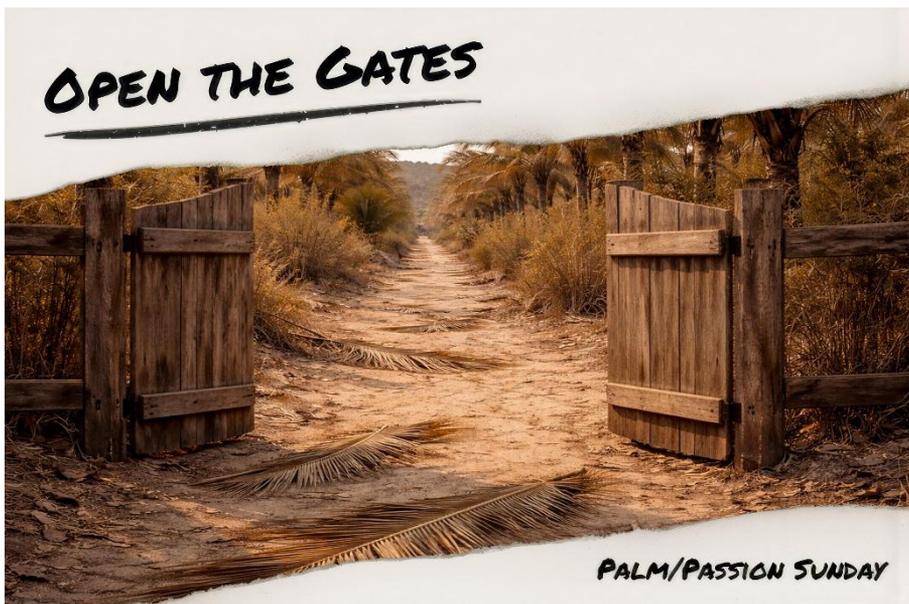


St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



OPEN THE GATES



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

**March 29, 2026
Palm/Passion Sunday
9:30am**

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*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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Chimes

Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

***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

Hosanna, Hosanna
by Joseph Martin

*Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna to the King. Hosanna, hosanna, rang through
the crowded streets. Thousands came to see Him, to cheer as He rode by.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna was their cry.*

*Jesus entered into Jerusalem, people spread their garments on the road.
Blessed is the seed of Abraham. Blessed is the King foretold. The multitudes
all praised Him, they waved the palms in praise. They welcome the Messiah
as He came through the gates.*

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the King. Hosanna, hosanna, rang through the crowded streets. Thousands came to see Him, to cheer as He rode by. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna was their cry.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the King. Hosanna, hosanna, rang through the crowded streets. Thousands came to see Him, to raise their voice and sing. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the King. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

***Blessing of the Palms** (facing the back) Rev. Davis

One: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Hosanna in the Highest!

One: Dear friends in Christ, on this day our Lord, Jesus Christ, entered into the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. Today we greet Jesus as our Anointed King, with His crown in thorns and His throne a cruel cross. We follow Him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection, by traveling the dark road of His passion, knowing that as we are united with Christ in His suffering on the cross, we also share with Him in the triumph of resurrection life.

All: Guide us in this most Holy Week with your mercy, Lord. God of our Salvation, may we enter with joy into the celebration of your mighty acts of love for us. Bless our palm branches and lives raised in praise to you. Give us life abundant and eternal, through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen

***Scripture Reading**

Matthew 21: 1-11

Reader: Dewey Yeatts

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet; "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

One: Dear Brothers and sisters, like the crowds who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace.

***Procession of the Palms: WR # 265** *All Glory, Laud and Honor*
Please join in singing Verses 1, 2 and 4.

As the children and choir process to the cross and altar with their palms, we encourage you to wave your palms from your pews.

Gathering Prayer

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

Most Holy God, as we enter this sacred time of Holy Week, we quiet our hearts before You. We remember the love that carried Your Son, Jesus Christ, along the road of sacrifice, humility, and mercy.

