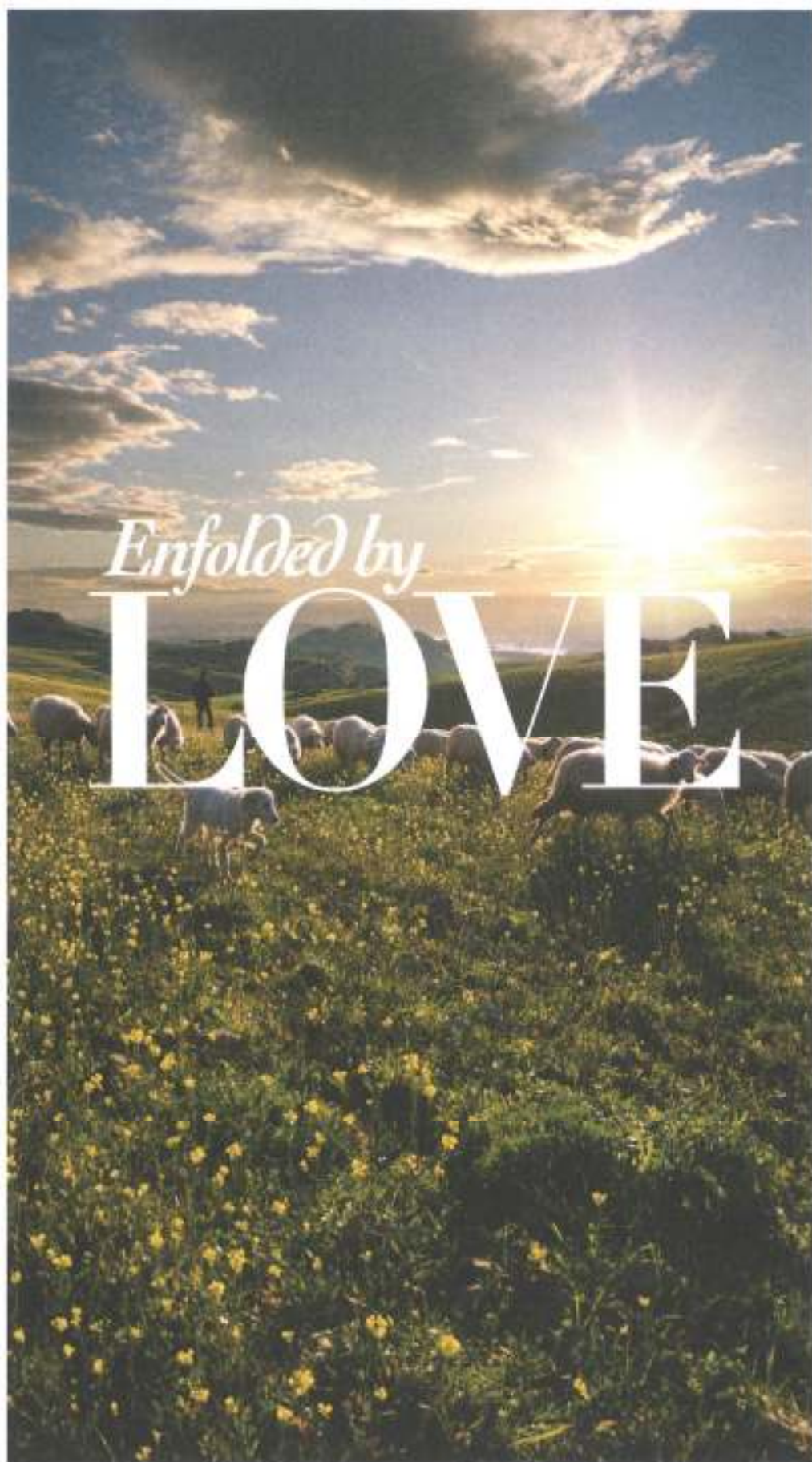


Enfolded by
LOVE



St. John's United Church of Christ

An "Open and Affirming" Congregation

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor - Don Adams, Worship Leader

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

April 21, 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

Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies—

We are one in Christ.

Whether our winters are balmy, or our summers are cool—

We are one in Christ.

Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in the middle—

We are one in Christ.

Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape—

We are one in Christ.

In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation—

We are one in Christ.

—Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, "[Be the Church: Protect the Environment](#)" worship service. © 2016 Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Free to use with attribution.

*Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

***Opening Prayer** - As we gather, we are thankful for your Creation: for light and darkness; for air, wind, and sky; for earth and sea; for seeds, harvests, and plant life; for sunlight, moonlight, and starlight; for every living creature, swarming, flying, creeping, and grazing; for our lives. In our actions, meditations, and prayers, may we honour and celebrate your very good Creation, as we seek wisdom on how to share our gratitude and love in good and healing ways. Amen. *—Written by Alydia Smith. From Alydia Smith, ed., Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis (Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 2023), p. 127. Free to use with attribution.*

Words for All - Especially Children

Anthem

"Why Do You Worry"

Chopin

Scripture:

Psalm 23

Message

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.**

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 grace, grace'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 - As we care for your creation, provide us with the humility and curiosity needed to continually learn about the marvels of your works, and to deepen our understanding of how our actions, good and bad, affect all of creation. We ask your blessing on the intentions we offer here today and on the intentions of those across the church and beyond during this Earth Week. Amen.

*Hymn *"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"* #563

*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.

SPECIAL THANKS - Thanks to Don Adams for being our worship leader this morning!

THIS WEEK

Monday, April 22	9:30 am 1 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Comm. on Ministry (GP) Girl Scout Leaders (GP) BVS Rehearsal (FH)
Tuesday, April 23	7 am - 8 pm 9:30 am 10:30 am 7 pm	ELECTION DAY (FH) Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (NARTHX) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH RM)
Wednesday, April 24		
Thursday April 25	9 am - 1030 am 9 am - 1030 am 1:30 - 3:30 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Tops (CR) WW (FH) Trailside Troubadours (FH) WIRED WORD STUDY GROUP (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus
Friday, April 26		
Saturday April 27		
Sunday, April 28	8:45 am 9:15 am 10 am 11 am	BELL CHOIR (SANCT) CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HOUR

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 April is dedicated to Transitions of PA. Transitions is a crisis center that provides advocacy, empowerment, and education to victims, survivors, families, and communities to end patterns of violence and abuse.

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.

MILK WEED SEEDS IMPORTANT NOTE: Germination rates will be greatly reduced if not planted correctly! Milkweed seeds can be very slow to germinate and does take some time and patience. For best results and to speed up the germination process, place the seeds in wet paper towels in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for 30 days prior to planting. Then plant the seeds in a sunny place about 1/2" deep and water them for at least two weeks.

NEXT WEEK - The worship service will focus on Mission, Outreach and Social Action through the years at St. John's. Rose Williams will also be here to chat about our next months' mission project, Getting Ahead in the Valley.

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.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

April 14, 2024

Building Use - \$275.00; Chancel Flowers - \$50.00; Current Expenses - \$3,085.00;
Davy's Gift Cards - \$25.00; Envelope Expenses - \$5.00; Food Pantry - \$20.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$27.00; Loose Offering - \$15.00;
OCWM - \$130.00; Transitions - \$170.00; Cornerstone Fund - \$116.88;
Weis Cards - \$25.00

GRAND TOTAL - \$3,943.88 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 Musid Organist*

Todd R. Hummel, *Bell Choir Director*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Bonnie Meckley, *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)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

John 10:11-18

"Enfolded by Love"

Today is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday. In an increasingly urban culture, Shepherd can be a difficult metaphor to grasp. But, for some ministers, the metaphor of shepherd is very powerful, precisely because their work with livestock helps inform their ministry.

When she was asked what about ministry and shepherding crosses over, Catherine Foote (who describes herself as retired from ministry, but still shepherding) checked in from England, where she had traveled to participate in sheep dog trials.

"Ha!" she wrote, "Well, that would be just about everything! But I would say it has kept me aware of the everyday, ordinary diligence and joy of ministry. Sheep need to be fed, every day. Watered, every day. Tended, every day. And if I stop to notice, the work brings me joy, every day."

Although she's not a shepherd, Jackie Hibbard of Dancing Spirit Equine Facilitated Learning and Coaching and associate pastor at community UCC Boulder works extensively with animals and their connections to humans. She checked in about her work with horses. "Horses have helped me learn so much about myself and my leadership style. I could talk about this for paragraphs, but two simple learnings are: they help me know when I'm not being clear and when I'm not fully present. I am a better minister and listener, because of what horses have taught me."

Think about the relationships you have had with animals. How have those relationships deepened your relationship with God and with your sense of calling and vocation?

