

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



We Are Witnesses

EASTER SEASON WORSHIP SERIES



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

**May 5, 2024
6th Sunday of Easter
9:30am**

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!

*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

Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith
 - Basket Social – Drawing at noon today!
 - Mother's Day – May 12
 - Pentecost Sunday / Confirmation Sunday – May 19
- Wear something red, orange or yellow for the Spirit's fire!

***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

The Road Home

James Michael Stevens

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: O Divine Voice,

All: You sing, and the universe comes into being;

One: O Divine Breath,

All: You breathe, and all things spring to life;

One: O Divine Word,

All: You call, and creation is sustained;

One: O Divine Flesh,

All: You are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in creation.

One: O Divine Spirit,

All: You fill all that has been formed;

One: O Divine Life,

All: You are the pulse of all that is. And so, in amazement and awe, we join with creation in the eternal song of worship and wonder.

***Opening Hymn**

O Come to Me, the Master Said

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness.

All: Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: The commandment that we have from Christ Jesus is that we love one another, treating each other as beloved brothers and sisters. Abide in God's eternal love.

All: May its power and joy enter our hearts and spirits anew, preparing us for new growth in the Spirit. Amen.

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)

KINGSFOLD
 C.M.D.

Words © 1988 Hope Publishing Company

Hymn

Touch that Soothes and Heals

Verses 3 and 4

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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Music © 2008 Re-Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

Scripture Reading:

John 15:9-17

Read By: Sharon Antrim

**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.**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith

“We Are Witnesses: Friends Together”

Remain in My Love

Anthem

If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments

Lloyd Larson

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

Sung Response

Peace I Leave With You My Friends

Ray Repp

$\text{♩} = 100$

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 oth - ers too.

18

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

Rev. Dr. Beckwith

One: Jesus met his disciples—women and men, young and old—
and invited them into his new life. That new life begins, as
any life begins, with water and bread.

**All: At this table, we receive the bread of new life. At this
table, we are called together from many individuals into
one body.**

One: At this table, we are strengthened to go answer Christ’s call.

**All: All of us, no matter who we are, or what we have done,
or where we are on life’s journey, are welcome at this
table. The risen Christ is the host, and he bids us come
and celebrate the feast, to know the power of
resurrection, the joy of heaven, the glory of God’s grace.**

Words of Consecration

Rev. Davis

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

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Refrain, Verse 1, Refrain, Verse 2, Refrain as element of bread is received.

Refrain, Verse 3, Refrain, Verse 4, Refrain as element of wine is received.

Refrain, Verse 5, Refrain, as elements are returned.

found on page 7 of the bulletin

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

All: Amen

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

All: Amen

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart 705

Refrain (Unison)

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat;

come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
 2 With joy-ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat-i-tude,
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
 4 The mys-tery of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor-tal tongue can tell:
 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self-less let us be,

to Refrain

so when you call your fam-ily, Lord, we fol-low and re-joice.
 that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav-en-ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de-clare our one-ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can-not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth-er in your name in truth and char-i-ty.

WORDS: Omer Westendorf (1916-1998)

MUSIC: Robert E. Kreutz (1922-1996)

Words and Music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

FINEST WHEAT

C.M.Ref.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

All: Eternal God, you have called your people from east, west, north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ. 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 joy, we offer our gifts this day, as we reflect on the wisdom of your Word. We are urged to hold onto Jesus, to stay connected to his example, presence, and the fulfillment he brings. Help us abide in him through obeying his commandment to love one another. Through our acts of service, healing, and selfless generosity, may our joy be sustained. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn**

They'll Know We Are Christians
Verses 1, 2, and 3

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Beckwith

***Postlude**

Give Thanks Unto God
Arr. by Michael Ryan
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

Altar Flowers

One vase is sponsored in memory of Albert D'Argenio
by his daughter, Karen Stoitsits, and family

One vase is sponsored in honor of my parents, Alfred and Bernetta
Eichman's anniversary, by Ron Eichman

Bulletins

The bulletins are sponsored by Paul and Carol Raszler in celebration
of the birthdays of sons Josef and Michael

