

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Austinburg, Ohio  
EASTER SUNDAY!**

**April 5, 2026**

**11 am.**

*"The only thing more amazing than the story of Easter, is what life would be like without the hope, and promise which it gives to us"*

*G.K. Chesterton.*

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

CANDLE LIGHTING/ BELL/ PRELUDE

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL SONG OF PREPARATION:

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**L:** Early in the morning, women brought spices to place in the tomb of Jesus.

**P:** **But the tomb, was empty!**

**L:** On their way, they wondered who would move the stone for them.

**P:** **But the stone, had been moved!**

**L:** When they arrived, they discovered, an empty tomb!

**P:** **Halleluiah! Jesus Is Alive!**

**ALL: Halleluiah! Jesus lives today!**

**\*HYMN:** *"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"* (NCH/Black) # 233

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**Almighty God, on Calvary you chose the foolish to shame the wise, and the weak to defy the strong. Today, we gather together not to merely applaud your choice, but to ask for it's repetition in us. Deliver us! Renew us! Lift us up again, that we may experience a rising to new life. Grant to us the power to proclaim the Easter promise, and the participation of life in Christ. Amen.**

**\*ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOY Pastor Bill**

**\*RESPONSE:** ( to be sung )

*This is the day, this the day, That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and be glad and it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day, that the Lord, has, made*

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: John 20: 1-18

A MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM: Chancel Choir

MESSAGE: "The Old Argument" Rev. Bill Terry

\*HYMN: "*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*" (NCH/Black) # 240

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

A TIME FOR PRAYER:

Call To Prayer

Pastoral Prayer / Silent Prayer / Lord's Prayer ( debts / debtors )

Prayer Response

A TIME FOR SHARING:

Friendship Folders

A Reminder To Send Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings to:

First UCC Church, P.O. Box 253. Austinburg, OH. 44004

Unison Prayer of Dedication:

**O God, we come with our offerings in response to your amazing love. With the new life in Christ, we give ourselves in service to others. With energy bestowed by the Holy Spirit, we seek to influence all your people with zeal for your way. Receive the work we do, and the gifts we bring, that they may become a blessing in your sight. Amen.**

A Doxology: #780

## CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation:

**L:** Jesus said: I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger. You who believe in me shall never thirst.

**P:** We give thanks to God on this glorious Easter Morning.

**L:** Luke the evangelist wrote of our risen Savior, who ate with two disciples, when he broke bread, and their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

**P:** Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may see you in this place.

**ALL:** It is right that we give God thanks and praise on this great and glorious Easter Morning!. 3

Communion Hymn: "The Day Of Resurrection" (NCH# 245)

The Communion Prayer and Blessing

P: ..... and so we join with the angels of heaven, and all those who have ever believed.

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy: God of love and majesty. The whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God! O God most high; We thank you!**

Distribution by Coming Forward:

Prayer of Thanksgiving: ( unison )

**On this Easter morning, we celebrate the resurrection which made ever lasting life known as reality. We thank you for your constant love, for us, and for all you have made. You sustain our lives, and give meaning to our lives. You have given yourself to faithful people of every tongue and nation. We thank you for Jesus and how he showed us how to love regardless of race, creed, or gender. Through his life, death and resurrection, we have been assured of grace and mercy beyond our own efforts. Send us now, as your church, to show the same love, grace, and mercy to a world which holds onto hate and revenge.**

**May the gift of your Holy Spirit be a gift which knows no end, because of this great and glorious day. Amen**

\* **PASSING THE PEACE:**

L: Take the good news of Easter into your everyday world.

P: **Rejoice and be glad!. Amen!**

*( Take a moment to share the joy of Easter Resurrection with your neighbors)*

\***HYMN:** " *Come You Faithful, Raise The Strain*" (NCH) # 230

\***BENEDICTION:**

\***CHORAL RESPONSE:**

\* = **Those who are able are invited to stand.**

Music printed courtesy of CCLI License ## 582084



1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



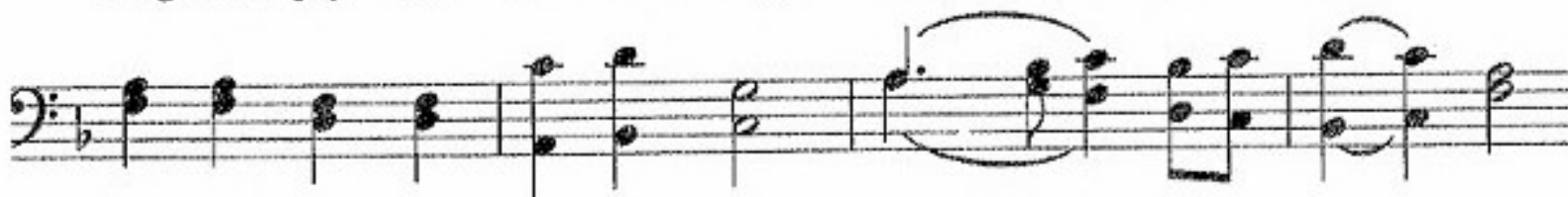
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!



