



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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - COMMUNION

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

July 3, 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,*

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Call to Worship:

The prophets of old spoke of God's justice,  
even when it was unwelcomed. Who will hear their message?

**We will listen and we will hear!**

Responding to God's call, Jesus traveled,  
preaching and teaching all who would listen. Who will hear his message?

**We will listen and we will hear!**

Christ sent out disciples two by two,  
to spread the good news in any place  
that would welcome them. Who will hear their message?

**We will listen and we will hear!**

God's prophets are among us still,  
around the world and in these chairs. Who will hear their message?

**We will listen and we will hear!**

Hymn (see insert)

*"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"*

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession - **Merciful God, we confess that we have failed to love you most of all. We have failed to fully be your church in this time and place. We have sinned against you and each another by things we have done and things we have left undone. We have not loved our neighbors because we have failed to see the Christ in others. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to walk in the light of your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Despite our brokenness, Christ showed his love for us that we might have life.*

*In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Affirming the Peace Among Us

*The peace of Christ is with you!*

**And also with you!**

*You are invited to turn to the people around you and wave as a sign of graceful greetings this day.*

Words for All - Especially Children

"Help us to always be a person other people want to take on a trip. Amen."

Scripture      Psalm 30

Message                      “*Heart Song*”

Morning 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.

Sharing our Joys and Celebrations

Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Outspoken Prophet, hear the message we are speaking through these our gifts and aid us in spreading that message of hope and love to those whose voices have been silenced. May they strengthen our congregation so that we may continue to listen to those in need.

Order for Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer - *Holy God, we praise and bless You for creation, for the gift of life, and for Your abiding love which brings us close to You, ... which we share the gift of eternal life.*

*With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy Your holy name: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of Your glory, O God Most High.*

Communion Prayer (cont.)

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Together): We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn (see insert)      “*This is my Song, O God of All the Nations*”

Benediction

Postlude

### 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 my Sue and Jim Tomlinson to the Glory of God!

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](http://www.ucc.org).

**WELCOMING TEAM (AKA, GREETERS)** - 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, July 4	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Tuesday, July 5	1030am-Noon 6:30 - 8 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Willowbrook String Band (SANCT) Girl Scout Troop 600006 (CR)Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, July 6	7 am - 830 am	Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)
Thursday June 7	9 - 10 am NOON - 4pm <b>7 pm</b> 7 pm	TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) <b>BUILDINGS/GROUNDS (PAR)</b> Women's Barbershop (Ch. Rm.)
Friday, July 8		
Saturday July 9		
Sunday, July 10	<b>10 am</b> <b>3:30 - 5:30 pm</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b> <b>MESSY CHURCH (ENTIRE BUILDING)</b>

**MESSY CHURCH** - We will be holding **MESSY CHURCH** on **July 10<sup>th</sup>**. This is a family inclusive, relaxed time of fun, worship, arts/crafts, food and more fun.

### **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.

**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.

## **THE OUTWARD SIGNS**

**Sunday, June 26, 2022**

Building Use - \$100.00; Current Expenses - \$936.00;

Loose Offering - \$2.00; OCWM - \$395.00

**GRAND TOTAL - \$1,433.00 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](http://www.stjohnslewisburg.org) Email: [stjohnsucc@ptd.net](mailto: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*

Children's Church, Liz DeSantis

Linda Sartwell / Sue Baish / Dave Smit, *Sound*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Sue & Jim Tomlinson - *Welcoming Team*

Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

CCLI #20796546 One License #738455-A

*Surprising Prophets*

*This is my song, O God of all the nations  
 A song of peace for lands afar and mine  
 This is my home, the country where my heart is  
 Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine  
 But other hearts in other lands are beating  
 With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.\**

Of all the interesting characters we find in the busy book of Kings, Naaman is perhaps the most relatable to modern people. Mostly, his life is pretty good. He is successful at his career. He's well-regarded by his peers. He has enough money to be more or less comfortable. He just has this one irritating problem - a skin ailment that will not leave him be.

When he finds out that a healer in a neighboring country might be able to help him, he's able to wield his influence and power to find a way there. When he reaches the healer's house, he is not welcomed in, as he would have expected after a long journey. Instead, he's instructed by a servant to go bathe in the nearby Jordan River.

Insulted, he stomps off. Again, relatable. You can just imagine him fuming that he had paid the guy, and he didn't even get a meeting. And what kind of river was the Jordan anyway? The rivers in Naaman's own country were much more impressive.

When Naaman decides to fill the healer's frustrating prescription, he is cured of more than his physical ailment. Perhaps even more importantly, he is relieved of his prideful nationalism, the belief that they do things best back where he's from.

Today is the day before American Independence Day, and many of us will raise our voices in songs of praise for our own nation's majesty and beauty. Today might also be a day to turn to page 591 in *The New Century Hymnal*, to give voice to the humility, curiosity, and generosity that is the path to knowing, like Naaman, that unthinking nationalism is never going to be what heals. What heals is curiosity and respect for all people.

\*Stone, Lloyd. "This is my song." *The Hymnal* © 1933, *The New Century Hymnal* © 1993, p. 591

