



## PENBROOK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ

No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are always welcome here!

APRIL 12, 2026  
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

56 Banks Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17103  
717-236-5275  
[office@penbrookucc.org](mailto:office@penbrookucc.org)

## WELCOME TO PENBROOK UCC

We are so blessed that you have joined us today, to remember and celebrate the gifts of God. If this is your first time or if you are a long-time member, we hope this service helps you to ponder your relationship with God and neighbor, and that you find your blessing and go from this service to share in the World.

We are an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you are interested in knowing more about the United Church of Christ or Penbrook UCC or have questions about membership in this family of faith, please feel welcome to speak with any of the leaders listed below.

### Those who serve today:

Pastor: Rev. Donna Hughes  
Liturgist: Mary Kelly  
Choir Director: Faith Brown  
Pianist/Organist/Accompanist: Dawn Shertzer  
Acolyte:  
Greeter/Usher: Lorna Owens  
Welcome/Announcements:  
Streaming Operator: Jonathan Morgan  
PowerPoint Operator:

### Your Executive Team:

President: Mary Kelly  
Vice President: Mel Amago  
Secretary: Mackenzie Weinhold  
Treasurer: James Wheeler

APRIL'S MISSION OFFERING IS FOR THE MANNA FOOD PANTRY.

### About today's worship service:

◆ Throughout today's service, this symbol ◆ indicates an invitation to rise either in body or in spirit.

**Bold print** indicates a unison response or prayer.

"NCH" refers to the New Century Hymnal.

## THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Welcome to worship. At the ringing of the steeple bell, please enter a time of quietness in preparation for our worship together.

### THE RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

#### THE PRELUDE

#### *Holy Forever*

Chris Tomlin, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson, Jason Ingram

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### THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHOUT-OUTS

◆ THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

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 salvific 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 PRAYER

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son, Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

◆ THE HYMN # NCH #244

*O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

Public domain.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

**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 REFLECTION

WORDS OF GRACE

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.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*(The congregation may greet each other with a sign of reconciliation and peace, such as a handshake, an embrace, or other appropriate signs of peace, accompanied by these or similar words: "The Peace of God be with you," and in response, "And also with you.")*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Risen Christ, you come to us even behind our locked doors, speaking peace into our fear and breathing life into our doubt. Open our hearts and minds as we hear your Word today. Meet us

in our questions, as you met Thomas, and help us to see your presence among us. By your Spirit, make us ready not only to believe, but to be sent – to live your peace in the world. Amen.

THE PSALTER (RESPONSIVE)

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. <sup>2</sup>I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

<sup>3</sup>**As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.**

<sup>4</sup>Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

<sup>5</sup>**The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.**

<sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

<sup>7</sup>**I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.**

<sup>8</sup>I keep the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

<sup>9</sup>**Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.**

<sup>10</sup>For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful one see the Pit.

<sup>11</sup>**You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

*Music of the Morning*

The Koinonia Singers

Words and music by Pepper Choplin.

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THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Dawn Shertzer

*(Following the Children’s Message, children are invited to go downstairs with our children’s leaders to attend Children’s Church.)*

THE GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

THE MESSAGE

*Tell Us of a Time When*

Mitch Amago

◆ THE HYMN NCH #256

*We Live by Faith and Not by Sight*

Text and tune: public domain.

Harmonization: Richard Proulx, 1986; © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER HYMN

*O Lord, Hear Our Prayer*

**O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer.**

**When we call answer us.**

**O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Come and listen to us.**

Music: Jacques Berthier. Text: Taizé Community.  
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#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Friend, our Mother, our Father in heaven: hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

#### THE INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

The disciples were gathered behind locked doors when the risen Christ appears and says, "Peace be with you." And then – he sent them. We too are called and one way we live into that calling is through generosity. Whatever you bring today is part of that story. It helps open doors, nurture community, and embody Christ's peace in the world. So let us give as people who have received peace, and who are sent to share it.

#### THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

#### THE OFFERTORY

#### *Faith*

Jim Brickman

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#### ◆ THE DOXOLOGY FOR THE SEASON OF EASTER NCH #778

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath.**

Music: Public Domain. Words: Rev. John Danner, Pastor of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, Sanibel, Florida. Used by permission.

#### ◆ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

**Compassionate and faithful God, you meet us behind locked doors and in the doubts we dare not speak aloud. Like Thomas, we long to see, to touch, to know – and yet, by your grace, you call us blessed for believing without seeing. Accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. Use them to reach others still searching for hope, healing, and connection. Let our giving testify to your Resurrection power and shape us into a community where wounds are not hidden but held with love. In Christ, who breathes peace upon us, we pray. Amen.**

#### ◆ THE HYMN NCH #242

#### *The Strife Is O'er*

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#### ◆ THE 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. Amen!

