

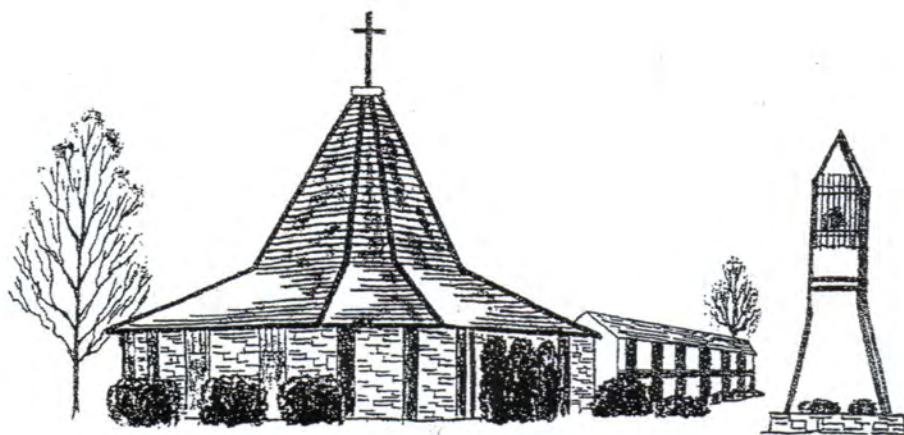
**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
659 S. FOURTH STREET
P.O. BOX 37
DENVER, PENNSYLVANIA 17517-0037**

Return Service Requested

April / May 2026

Pastor: Rev. Brad Haws
Church Phone Number: (717) 336-7600
Church Email: ChurchOffice@denverstjohns.org
Church Web Site: www.denverstjohns.org

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Happy Birthday To You!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 – Alexander Wager
3 – Michael Gehman
4 – Barbara Hackman
6 – Michelle Eckroth
9 – Sidney Firestone
9 – Emily Gehman
10 – John Luckenbill
11 – Shannon Maier
13 – Lauren Olmstead

13 – Patricia Leshner
15 – Leslie Achey
16 – John Hassler
16 – Larry Weitzel
16 – McKenna Wynings
19 – Glenn Stansbery
21 – Nancy Griffith
22 – Jessica Ernst
23 – Sharon Althouse

23 – Barbara Fichthorn
23 – Kerry Kegerise
27 – Gladys Getz
28 – Kevin Antol
28 – Nathan McQuate
29 – Becky Haws
30 – Donna Peachey



MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Scott McVaugh
2 – Dorothy Martzall
3 – Kane Burkholder
3 – Aimee Keener
5 – Cain Mendenhall
5 – Zachary Sweigart
7 – Mary Ann King
8 – Jake Terry
12 – Maggie Schnader
12 – Howard Wendt
14 – Patricia Ernst

14 – Jacob Long
14 – Lisa Sue Messner
15 – Sydney Hornberger
17 – Kayla Messner
18 – Trent Altemos
18 – Alyson Messner
20 – Beth Bechdel
20 – Christopher Schnader
22 – James King
24 – Trevor Fichthorn
24 – Samantha Bolotine

26 – Cynthia Grill
27 – Leah Darras
27 – Jason Erb
27 – Michelle Perkins
27 – Vivian Showers
27 – Glenn Steffy
27 – Edith Sweigart
29 – Fred Bender
30 – Bruce Sweigart

If there are any names that should be removed (due to request, passing, or no longer identifying with St. Johns) or names need to be changed, please notify the church office. Thanks for helping keep things up to date.

Pastor's Column: From a Minister to THE Ministers

Easter and resurrection, the very heart, the crux of our Christian faith.

The one who was dead, lives!

Death cannot stop the Love of God that takes away the sin of the world.

The tomb is empty; he is not here, just as he said he would not be.

"I am the resurrection and the life; all who believe in me will never die."

I think a misconception that we as Christians (who are still prone to be legalistic and moralists, more than Christians whose Gospel is that by grace we have been saved through faith) have is that Jesus came to make bad people good. So, again, we get caught up in laws, rules, lists of morals, sins, rights and wrongs, goods and bads, whose/what's righteous and whose/what's unrighteous, etc.

