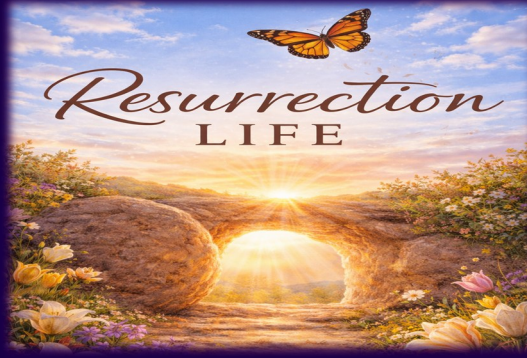


April 5, 2026



WELCOME

PRELUDE *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
George Job Elvey
Easter Brass

CHORAL MEDITATION
Easter Chorale Samuel Barber
Chancel Choir with Easter Brass

CALL TO WORSHIP
(adapted from Luke 24:5-7, 26, 36)
We visit the tomb very early in the morning.
Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Remember what Jesus told you before he died. He must be handed over to sinners and be crucified.

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has been raised from the dead. Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN NO. 302, vs. 1-4
Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Risen Christ, on this Easter morning we confess that we do not always live like resurrection people. We hold on to fear instead of hope. We cling to old wounds instead of new life. Like the disciples in Luke's story, we sometimes struggle to believe the good news that stands right in front of us. Forgive us, O God. Roll away the stones that keep us from trusting your promise. Open our hearts to the new life you offer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: The tomb is empty. Christ is risen. Death does not have the final word. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited into new life. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

SUNG RESPONSE No. 191, vs. 1
Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

ANTHEM *In Christ Alone* arr. Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir with Easter Brass

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:1-12

MESSAGE *Resurrection Life*

HYMN NO. 707 *Hymn of Promise*

OFFERING
You may give your offering by using the QR code on your screen, at umcwc.org, through the mail, by automated giving through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY *Easter Rejoicing*
Robert Williams
Carillon Choir

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of resurrection, we give you thanks for the gift of life that cannot be overcome by death. In Jesus, you entered our world—bringing healing, mercy, and love. When the powers of this world sought to silence him, you raised him up. The stone was rolled away. Death did not have the final word. And so we join with all creation in praising your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

On the night in which he gave himself for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, and said: "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed and made new by his resurrection.

Roll away whatever stones still hold us back, that we may live as Easter people—bearing hope, sharing love, and walking in new life.

THE 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMNS NOS. 617, 618

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 310 *He Lives*

BENEDICTION

Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He has been raised! You are witnesses of these things. Look, God is sending us into the world to preach salvation and forgiveness, for the Son of God came to seek and save the lost. Alleluia! **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Hallelujah Chorus*
G.F. Handel
Chancel Choir with Strings

POSTLUDE *Excerpt from Alleluia!*
Mozart/Celli

Bold text indicates congregational response.

Worship Participants

Message: Cyndi Stouffer

Liturgists: Rev. Mercedes Case,
Rev. Allen Keller

Reader: Linda Allan

Message for Growing Christians:
Jackie Rothera

Chancel Choir Director: Jeannie Nelson

Carillon Choir Director: Dan Rotz

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Brass: Kyle Risch, Trumpet;

James Gicking, Trombone;

Dan Rotz, Tuba

Strings: Olivia Flickinger, Violin;

Geovani Flores, Viola;

Adan Caldera, Cello

Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,
Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

Education and Growth Opportunities

Sunday School for all ages is at 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School (Rm 4-5)

Youth Sunday School (Youth Rm)

Adult Sunday School

Mustard Seed (Rm 12)

Seekers (Rm 7)

Upper Room (Chapel)

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:30 AM

Youth Group

Sundays at 6:00 PM

PM

Pastor Jo Higgins Children's Library - Books for 1 year olds through teenagers. Located on the lower level.

Connection and Sharing Opportunities

Chancel Choir (Adults)

Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Children's Choir

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Praise Team

Wednesdays at 7:15 PM

Carillon Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Sunshine Memory Café

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM

A welcoming place for persons with memory loss and their care partner.

