

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
PENTECOST SUNDAY - COMMUNION
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor - Rev. Gary Nottis, Pastoral Care Associate
The Service: 10:00 a.m. June 8, 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

Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Call to Worship (responsive)

A wind breathes among us,
calling us to gather in the name of the Holy One.
A fire burns within us,
calling us to service, calling us to prayer.
A spirit moves around us,
calling us to turn in joy toward the sorrows of the world.
Burning, breathing, Spirit of Compassion, we bring our lives to you.
Amen.

*Hymn: **"Let Every Christian Pray" #261**

Recognition of Our Brokenness

Prayer of Brokenness (unison)

Spirit of God, you move around us and we wave you away as if you are a fly getting too close to our heads. You move among us, but we all have different ideas... different ways of doing things... and so your perfectly unsettling leadings are overwhelmed by our chaotic discord. You move within us, but sometimes we just aren't willing to risk our own reputations to embrace your radical vision. But, deep down, we know that we need to move beyond ourselves... we know that the church needs to move beyond itself. So keep moving... keep moving around us, among us, and within us... keep moving us so that we can be creators of movement in the world... Amen.

Assurance

The Holy One is always making all things new. By your sincere confession and the power of God's grace, your failings are lifted from you. We are transformed to begin again, with God's Spirit as our helper. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sharing the Peace: The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Joyful Response: **"I've Got Peace Like a River" #478, vs. 1-2**

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

Words for All – Especially for Children

Special Music *"Worldly Creations", words and music by Ron Zug*

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21 *Colleen Ross, Lay Reader*

Message: *"Why?"*— Rev. Gary Nottis

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.

Celebrations and Joys

*Offering Response: "We Praise You, O God" #420, v. 1

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings:

In God's presence, we acknowledge that the Holy One is the source of unending blessings. In gratitude, we offer up our treasures. We offer up the skills and time that have been graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. We pray that these unmerited gifts will be multiplied and used, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to accomplish Christ's mission of love, compassion, and justice in the world. Amen.

Order of Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Rejoicing (responsive)

We celebrate the Spirit of God, who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness.

We celebrate the Spirit of God, who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through him, made the life of God available to all.

We celebrate the Spirit of God, who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the Kingdom of God.

We praise you, Spirit of God.

*And so, as we gather at the Lord's table, we recognize the Spirit's presence among us, and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence.
Amen.*

Words of Institution

Communion Prayer (unison)

We pray with the certain knowledge that God has blessed us and the bread and cup before us, having filled all things with the Spirit. As we eat and drink, we pray that the Spirit will reveal Jesus' empowering presence to us. As we eat and drink, we pray that the Spirit will open us to the possibilities of God's hope and power, and that we will be renewed in our commitment to follow our Christ. Amen.

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for this meal of remembrance; and for coming to us in the Spirit's power, as we have shared it. May the love we find at this table be reflected in our lives; may the power we receive at this table make us peacemakers and healers; and may the Spirit who fills us again at this table lead us to be those who proclaim God's kingdom in every word we speak and in everything we do. Amen.

*Hymn: "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life" #57

*Benediction

*Postlude

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, Rev. Betsy Bruaw, Ed Crow, Rev. Sally Dries, Hunter English, Richard Furman, Bill Geyer, Brock Hare, Craig Hoffman, The Family of Shirley Hoffman, Pam Mabus, Sue Miller, Todd O'Neil, The Family of Linda Noll, Alice Savidge, Roger Spickler, Renee St. Clair, Cyndi Weaver.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - are given by Mary Lou and Tom Rich, in honor of the June wedding anniversaries of our children Wendy and Peter Stetson, and Wes and Jocelyn Rich.

THIS MORNING

2nd SUNDAY SOCIAL - Please join us in Fellowship Hall immediately after the worship service for a time of Fellowship and Learning about Japanese Gardens, presented by Ann & Dave Smit. Food and beverages will be provided.

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.

THIS WEEK

Monday, June 9	9 am Noon - 6 pm 1 pm - 3 pm 7 pm	ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR) GTS (SANCT) Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) CHRISTIAN ED. (ZOOM)
Tuesday, June 10	10:30 am Noon - 9 pm 7 pm	Willowbrook Strings (FH) GTS (SANCT/FH) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CHRM)
Wednesday, June 11	Noon - 6 pm	GTS (SANCT./FH)
Thursday, June 12	8:30 am 9 am Noon - 9 pm 1 pm - 3 pm 7 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) GTS (SANCT) Trailside Troubadours (FH) MASH (ZOOM/GP) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, June 13	4:30 pm - 10 pm	GTS (SANCT/FH) PLAY
Saturday June 14	4:30 pm - 10 pm	GTS (SANCT) PLAY
Sunday, June 15	10 am	WORSHIP, FATHER'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 - June's communion offering is dedicated to the Strengthen the Church Fund.

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

June 1, 2025

Chancel Flowers - \$375.00; Current Expenses - \$3,520.00;
Giant Cards - \$400.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$100.00;
Loose Offering - \$22.00; OCWM - \$140.00; Strengthen the Church - \$280.00;
Summer Lunch Bunch - \$100.00; Weis Cards - \$100.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$5,037.00 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*

Sue & Jim Tomlinson, *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)