We miss entirely the fundamental point of the empty tomb, of resurrection.

Jesus is less about making bad people good, as much as he is about making the dead alive.

Hmm. Isn't it interesting to consider that in pop culture, older (like, my age and above), duty-minded, law-abiding viewers gravitate toward watching old Westerns, where there's good guys and bad guys, distinguished by their respective white cowboy hat and black cowboy hat.

Now think about what is popular with a younger entertainment-minded crowd today: Zombie stories. "The dead" who come back to life.

The older we are, the more we are inclined toward good guy/bad guy, cops and robbers, court room dramas. We want law, rules, lines drawn. The younger we are, the more likely we might be to entertain ideas of what's new, what's happening now, what's going on, what's "alive," what can be gotten rid of and replaced with the new, the fresh, the lively, the present and future.

The cross presents the forgiveness of the wrong, the bad, the conviction, the sin.

The empty tomb presents the life, the new, the freedom and unbinding of our faith.

The cross of Good Friday calls us to humbly confess our sins and need for God's mercy.

The empty tomb tells us we're free to live, free to step out of the bondage, into the light and life of Christ.

And then at Pentecost God says, "I'll give you my Holy Spirit to help you live forgiven and free, even now.

WE GET IT ALL this April and May!

Pastor Brad



Holy Week Worship Opportunities



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

9:00am – SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jesus's Final Teachings:
The Triumphal Entry of Palms and Passion

10:15am – WORSHIP

Join us for palms to wave, a "King" to announce,
Golden Bells and Choir!

COMMUNITY WEDNESDAY EVENING LENT SERVICE

Wednesday, April 1, 7:00pm at Trinity UMC
420 E. Main St. Denver

The Parties and Reactions at the Cross:
The Criminals Deride
Preacher: Phil Horning of Gehman Mennonite

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 2, 7:00pm

This is an abbreviated service of choir singing,
Communion at the Altar and readings to the cross.

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY WALK

Friday, April 3 at 10:30am

Starting at Faith Lutheran Church

We will start at Faith Lutheran Church on Walnut
Street and process through Main St, stopping at
different spots to read and hear the Last Words of
Christ from the Cross.

EASTER SUNDAY & CHILDREN'S RESURRECTION EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 5 at 10:15am

Singing and music, Word, Communion, Rejoicing!
We will have the egg hunt during children's
worship.

Spring Happenings at St. John's

UPCOMING MEN'S BROTHERHOOD CHEESESTEAK SANDWICH SALES

Saturday, April 11 11:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday, May 9 11:00am - 1:00pm
Help is always appreciated for setup and cleanup.

***All Hands, On Deck!* SPRING CLEANING**

Saturday, April 18, 8:00am
The Property Committee is looking for help with the
Spring clean-up and mulching around the church
building on April 18 at 8:00am. Contact Leslie
Achey if you can help.

CHILDREN'S FUN EVENT COMING IN JUNE!

Sunday, June 14 at 6:00pm – 7:15pm
All children and their parents or grandparents are
invited to a time of fun, fellowship, food, and faith.
These "Fun Events" always include a fun lesson,
craft, games, and snacks that usually are "fun" as
well.

Our June event is in the planning stages. More
information will be forthcoming, so look for emails,
listening for announcements!

Spring Worship & Study Opportunities

SPRING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: LET'S MEET KING DAVID

Beginning Sunday, April 26 at 9:00am

A Man after God's Own Heart

A Study on the life of King David, described by God Himself in Scripture as a man after God's own heart. Pastor Brad invites us to join him in a study on the life and ways and words of King David from I & II Samuel and the Psalms.

The classes will take place Sunday mornings, starting April 26 through June 7 at 9:00am, meeting in person in the Conference Room and on-line, live, on Zoom. Each week's passage and story has its own teaching, so if you can't make each week, don't let that stop you from attending sessions as you're able. We'll study and apply to our lives and world together.

