

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

September 6, 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 (inspired by Psalm 149)

Praise the Holy One! Make our praise known in the gathering of the faithful, the hopeful, and even the questioning.

Let us praise God with a new song. Let the rhythm of praise resonate in our being.
The Holy One takes pleasure in the presence of God's people.

Let us glorify God with our senses, our hearts, and our spirits.
Let us praise the God of justice with high praise!

We worship the Holy One in truth and righteousness! Praise God!

*Opening Hymn

"God is Here! As We Your People Meet"

#70

*Prayer for Transformation - Holy One, scripture reminds us that, "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." Forgive us for those moments when we had the opportunity to choose love and did not. Forgive us for the days we kept silent when love required our voice. Forgive us for the instances when we could have extended grace and mercy and, instead, chose bitterness and resentment. Forgive us for the times when we have been hard to love and failed to appreciate the love given to us. Transform our lives and our hearts into vessels that reflect your love in the world. Amen.

*Words of Grace - *Beloved, rest in the love of God that is faithful and true. Know that love may be replicated through each of us toward one another and our neighbors. Be assured that the reservoir of love never runs dry and is amplified the more you draw from it. Let your love flow and the grace of God will sustain and strengthen you.*

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

*Song of Praise: #100

Praise God who gives all blessings birth
Praise God, all creatures on the earth
Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free
One Holy God, in persons three.

Words for All, Especially Children

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

*Song of Dedication ***“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”***

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Gracious God, may these gifts shift us from scarcity to abundance and from hoarding to sharing. Continue, Holy One, to plant seeds of generosity within us, and allow us to see these gifts bloom in and beyond this faith community. Amen.

*Order for Holy Communion

Creator of the harvest- We lift our voices in praise!

Creator of the table - In you we find our peace.

In gratitude we gather to share this meal.

With thanksgiving, we gather to share our love for neighbor.

As the sun sets earlier, the days become cooler, and the crops near harvest, we celebrate the plenitude of fruits available to us. We acknowledge the ways that we can use our gifts to care for our siblings in need. We extend this table through the work of our hands and the missions of this church. As we celebrate this sacrament, may we remember the laborers in the fields: The harvesters of the wheat and grapes. The transporters of their yields. Those who transform wheat into bread and grapes into juice. Bless their hands and feet as they labor at farms and gardens, in trucks and warehouses. We give thanks for the ones who prepare the table here today. May their gifts of preparation and hospitality inspire us to extend hospitality to the strangers among us.

After laboring on the streets of Jerusalem-Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God-Jesus clutched bread in his hands. He blessed the food, gave thanks, and heartfully expressed to his friends that this was the bread of life. “As you eat this bread, remember me.” After supper, Jesus grasped the cup filled with the gifts of the vine. In his blessing, he reminded them “whenever you drink of this cup, remember me.”

Prayer of Consecration: Spirit of wisdom and of wonder, wind around these elements today. May they stir us from stagnation into actively loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves. May our participation at this table transform us into the people God is calling us to be. With gratitude, we gather at this table. As we take a piece of bread, let us experience the love of God as seen in Jesus the Christ. As we drink the cup, let us remember the grace that pours from God. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup:

- *The Communion Ushers will bring the bread and cup to you. We hold each element until all are served and then we commune together. Our cups contain grape juice.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Almighty and loving God, we thank you that through your great love you have fed us with spiritual food from your table, and have assured us that your goodness to us never fails. We give you thanks that we are members of the body of Christ, heirs with Christ, and siblings in your family. By your grace assist us now in continuing our pilgrimage that we may go our ways strong and faithful in our witness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn

"When Peace Like a River"

#438

*Benediction:

Postlude

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, Ken Kindya, Janet Kling, 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, Rick Wherley, Samantha Wyvill, Brett Yarger.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - given by Susan & Ken Kindya in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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, September 7	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY
Tuesday, September 8	9 am 9 am - 11:15 am 10:30 - Noon 7 pm - 9:30 pm	TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) Kindermusik (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (FH) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, September 9	9 am	GARDEN HARVEST (GARDEN)
Thursday, September 10	8:30 am- 10:30am 9 am - 10:30 am 10 am 1:30 pm - 3 pm 7 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) CHRISTIAN ED (ZOOM) Trailside Troubadours (FH) MASH (GP/ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (FH)
Friday, September 11		
Saturday September 12		
Sunday, September 13	10 am	WORSHIP, RALLY DAY RALLY DAY PICNIC

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 -September's mission offering is dedicated to the **William Cameron Engine Co.**

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 **September 19th**, 10 am - Noon.

Join Our Music Ministry: Bell & Chancel Choir. Are you looking for a wonderful way to share your musical gifts? We are warmly inviting anyone interested in making music to join our vocal choir and bell choir. No prior musical experience is required—just a willing heart and a desire to make a joyful noise! Whether you read music fluently or are just starting your musical journey, we have a place for you. Chancel Choir rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 20th, Bell choir begins on September 27th.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

August 30, 2026

Chancel Flowers - \$50.00; Current Expenses - \$1,545.00;
Davy's Cards - \$150.00; Food Pantry - \$70.00; Giant Cards - \$800.00;
Loose Offering - \$145.00; OCWM - \$10.00; St. John's Quilters - \$80.00;
Weis Cards - \$350.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$ 3,200.00 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*

Kay & Rev. Gary Nottis, *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.