

**ROBIN
BREMSINGER**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

A monthly update from the people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton

Volume 19 • Issue 164 • May 2026

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On The Cover...



ROBIN BRENSINGER

Hi, my name is Robin Brensinger. I am married to Don Brensinger for 35 years. We have two boys. Our oldest, Donnie is a teacher and Bryan is a Biomedical engineer. I have two beautiful daughter in laws, Clarissa and Lydia. My family is the most important thing in my life. In my free time I like to learn about Jesus, listen to Christian music and walk.

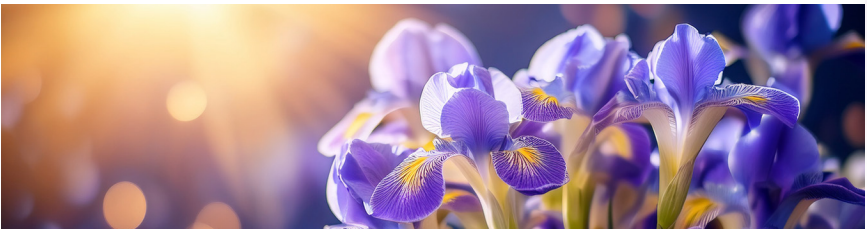
In 1979, my family joined St. Johns. I was 12 years old. I was confirmed, had my first Holy Communion and was married by

Pastor Fox. Both our boys were baptized at St. Johns and Donnie was married there. I am currently on Consistory, I give communion to three wonderful shut ins who have become good friends. I love being the liturgist and scripture reader or ushering. On Wednesday, I participate in Verso Chat. It is a great way to learn about the scriptures with Pastor Steve. I would like to volunteer more at the church and learn about our all loving God.

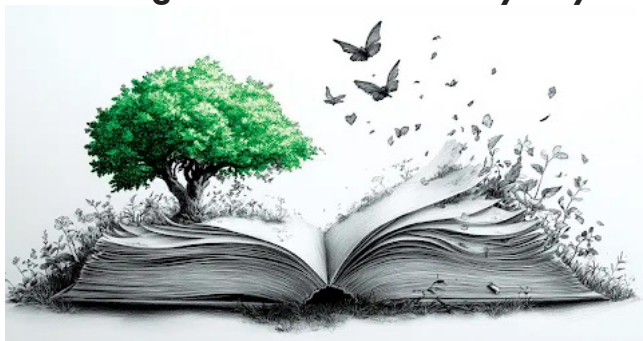
Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries

We congratulate the following pastors who will celebrate the anniversaries of their ordinations in May:

Rev. Janet Boyd	43rd Anniversary of Ordination	5/1/83
Rev. Steve Davis	34th Anniversary of Ordination	5/26/92
Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates	21st Anniversary of Ordination	5/29/05



What's Your Story? Sharing our Easter Faith Every Day!



There's a quiet truth woven through our lives of faith: we are shaped by the stories we hear and by the stories we dare to tell. As Vanessa Boris and Lani Peterson of the Harvard Business School observe, "Storytelling forges connections among people, and between people and ideas... the stories we hold in common are an important part of the ties that bind." We know this instinctively. Long before we could explain our beliefs, we experienced them through story, through a grandparent's quiet faith, a Sunday School lesson that lingered, a hymn that carried us through grief, or a moment when God felt unmistakably near. Tell Me the Stories of Jesus or I Love to Tell the Story come to mind for me.

Stories carry more than information. They carry meaning. They create space for us to enter in, to recognize ourselves, and to be changed. Scripture itself reminds us that our faith is rooted in story. At the close of John's Gospel, we read that the witness of Jesus' life is only a glimpse:

"There are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down... the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:24–25).

The story of Jesus is abundant, overflowing and still unfolding in and through us today.

Jesus understood the power of story. He taught in parables not to simplify truth, but to deepen it, to invite listeners into reflection, into relationship, into transformation. And he stood within a tradition that remembered: a people shaped by stories of liberation, covenant, failure, and hope.

We are no different. Each of us carries stories that have formed our faith, stories of belonging and doubt, of clarity and confusion, of love that held us and love that challenged us. Some of those stories are beautiful and life-giving. Others are harder to face. In recent years, many of us have begun to uncover stories we were never told, stories of injustice, harm, and exclusion woven into our shared history. These, too, are part of the truth. And if we are to grow as people of faith, we must be willing to listen, to learn, and to allow those stories to shape us toward greater community, compassion and justice.

Here at St. John's, we are part of an ongoing story, one that began long before us and will continue long after us. It is a living story, still being written in the choices we make, the welcome we extend, and the love we embody. It is worth pausing to consider how remarkable that story is becoming. Those who founded this congregation 124 years ago may not have imagined the community we are today: a place striving to welcome and affirm people of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, family structure, ability, and background. And yet, here we are, seeking to live more fully into the expansive, still speaking love of God.

We know, too, that the world around us is often divided. It has been said that Sunday morning remains one of the most segregated hours in our nation. That reality should stir something in us, not guilt alone, but a deeper resolve and commitment to be a people of reconciliation. The story we are called to tell is different. Jesus tells us we must be one in order for the world to be changed.

When we say, "We Worship, We Love, We Serve — No Matter What!" it is not simply a slogan. It is a commitment to a way of life shaped by the story of Jesus, a story where love crosses boundaries, where dignity is restored, where the outsider and stranger are welcomed, and where justice and mercy walk hand in hand.

