St. John’s United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation

CHRISTMAS EVE
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. December 24, 2021

(Let us be silent and prayerful as we prepare ourselves for worship.)

MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Remembering that God calls us through Christ to be ministers with each other, St. John’s United Church of Christ, as inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit, seeks: To be inclusive and accessible to all people; To provide loving service to all of God’s people through mission and ministry; To strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

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

Prelude
Welcome

Moment of Meditation “The First Noel” - arr. Lamb

We Open the Door (Sung response) -
Love comes to us at Christmas, Love comes to heal our souls. Love brings an invitation that our hearts might be made whole. As we gather at the stable in the darkness, glad and grateful for the sacred in our midst, for wonder and delight, Christ is born in us this night.

Reader: Tonight, we offer the Lights of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to illumine the Door of Welcome. And we add the brightest light of all... the Light of the Newborn Jesus. It shines bright like the star that rose over Bethlehem. May this light also shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May this light awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

(Lighting the Christ Candle)

Love comes to us at Christmas, Love comes to heal our souls. Love brings an invitation that our hearts might be made whole. As we gather at the stable in the darkness, glad and grateful for the sacred in our midst, for wonder and delight, Christ is born in us this night.

The Peace
The Light of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

*Hymn #132 “Joy to the World”
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7
Chancel Choir Anthem “Good Christians Now Rejoice” - arr. Martin

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7
Chancel Choir Anthem “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” - Lasky

Words for All “Housing the Holy”
Prayer

Lord's Prayer (sinned and sinned against us) 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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned 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.

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: God of peace and joy, you bind us together as if in swaddling bands of our own cloth. We are meant to be together, meant to be active participants in your great story, the story of humanity's redemption. We give these gifts with open eyes that can see, if for but a moment, strands of linen gently guiding us all toward one another. Amen.

*Love Song of the Angels

*Hymn #131 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Love Is Here

Sharing the Light of Christ "Silent Night" - Lamb Bell Choir

*Carol #134 "Silent Night"

*Benediction

*Postlude

In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning

(Please contact the church office, at 570-523-0162, with any updates)

Ongoing Needs: Oliver Auman, Scott Bower, Betty Hackenberg, Janet Heaton, Ingrid, Christine Sartwell, Karin Shawver, Barbara Smith, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Peg Swinehart. Leanne Trout (Dee Ledgerwood’s Mother), Linda Williams, Wayne Williams.

Shut-In/Homebound: Ann Beasom, Richard Berry, Peg Brouse, Bill & Lola Fuller, Jane Hayes, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Loretta Roberson, Mary Stover.


**THIS WEEK**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, December 27</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>CLOSED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 28</td>
<td>6:30 - 8 pm</td>
<td>Girl Scout Troop 600006 (CR)</td>
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<td>7:30 - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Men’s Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 29</td>
<td>7 am - 830 am</td>
<td>Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday December 30</td>
<td>9 - 10 am</td>
<td>TOPS (CR)</td>
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<td>1030-NOON</td>
<td>Willowbrook String Band (FH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 31</td>
<td>OFFICE CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday January 1</td>
<td>HAPPY</td>
<td>NEW YEAR!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 2</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CH.RM)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>WORSHIP - (Children’s Church during worship)</td>
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**THIS EVENING**

*St. John’s is pleased you have joined with us today.* We hope that you have found this time to be a blessing. **Please sign** the attendance book located in the Narthex (and kindly include your mailing address/telephone number and/or email) and introduce yourself to the persons who are worshipping around you. If you are looking for a new church family and are interested in knowing more about St. John’s, please indicate that following worship to the Pastor or one of the ushers.

**Available to you,** if needed, is a Quiet Room for adults and children, where the service can be seen and heard. Also available are phonic-ear hearing units, large print bulletins, and large-print Bibles. Ask any usher.

**MASK REQUIREMENTS** - We thank you for your vigilance as we all continue to stay safe and healthy. We continue to **STRONGLY** encourage that masks be worn when inside the building.

**HYGIENE CLOSET** - the hygiene closet at the Intermediate School is in need of a few items to restock Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant (men's and women's), body spray (lightly scented men's and women's) might be nice for the students.