Attendance – April 28

Onsite – 75 Online - 25

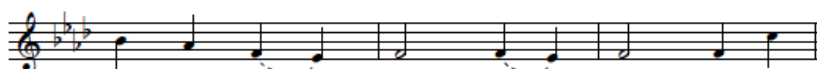
They'll Know We Are Christians



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from



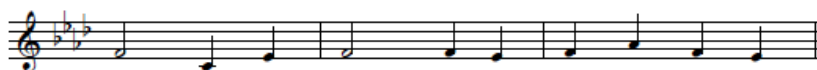
one in the Lord, We are one in the
walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
work side by side, We will work with each
whom all things come, And all praise to Christ



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll
Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all



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



stored:
land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
pride:
one:



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.

Text: Peter Scholtes, b.1938
Tune: ST. BRENDAN'S, 7 6 7 6 8 6 with refrain; Peter Scholtes, b.1938
© 1966, F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991

Serving in Worship Leadership

May 5

6th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist – Robin Brensinger Scripture Reader – Sharon Antrim
Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan Social Hour – Lady Peeps
Ushers – Sharon Antrim, Wendy Fox, Michelle Gutekunst, Wayne
Lichtenwalner, DonnaLee Yeatts

May 12

7th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist – Sharon Czekner Scripture Reader – Barbara Seeds
Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan Social Hour - Open
Ushers – Sharon Antrim and Marion DeMilio

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, Rick Borgman, 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.

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.

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 the month of May we are collecting macaroni and cheese, canned corn, canned meats, peanut butter, pancake mix and pancake 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. For more information, contact Gary Black at gary.t.black@outlook.com (484) 274-2405.

WAYS TO SUPPORT ST. JOHN'S

It's a simple thing to do! Buy **Giant and Weis gift cards** and the church received 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 or Carol Raszler every Sunday. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area.

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.

“STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH” OFFERING

A special offering will be taken for UCC National's "Strengthen the Church" on Sunday, May 19, and for the entire month of May. Your contribution will support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives to existing congregations. You will find inserts and offering envelopes in the May newsletter and in the bulletin. Donations can also be made online or by text.

WATER GATHERING

Water bottles are available for you to take along on vacation to collect water from your travels, and then bring the water back with your name and the location. In the Fall we will combine all the water and purify it to use for the coming year.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

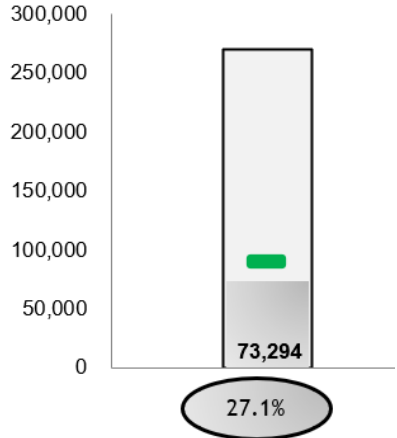
YTD OFFERINGS

APRIL 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	90,000.00
Overall Total	73,294.39
Overall Percent	27.1%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



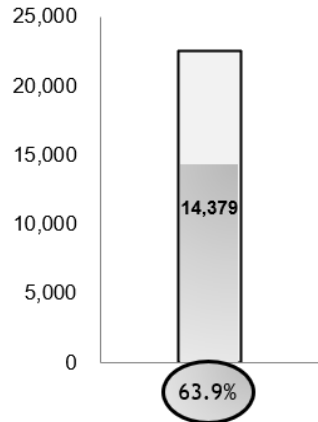
MONTHLY OFFERINGS

APRIL 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	14,378.78
Overall Percent	63.9%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



Last Week	
Start:	4/27/24
End:	5/3/24
Total:	2,412.00

<i>Amt needed to reach Target</i>	
APRIL 2024	8,121.22

Furnace loan balance = \$693.35

Church Calendar for the Week of May 5 through May 12

Sun 5/5	8:00-11:30	Basket Social
	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation, parents and mentors
Tues 5/7	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
	6:30 pm	VBS meeting
Wed 5/8	9:00 am	Verso Chat
		Grove Street Give Back Night
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 5/9	6:30 pm	Mission Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 5/11	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 5/12		Mother's Day
	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
		Newsletter deadline

OUR STAFF

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