

DECEMBER 5 - ADVENT 2 Worship, Communion, 10 am
DECEMBER 12 - ADVENT 3 Worship, 10 am
DECEMBER 12 - Congregational Budget Meeting, 11 am
DECEMBER 18 - Buffalo Valley Singers Concert, 7:30 pm
DECEMBER 19 - ADVENT 4 Worship, 10 am

"The Music of Christmas"

DECEMBER 19 - Buffalo Valley Singers Concert, 3 pm
DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 7 pm
DECEMBER 26 - Worship, 10am
DECEMBER 27 - OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER EAGLE



DATED MATERIAL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. John's UCC
1050 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
stjohnslouisburg.org





I may be showing my age as I ask these kinds of questions: “How did it get to be close to the end of 2021?” “Where does the time go?” “HOW MANY days until Christmas day?” I wonder how many others are asking these questions?

These questions seem mundane and a bit silly, though, in the light of Marcia McFee’s reflection:

“... we are reeling from prolonged uncertainty and instability brought on by the pandemic. In the United States alone, millions lost their jobs and are affected by whether or not landlords will evict them from their homes for failure to pay rent. A staggering number of families are food insecure for the first time in their lives. And those who were already on the brink are even less sure how to survive. **And we are all exhausted in some way** (*emphasis mine*). Even if it is decision-fatigue. We have problems to address.”

Yes, there are many problems to address. We are facing challenges of many kinds and each one’s *plate* is full to overflowing in a variety of ways. We have global concerns, national concerns, local concerns, and personal concerns.

Marcia reminds us that

“so did the Holy Family that [holy] night. An oppressive regime had demanded everyone upend their lives and hightail it to their hometowns to register for the census-for tax purposes, likely. Mary was on the verge of giving birth and the AirBnB app just wasn’t an option. Whether they got to town late or for some other reason, they had a housing problem that night.”

So, the invitation is for us to spend this Advent and Christmas seeing our situations in a different light. Seeing the church’s situation in a different light...

“the light of the Star of Bethlehem that shone that night on an unlikely house for the holy—a stable. It doesn’t matter what state your church [world, nation, town, home, family ... etc.] is in at the moment [and any uncertainty we might be feeling in those realities.] The Light of Christ is shining on *us*, inviting *us* to become a beacon of hope to others.”

We might ask ourselves: “What one thing could you do (or add to what you already do) that could alleviate someone’s suffering? And how could this [idea of “housing the holy”] inspire you to think bigger and beyond this holy-day season with purposeful solutions for your community housed in your church? We are called to “make room” in our inns—to create a welcoming space for the flourishing of humanity. That’s what the inn, the stable, the manger, became that night.”

Blessings and peace and we follow the star toward the joy of Christmas!

Alice

Excerpts adapted from “Series Overview” from Marcia McFee’s worship series; “The Inn”.



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/01 James Donlin
 12/02 Brenda Adams
 12/02 Debby Catherman
 12/03 Suzanne Tomlinson
 12/07 Charles Funk III
 12/10 Linda Sartwell
 12/15 Sharon Brown
 12/15 Lynn Dean
 12/15 Betty Hackenberg
 12/18 Anna Brouse
 12/19 Janet Heaton
 12/23 Richard Berry
 12/23 Ann Louise Snyder
 12/24 Michael Catherman
 12/29 Jean Pacholok
 12/29 Roger Spickler

12/23 Janet & Mike Roberts
 12/26 Lola & Bill Fuller
 12/29 Alice & Palmer Dreese
 12/30 Jeanne & John Letteer
 12/31 Vicki & William Fennell



LAY-READERS NEEDED

The Worship Committee is looking for Lay-Readers for the 2022 Church year. We currently have June through December of 2022 still open for readers.

Please sign up on the list in the Narthex, or call the Church office to volunteer your time as a Lay-reader. You can also split a month with someone. Give it some prayerful thought, and sign up!



Consider Joining a Committee

As we approach a new year, we have many committees where we could use your assistance. The committees are: Mission and Social Action, Finance and Personnel, Building and Grounds, Christian Education, Worship, and Hospitality and Growth. Please contact Don Adams, Todd Hummel, or Pastor Alice with your interest.



“WASHING THE FEET” PROJECT

Angie Donlin has created a program called “Washing the Feet”. This program is designed to provide basic essential needs to patients in need, who come through the Emergency Department. We will be collecting the following items to support this endeavor.

- ◆ Travel-size body wash/bar soap
- ◆ Travel-size tooth paste
- ◆ Hair brush or comb
- ◆ Individually packaged tooth brush
- ◆ Wash cloth
- ◆ Gallon size zip lock “type” sealable plastic bag

There is a location in the Narthex for the collection of these items.

Messy Church

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

"Messy Church . . . Church, but not as you know it!"



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Building and Grounds is in process of evaluating/recommending projects to improve the use and ‘curb appeal’ of the Church. PLEASE consider making any observations YOU may have regarding issues and concerns regarding the exterior or interior of our facility.

Please contact Jim Tomlinson jimnsue@ptd.net with any comments/suggestions you have. BG will be meeting to discuss these issues.

Christmas Baskets 2021

Our congregation will be providing Christmas Dinner Baskets for 15 Children and Youth families who are in need of assistance to have a holiday meal. We will be collecting both monetary donations and also nonperishable foods such as (cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, canned veggies and fruits, and dessert such as Jello/pudding, pie filling and crust, and cake mixes).

Please have all donations to the Church no later than December 19.

Please be generous this holiday so others may be able to enjoy a nice holiday meal and leftovers.

Supported by the Mission and Social Action Committee



200TH ANNIVERSARY of ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's UCC,

The history of our congregation is rich and fruitful, with stories of many faithful generations of followers of Christ that have made an impact on our communities and our world. In 2024 we will have the privilege and joy of celebrating our 200th anniversary. We are hoping to start planning soon for our celebration year.

The first step will be to create a 200th anniversary planning team to start shaping plans for 2024. We have a couple of people who have indicated their interest in serving on this team. If you would like to be a part of this exciting team, please let Pastor Alice or Don Adams know. We hope to start meeting in early 2022.

"Dinner By The River" volunteers needed.

St Johns UCC is part of a multi-church mission to provide meals once a month for those families/ individuals with food insecurity. This monthly mission goes by the name "Dinner By The River" Serve Safe Program. Our church is scheduled to provide the meals Thursday, Feb 3, 2022. We are in need of 4-5 volunteers to prep, prepare and package meals for drive-up pickup. The approximate times are 2 pm to 5 pm for prepping, preparing and packaging the meals. Families/ individuals will drive up between 5 pm and 6 pm while meals last. Will only need a couple of volunteers to stay during pick up times. The meal location is at First Presbyterian Church located in downtown Lewisburg on N. Walters and Market St. Parking lot is in the rear of the church. If you are interested, please contact Pat Wigsмоen at pwigsмоen@outlook.com or cell 772-216-3304. Thanking you in advance for your support of this mission.

White Gifts 2021

Gifts for Bethany Children's Home are being collected. A list of needed items can be found in the narthex. All gifts need to be brought to the Church by December 9, 2021.

Facility Adoption

Our congregation has been asked to adopt a health care facility in the area. This program is to support the staff who continue to provide care during these challenging times. Watch for more information about this project in the new year.

Christmas Day Dinner Cancelled This Year

After 16 continuous years of providing a full Christmas dinner to those who would be alone or who are in need, the Christmas Day Dinner Committee has decided to take a hiatus this year due to continuing COVID concerns and medical/work issues among the committee members. We know that this meal has been a high point for many over the years and our hope is to eat around a table at the church again in the future.

St. John's Quilters, Knitters, Knotters, & More Continue to Be Busy

You may have noticed the continuing thank you notes in our newsletter from individuals who have received one of the sewn items made by the Quilters, Knitters, Knotters, & More group here at St. John's. Throughout this past year, the group has been very busy, making quilts for adults, children, and infants; prayer shawls; knitted blankets for mothers and babies; and even baby booties and hats. There continues to be a need for these warm and comforting items, especially when individuals are ill or in crisis.

Since January 1, 2021, the group has distributed 194 quilts in a variety of colors, themes, and sizes. There have been quilts covered in the harbingers of spring, summer quilts that bring the flowering garden indoors, and quilts filled with pumpkins, colored leaves, and Indian corn for the Autumn months. The Christmas ones are now being made in a variety of designs and shades of green, red, and dark blue. Some of this material has been generously donated from a deceased member of Dreisbach UCC church.

The finished quilts have been given to church members who are sick, homebound or in nursing homes; individuals at local shelters such as Transitions and Gate House in Danville; four different local nursing homes; families at Century Village; children battling illness in Geisinger, and more. Our resumed Prayer Shawl Ministry has currently distributed 4 Prayer Shawls to shut-ins, with 15 additional going to a group of ladies at Selinsgrove Center as Christmas gifts. Finally, knitted items have been provided to Evangelical Hospital: 2 blankets for mothers, 8 blankets for babies, 1 hat, and 2 pairs of booties. And more are being made! And still more, need to be made!

Quilters, Knitters, Knotters, & More can always use more members. With the variety of sewn items, there is a place for you if you enjoy making any of them, or just like to sew. Even if you do not know how to make something, but are interested, we can show you how! Why not meet the group at our next monthly meeting on Monday, December 13, at 10AM in the Community Room at the church? There is always some work to do and plenty of good fellowship.

Kay Nottis, on Behalf of St. John's Quilters, Knitters, Knotters, & More



OCTOBER 2021 REPORT

Current Operating Receipts	\$	24,137.80
Current Operating Disbursements	\$ -	20,397.85
Current Operating Balance	\$	3,739.95



Children's Church Returns

The Children's Church program started again on **October 3rd**, during the worship service. On Sunday mornings, children will remain in the sanctuary through the Children's Moment, and then be invited to Children's Church. We are looking for additional people to be on our rotation of lesson leaders. Please contact, Pastor Alice, Liz DeSantis or Sue Baish if you'd like to volunteer as a leader or assistant.



Dear St. John's,

How very thoughtful and kind it was to bring me dinner last Tuesday.

It was so nice seeing Todd again.

I really appreciate your kindness!

Sincerely,

Jean Hartman

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your gift given to our Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program. Every dollar of your contribution will be used to supply food for those enrolled in our program.

Our program provides supplemental food for income-eligible individuals and families in Eastern Union County twice a month. It takes generosity like yours to help us serve them. Thank you again for your support of our program.

Sincerely,

Jo Orris, Sec/Treas.

Dear Friends in Christ at St. John's,

I would like to express my thanks to you for the prayers, cards, visits, and food during my recovery from knee replacement surgery. These things have made a difficult recovery much more bearable and have helped me to keep hopeful.

The Peace of Christ to you All,

Gary Nottis

Dear St. John's,

On behalf of Evangelical Community Hospital, I want to thank you for your gift of mother blankets, baby blankets, booties and hats to the Family Place.

Thank You again,

Sincerely,

Donna S. Schuck

Dear Pastor Alice and the Consistory,

Your help and support on and before Nov. 21 as the Piecemakers prepared for a guest speaker was ever-so- appreciated. The spacious sanctuary was comfortable for the group of about seventy that appeared. Todd Pitched in to help our guest speaker, Eliza Hardy Jones from Philadelphia get set up electronically, and Linda Sartwell and Sue Baish graciously donated their expertise with lighting and sound. All this help was invaluable as it enabled the program to be the success it was. Thank you for your kindness and generosity toward the Piecemakers in so many ways.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Watson, for the Guild

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: **BRENDA & DON ADAMS**

Lock-up: **MARK BROUSE**

Lay-Reader: **ANNA BROUSE**

Preparation of Communion Elements: **CAROL BERRY**

DECEMBER	Children's Church	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
5	DURING WORSHIP	CAROL BERRY
12	DURING WORSHIP	
19	DURING WORSHIP	
24		
26	DURING WORSHIP	

DECEMBER	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
5	ANGIE & ED DONLIN	?
12	BRENDA & DON ADAMS	?
19	CAROL & CHUCK LAUDERMILCH	?
24	LOLA & BILL FULLER	
26		?

DECEMBER	GREETERS
5	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON
12	RUTH BROUSE & FRIEND
19	DOT & ART BOWER
24	
26	



Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Indoors or online
on Facebook or YouTube

Visit us on the Web!

www.stjohnslewisburg.org



St. John's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1050 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone: 570-523-0162
E-mail: stjohnsucc@ptd.net

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

MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS

NOVEMBER - Hoffman Homes & Neighbors In Need

DECEMBER - The Christmas Fund & Bethany Christmas gifts

JANUARY - OGHS - One Great Hour of Sharing



The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally.



As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew-offering respite, sustenance, and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life?

No one church can do it all, but each can do something.

As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and "make room in the inn," the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Please join us for worship during Advent, as we explore the topic of, *"Housing the Holy"*.

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 9:00 AM BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT) 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:00 AM DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS	29 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM BVS REHEARSAL (SANCT)	30 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00 PM Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	1 7:00 AM Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)	2 9:00 AM TOPS (CR) 10:30 AM Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 7:00 PM Building & Grounds (PAR)	3 4:00 PM Suzuki Class (PAV)	4 12:00 PM Girl Scouts (FH)
5 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 9:00 AM CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM) 10:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 PM Piece Makers Quilter's (FH/PAR)	6 7:00 PM BVS REHEARSAL (SANCT) 7:00 PM HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE (SANCT)	7 1:00 PM P.E.O. Convention committee (FH) 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00 PM Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	8 7:00 AM Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)	9 9:00 AM TOPS (CR) 10:30 AM Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 7:00 PM Frosty Valley Dulcimer Friends (FH)	10 4:00 PM Suzuki Class (PAV)	11 12:30 PM Suzuki Class Recital (SANCT)
12 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 9:00 AM BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT) 10:00 AM WORSHIP	13 10:00 AM ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS & MORE (CR) 11:00 AM Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) 2:00 PM WORSHIP/MUSIC (RR) 7:00 PM CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)	14 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00 PM Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	15 7:00 AM Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)	16 9:00 AM TOPS (CR) 10:30 AM Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 6:00 PM BVS REHEARSAL (SANCT) 7:00 PM CONSISTORY (ZOOM)	17	18 7:30 PM BVS CONCERT (FH/SANCT)
19 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 9:00 AM CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM) 10:00 AM WORSHIP 3:00 PM BVS CONCERT (FH/SANCT)	20 7:00 PM FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)	21 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00 PM Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	22 7:00 AM Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)	23 9:00 AM TOPS (CR) 10:30 AM Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 7:00 PM WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM)	24  7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 
26 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 9:00 AM BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT) 10:00 AM WORSHIP 1:00 PM Piece Makers Quilter's (FH)	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 6:30 PM Committee on Ministry (ZOOM) 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00 PM Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	29 7:00 AM Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)	30 9:00 AM TOPS (CR) 10:30 AM Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH)	31	1