



**CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

247 South Market Street, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

*Founded 1743*

A Creation Justice Church

An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation





# CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



March 15, 2026

WORSHIP 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

## *Living Spiritually*

### GATHERING

Gathering Music

Justin McLaughlin, pianist

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship, Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

*“Lead, Kindly Light”*

arr. Brent Jorgensen

Justin McLaughlin, pianist

### PRAISING *(Please rise whether in body or in spirit.)*

Opening Words *(responsive)*

based on Psalm 23

**One:** The Lord is my shepherd! The Lord is your shepherd!

**Many:** **Every spiritual need we have is met in the Lord, our God.**

**One:** God is the epitome of hospitality. We can share in God’s green pastures and still waters for the restoration of our souls.

**Many:** **God looks on our hearts. We worship our God, our ultimate Shepherd.**

Hymn

*“God is My Shepherd”* (vss. 1-4)

No. 479

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

**Holy One, you are above any god which we have made for ourselves. Yet, so often we make idols of our rules and ways, our possessions and activities, our nation, and even our loved ones. Sometimes we try to put you into a tame religious system in which we come out on top and others are put down. Please forgive us, O God. As you break into our usual patterns of living, help us discern your spiritual influence on our lives. Please set us on new paths. Give us the courage to change. We pray in Christ’s name, Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Response

*“God is My Shepherd”* (vs. 6)  
*(Please be seated.)*

No. 479

## LISTENING

Children's Choir (10:30)

*"My God is Powerful"*

Stocker

Children's Moment (10:30)

Gospel reading

*(Presented as a interactive reading.)*

John 9: 1-41

Narrator: As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him:

Disciple: Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus: Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Narrator: <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes.

Jesus: Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.

Narrator: Then the man went, washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and all who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

Neighbor 1: Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?

Neighbor 2: It's him.

Neighbor 3: No, it's not. It's someone like him.

Man: I am the man.

**Church: Then how were your eyes opened?**

Man: The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight.

**Church: Where is he?**

Man: I don't know.

Narrator: <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

Pharisee 1: (*to the man*) How did you receive your sight?

Man: He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.

Pharisee 2: This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.

**Church: But how can a man who is a sinner perform such signs? He has to be from God.**

Narrator: And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they spoke again to the blind man.

Pharisee 1: What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.

Man: He is a prophet.

Narrator: <sup>18</sup>The Pharisees did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight.

Pharisee 1: Is this your son who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?

Parent 1: We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes.

Parent 2: Ask him yourself. He is of age. He will speak for himself.

Narrator: His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>That is why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him yourself."

Narrator: <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him...

Pharisee 1: Give glory to God! We know that this man Jesus is a sinner.

Man: I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

**Church: What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?**

Man: I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

Pharisee 1: You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

Pharisee 2: We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, Jesus, we do not know where he comes from.

Man: Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

Pharisee 1: You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?

Narrator: And they drove him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out. And when he found him, he said to the man:

Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

Man: And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.

Jesus: You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

Man: Lord, I believe. I worship you.

Jesus: I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees near him heard this.

Pharisee 2: Surely we are not blind, are we?

Jesus: If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.



**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Chris and Sue Eurich in loving memory and honor of family near and far.

**MARCH OUTREACH FOCUS—ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** “Our Love Offering to the World.” OGHS supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 117 CHICKEN BBQ** will be held in the Church parking lot on March 28, 2026 from 11:00-1:00. Tickets are \$13.00 and include a half chicken, baked potato, applesauce and a roll. See Conner Templin to place your orders which are due by March 15, 2026.

**CHILDREN’S EASTER EGG HUNT** The Easter Egg Hunt is set for Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 am at the church. Everyone will gather in the sanctuary with their baskets for a welcome and instructions. As in the past, this is being hosted for all children from our Christ Church families and friends. If you would like to help with hiding eggs, we can always use help early Saturday, April 4th! The fun begins at 9:00 AM. If it rains, we will hold the hunt indoors. Contact Amy Addams with questions. (717) 371-6105.

**EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY COLLECTION** Donations of individually wrapped small candy for the Children’s Easter Egg Hunt are requested by March 29. The candy should be small enough to fit into a plastic egg. Donations can be placed in the designated container in the Cookie Room at Christ Church. Thank you!

