

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

August 9, 2026

(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.

In 2026 We Are Dreaming God's Dream Together

Prelude

Announcements

*Call to Worship

God is at work in the world

**To bring justice to the oppressed,
To share food with the hungry,
To provide shelter for the homeless,
To set all people free.**

We come this morning

**To be reminded of God's justice,
To be nourished by God's presence,
To find home with God's people,
To worship in joy and freedom.**

When we call, God will answer.

**For God's light breaks forth
And God's healing is in our midst.**

Listen to God's voice say, "Here I am."

*Opening Hymn

"I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

*Opening Prayer - ***Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who has entered the world bringing hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

Passing of the Peace: Peace be with you. **And Also with you**

Children's Song

"The Fruit of the Spirit"

Words for All, Especially Children

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:8-12 & Matthew 5:13-16

Chancel Choir Anthem

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Message

"From Shadow to Light"

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.

Celebrations and Joys

*Singing Our Gratitude as We Dedicate our Offerings #376 Stanza #1

**God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
Hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here is hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.**

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: **God, we give these gifts in gratitude for your blessing We give these gifts with hope, as we hunger and thirst for righteousness. May our offerings of money, time, and talent be used
*To comfort those who mourn, to extend mercy, to make peace, To help us all more clearly see and live your presence in our lives and in our world. Amen.***

*Hymn

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"
(Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkos')

*Benediction

Postlude

TODAY

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 people 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 greeters. Offering plates are located at the rear of the Sanctuary.

THIS WEEK

Monday, August 10	9 am Noon - 3 pm 6:30 pm 7 pm	ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR) Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) SUMMER BOOK STUDY (GP) CHRISTIAN ED (ZOOM)
Tuesday, August 11	9 am 10:30 - Noon 1 pm - 4 pm 7 pm - 9:30 pm	TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) Willowbrook Strings (FH) Community Harvest (KTCHN) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, August 12	9 am 7 pm	GARDEN HARVEST (GARDEN) BUILDINGS/GROUNDS (GP)
Thursday, August 13	8:30 am- 10:30am 9 am - 10:30 am 1:30 pm - 3 pm 7 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) M.A.S.H. (ZOOM/GP) Women's Barbershop Chorus (FH)
Friday, August 14		
Saturday August 15	10 am - Noon	COMMUNITY HARVEST DISTRIBUTION (FH)
Sunday, August 16	10 am	WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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.

MONTHLY MISSION OFFERING -August's mission offering is dedicated to the **Union County Food Bank**.

CHANCEL FLOWER CHART - The Chancel Flower Chart is located in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday or two for flowers.

COMMUNITY HARVEST MEAL -. If you have any questions or are interested please contact me through messages or email. 570-492-4487 - Riley. Hoeyriley32@gmail.com or Sue Kindya. The next food distribution will be **August 15th**, 10 am - Noon. Our next cooking session will be Monday, August 31st, 1-4 pm.

FALL RETREAT - Please mark your calendars for our Fall Transformation & Prayer retreat to be held on September 11 - 13th at Central Oak Heights. Registrations available soon.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

Ongoing Needs- Laurie Anderson, Anna Brouse, Peg Brouse, Dorothy Griffith, Bill Fuller, Bill Geyer, Brock Hare, Jean Hartman, Kristian K., Ethel Moser, Bruce Rauch, Christine Sartwell, Alice Savidge, Leslie Shearer, Dianna Spickler, Emily Weaver, Linda Williams, Rev. Sharon Von Blohn.

Immediate Concerns -Pat B., Serita Barry, Rev. Patty Dodds, Isaiah English, Deb Hackenberg, Craig Hoffman, Steve M., Pam Mabus, Dennis Meckley, Ben Moyer, Craig O'Neil, Todd O'Neil, Dusti Ramey, Ann Smit, The Family of Victor Snyder, Renee St. Clair, The Family of Walter Swineford, Rick Wherley, Samantha Wyvill, Brett Yarger.

CHANCEL FLOWERS -

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

August 2, 2026

Building Use - \$40.00; Current Expenses - \$5,114.00;
Davy's Cards - \$225.00; Food Pantry - \$290.00; Giant Cards - \$500.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$510.00; Loose Offering - \$45.00;
OCWM - \$679.00; St. John's Quilters - \$40.00;
Weis Cards - \$250.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$ 7,693.00 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. Gary Nottis, *Pastoral Care Assoc.*

Todd R. Hummel, *Dir. Of Music / Organist*

Todd R. Hummel, *Bell Choir Director*

Sylas Wilde, *Kitchen Manager*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Sue & Jim Tomlinson, *Greeters*

Keira Aulenbach, Kora Aulenbach, *Acolytes*

Sue Baish, Barry Catherman, Alicia Graybill,

Lisa Graybill, Linda Sartwell, Dave Smit,

Tech Team

CCLI #20796546 One License #738455-A

Available to you, if needed, are Quiet Rooms 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 greeter or A/V team member.