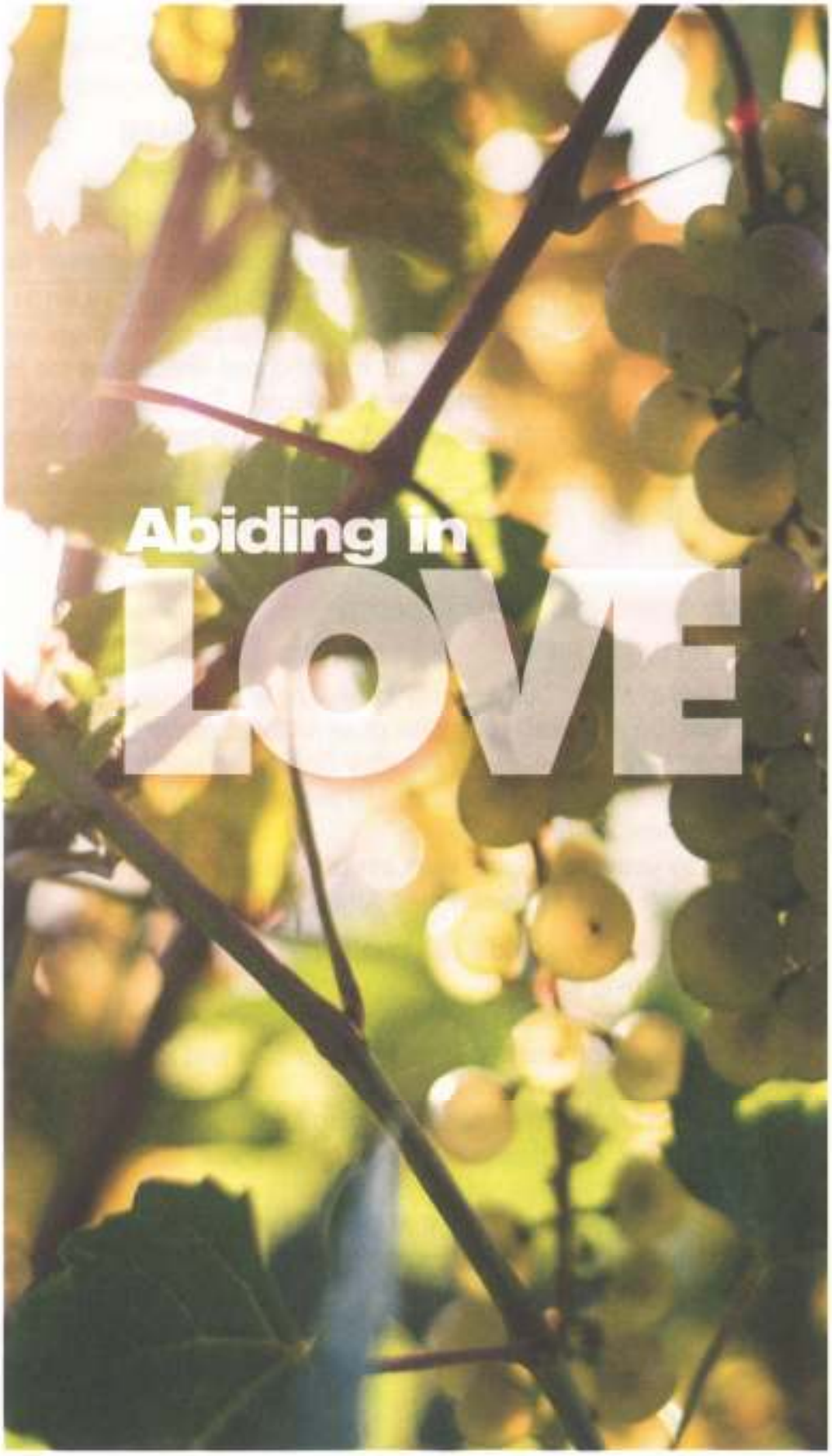
Abiding in
LOVE

St. John's United Church of Christ

An "Open and Affirming" Congregation

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. April 28, 2024

(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.

Rooted in tradition, progressive in our outlook.

Prelude

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

Inspired by your Holy Spirit, work in our hearts and minds so that when You call, we will say, "Here I am, send me." Amen.

Throughout the ages God's call to mission summons a response. We affirm our heartfelt yearning to reply.

God asks: Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger?

And like Isaiah, the answer flows from our soul and forms on our lips, "I will go. Send me."

God, our Redeemer, we share a longing to minister as partners, together with You and each other. Our desire is shaped by Your will, our commitment molded by Your covenant.

We dedicate ourselves again, this day. We accept the challenge joyfully to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

We covenant with you to be loving instruments of understanding and forgiveness among those to whom You send us.

We promise anew to be living invitations for others to meet You as Lord and Savior.

We press on with resolve so that Your word may spread rapidly, and You may be glorified everywhere. We must work the works of him who sends us while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

Savior let us hear and heed Your call, knowing that You will qualify us when we say "yes" to You. We will go. Send us.

