

THE EAGLE

OCTOBER 2 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION - 10 am
OCTOBER 2 - WALK FOR HUNGER INSECURITY - 2 pm
OCTOBER 9 - MESSY CHURCH - 3:30 pm
OCTOBER 13 - REJOICING SPIRITS - 6:30 pm
OCTOBER 16 - WORSHIP - 10 am
OCTOBER 17 - BOOK STUDY 4 pm
OCTOBER 23 - WORSHIP - 10 am
OCTOBER 27 - WIRED WORD STUDY - 7 pm
OCTOBER 30 - WORSHIP, ALL SAINTS DAY - 10 am
OCTOBER 30 - TRUNK - OR - TREAT - 3 pm - 5 pm

OCTOBER
2022

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



DATED MATERIAL



"Are you weak and heavy laden? Is there trouble anywhere?"

Does this bring a hymn to mind?

Here's a better question, "Are you weak and heavy laden?"

It seems to me that many people I chat with are feeling particularly weary and burdened. I have some theories about why that is the case and I am not alone in that. We have heard folks talking about "Pandemic Fatigue" and I think the impact is real and long lasting. There's the continuing uncertainty and fear. Many will say we've come a long way, but we may also feel as if we must be constantly vigilant on the latest information and "numbers". Another dynamic I've noticed is the need to relearn day-to-day rhythms of life. So many of the things we did every day without even thinking now feel new and unfamiliar. Many have lost their rhythms and every day feels like a new challenge and a new "puzzle to be solved". I believe the day will come when we will feel some sense of life's return to normalcy (or, as they say "the new normal") and we will again find our strides in the daily activities of life, family, work, faith and church and community/ social activities, but I am guessing most of us are saying, "I'm not there, yet."

So, what's a weary one to do?

Here are a few ideas:

Celebrate those moments that help us to feel refreshed. I recently sat outside at a high school football game enjoying the smells, smiles and noise of the event. I reveled in the familiarity and internally gave thanks to God for the simple gift of that moment.

Be gentle with others - since it seems weary souls are all around us, perhaps the cranky person you just met is weary and heavy laden, too. Perhaps this day has required more energy than they can muster (or maybe they are even "hangry"). How about praying a quick prayer either for that person or for yourself to have patience and kindness with them?

Be gentle with yourself - for God loves you right now and just as you are. The new book study describes this as God's "unshaken-off-able-ness". That's a mouthful, I know, but I love the reminder that "God's love can never be shaken off." That's true even when we are cranky or "hangry"!!

From the old song ... "take it to the Lord in prayer". Dare to tell God about all of your reality. God already knows and God's desire is to walk with us through whatever our current reality might be.

Practice gratitude. In a recent visit to a college campus I heard that the Spiritual Care department was providing gratitude journals for the students. The chaplain mentioned that there is evidence that a daily practice of gratitude impacts our minds and our well-being. (Google it and you can find some of these articles).

There are many other ways to address the current state of weariness that many are feeling. Find devotionals that uplift you and help you to start or continue your day. I recommend that if you haven't been reading Pastor Gary Nottis' devotionals on Facebook you take a look at those. There are printed devotionals available in the church's narthex. There are online devotionals galore. The UCC will send devotions to you every day. You can sign up at <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/> . These are the devotions that Todd posts on our church's Facebook page every day.

Matthew 11:28-30 says, "**Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. " Imagine the voice of Jesus saying this to you and to us ...

Dear ones, weary or not, God is with us. There is hope! God is up to many good things in our midst! You are loved right now - right here - just as you are!

“Red Book” Memories Continued I

“How Shall We Celebrate?”

In a little over 17 months, St. John's will celebrate 200 years of worshipping God, following the teachings and lived example of Jesus Christ, and serving the spiritual and physical needs of the people of Lewisburg and beyond. It is no small matter for a congregation to reach such a milestone. That is why “Red Book” Memories is returning to the St. John's monthly newsletter. Hopefully, this column will remind us of this faith community's extraordinary past and prepare us for the celebration of its bicentennial.

How did we celebrate previous milestones?

Our “Red Book” of history doesn't tell us exactly when our congregation came into existence in 1824. Neither do we know when or how our faith community observed it's 50th anniversary in 1874. However, during the pastorate of Rev. Henry Harbaugh Rupp (1920-1937), St. John's did mark its 100th anniversary with the publication of a brief history of the church and a five-day celebration of the congregation's founding. There were consecutive evenings of praise services and a Sunday morning worship from Wednesday, October 17th to Sunday, October 19th, 1924. Invitations were extended to all former living pastors to participate. Three were able to take part: Rev. Dr. John DeLong (1887-1889), Rev. Dr. Zwingli Yearick (1895-1899), and Rev. Dr. U. Henry Heilman (1869-1873). Unable to attend were Rev. Dr. R.L. Gerhart (1879-1885 and 1900-1920) and Rev. Dr. Irwin Hendricks (1890-1895).