Telling our story, honestly and courageously, even when it's not pretty, helps us find both our common ground and our growing edges. It reminds us that love is not passive. Love speaks. Love listens. Love resists injustice. Love seeks understanding. Love acts.

And so, in this Easter season, a season of new life and ongoing transformation, we are invited again to be storytellers. To remember the stories that grounded us. To share the stories that are shaping us. To listen for the stories we have yet to understand. And to live in such a way that our lives themselves become a story of grace. Because our story matters. Who we are together matters. How we gather at the Table matters. How we show up in the world matters.

May we continue to tell stories that connect, that heal, and that inspire. And may we become, more and more, a community that reflects the kingdom of God, not just in what we say, but in how we live.

**"We Worship, We Love
and We Serve
~ No Matter What!"**

Yours in grace and hope,

Steve Davis

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



Faith Formation & Worship Celebrations!

Stories That Matter



Stories That Matter

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, is a time of embracing the promise and hope of Resurrection. It is a time of leaning into the stories that matter. Come and gather around the stories of those who wrestled with the Easter event and some of the words of preparation that Jesus gave to help us live the reality of eternity now. This season, we hope you'll engage and join us in Stories That Matter.

Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) Confirmation Class

Our Confirmation collaboration with UCC Greenawalds and Grace UCC, Allentown, has now completed four months of activities. Please pray for the 11 people going through our G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Confirmation Class from the 3 congregations. Pray for our confirmand, Ryan Szoke. The class meets for lessons on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6:00–7:30pm, in May at UCC Greenawalds.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Here are some things you can take part in to grow in faith and celebrate God's presence:

Verso-Chat Lectionary Study
Wednesdays at 9am on Zoom

Friendship Class
Sundays at 8:15am, a time for adult study and sharing

We LOVE ~ Our Continuing Generosity

We've all been experiencing the wild ride of being a global community. What happens in one part of the world has increasing impact to us, and it affects almost every aspect of our lives. We know you have been feeling the financial pinch, and our contributions have reflected both the concern and hesitation, as well as the hopefulness and abundance of who we are as people of faith.

Sue Weldner, our Treasurer, shared the ups and downs of our finances in the first quarter. Our expenses have been in line with our budget, and you have responded with generosity to deal with the winter overage for snow removal. **THANK YOU!** April was a good month, with Easter, and with the quarterly proceeds from our endowment. That's helpful and the forecast for April looks encouraging.

What is of continuing concern is the months of May, June, July and August, when our routines and travels often significantly interrupt the consistency of people's generosity. The Stewardship and Finance Committee as well as our Consistory urge the congregation to sign up to be recurring automatic contributors so the church's income doesn't struggle and our reserve funds are not depleted over the summer months. Our ministry does not slow down during the summer. We have a full schedule of activities, even with changing routines. Please consider becoming an automatic contributor before we reach June.

As a reminder, the generous estate gift from Adriane Kiesbar last November makes it possible for us to address many longstanding building needs and updates for our facilities and worship capabilities. There are some who have decreased their regular financial support thinking the church has more than enough money for our budget. That is not accurate. This hurts St. John's ministry. **The estate gift is NOT being used to supplement our operating income.** The congregation has approved the use of those funds toward infrastructure needs (flooring replacement and elevator modernization) which we would otherwise have delayed until sufficient funds were raised for each project, potentially taking several more years.

Our ministries continue to work within our budgets or with less where possible, doing their best to function with limited resources. The primary cost areas are in our staff and in the building operational support. We need EVERY person to do their part to support and sustain our ministry with our shared resources.

When we share the need for "Automatic Contributors," we share a way to weather the ups and downs of participation and presence with consistent giving. For those who are not currently signed up to be an "Automatic Contributor," please prayerfully consider doing so. It's easy, secure, and vital to our operational sustainability.

Music at St. John's

How crazy is it to think that this August will mark four years of having the privilege to serve this wonderful church community as your Director of Music. In those soon to be four years we have seen both the handbells and choir blossom into a ministry that enhances and beautifies our weekly services. We have seen the choir grow from 15 members to 25, have had outside instrumentalists come in to share their talent, and overall grown in the hymns and responses we have learned.

Beginning this June, a new opportunity will be added to our sponsorship form that allows members of the congregation to play a more direct and meaningful role in supporting our music ministry. Individuals and families will now have the opportunity to sponsor either a choral or handbell piece to be presented during the 2026/2027 choral season. This offering offers a unique way to honor a loved one, celebrate a meaningful occasion, or simply contribute to the continued growth of our worship life through music.

While the music budget and music ministry restricted funds have helped develop and shape the program into what it is today, it is only through the congregation's continued support and appreciation of the program that we can continue to grow and enhance our weekly services. Your involvement ensures that we can bring in new, inspiring repertoire, expand our musical offerings, and maintain the level of excellence that has become a hallmark of our ministry.

Sponsoring a choral piece will be \$65.00, which will help offset the cost of music as it continues to rise in price. Each sponsored piece becomes part of the fabric of our worship, enriching not only a single service but the spiritual life of our entire congregation.

We invite you to prayerfully consider taking part in this new initiative. Together, through our shared support, we can ensure that our music ministry continues to flourish - lifting hearts, deepening worship, and proclaiming the joy of the Gospel.

Help our music ministry continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Musically Yours,
Patrick Sandt



**God in
Three Persons**

A HYMN FESTIVAL CONCERT

Sunday, May 31 at 5:30pm

St. John's UCC, Fullerton Music Ministry
welcomes ALL for our first-ever hymn festival concert:
An evening of scripture, prayer and music
celebrating *The Holy Trinity*.

