

MAY 3 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION - 10 AM

MAY 10 - WORSHIP, MOTHER'S DAY - 10 AM

MAY 16 - COMMUNITY HARVEST - 10 AM - NOON

MAY 17 - WORSHIP, CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - 10 AM

MAY 17 - CONFIRMATION RECEPTION - 11 AM

MAY 24 - WORSHIP - 10 AM

MAY 31 - WORSHIP, CHOIR SUNDAY - 10 AM

MAY 31 - FELLOWSHIP HOUR - 11 AM



St. John's UCC  
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As we turn the calendar to May, there is a sense of life unfolding all around us. The days grow longer, the earth begins to bloom, and everywhere we look there are signs of growth, renewal, and possibility. In many ways, this is exactly what we are seeing in the life of our church as well.

May will be a full and meaningful month in our shared ministry. One of the most important ways we will live out our faith together is through our May special offering, which will support *Getting Ahead in the Valley*. This vital program walks alongside individuals and families who are working toward greater financial stability and long-term security. It is not simply about meeting immediate needs, but about building relationships, fostering dignity, and creating pathways forward. Your generosity becomes part of someone else's story of hope and transformation.

Closer to home, the rhythms of planting and growing are taking shape in our garden and food ministries. Seeds are being planted not only in the soil, but in the lives of those who will be nourished by the harvest. These efforts remind us that ministry can be both deeply practical and profoundly spiritual—sharing food, tending the earth, and caring for our neighbors in tangible ways. Each row planted and each meal prepared is a quiet but powerful testimony to God's abundance.

We also look forward with great joy to a special milestone in the life of our congregation: the confirmation of two of our youth, who will be joining the church. This is more than a ceremony—it is a celebration of faith taking root in a new generation. Their "yes" to this journey reminds all of us of our own commitments and invites us to continue growing in faith together. Be sure to take a moment to welcome and encourage them as they step into this new chapter.

May also brings with it occasions like Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and the many informal gatherings that come with warmer weather. Each of these moments offers an opportunity to pause, give thanks, remember, and reconnect—with God and with one another.

In all these ways, May is not just a busy month; it is a meaningful one. It is a season of planting, of nurturing, and of trusting that God is at work in ways both seen and unseen. As we move through these weeks together, may we remain open to the small signs of grace around us—and may we continue to be a community where hope is planted, tended, and shared.

Grace and peace,

Alice

## 50 Days of Easter Food Challenge A People of the Table Mission Project for Keystone Conference's 1st Annual Meeting

The Challenge: Churches across the Conference are challenged to donate non-perishable food to a local food bank between Easter (04/05/2026) and Pentecost (05/24/2026) and to report the quantities of their donations.

At St. John's we are taking on the challenge during the last 30 days of the Easter season. So, between now and May 24th, we are invited to bring in as many of the following items as we can. They will be shared with a local ministry to share with our neighbors.

We are asking folks to focus on nonperishable foods such as **canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, pasta and rice, and toiletries**. We will report our total to the Keystone Conference and will learn the total for the whole conference at the annual meeting in June.

## “Red Book” Memories Continued XLII

### *“He Stood His Ground”*

Over the years, our congregation has learned to treat its members, leadership, and pastors with kindness, respect, and honesty, as well as the need for congregants to take responsibility for their actions. However, that hasn't always been the case. In fact, by the late 1800s, our church had become known as a troubled faith community. One sign of that reality was seen in the growing habit of church members writing and circulating anonymous letters demanding the resignation of pastors. These were generated by congregants who felt that their pastors were not providing proper church leadership or, more often than not, seeking to bring unwelcomed changes to worship services. Those anonymous letters, which ultimately made their way to the Consistory, created difficulties for that governing body and fractured the congregation. This led to the resignations of two of our previous pastors, Rev. U. Henry Heilman (1869-1873) and Rev. John F. DeLong (1887-1889).

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Zwingli Yearick (1895-1899) that another such situation developed. At issue was the incorporation of the Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, and the Gloria Patri into the church's worship services. The use of these liturgical elements had been formally adopted by the German Reformed Church General Synod in 1887, but were still considered controversial within some congregations, including ours. The use of those elements was viewed as ritualism, similar to what was practiced in the Catholic Church. Their presence was also seen as an infringement on local congregations to choose their own style of worship, a traditional practice of the German Reformed Church.

Rev. Yearick was influenced by what was known as the “Mercersburg Movement.” It was a push within the German Reformed Church to move it toward more of a “priestly” theology and worship practice, led by scholars such as John Nevin and Philip Schaff. Rev. Yearick saw value in the use of the forementioned liturgical elements. What's more, given the approval for their use by General Synod, he felt empowered to include them in our church's worship.