Open our eyes to the depth of Your love and our hearts to the power of forgiveness. Teach us to walk the path of Christ: to serve with humility, to love without condition, and to carry our crosses with faith. In moments of reflection, remind us that the suffering of the cross was not the end, but the doorway to redemption and new life.

As we remember Christ's sacrifice, help us live as people transformed by His resurrection — bringing light where there is darkness, hope where there is despair, and love where it is needed most. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

One: We sing and wave our palm branches, we even shout
“Hosanna, Save us!” yet we still turn away, to go back to our
old ways, our old lives, our old sins. As we prepare to
celebrate this holiest of weeks, let us in silence confess to
the One who comes to fill us with grace, bringing our
prayers before him.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

All: **Hosanna, Steadfast God, save us! Help us to let our fears,
our doubts, our faithlessness slip from our lives to fall at
your feet, so we may stand with our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ, who comes in your name, in your glory, in
your grace to save us. Amen.**

Sung Response

Eleison, Have Mercy

Lenten Call to Confession

Joel Raney

$\text{♩} = 60$ $\frac{4}{4}$ **Choir Only**



Ky-rie e - le - i - son. Ky-rie e - le - i - son. Ky-ri-e e -

10 **ALL**



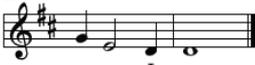
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15



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son Have mer - cy, have

20



mer - cy, I pray.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

One: Tell the daughters of despair, proclaim it to the sons of sadness:

All: Christ has come to save us! Hosanna! We give our thanks to God, who comes to bring us forgiveness. Hosanna in the highest.

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Song of Praise

Midnight in the Garden
Arranged by Jason Krug

Bells of St. John's

***Scripture Reading**

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-20

Reader: Dewey Yeatts

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: WR # 262

Ah, Holy Jesus

Sermon

Rev. Davis

Steadfast Love: Open the Gates

Song of Praise

Forsaken
Jennifer Klein

My God, why have You forsaken me? My God, why have You forsaken me? Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? Lema sabachthani. Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit.

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer
(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Rev. Davis
& Samantha Kistler

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**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Verse 4

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

**All: We give You thanks, holy and eternal God, for these
gifts of abundance in Christ. We carry these branches
as signs of His love. We offer our gifts and service for
Your glory. May we take up our cross and follow Him.
Amen.**

We Serve

***Closing Hymn: # 285**

Jesus Remember Me

Refrain sung twice, interlude, followed by refrain sung twice again.

Holy Week Reminders and Benediction

Rev. Davis

Lenten Playlist

“Stand Up”

performed by Cynthia Erivo / Joshua Brian Campbell
from the film, *Harriet*

retelling the story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground
Railroad during the United States’ Civil War

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 22

Onsite – 88 Online - 48

Serving in Worship Leadership

Palm Sunday, March 29

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 and Matthew 21: 1-12

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

Scripture Reader: Dewey Yeatts

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeters: Charlie and Linda Apple

Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalner and Carole O’Connell

Altar Guild: Linda Apple

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

Scripture Reader: Joy Gravely

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan, Cindy Reck, Kim Hillegass

Greeters & Ushers: Linda Powell, Charlotte Kerrigan, Bill Fink, Corrina Purdon

Good Friday, April 3
Combined Worship with St. John's UCC Mickleys
A Tenebrae of Shadows
Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 and John 18:1-19:42

Narrators of the Passion: Samantha Kistler, Sean Hartman, Brenda Ringer, Sharon Czekner, and George Isleib

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Greeter: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalner

Easter Sunday, April 5
Lectionary Readings

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeters and Ushers: Robin Brensinger, Bill Fink, Bobbi Pope, Bruce Pope and Corrina Purdon

NO SOCIAL HOUR for EASTER SUNDAY

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 and Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John Hoff and Charlee Hoff, Ray and JoAnn Hower, 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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

Thursday, April 2nd, 2026: Maundy Thursday
7PM Service

Handwashing, Communion, and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 3rd, 2026: Good Friday
7PM Tenebrae Service

A Journey of our Lord's Passion and Death told through Scripture and Song.
Combined service with St. John's UCC Mickleys.