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** - are given in celebration of Lola & Bill’s 73 anniversary!

**2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES** - The Offering Envelopes for 2022 are available in the Narthex. On your way out of worship today, please stop by the table and pick yours up, it will save us having to mail them out at a cost of $5.00 each!

**HOLY JOE CAFÉ** - The Congregation invites you to enjoy coffee and fellowship before the worship service. The Holy Joe’s Café ministry enables the UCC chaplains to provide a coffee house atmosphere for spiritual care and good coffee. This program can be supported by placing a donation in the Holy Joe’s container located by the coffee cart or visit Holy Joe’s Café’ at www.ucc.org.

**FUTURE**

**UNDECORATING THE CHURCH** - It’s hard to believe, but the time to undecorate the Church is approaching quickly. It seems like they were just put up! We will be taking the decorations down on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022, immediately following the worship service.** Please plan to stay for a bit after worship to lend a hand. Many hands make light work for all!

**MARK YOU CALENDAR** - January 19th at 7 pm. We will begin a monthly series titled, “So, we’re Open and Affirming. Now what?” - The series will be held on Wednesday evenings, both In-Person or ZOOM, whichever is most comfortable for you. Please call the Church office (570-523-0162) if interested in attending.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - we will be receiving and celebrating the reports from the ministries of our congregation as a part of the morning worship service on **Sunday, January 30, 2021.**

**2022 FLOWER SPONSOR CHART** - The chart for sponsoring Chancel flowers is up in the Narthex. Please consider signing up to sponsor the Altar vases. The cost is still $42.00 for both vases, or if you like, you can sponsor just one for $21.00.
**SOUP-BOWL** - The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nation-wide, grassroots program to address hunger, where every dollar raised stays completely local. On the Sunday of The Big Game, thousands of groups across the country raise money for food charities of their choice. St. John’s will be participating again this year with a homemade soup sale. The soup pick-up will be on Sunday, February 13th, following the worship service. Soup choices are either Beef Vegetable or Chicken Corn, $7 per quart and $4 per pint. All soup must be pre-ordered by Sunday, February 6th. Please call the church office at 570-523-0162 to place your pre-order. **Please bring exact change or check to the soup pick-up.** All proceeds of the soup sale will be donated to the Lewisburg Food Pantry. If you are unable to pick up your soup, please let us know when you order, and we can arrange for delivery. Soup will already be refrigerated. All you’d need to do is reheat and eat!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** - Our next Messy Church will be on **Sunday, January 23, 2022,** from 3:30-5:30 PM (snow date January 30). The theme will be Unity, which we’ll explore through creative activities, a brief worship time and a sit-down meal. Messy Church is a church for people at all stages of their faith journey. People of all ages and family configurations are welcome. Parents and caregivers should plan to stay and enjoy Messy Church with their family. For more information or reserve your spot, call the Church office at 570-523-0162.

**THE OUTWARD SIGNS**
Sunday, December 19, 2021

- 2021 Christmas Boxes - $45.00
- 2021 Kentucky Tornado Victims - $30.00
- Building Use - $830.00
- Current Expenses - $925.00
- Giant Gift Cards - $300.00
- Improvements/Maintenance - $70.00
- Loose Offering - $80.00
- OCWM - $55.00
- UCC Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross) - $100.00
- Weis Gift Cards - $200.00

**GRAND TOTAL - $2,635.00** THANK YOU!

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St. John’s United Church of Christ
1050 Buffalo Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 – (570) 523-0162
Worship 10:00 a.m. Office: Mon.- Fri. 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Website: www.stjohnslewisburg.org Email: stjohnsuc@ptd.net

It is a privilege to serve you today . . .

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor
Rev. James E. Johnson, Pastor Emeritus
Todd R. Hummel, Dir. of Music/Organist
Todd R. Hummel, Bell Choir Director

Linda Sartwell / Sue Baish, Sound Technician
Todd Hummel, Administrative Assistant
James Donlin & Adam Snayberger, Acolytes
Barry Catherman, Video Technician

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