#### ◆ THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE      NCH #78 (verse 3)      *Part in Peace*

**Part in peace! Our voices raising, in God's presence always be.  
This the worship and the praising, bringing peace to you and me.**

Text: Sarah Flower Adams, 1835. Music: Southern Harmony, 1835.

Harmonization: Carlton R. Young, 1964 © 1965 Abingdon Press.

Onelicense.net song #03971

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#### THE POSTLUDE

*If You Believe*

Jim Brickman

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- Today's cover image, "Christ shows himself to Thomas," by Rowan LeCompte and Irene LeCompte, is a mosaic which is part of the Resurrection Chapel at the Washington National Cathedral. The image is from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54879> [retrieved April 8, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/maryannsolari/5119341372/>.
- Today's Call to Worship, Offertory Prayer and Benediction are by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025. The Opening Prayer is by Rev. Vinod Wesley, posted on the Worship Ways (United Church of Christ) website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-2a-april-16/>. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good," and is used with permission. It is posted at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession>.
- The Doxology for the Easter Season is by Rev. John Danner, Pastor of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ in Sanibel, Florida. It may be found at the blog of Maren C. Tirabassi, Gifts in Open Hands, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2016/03/17/5726/> [retrieved March 28, 2024]. Used by permission.
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### **Announcements and Information**

#### FAITH FORMATION

Interested in joining a book group? Faith Formation is studying the book *Awake*, by Jen Hatmaker, meeting on Sunday mornings, except the third Sunday of the month, in the newly refurbished Ross Room at 9:30 am. If you are interested, contact Becky Boone ([64beckster@gmail.com](mailto:64beckster@gmail.com)).

## **RIVER CITY SINGERS SPRING CONCERT IS HERE!**

The River City Singers present two opportunities to enjoy their Spring concert, "Love Has Always Been Our Song." The first is on April 25, 2026, at 7 pm, at Hayshire Ucc, 100 Haybrook Drive, York, PA 17406, and the second – SO EASY! – is HERE, Penbrook UCC, on April 26, 2026, at 3 pm. Admission is free, although donations are gratefully accepted. A reception will follow the concert.

## **THE HERSHEY HANDBELL ENSEMBLE SPRING CONCERTS**

The Hershey Handbell Ensemble presents its Spring Concert Series on April 24, 2026, at 7:30 pm, at Trinity Church, 4156 Bridge Street, New Cumberland; April 25, 2026, at 7:00 pm, at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Avenue, Lancaster; and on April 26, 2026, at 3 pm, at Derry Presbyterian Church, 248 East Derry Street, Hershey. All concerts are free and open to the public.

## **CHOCOLATE-COVERED PRETZEL SALE**

Mackenzie Weinhold is spearheading a pretzel sale again this year, with all proceeds benefitting the PUCC General Fund. Pretzels are dark- or milk-chocolate covered, 15 to a box, for \$10 a box. Order in advance on the forms available in the Narthex, or talk to Mackenzie after church and see what she has available.

## **PASTORAL CARE NEEDS & OFFICE HOURS FOR REVEREND DONNA**

Rev. Donna will hold office hours from 10:30 – 2:00 on Tuesdays during April except April 14. She is available to connect with you over coffee, lunch, or just to visit. Please feel free to schedule a time to meet with her via email at [pastor@penbrookucc.org](mailto:pastor@penbrookucc.org) or text to 216-299-8391. You may use the same contact information for pastoral care needs that do not require a visit or face-to-face meeting.

## **STEWARDSHIP/APRIL'S MISSION OFFERING: THE MANNA FOOD PANTRY**

This month, we will collect a second-mile offering in support of our own Manna Food Pantry. To that end, the offering plate will be passed a second time on the third Sunday of the month. However, second-mile contributions to Manna are welcome throughout the month.

## **50 DAYS OF EASTER FOOD CHALLENGE: A MISSION PROJECT FOR KEYSTONE CONFERENCE'S 1ST ANNUAL MEETING**

Churches across the Conference are challenged to donate non-perishable food to a local food bank between Easter (04/05/2026) and Pentecost (05/24/2026) and to report the quantities of their donations. Each church will report its totals (by category) via a web link, and the Conference-wide total will be revealed at the 1st Annual Meeting, June 5–7, 2026. Having churches donate locally will allow us to serve the communities in which we live, work, and minister, thereby avoiding the need to haul donations across the Commonwealth to a single location when the need exists everywhere. We will donate to Manna Food Pantry, and its most urgent needs are cereal, flour, sugar, peanut butter, and canned proteins like chicken, tuna, and salmon.

