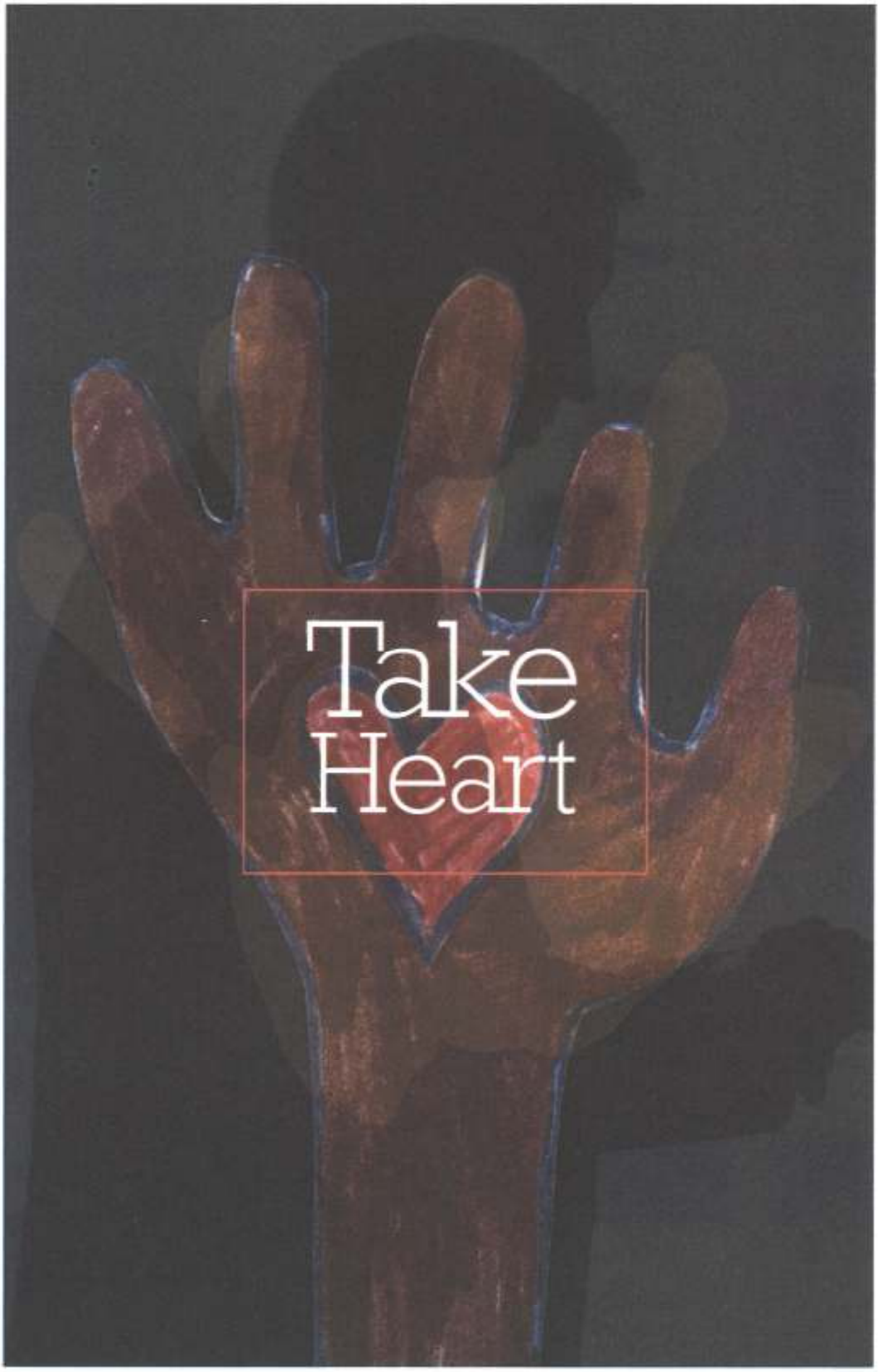
Take
Heart

St. John's United Church of Christ

An "Open and Affirming" Congregation

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. October 24, 2021

(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,
you are welcome here!

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Moment of Meditation

*Call to Worship: (from Psalm 34)

I will bless the LORD at all times;
God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
Let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt God's name together.
O taste and see that the LORD is good;
Happy are those who take refuge in God.

*Hymn #52 ***"There Is a Name I Love to Hear"***

Prayer of Brokenness - **God of All People, we confess that we still turn to those with the most worldly power to lead us. We turn to the rich and watch them make strides into space. We turn to the famous to see what they share on social media. We turn to the loudest voices and listen to them, either to praise them or to complain about them. Forgive us for not turning to You. Forgive us for not remembering how Your Son Jesus came to become last of all and servant of all. Forgive us for not learning the lesson to look to the children, the weak, the disabled, the widows, the poor, and all those despised and rejected by society. Call us back to Your ways. Help us to hear the cries from the side of the road for healing and to answer them. Guide us to listen to the voices of those we often leave out and forget. Remind us that we are leaving this earth for the next generations, and we must value their lives by caring for this earth You made. Forgive us and guide us into Your way, Your truth, and Your life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness - *Psalm 34:4 reads, "I sought the LORD, and God answered me, and delivered me from all my fears." God hears our prayers and answers us by providing us with one another, the body of Christ. May we turn and lift up one another. May we open our hearts and minds to listen when another is in need, when another is suffering. May we be the answer to prayer by sharing Christ's love with one another in word and deed. May we know the forgiveness of Jesus Christ when we forgive others, when we work to repair and restore what has been broken, to right the wrongs in our society, and build up God's reign on Earth. 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.