Light refreshments to follow in Fox Hall.

*A free-will offering will be received
in support of the Music Ministry.*



 **St. John's**
UCC, FULLERTON

575 Grape-Street ~ Whitehall, PA 18052
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org
(610) 264-8421 

Upcoming Events for the Music Ministry

May 31: Hymn Festival Concert celebrating the Trinity - 5:30pm

July 26: Music concert presented by Jerusalem Singers - 7pm

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Easter Season to Pentecost and Trinity Sunday

The post-resurrection stories make it clear that Jesus wanted to equip us to thrive in a season of Easter promise. *Stories That Matter* will welcome us to experience the hope and new life of living as Easter people every day.

Stories That Matter! Worship Series began April 12

APRIL 26, FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Stories That Matter: Knowing That Voice

Sermon Scripture Text: John 10-1-10

Like sheep, we learn to recognize the Shepherd's voice together. Worship this week focuses on discernment as a communal practice and listening for Christ's call to abundant life.



MAY 3, FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Stories That Matter: You Know the Way

Sermon Scripture Text: John 14:15-21

Jesus declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." This service invites us to unite belief with holy living, exploring how faith shapes our daily choices and communal witness.



MAY 10, SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

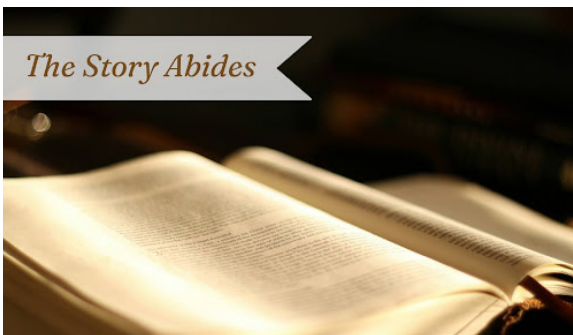
MOTHER'S DAY / CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Lectionary Readings: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Stories That Matter: The Story Abides

Sermon Scripture Text: John 14:15-21

The Spirit abides in us, preserving and weaving our shared story as the body of Christ. Worship this week celebrates testimony, memory, and the ongoing narrative of God's love in our community.



**MAY 17, SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
HONORING OUR GRADUATES**

*Lectionary Readings: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11*

Stories That Matter: So That They May Be One

Sermon Scripture Text: John 17:1-11

Jesus prays for our unity and glorification in him. This service invites creative engagement with what it means to live as answers to Christ's prayer for oneness in the world.



**MAY 24, PENTECOST SUNDAY
WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

*Lectionary Readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30;
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21;
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39*

Stories That Matter: Living the Sequel

Sermon Scripture Text: Luke 24:44-53 & Acts 2:1-21

Ascension marks the completion of Christ's work and the beginning of ours on the Day of Pentecost. This service frames worship as blessing-receiving Christ's promise and responding with praise and mission to bring Christ's Spirit to all people. prayer for oneness in the world.



MAY 31, TRINITY SUNDAY

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 8;
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

Living in the Community of the Trinity

Sermon Scripture Text: Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus prays for our unity and glorification in him. This service invites creative engagement with what it means to live as answers to Christ's prayer for oneness in the world.



Bus Trip to Sight & Sound: "Joshua"

June 3, 2026

We scheduled a Bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater to see their new production of "Joshua", on Wednesday, June 3. The Bus leaves St. John's at 8am, for the 11am show.

This trip is SOLD OUT! But, we are looking for people to be on the wait list in case someone cannot make it that day.

Cost of trip, which includes chartered Perkioman bus, downstairs tickets for performance, and then a lunch buffet at Yoder's restaurant in nearby New Holland, is \$150 per person.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wrapped in Love, Warmed in Prayer



As you enter worship, you may notice the Prayer Shawls near the elevator and coat room, and sometimes in the back pew when they are being shared for someone in need. Simple in appearance, they carry the prayers and care of our community.

This renewed ministry at St. John's is a quiet yet powerful expression of compassion. Each shawl and prayer square, lovingly knit or crocheted, becomes a tangible reminder: you are held, you are remembered, you are not alone. Shared in times of illness, grief, or transition, they offer warmth in every sense of the word.

We are grateful for Connie Viglione, Emilie Moyer, Nancy Weaver, Donna Held, and many others whose faithful hands and

hearts make this ministry possible. Before they are delivered, shawls are placed near the offering plates so the congregation can bless them, surrounding each one with collective prayer.

How You Can Participate...

Know someone in need?

Contact the church office to request a shawl.

Want to help create?

Whether you knit, crochet, quilt, or want to learn, you are warmly invited to join.

Everyone can participate!

Simply pause, notice,
and offer a prayer as you enter worship.

Together, we share in this ministry of comfort, care, and love.

The Keystone Connection



Keystone

CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Take a moment to explore the many meaningful and energizing opportunities unfolding as we live into our shared identity as the Keystone Conference of the UCC—a unified commonwealth of congregations. Across our region, clergy and congregations are finding new ways to deepen faith, strengthen community, and share hope together at the table of God’s love in Christ.

Each week, the Keystone Connection continues a familiar rhythm much like what was offered through the former PNEC- while expanding its reach and impact. You’ll find updates on continuing education, leadership development, congregational support, and important news from around the conference. It’s a simple way to stay connected and engaged with what’s happening beyond your local setting.

Take a look today! Visit the website to explore more:



<https://keystoneucc.org>

Use the QR code to receive the weekly email and stay informed!



Do Not Miss - the May gathering of Lady PEEPS... May 19 in Fox Hall at 7pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Regina Mohr at (610) 390-0872 for further details.

The Keystone Conference Inaugural Annual Meeting

June 5-7, 2026 Millersville University

The Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ's first Annual Meeting will be held June 5-7 at Millersville University in Millersville. Overnight accommodations will be on campus as well as the DoubleTree Hilton in Lancaster. Registration is now open for on site and online participation!

Our theme is "Joy at the Table Together" and our centering scripture is Acts 2:46-47 "Every day they met together, breaking bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God." The meeting will include a Service of Consecration for Keystone Conference.

Speakers will include:

- **Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee**

-author of Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship for Unforgettable Messages

- **Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson**

-General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ

- **Rev. Dr. Mary Luti**

-author of Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living

- **Rev. Greg Edwards**

-Executive Director of POWER Interfaith, Secretary Russell Redding, PA Secretary of Agriculture

- **Rev. Freeman Palmer**

-Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference

Would you like to be a delegate for St. John's? We have 3 spots for delegates to represent St. John's, 2 adults and 1 youth/young adult. St. John's has other retired clergy who also often attend and help represent our growing and affirming ministry.

Contact Pastor Steve if you have any questions and are interested in participating.



Use the QR code to register for the conference.

Walking Challenge Update

The 2026 St. John's Walking Challenge runs (see what we did there?) April 26 through May 23. Contact Sharon Antrim via email or phone. Thank you!

Sharon Antrim - Healthcare Ministry
sharonantrim@yahoo.com
(610) 216-6207



Flag Day BINGO!

Save the date -
our next gathering
for BINGO is
Friday, June 12!



Applebee's Burger Cards - only 3 left!

Get 'em before they're gone. The card is good for any burger on Applebee's menu. Many of their burgers cost up to \$17, but with the card will cost you only \$10. The cards never expire, and are good at any Applebee's in our area.



See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler. Thank you!

A Word from Our Crafters

Thank you to everyone who purchased items from our crafters group "Keeping You in Stitches" at the Easter & Spring Craft Sale in March. We were able to turn in \$137.10 to St. John's.

If you like to sew, we continue to ask for help in sewing our table runners, baby bibs, bowl cozies, and other craft items.

Our crafts can be purchased at any time during the year by simply contacting Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or by emailing crazzler@aol.com.

Pie Sale Coming Soon

Church member Andie Dallago has generously offered to make her delicious homemade pies as a fundraiser here at St. John's. We are offering Whipped Coconut Cream Pie (\$12) and Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie (\$14). These pies also freeze well. An order form is included in this newsletter and can also be found on the church's website or on the table in the lounge area. Only a total of 50 pies will be made and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

The deadline for orders and payment is Sunday, May 31.

You can give your order and payment (checks payable to St. John's) to Carol Raszler any Sunday morning or mail it to the church office. Pickup times are Friday, June 19, from 6pm to 8pm or Sunday, June 21, after worship in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, contact Carol at (610) 393-7572 or email at craszler@aol.com



Use the QR code to reach the order form or:
<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/forms>



May

3	4	5	6
8:15am Friendship Bible Class 8:00am Basket Social 9:30am Sunday Worship 9:30am Faith Formation 10:30am Social Hour		9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Stewardship and Finance - Zoom 7:00pm Consistory - Zoom	9:00am Verso Chat w/ 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recover
10	11	12	13
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:15am Friendship Bible Class 9:30am Sunday Worship 9:30am Faith Formation 10:30am Social Hour		1:00pm Staff Meeting	9:00am Verso Chat w/ 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recover
17	18	19	20
8:15am Friendship Bible Class 9:30am Sunday Worship 9:30am Faith Formation 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am New Members Class	6:00pm Fun-Raising Committee 7:00pm New Members Class	9:00am Newsletter collating 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm PEEPS	9:30am Preschool gra 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Painting Gro 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recovery
24	25	26	27
8:15am Friendship Bible Class 9:30am Pentecost Sunday Worship 9:30am Faith Formation 7:00pm IronPigs Party Porch 10:30am Social Hour	MEMORIAL DAY-OFFICE CLOSED 5:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Food Pantry	9:30am Staff Meeting	9:00am Verso Chat w/ 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recover
31			
8:15am Friendship Bible Class 9:30am Trinity Sunday Worship 9:30am Faith Formation 1:00pm Friendship Class luncheon 5:30pm Hymns to the Trinity Festival Concert			



		1	2
		BASKET SOCIAL SET UP 5:00pm St. George School	8:30am Men's Breakfast Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:00am Basket Social
	7	8	9
With Pastor Steve Zoom Group Group Room 301 Group Room 301	9:30am Visitation Committee 6:30pm Choir	5:00pm St. George School	9:30am Zumba
	14	15	16
With Pastor Steve Zoom Group Group Room 301 Group Room 301	6:30pm Choir	PRESCHOOL FAMILY DAY 5:00pm St. George School	9:30am Zumba
	21	22	23
Education Group Group Room 301 Group Room 301	6:30pm Choir	5:00pm St. George School	9:30am Zumba
	28	29	30
With Pastor Steve Zoom Group Group Room 301 Group Room 301	6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Property	5:00pm St. George School	9:30am Zumba

Deadline for June Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the June newsletter, please email newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, May 10.