Sunday, April 5th, 2026: Easter Sunday
9:30AM Service

Resurrection Celebration
with flowering the cross and communion

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.

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 March, we are collecting items for the Easter meal—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.

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS 2026

This coupon book, good for all of 2026, contains discount offers for restaurants, hotels, car rentals, entertainment venues, amusement parks, clothing, food, and much more. Cost is \$25 per book. A sample copy is on display in the lounge area. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase.

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.

SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

There are only 2 seats remaining for our bus trip to Lancaster for the Sight & Sound production of "Joshua." Please see Tom Moyer for your reservation. Cost of the trip (including buffet lunch at Yoder's restaurant) is \$150.00. **For those who have paid the \$75 deposit, your remaining balance of \$75 can be paid at any time, since the trip is now definite. Please give payments to Tom Moyer, or send to the Church office.**

WE NEED FILLED BASKETS FOR OUR BASKET SOCIAL

It's time to start thinking and getting items together to fill baskets for our Basket Social on Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3. If you do not wish to make a basket, monetary donations are being accepted, and we will put a basket together for you. We are also looking for gift card donations to restaurants and businesses. If you need a basket, many can be found in Room 303 for you to use. If you have any questions, see Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. For over 75 years, the OGHS offering has been

helping Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. It provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners. We will be receiving contributions for OGHS on March 15 and continue for the rest of the month.

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.

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 **April 4 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.

EASTER BASKETS FOR YOUTH

Reminder: Filled baskets for youth at Pinebrook Family Answers' High Fidelity Wraparound are due back into the church office today. Contact Emma Rarich at (610) 462-6777 or email erarich@pbfalv.org if you have any questions.

Fraud Alert

April 23, 2025

By: Andrea Harris

In order to combat a rise in property and mortgage fraud in Lehigh County, the Clerk of Judicial Records has released a new, free alert system for residents of Lehigh County.

The program is called **Record Alert** and it allows any resident in the county, or anyone with property in Lehigh County, to receive alerts via text or email when a document is recorded involving their property.

The Recorder of Deeds office is required to record any document that is presented to their office when all the required data is properly executed and payment is received alongside the document. Once a fraudulent document is recorded, the fraudster may use your name as collateral on a mortgage or attempt to sell your home to an unsuspecting buyer. There is no way for the Recorder of Deeds office to know that the document is being used for fraudulent purposes without being alerted by the legitimate property owner.

By registering for Record Alert, you will receive alerts when a document is recorded which involves your property. The notification will come via text or email stating the parcel number, instrument number, document type, and the date it was recorded. You can then contact the Recorder of Deeds and inform them of the fraudulent document before the criminal can use your name or property.

This service also allows you to monitor the status of legitimate documents that you've filed with Lehigh County, such as after you finish with a closing, or when you take out or pay off a mortgage.

Residents of Lehigh County can register for this free service at <https://www.landex.com/recordalert/lehigh>

**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29 – APRIL 5**

Sun 3/29	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	3:00 pm	Phantoms game, PPL Center
Tues 3/31	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM	Choir
Wed 4/1	9:00 am	Verso Chat Lectionary Study
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/2	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Fri 4/3	7:00 pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service Combined service with St. John's Mickley
Sat 4/4	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 am	Zumba
	12-4	Fox Hall Private Event
Sun 4/5	9:30 am	Easter Sunday Communion Service

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
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor <u>officesecretary@sjuccf.org</u>
Treasurer	Sue Weldner <u>sbweldner@gmail.com</u>
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst financialsecretary@sjuccf.org custodians@sjuccf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello stars@sjuccf.org newsletter@sjuccf.org
Custodian	Christina Bach ironton1@verizon.net
St. John’s Christian Early Learning Center Director	Jazmin Smith staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com 610-443-0254