Rev. Yearick was further encouraged to make use of those liturgical elements given a decision made by our church's Consistory in 1890. Following the resignation of Rev. DeLong over the same issue, the Consistory determined that in light of the Synod's action, our church could not deny the use of the liturgical elements by any of our pastors. However, in regards to their being incorporated into worship, the Consistory implored our pastors to conduct the services of the church in such a way that “dissentions may give place to charity, that unity be restored, and that peace and harmony may prevail...” (p. 13 of “A History of Faith and Service”, St. John's Church, 1824-1961).

At some point in his pastorate, Rev. Yearick started including the Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, and the Gloria Patri in the church's worship service. In response, an anonymous letter was drafted and circulated, which demanded Rev. Yearick's resignation. It was later signed by seven church members who submitted it to Consistory. But, Rev. Yearick decided to stand his ground.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1898, Rev. Yearick concluded his sermon of the day by challenging the congregation to stand in support of the General Synod's decision regarding the use of the liturgical elements. He also called upon the congregants to rise in support of his incorporation of those same elements in the church's worship service. Every congregation member present stood up in support of Rev. Yearick and the use of the liturgical elements.

While Rev. Yearick appeared to prevail, there were still some who held hard feelings toward him. That situation eventually led him to resign his pastorate on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1899. Even so, no anonymous letters demanding the resignation of a pastor at our church were ever written or circulated again. Rev. Yearick's courageous action gave birth to a period of discernment within our church that led to fundamental changes in how our ancestral congregations behaved and acted. That set the stage for the second pastorate of Rev. R. Leighton Gerhart (1900-1920). It also gave birth to a new spirit of solidarity and mission that helped our church to flourish for decades afterwards.

Let us ever be thankful for the pastorate and courage of Rev. Zwingli Yearick!

I just wanted to say thank you for the lovely quilt. It has been a wonderful comfort to me through some medical woes. I can get comfy with it.

Thank you,  
Cheyenne K. F.

Thank you!

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank everyone who donated snacks and treats for the spring college and career care packages. We appreciate your help very much, and our young adults appreciate being remembered!

**Dear Pastor Alice and The Quilters,**

**Thank you for visiting me during my recent hospital stay and for bringing me a beautiful quilt. I appreciate your kindness.**

Sincerely, Bill Ledgerwood

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the Easter dinners you provided for our families in need. They appreciated these gifts that enabled them to celebrate the holiday with a delicious meal with their loved ones.

We appreciate your generosity to our struggling families at Easter and throughout the year.

Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Jamie Batman, Foster Care Coordinator



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!!!



- 05/01 Lingenfelter, Joseph
- 05/02 Ressler, Jean
- 05/03 Baish, Susan
- 05/04 Mabus, Richard
- 05/09 Ransdorf, Melissa
- 05/10 Griffith, Dorothy
- 05/12 Watson, Carolyn
- 05/17 Savidge, Alice
- 05/22 Snayberger, Duane
- 05/25 Groover, Pat
- 05/26 Satteson, Mark

**Confirmation**

We will be celebrating the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> during the morning worship service. Our two confirmands have been working together for over a year and half to prepare for this sacred time of committing themselves to the life of faith in Christ and the ministry of Christ's church. They will be finishing their time together by writing a statement of faith - one that expresses their faith at this point in their spiritual journey AND visiting and sharing conversation with some interfaith connections. It has been a joy working with Daniel and Thea - both very thoughtful and deeply spiritual young people. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to work through their lives in the future. Pastor Alice

**Second Sunday Social on a Break for May**

Due to Mother's Day occurring on the same day, the Second Sunday Social will be on a break for the month of May. Please save the date for the next Second Sunday Social, on June 14th. We hope to see you then!



Deaths in Our  
Church Family

WAYNE WILLIAMS  
1946 - 2026



## 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.

- March 26: Civil Rights Icon Cesar Chavez Accused of Sexual Abuse  
Human Interaction With Birds Is Complicated
- April 2: For First Time, Archbishop of Canterbury is a Woman  
French Workers Want to Help You Put Your Best Foot Forward
- April 9: Tiger Woods Flips Car, Charged With DUI  
Children Separated By War, Then Reunited With Families
- April 16: Signs of Religious Revival in the United States  
President and Pope Disagree on War in Iran

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.

### SING

Everyone is invited to our next gathering of **SING** (Spirituality in Nature Group) on **May 31, 2026, 3 to 5 p.m.** at a very local park. More details coming soon. Our theme will focus on Summer as a time of abundance AND rest. "Summer is a good time to celebrate the rich abundance of the natural world and explore ways in which spiritual time in nature can offer comfort and hope to us." More details coming soon!

# MAY VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up: SYLAS WILDE

Lay-Reader: SHANNON PRUTZMAN

Preparation of Communion Elements:

| MAY | CHILDREN'S CHURCH | OPENER/FLOWER DEL. |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3   | DURING WORSHIP    | CAROL BERRY        |
| 10  | DURING WORSHIP    |                    |
| 17  | DURING WORSHIP    |                    |
| 24  | DURING WORSHIP    |                    |
| 31  |                   |                    |

| MAY | FLOWER SPONSORS       | Acolyte               |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3   | JEAN MAURER           | Keira/Kora Aulenbach  |
| 10  | LINDA SARTWELL        | Keira/ Kora Aulenbach |
| 17  |                       | Keira/ Kora Aulenbach |
| 24  | JEANNE & JOHN LETTEER | Keira/ Kora Aulenbach |
| 31  |                       |                       |

| MAY | GREETERS                 |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 3   | STACI & SHANNON PRUTZMAN |
| 10  | "                        |
| 17  | "                        |
| 24  | "                        |
| 31  | "                        |



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

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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!

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**MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS**

- May – Getting Ahead in the Valley
- 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   |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 26<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP<br>8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)<br>9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)<br>10:00am WORSHIP  | 27<br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)<br>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)   | 28<br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)<br>4:00pm HUNGER COALITION (FH)<br>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)  | 29                                | 30<br>8:30am WW (FH)<br>9:00am TOPS (CR)<br>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)<br>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHRM)   | 1<br>4:00pm Violin Class (SANCT.)       | 2<br>10:00am Girl Scouts (PAV/FH)  |
| 3<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP<br>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)<br>10:00am WORSHIP - COMMUNION   | 4<br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR)<br>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)<br>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)   | 5<br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)<br>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)   | 6                                 | 7<br>8:30am WW (FH)<br>9:00am PEO (GP)<br>9:00am TOPS (CR)<br>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)<br><b>7:00pm Building &amp; Grounds (PAR)</b><br>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHRM)     | 8<br>4:00pm Violin Class (SANCT.)       | 9<br>10:30am Violin Class Recital (SANCT.)                                   |
| 10<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP<br>8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)<br>9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)<br>10:00am WORSHIP  | 11<br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br><b>9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS &amp; MORE (CR)</b><br>12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH)<br><b>2:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP)</b><br>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (SANCT)<br><b>7:00pm CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)</b><br>7:00pm Girl Scout Leaders (GP) | 12<br>8:00am PEO PORCH SALE SETUP (PAV)<br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)<br>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)<br>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH) | 13<br>8:00am PEO PORCH SALE (PAV) | 14<br>8:30am WW (FH)<br>9:00am TOPS (CR)<br>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)<br>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (SANCT)<br><b>7:00pm M.A.S.H. (GP/ZOOM)</b><br>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHRM) | 15                                      | 16<br><b>10:00am COMMUNITY HARVEST (FH)</b><br>7:30pm BVS CONCERT (FH/SANCT) |
| 17<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP<br>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)<br>10:00am WORSHIP - CONFIRMATION<br>11:00am CONFIRMATION RECEPTION (NARTHX)<br>3:00pm BVS CONCERT (FH/SANCT) | 18<br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>6:00pm Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR)<br><b>7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)</b>  | 19<br><b>7:00am ELECTION DAY (FH)</b><br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)<br>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)<br>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)   | 20                                | 21<br>8:30am WW (FH)<br>9:00am TOPS (CR)<br>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)<br><b>7:00pm CONSISTORY (ZOOM)</b><br>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHRM)                                  | 22                                      | 23   |
| 24<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP<br>8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)<br>9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)<br>10:00am WORSHIP  | 25<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY</b><br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)   | 26<br>9:00am Kindermusik (PAR)<br>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)<br>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)  | 27                                | 28<br>8:30am WW (FH)<br>9:00am TOPS (CR)<br>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)<br>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHRM)   | 29                                      | 30<br>3:00am Pavilion Rsvd.  |
| 31<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP<br>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)<br>10:00am WORSHIP - CHOIR SUNDAY<br>11:00am FELLOWSHIP HOUR  | 1<br>12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR)<br>1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)<br>5:00pm D.A.R. (PAV)   | 2<br>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)<br>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)   | 3                                 | 4<br>8:30am WW (FH)<br>9:00am PEO (GP)<br>9:00am TOPS (CR)<br>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)<br><b>7:00pm Building &amp; Grounds (PAR)</b><br>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CHRM)     | 5<br>5:00pm KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY (FH) | 6<br>8:00am KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY (FH)                                      |