If you have photos to accompany your story, please attach them to your email. Comments and suggestions are always welcome! [Style guide recommendations here](#)

**You Won't Believe What You'll Find
at St. John's Basket Social & Bake Sale!**

Saturday, May 2 – 9am to 2pm
Sunday, May 3 – before and after worship
Drawing at 11:30am on Sunday in Fox Hall
A Sheet of 26 Tickets Cost \$5.00

Imagine finding 100 baskets and gift cards from restaurants and stores, an assortment of wines, books, toys and games, and items made by our St. John's crafters "Keeping You in Stitches."

Then, if you're looking for baskets with special themes, we have basket assortments of music & theater opportunities; Vera Bradley purses; baking supplies and groceries; baby items and children's activities; gardening and bird feeding accessories; Longaberger baskets; bath and beauty items; and various holiday decors. You might enjoy finding baskets from the hardware store, car care items, and Eagles, Steelers, and Penn State merchandise.

If you're a collector, we have baskets with snowmen, gnomes, angels, and Disney furnishings. The list is endless, and you don't want to miss it!

There will be a variety of baked goods available for sale on both days. Some of the goodies will include Moravian cakes, funny cakes, cut-out cookies, wet bottom shoofly pies, confetti angel food cakes, and much more.

We ask you to bring your basket donation to the church no later than Sunday, April 26, and your baked goods by Friday, May 1 before 8pm

If you have any questions or would like to donate a basket, gift card, or baked goods, please contact:

Amy Feidler (835) 210-5944 alfeidler@gmail.com

Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 craszler@aol.com



St. John's
UCC, FULLERTON

BASKET SOCIAL & BAKE SALE



BASKETS GALORE!

MAY 2 - MAY 3

26 TICKETS for \$5

TICKETS DRAWN 11:30am - MAY 3

St John's UCC-Fullerton

575 Grape St (610) 264-8421

SATURDAY 5/2 9am-2pm | SUNDAY 5/3 BEFORE & AFTER 9:30am WORSHIP

VBS plans are underway!

Get ready for an exciting summer adventure! Our upcoming Vacation Bible School, Rome: Paul and the Underground Church, will take place July 26-30. Kids will step back in time to explore the world of the early church, learn about Paul's journey, and discover how faith grew even in challenging times.

Registration information will be coming soon, so keep an eye out for details! We're also looking for volunteers to help make this program a success. Sign up using the link below, or you can reach out directly to Sam, DonnaLee, or Pastor Steve if you're interested in helping.

We can't wait to learn, grow, and have fun together this summer!



Use the QR code to link to our registration page for VBS-2026!

Baseball Anyone?

Join St. John's at Coca-Cola Park

Nothing says spring like a night at the ballpark. The IronPigs are back, and we've got two chances to go together this season—each with its own vibe. Take a look and pick your favorite - or both!

The Memorial Day Weekend Celebration

Sunday, May 24 | First Pitch: 6:30pm

Join us for our annual tradition on the IronPigs Party Porch the night before Memorial Day. For \$40 per person (the same price as last year!), you'll enjoy:

- An outstanding buffet picnic dinner.
- Unlimited soft drinks and water.
- Great seats to watch the IronPigs vs Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.
- A spectacular Memorial Day fireworks display following the game.



To secure your spot for the Party Porch, please make your reservations and payment with Tom Moyer.

Let's Play Ball

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand at Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders baseball game.

Game day is Tuesday, August 11, at 6:45pm. Cost is \$14.00 per person, which includes a ticket to the game and a \$2.00 ballpark credit. It's Dollar Dog Night – hotdogs are \$1.00 all night long!

For reservations, see Carol Raszler. Payment must accompany reservation with check payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, June 21. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com

Men's Breakfast Group



The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on May 2 at 8:30am. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, you can contact Pastor Steve.

"SaveAround Lehigh Valley" 2026 Books

Savings for a Whole Year

These coupon books contain hundreds of buy one get one free, 50% off, plus many more discount offers, and include a 12-month



Savings App with over 400,000 of additional local and national offers... save on the go. It features the most popular merchants locally.

Whether you are shopping for restaurants (dining and fast food), food, clothing, sporting goods, fun and recreation activities, reliable services, hotels, or car rentals, the SaveAround coupons make life more affordable and help St. John's raise funds for the church. A sample copy for you to view can be found on the table in the lounge area.

The cost of the coupon book is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to St. John's. When you receive your book, be sure to read the book's front cover to register your App for thousands of additional local and national savings on your phone. Books can be purchased through the church office or see Carol Raszler any Sunday before or after worship.

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. You also get gas discounts at both stores. Gift cards can be purchased through the church office or by seeing Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler every Sunday morning before or after worship.

For every Redner's tape collected, the church receives 1% back. 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. Thank you to Karen Stoitsits for tallying the Redner's receipts in March, which amounted to \$5,046,07 and for Redner's sending us a check for \$50.47.

It's a simple way to give financially to the church. Think of St. John's every time you go grocery shopping.



Gift Cards

Receipts

Grocery Shopping = Giving Back to St. John's

Buy Giant and Weis Gift Cards from St. John's

Save your Redner's Tape

➔ You spend the full value. The church receives a percentage.

➔ Redner's donates 1% of your total back to St. John's!

Every receipt counts. Every grocery trip helps.



Making Faith Connections Together

Would you like to make St. John's your faith home by becoming part of this covenant community? Pastor Steve leads a class to learn more about St. John's, the United Church of Christ, and how we become members in the faith family, with strong, loving connections.

Gather in faith and fellowship

Gain understanding and relationships

Give in time, talent and treasure

Grow through acts of compassion and service

GO! Sharing our life and love, grace and hope!