- **Sun, April 26** – Young David chosen and anointed as King (I Samuel 16:1-13)
- **Sun, May 3** – David and Goliath (I Samuel 17:1-58)
- **Sun, May 10** – David and Saul Part 1 (I Samuel 18 & 19)
- **Sun, May 17** – David and Jonathan (I Samuel 20:1-42)
- **Sun, May 24** – David and Saul Part II (I Samuel 24 & 26)
- **Sun, May 31** – David and the Philistines again (I Samuel 27 & 29)
- **Sun, June 7** – Dave and Saul Part III (I Samuel 31 & II Samuel 1)

Come in person to the Conference room at the church, or join on-line on our Zoom account (just as you would for worship).

PASTOR BRAD OFFICE HOURS & VACATION

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 8:30am - 2:30pm

Upcoming Vacation Days: April 12 after worship, returning Monday, April 20

Cell: 717-587-3424

Email: revhaws@ptd.net

On any given day/week, Pastor Brad is accessible via text, phone call and email. He intends to maintain a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:30am - 2:30pm consistent schedule each week, as he is able. Understanding that those times might include out-of-office visits and office meetings, *please call ahead if you'd like to meet with him and/or feel free to call or text any time.*

GUEST PREACHER: TROY BOYER

Sunday, April 19 at 10:15am

While Pastor Brad has a Sunday off and out of the pulpit, our Consistory members will lead the worship service with our newest Consistory member, Troy Boyer, sharing the morning message. Troy – an Instructor of History and American Studies for many years at Lebanon Valley College, and was also past Executive Director of the Pennsylvania German Society – has had a special interest all his life in his faith and Scripture and studying God's Word. He intends to share a message on the resurrection story of Jesus and "Doubting" Thomas in John 20:24-29.

Plan to come and worship and attend to hearing from God from a different voice.

Put it on your calendar now!

PENTECOST WORSHIP

Sunday, May 24 at 10:15am

The news of the Coming of the Holy Spirit and the Birthday of the Christian faith and Church is the focus of Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate this "red letter" day with RED altar covers and COMMUNION together.

This year (as often happens) we share this celebration and observance with our nation's remembrances of Memorial Day. That means you might be picnicking, retreating, RV-ing, frolicking... but I ask you to set aside some time to be worshipping that weekend, that Sunday. The Holy Spirit is upon us. REJOICE!

Mission Focus for April & May

Each month the Mission Team lifts up one of our partners in ministry that we support at St. Johns. Our hope and intentions are to have a “Mission Moment” during worship on one of the specified Sundays of each month, bringing in a representative from the partner ministry to share an update with us regarding what’s happening and possible ways for volunteering and/or otherwise addressing needs the ministry has or efforts and work the ministry is undertaking.

Throughout each month the congregation is encouraged to consider offering a gift to the ministry being profiled, though this can be done anytime throughout the year (simply use your offering envelop and indicate what ministry you would like to support with offering).

APRIL: LANCASTER LEBANON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

2026 GOAL: \$1,000

Our Mission Focus for April will be Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity. This nationally based non-denominational ministry was started by a Christian whose faith led him to follow through on the belief that everyone should have an opportunity to own a home. People gather to build a home from a couple of days to a week. We have two of these homes in the Denver Area.

On Sunday, April 12 our Mission Moment will be presented by Tiffany Frank, Director of Development from the Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity.

MAY: LIGHTHOUSE VOCATIONAL SERVICES

2026 GOAL: \$1,000

In May our Mission Focus will be Lighthouse Vocational Services. Founded upon Christ-centered values and principles, Lighthouse’s mission is to provide vocational services for persons with developmental disabilities to promote personal growth, opportunity and hope for their future.

On Sunday, May 4 we will be welcoming a representative from Lighthouse to share with us during our Mission Moment time in the service.

ZOOM ACCESS: Go to denverstjohns.org and hit the ZOOM/RECORDINGS button on the homepage, and then ENTER ZOOM button, and when prompted our ID # and Passcode, both are 7173367600

Cocalico Care Center News

The staff at CCC are busy planning summer camp themes and activities. (June will be here before we know it!) We plan to welcome 3-4 new seasonal employees to help during their break from college as the days get busy with outdoor games, field trips, and indoor arts and crafts with large group enrichment activities to keep the learning alive during the summer months.



