



**SIGN OF THINGS TO COME**

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

November 28, 2021

*(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,  
you are welcome here!*

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Moment of Meditation

We Open the Door Sung response

Hope waits for us at Advent  
Hope waits for us to trust.  
Hope waits for our commitment  
to a land that's kind and just.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
that heals the ones in pain.  
Hope is born in us again!

Reader: *Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome.  
May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.  
May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.  
There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.*

(Lighting the Candle of Hope)

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that heals the ones in pain.  
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The Peace - *The Hope of Christ be with you!*  
And also with you!

\*Hymn #104      *"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

Words for All - Especially Children

Choir Anthem            ***"Bring Us Hope" - Schram*** - Joanna Nelson, Viola

Scripture: *Jeremiah 33: 14-16, Psalm 25:4-5*

Message                    ***"Make Way"***

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

A Story of Innkeeping: Offering

\*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: **We lift up these offerings as a sign of our gratitude for Your love and care, O God. We pledge ourselves, time, talent, and treasure. We pray that we may follow in the spirit of the poor woman who gave her all without hesitation. We dedicate our lives to You and seek to grow in our faithfulness to Your Word. Amen.**

\*A Trip to Bethlehem

\*Hymn #133                ***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"***

\*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) 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.

**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. Ask any usher.

**DECORATING THE CHURCH** - Help is needed immediately following the worship service on **TODAY**. Please consider joining in the fun. Many hands make light work!

**WARM WELCOME & THANKS** - We are pleased to welcome our dear friend Judy Blee back to the organ bench.

**POINSETTIA ORDERS** - There are order forms in the Narthex for ordering poinsettias for Christmas Eve. The deadline for orders is **DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**.

**CHANCE FLOWERS** - are placed by Brenda & Don Adams, in loving memory of Loren Adams.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning

(Please contact the church office, at 570-523-0162, with any updates)

**Ongoing Needs-** Oliver Auman, Betty Hackenberg, Janet Heaton, Ingrid, Christine Sartwell, Karin Shawver, Barbara Smith, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Peg Swinehart. Leanne Trout (Dee Ledgerwood's Mother), Linda Williams, Wayne Williams.

**Shut-In/Homebound-** Ann Beasom, Richard Berry, Peg Brouse, Bill & Lola Fuller, Jane Hayes, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Loretta Roberson, Mary Stover.

**Immediate Concerns** - The family of Martha Anderson (Rev. Marian Anderson's mother), Scott Bower, Rev. Nora Foust, Pastor Jan Garinger, Bill Geyer, Joyce, Maryjane H., Richard Heaton, Michelle L., Jade M., Katelynn Mattison, Kay & Gary Nottis, Timothy Spickler, Russ Wynn Jr.

### THIS WEEK

Monday, November 29	<b>OFFICE CLSD</b> 7 pm	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> BVS Rehearsal (FH)
Tuesday, November 30	6:30 - 8 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Girl Scout Troop 600006 (CR) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, December 1	7 am - 8:30 am	Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)
Thursday December 2	9 - 10 am 10:30-NOON 7 pm	TOPS (CR) Willowbrook String Band (FH) Buildings/Grounds (PAR)
Friday, December 3	4 - 6 pm	Suzuki Class (SANCT.)
Saturday December 4	Noon - 4 pm	Girl Scouts (FH)
Sunday, December 5	<b>9 am</b> <b>10:00 am</b> 1:30 pm	<b>CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CH.RM.)</b> <b>WORSHIP - (Children's Church during worship)</b> Piece Makers Quilt Guild (FH)

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS** - The office will be closed on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

### FUTURE

**GIFTS FOR BETHANY** - We will be supporting the residents at Bethany Children's home again this year. Bethany's residents are ages 10 through 21. They ask that the gifts are unwrapped. We will be collecting the gifts on **Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. There are copies of the Christmas Wish List in the narthex for those who would like to have a head start for their shopping. Thanks for your support of this important ministry.

**ADVENT BEGINS TODAY** - The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew-offering respite, sustenance, and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and "make room in the inn," the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Please join us for worship during Advent, as we explore the topic of, *"Housing the Holy"*.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - We will hold a congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the proposed budget, elect Consistory members and Committee members. Please plan on staying a few minutes after worship.

**SAVE THE DATE** - On **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold a special service of music and drama during our 10 am worship. There will be special musical guests, carols, solo(s), and a “virtual” Christmas pageant from our Christian Education department. Join us in worship and celebration!

**BUFFALO VALLEY SINGERS' CONCERTS** - The Buffalo Valley Singers will present their Christmas Concerts on **Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm, and again on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 pm.** Come and enjoy a wonderful musical experience and lift your Holiday spirit!

**THE OUTWARD SIGNS**

Sunday, November 21, 2021

2021 Christmas Boxes - \$30.00; 2021 Poinsettias - \$62.50;  
Building Use - \$140.00; Chancel Flowers - \$126.00;  
Current Expenses - \$1,631.00; Giant Gift Cards - \$50.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$25.00;  
Neighbors In Need - \$10.00;  
OCWM - \$291.00; Weis Gift Cards - \$450.00;  
**GRAND TOTAL - \$2,815.50 THANK YOU!**

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**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*

Linda Sartwell / Sue Baish, *Sound Technician*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Tess Groover, *Greeter*

Kiera Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

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**Sign of Things to Come**  
*United Black Christians Anniversary*

"Til Love Comes is the first single on Tracy Howe's album, "Things That Grow", available at [tracyhowemusic.com](http://tracyhowemusic.com). On this first Sunday of Advent, these inspiring words are a prophetic reminder of the universe-transforming power of the incarnation, the coming of the Christ Child. You can find more of Tracy's music, including a link to a video of this song, at [tracyhowemusic.com](http://tracyhowemusic.com).

We will march on, will fight on  
'Til love comes

If you cut into beauty  
and try to make it bleed  
you only find a deeper hope  
and what makes a person free  
the depths of love  
come from where we've been  
redeemed

So put down your guns  
and unlock the prison doors  
You can keep all your money;  
give yourselves to the poor  
learn to love  
Building a world of grace

We will march on, will fight on  
'Til love comes

You might make your words a weapon  
and build power out of fear  
But it's your own self breaking and  
fading away in the mirror

Because love  
Is writing the song

And the mystery of suffering is the life  
that comes from pain  
And the hope we share holds it -  
gives it a name  
All in love  
We carry on

We will march on, will fight on  
'Til love comes

We gave our lives to this fight,  
we gave our lives  
If we fall it will be alright,  
if we fall it will be alright  
Our bodies wrapped in dust,  
will tell the tale of both of us  
I who heard your cry for help,  
and you who lived for someone else

We will march on, will fight on  
'Til love comes

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

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