



Surprising Investment

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

September 25, 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

Choral Introit

"Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place"

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,

I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Call to Worship: (Psalm 146:1-2, 5, 7, 10)

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

Whose hope is in the LORD their God,

Who executes justice for the oppressed;

Who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

The LORD will reign forever,

Your God, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession - Faithful God, we confess our unfaithfulness. We have sought the idols of this world: wealth, notoriety, and worldly power. We have stored up treasure on earth instead of treasure in heaven. We have put the value of money over the value of human lives. We have made our lives more convenient and secure and put our very earth at risk. We have failed to live rightly by You. We have forgotten Your ways, O God. Turn us back to You. Call us by name and lead us in the path of repentance, reparation, and restoration, for You are our only hope, our Saving Grace. In the name of Christ, who lived, died, and lives again for us, we pray. Amen.

Blessing/Assurance - *God will always remain faithful, even when our faith fails us. Turn back to God and know God's love is with you. Turn to God and know you are forgiven. Turn to God and know you are restored. Prepare to go forth, ready to share the good news to others that they, too, can know God's love, forgiveness, and restoration. 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

Anthem

Bell Choir

Scripture: *1 Timothy 6:6-19*

Message *"Seeking Contentment"*

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:** God, we have received hope; we give You time. We have received hope; we give one another the church. We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they may become the change or simply the promise of change among those who need this clear image that they are not abandoned. Amen

***Hymn** *"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"* #563

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

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 Dee & Bill Ledgerwood in memory of Eliza Fletcher - Wife, Mother, Teacher, and Runner.

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.

THIS WEEK

Monday, September 26	9 am-1030am 5 pm - 7 pm 5:30 - 8:30 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) SVCC (SANCT) Soccer BVS Rehearsal
Tuesday, September 27	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, September 28	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Soccer
Thursday September 29	9 - 1030 am 9 - 11 am NOON - 4pm 6 - 7:30 pm 7 pm	TOPS (CR) WW (FH) Trailside Troubadours (FH) Soccer Women's Barbershop (Ch. Rm.)
Friday, September 30		
Saturday October 1	11 am	Memorial Service for Jane Hayes
Sunday, October 2	10 am 2 pm	WORSHIP - COMMUNION Lewisburg Walk for Hunger Insecurity

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.

BUFFALO VALLEY SINGERS - (BVS) is a local community choir that has been performing since 1973. We are excited to extend an open invitation to singers interested in joining the Buffalo Valley Singers choir! The first rehearsal for the December 2022 concert is Monday, September 19 at St. John's UCC, 1050 Buffalo Rd, Lewisburg. Arrive at 6:30pm to meet members and get your music folder. Rehearsal begins promptly at 7:00pm. No auditions necessary, \$10 folder fee. The 2022 Christmas Concert dates are Saturday, December 10th, at 7:30pm and Sunday, December 11th, at 3:00pm. For more information, see the BVS website, BuffaloValleySingers.org, email buffalovalleysingers@gmail.com or call 570-246-3895.

HUNGER WALK FOR FOOD INSECURITY - The Lewisburg Hunger walk will take place on Sunday, October 2nd at 2 pm, leaving from St. Paul's UMC located on South 4th Street, Lewisburg. Donate to our team through a check, cash or via the donate button on our website. Please let Pastor Alice or Todd know if you are planning to participate in either the 1K or 5K walk.

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.**

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Building Use - \$40.00; Chancel Flowers - \$100.00; Current Expenses - \$2,403.00;
Giant Gift Cards - \$500.00; Harvest Home - \$90.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$50.00; Loose Offering - \$10.00;
OCWM - \$380.00; Transitions - \$10.00; Weis Gift Cards - \$100.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$3,683.00 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 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*

Children's Church, Liz DeSantis

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

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Dee & Bill Ledgerwood - *Welcoming Team*

Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

CCLI #20796546 One License #738455-A

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

September 25, 2022

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Surprising Investment
American Indian Ministry Sunday
United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday

Matou te faatalofa atu ai i le Suafa Pele o Iesu Keriso le Alii ma le Faaola!
We greet you in the Beloved name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

“In 1999 General Synod declared a “Partnership in Mission and Ministry” with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS) as a way of acknowledging the deepening relationship between the two churches and the rapid growth of Samoan congregations in the United States.

Today, there are more than 60 congregations of the CCCAS in Hawaii, Alaska, California, Washington and Oregon. Many of them related to the UCC through our regional Conferences and local Associations. The partnership seeks to strengthen the ministry of these congregations and the mission of both churches.

In many places, Samoan congregations are actively involved in the life and leadership of UCC Associations. Many UCC clergy and lay leaders have immersed themselves in the life of Samoan communities and have traveled to American Samoa to learn more about its unique and ancient culture.” *1

“The United Samoan Ministries of the UCC is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan congregations to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual support, and communications and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. Providing Resources for all faith communities and promote/teaching and maintaining Samoan Culture and Language; promote Ecumenical partnerships, and proclaiming the proclamation of Open and Affirming, and leading in Justice and Peace for ALL.

Samoan Communities residing within the Mainland, Alaska and Hawaii and those who are in Diaspora throughout the world.” *2

If you are a member of a Samoan congregation, today is a day to celebrate your connection with the wider United Church of Christ. If you are a member of a church that has limited contact with your Samoan brothers and sisters, today is a good day to learn more about how you can be in intentional conversation and relationship with a Samoan Congregation.

*1 - https://www.ucc.org/ecumenical_america-samoa/

*2 - <https://unitedsamoanminist.wixsite.com/>



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