

August 2 - Worship, Communion - 10 am

August 3 - Summer Book Study - 6:30 pm (Gathering Place)

August 5, 6, 7 - Vacation Bible School - 6 pm

August 9 - WORSHIP AT CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS - 10 am

August 9 - PICNIC AT CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS - 11 am

August 10 - Summer Book Study - 6:30 pm (Gathering Place)

August 15 - Community Harvest - 10 am - Noon

August 16 - Worship - 10 am

August 17 - Summer Book Study - 6:30 pm (Gathering Place)

August 23 - Worship - 10 am

August 30 - Worship - 10 am





History matters.

Not simply because it tells us what happened in the past, but because the past continues to shape the present. The courage of people who came before us can open doors for people today. Their struggles can remind us that change is possible. Their stories can challenge us to ask: Whose voices are still being silenced? Who is still being told, “Not yet”? And where is God calling us to stand in solidarity?

In July of 1974, eleven women were ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. They became known as the Philadelphia 11. Their ordinations were a bold and controversial act of faith. At the time, the Episcopal Church had not yet officially authorized the ordination of women to the priesthood. These women, along with those who supported them, believed that God's call could not be limited by the traditions and structures of the church.

The women were brave enough to step into new territory. And they were not alone.

My friend and colleague, the Rev. Sally Dries, was a minister in the United Church of Christ, not the Episcopal Church. Yet she traveled to Philadelphia to stand in support of those eleven women. She understood something important about the Body of Christ: we do not have to belong to the same denomination, tradition, or community in order to stand with one another.

After Sally's death, I was given a small piece of that history. It is a faded red felt “stole” that Sally wore in support of the Philadelphia 11. The words were written in marker:

“YES TO WOMEN'S ORDINATIONS”

The felt has faded over the years because it hung on Sally's desk. It is not a polished or elaborate artifact. It is something much more meaningful: a tangible reminder that Sally chose to show up. She chose to stand with people who were taking a courageous step into new territory. She chose solidarity.

And that is why history like this matters.

We give thanks for the trailblazers in our own United Church of Christ tradition—those who have worked to open doors and make the church more fully welcoming, inclusive, and faithful to the expansive love of God. We remember those who have challenged racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and every other barrier that tells someone they are less worthy of belonging or leadership.

But we also remember that the work is not finished.

There are still places where women are denied ordination or where their ministry is being restricted. There are still people whose callings are questioned because of their gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, economic status, or other aspects of who they are. There are still people who are bravely entering spaces where they have not traditionally been welcomed.

And the question for us is not simply whether we personally are the ones walking through that particular door.

The question is whether we will stand beside those who are.

The story of the Philadelphia 11 reminds us that sometimes faithfulness means being the person who shows up in support. Sometimes it means lending our voice, our presence, our resources, or our privilege to those who are challenging systems that need to change. Sometimes it means recognizing that another person's struggle for justice is connected to our own calling as followers of Christ.

The early church understood something about this kind of solidarity. In the second chapter of Acts, the Holy Spirit comes upon people from many different places and backgrounds. They speak different languages, come from different cultures, and carry different histories. Yet the Spirit does not erase their differences. Instead, the Spirit creates connection across those differences.

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” —Acts 2:4

The church at its best is not a place where everyone must become the same. It is a community where we learn to recognize the Spirit at work in people who may not look like us, sound like us, worship exactly like us, or share our experience.

And when someone is bravely entering new territory, we can choose to stand with that individual.

The faded red felt hanging on Sally's desk has become, for me, more than a reminder of one historic moment. It is a reminder of a way of living faithfully. It reminds me that we are called to celebrate those who have opened doors for us—and to keep our eyes open for the people who are still waiting for doors to open.

May we be grateful for the Philadelphia 11 and for all the courageous trailblazers who have helped make the church more inclusive and more faithful.

May we remember that none of us walks alone.

And may we be a people willing to stand in solidarity with those who are still braving new territory—not only when their struggle is our own, but because we are all part of the one Body of Christ.

“Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” —Galatians 6:2

History matters because people matter.

And the choices we make today will become someone else's history tomorrow.