Use the QR code to watch the video.

This 5G Connection class is offered three times a year for new persons to be received into full connection (membership) at St. John's. On site and online sessions with Pastor Steve are your opportunity to further your connection with the church. Discover how to create a meaningful 5G Connection with others at St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

Our next 5G Connection class for those interested in uniting with us and making St. John's your official faith home will take place in May with people being received May 24, Pentecost Sunday!

To accommodate busy schedules, we ask participants to attend two of the four session opportunities to be received on May 24.

Class dates will be:

Sunday, May 10 at 11am

Monday, May 11 at 7pm (Zoom)

Sunday, May 17 at 11am

Monday, May 18 at 7pm (Zoom)

Let Pastor Steve know if you'd like more information, or contact the church office.

THANK YOU

Thank you to so many of you for the cards, phone calls, text messages and emails after my husband, Bill, passed away. It's been a very difficult time for me the past three months. Knowing you care has given me so much comfort you can't imagine. Thank you from my heart.

Sharon Antrim



Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Phyllis Ambearle
 Anita Beil
 Sherry Castello
 Shirley Downing
 Milton Focht
 Sally Gibson

Tracey Glass
 Lucille Hicks
 Geraldine Keim
 William Meckes
 Dale Millham
 Karen Moyer

Mary Jane Ott
 Helen Ryer
 Bert Smith
 Leona Snyder
 Nancy Weaver
 Bonnie Weikel

To protect privacy, please contact the church office for a listing with mailing addresses.



God Is Still Speaking!

Verso-Chat — Scripture and Conversation for Today

Wednesdays, 9am and Online Anytime!

There's something powerful about engaging in Scripture together, especially the lectionary texts that shape our worship each Sunday. Week by week, we step into the story, not as passive readers but as active participants, bringing our questions, our experiences, and our longing to hear what God might be saying now. And in that shared space, something meaningful unfolds: insight deepens, perspectives widen, and faith is strengthened in community.

This study isn't about having the "right" answers. It's about curiosity, honesty, and listening, both to one another and for God's still-speaking voice. Some join us in person on Wednesday mornings, while others connect later through the recording. However you participate, you are part of this unfolding conversation.

As we move through the seasons of the Christian year, the lectionary invites us into a living story, one that speaks of hope and light, compassion and calling, challenge and grace. Together, we explore how these ancient texts continue to shape how we live, serve, and grow as followers of Jesus in everyday life.

Whether you're new to Bible study or simply seeking a more reflective, conversational approach, there is a place for you here. Everyone is welcome!

Join us on Wednesday mornings or request the weekly recording—we're always glad to share the link. And if an evening option would help you connect, let Pastor Steve know. New possibilities are always unfolding.

Come listen. Come wonder. Come discover something new.

Verso-Chat awaits you. <https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



VERSO-CHAT

Upcoming “Fun-Raising” Events at St. John’s

Saturday, May 2 – Basket Social & Bake Sale – 9am to 2 pm in Fox Hall. Cost \$5 for 26 tickets. Tickets drawn on Sunday at 11:30am. See Amy or Carol.

Sunday, May 3 – Basket Social & Bake Sale – Before & after 9:30am worship in Fox Hall. Cost \$5 for 26 tickets. Tickets drawn at 11:30am. See Amy or Carol.

Sunday, May 24 – IronPigs Party Porch – 6:35pm at Coca Cola Park. \$40 includes ticket to game & meal. Fireworks. See Tom for reservations.

Wednesday, June 3 – Bus Trip to See "Joshua" – Leaves St. John's at 8am & returns 6pm-6:30pm. Cost \$150 Includes ticket to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, meal at Yoder's Restaurant, bus & tip for bus driver. **SOLD OUT!** Waiting list only.

Friday, June 12 – Flag Day Gift Card Bingo – Doors open at 6pm; game begins at 7pm. Tricky Tray. 50/50 raffle. Tickets available soon. See Tom.

Friday, June 19 (6pm to 8pm) & Sunday, June 21 (after worship) – Pie Sale pickup in Fox Hall. Only a total of 50 pies will be sold. Deadline to order Sunday, May 31. See Carol.

Tuesday, August 11 – IronPigs Grandstand – 6:45pm at Coca Cola Park. \$14 Includes ticket to game & \$2 ballpark credit. "Dollar Dog Night." See Carol for reservations.

Applebee’s “Burgers for a Cause” – \$10 coupon entitles you to a gourmet burger and French fries. Good at any location. No expiration date. See Tom.

Giant & Weis Gift Cards – Church gets 5% back. See Tom or Carol.

Redner’s Register Tapes – Church gets 1% back. See Karen.

Committee Contacts:

Amy Feidler, Chairperson (835) 210-5944

Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	Karen Stoitsits	(610) 262-0746
Pastor Steve Davis	(610) 264-8421	Lori Stocker	(610) 703-2666
Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134	Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119
Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372		

May Birthdays

If you have an upcoming birthday or notice an omission, please update the church office.