During the pastorate of Rev. James Johnson (1970-1998), the congregation observed its 150th anniversary in 1974. A more elaborate celebration took place at that time. It extended over the course of nine months, beginning in March and concluding in November. Each month of that celebratory period focused on some aspect of the church's long history. It began with an address by Penn Central Conference Minister, Rev. Horace Sills. There was then a 50-year member recognition, historical presentations, an ice cream social, and sermons by previous pastors. Lay leaders were also honored, as were church members who went on to become Ordained Ministers, the spiritual sons and daughters of St. John's. What's more, our “Red Book” of church history was published after considerable research and effort by a team of dedicated congregants.

Our 150th anniversary celebration required a good deal of planning, fundraising, and the generous giving of time, talents, and resources from church members to make it a reality. As we approach our 200th anniversary, we need to consider what we are willing to do to make this celebration special.

How shall we celebrate our bicentennial?

Currently, a small team composed of myself, Pastor Alice Rauch, and Beth Moser is spearheading the early work of planning our 200-year celebration in 2024. We are hoping to model the observance after what was done for our 150th anniversary. The team has created a tentative working schedule of monthly activities and has secured Penn Central Conference Minister Rev. Carrie Call to help us kick-off our bicentennial festivities in March, 2024. Just how much more we will be able to do depends on all of you.

The bicentennial team invites you to get excited about our upcoming 200th anniversary, just as our congregational ancestors did. Get involved. Help with the planning and any team formed for the celebration. We can use all the ideas and help the congregation has to offer. Let's make our bicentennial a truly memorable event, knowing that we are not only recognizing and taking pride in our past, but preparing ourselves for the next 200 years of worship, discipleship, and service.

Gary Nottis

Two Additional Missions that Need Our Support

For the 2022 calendar year, we have two additional missions that we are supporting. **Our donation goal for each of these missions is \$500.** Below is a description of these two important missions.

Strengthen the Church - This is one of the 5 main missions of the United Church of Christ. Funds given to Strengthen the Church support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation in existing congregations.

Transitions - Transitions is a crisis center that provides advocacy, empowerment and education to victims, survivors, families and communities to end patterns of violence and abuse.

If you would like to donate to these missions, you may do so through your offering envelope or our website. We would like to **reach the goals for these two missions by November 30, 2022.**

Upcoming Book Study:

"Words of Love" *A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble

With David Smit's leadership we will meet on Monday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m., starting October 17th and finishing up on November 21st, right before Thanksgiving.

The review from Google Books says this: "The Ten Commandments are more than a list of ancient rules. Beneath the surface, they offer a profound invitation to healing and transformation. In this unique Bible study, readers will discover that the Ten Commandments are words from the heart of God, given to reconcile creation to Creator and God's people to one another. In *Words of Love*, Eugenia Anne Gamble dives into each of the Ten Commandments and examines their application for modern-day Christians, going beyond the letter of the law to a spiritual truth pointing us toward wholeness and well-being. Each chapter includes a spiritual practice and questions for reflection and discussion to help readers engage deeply with the message of each commandment, whether individually or in a group."

This promises to be wonderful study. Books are available soon. We hope you can join us!



OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/04 Brian Brown
 10/04 Debra Gutelius
 10/06 Evelyn Mabus
 10/06 William Stahley
 10/12 Palmer Dreese
 10/14 Bethany Moser
 10/15 Arthur Bower
 10/15 James Tomlinson

10/22 Ruth Brouse
 10/24 Hailey Renno
 10/24 Kimberly Satteson
 10/26 Mary Geyer
 10/27 Lisa Bingaman
 10/27 Bill Fuller
 10/27 Jennifer Saltsgiver

10/07 DeSantis, Elizabeth & Chris
 10/09 Brouse, Anna & Robert
 10/13 Bingaman, Lisa & Bradley
 10/15 Hilliard, Ann & David
 10/24 Rautzhan, Lauren & Richard
 10/24 Satteson, Kimberly & Mark
 10/26 Donlin, Angela & Edward



NEW AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEM - CONSIDER DONATING

During the past two years, our virtual church audience has been growing as people tuned in to Facebook or YouTube to view our worship services. Our service is now being viewed regularly by more than 100 people each week on-line.

During the past year, we have been investigating upgrades to our system in order to be able to deliver a higher-quality service for people to view from their homes. Our church Consistory made the decision at its most recent meeting to move ahead with the upgrades which will cost approximately \$80,000.

Consistory has set aside the funds to pay for this project, but we believe that many members will want to contribute to this effort, which will continue to expand our outreach. If you would like to contribute to the upgrade of our audio/video system, you can make a contribution through your church envelope or send a contribution directly to the church office in support of this project.

"Many hands make light work." Nehemiah 3

So true! Committees need assistance setting up for events and also straightening and cleaning up afterwards. Please consider helping by volunteering and signing up on sheets as events are posted. Time to arrive will be listed and you will be directed to what tasks need to be done to prepare for the event.

Straightening and cleaning up will be done following the event. Thank you for your assistance in making these events a success.





Wired Word Study Group

The monthly (4th Thursday of the Month) Zoom meeting for the Wired Word Study Group will be held on **Thursday, October 27, at 7pm via ZOOM**

If you'd like to participate, please call the Church Office, 570-523-0162.



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 soon.



AUGUST 2022 REPORT

Current Operating Receipts	\$	9,797.93
Current Operating Disbursements	\$	- 16,990.96
Current Operating Balance	\$	7,193.03

Messy Church - Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for the next Messy Church at St. John's. We'll gather on **Sunday, October 9, from 3:30pm-5:30pm**, for fun 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. We hope you can come!



Chaplain Kurt Nelson is looking for volunteers to help with meals for a weekly Wednesday night gathering. There is a "Jesus and Justice" bible study at 5:15 - 6pm, prior to the meal.

Assistance with providing a meal for this event would be a wonderful way to support the students at Bucknell.

If you're willing to provide a meal for a small group, please call Rev. Kurt Nelson at 570-577-1183 for more information.

Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service - Join us in the sanctuary for an evening of casual worship, refreshments and fellowship . The service is open to people of all ages. Rejoicing Spirits is held on **Thursday, October 13th at 6:30 p.m.** that includes making music with rhythm instruments. A time of refreshments will follow the service in the narthex. Volunteers are needed to help with worship and organize snack time or provide snacks. If you can help with Rejoicing Spirits, please contact the church office.



GROCERY CARDS FOR ST. JOHN'S

Buying a Weis or Giant grocery card from St. John's UCC contributes 5% of your purchase to the church. For years St. John's has benefited from selling these cards, but our sales declined by half during the pandemic. While sales have recovered somewhat, we are still not back to the levels we previously enjoyed. Please consider purchasing grocery cards before or after church on Sunday or see Todd during the week in the church office. We have cards for Weis and Giant in amounts of: \$25, \$50, and \$100. This is an easy and convenient way to contribute to the missions and work of St. John's UCC.



The Choir season has arrived. We have **MANY** positions available in both the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir. Please, **PLEASE** consider joining one of the choirs. Or both!

Chancel Choir rehearses at 9 am on Sunday mornings, and Bell Choir rehearses every other Sunday at 8:45 am.

Rehearsals will begin with the Chancel Choir on Sunday, September 18th at 9am in the Choir room. (West Hallway).

We hope to see/hear you there!!!



RALLY DAY THANK YOU

Thank you so much to all who helped make our Rally Day a success! It was such a gift to have KJ here to perform. Thank you for welcoming her and supporting her visit. We had a wonderful "indoor picnic" afterward and want to extend our thanks to all who provided food and help with setup and cleanup.

Dear St. John's Friends,

Thank you for your kindness and prayers since my dog walking accident and partial hip replacement. Thank you for the beautiful quilt and flowers and the treats. I feel very blessed to be part of the St. John's Community!

Sue Baish

YARD SALE THANK YOU

A really BIG thank you is sent out to all who helped with this years yard sale. We had a wonderful, sunny, successful day. We made \$1,328.87 which will go towards new audio/visual equipment. We also sent a truck load of items to the American Rescue Workers, 23 bags of clothing to Community Aid, a trailer load for DIG and helped several families who were able to use 8 of our vouchers. Thank you all!

Dear Quilters of St. John's UCC,

I am so honored and happy to receive one of your beautiful quilts. The shades of lilac and lavender are so warm and welcoming. I've been taking it to my chemo sessions each week and have received many compliments for all of you on the beautiful work and the caring reason behind this project.

Thank you so much for the quilt, the prayers, and caring. They mean a lot to me.

Love and Prayers to Each of You,

Judy Baker

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 more than 170 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. Our next meeting will be held **Monday, October 10th at 9-11AM in the Community Room. Please consider joining us! The need is great, and we can reach so many more people when we work together.**



OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up: **BOB BROUSE**

Lay-Reader:

Preparation of Communion Elements: **ANNA BROUSE**

OCTOBER	Children's Church	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
2	DURING WORSHIP	
9	DURING WORSHIP	
16	DURING WORSHIP	
23	DURING WORSHIP	
30		

OCTOBER	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
2	BETH MOSER	Keira Aulenbach
9	JANET HEATON	Keira Aulenbach
16	KAY & GARY NOTTIS	Keira Aulenbach
23		Keira Aulenbach
30	NANCY & GERRY WESLOSKY	Keira Aulenbach

OCTOBER	WELCOMING TEAM
2	
9	DOT & ART BOWER
16	
23	
30	



Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Indoors or online
via 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

October - William Cameron Engine Company

November - Hoffman Homes for Youth

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER - Neighbors in Need

December - The Christmas Fund

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR DECEMBER - Bethany White Gifts

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING -Current Expenses



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

St. John's Trunk-or-Treat will be held on **Sunday, October 30th, from 3:00 - 5:00 PM** in the East parking lot. Bring your car, decorate your trunk, and hand out candy to the children.

This activity provides a safe place for the community children to celebrate Halloween. Admission is free, and we'll be collecting canned goods again this year for the local food pantry.

We need everyone's help and participation to make this a fun and safe event. Please put it on your calendar. It will be more fun with lots of cars and friendly faces!

October 2022

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
25 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP 1:00pm Piece Makers Quilters (FH)		26 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 5:00pm SUSQUEHANNA CHILDRENS CHOIR 5:30pm SOCCER 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)		27 10:30am Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 4:00pm Soccer Shots 5:30pm SOCCER 6:30pm Committee on Ministry (ZOOM) 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)		28 5:30pm SOCCER		29 9:00am TOPS (CR) 9:00am WW (FH) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 6:00pm SOCCER 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHLRM)		30 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT)		1 10:30am Funeral for Jane Hayes	
2 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP - COMMUNION		3 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 12:00pm CALL TO CARE (PAR) 1:30pm Lewisburg Garden Club (PAR) 5:00pm SUSQUEHANNA CHILDRENS CHOIR 5:30pm SOCCER 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH) 7:00pm HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE (SANCT)		4 10:30am Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 4:00pm Soccer Shots 5:30pm SOCCER 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)		5 5:30pm SOCCER 7:00pm Girl Scout Leaders (CR)		6 9:00am TOPS (CR) 9:00am WW (FH) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 6:00pm SOCCER 7:00pm Building & Grounds (PAR) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHLRM)		7 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT)		8 12:00pm Fellowship Hall rsvd. by member	
9 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP 3:30pm MESSY CHURCH (WHOLE BUILDING)		10 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS & MORE (CR) 12:30pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) 2:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (LIB) 5:00pm SUSQUEHANNA CHILDRENS CHOIR 5:30pm SOCCER 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)		11 10:30am Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 4:00pm Soccer Shots 5:30pm SOCCER 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)		12 5:30pm SOCCER		13 9:00am TOPS (CR) 9:00am WW (FH) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 6:00pm REJOICING SPIRITS (PAV) 6:00pm SOCCER 7:00pm MISSION/SOCIAL ACTION COMM. (LIB) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHLRM)		14 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT)		15 7:30am TOPS 11:58 (FH)	
16 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP		17 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 5:00pm SUSQUEHANNA CHILDRENS CHOIR 5:30pm SOCCER 6:00pm Evan, Empty Arms Group (CR) 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH) 7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)		18 10:30am Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 12:00pm retired clergy luncheon 5:30pm SOCCER 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)		19 5:30pm SOCCER		20 9:00am TOPS (CR) 9:00am WW (FH) 10:00am CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 6:00pm SOCCER 7:00pm CONSISTORY (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHLRM)		21 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT)		22 12:00pm Fellowship Hall rsvd. by member	
23 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP 1:00pm Piece Makers Quilters (FH)		24 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 5:00pm SUSQUEHANNA CHILDRENS CHOIR 5:30pm SOCCER 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)		25 10:30am Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 5:30pm SOCCER 6:30pm Committee on Ministry (ZOOM) 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)		26 5:30pm SOCCER		27 9:00am TOPS (CR) 9:00am WW (FH) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 6:00pm SOCCER 7:00pm WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHLRM)		28 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT)		29	
30 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP 3:00pm TRUNK-or-TREAT		31 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 5:00pm SUSQUEHANNA CHILDRENS CHOIR 5:30pm SOCCER 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)		1 10:30am Willowbrook String Band Rehearsal (FH) 5:30pm SOCCER 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)		2 5:30pm SOCCER		3 9:00am TOPS (CR) 9:00am WW (FH) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 6:00pm SOCCER 7:00pm Building & Grounds (PAR) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHLRM)		4 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT)		5 8:00am Program Comm. (FH) tent.	