With love - and prayers for Strength for the Journey, Pastor Alice

GARDEN NEWS

Trowel and paintbrush; Creation's palette.

With a wrist flick, spring's eager greens and yellows burst from earthy browns first introduced on a seemingly blank canvas: Soil. A gift from our Creator, the Artist.

The Artist blends while the gardener tends the greens that continue to deepen as spring progresses.

The gardener nurtures in a labor of love, painstakingly preparing the canvas for the Artist to bring forth more life from the void.

Buds grow and bloom; the canvas explodes with color as the Artist's palette expands.

The gardener delights in the Artist's gift. “Take care of it.”

But the Artist is not yet finished with the design and so the gardener obeys, tending to the splashes of color as the days flow on.

Blooms dry and fade from greens back to the browns whence they came: soil once more. In their place, the Artist has done something amazing. Flowers turn to food in the ultimate transformation.

“Take, share, and eat.”

Growing food to give away is one of the most powerful forms of peaceful protest against the broken systems that have commodified and industrialized a basic human necessity. So far this season, St. John's has grown and donated over 70 pounds of fresh produce to share the gift of God's love and creation with our community.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to this amazing ministry!

“Red Book” Memories Continued XLV

“A Shepherd for Change and Growth”

Our congregation has been blessed with many capable pastors over the course of its existence. Several led us well during times of change and growth involving our faith community. One such individual prominently noted in our “Red Book” is Rev. Paul C. Jordan.

Rev. Jordan was our church’s 19th pastor, serving from 1956-1970. His pastorate came during the turbulent years of the 1960s, when our country experienced cultural and political upheavals, an escalation of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, the divisiveness of Vietnam War, and the growing Space Race. Rev. Jordan was the spiritual shepherd who provided guidance to church members and leadership for St. John’s as our congregation journeyed through that difficult period, growing and changing with the times.

Rev. Jordan began his pastorate at St. John’s on August 1, 1956. He and his family occupied the congregation’s newly constructed parsonage in the Ikler Park section of Lewisburg on August 15th. That was the first time the church’s parsonage was located outside of downtown Lewisburg. This was just one of several firsts associated with his pastorate.

With the start of Rev. Jordan’s tenure at St. John’s came the creation of the job of part-time secretary, which was first filled by Miss Alverda Brouse, who I had the pleasure of knowing in later years. This led to the establishment of a church office with all the necessary equipment. It also marked a time when our pastor had reliable office hours.

The year 1956 was also notable in the pastorate of Rev. Jordan for the following reasons. It was the year that the practice of having two Sunday morning worship services started. This lasted until 1968. In the Fall of 1956, the first Board of Christian Education at St. John’s was organized to oversee programs for over 210 participants. Additionally, 1956 was the year that Devitt Home in Allenwood was opened. It operated until 1968. The women of St. John’s almost immediately began to support the home through visits, sewing projects, and the provision of canned fruits and vegetables. In all of these matters, Rev. Jordan’s leadership and guiding hands were present.

In 1957, with Rev. Jordan’s help, the Consistory formed a planning committee to consider the needs of the church in terms of service to its members and the wider community. It then undertook a three-and-a-half-year project to renovate the church’s entrance, basement, and first floor Sunday School rooms, as well as to enlarge the usable basement space. Rev. Jordan was also instrumental in starting our practice of having “Greeters” at the Sanctuary entrance in 1958 and played a role in the initiation of having noon Holy Week services that year.

What other firsts took place in terms of change and growth during Rev. Jordan’s pastorate? Under Rev. Jordan’s leadership, the congregation became part of the newly formed United Church of Christ in 1961 and formally altered its Constitution and Bylaws in 1969 to reflect that reality. He encouraged our faith community to bless and support missionaries from our church to work in the African country of Ghana in 1960. Those missionaries were George and Gladys Sturgeon, along with their children. Rev. Jordan even endorsed the start of the congregation’s annual Chicken Barbeques in 1961, the writing of our faith community’s first history book, an expansion of our service efforts at home and abroad, and the formulation and implementation of other church renovation projects.

Rev. Jordan’s efforts to bring about change and growth at St. John’s, as well as to guide the congregation during those periods, began to be impacted by his own health challenges in 1968. This eventually led to his submission of a letter of resignation to the Consistory on January 31, 1970. It was accepted with regret and resulted in many expressions of the congregation’s deep gratitude for the work of Rev. Jordan. He is still fondly remembered by members of our present congregation.

Rev. Paul Jordan was a blessing to the people of St. John’s. He was truly a shepherd for change and growth. Let us always remember this remarkable pastor.

— Gary Nottis

Summer Study on Prayer

Connie Stumpff and Pastor Alice are co-leading a study about Prayer Methods and Practices. They will be sharing material from two books (Seven Ways to Pray - Time Tested Practices for Encountering God by Amy Boucher Pye and Kneeling with the Giants by Gary Neal Hansen) and other resources. We will meet on August 3, 10 and 17 at 6:30 pm. in the Gathering Place with ZOOM available for those who need it. Please join us anytime!

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" - Vacation Bible School Experience

Dates: August 5, 6, and 7, 2026. Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Come be a part of God's Green Team!!

Join us as we learn to care for God's creation through Bible stories, games, snacks, crafts, and hands-on garden experiences (weather permitting). Designed for those up to grade 8. Youth helpers are welcome!!

Children under age 3 should have a parent/guardian present.

Walk-ins accepted.

Intergenerational Celebration Night: August 7 - garden tours, worship, and snacks for all!

St. John's Weekend Retreat at Central Oak Heights - **Mark Your Calendars**

From Letting Go to Renewal!

We will be staying in the Missionary Cottage that holds 15 people

Dates: **September 11, 12, and 13, 2026**

More details coming soon!!!

We are worshiping together at Central Oak Heights in their worship space (called the Tabernacle) on **August 9th**. There's a signup in the narthex where you can indicate if you need a ride. For those who are driving, this is your reminder that if you are headed north on 15, you will need to exit at the Milton exit and get back onto 15 south. Immediately after getting back on 15, Central Oak Heights is on your right.

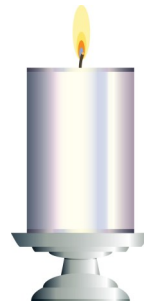
You are invited to share a dish for the covered dish luncheon, or simply come to enjoy the food and fellowship.

There will be recreational activities, including the pool opening at noon, and other games and activities.



08/01 Miller, Addie
 08/05 Ransdorf, Thomas
 08/06 Hartman, Jean
 08/08 Blandford, Deborah
 08/09 Hagenbuch, Melitta
 08/09 Dreese, Donna
 08/11 Laudermilch, Charles
 08/15 Hoban, William
 08/16 Von Blohn, Sharon
 08/18 Fennell, Vicki
 08/26 Roberts, Janet

08/02 Catherman, Deb & Barry
 08/03 Adams, Brenda & Don
 08/06 Nottis, Katharyn & Pastor Gary
 08/12 Weslosky, Nancy & Jerry
 08/21 Lingenfelter, Ann & Rev. Joseph
 08/28 Kugler, Barbara & William



Deaths in Our
 Church Family

Victor Snyder

02/20/1927 - 06/17/2026



In Memory of Victor Snyder

by Ruth Richard

by Ada Mae Sampsell

YARD SALE 2026

The annual yard sale will be **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND.**

Items for this year's yard sale can be brought into the chapel parlor area or under the pavilion to be sorted through August.

We already have a lot of donations, so this will be a very big year!!

Help will be needed Mon. (8/31), Tues. (9/1) at 10 am to set up. Then help is really needed on Wed. (9/2). If you can help in any way or even part of the time, please contact; Linda Sartwell, Dee Ledgerwood, or Penny Cooper.

Thanks, Your yard sale team!



The Wired Word

How the Bible can help us process current events

Do you struggle to keep pace with our quickly changing world? Does the news leave your head spinning and you wonder how to make sense of it all? Enter the Wired Word email newsletter. This weekly email highlights two current event stories alongside relevant scripture readings. It provides thought-provoking questions and commentary that will enhance your spiritual practice, AND your dinner conversation!

Here are some Wired Word topics from the past month. If you missed them, consider looking back through your email and giving them a read.

