

April 12, 2026

Stories That Matter

Unless I See



WELCOME

PRELUDE *Earth and All Stars*  
Johnson/Leavitt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Christ is risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What's the proof? Is Resurrection real?

**Within our questioning, Christ appears.**

We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

**Within our certainty, Christ appears.**

Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here. For we are all participants in the story of God's saving work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

**We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 304

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives: the fear that stifles us, the prejudice that impedes us, the ignorance that hinders us, the doubt that plagues us. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places, move to those places where love is needed, and have faith that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Silent Prayer*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! **Alleluia! Amen.**

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.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

SCRIPTURE John 20:19-31

MESSAGE *Unless I See*

PRAYER HYMN NO. 177 *He is Lord*

TIME OF PRAYER

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.**

## OFFERING

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

## OFFERTORY

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
arr. Krapf

## OFFERING RESPONSE NO. 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and holy Ghost. Amen.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

## CLOSING HYMN NO. 364

*Because He Lives*

## BENEDICTION

May God bless you with open hearts to recognize the resurrected Christ in our midst and with the courage to reach out and touch the wounds of our neighbors, believing that we will find Resurrection in the meeting of our vulnerability.

POSTLUDE *Fughetta in A-Flat Major*  
Muffat

***Bold text indicates congregational response.***

## **Worship Participants**

Message: Cyndi Stouffer  
Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller  
Reader: Susan Beckerdite  
Message for Growing Christians: Tim Case  
Chancel Choir Director: Jeannie Nelson  
Organist: Steve Campitelli  
Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,  
Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

## **HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

### **Today, April 12**

7:00 PM - Web Dance (Youth Room)

### **Monday, April 13**

10:00 AM - Coffee With the Pastor at Gramm's Kitchen

7:00 PM - Digital Disciple I (Zoom)

7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)

7:00 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

### **Tuesday, April 14**

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

### **Wednesday, April 15**

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 16**

9:00 AM - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Chapel)

6:30 PM - Chancel Choir (Rm 10)

### **Friday, April 17**

7:00 PM - Youth Trivia Night Fundraiser  
(Fiesta Center)

## 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 (pastorcynidi@umcwc.org).

## 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 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.

### Care Packages for College Students

- Sign-up: Email your college student's name, address, and any allergies to patricia.valencia@gmail.com by April 18th.

- Donations: Cookie donations are needed by April 19th.

- Schedule: We will prepare the packages on Sunday, April 19th, and mail them by April 21st.

**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.

**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.

**Parish Hall Kitchen - Silent Auction/Wine Tasting** - April 25, 6-9 pm, 212 S. High Street. The Silent Auction Wine Tasting is the main fundraiser for Parish Hall Kitchen. PHK provides for the food insecure in the West Chester borough. This is done by providing a hot, community meal every Friday. PHK also provides frozen microwaveable meals to ActNow for distribution at the food cupboard. *You can buy tickets at [auctria.events/SAWT2026](https://auctria.events/SAWT2026), or use the QR code.* If you are not able to attend, you can still make a donation using the same web address/QR code.



**\*\*\*For Easter**, the children of our church made Easter placemats for our homebound church members. I had the honor of bringing a placemat to each of our homebound members during the Easter season. (Our traveling choir also brought them to the homebound members they visited). Our members absolutely loved their placemats! One member said she couldn't wait to show her friends the placemat she received. Another member sat in his facility dining room, showing his tablemates what he got from his church family. What a gift our children are to our members! Thank you for supporting the ministries of this church. Pastor Merc