Coffee With the Pastor

2nd Monday, 10 AM, at

Gamm's Diner Wednesday Night Out Dinner

Wednesdays at 5:45 PM

Retired Men's Lunch Group

2nd Wednesday at 11:30 AM

United Women in Faith

1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM,

Sept-May

Circles meet at various times throughout the month.

Web Dance

1st Sunday of each month, 6:00 pm,

Sept-May

High school hosted themed dance party for adults with intellectual disabilities

Opportunities for Growth, Fellowship, and Service

ACT Now (formerly Act In Faith) - Items for their Community Cupboard can be dropped off at the table in the Gathering Area. Donations of paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, all purpose cleaner, and laundry detergent are needed, as these items are not available at other cupboards.

Unused hotel toiletries needed - Items go to Ronald McDonald House, Safe Harbor, and Salvation Army. Place items in the basket by the elevator in the Gathering Area.

Stephen Ministry - Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one confidential lay caring ministry for people who are going through a tough time. If you would like more information about how one of our trained Stephen Ministers can walk with you during this time, contact Kelly Lynn (Kelly@umcwc.org).

PRAYER NEEDS - The full list of prayer concerns can be found on the round table in the Gathering Area. Requests are also sent through our "Prayer Link". To receive the prayer link contact Luanne Sims (lsimsumcwc@gmail.com). To submit a prayer request, please sign the form in the friendship folder or contact Pastor Cyndi (pastorcyndi@umcwc.org).

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday, April 6

Church Office Closed

7:00 PM - Digital Disciple I (via Zoom)

7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)

7:00 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

Tuesday, April 7

1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café (Fiesta Center)

6:30 PM - United Women in Faith (Rm 10)

Wednesday, April 8

7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)

9:30 AM - Women's Bible Study (Chapel)

5:45 PM - Wednesday Night Out Dinner

6:30 PM - Children's Choir (Rm 10)

7:30 PM - Carillon Choir (Rm 12)

Thursday, April 9

6:30 PM - Chancel Choir (Rm 10)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Interested in becoming a member of the church? There will be a time of coffee and fellowship on Sunday, April 19, following the 8:45 am worship service.

United Women in Faith April meeting – Tuesday, April 7, at 6:30 pm in room 10. The guest speaker will be Kate Thomas, from Project Neema, an organization that offers skills training, counseling, and discipleship to vulnerable young women in rural Kenya. All women are invited.

United Women in Faith are collecting clothing, toiletries/ personal care items, and monetary gifts for this year's South District UWF Ingathering which will be held on Saturday morning, Apr 25, at Christ UMC in Brookhaven. Please see the flyer in the Gathering Area for more information and the list of agencies that will be receiving the donations.

Youth Trivia Night Fundraiser – Friday, April 17 from 7-9 pm in the Fiesta Center. Cost: \$25 per person. Register as a team of 8 or as an individual. Proceeds support the youth summer service trip in July. Contact Cory (cory@umcwc.org) for more information.

ACTNow Fundraiser – "Concert in the Cupboard" – a night of classic rock and great food, Friday, May 1, 6:30-9:00 pm. Tickets (\$50 per person) can be purchased at <https://www.assistingnow.org/cupboardconcert/>.

Mark your Calendar! Children's Sunday is April 26.

There will be one worship service only at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. Please come and support our children as they lead us in worship in their own special way.

Want to support a local West Chester organization?

Bringing Hope Home is a non-profit organization that provides financial aid to cancer patients so they can not only maintain their basic living funds, but also treatment costs and bills. Emily Pike, a youth in the congregation, is raising money that goes directly to the organization. Her goal is to raise \$1,000 by April 24th. Your small input can go a long way, and she hopes you consider donating. Two ways to donate include the cashbox located in the Gathering Area or using the QR code to Venmo. Thank you, because together we can lessen the burdens of cancer in our own community.