

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.

May 18, 2025

(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 *"Come Into His Presence"* Lynn Baird

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

We gather in the presence of the One who breathes life into all of Creation.

We sing God's praises, breathing in God's glory.

All are welcome in the presence of the Most High.

We come, seeking the goodness in the hands of God.

We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

Together we reflect the fullness of God's love; together we bring God's love into the world.

Let us worship the Living God whose breath gives us life.

(by Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, based on Psalm 104)

*Hymn *"O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go"* #485

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, be with us in this sacred space. Stir Your Spirit in and among us as we offer our prayers and praises. We long to hear more than the groaning of Creation around us, more than our own fearful groaning. From the places deep within us, that we mistakenly believe are hidden from You, may Your Spirit intercede for us. Draw us into Your presence. May we recognize You in ourselves and in our neighbors. Let us see you through all brokenness that we may find wholeness in being Your body here and now. In the name of the One who fills the world with Hope. Amen. *(by Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, based on Romans 8)*

*The Peace

As a people forgiven and freed, we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ.

Peace be with you! And also with you!

Praise Response: *"Halleluja!"* #236

Words for All - Especially Children

Anthem *"Lord I Stretch My Hands to You"* Althouse

Scripture: John 13:31-35

Message *"The Work of Love"*

Prayers of the People

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.

Invitation to Wellness Surveys

Celebrations and Joys

*Singing Our Gratitude #785

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: May these gifts help to build the community of care and compassion that we hope to create. May they be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and most importantly love. Amen.

*Hymn

"My Life Flows On In Endless Song"

#476

*Benediction

*Postlude

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" Leland Sateren

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

Ongoing Needs- Betty Hackenberg, Jean Hartman, Kristian K., Ken Miller, Pastor Gary Nottis, Christine Sartwell, Leslie Shearer, Dianna Spickler, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams, Rev. Sharon Von Blohn.

Mostly Homebound- Ann Beasom, Peg Brouse, Bill Fuller, Ethel Moser, Ann Louise Snyder, Joanne Stahley.

Immediate Concerns - Anna Brouse, Ed Crow, Rev. Sally Dries, Hunter English, Richard Furman, Bill Geyer, Brock Hare, Craig Hoffman, The Family of Shirley Hoffman, John Marshal, Pam Mabus, Sue Miller, Todd O'Neil, The Family of Linda Noll, Alice Savidge, Renee St. Clair, Cyndi Weaver.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - flowers are given by The Catherman Family, in memory of our parents, Forest and Leah Catherman, Harry and Peg Swinehart.

Flowers are also given by Jeanne & John Letteer.

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 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.

THANK YOU! - A special thanks to Kimber Williams for sharing his talents with us this morning!

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 19	9:30 am 6 - 8 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Empty Arms Group (CR) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)
Tuesday, May 20	7 AM - 8 PM 10:30 am 7 pm	ELECTION DAY Willowbrook Strings (NARTHX) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CHRM)
Wednesday, May 21		
Thursday, May 22	8:30 am 9 am 1:30 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, May 23		
Saturday May 24		
Sunday, May 25	8:45 am 9:15 am 10 am	BELL CHOIR (SANCT) CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) 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 - May's communion 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.

LAY-READERS NEEDED - There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Lay-readers. Please sign up for a month or split a month with someone.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

May 11, 2025

Building Use - \$25.00; Chancel Flowers - \$50.00; Current Expenses - \$1,385.00;
Davy's Cards - \$100.00; Getting Ahead in the Valley - \$55.00;
Giant Cards - \$800.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$60.00;
Loose Offering - \$90.00; OCWM - \$40.00; Weis Cards - \$100.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$2,705.00 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*

Hannah Loughhead, *Chancel Choir Director*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Staci & Shannon Prutzman, *Greeters*

Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

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)