1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 To the tomb the wom - en bring, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 There the an - gel clothed in white, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 "Has - ten now to Gal - i - lee," Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5 Christ ap - pears in full ar - ray, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Spic - es rich, an of - fer - ing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Tells the news with great de - light, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 "Tell the oth - ers what you see!" Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Sing with joy this Pas - chal day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ask - ing where might Je - sus be, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 This the news the an - gel gives, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 With ex - cite - ment trem - bling, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ now from the dead is raised, Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*

Suf-fer to re-deem our loss, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Sav-ior come to set us free, Al-le-lu-ia!  
That the Sov-ereign glo-rious lives, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Off they run, good news to bring, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Ho-ly Trin-i-ty be praised, Al-le-lu-ia!

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;  
 the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,  
 We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,  
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

# Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

230

Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696–c. 754 c.E.)  
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.

Exod. 15; Luke 24

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;  
 2 Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pris - on,  
 3 Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,

God has brought all Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;  
 And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ris - en;  
 With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;  
 Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal;

Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly - ing  
 Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion  
 But to - day a - mid the twelve you still stand, be - stow - ing

Led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 Wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.  
 Peace and joy which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

Little is known of St. John of Damascus, an early Greek theologian, but his writings have survived. Among these are poems that have been made into hymns and some that have been integrated into Greek Orthodox liturgy.

Tune: ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.  
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

# In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers: Rev. Allison Milligan, Karen Taylor, Maranda Rabenold, Randy Tackett, Sandy Fitzhugh Wagner, Rob Harrison, Zach Wilson, Jinny Young, Tony Schommer, Pat Yarbrough, Caroline Holden, Charlotte Carter, Margie Heino, Colleen Carrahar , Clayton Warner

Weekley Prayer: Rev Frank Walford (Retired)

Please keep our service members in prayer:  
Robert "Nick" Grandy, John Jackam, Dan Jackam, Andrew White and all our service members.

## *~~~~ Calendar Notes ~~~~*

**Sunday. April 5th: 11 am Worship Service**

**Tuesday April 7th: 4 pm Yoga**

**8 pm AA**

**Thursday. April 9th: 7 pm Admin Board Meeting**

**Friday. April 10th: 8 pm GRMC**

**Saturday. April 11th: 9:30 am Worship Service**

**Sunday. April 12th: 11 am Worship Service**

# **First United Church of Christ Austinburg, Ohio April 5th 2026**

**Rev. Bill Terry**

**Musician: Cindy Luoma**

**Choir Director: Bridget Sherman**

**Stewardship: Please mail in your offerings to P.O. Box 253, Austinburg OH 44010. You also can sign-up for online giving at [app.easytithe.com/App/Giving/austinburgucc](http://app.easytithe.com/App/Giving/austinburgucc) or *sign up via our website.***

**Please maintain your stewardship so we can continue to reach out in Christ's name. Thank you!~ ~ ~**

Previous Sunday attendance: 47

Total Online Attendance for the March 15<sup>th</sup> service is 31

Check out our church website at  
[austinburgfirstucc.org](http://austinburgfirstucc.org) Visit our Facebook page at  
[facebook.com/AustinburgFirstUCC](https://facebook.com/AustinburgFirstUCC)  
or email [austinburgucc@windstream.net](mailto:austinburgucc@windstream.net)

## **Pastor Bill's Contact Information**

Rev. Bill Terry ~ (Landline) (440) 335-4031 ~  
[gintex4@twc.com](mailto:gintex4@twc.com)

## **Office Hours:**

Office Phone: 440-275-5125

Tues, Thurs, Fri: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

## Announcements

**Welcome to First UCC-Austinburg.** No matter who you are, or where you are in life, you are welcome here. We welcome all ages, races, genders and orientations – because we welcome all who love the Lord with no exceptions. Please keep spreading the word we have something to share.

### **Red Wagon Donations for the Geneva Food**

**Pantry for March:** *Top 10 List for Samaritan House in the latest in the current Concern newsletter*

**1**

**Donations for the Blessing Box** can go directly into the Box by our back door. Personal toiletries and feminine Hygiene products are always needed.

**Yoga Classes:** will be on Tuesdays from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm, Saturdays from 9:00am to 11am in the Upper Annex

**Game Nights:** Game nights will be 4/8, 4/22, 5/22, 5/27. The game will be Mexican Train a Dominoe game. All are invited to come

**Free Community Dinner:** will be on April 16th from 4:30 pm to 6 pm. Want to help, a clean up crew is needed from 5:45 pm to 6:45 pm. See the Time and Talent board.

# You are invited!

## Rummage

# Stuff & Treasure

**April 17**

**10:00-6:00**

**April 18**

**9:00-2:00**

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Prices

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Proceeds benefit community outreach projects

## First Congregational UCC

**41 East Jefferson Street, Jefferson, OH**

Enter South Wall Street across from Shanti Yoga Love