On March 13 this past month, the students and staff celebrated CCC’s 37th “Birthday” with a Disney themed party. Fun was had by all.

We want to share a big thank you to everyone that helped sell R & K sandwiches during our March fundraiser. CCC was able to raise \$2,079.00 to add to our playground fund as we work to plan and build our new trike path as part of the capital campaign that is currently running here at St. John’s UCC.

Remember In Prayer

Please continue to remember those who have suffered from loss of family, friends, and homes this past year due to terrorism, war, and natural disasters.

If you are going to have surgery, or entering or coming home from the hospital, we would like to hear from you. Hospitals DO NOT automatically notify the church when one of our members in the hospital. If you know of a church member or a family member who is in the hospital, please notify the church office at 717-336-7600 or Pastor Brad Haws at 717-587-3424.



Ephrata Manor:

Dorothy Martzall

The Highlands at Wyomissing:

Roland Gehman

Stone Ridge:

Edwin & Ferne Engle
Brenda Sheaffer

Keystone Villa:

David & Joyce Wade

Laureldale Skilled Nursing & Rehab:

Larry Weitzel

The Garden at Stevens:

Barbara Hackman
Nevin & Pat McQuate

Ongoing Prayer:

John Brensinger
Dan Fichthorn
Mike & Patty Lesher
Barbara Libengood
Cindy Mattu

Linda Meckley
Ronald Petery
Amy Burkholder Strasser
Sally Sholmartin
Phil & Colleen Hornberger

PRAYER LIST – FRIENDS

Curtis Althouse
Dawn Smith, friend of Dave & Marcy Donmoyer
Ben & Sarah Day, in-laws of Ernie Dunkelberger
Jens Bender & Family
Barbara Martzall, daughter-in-law of Harlan & Dot Martzall
Justin Mattu, husband of Cindy Mattu
Jennifer Hean, niece of Brenda Meckley
Carla Frie, sister of Brenda Meckley
Yuki & Michi, friends of Linda Meckley

Ronita Buskirk, niece of Linda Meckley
Faith Moyer, cousin of Cara Miller
Linda Clark, sister of Janet Neville
Dalton Wieder, cousin of Janet Neville
Karen Woerner Kim, friend of Janet Neville
Brett Meckley, friend of Janet Neville
Charlotte Weitzel and parents Matt & Katie, great-granddaughter of Brenda & Barry Reed
Caroline Newman, sister of Sally Sholmartin
Margie Strine, friend of Bruce & Karen Sweigart
Chase Weiler, grandson of Mary Weiler

OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY

Members:

Cpt. Seth Grubb

Friends:

Jerry Beck III
Aaron Derr

Ashley Gruebel
Michael Lesher, Jr.

Tyler Moyer
Brett Rettew
Ronald Sweigart

REV 03-2026

If you are able to update us on any of these prayer requests, please contact the church office at 717-336-7600 or churchoffice@denverstjohns.org.

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8:00am Bible Meditation 7:00pm Community Wednesday Evening Lent Service at Trinity UMC	2 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service & Communion <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	3 10:30am Community Good Friday Walk <i>Good Friday</i>	4
5 10:15am Worship & Children's Resurrection Easter Egg Hunt (during Children's Church) <i>Easter Sunday</i>	6 6:30pm Mission Team Meeting (Zoom)	7 7:45pm Bible Meditation	8 8:00am Bible Meditation 9:00am Cocalico Ministerium Meeting	9 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Singing Choir Rehearsal	10	11 11:00am Cheesesteak Sandwich Sale
12 10:15am Worship Mission Moment for Habitat for Humanity	13 Pastor Brad Off 6:30pm Finance Team Meeting 6:30pm CCC Staff Meeting	14 Pastor Brad Off NO Bible Meditation	15 Pastor Brad Off NO Bible Meditation	16 Pastor Brad Off 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	17 Pastor Brad Off	18 Pastor Brad Off 8:00am Spring Clean-up
19 Pastor Brad Off 10:15am Worship Guest Preacher: Troy Boyer	20 6:30pm Consistory Team Meeting	21 7:45pm Bible Meditation	22 8:00am Bible Meditation	23 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Singing Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship	27 6:15pm EASS Meeting 7:00pm Property Team Meeting	28 7:45pm Bible Meditation	29 8:00am Bible Meditation 5pm Acts of Love Meeting at Peace UCC	30 6:30pm Singing Choir Rehearsal		

