



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!

MAY 3, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

56 Banks Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103
717-236-5275
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: Mitch Amago

Choir Director: Faith Brown

Pianist/Organist/Accompanist: Dawn Shertzer

Acolyte:

Greeter/Usher: Lorna Owens

Welcome/Announcements: Dick Stokes

Streaming Operator:

PowerPoint Operator: Mel Amago

Your Executive Team:

President: Mary Kelly

Vice President: Mel Amago

Secretary: Mackenzie Weinhold

Treasurer: James Wheeler

MAY'S MISSION OFFERING IS FOR THE UCC'S STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH PROGRAM.

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

God Walks Beside Me

Lani Smith

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Onelicense.net song #1030015

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THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHOUT-OUTS

◆ THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

◆ OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil. Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave. Strengthen us to face this world and to make it a better place. Inspire our worship, that in this time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you. Amen.

◆ THE HYMN NCH #6 (vs. 1-4) *Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good*
Public domain.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND YEARNING (RESPONSIVE)

Redeemer of our lives, we come to you knowing that we participate in a world often crushed by tyranny and evil.

Our hearts are troubled, overwhelmed, and dismayed. At times, we feel helpless and hopeless by the enormity of the problems presenting all around us.

We believe the lie of the enemy that there is nothing that we can do or that someone else is the one to do it.

May you, Holy and Righteous One, be glorified in the tumbling of walls cemented in evil and fortified by hate.

For this, we pray for courage and resolve to do the works needed in this hour.

For this, we pray for faith, trust, and hope to believe that the realm of the possible eclipses the narrow places of improbability. For this, we pray for the boldness to pray for what the world needs and more than our imaginations may hold. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENCE

WORDS OF GRACE

Chosen of God, receive the mercy of God, who calls us from despair into hope, from suffering into repair, from hopelessness into resolve. God has given us capacity for strength and compassion. The Holy One journeys with us. Grace is available for us. Know that our prayers are met and amplified by the Spirit, and Christ will lead the way to life and love everlasting on earth as in heaven.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE AS RESURRECTION 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

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

THE PSALTER (RESPONSIVE)

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

² Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me; ⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

¹⁵ My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 2:2-10

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Misty Morning

Carl J. Nygard Jr.

The Koinonia Singers

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THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jonathan Morgan

(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 14:1-14

THE MESSAGE

◆ THE HYMN NCH #400

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Public domain.

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.

© 1982 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

Onelicense.net song #00134

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THE INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Generous ones, you bear the image of the Generous God, who has provided for all needs and gives good gifts. Accept the invitation to share, sacrificially and from abundance, resources needed in this community and by our neighbors throughout the world for the glory of God.

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

Is There Anybody Here?

John Troutman

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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)

Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice. In Christ's name. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN NCH #331 *Come My Way, My Truth, My Life*

Text: George Herbert, 1633; alt.
Public domain.

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1911.

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THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Here at this table, the pure milk of Christ's love is ours. Here at this table, the nourishment of God's salvation is ours. Here at this table, the strength of the Holy Spirit is ours. Come to be fed. Come to be nourished. Come to be strengthened, for all are welcome at this table of grace.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We rejoice to give you thanks and praise, God of Love, . . . And so we gladly thank you, with angels and arch angels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Bless is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Living God, you prepare a place for us with the Holy Trinity in your kingdom banquet, and you set a place for us at this table as we anticipate your glory. Come among us now, in the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may see your glory in the breaking of the bread, and that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who at the supper with his disciples, he gave thanks for the bread. . . . this is my body. . . . and when the supper was over, this is my blood of the new covenant. . . . as often as you do this, do it in remembrance of me. Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Glorious God, you promise that those who believe in you will do greater things than these. Bestow upon your church the gifts of your Spirit, that your people may be with the hungry, do beautiful things, show grace amid hostility, witness to your story and behold your glory. Make us living stones and build us into a spiritual house, that we may be your holy priesthood and that all creation suffering and flourishing, faithful and fallen, may be suffused with your glory and may overflow with your praise. And now as God's community of faith let us pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, praying:

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 SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(We will celebrate communion by intinction. Please move to the front as the ushers direct you. Receive the bread, dip it in the cup, consume both elements and return to your seat in a spirit of grateful prayer.)

THE COMMUNION MUSIC

Communion

Charles Gounod

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◆ THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

◆ THE HYMN NCH #366

God of Our Life

Tune: Charles Henry Purday, 1860.

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Text: Hugh T. Kerr, 1916; alt.

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◆ THE BENEDICTION (RESPONSIVE)

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in the power of God in you and through you.

Do the work of loving God, neighbor, and self.

Do the work of holding the complexity of life in tension with compassion and care.

Do the work of believing a future with hope is possible.

Do the work of nurturing that hope into a vision and vision into reality.

Do the work of glorifying God by following the way of Christ and praying with our lives.

Do the works. 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.

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THE POSTLUDE

On Wings of Morn

Roy E. Nolte

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- Today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication are by Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries. The Opening Prayer, Prayer of Transformation and Yearning, Words of Grace, Invitation to Generosity, and Benediction are by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, UCC. The Prayer for Illumination is from www.valleypresct.org. And the Liturgy for Communion is from *Eucharistic Prayers* by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher.
- 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

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 24, 2026

There will be a special congregational meeting on May 24, 2026, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to consider VMST's recommendation that the church repaint the exterior painted portions of the church building in order to restore their appearance and prevent further deterioration of those sections of the structure, thus preserving them and extending the life of the building. This will involve an expense greater than \$10,000, the baseline expenditure amount in the PUCG Constitution which requires congregational approval. Please plan to stay for this important moment in the life of the church.

FAITH FORMATION

Interested in joining a book group? Faith Formation continues its study of 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).

PASTORAL CARE NEEDS & MAY OFFICE HOURS FOR REVEREND DONNA

Rev. Donna will hold office hours from 10:30 – 2:00 on Tuesdays on May 5, 12, and 26. 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 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.

MAY'S SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING: THE UCC'S STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

On the third Sunday of each month, we collect a second-mile offering in support of a designated mission. But remember, second-mile contributions to the mission of the month are welcome throughout the month. In May, our designated mission is the UCC's Strengthen the Church, which supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

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. The Conference-wide total will be revealed at the 1st Annual Meeting, June 5–7, 2026. Having churches donate locally allows 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) or James Wheeler (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 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.

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.

CHURCH FINANCES – UPDATE

Weekly Income 04/19/2026	Year-to-date Income
Tithes, Offerings, Miscellaneous	
\$ 2,855	\$40,042
Fundraising/Other	
\$ 75	\$ 1,748
Total Income	
\$ 2,930	\$41,790
Weekly Expense 04/19/2026	
\$ 3,307	\$43,836
Net Surplus (Deficit)	
(\$ 377)	(\$ 2,046)

SIGN UP! SIGN UP! HELP WITH WORSHIP!

Does the volunteer roster below 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.

PENBROOK UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 3, 2026:

Today: 9:15 am Koinonia Singers rehearsal (ASSR)
 9:30 am Faith Formation (Ross Room)
 10:30 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
 11:45 am Outreach Committee (Ross Room)

Wednesday: 7:00 pm NA (FH)

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

Friday: 9:00 am Manna Prep (Lower Level)

VOLUNTEERS SERVING DURING WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026:

Acolyte:
 Greeter/Usher:
 Lectionary Reader/Liturgist: Tara Mead
 Welcome/Announcements: Tara Mead
 Streaming Operator:
 PowerPoint Operator: