

Imagine



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. May 15, 2022

(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

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Choral Introit

*Call to Worship:

We gather here to follow Jesus,

Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

This is the new commandment:

That we love one another as Christ loved us.

By this we are known as Christ's disciples:

That we have love for one another.

Come, worship God, and follow Jesus,

Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

*Hymn #307

"Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession - Creator God, we confess that we live in a world You did not intend for us. You crafted a beautiful earth full of life; we created a world of wealth and power, stripping Your earth of its bountiful resources. You created us all and called us good; we built walls and ways of dividing others by race and gender, politics and economics. You made a vast universe full of mystery and wonder, and we made policies that take from those who have little to give to those who have more. You called us to be fruitful and multiply but did not call us cause harm to others. Call all into accountability when we have failed to seek You and instead have sought power and dominance. Call us back to Your ways, to the earth You created for us, and remind us of Your intention for us to care for the earth and for all of creation in the best way possible, through the love You gave for us. For You laid down your life for us, and called us

to lay down our lives for one another. We have failed, O God, and put our own wealth and selfish gain above others. Call us back to You, to Your way of love. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Moment of Silence

Blessing/Assurance (Romans 8:38-39) - "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." You are made in God's image. You are beloved by God. Christ laid down his life for you, for all of us, and in Christ you have new life. You are loved and restored and forgiven. Go and share the good news, that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Words for All, Especially Children

Anthem *"Acclimation of Assurance" - Martin*

Scripture: *Acts 11:1-18 & John 13:31-35*

Sermon *"Commands"*

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.

Celebration and Joys

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Loving God, Holy Vessel of Kindness-
We glorify you by sharing our gifts of love with this community. We celebrate Your presence by caring for Your creation. May these offerings today nourish a world craving more love, peace, justice, and hope. Amen.

*Hymn #388 *"Help Us Accept Each Other"*

*Benediction

Postlude

In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning

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

Ongoing Needs- Scott Bower, Bill Geyer, Betty Hackenberg, Janet Heaton, Ingrid, Christine Sartwell, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams, Watsontown Nursing and Rehab Staff.

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

Immediate Concerns - Anna Brouse, Pastor Shirley Cornell, Carol Erdley, LaRue Erdman, The Family of Rue Erdman, Sue Gemberling, Brynley Grove, The Family of Richard Heaton, Maryjane H., Michelle L., Katelynn Mattison, Garry Nottis.

THIS MORNING

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) or fill out a Welcome Card (located on the Welcome Table in the Narthex) 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.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - are given by Carol Erdley, in loving memory of Helen Bowersox and Don Erdley.

MASK REQUIREMENTS - We thank you for your vigilance as we all continue to stay safe and healthy. We encourage you to wear a mask. Thank You.

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. See Greeter(s).

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.

WELCOMING TEAM - The newly formed Welcoming Team is **NEED** of volunteers to greet people at the door, hand out bulletins, and offer any help to visitors. Please let Todd or Pastor Alice know if you're interested. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on the small round table. Please consider taking a Sunday or two!**

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 16	7 pm 7 pm	Empty Arms Support Group (CR) BVS Rehearsal (FH) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)
Tuesday, May 17	7am - 8 pm 1030am-Noon Noon-7pm 6:30 - 8 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm	ELECTION DAY (FH) Willowbrook String Band (SANCT) I.E.P. Advocacy (LIB/RR) Girl Scout Troop 600006 (CR) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, May 18	7 am - 830 am	Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)
Thursday May 19	9 - 10 am NOON - 4pm 7 pm 7 pm	TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) CONSISTORY (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop (Ch. Rm.)
Friday, May 20		
Saturday May 21	7:30 pm	Buffalo Valley Singers Concert (FH/SANCT)
Sunday, May 22	845 am 915 am 10 am 1 pm 3 pm	BELL CHOIR (SANCT) CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM) WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH Piecemakers Guild (FH) Buffalo Valley Singers Concert (FH/SANCT)

FUTURE

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH - Rides to Church services are now available for folks. If you're in need of a ride to one of our services, please call the Church office (570) 523-0162 by at least the Friday prior to needing a ride.

MISSION TRIP FUND RAISER - the Mission/Social Action committee is holding a fund-raising event with the sale of **WHOOPIE PIES!** There is an order form in your bulletin for your convenience. There are several flavors and cost \$2.50 each. Deadline for orders is May 23rd. Please support this project and get some goodies in return!

MEAL MINISTRY -Our congregation has been providing food support for individuals & families in urgent situations, i.e.: post-surgery, illness, death in family, etc. We need folks who are willing to prepare/deliver food. Please call the Church office 570-523-0162 or see Pastor Alice if interested.

BUFFALO VALLEY SINGERS CONCERTS - The Buffalo Valley Singers will hold their Spring Concert here at St. John's on **Saturday, May 21st at 7 pm, and Sunday, May 22nd at 3:30 pm.** Consider coming out to support the singers and enjoy a wonderful evening/afternoon of music.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

Sunday, May 8, 2022

2022 Whoopie Pies - \$77.50; Building Use - \$115.00; Chancel Flowers - \$50.00;
Current Expenses - \$1,892.00; Giant Gift Cards - \$400.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$45.00; LEAF - \$20.00; Memorial Fund - \$50.00;
OCWM - \$251.00; Phoebe-Devitt - \$20.00; Weis Gift Cards - \$600.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$3,520.50 THANK YOU!!!

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: stjohnsucc@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 / Dave Smit, *Sound*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Carol Ann Berry - *Welcoming Team*

Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 15, 2022

Revelations 21:1-6

Imagine *Mental Health Sunday*

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network is a special interest group within the UCC that works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership, and work of congregations. According to their website: mhn-ucc.org, "We envision a future in which people with mental illnesses feel welcomed, supported, valued and included in their congregations."

A new curriculum released last autumn describes how a mental health diagnosis intersects and interacts with other parts of persons, bringing both challenge and clarity to the quest for identity.

In a video clip publicizing the curriculum, Rhina Ramos claims her identities as "an immigrant woman, from El Salvador, a lesbian and a Christian." When asked how those identities interact within herself, as well as what others think of her identities, Ramos reflects, "Well, I can get confused because I am all these identities. But people outside me get confused because they tend to see just pieces of it...but I'm a whole person. I'm a whole person who is very colorful!"

In describing his identity, JJ Flag says, "I am both a black male, and one who lives with a physical disability...I navigate the world using a wheelchair because I was born with cerebral palsy. Being both a black man who has a disability, it's interesting to see how those two things play out in my life...It was the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas that said, "if you want to see what God looks like, look into the face of the other." He continues, "I have sat down and really toyed with the idea, "What would it mean to get to heaven and God be a direct reflection of who I am? People talk about 'when one day you'll get to heaven and you'll be walking around.' And I'm like, 'what if I get there and God's ROLLing around?'"

David Finnegan Hosey reflects, "A lot of my identities are at the intersection of advantages I'm given. White, male, cisgender, straight - and a lot of those forms of identities that tend to carry a lot of power within our society are really quite fragile. I mean, you get kicked out of the boy's club really quick when you break down crying every five minutes because you're having a bi-polar episode."

Listen to these stories, and many more, and explore the intersections of your identities at mhn-ucc.org.



8-1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Bulletin artwork and background music copyright © 2022 United Church of Christ

ST. JOHN'S UCC, LEWISBURG MISSION TRIP 2022 FUNDRAISER

ORDERS DUE BY MAY 23RD, PICK-UP JUNE 12TH, SUNDAY MORNING

\$2.50 each

<i>NAME</i>	<i>PHONE #</i>	<i>FLAVOR</i>	<i>QUANTITY</i>	<i>TOTAL \$\$</i>
		<i>CHOCOLATE CHIP</i>		
		<i>CHOCOLATE WITH VANILLA FILLING</i>		
		<i>CHOCOLATE WITH PEANUT BUTTER FILLING</i>		
		<i>PEANUT BUTTER</i>		
		<i>RED VELVET</i>		
		<i>SHOOFLY</i>		
		<i>SNICKERDOODLE</i>		
			<i>SUBTOTAL \$\$</i>	