



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!**



**May 18, 2025
9:30am**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Fifth Sunday of Easter

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We celebrate the life and hope we find together in God's love!

*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.

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.

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

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- New Members--Received today
- Pentecost Flowers—Order form due TODAY
- Outdoor Worship at The Pavilion – May 25
- Basket Social Donations and Event – May 31 & June 1
- Confirmation Sunday – June 1
- Ocean City Bus Trip – Saturday, June 28 (See pg.13)
- General Synod Expense (See pg. 13)
- Senior Sunday—Acknowledgment of Graduates – June 8

***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

Passacaglia
Handel Halvorsen

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: In the beginning was the Dream.

All: **And the Dream was with God and spoke for peace.**

One: In the beginning was the Dream.

All: **And the Dream was with God and spoke for justice.**

One: In the beginning was the Dream.

All: **And the Dream was with God and longed for love.**

**We come to worship the God of the Dream in a spirit of peace,
justice, and love, longing to glimpse the promise of a holy
dwelling place for all creation.**

*Opening Hymn

O Come to Me, the Master Said

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

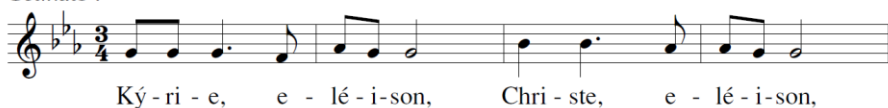
One: Holy God, the first and the last, beginning and end of all things, every living thing praises you in its own way. We praise you in our human diversity, joining our varied voices with all your creatures in heaven and on earth. As we praise your perfection, we recognize our shortcomings and come before you to confess our sins to begin again with you and one another as we now pray.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Sung Response

Kyrie

Ostinato I



O Come to Me, the Master Said 346

1 O come to me, the Mas-ter said, my Fa-ther knows your need;
 2 A - bide in me, the Mas-ter said, the true and liv - ing vine;
 3 Be - lieve in me, the Mas-ter said, for I have called you friends,

and I shall be, the Mas-ter said, your bread of life in - deed.
 my life shall be, the Mas-ter said, poured out for you as wine.
 and yours shall be, the Mas-ter said, the life that nev - er ends.

By faith in him we live and grow and share the bro - ken bread,
 His bod - y to the cross he gave, his blood he free - ly shed,
 And so, with sin and sor - row past, when death it - self is dead,

and all his love and good-ness know, for so the Mas-ter said.
 who came in love to seek and save, for so the Mas-ter said.
 the Lord shall raise us up at last, for so the Mas-ter said.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)

MUSIC: English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words © 1988 Hope Publishing Company

KINGSFOLD
C.M.D.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: Loving God, for the times when we run away, when we turn our backs on love, help us. For the times for when we are selfish and close our ears to the cries of others, forgive us. For the times when we are broken and cannot move, heal us. Give us the courage, strength, and hope to accept your grace and hear your call in Christ to a new way of being. This we pray in your most holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Jesus taught us that no one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

All: Christ laid down his life for us and invites us to love one another as he has loved us. Let us rejoice in his forgiving love and share it with each other day by day. Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

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

Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

All Verses

found on page 5 of the bulletin

***Scripture Reading:**

John 13:31-35

Read by: Aiden Hannis

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

355 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin-nings, time to re - mem - ber
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, love's might-y Spir - it,
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the past and
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and share what
 *4 In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble to taste and share what

and move on, time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 now as then, can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, and griev - ing,
 love can do. This is a day of new be - gin-nings;
 love can do. This is a day of new be - gin-nings;

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate text for Holy Communion

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-)
MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926-)Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1987 Hope Publishing CompanyBEGINNINGS
9.8.9.8.

**God of Light, Love and LIFE!
A New Commandment**

Song of Praise

If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments

Llyod Larson

If you love Me, if you love Me, if you love Me, keep my commandments. If you love Me, if you love Me, if you love Me, keep my commandments.

Those who love Me shall have the Spirit of truth; the Holy Comforter shall come upon you. If you love Me, you'll live forever, too, You shall live forever too.

If you love Me, if you love Me, if you love Me, keep my commandments.

My peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you, but not as the world gives I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, nor let them be afraid. Take the peace I leave with you.

If you love Me, if you love Me, if you love Me, keep my commandments. If you love Me, if you love me, if you love Me, keep my commandments, keep my commandments. If you love Me.

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

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*

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 Czekner

All: Giver of life, You are the source of all good things.

We entrust to you our gifts, That you would use them to
make all know That with you, they are beloved, whole,
and restored. Amen.