## **STRENGTHEN THIS CHURCH BY VOLUNTEERING TO COUNT!**

To better align with best practices and improve our financial safeguards, we are seeking volunteers to help with the Sunday offering counting and bookkeeping. Currently, four individuals share this function. We would like up to 5 more, so that each Sunday's offering can be documented by a pair of unrelated individuals who would not need to serve more than once

a month. We will train you! In the beginning, new volunteers will be observers only, and won't have to do the work until comfortable with the process. This weekly accounting only takes about 15 minutes most Sundays, immediately after worship. Please see Reverend Donna ([pastor@penbrookucc.org](mailto:pastor@penbrookucc.org)) or James Wheeler ([treasurer@penbrookucc.org](mailto:treasurer@penbrookucc.org)) for more information.

### **PUCC LENDING LIBRARY**

Our Lending Library has relocated, and is feeling lonely in the Ross Room. Please check out the book selection and take a book home to read, or share a book that you loved!

### **SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES**

During the moments of quiet this morning, please remember our homebound members and friends, and pray for those affected by violence, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, within our society.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you have special prayer requests, you may fill out a prayer request form located in the lobby outside the sanctuary and pass it to the preacher or put it in the wire basket in the office. Or you may email [prayerchain@penbrookucc.org](mailto:prayerchain@penbrookucc.org) so we can send your requests out to the prayer warriors who will lift up your concerns.

### **MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE FUND**

For many years, the membership of this church has given back to itself in order to help out those of our brothers and sisters who find themselves in a momentary pinch. We have been remiss in reminding you of this important internal ministry, but we find ourselves in a time of year when sudden expenses can crop up. In the past few years, members have received funds for a variety of purposes, from unexpected bills to support during the loss of a loved one. Each gift you make to the Members Assistance Fund is earmarked for this ministry. If you ever need funds, please reach out to the pastor or treasurer for a confidential conversation about what we might be able to assist with.

### **COMMUNITY AID PARTNERSHIP**

Don't forget our partnership with the Community Aid Foundation, which enables PUCG to share in Community Aid's proceeds. When you drop off your unwanted household goods and clothing to Community Aid's locations in Harrisburg or Mechanicsburg (there are other locations, but those are the closest), provide them with our partner number, 50334, so that PUCG receives credit for the donations.

### **SIGN UP! SIGN UP! HELP WITH WORSHIP!**

Does the volunteer roster above look a little bare? Please consider volunteering to help with worship by signing up to be an Acolyte, Greeter/ Usher, Lectionary Reader/Liturgist, Purveyor of the Welcome/Announcements, Streaming Operator or PowerPoint Operator. You are here on Sunday anyway, right? Sign-up sheets are on the table outside the rear Sanctuary doors.

### **E-GIVING IS AVAILABLE!**

Interested in giving electronically? Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App from either the Google or Apple app store, and make regular giving for the work of God and the kingdom effortless. Questions or concerns or issues with using the app, contact James at [treasurer@penbrookucc.org](mailto:treasurer@penbrookucc.org).

**CHURCH FINANCES – UPDATE**

<b>Weekly Income 03/29/2026</b>	<b>Year-to-date Income</b>
<b>Tithes, Offerings, Miscellaneous</b>	
\$ 1,108	\$29,898
<b>Fundraising/Other</b>	
\$ 140	\$ 1,090
<b>Total Income</b>	
\$ 1,248	\$30,988
<b>Weekly Expense 03/29/2026</b>	<b>Year-to-date Expense</b>
\$ 2,028	\$33,723
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	
\$( 780)	(\$2,735)

**PENBROOK UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 12, 2026:**

**Today:** 9:15 am Koinonia Singers Rehearsal (ASSR)  
 9:30 am Faith Formation (Ross Room)  
 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
 7:00 pm A-pealing Praise Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Monday:** 6:30 pm River City Singers’ rehearsal (ASSR/Sanctuary)

**Tuesday:** 7:00 pm Crafters (Crafters’ Room, Lower Level)

**Wednesday:** 7:00 pm NA (FH)

**Thursday:** 9:30 am Manna Prep (Lower Level)  
 6:00 pm Manna Food Pantry (Lower Level)

**Friday:** 9:30 am Manna Prep (Lower Level)

**VOLUNTEERS SERVING DURING WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026:**

Acolyte: THIS COULD BE YOU!  
 Greeter/Usher: THIS COULD BE YOU!  
 Lectionary Reader/Liturgist: Ann Bailey  
 Welcome/Announcements: THIS COULD BE YOU!  
 Streaming Operator: THIS COULD BE YOU!  
 PowerPoint Operator: THIS COULD BE YOU!