

*He is risen;*  
*he is not here.* MARK 16:6

# St. John's UCC Fullerton

*Easter Sunday Order of Worship*

*March 31, 2024, 9:30 am*

## 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.*

***The Resurrection Cross:** As you enter into our Sanctuary today, you are encouraged to please take a flower and place it on the wooden Cross prior to taking your seat. The Resurrection Cross will then be presented in our Service today.*

**\* Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

- Water Gathering bottles – pick yours up today!
- April 7 - "Holy Humor Sunday!"

### **Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship**

*Let All Creation Resound*

J. Krug

Bells of St. John's

**\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: It was early in the morning. Still dark. The dawn just starting to cut through the fog. The air hung heavy with expectation, as if the earth itself were holding its breath.

**All: The echoes of the cross linger. His voice still rings out: It Is Finished. Into your hands I commit my spirit.**

One: A stone rolled away. The guards asleep at its side. A pile of clothes, folded in an empty tomb. Peter and John, running in with disbelief. Walking out with questions and with hope. But Mary stays behind. To weep in the garden. And we weep with her. Through her tears we see angels, seated in victory on top of the stone. Do not be afraid, they tell us. He is not here. Why do you look for the living among the dead? He. Is. Not. Here.

**All: Jesus is alive. His heart beats in victory. Easter is announced by every breath he takes. Easter means that love has won. Death is defeated. Evil is conquered. Love's redeeming work is done. It. Is. Finished. He is not dead. He is Alive!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Verses 1, 2, and 4

*found on page 3 of bulletin*

**\*Easter Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

**All: O God of Easter joy, we come this morning with glad shouts of acclamation. Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. May this time of worship help us to truly and fully experience this Risen Christ. May we be transformed. transformed into your butterfly people, winging through the earth with messages of beauty, hope and life. Amen.**

## 288 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

All cre - a - tion, join to say Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN  
 7.7.7.7. Alleluias

## Call to Confession

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

**One:** Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious.

**All:** **Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

## Assurance of Pardon

**One:** Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!" We have seen Christ, too, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world.

**All:** **We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation. We are forgiven; may we accept our forgiveness and know that God loves us and desires great joy for our lives. May we walk forward on this journey of faith and new life through the resurrection of our Lord. Amen.**

## Procession of Easter Resurrection Cross

### Hymn

*Three Days*  
Verses 1 and 2

*found on page 5 of bulletin*

## Children's Message

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

## \*Scripture Reading:

John 19:38-42

Read By: Tyler Shankweiler

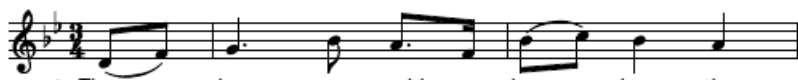
*\*Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Gospel*

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

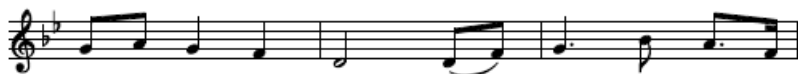
**All:** **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## THREE DAYS

THAXTED



1. Three days our world was bro - ken; the  
2. Three days— and on the third day, the  
3. Three days our world was bro - ken and



1. Lord of life lay dead. "Take up your cross," he  
2. wom - en came at dawn. His tomb, they said, was  
3. in an in - stant healed, God's cov - e - nant of



1. told us who fol - lowed where he led. Would  
2. emp - ty, his bro - ken bod - y gone. Who  
3. mer - cy in mys - ter - y re - vealed. Two



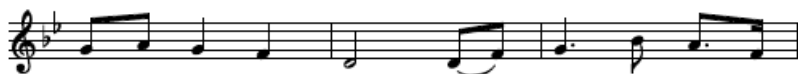
1. we now hang in tor - ment with thieves on ev - 'ry side,  
2. could be - lieve their sto - ry? The dead do not a - rise,  
3. thou - sand years are one day in God's e - ter - nal sight,



1. our Pass - o - ver shat - tered, our hope cru - ci - fied?  
2. yet he walks a - mong us, and with our own eyes  
3. and yes - ter - day's sor - rows are this day's de - light.



1. Three days we hid in si - lence, in  
2. we've seen him at this ta - ble; we've  
3. Though still Christ's bod - y suf - fers, pierced



1. bit - ter fear and grief. Three days we clung to -  
2. shared his bread and wine. Hearts burn - ing bright with -  
3. dai - ly by the sword, yet death has no do -



1. geth - er where he had washed our feet.  
2. us, we've seen his glo - ry shine.  
3. min - ion: the ris - en Christ is Lord!

Text: 13 13 13 11 13 13; © 1999, M.D. Ridge. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.  
Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934, alt.

God Did This For You!  
I Will Turn Your Tragedy into Triumph!  
God's Promise in the Grave Clothes

# We Love

## 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

### Response:

*First time sung by Choir, then repeated by all. We will be singing the first refrain.*

## 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 -  
 joyce 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!



# Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Davis

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church  
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2024.*

*We are an Inclusive Community!  
In the United Church of Christ, we observe an “open communion.”  
ALL people are welcome to receive  
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.  
In the UCC, ALL means ALL!*

## The Invitation to Receive

## “Come Just As You Are”

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# Come Just As You Are

Joseph Sabolick

**♩ = 88** **Solo**

Come just as you are, Hear the Spir-it call— Come just as you are,

**7** **ALL**

Come and see, come, re-ceive; Come and live— for - ev - er. Come just as you are.

**13**

Hear the Spir-it call— Come, just as you are. Come, re-ceive Christ the king

**19** **Choir Only**

Come and live— for - ev - er - more. Life ever last ing and strength for to - day—

**26** **ALL**

Taste— the Liv-ing Wa-ter— and nev - er thirst a gain. Come just as you are.

**32**

Hear the Spir-it call— Come, just as you are. Come, re-ceive Christ the king

**38**

Come and live— for - ev - er - more.



Sharing the Meal

*The elements will be passed in the pew. We will receive the bread and eat at the same time, then the cup is passed and all drink together.*

Hymn during Communion

*Take and Eat*

M. Joncas

Soloist on Verses: Emily Szuter

Take and eat; take and eat; this is my bod - y  
 giv - en up for you. Take and drink; take and drink:  
 this is my blood giv - en up for you.

Please join in singing the refrain  
*Music while the elements of bread are passed.*

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

**All: Amen**

*Music while the elements of wine are passed.*

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

**All: Amen**

*Music as elements are returned.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

**All: On this holy day, and in this season of renewal, we pray in thanksgiving for the many blessings You give us. May our words and deeds today, and always, serve as reminders of the transformative power of Your love. 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 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: Robin Brensinger

**All:** God of great gifts: This morning we give you praise, glory, and thanks! With resurrection joy in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! We pray this in your most holy name. Amen.

## We Serve

### \*Closing Hymn

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise*  
Verses 1, 2, and 4  
*found on page 10 of bulletin*

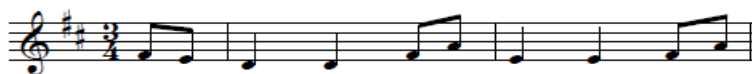
# ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! LET THE HOLY ANTHEM RISE

NETTLETON

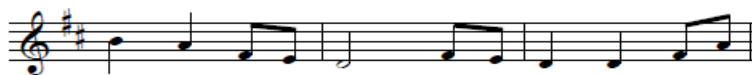
Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

Edward Caswall, 1814–1878

Arr. Norah Duncan IV



All 1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the  
 All 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Like the  
 Choir 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! He has  
 All 4. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Bless-ed



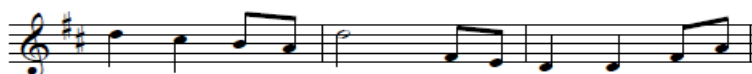
ho - ly an - them rise, and the choirs of heav - en  
 sun from out the wave, he has ris - en up in  
 burst our pri - son bars; he has lift - ed up the  
 Je - sus, make us rise from the life of this cor -



chant it in the tem - ple of the skies. Let the.  
 tri - umph from the dark - ness of the grave. He's the  
 por - tals of our home be - yond the stars. He has  
 rup - tion to the life that nev - er dies. May we



moun - tains skip with glad - ness and the.  
 splen - dor of the na - tions, he's the  
 won for us our free - dom - 'neath his  
 share with you your glo - ry when the



joy - ful val - leys ring with ho - san - nas in the  
 lamp of end - less day; he's the ver - y Lord of  
 feet our foes are trod, he has pur - chased back our  
 days of time are past, and the dead shall be a -



high - est to our Sav - ior and our King.  
 glo - ry who is ris - en up to - day.  
 birth - right to the king - dom of our God.  
 wak - ened by the trum - pet's might - y blast!

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**Announcements and The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

**\*Postlude**

*Hallelujah Chorus*

Handel/Arr. by David Len Allen

*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 – March 24**

Onsite – 102    Online - 22

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

### **March 31**

#### **Easter Sunday**

Liturgist – Robin Brensinger                      Scripture Reader-Tyler Shankweiler  
Ushers – Staci Pagan, Sophia Pagan              Worship Tech – Bill Castello  
Kathy Roth, Wayne Lichtenwalner,              Acolyte – Gabriella Ferioli  
Sharon Antrim, Dewey Yeatts and DonnaLee Yeatts

### **April 7**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Holy Humor Sunday**

Liturgist – Tyler Shankweiler                      Scripture Reader - Corrina Schneck  
Acolyte – Sophia Pagan                              Worship Tech – Bill Castello  
Social Hour Hosts – The Gutekunst family  
Ushers – Kay Chryst, Paul Raszler, Kathy Roth, Tyler Shankweiler

## **Children's Faith Formation**

Children's Faith Formation resumes next Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>!

## **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, Freda Albright, Phyllis Ambeale, Clarence Biehn, 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.

