

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**36 S. Sixth Street, Allentown, PA 18101**  
**Phone 610-433-0146**

**Email: [stjohnsucc2@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnsucc2@verizon.net)**

**Website: [www.stjohnsuccallentown.org](http://www.stjohnsuccallentown.org)**

**Pastor Rebecca Sausser**

**Phone: 570 – 581 - 0594**

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**Like us on Facebook at**  
**St Johns UCC Allentown**

**Personal hearing devices are available  
from an usher.**

**\*Indicates that people may stand as they  
are able.**

**April 28, 2024**

**11:00am**

**Tower Chimes**

**Janet Cook**

**Music to Gather:**

**“Air”**

**Alessandro Scarlatti**

**Copyright 1965 J. Fischer & Bro.**

## **\*Welcome**

Call to Worship based by Ministry Matters

One: We come with joy to this celebration of God's love!

**All: Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love.**

One: We come with hope to this witness to God's power!

**All: Challenge and encourage our spirits to serve you, Lord.**

One: We come with a willingness to proclaim God's presence to all.

**All: We thank God for this invitation to worship, witness and serve. AMEN.**

## **Hymn #8 "Praise to the Living God"**

Prayer of Confession

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Let us humbly unite in our profession

Praise to the Living God

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1. Praise to the liv-ing God, the God of love and light,  
Whose word brought forth the myr-iad suns and set the worlds in  
flight;  
Whose in-fi-nite de-sign, which we but dim-ly see,  
Per-vades all na-ture, mak-ing all a cos-mic u-ni-ty.
2. Praise to the liv-ing God, from whom all things de-rive,  
Whose Spir-it formed up-on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
Who caused them to e-volve, un-wit-ting, toward God's goal,  
Till hu-man-kind stood on the earth, as liv-ing, think-ing souls.
3. Praise to the liv-ing God, who knows our joy and pain,  
Who shares with us our com-mon life, the sa-cred and pro-fane.  
God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;  
And deep with-in the hu-man heart God leads us for-ward still.
4. Praise to the liv-ing God, a-round, with-in, a-bove,  
Be-yond the grasp of hu-man mind, but whom we know as love.  
In these tu-mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife,  
May we bear wit-ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Ps. 84:1-2

of faith and confess our need for Jesus always!

**All: Jesus, I come before you today to profess that I need you! Even before I was aware of my need for your presence in my life it was there. Sometimes I act as though you have no claim on my life, but the truth is that I owe my life to you. In you I find salvation and grace. In you I have eternal life, and in this beloved community I have found a place where I belong. Help me to continue to do the important work to widen the circle of your beloved community. Amen!**

Confession Response 🎵

Hymn #547, Verse 4

**My God has promised good to me,  
Whose word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

One: When we gather our voices in praise and song, we are blessed with God's presence in abundance, and filled with the Holy Spirit!

**All: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20**

## Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #456 Verse 1

**More love to you, O Christ, more love to you!**

**Hear now the prayer I make faith to renew.**

**In all I say and do, more love, O Christ, to you,**

**More love to you, more love to you!**

Scriptures

Judy Garrigan

Acts 8:26-40

1 John 4:7-21

Congregational Response 🎵

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

Children's Moment

Sermon: "Widening Circles"

Rev. Becky Sausser

**Hymn #322 "Take Me to the Water"**

*(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews. We invite you to fill one out if you have a joy or prayer request to share.)*

Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our**

African-American spiritual

1. Take me to the wa-ter,  
take me to the wa-ter,  
take me to the wa-ter  
to be bap-tized.
  
2. None but the righ-teous,  
none but the righ-teous,  
none but the righ-teous  
shall see God.
  
3. I love Je-sus,  
I love Je-sus,  
I love Je-sus,  
yes, I do.
  
4. Je-sus is my Sav-ior,  
Je-sus is my Sav-ior,  
Je-sus is my Sav-ior  
for-ev-er more.

Acts 8:36–39; 10:47–48

**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.**

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #96, Verse 3

**Watch by the sick; enrich the poor  
With blessings from your boundless store;**

**Be every mourner's sleep tonight,  
like infants' slumbers, pure and light**

Chancel Choir Anthem:

“Go In Love”

Don Besig

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

David P. Dahl

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\*Doxology 🎵

**Praise God from whom all blessings  
flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

\* **Hymn #4** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

\* Commission and Blessing

\***Threefold Amen**

*Amen, Amen, Amen*

Music to go forth:

“Praise Be to God”

Matt Powers

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## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, God of love;  
Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore you, open-ing to the sun a-bove.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the storms of doubt a-way;  
Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
  
2. All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re-flect  
your rays,  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing  
sea,  
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise  
should be.
  
3. You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blessed,  
Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!  
Lov-ing Spir-it, Fa-ther, Moth-er, all who love be-long to you;  
Teach us how to love each oth-er, by that love our joy re-new.
  
4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;  
Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re-con-cil-ing race and clan.  
Ev-er sing-ing, move we for-ward, faith-ful in the midst of strife,  
Joy-ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

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***The Altar flowers are in honor of St.  
John's UCC***

**Special Announcements/Reminders:**

You can give ELECTRONICALLY from your mobile device using the VancoMobile app. You can download this app from the

Apple and Google App stores. The church's name is - stjohnsuccallentown - exactly as shown. You can also give on our homepage [www.stjohnsuccallentown.org](http://www.stjohnsuccallentown.org) by clicking on the "Donate" button.

**In emergencies**, please use exits found to the left and right of the altar, to the right of the front pew, and at the rear of the sanctuary. Follow **EXIT** signs

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.  
God is still speaking, ...**

## **Serving St. John's...**

Rev. Becky Sausser.....Pastor  
Andrea Williams...Administrative Assistant  
Lois Mease... Music Director and Organist  
April Riddick.....Custodian  
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton

And too many volunteers to list!

## **Office Hours**

Sunday: 9am-2pm

Monday- Thursday: 9am-3pm

Friday: 9am-2pm

Closed on Saturdays

# SPRING

## *Dates*

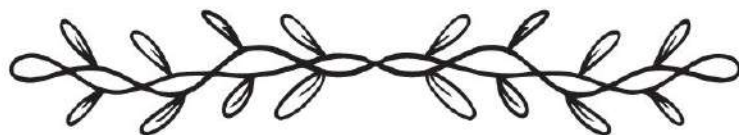
**May 4 - Intergenerational Hike**

**May 12 - Confirmation Service 11am**

**May 19 - Pentecost Service 11am**

**June 16 - Church Picnic at Waldheim Park**

**June 23 - Youth Sunday**



**If you'd like to sponsor flowers for the Altar please  
ask Andrea for more details :)**

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