

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - COMMUNION
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. May 3, 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 *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"* arr. Mansfield

Announcements

*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 31)

In You, Holy One, we seek sanctuary. In you, Sovereign God, we seek refuge.

Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

You are indeed our rock and our fortress. Our times are in your hands. Strengthen us in your righteousness.

Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

Shine upon us this day as we worship you. Saturate us in your steadfast love.

Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

*Opening Hymn "Rejoice, O Pure In Heart" #55

Prayer of Transformation and New Life: Redeemer of our lives, we come to you knowing that we participate in a world often crushed by tyranny and evil. Our hearts are troubled, overwhelmed, and dismayed. At times, we feel helpless and hopeless by the enormity of the problems presenting all around us. We believe the lie of the enemy that there is nothing that we can do or that someone else is the one to do it. May you, Holy and Righteous One, be glorified in the tumbling of walls cemented in evil and fortified by hate. For this, we pray for courage and resolve to do the works needed in this hour. For this, we pray for faith, trust, and hope to believe that the realm of the possible eclipses the narrow places of improbability. For this, we pray for the boldness to pray for what the world needs and more than our imaginations may hold. Amen.

Assurance of Grace: *Children of God, receive the mercy of God, who calls you from despair into hope, from suffering into repair, from hopelessness into resolve. God has given you capacity for strength and compassion. The Holy One journeys with you. Grace is available for you. Know that your prayers are met and amplified by the Spirit, and Christ will lead the way to life and love everlasting on earth as in heaven.*

Passing of the Peace:

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Song of Joy "Halleluja" #236

Words for All, Especially Children

Choir Anthem *“When You Break the Bread”*

Scripture Reading John 14:1-14

Message *“Belonging”*

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.

Special Music *“The Old Rugged Cross”* arr. Smith

Celebrations and Joys

*Singing Our Gratitude as We Dedicate our Offerings (tune: Canonberry)

Bless Thou the gifts our hands have brought;
Bless Thou the work our hearts have planned;
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Thy hand. Amen.

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Generous God, may the gifts that we bring reflect the image we bear. Be glorified through our generosity and the meeting of needs among and beyond us. Amen.

*Order for Holy Communion - Christ invites “all” to the table of reconciliation - Jesus wanted them to remember and to understand his solidarity and his sacrifice. Jesus still prepares a place for each and all of us at this table.

Words of Institution - We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks and broke the bread, “This is my body, given for you. ... By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Raising the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The elements will be brought to you in your pews. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served and we will partake of the elements at one time. Gluten free bread is available.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving - Holy One, thank you for this feast at your table. May we go forward from this table with great joy, ever seeking your resurrecting presence among us and discerning your call for us to be present for our neighbors in the world.

*Hymn *“O Jesus, I Have Promised”* #493

*Benediction:

Postlude *“Variation on “Easter Hymn””* arr. Smith

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, Christine Sartwell, Alice Savidge, Leslie Shearer, Victor Snyder, Dianna Spickler, Emily Weaver, Linda Williams, Rev. Sharon Von Blohn.

Immediate Concerns - The Family of Barry Bilger, Rev. Patty Dodds, Hunter English (Sharon Von Blohn's grandson), Peg Heitman, Riley Hoey, Craig Hoffman, Steve M., Pam Mabus, Ben Moyer, Craig O'Neil, Todd O'Neil, Bruce Rauch, Colleen Ross, Ann Smit, Renee St. Clair, Rick Wherley, The Family of Wayne Williams, Samantha Wyvill, Brett Yarger.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - Are sponsored by Jean Maurer.

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.

THANKS - We thank the Rev. Dan Busch for sharing his talents with us today!

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 4	9 am - 11 am 12 pm - 1 pm 1 pm - 4 pm 7 pm	Kindermusik (PAR) Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR) Community Harvest (KTCHN) BVS Rhearsal (FH)
Tuesday, May 5	10:30 - Noon 7 pm - 9:30 pm	Willowbrook Strings (FH) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, May 6		
Thursday, May 7	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) BUILDINGS/GROUNDS (GP) Women's Barbershop Chorus (SANCT)
Friday, May 8	4 pm - 6 pm	Violin Class (SANCT)
Saturday May 9	10:30 am-12:30 pm	Violin Class Recital (SANCT)
Sunday, May 10	8:45 am 9:15 am 10 am	BELL CHOIR (SANCT) CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM) WORSHIP, MOTHER'S DAY, 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 - May's mission offering is dedicated to **Getting Ahead in the Valley**.

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 The next food distribution will be **May 16th**, 10 am - Noon.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

April 26, 2026

Building Use - \$200.00; Chancel Flowers - \$50.00;
Christian Book Awards - \$15.84; Current Expenses - \$1,905.00;
Davy's Cards - \$50.00; Giant Cards - \$1,200.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$25.00; Loose Offering - \$50.00;
OCWM - \$100.00; Transitions - \$95.00; Weis Cards - \$275.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$ 3,965.84 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, 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.