June 25 - World Cup Fans Put Aside Differences, Have Fun

Administration Technically Follows Court Orders, Deports Non-Citizens to Third Countries

July 2 - United States Turns 250 and Half of Churches Celebrate

July 16 - Religious People Live Longer and Better, Says Report

Aging Churches Seek Path Forward in Identity, Mission

July 23 - Maine Synagogue Welcomes Fun-loving Rabbi After Year of Lay-led Ministry

Businesses Anticipate Conscientious Objection to AI

While the news isn't always sunny, the Wired Word newsletter always provides a path toward HOPE. It includes concrete steps you can take, so you're not just consuming the news but responding to it. It's important to have this guidance and inspiration as we move through modern life as Christ's disciples.

Please contact the church if you'd like to receive the Wired Word email each week. Our church's subscription to the Wired Word is provided by Christian Education funds as a benefit to all who are interested.

Second Sunday Social is on a Break

We will be pausing our Second Sunday Social programs for the summer, but please join the congregation for the **worship service at Central Oak Heights on August 9th**, with a potluck picnic to follow. September will bring Rally Day on the second Sunday, September 13th, with worship fun and another opportunity for a potluck lunch afterward. All are welcome!

QUILTERS ON VACATION THE MONTH OF AUGUST!

Please join us the 2nd Monday of September at 9am - 11 am, in the community room.

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up: SYLAS WILDE

Lay-Reader: ANGIE DONLIN

Preparation of Communion Elements:

AUGUST	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
2	DURING WORSHIP	LINDA SARTWELL
9	CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS	
16	DURING WORSHIP	
23	DURING WORSHIP	
30		

AUGUST	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
2		Keira/Kora Aulenbach
9	CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS	Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
16		Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
23	JANET & RON ZUG	Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
30	ANN & JOE LINGENFELTER	

AUGUST	GREETERS
2	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON
9	CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS
16	"
23	"
30	"



Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Indoors or online
via Facebook or YouTube

Visit us on the Web!
www.stjohnslewisburg.org



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

1050 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone: 570-523-0162
E-mail: stjohnsucc@ptd.net

No matter who you are, or where
you are on life's journey, you're
welcome here!

MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS

- August – Union County Food Bank
 - September –William Cameron engine Company
 - October – Neighbors in Need*
 - November – Devitt House
 - December – The Christmas Fund * (Veterans of the Cross)
 - Christmas Eve Offering – Operating Fund
- * denotes Five of Five special offerings

- Walk (Hunger)
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Christmas Food Baskets
- AND Bethany Children's
- Home Holiday Gifts
- (aka White Gifts)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	27 11:00am PEO (GP)	28 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	29 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN) 1:00pm COM (GP)	30 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:00pm C.O.M (GP) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	31	1
2 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	3 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR) 1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN) 6:30pm SUMMER BOOK STUDY (GP)	4 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	5 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN) 6:00pm VBS (FH)	6 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am PEO (GP) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 6:00pm VBS (FH) 7:00pm Building & Grounds (GP) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	7 6:00pm VBS (FH)	8
9 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP AT CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS	10 8:30am Kindermusik (PAV) 9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS & MORE (CR) 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) 2:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP) 6:30pm SUMMER BOOK STUDY (GP) 7:00pm CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)	11 8:30am Kindermusik (PAV) 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	12 8:30am Kindermusik (PAV) 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN)	13 8:30am Kindermusik (PAV) 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm M.A.S.H. (GP/ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (FH)	14 8:30am Kindermusik (PAV)	15 10:00am COMMUNITY HARVEST (FH)
16 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	17 8:30am Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH) 6:00pm Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR) 6:30pm SUMMER BOOK STUDY (GP) 7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)	18 8:30am Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH) 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am COMMUNITY HARVEST TRAINING (GP) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	19 8:30am Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH) 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN)	20 8:30am Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH) 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm CONSISTORY (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (FH)	21 8:30am Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH)	22 11:00am Fellowship Hall rsd. (FH/KTCHN)
23 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	24 1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)	25 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	26 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN)	27 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (FH)	28	29
30 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	31	1 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:00am YARD SALE SET UP (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	2 8:00am YARD SALE (PAV, FH) 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN)	3 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am PEO (GP) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Building & Grounds (GP) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (SANCT)	4	5