



**Living into the Promise**

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor - Rev. Sally Dries, guest Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

August 7, 2022

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

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**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.

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*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,*

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

\*Choral Introit                      "Be Still and Know that I am God"                      #743  
*Be still and know that I am God. (3x)*

\*Call to Worship: (from Hebrews 11:1-3)

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.*

*Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.*

**And by faith we understand.**

*The worlds were prepared by the word of God,*

**so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.**

*Come, join in worship of our God,*

**In whom we have faith, though we have not seen.**

\*Hymn                                      "How Firm a Foundation"                                      #407

Prayer of Brokenness - Almighty Creator, we confess our pride. We confess our lack of humility. We break down and destroy in seconds what took centuries, even thousands of years to build in creation. We take for granted all You have made in Your wisdom and consume it selfishly and discard what we don't need as if Your creation was trash. Forgive us, O God, for not valuing the work of Your hands. Forgive us, O God, for our short-sightedness and foolishness. Help us to become humble, O God, as You became humble for us, a God who came as one of us, died as one of us, and lives again so that we might live. May we learn in graciousness, in deep compassion, and be filled with kindness and love for Your creation. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness - God is a God of renewal, of new beginnings, of new life. God is the God of the Rainbow, the covenant of restoration and life. God loves you, and God knows where you need a fresh start. Repent: turn back to God. Know God's forgiveness and restoration are yours. Seek to love one another, forgive one another, and join in the work of reparation and healing among each other and the world. Go and share the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, and salvation in Christ Jesus, who lives again and brings new life to all. Amen.

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

Scripture:     *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 & Luke 12:32-40*

Message             ***“Living into the Promise”***

### 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:

**Generous One, receive the gifts we bring as we return a portion of your treasure to the use of your kingdom. May your will be manifested, and your creation restored through sharing these offerings. Amen.**

\*Order for Holy Communion

### Invitation

Christ invites “all” to the table of reconciliation - ...

be joined together as one Holy Communion of Body and Spirit throughout this good earth.

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, ... become sovereign in your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through 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.)

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine, ...

*We do remember.*

and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

### 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

***“This Little Light of Mine”***

#524

Additional verses     Vs.2 Everywhere I go. . .     Vs. 3 All through the night . . .

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, Carol Erdley, Bill Geyer, Betty Hackenberg, Janet Heaton, 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** - Hank Aldee, Theresa Beers, Anna Brouse, Brynley Grove, Mary Kennison(Carol Laudermilch's sister), Michelle L., Katelynn Mattison, Merdyth Updegraff.

**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** - given by Sue & Jim Tomlinson, To the Glory of God.

**MASK REQUIREMENTS** - We thank you for your vigilance as we all continue to stay safe and healthy. Masking is optional. 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).

## THIS WEEK

Monday, August 8	9 am <b>9 am</b> <b>7 pm</b>	Kinder Music (PAV) <b>ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS (CR)</b> <b>CHRISTIAN ED. (ZOOM)</b>
Tuesday, August 9	9 am 1030am-Noon 6-730 pm 6:30 - 8 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Kinder Music (PAV) Willowbrook String Band (SANCT) Soccer (EAST FIELD) Girl Scout Troop 600006 (PAV) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, August 10	9 am	Kinder Music (PAV)
Thursday August 11	9 am 9 - 1030 am NOON - 4pm <b>6 pm</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAV) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) <b>REJOICING SPIRITS (SANCT/NARTH)</b> <b>MISSION/SOCIAL ACTION (LIB)</b> Women's Barbershop (Ch. Rm.)
Friday, August 12	9 am	Kinder Music (PAV)
Saturday August 13		
Sunday, August 14	<b>10 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b> <b>CHILDREN'S WORSHIP DURING WORSHIP</b>

## 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.

**ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS, KNOTTERS AND MORE** - Do you enjoy sewing, knitting or crocheting? If so, please consider joining St. John's Quilters, Knitters, Knotters and More. We meet monthly and then work on projects at home. Maybe you would like to make prayer shawls for adolescent girls in detention at Danville or to knit blankets for new babies and their mothers at Evangelical Hospital. Perhaps you would like to piece together a quilt or sew one for a child being placed in foster care, someone battling cancer or an elder adjusting to a nursing home environment. Our quilts are given to a variety of individuals with multiple needs. Since January 1, 2022, we have already distributed 117 quilts! If you really don't sew much, perhaps you would like to knot quilts that have been made. If you don't know how to do something, we're happy to teach you. We have a variety of colorful material and backing stored at St. John's for use on these projects. Whatever your skill level, everyone is welcome -- older or younger, female or male. Our next meeting will be held **Monday, August 8 at 9-11 AM in the Community Room. Please consider joining us! The need is great, and we can reach so many more people when we work together.**

**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.

**VESPERS SERVICE** - Please mark your calendar for our next outdoor Vespers Service, which will be held on **Saturday, August 20, 2022, at 5 pm in the pavilion.**  
More details to follow...

**YARD SALE** - Don't forget to mark your calendars and clean out your items for our annual yard sale, **AUGUST 31, 8am - 2pm.** Please bring your donations to the pavilion. Help is needed on Mondays in August to help sort and organize the items for the sale. Please see/call Linda Sartwell if interested, 570-966-1101.

## THE OUTWARD SIGNS

Sunday, July 31, 2022

Audio/Visual Fund - \$10.00; Building Use - \$20.00; Current Expenses - \$2,956.00;  
Giant Gift Cards - \$200.00; Heifer Project - \$100.00; Heiter Center - \$150.00;  
Improvements/Maintenance - \$20.00; Loose Offering - \$37.00;  
OCWM - \$360.00; St. John's Quilters - \$20.00; Weis Gift Cards - \$100.00;

**GRAND TOTAL - \$3,973.00 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*

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## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 7, 2022

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

### Living into the Promise

Rev. Ann Kansfield, UCC pastor, FDNY chaplain and author of *Be the Brave One: Living Your Spiritual Values Out Loud and Other Life Lessons* shares the courage that led her to write a book about her experiences.

"My wife Jennifer and I serve part-time as co-pastors of the Greenpoint Reformed Church, (a joint UCC and Reformed congregation in Brooklyn, NY). We do our best to love God and neighbor, even though we aren't always sure how to do that.

My other ministry setting is as a chaplain for the fire department of the City of New York. I am one of seven chaplains who serve the department as a whole. I never know what might happen on any given day, but I pray that God can use me in a way to be of service to others. Also, the uniforms are pretty great."

Although friends encouraged her to share her stories and reflections, Kansfield shied away from the idea of writing a book. "One of the things that really changed the trajectory of the book was connecting with Marty St. George, my co-author... He is really the one who helped take a bunch of stories and thoughts and turn them into a book. I think it's actually a really great story in itself because it shows that sometimes we can do big things when we have friends and fellow travelers who walk alongside us and help us. Sometimes we minister to others and other times they minister to us. Life is really best lived when it's done in mutual ministry with others around us.

For me, bravery is doing things which make us uncomfortable, things which we would rather not do or avoid. And being brave is what allows us to be authentic and vulnerable and have important conversations which we would otherwise want to avoid. Bravery is not just about apologizing for our mistakes but asking 'how did my mistake impact you?' and then being quiet and listening.

We can all use some extra bravery these days. It's not always easy to be our most authentic selves. It's certainly difficult to be vulnerable and to share our deepest hopes and fears and listen to the hopes and fears of others. That stuff can be terrifying! But that's the space where God often leads us - to authenticity, vulnerability and bravery."



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE