

JUNE 7 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION - 10 am

JUNE 14 - WORSHIP - 10 am

JUNE 14 - SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL - 11 am

JUNE 20 - COMMUNITY HARVEST DISTRIBUTION DAY - 10 - NOON

JUNE 21 - WORSHIP - FATHER'S DAY - GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY - 10 am

JUNE 28 - WORSHIP - ONA SUNDAY - 10 am



St. John's UCC  
1050 Buffalo Road  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
stjohnslouisburg.org





Isaiah 43:19 ESV Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Revelation 21:5a NIV He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

One of the overarching themes of our sacred texts is the theme of newness. The theme can be both a hopeful promise as well as a bit unsettling. For in order to embrace the possibility of God doing a new thing in us and through us we also recognize that that means things will change. If our hearts and minds are open to change, we are making ourselves vulnerable to uncertainty and perhaps even the unsettling possibility of things feeling chaotic. Scary stuff. But, also important and good stuff!! Our God is still at work in the world and as followers of Christ, we are a part of that work.

So, we are being invited to a summer of change ... a summer of transformation ... a summer of opening ourselves to God doing a new thing in our lives, in our communities, in our church and in the world. Beginning June 21st, we will explore the theme of God's work of Transformation in a variety of expressions. Some of you may recall that I was deeply inspired by my visit to SCI Coal Township for a Community Matters Town Hall in which service organizations within the facility shared their commitment to community service and transformed lives. I was reminded, profoundly, that our God is a God of newness, action and transformation; inspired to release some pockets of complacency and invite us to seek together what God's new thing might be for us!

So, I invite us to be prayerful and open as we share the theme: "Made New: Journeys of Transformation". As we are guided by the Holy Spirit, I pray for each of us to engage in creativity, humility and openness to God's work.

As always, I am grateful for St. John's UCC and for the privilege of serving alongside of you in ministry. I believe God has amazing things in store for us and am blessed by each one's commitment to sharing the love of Christ with the world. So many blessings! So much love!!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Alice

## “Red Book” Memories Continued XLIII

### *“Important Questions”*

In the life of every faith community, especially one that has endured for as long as ours has, important questions arise that must be addressed for the continued wellbeing of the congregation. “Who are we?” “What are the needs of our neighbors?” “How do we meet those needs in our own unique way?” Our ancestral congregations have asked these questions several times and found their answers.

Consider that several members of the Dreisbach Church asked those questions and determined that they were “Reformed” people and sought to serve their needs and nearby Lewisburg by establishing a congregation in that community in cooperation with a group of Lutherans. Then in 1834, both congregations once again dealt with the questions of “Who are we?” and “How do we meet the needs of others?” That led to the building of a brick church building in downtown Lewisburg in 1834.

Driven by those important questions, our ancestral Reformed church made the choice to separate from the Lutherans and construct its own church building, which was dedicated in 1848 during the pastorate of Rev. Henry Harbaugh (1843-1850). Later, the same questions moved the congregation to embrace the support of benevolences as a necessary part of church life, when Rev. Charles H. Leibach (1859-1864) served as pastor. They even prompted the congregation to struggle with how the faith community would worship God and Jesus during the later decades of the 1800s.

“Who are we?” “What are the needs of our neighbors?” “How do we meet those needs in our own unique way?” By 1900, these questions powerfully reasserted themselves as our church faced a crisis in terms of finding a new pastor and how it functioned as a faith community. Careful consideration prompted the congregation to answer the questions by calling Rev. R. Leighton Gerhart to a second pastorate (1900-1920), renaming the church St. John’s, and reconstructing the church building. The faith community’s response even led to better ways of handling congregational dissention, leading to a strong sense of unity and a spirit of worship and service that helped the church flourish. This lasted for decades.

These important questions have continued to arise. Each time, our ancestral congregations addressed them the best way they could. The answers brought about shifts in denominational affiliations, changes in worship services, and alterations to our church governance. They led to a variety of Christian education programs, interactions with area congregations, and community outreach efforts. The questions and our answers also broadened our welcome of individuals who were otherwise marginalized by the Christian Church in the past.

Why do questions like these keep reappearing? Our society and communities are constantly changing. New technologies appear. Different groups and ages of people move into our neighborhoods with their own unique needs. Area churches come and go. The composition of our congregation changes as old members die, congregants leave the area, and new individuals and families join St. John’s. Yet, we are called by God and Jesus to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the communities and people around us, no matter our circumstances.

Today, as we journey through the early years of our church’s third century of worship and service to God and Jesus, the important questions are facing us again. “Who are we?” “What are the needs of our neighbors?” “How do we meet those needs in our own unique way?”

We are being called to find our answers. They will need to be responses that address needs in ways that don’t duplicate what other faith communities are currently doing, but still make a real difference in the lives of others. Our answers will also need to be grounded in our church’s core values, achievable within our means, and supportive of our identity.

“Who are we?” “What are the needs of our neighbors?” “How do we meet those needs in our own unique way?” Let’s begin to ponder these questions, start our conversations, and find answers, together.

Some exciting things happening this summer:

Summer Study on Prayer:

Our summer focus for our Study Group will be about our life of prayer as followers of the Christ. Connie Stumpff and I will co-lead a gathering on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place. We will also provide a ZOOM connection if there are some who want to join virtually. The study will be based on two books: "7 Ways to Pray" by Amy Boucher Pye and "Kneeling with Giants" by Gary Neal Hansen. We will focus on both prayer practices that we can use today AND prayer practices of some faith leaders from the past (Martin Luther, Teresa of Avila and others). There will be a more detailed overview before the study begins. Here are the dates all at 6:30 p.m.:

Monday, July 6

Monday, July 13

Monday, July 20

Monday, August 3

Monday, August 10

Monday, August 17

Sign up available before July

**Summer Vacation Bible School:**

We are planning for a very special time of sharing in fun and fellowship this summer

Summer "Vacation Bible School" program in August. Dates are **August 5, 6 and 7 (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) in the evening from 6 to 8:30.** Designed for children through those entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Children under age 3 should have a parent or guardian stay with them.

At this point we are focusing on a theme of how God blesses us through the many gifts of creation. The theme title is: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and the participants are going to be a part of "God's Green Team" (aka good stewards of creation.).

Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors. Registration form will be available SOON!!



HC Spirit Camp - We are excited to invite you to be a part of another HC Spirit Camp at Hartman Center Campground in Milroy, PA. Come and enjoy a time away from daily life and time in community in the beauty of God's creation. The theme for the week is "In the Wilderness;" we will be focused on wilderness stories from the Bible and our own wilderness experiences and how God is with us during those times, through nature, other people and holy moments. Camp is for all ages!! There is a camp for you. Brochures are available in the narthex OR information and registration can be found at [hcspiritcamp.org](http://hcspiritcamp.org). A 30 percent scholarship is available through the Keystone Conference. We hope you can join us!!! Please register by June 15th to receive a camp shirt.



06/04 Colleen Ross  
 06/15 Leslie Rauch  
 06/18 Keira Aulenbach  
 06/20 Edward Crow  
 06/24 Carol Berry  
 06/28 Linda Williams

06/05 Williams, Rose & Kimber  
 06/13 Gemberling, Suzann & Stephen  
 06/24 Zug, Janet & Dr. Ron  
 06/27 Snayberger, Kelly & Duane  
 06/28 Ledgerwood, Dee & Bill  
 06/30 Bower, Dorothy & Arthur

## OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

### Daniel

My Faith can be summarized into 2 different categories: what I believe in, and what I will work to understand. I believe that God is the creator in the sense that he created the world that we see today. I believe that Jesus died to save us from our sins and that the holy spirit is with us and watches over us. I strongly believe that the Church is a place of community where people can connect to God and help others. I see it almost like a base for Christianity. In the same way that the military has bases in lots of different places, churches are like a base for God to extend his love to the community and everyone in it. I believe that following Jesus means being a humble and kind person who follows his teachings and asks for forgiveness.

What I will work to find out is how to follow Jesus in my everyday life. The main thing about faith that is hard to understand, and that I will work to find out, is why bad things in the world still happen. I often wonder why I have been so fortunate in life while others have not and I will do everything I can to understand why. Confirmation class has taught me about Christianity and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. It has also given me the skills to ask questions and explore my religion. Overall, I know that the Church is where I am always welcome no matter where I am in my journey.

### Thea

I believe God is a symbol of hope, justice, and truth for everyone who believes in the Holy One. I believe God created all living things to be able to further create with the gifts He gave them. I think God is like a father/mother because He is an all seeing being who is there to rely on and look to for guidance.

I believe Jesus was someone who embodied God and helped God to understand how humans experienced life, while also helping humans to understand what God expected of them. I believe Jesus is still important today. He is the example that God isn't asking for us to be perfect because God is the only perfect being. Jesus is proof that we will sin, but what matters is that we accept our imperfections and work towards being a better friend, teammate, brother, sister, father, son, mother, daughter, neighbor, etc.

I believe the Holy Spirit is something that surrounds you and something that you feel when you are being brought closer to God. I think the Holy Spirit helps people by giving us a sense of fulfillment and love from God. I feel the Holy Spirit when I am doing things I love and being around people I love.

I was baptized as a baby so for me I feel that Baptism is something that ties me to God and helps me be reminded that I can always look to God for whatever I need.



## The Wired Word

How the Bible can help us process current events

Do you struggle to keep pace with our quickly changing world? Does the news leave your head spinning and you wonder how to make sense of it all? Enter the Wired Word email newsletter. This weekly email highlights two current event stories alongside relevant scripture readings. It provides thought-provoking questions and commentary that will enhance your spiritual practice, AND your dinner conversation!

Here are some Wired Word topics from the past month. If you missed them, consider looking back through your email and giving them a read.

April 23 - Christian Community Makes an Effort to Finish Well  
Historic Lunar Mission Gives New Perspective

April 30 - Youth Suicides Drop After Debut of National Hotline  
The Cost of Rushing, Rewards of Rest

May 7 - Former Senator Faces Death With Faith and Honesty  
Becoming a Mother: The Matrescence Process

May 14 - School Principal Tackles Gunman, Credits "God's Hand"  
How Churches Changed Since the Pandemic

May 21 - Pastor Satisfaction Dropping, Fewer Entering Ministry  
More Americans Rethinking Marriage, Singleness

While the news isn't always sunny, the Wired Word newsletter always provides a path toward HOPE. It includes concrete steps you can take, so you're not just consuming the news but responding to it. It's important to have this guidance and inspiration as we move through modern life as Christ's disciples.

Please contact the church if you'd like to receive the Wired Word email each week. Our church's subscription to the Wired Word is provided by Christian Education funds as a benefit to all who are interested.

Please stay after worship on **Sunday, June 14, 2026**, for a light lunch and presentation by Dr. Ken Kindya, Clinical Psychologist. Ken will speak with us about early indications (or indications in general) of various childhood mental health conditions (Autism, ADHD, trauma, etc.,) and will provide community resources for treatment, as well as ways we can best interact with the children and youth who are

The lunch will be provided by the Christian Education Committee. Side dishes are welcomed but certainly not required. Please see the Second Sunday Social information sheet in the Narthex if you'd

# JUNE VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up: SYLAS WILDE

Lay-Reader:

Preparation of Communion Elements:

JUNE	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
7	DURING WORSHIP	CAROL BERRY
14	DURING WORSHIP	
21	DURING WORSHIP	
28	DURING WORSHIP	

JUNE	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
7	LISA & ALICIA GRAYBILL	Keira/Kora Aulenbach
14	MELITA HAGENBUCH	Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
21	MARY LOU & TOM RICH	Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
28	DEB & BARRY CATHERMAN	Keira/ Kora Aulenbach

JUNE	GREETERS
7	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON
14	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON
21	
28	



**Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Indoors or online  
via Facebook or YouTube**

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.stjohnslewisburg.org](http://www.stjohnslewisburg.org)



**St. John's United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!

1050 Buffalo Road  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Phone: 570-523-0162  
E-mail: [stjohnsucc@ptd.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@ptd.net)

**MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS**

- June – Strengthen the Church\*
- July – Donald Heiter Center
- August – Union County Food Bank
- September – William Cameron engine Company
- October – Neighbors in Need\*
- November – Devitt House
- December – The Christmas Fund \* (Veterans of the Cross)

- Walk (Hunger)
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Christmas Food Baskets
- AND Bethany Children's
- Home Holiday Gifts
- (aka White Gifts)

Christmas Eve Offering – Operating Fund

\* denotes Five of Five special offerings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP - CHOIR SUNDAY</p> <p>11:00am FELLOWSHIP HOUR</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR)</p> <p>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)</p> <p>5:00pm D.A.R. (PAV)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am PEO (GP)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p><b>7:00pm Building &amp; Grounds (GP)</b></p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00pm KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY (FH)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00am KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY (FH)</p>
<p>7</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p> <p>12:00pm Pav/FH RSVD</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS &amp; MORE (CR)</p> <p>12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH)</p> <p>2:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p><b>10:00am CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)</b></p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p><b>7:00pm M.A.S.H. (GP/ZOOM)</b></p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00am Second Sunday Social (FH)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:30am Kindermusik (PAV)</p> <p>6:00pm Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR)</p> <p>7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:30am Kindermusik (PAV)</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:30am Kindermusik (PAV)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:30am Kindermusik (PAV)</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p><b>7:00pm CONSISTORY (ZOOM)</b></p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:30am Kindermusik (PAV)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00am XIGONG (FH)</p>
<p>21</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP - FATHER'S DAY - GRADUATION</p> <p>11:00am GRADUATE RECEPTION</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am PEO (GP)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p><b>7:00pm Building &amp; Grounds (GP)</b></p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>