## **SCRIPTURE READERS/LITURGISTS**

Readers and Liturgists for the months of May and June are needed. Beginning in May we are trying something new: a two-month schedule for readers and liturgists. If you are 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 if you are interested in becoming involved with this wonderful ministry for our Church community, please contact Regi Mohr ([regimohr@live.com](mailto:regimohr@live.com)) or Patrick Sandt ([music@sjuccf.org](mailto:music@sjuccf.org))

## **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](mailto:sharonantrim@yahoo.com). Looking forward to lots of good weather and flowers blooming along the way.

## **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](mailto:estupp@asburylv.org) or (610) 428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, April 23**.

### **DISASTER RELIEF – UKRAINE**

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, a war that has become the largest attack on a European country since World War II and now in its third year. Thousands of lives lost; homes, schools, hospitals bombed and destroyed—there's no end in sight. If you would like to continue our support of Ukraine through UCC National, World Central Kitchen, and Project HOPE, you will find special Disaster Relief Fund offering envelopes on the table in the lounge or donations can be made online or by text giving. Be sure to indicate Ukraine in the memo section.

### **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](mailto: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.

## PASTIE SALE

It's time for our spring Pastie Sale. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these frozen pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. You can choose from the following: beef, beef (no onion), chicken, sausage, ham, veggie melt, spinach melt, and apple, cherry, and blueberry turnovers. Try our newest selections: Philly cheese steak, cheeseburger, chicken cordon bleu, Mexican, and pizza pasties. Prices range from \$7.25 to \$8.25 for the meat pasties & melts and \$4.25 for the fruit turnovers. Orders forms can be found on the table in the lounge area and on the church's website. **Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.** You can return your order form and payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate or give it to Carol Raszler. Please be sure to specify your pick-up date on the form—either Thursday, April 25, or Sunday, April 28. **Deadline to place your order is Sunday, April 7.** If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com).

## 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.

## BASKET SOCIAL – DONATIONS NEEDED NOW

We need donations of baskets for our annual Basket Social in May. There are so many themes you could choose from, some of which are the following: Books, Sports, Camping, Picnic, Crafts, Puzzles, Linens, Baby Items, Baking, Beverages, Snacks, Car Care, Movie Passes, Park Passes, Beauty/ Spa Items, Children's Games/Toys, Restaurant Gift Cards, Pet Supplies, Gardening/Plants



Monetary donations are accepted if you would like us to put together a basket for you. Be sure to include a tag listing the items in your basket. **We have room now to store the baskets, so get started and bring them into church as soon as possible.** If you have any questions or plan to donate, contact our Co-Chairs: Amy Feidler, Carol Raszler, and Mike Borgman.

**Reserve the dates: Saturday, May 4, 10am-2pm  
Sunday, May 5, 8am-9:30am and 10:30am-11:30am**

Tickets will be pulled at 12:00 noon on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 a sheet (26 tickets per sheet).

Come to Fox Hall for the event. There will also be a Bake Sale on both days. Attention Bakers: a pie or cake (or two) would be a great donation – and much appreciated!

### **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

MARCH 2024

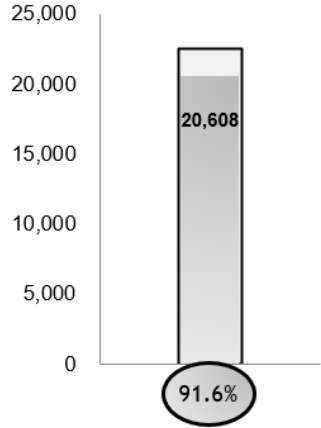
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	20,607.71
Overall Percent	91.6%

Last Week	
Start:	3/24/24
End:	3/30/24
Total:	3,042.00

<i>Amt needed to reach Target</i>	
MARCH 2024	1,892.29

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



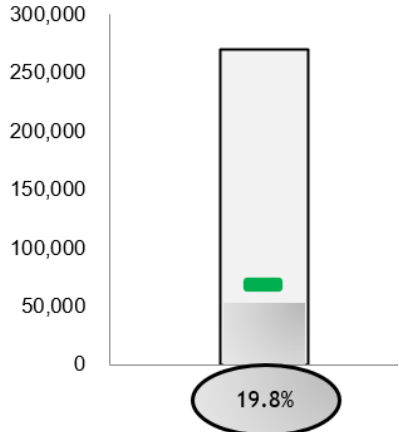
## YTD OFFERINGS

MARCH 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	67,500.00
Overall Total	53,368.35
Overall Percent	19.8%

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



**Furnace loan balance = \$1,168**

**Church Calendar for the Week of March 31 through April 7**

Sun 3/31	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Easter Worship and Communion
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00-2:00	Photo Directory photos taken
Mon 4/1		Church Office Closed
Tues 4/2	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 4/3	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	1:00-7:00 pm	Photo Directory photos taken
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	STARS
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/4	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 4/6	8:30 am	Men's breakfast, HamFam
	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 4/7	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship and Communion New members received
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation

## OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjucf.org
Director of Music Ministries	Patrick Sandt music@sjucf.org
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjucf.org
Treasurer	Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst financialsecretary@sjucf.org custodians@sjucf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello stars@sjucf.org newsletter@sjucf.org
Custodian	Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com
Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net