Special Music ***"Dwelling in God's Love"*** *composed and performed by Ron Zug*

Words for All – Especially Children

Scripture*:* ***Mark 10:46-52***

Message ***"Take Heart"***

Morning Prayer

Let us continue to pray in the words that Jesus taught 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 - **Transform our lives, O God, and let these gifts change the world into which we send them. Take them and multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace in the world you love!**

*Hymn #473 ***"Blessed Assurance"***

*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.

Chancel Flowers – are given to the glory of God, by Sue & Jim Tomlinson.

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, Alice Savidge, 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 – Scott Bower, Bill Geyer, Joyce, Maryjane H., Richard Heaton, Michelle L., Jade M., Katelynn Mattison, Gary Nottis.

THIS WEEK

Monday, October 25	6 pm 7 pm	Empty Arms Support Group (CR) BVS Rehearsal (FH)
Tuesday, October 26	6:30 – 8 pm 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Girl Scout Troop 600006 (PAV) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, October 27	7 am – 830 am	Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)
Thursday October 28	9:00-1030 am 1030am-12pm **7 pm**	TOPS 1158 (CR.) Willowbrook String Band (FH) **WIRED WORD STUDY (ZOOM)**
Friday, October 29		
Saturday October 30		
Sunday, October 31	**9 am** **10:00 am**	**BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)** **WORSHIP – (Children's Church during worship)**

FUTURE

CARE BOXES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS – the Christian Ed. Comm. will be gathering items to send to our current college students. Please place items in the Narthex by **November 14th**, so they can be boxed and mailed.

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 5th**. 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.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS – The Mission/Social Action team will once again be filling up boxes of goodies and food for the less fortunate. Our congregation will be providing Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for 15 Children and Youth families who are in need of assistance to have a holiday meal. We will be collecting both monetary donations and nonperishable foods such as (cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, canned veggies and fruits, and dessert such as Jello/pudding, pie filling and crust, and cake mixes). Please have all donations to the Church no later than **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17.**

Please be generous this holiday so others may be able to enjoy a nice holiday meal and leftovers.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

Sunday, October 17, 2021

2021 Christmas Boxes - $250.00; 2021 Lewisburg Walk for Hunger - $253.79;
2021 Thanksgiving Boxes - $250.00; Chancel Flowers - $34.00;
Current Expenses - $2,679.00; Giant Gift Cards - $300.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - $75.00; Neighbors In Need - $10.00;
OCWM - $166.00; St. John's Quilters - $200.00; Weis Gift Cards - $325.00;
William Cameron Engine Co. - $10.00;

GRAND TOTAL - $4,577.79 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*
Linda Sartwell / Sue Baish, *Sound Technician*
Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*
Pat Wigsmoen, *Greeter*
Kiera Aulenbach, *Acolyte*
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

CCLI #20796546 One License #738455-A

October 24, 2021 Mark 10:46-52

Take Heart
United Nations Day

When Jesus meets Bartimaeus by the side of the road, he does not assume what is needed for healing. Instead, he asks, "what can I do for you?"

When the Winslow Congregational Church in Winslow, Maine, found that they had a budget surplus for the second year in a row, they did not assume they knew what was needed. Instead, Winslow Pastor Kim Shrader recounts, "Questions were asked, and ears were open to find where there was a need we could serve. There was a very small food bank at another church that was in danger of losing their space. So, we looked at partnering with them. The idea quickly grew beyond providing space for the existing food bank that was only open two hours a month, to starting a second food bank with more capacity and open two days a month."

"Six months into operation, the food cupboard is thriving. Food is donated from local grocery stores and Walmart, from food drives by different organizations, from gleaners working with local farmers, and from the Good Shepherd Food Bank. The Good Shepherd food is available at a deep discount allowing money donations to go a very long way. Many local businesses, organizations, and individuals give generously. Additionally, the cupboard has distributed USDA farm to table food boxes as part of the Corona relief aid from the federal government."

"It is an all-volunteer staff. A local parochial school provides a lot of volunteers on distribution days with youth from 7-12 grades. Volunteer drivers bring food to those without transportation (a major problem here)."

"There is a lot of hospitality offered," Rev. Shrader concludes. "It's not just the food. It's things like a few gardeners in the congregation got together, made raised beds, and planted vegetables for the cupboard. It's the new member using his skills as a publicist to get newspaper and TV coverage of the food cupboard. It's the church's youth insisting that their "school from home" schedule allow them to spend Thursday helping at the cupboard."

- What questions are going unasked in your community?
- How can you and your congregation listen more deeply?
- Who is speaking and asking for help?

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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