*Hymn ***"Called as Partners"*** #495

***Opening Prayer** - *Wonderful God, so indiscriminate is Your love, so heedless of color and nationality and class, falling like sun and rain on all Your children, the righteous and the unrighteous, the just and the unjust. For Your lavish, gracious care we give You thanks and praise. Come now and sow in our hearts the seed of Your word. Come and knead into our spirit the leaven of Your Spirit. And may Your seed and leaven transform our words and deeds, so that others might come to know Your love, and give You praise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and friend. Amen.*

Words for All – Especially Children

Anthem *"For the Beauty Of the Earth"* *Stephenson*

Scripture: I John 4:7-21

Message *"Done in Hope"*

Mission, Social Action and Outreach – *"Through the Years"*

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.**

Moment for Mission *"Getting Ahead in the Valley"* Rose Williams

Celebration and Joys

*Singing Our Gratitude *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"* #565

(stanza #1)

God, Whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly grave, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings - **Right now we say thank you as we give. In our giving, hear our heartfelt gratitude for all that You are and all that we have. Bless these gifts for Your mission in the world, and bless the other gifts we have to bring to Your mission, opening our eyes to how You are calling us to participate. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

*Hymn *"Jesu, Jesu"* #498

*Benediction

Postlude

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

Ongoing Needs- Anna Brouse, Betty Hackenberg, Jean Hartman, Kristian K., Christine Sartwell, Leslie Shearer, Merdyth Updegraff, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Craig Stumpff, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams, Sharon Von Blohn.

Mostly Homebound- Ann Beasom, Richard Berry, Peg Brouse, Bill & Lola Fuller, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Ann Louise Snyder.

Immediate Concerns – Lisa B. (Linda& Wayne Williams' daughter), The Family of Reese Conklin, Craig Hoffman, Viktor Kusin, Todd O'Neil, Alice Savidge, Joanne Stahley, Merdyth Updegraff, Cyndi Weaver.

CHANCEL FLOWERS –

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.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR – Please join us in the Narthex and Gathering Space for light refreshments and conversation after worship today. Sponsored by Pastor Alice, Palmer, Riley and Andrew.

THIS WEEK

Monday, April 29	9:30 am 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) BVS Rehearsal (FH)
Tuesday, April 30	9:30 am 10:30 am 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (FH) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, May 1	**7 pm** 7 pm - 8:30 pm	**BOOK STUDY/YOUTH GROUP (GP)** Chamber Music Group (SANCT)
Thursday May 2	9 am - 1030 am 9 am - 4 pm 9 am - 1030 am 1:30 - 3:30 pm **7 pm** 7 pm	Tops (CR) Kitchen Rsvd. WW (FH) Trailside Troubadours (FH) **BUILDINGS/GROUNDS (PAR)** Women's Barbershop Chorus
Friday, May 3	9 am - 4 pm 4 pm - 6 pm	Kitchen Rsvd. Violin Class (SANCT)
Saturday May 4	9 am - 4 pm Noon - 2 pm 1 pm - 4 pm	Kitchen Rsvd. Violin Recital (SANCT) Girl Scouts
Sunday, May 5	**9:00 am** **10 am**	**CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.)** **WORSHIP, COMMUNION, 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 – The mission communion offering for the month of May is dedicated to Getting Ahead in the Valley.

LAY READERS NEEDED – The signup sheet for Lay-Readers is in the Narthex. Please consider signing up for a month or two!

DEVITT HOUSE BOARD – Devitt House of Lewisburg is seeking new board members. If interested in volunteering for this worthy cause, please contact Pastor Doug Schader at 570-590-6643, for more information.

MUSIC FESTIVAL – You are invited to be UNITED IN SONG! When: May 5, 2024 at 3 p.m. Where: First Reformed UCC at the corner of Second and Chestnut Streets in Sunbury. Choirs, bells, and ensembles from six churches are preparing to perform at UNITED IN SONG, a music festival.

IMPORTANT - Duane Snayberger is stepping down as treasurer effective July 1. If you have an interest in helping the church by serving as treasurer, please reach out to Don Adams (570 412-5332) or Bill Ledgerwood (570 551-6868). It's important that we fill this position as soon as possible.

FIRE TRUCK ON DISPLAY – The New Berlin Fire company will have its fire truck here at St. John's on Wednesday, May 1st for all to view. The truck should arrive around 6 pm.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

April 21, 2024

Building Use - $40.00; Current Expenses - $1,035.00; Envelope Expenses - $5.00;
Getting Ahead in the Valley - $10.00; Giant Cards - $300.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - $10.00; loose Offering - $6.00;
Mifflinburg Fire Victims - $20.00; OCWM - $40.00; Transitions - $25.00;
Weis Cards - $200.00;

GRAND TOTAL - $1,691.00 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*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*
Staci & Shannon Prutzman, *Greeters*
Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*
Hannah Loughhead, *Chancel Choir Director*
Brenda Adams, Don Adams, 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.

LIVESTREAM OF SERVICE – We are live streaming the worship service on both Facebook and YouTube. If you would prefer NOT to be seen on the live stream, please ask a greeter to be seated in an area that is not visible by the cameras.
(Quiet room or elsewhere in the Sanctuary)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024 John 15:1-8

"Abiding in Love"

"We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates." –Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On this Break the Silence Sunday, churches can raise their awareness of gender-based violence by participating in Thursdays in Black.

*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women's resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in the campaign by doing the following:

Pause

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray

Pray with us:
We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence.
We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist, and tag us.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE (7233).**

*https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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