



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

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

August 14, 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

*"Be Still and Know that I am God"*

#743

\*Call to Worship: (from Hebrews 11:1-3)

*In a world uprooted at every turn, come beloved of God for replanting.*

**Our hope and weariness are mixed together, yet we come, trusting ancient promises.**

*The Holy One who led the people out of Egypt, yearns to lead us, too.*

**God will not rest until all are re-rooted, restored, and renewed for rejoicing.**

*Let us be joined to God's song of justice, bearing beauty into the life of the world.*

**May our lives be formed for faithfulness by the One who is always faithful.**

\*Hymn

*"Renew Your Church"*

#311

Prayer of Brokenness - Gardener God, You plant us in a gifted place, but often we return sour grapes. In the midst of Your abundance, we complain of not having enough or being enough. Your call "To give justice to the weak and the orphan: to maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute" is easily overlooked or ignored. We are uprooted by our own inaction, selfishness, and fear. Re-Root our hearts, our minds, and our lives in the soli of Your forgiving love. Bear up in us a boldness to sing a song strange to the world but known by You. Let it be the song of shalom, the chorus of Christ-love, a hallelujah rising as the world is mended by our consent to You. Yes, plant this anew in us today. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness - *Hear this good word. God and never cease to be love. God has no joy in plants uprooted or journeys detoured by distraction. The ancient promise of God proclaimed again and again throughout history still rings true. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, made know to us in Christ Jesus. God forgives you and is already planting you anew. This is the good news, and you can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!*

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

Special Music - *"Breath on Me Breath of God"* - Jackson/Rouse

Scripture:     *Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19*

Message                    *"Restoration Hardware"*

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: We thank you, Loving God, that sourness gives way to sweetness when we answer Your call to be generous. Multiply theses gifts and Your spirit in us, that the world may know your life-giving will and way.

Hymn                        *"It Is Well"*                        #438

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, Jane Hayes, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Mary Stover, Peg Swinehart.

**Immediate Concerns** - Hank Aldee, Theresa Beers, Anna Brouse, Brynley Grove, Mary Kennison(Carol Laudermilch's sister), Michelle L., Katelynn Mattison.

### **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 Nancy & Jerry Weslosky in honor of our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

**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, August 15	6 - 8 pm <b>7 pm</b>	Evan. Empty Arms (CR) <b>FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)</b>
Tuesday, August 16	1030am-Noon 6-730 pm 6:30 - 8 pm <b>7 pm</b> 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Willowbrook String Band (SANCT) Soccer (EAST FIELD) Girl Scout Troop 600006 (PAV) <b>CHRISTIAN ED. (ZOOM)</b> Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, August 17		
Thursday August 18	9 - 1030 am NOON - 4pm 5 - 8 pm <b>7 pm</b> 7 pm	TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) SVCC AUDITIONS (SANCT.) <b>CONSISTORY (ZOOM)</b> Women's Barbershop (Ch. Rm.)
Friday, August 19		
Saturday August 20	<b>5 pm</b>	<b>VESPERS SERVICE (PAV)</b>
Sunday, August 21	<b>10 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b> <b>CHILDREN'S WORSHIP DURING WORSHIP</b>

### 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.

**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 117 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 -- older or younger, female or male. Our next meeting will be held **Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9-11 AM in the Community Room**. Please **consider joining us! The need is great, and we can reach so many more people when we work together.**

**MEAL MINISTRY** -Our congregation has been providing food support for individuals & families in urgent situations, i.e.: post-surgery, illness, death in family, etc. We need folks who are willing to prepare/deliver food. Please call the Church office 570-523-0162 or see Pastor Alice if interested.

**VESPERS SERVICE** - Please mark your calendar for our next outdoor Vespers Service, which will be held on **Saturday, August 20, 2022, at 5 pm in the pavilion.**

**YARD SALE** - Don't forget to mark your calendars and clean out your items for our annual yard sale, **AUGUST 31, 8am - 2pm.** Please bring your donations to the pavilion. Help is needed on Mondays in August to help sort and organize the items for the sale. Please see/call Linda Sartwell if interested, 570-966-1101.

### **THE OUTWARD SIGNS**

**Sunday, August 7, 2022**

Building Use - \$100.00; Chancel Flowers - \$100.00;  
Current Expenses - \$2,606.00; Giant Gift Cards - \$300.00;  
Heiter Center - \$342.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$85.00;  
Loose Offering - \$5.00; OCWM - \$105.00; St. John's Quilters - \$20.00;  
Weis Gift Cards - \$300.00;

**GRAND TOTAL - \$3,963.00 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](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*

- *Welcoming Team*

Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

**CCLI #20796546 One License #738455-A**

## Restore Us

In today's psalm, God's people are envisioned as a vine, planted and carefully tended by God. How might we participate with God in being planters and tenders of the church and its leaders?

Last winter, UCC President John Dorhauer and Pension Board President and CEO Brian Bodager encouraged church members to be vine tenders, as they described one of the crises facing church leadership.

"Seminary and educational debt, the debilitating nature of limited income and the uncertainty of a secure financial future represent a deepening crisis for many pastors in the United Church of Christ," they wrote in a joint letter. The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative (MFVI) is a program to help ministers address this problem with practical tools. Participants in the program receive financial gifts of \$9000 for debt reduction, \$1000 to seed a retirement account and the support of a cohort of fellow pastors and financial experts.

The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative strengthens ministry in the UCC by:

- increasing and enhancing financial literacy among UCC authorized ministers, with a particular emphasis on ministers from historically underrepresented groups within the denomination;
- assisting UCC ministers and their Ministry settings, Associations, Conferences, and the National Setting of the Church in "breaking the conspiracy of silence" that exists around pastoral finances;
- providing financial assistance to UCC authorized ministers toward repayment of educational and personal debt as well as seeding of pension funds;
- engaging key lay leaders in UCC churches in collaborative efforts to identify and address the connection between pastoral financial challenges and ministry setting financial challenges; and;
- launching a major fundraising campaign to solicit major gifts that will enable the long-term sustainability, and continued expansion of the program

You can be a vine-tender along with God, planting and nurturing growth. One way is to support the MFVI with your gift at [pbucc.org](http://pbucc.org).