**EASTER TULIPS** this year will include an assortment of yellow, red, pink, and miscellaneous colors. The cost is \$15 per pot. To order your flowers in honor/memory of a loved one, please use the bulletin insert order form. Please include payment with your order. **Deadline to order: Monday, March 31st.**

**FIRST REFORMED MEAL**, Lancaster, Tuesday, March 24th. We need 6 volunteers to help serve the meal. We also need 6 volunteers to help with baking brownies. Please put brownies in zip lock baggies as a single serving. Servers should plan to be at the church no later than 3:00 PM to travel to First Reformed. If interested, please contact Dori Heisey at (717) 653-5353 or email at [dsheisey@hotmail.com](mailto:dsheisey@hotmail.com).

**MEMBERS REQUESTING PRAYERS:**

- ✝ **Bertha Coffman** recovering well from her pacemaker procedure
- ✝ **Dale Mease's nephew** had a major stroke and prayers are valued as he recovers
- ✝ **Joanne Snyder**, Kendra's mother at Nursing and Rehab in York
- ✝ **Lisa Starr and family** upon the death of Arlene Trimmer
- ✝ **Chuck and Grace Wells and family**, upon the death of Charlie Wells
- ✝ **Lynn Marsh** receiving treatment for metastatic cells in her spinal fluid

**PLEASE KEEP OUR SEARCH COMMITTEES IN YOUR PRAYERS** We're searching for an Associate Pastor and an Office Administrator. Thank you.

**WE ARE SEEKING** a highly organized and detail-oriented OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR to support daily church operations and help keep our office running smoothly. Please submit your resume and cover letter to [ChristChurch@etownucc.org](mailto:ChristChurch@etownucc.org). Our Ministry Committee is coordinating the search team.

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE** Please keep in prayer and offer thanksgiving to our Associate Pastor Search Committee which includes Dave Andrick, Allison Downing, Calli Heslop (our youth representative), Ali Spayd, Steve Stouffer, and Kim Wolgemuth. Their work has begun, is demanding and time consuming.

**ORDERING EASTER EGGS** Place your **COCONUT and PEANUT BUTTER Easter egg** orders today by filling out the form and placing it in the offering plate or dropping it off in the church office. The order deadline is Sunday, March 15th. You will receive the eggs on Sunday, March 29th.

**PLEASE CONSIDER OFFERING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS:** Our Outreach Committee, Board of Faith Formation, Social Justice Team, Property Committee or Marketing and Evangelism could use you! Please inform the church office.

**"LIVING SPIRITUALLY"** is our theme for Lent. Jesus teaches us to live spiritual lives helping us to be close to God while sharing in the new covenant Jesus brings.

**Walk in God's Light**  
**Spiritual Liberation**

John 11: 1-45  
Matthew 21: 1-11

March 22  
March 29, Palm Sunday

**HOLY WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH:** This sacred week begins on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship is combined on Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. We will commemorate Christ's Last Supper and share in his Passion story. This worship service will conclude our "Living Spiritually" worship series.

**OUTGROW** the 2026 Lent Devotional booklet is available to pick up now. Authored by many of our Stillspeaking writers, this booklet is part of our "Living Spiritually" series.

**PEG BERRIER** will be celebrating her 95th birthday on March 1st. A Birthday Card Fest is being planned by her family. So, please send Peg a birthday card to:

Peg Berrier  
c/o Michelle Powers  
121 North King St.  
Marietta, PA 17547

**GROCERY STORE CARDS** are available in the church office during business hours. We have Groff's Meat Market, Weis, and Giant cards. When you use the card at the store, a percentage of your purchase comes back to Christ Church.

**OUR NURSERY** is staffed by loving college students and adult volunteers. Parents, please feel free to bring your littlest ones to church and know that they are in good care.

**OUR MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY** is working on upgrading our web site with a tab you can click on for resources and information. Watch for monthly educational articles in the Weekly NET about mental health wellness. Care Notes will soon be available in the Cookie Room. These booklets on many topics related to mental health wellness are inspirational and informative.

**KEYSTONE CONFERENCE** is looking for a very part-time paid employee that could work at most 5-6 hours a week. This position would have to come to the office, but the hours are of the person's own choosing and the work is opening mail, preparing the deposit for the week and entering the information from the remittance forms into our accounting software so the accounts know what to do with money. It would also include preparing the checks for mailing and sending those out. If this is a job you might be interested, send a simple resume to Paul at [paul@keystoneucc.org](mailto:paul@keystoneucc.org).

**ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR** will be offering a concert at Christ Church on Sunday, April 19th at 2 p.m. The choir will also join us and participate with the Chancel Choir in worship at 10:30 a.m. that morning.

