to the California wildfires. Please note any gifts for "Quinn Family Fire" on your check or envelope. Thank you for your heartfelt support and generosity.

WANTED!

A sewer is needed to join our Crafters group, "Keeping you in Stitches." We are looking for someone willing to help sew our table runners, bowl cozies, baby bibs, etc. Fabric and directions will be provided along with help if needed. Please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or crazler@aol.com if you are interested.

LOTS OF LAUGHS (We Hope)

Saturday evening and Sunday morning, April 26-27, will be our "Holy Humor Weekend" and a time for us to share in fun, food, laughs and love with each other in celebration of our eternal life in Christ.

We will share a meal and raise funds for St. John's projects. \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids age 12 and under. There will also be a registration link to RSVP for the meal together on our website.

If you would like to participate in our "Open Mic Comedy" time during our Saturday evening meal or share something funny in our worship, please let Pastor Steve know and sign up on the red display board in the back.

EASTER & SPRING CRAFT SALE

Our Crafters group "Keeping You in Stitches" will have Easter and Spring items for sale this morning. Choose from bunnies, chicks, table runners, T-towels, decorations, household and kitchen items, 12-bean

soup mix, baby items, and much more. Come to the lounge area before or after worship to make your purchases. See Carol Raszler.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

“BE THE LIGHT”

For over 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been helping bring God's hope and healing to hurting people domestically and around the world. OGHS's mission is to bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster; to provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons; to support domestic and international development; to fight poverty and its consequences; and to combat injustice in its many forms. Your contribution will help meet urgent as well as long-term needs. Special offering envelopes for OGHS will be received on Sunday, March 30, as well as during the entire month of March.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of March, we are collecting pancake mix, jelly, and coffee. Any other non-perishable food items as well as monetary contributions are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary for you to place your food donations. If you would like to volunteer at the pantry on the 4th Monday of each month from 9am to 11am or 5:30pm to 7:30pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com.

REMINDER: PASTIE SALE PICKUP

If you placed an order for pasties, pickup is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and on Sunday, March 30, following worship in Fox Hall. See Carol Raszler.

BASEBALL IS COMING!

Time to make your reservations for St John's night at the IronPigs Party Porch. Sunday, May 25, 6:35 pm. The price of \$40 includes admission to the porch, buffet from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and unlimited soft drinks and bottled water throughout the evening. It is Memorial Day eve, so Fireworks will follow the game. Please see Tom Moyer with your paid reservation.

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, October 22**.

WALKING CHALLENGE

Welcome all St. John's 2025 Walking Challenge participants. Please sign up for our Spring Walking Challenge beginning Sunday, April 27 and ending Saturday, May 24. Contact Sharon Antrim at sharonantrim@yahoo.com or call/text me at 610-216-6207. 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.

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Steve Davis
srpastor@sjuccf.org

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Patrick Sandt
music@sjuccf.org

Office Administrator

Alison Berger Boor
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newsletter@sjuccf.org

Custodian

Christina Bach
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CHURCH CALENDAR **FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23 – MARCH 30**

Sun 3/23	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
		Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour Crafts Table
Tues 3/25	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	7:00 pm	Choir
Wed 3/26	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Soup and Study
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/27	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	Property
	6:00-8:00 pm	Pastie Pickup
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 3/29	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 3/30	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
		Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour Pastie Pickup