



# Planting Life

St. John's United Church of Christ  
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

October 9, 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      *"Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling"*      #67

*Let me enter God's own dwelling, open wide the lovely door!  
Here, all earthly powers excelling, God receives the sick and poor.  
Joy, my heart, in this dear place: here I see God face to face.*

Call to Worship: (from Psalm 111:1-3, 10)

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD.

**With my whole heart, in the company of the congregation.**

Great are the works of the LORD,

**Studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of honor and majesty is God's work,

**God's righteousness endures forever.**

The awe of God is the beginning of wisdom;

**All those who practice it have a good understanding.**

**God's praise endures forever.**

Hymn

*"To You, O God, All Creatures Sing"*

#17

(stanzas 1-4)

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession - Holy One, we confess that we take Your love and presence with us for granted. We assume You are with us when life is going well for us, but when we face challenges and trials we cry out, wondering where You are. We confess that far too often we neglect gratitude and focus often on what we are lacking instead of where Your grace abounds. Forgive us, O God, for our short-sightedness. Remind us of the love You have shown us, through the love and care of others. Cultivate in us Your compassion and empathy and remind us to be gentle with one another and ourselves, for we are fragile treasure in clay jars, easily breakable, and yet precious to You. Holy One, Maker of us all, remind us never to take You or others for granted, and to remember Your deep love for us is in our very breath. Amen.

Blessing/Assurance - God's steadfast love endures forever, and never fails us. God's love renews and restores us. When we love others, we feel God's love in us. When we care for others, God cares for us. When we show compassion to others, we remember God's mercy for us. You are loved. You are cared for. You are forgiven and restored. Go and share the good news with one another. 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

Choir Anthem      ***"Ask of Me"*** Williams/Nolan

Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

Message      ***"Gratitude"***

## 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.

\*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Holy One, in Jesus Christ You have shown what Your heart is like - merciful and abounding in steadfast love. Form that same spirit in us that our lives may become continual prayers of thanksgiving. Let no cry of Your creation go unheard. Form us as agents of practical praise, molding us with mercy for a world crying out for healing. Amen.

\*Hymn      ***"How Can I Say Thanks"***      #14

\*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, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Mary Stover, Peg Swinehart.

**Immediate Concerns** - Ahsley, Hank Aldee, Theresa Beers, Anna Brouse, Sally Dries, Brynley Grove, The Family of Jane Hayes, The Family of Mary Kennison (Carol Laudermilch's sister), Michelle L., Katelynn Mattison, Gary Nottis, Todd O'Neil, (Alice Savidge's son), the Williams Family.

## **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 Janet Heaton and Kay & Gary Stamm, in loving memory of Richard A. Heaton and Richard T. Heaton.

**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, October 10	9 am-1030am <b>9 am</b> 12:30 - 1:30 <b>2 pm</b> 5 pm - 7 pm 5:30 - 8:30 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) <b>ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR)</b> Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) <b>WORSHIP/MUSIC (LIB)</b> SVCC (SANCT) Soccer BVS Rehearsal
Tuesday, October 11	1030am - Noon 4 - 7 pm 5:30- 8:30 pm 6:30 - 8 pm 7 pm - 930 pm	Willowbrook Strings (FH) Soccer Shots (EAST FIELD) Soccer Girl Scout Troop 600006 (PAV) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, October 12	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Soccer
Thursday October 13	9 - 1030 am 9 - 11 am NOON - 4pm <b>6:00 pm</b> 6 - 7:30 pm <b>7 pm</b> 7 pm	TOPS (CR) WW (FH) Trailside Troubadours (FH) <b>REJOICING SPIRITS (SANCT.)</b> Soccer <b>MISSION/SOCIAL ACTION (LIB)</b> Women's Barbershop (Ch. Rm.)
Friday, October 14		
Saturday October 15	7:30 am - 3 pm	Tops Event (FH)
Sunday, October 16	<b>10 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b> <b>CHILDREN'S CHUR</b>

**MESSY CHURCH** - You are invited to join us for Messy Church. We'll gather **TODAY, 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!

### **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.

**Two Additional Missions that Need Our Support** - For the 2022 calendar year, we have two additional missions that we are supporting. **Our 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.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** - Re-Creation will again be joining us in worship on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. They will present the message in music of various styles.

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING** - We will be collecting a "special" offering for the Neighbors in Need fund. In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on an economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this through a faith lens. Join us by promoting this year's NIN "Behold!" campaign at your church. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

### **THE OUTWARD SIGNS**

**Sunday, October 2, 2022**

Hunger Walk - \$120.00; Building Use - \$45.00; CCLI - \$226.00;  
Chancel Flowers - \$100.00; Current Expenses - \$2,391.00;  
Envelope Expenses - \$5.00; Harvest Home - \$75.00; Holy Joe Café - \$17.00;  
Improvements/Maintenance - \$100.00; Loose Offering - \$12.00;  
OCWM - \$165.00; St. John's Quilters - \$25.00; Strengthen the Church - \$100.00;  
Transitions - \$50.00; Cornerstone Fund - \$118.49;  
Wm. Cameron Engine Co. - \$235.00;

**GRAND TOTAL - \$3,784.49 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*  
Dot & Art Bower - *Welcoming Team*  
Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*  
  
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

CCLI #20796546 One License #738455-A



## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 9, 2022

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

### Planting Life

#### *Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week*

Jacob Nault is a member of the UCC Disabilities Ministries. On this Disabilities Awareness Week, he checks in about how music connects us to God, and how the church can do better in welcoming people with disabilities.

"The church where I am a member is the Congregational UCC of Neenah-Menasha, in Neenah, WI. My pastor is Rev. David Frey.

I started playing piano at age 5. As my cerebral palsy affects primarily the left side of my body, learning to play the piano with both hands was a challenge. I taught myself a workable method which involves playing piano with six fingers—one in use in my left hand. My right hand takes care of melody and bass clef "fill" notes. In high school, I had the opportunity to take private piano lessons with an experienced professor who helped me refine that technique.

I feel very supported and affirmed as a musician. Music connects people to God in several important ways. Hymn lyrics, for example, can help us cement our theology. The experience of sharing music together can help worship become more communal and engaging. If implemented well, music can help us connect to the full range of the human experience—uncontainable joy or raging lament. Sharing the full range of human emotion deepens our relationship with God.

The wider church perspective on disability needs work. For example, many churches are unable to prioritize full inclusion of disabled people because building modifications are cost-prohibitive or accommodating neurodiverse needs in worship spaces seem too difficult. We miss an opportunity when we are inclusive of other marginalized populations but do not put the same energy into drawing the circle wider to the disability community."

*You can connect with Jacob Nault - Six-Fingered Pianist - on Facebook and Soundcloud to hear more of his wonderful music, including a new verse to Amazing Grace he wrote just for the UCC Disabilities Ministries.*