**ATTENTION YOUTH CAMPERS AND FAMILIES:** the 2026 summer season, the Keystone Conference will campership or reimburse 30% of the cost for one youth to attend one summer camping experience. If a youth attends more than one camp during the summer, only one camp will be eligible for the 30% reimbursement. Please see Pastor Galen for info about applying for multiple camps.

For the following camps, please enter the coupon code at the time of registration and your 30% will be credited immediately:

- Camp Kirchenwald:           KEYSTONEUCC26
- Camp Nawakwa:           KEYSTONEUCC26
- HC Spirit Camp:           KEYSTONEUCC26

**This Week at a Glance**

<b><u>SUNDAY 3/15</u></b>		<b><u>WEDNESDAY 3/18</u></b>	
Worship and Faith Formation	9:00 AM	Children’s Choir	6:00 PM
Cookie Time	10:00 AM	Credo Choir	7:00 PM
Worship	10:30 AM	Chancel Choir	7:30 PM
Girl Scout cookie booth	11:30 AM		
<b><u>MONDAY 3/16</u></b>		<b><u>FRIDAY 3/20</u></b>	
Boy Scouts	7:00 PM	Girl Scout cookies booth	4:00 PM
Social Justice	7:30 PM		
<b><u>TUESDAY 3/17</u></b>		<b><u>SATURDAY 3/21</u></b>	
Common Sense	6:00 PM	Girl Scout cookies booth	10:00 A22
Carillon Choir	7:00 PM		
Contemp. Christian Conversation (Zoom)	8:00 PM	<b><u>SUNDAY 3/22</u></b>	
		Worship and Faith Formation	9:00 AM
		Cookie Time	10:00 AM
		Worship	10:30 AM
		Girl Scout cookie booth	11:30 AM

### APPRECIATIONS FOR MARCH 15TH

Lay Leaders: 9:00 Walt Knight, 10:30 Amy Dickinson  
Acolyte: 9:00 Connor Templin 10:30 Danica Henry  
Ushers: 9:00 Kendra Snyder and Dave Heisey  
10:30 Terry Black, Kim Wolgemuth and Bill Martin  
Nursery: Maria Mason and Abby Hellwig  
Dramatic Readers: Jason Henry and Jim Keeseey, and members of the congregation  
Sound/Video Tech: Sound Media Team: Tom Downing, Chris Eurich, Dale Mease,  
Wes Runnels, Garrett Runnels  
Musicians: Justin McLaughlin, pianist and organist; Conner Ulrich, Director,  
Chancel Choir; and Allison Spayd, Director, Children's Choir  
Cover Art: [healing.jpg \(450x630\)](#) retrieved March 12, 2026  
March Cookie Time: Sponsored by Worship Commission  
April Cookie Time: Sponsored by Outreach Committee

### APPRECIATIONS FOR MARCH 22ND

Lay Leaders: 9:00 Deb Ansalvich 10:30 Jim Keeseey  
Acolyte: 9:00 McKenna Moran 10:30 Noelle Ortiz  
Ushers: 9:00 Rob Best and Jason Henry  
10:30 Dave Heisey, Amy Dickinson and Jereme Wells  
Nursery: Izzy Holden and Abby Hellwig  
Sound/Video Tech: Sound Media Team: Tom Downing, Chris Eurich, Dale Mease,  
Wes Runnels, Garrett Runnels  
Musicians: Justin McLaughlin, pianist and organist, Conner Ulrich and Chancel  
Choir

## EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

7:00 am Sunrise Service  
7:45 am Refreshments in the Cookie Room  
9:00 am Worship and Faith Formation  
10:00 am Cookie Time  
10:30 am Worship

**MINISTERS: ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**Our Church Staff**

<b>Lead Pastor</b> .....	Rev. Dr. Galen E. Russell, III
<b>Associate Pastor</b> .....	
<b>Director of Music</b> .....	Conner Ulrich
<b>Organist</b> .....	Justin McLaughlin
<b>Director of Carillon Choir</b> .....	Ruthann Ressler
<b>Director of Youth Choirs</b> .....	Ali Spayd
<b>Director of <i>CollectiveSpirit</i></b> .....	Jan Stouffer
<b>Office Administrator</b> .....	
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Cris Dinsmore
<b>Facility Manager</b> .....	John Lepore

**Church Phone: 717-367-1208**

**Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. (9 AM - noon & 1-5 PM)**

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

**Email: [christchurch@owntownucc.org](mailto:christchurch@owntownucc.org)**

**CHRIST CHURCH NETWORK Christ Church Office-guest PW: TrustinGod1208**