5/4 Nancy Bennett	5/17 Jennifer Rarich
5/6 Geraldine Falk	Lucille Schneck
5/8 Robin Brensinger	5/19 William Roth Sr.
Robert Czekner	5/20 Lori Fink
5/10 Bailee Neitz	5/21 Ricardo Venanzi
5/11 Craig Hanzl	Thomas Moyer
Robert Schlenker	5/23 Sherry Castello
Hunter Miller	Jamie Kulhamer
5/12 Rev. Steven Davis	5/24 Patti Skvoretz
5/13 Ryan Szoke	5/25 Sandra Glass
5/14 Fortress Chryst	5/27 Seth Bergeris-Cortright
Donald Brensinger	5/28 Teresa Schwenk
Lucas Williams	Janet Black
Josef Raszler	Jeffrey Purdon
5/15 Christine Reck	5/30 Danielle Powell
Nancy Dougherty	Judith Barron



May Wedding Anniversaries

If you have an upcoming anniversary or notice an omission, please update the church office.

5/2	5/22
Lee Ann & Robert Lopez	Ashley & Ricardo Venanzi
5/3	5/24
Craig & Lauren Schutts	Jesus & Staci Pagan
5/7	5/25
James & Janet Ebert	Jennifer & Eric Lord Rarich
5/8	5/25
Keith & Wendy Fox Jr.	Susan & John Weldner
5/12	5/25
Julia & Thomas Gross	Ernest & Candra Zellner Jr.
5/12	5/28
Karen & Frank Stoisits	Rev. Steven Davis & Bill Castello
5/17	5/30
George & Jill Williams	Lisa & Alan Weiner



5/18 — We remember Gary George with gratitude and hold Shirley in our prayers.

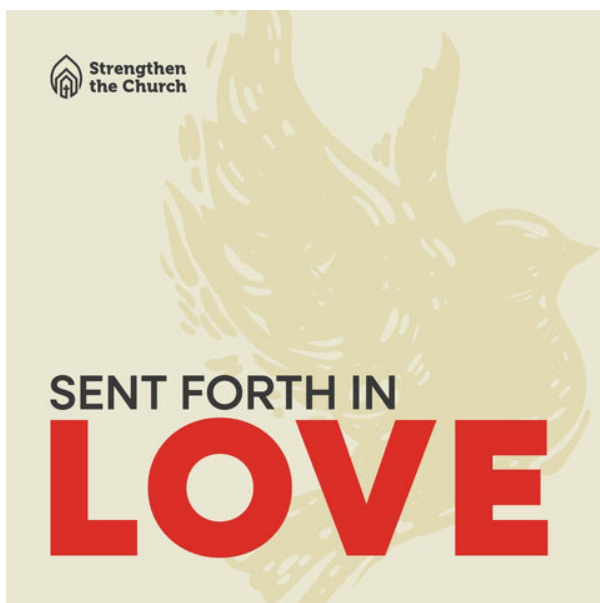


Strengthen the Church Offering

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." ~ John 20: 21*

The Strengthen the Church offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, support new churches, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The theme this year is "Sent Forth in Love," based on the scripture from John 20.

A special offering envelope and insert are included in this newsletter. Contributions will be received on Sunday, May 24, and continue to the end of May. You can place them in the offering plate, mail them to the church office, or contribute online or by text.



Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of May, we are collecting pancake mix, pancake syrup, jelly, and coffee. 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, St. John's liaison to the food pantry, at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative's Community Meals

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 6pm. WCHI will post a meal reminder on Facebook and Instagram and state if it is an inside sit-down meal, take out, or a version of both. The meal being served will also be posted. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karen Haberern, Program Chair, at (610) 730-3184. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Place	Address	Phone
Sunday, 5/3	St. John's Lutheran Church	835 Third St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Tuesday, 5/19	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall	(610) 266-0695
Sunday, 6/7	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	(610) 262-2417
Tuesday 6/16	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 7th St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661

Update on Other Mission Outreaches

Thank you to everyone who contributed to UCC National's special offering "One Great Hour of Sharing" in March. A total of \$485.00 was received. OGHS helps those impacted by poverty, hunger, sickness, conflict, emergencies, and natural disasters worldwide. It provides financial relief for immediate and long-term needs and supports disaster response, refugee assistance, and development projects.

How did St. John's Family do?

Mission	March 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 913.00	\$2,381.00	\$3,215.00	\$3,662.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 279.00	\$ 279.00	\$ 279.00	\$ 279.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 465.00	\$ 485.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 425.00
"Souper Bowl of Caring"	\$ 150.00	\$ 567.70	\$ 160.00	\$ 245.00

Join the Mission Committee

A Way to Serve

We recently received the resignation of Marion DeMilio from our Mission Committee. Our thanks and gratitude go to Marion who served on this committee for many, many years and was instrumental in coordinating walkers and sponsors for the annual CROP Hunger Walk.

The Mission Committee is always looking for fresh faces to join us as we continue to support various outreach programs throughout the year, not only here locally but also across the United States as well as around the world. We meet approximately six times a year. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, at 7pm via Zoom. If you feel this might be your calling or want to know more about our committee, please contact any of the following committee members:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Gary Black | (484) 274-2405 | gary.t.black@outlook.com |
| Rev. Steve Davis | (610) 264-8421 | srpastor@sjuccf.org |
| Kim Hillegass | (610) 360-7895 | Kim1257@aol.com |
| Jean McGonigle | (484) 350-2041 | jeanemcgonigle@gmail.com |
| Carol Raszler | (610) 393-7572 | craszler@aol.com |
| Cindy Reck | (484) 226-5554 | Cmreck57@gmail.com |

Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!