Receiving New Persons in Covenant Relationship and Welcome

Bruce and Karen Laudenslager, Jeffrey Purdon,
Bill and Beverly Rumble, Todd Cocivera, Amanda Stettler

One: Let us, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ,
Fullerton, express our welcome and affirm our mutual
ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this
church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we
share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.
By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow
together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of
our risen Savior.

We Serve

Closing Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians
All Verses

found on page 9 of the bulletin

The Benediction

Rev. Davis

*Postlude

Fanfare in G
John S. Dixon

*The Benediction and Postlude send us out to be the people of God in our community.
When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship is concluded and
our service in the world continues*

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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 – May 11 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Onsite – 106 Online - 15

5th Sunday of Easter, May 18

Lectionary Readings

Acts 11:1-18 and Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6 and John 13:31-35

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Aiden Hannis

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Acolyte: Aiden Hannis

Ushers: Marion DeMilio & Karen Stoitsits

Greeter: Williams Family

Altar Guild: Linda Apple

Social Hour: OPEN

They'll Know We Are Christians 595

Unison

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
 And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes (1938-); para. John 13:35

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6th Sunday of Easter, May 25
(Outdoor Worship at the Pavilion)
Lectionary Readings

Acts 16:9-15 and Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 and John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner	Scripture Reader: Barbara Menges
Worship Tech – Bill Castello	Acolyte: Open
Ushers: Wayne Litchenberger	Greeter: Carole O’Connell
Social Hour: Consistory	

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Kate Asbill, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Diana Beck, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, 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, Gail Hanzl, Donna Held, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, Bob Lopez, Judy Luckenbill, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Bobby Sherman, Madeline Slivka, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, 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.

SONGS WE LIKE TO SING!

From now through **June 2nd** please share the title of a hymn you like to sing for our “Music Sunday” on June 15th! There are sheets for your favorites to be noted on the back table in the Parlor. Share your favorites and return to Patrick or email at Music@sjuccf.org

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 May, 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.

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 20.**

REQUESTING DONATIONS FOR OUR "BASKET SOCIAL & BAKE SALE"

It's not too early for us to receive filled basket donations for our Basket Social on May 31 and June 1. Gift cards or gift certificates to restaurants and businesses as well as any monetary donations are always welcome. If you feel you are not talented enough to make a basket, bring your items to church, and we'll make a basket for you. Re-gifting items are also accepted for anything you received as a gift but will never use or wear. Empty baskets are available if you need one. Donations of baked goods are also requested. See Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

PEOPLE NEEDED TO SERVE ON “FUN-RAISING” COMMITTEE

Help is needed for anyone interested in serving on St. John’s “Fun-Raising” Committee. If you have thoughts on ways to raise money for the church, ideas for new fundraisers, suggestions for current fundraisers, we need you to consider becoming part of this committee. For more information, contact any committee member listed in the church newsletter.

OCEAN CITY BUS TRIP

Would you like to join us for our annual bus trip to Ocean City, NJ, on June 28th? We leave at 7:00 am and leave Ocean City at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$50. Money for the bus trip is due to Brian Fisher or the office by May 28th.

GENERAL SYNOD EXPENSE – Special Offerings

This year, the PNEC has selected both Rev. Steve Davis and Tyler Shankweiler to represent our conference at the national level of our global denomination, July 11-15, in Kansas City, Missouri. The PNEC will reimburse travel, food and General Synod expenses by 50% for all delegates. To help offset the expense for Pastor Steve and Tyler, for the communion Sundays of May, June and July, we will have a special offering plate and envelopes available for your donations. Contributions may also be made online or shared any Sunday, noting General Synod Expense. Thank you for your generosity and support.

GRADUATES

St. John’s wants to honor ALL our graduates on June 8. Please share the names of High School and College grads and any others receiving degrees so we may celebrate them.

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjuccf.org
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Custodian	Christina Bach iron1@verizon.net
Custodian	Eric McWilliams ericmcwill1@hotmail.com

CHURCH CALENDAR

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 18 – MAY 25

Sun 5/18	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship – Welcome New Members
	10:30 am	Sunday Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation Rehearsal
	1:00 pm	Friendship Class luncheon at Deutsch Eck
Mon 5/19	6:00 pm	“Fun-Raising” Committee
Tues 5/20	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed 5/21	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 5/22	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:30 pm	Property
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 5/24	9:30 am	Zumba
		End of Walking Challenge
Sun 5/25	9:30 am	Worship at Pavilion
	10:30 am	Sunday Social Hour
	6:35 pm	IronPigs Party Porch