May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship <i>Mission Moment for Lighthouse Vocational Services</i> 11:30am Christian Ed Team Meeting	4	5 7:45pm Bible Meditation	6 8:00am Bible Meditation 6:30pm Strategic Planning Team Meeting	7 6:30pm Singing Choir Rehearsal <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	8	9 11:00am Steak Sandwich Sale
10 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>	11 6:30pm Finance Team Meeting 6:30pm CCC Staff Meeting	12 7:45pm Bible Meditation	13 8:00am Bible Meditation 9:00am Cocalico Ministerium Meeting at Trinity UMC	14 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Singing Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship	18 6:30pm Consistory Team Meeting	19 7:45pm Bible Meditation	20 8:00am Bible Meditation	21 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship & Communion <i>Pentecost</i>	25	26 7:45pm Bible Meditation	27 8:00am Bible Meditation	28 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Singing Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship 11:30am Worship Team Meeting <i>Memorial Day</i>						

Foundation Financial Report: Jan 1 - Feb 28, 2026

Checking Account Activity

Beginning Cash Balance - January 1, 2026	\$ 6,217.57
Cash Receipts:	<u>0.00</u>
Total Cash Available	6,217.57
Cash Disbursements:	
Aid to Individual - rental assistance	317.90
REAL Life Banquet Sponsorship	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>1,317.90</u>
Ending Cash Balance - February 28, 2026	<u><u>\$ 4,899.67</u></u>

Investment Account Balance

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2026	\$ 1,030,130.34
Deposits / Additions:	
Investment Income	2,401.64
Increase in Value of Investments	<u>33,841.45</u>
	36,243.09
Withdrawals / Deductions:	
Investment Fees	1,913.59
Transfer for Church Operations / Legacy Campaign	0.00
Transfers for Mortgage Payments	13,600.00
Decrease in Value of Investments	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>15,513.59</u>
Ending Balance - February 28, 2026	<u><u>\$ 1,050,859.84</u></u>

Allocation of Account Balance:	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Foundation	<u>\$ 888,197.79</u>	<u>\$ 921,973.76</u>
Legacy Campaign	<u>141,932.55</u>	<u>128,886.08</u>
	<u><u>\$ 1,030,130.34</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,050,859.84</u></u>

2026 Giving Summary: As of March 15, 2026

	Total Received	Budget	Amount Remaining
Weekly Offering (incl Cap Campaign, Bequest & Memorials)	\$ 49,676	\$ 216,000	\$ (166,324)
Fundraisers (incl Men's Brotherhood)	\$ 3,624	\$ 45,000	\$ (41,376)
	\$ 53,300	\$ 261,000	\$ (207,700)
Missions for 2026			
January - Peter's Porch	\$ 740	\$ 1,000	\$ (260)
February - Good Samaritan Services	\$ 555	\$ 1,000	\$ (445)
March - Ephrata Area Social Services	\$ 460	\$ 1,000	\$ (540)
April - Habitat for Humanity	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
May - Lighthouse Vocational Services	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -
June - UCC Connections (UCC OCWM, Penn Central Conf, Lanc Assoc.)	\$ 248	\$ 1,000	\$ (752)
July - Cocalico Ministerium (incl Acts of Love)	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
August - UCC Homes (incl Ephrata Manor)	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
September - City Gate	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
October - Real Life Community Services (incl Power Packs)	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
November - Builders of Hope	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
December - UCC Youth Homes (incl Bethany Children's & Hoffman Youth)	\$ 20	\$ 1,000	\$ (980)
Other Missions:			
Meals on Wheels	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 220	\$ -	\$ 220
	\$ 2,543	\$ 12,000	\$ (8,457)