Happy
Birthday
to
★ BILL MECKES ★

BUDGET UPDATE

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

Mar 2026

Income	Electronic	3/1/2026	3/8/2026	3/15/2026	3/22/2026	3/29/2026	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,798.76	\$2,809.30	\$2,076.00	\$2,994.01	\$2,570.50	\$3,146.25	\$20,394.82
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,625.50					\$322.00	\$1,947.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$(229.00)	\$742.00	\$3,774.35	\$178.15		\$4,465.50
Endowment Interest							\$0.00
Flowers	\$36.00	\$109.00	\$167.00	\$121.00	\$73.00		\$506.00
Faith Formation	\$45.00	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$115.00
Special Gifts	\$206.81						\$206.81
Total	\$8,712.07	\$2,699.30	\$3,000.00	\$6,894.36	\$2,846.65	\$3,483.25	\$27,635.63

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$12,298.63	\$11,963.98	\$334.65
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,595.24	\$9,417.97	\$177.27
Building Services	\$4,170.57	\$3,981.25	\$189.32
Faith Formation	\$47.33	\$104.17	\$(56.84)
Parish Programs	\$1,820.63	\$2,160.42	\$(339.79)
Fundraising Tithe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$27,932.40	\$27,627.79	\$304.61

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$27,635.63	\$70,842.57
Total Expenses	\$27,932.40	\$88,423.43
Net INCOME (LOSS)	\$(296.77)	\$(17,580.86)

Mission Giving, Mar 2026

Our Churches Wider Mission		\$863.00			
One Great Hour of Sharing		\$465.00			
One Great Hour of Sharing - Endowment		\$50.00			
Mountain Valley Assoc		\$130.00			
Souper Bowl of Caring		\$150.00			
Whitehall Food Pantry		\$279.00			
Total		\$1,937.00			

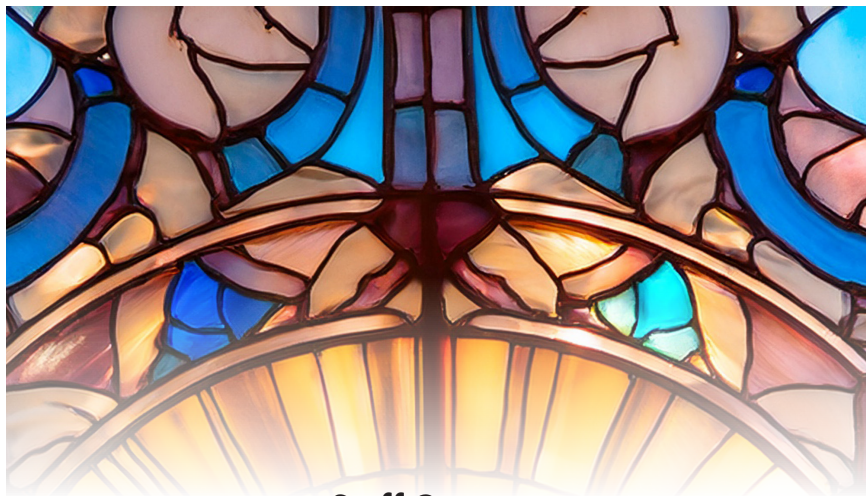
St John's UCC Fullerton

Account Balances

For Month Ending, Feb 2026

Account	Feb-26	Mar-26	Difference
Checking Account	\$49,814.95	\$79,701.60	\$29,886.65
Giant Card Funds	\$2,062.00	\$967.00	\$(1,095.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$1,017.25	\$1,342.25	\$325.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$52,894.20	\$82,010.85	\$29,116.65
Restricted/Property Checking	\$33,620.61	\$0.00	\$(33,620.61)
Restricted/Property Investments	\$362,267.00	\$363,305.00	\$1,038.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$395,887.61	\$363,305.00	\$(32,582.61)
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$1,019,170.00	\$974,542.00	\$(44,628.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,467,951.81	\$1,419,857.85	\$(48,093.96)
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(80,684.17)	\$(80,529.13)	\$155.04





Staff Contacts

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Senior Pastor

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Patrick Sandt

Director of Music Ministry / Organist

music@sjuccf.org

Alison Berger Boor

Office Administrator

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Sue Weldner

Treasurer

sbweldner@gmail.com

Michelle Gutekunst

Financial Secretary
Coordinating Custodian

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custodians@sjuccf.org

Bill Castello

Worship Tech
Connections Newsletter Editor

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newsletter@sjuccf.org

Samantha Kistler

Ministry Intern

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Christina Bach

Custodian

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Jazmin Smith

Director St. John's
Christian Early Learning Center

staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052 (610) 264-8421

Entered the Church Eternal

"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8

In March and April, St. John's shared our condolences to the families of our members and friends who lost loved ones. We grieved and shared our support for family members of our congregation who were not our members, remembering Bill Antrim, husband of Sharon Antrim, who passed away on March 19. A private service for the family was held in Pottstown.

We also gathered and shared in a funeral service led by Pastor Steve at St. John's for Gerald Deutsch, father of Kathy Bright, who passed away on March 21.

We also remember Jeanne Fischl, a former member of Dubbs Memorial UCC, who came to St. John's and was a long-time person on our homebound visitation list and prayer list. She passed on March 22, 2026.

On April 12, 2026, David Ebert, younger brother of Jim Ebert, passed away. A private graveside service was led by Pastor Steve with Jim and his extended family and a few area friends. We have been praying for Jim's brother "Dave" by name in our worship services every week for the last 4 years.

On April 18, 2026, Linda Apple, beloved wife of Charles Apple, passed away. Visitation at 9:30am Friday, April 24 and 11am Service.

We extend our love and prayers for these who we have loved, and remember their families with our support, trusting in the resurrection life they now share with Christ in the fullness of God's love in the Church Eternal.