



St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

April 27, 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

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

In the rising of the morning sun, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Shine!

In the greening of the Earth and blooming of creation, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Grow!

In the mountains reaching toward the sky, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Stand with strength!

In the darkness of the winter days, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Trust!

In the presence of the skies that float above us and the assurance of the Earth beneath us and with the calm of the Spirit within us, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Live!

*Hymn

"Because You Live, O Christ "

#231

Prayer of Confession Holy God, we have found ourselves in fear, locked in rooms of inaction and indecision, unclear where we are called or what we could offer. We have lost ourselves in anxiety so loud we have not heard Your voice. We have not recognized You on the move in the world, wounds in Your side and life in Your lungs. We have believed in the finality of your death and assumed all is left to our own meager efforts. We have refused to see, so we might not have to believe the gospel and live our lives accordingly. God of new life, restore hope throughout our bodies. Help us to breathe again. Strengthen us for the joy that is before us. Grant us eyes to see Your beloved people all around us and ears to hear Your good news through all the noise. Even as we have looked away, come to see us, call us forth from our locked rooms and bring us out to walk with You in the world You so love.

Words of Assurance - *The God of truth is present to us in the speaking of truth. The Spirit of grace is present to us in the sharing of grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

*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 *"In the Garden"* *Miles/Drennan*

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Message *"What Kind of Peace?"*

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.**

Moment for Mission **Getting Ahead in the Valley - Rose Williams**

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: **God of abundance, take these gifts, which were already yours, and use them to knit us closer to each other and closer to the world You so love. Amen.**

*Hymn *"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"* #292

*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, 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 - Ed Crow, Rev. Sally Dries, Hunter English, Richard Furman, Bill Geyer, Brock Hare, Craig Hoffman, The Family of Shirley Hoffman, John Marshal, Pam Mabus, Ken Miller, Sue Miller, Todd O'Neil, Pastor Gary Nottis, Alice Savidge, Renee St. Clair, The Family of Harry Seifert, The family of Larry Walters, 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 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.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Please join us for a time of fellowship and treats immediately following the service. Hosted by Alicia & Lisa Graybill.

THIS WEEK

Monday, April 28	9:30 am 4:30 pm 6 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) GTS (SANCT) Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR) BVS Rehearsal (FH) Girl Scout Leaders (GP)
Tuesday, April 29	9:30 am 10:30 am 3:30 - 6:15 pm 6 - 8 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (PAR) Violin Class (CH.RM) GTS (SANCT) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CHRM)
Wednesday, April 30	3:30 - 6:15 pm 6 - 8 pm	Violin Class (CH.RM.) GTS (SANCT)
Thursday, May 1	8:30 am 9 am 9 am 1:30 pm 6 - 8 pm 7 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) PEO (GP) Trailside Troubadours (FH) GTS (SANCT) BUILDINGS/GROUNDS (GP) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, May 2	3:30 - 6:15 pm 4 pm - 6 pm 7 pm	Violin Class (CH.RM.) Suzuki Class (SANCT) GTS (SANCT)
Saturday May 3	10:30 am - Noon 1pm - 3 pm 7 pm	Suzuki Class Recital (SANCT) Girl Scouts 9 (PAV/FH) GTS (SANCT)
Sunday, May 4	9:00 am 10 am	CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) WORSHIP, COMMUNION, 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 - April's communion offering is dedicated to TRANSITIONS and our annual Easter Basket project which provides food for 15 local families.

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

April 20, 2025

Current Expenses - \$2,575.00; Davy's Cards - \$75.00;
Envelope Expenses - \$25.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$20.00;
Loose Offering - \$85.00; Maundy Thursday - \$175.00; OCWM - \$285.00;
St. John's Quilters - \$15.00; Transitions - \$120.00; Weis Cards - \$250.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$3,625.00 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)

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

April 27, 2025

Acts 5:27-32

Resurrection Witness

There once was a church sign that read, "Easter Is Over, Now What?" Good question. We have received the promise of new life, but how are we living that promise? Do our lives look different from that of a week ago when we joined our voices in singing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today?"

For starters, let's point out the error of that church sign. Easter is NOT over. Easter is not a one-day celebration in which the memory grows as stale as a left-over marshmallow Peep. Easter is our invitation to live as resurrection people, always seeing the God possibilities amid the impossibilities.

The early church embraced Easter as a 50-day celebration that led to the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. During the days of Eastertide, also known as The Great 50 Days, it was a tradition to read through the Acts of the Apostles, where among the pages are stories of faith and courage — and persecutions — as Jesus' followers boldly tell of the Risen Christ among them.

In today's reading from Acts we see Peter in trouble with the Sanhedrin all because he called upon the name of Jesus to heal a crippled beggar. The Sanhedrin are angry for they warned Peter and his friends to not invoke Jesus' name in their healing and teaching. But Peter cannot stop. Nor can his friends. Nor can we. For the Easter moment was the moment when we all became witnesses to the resurrection power that is among us.

In this season of Easter, we are to sing, dance and celebrate that love wins, love is alive, and love can redeem all things. Are we showing the world that we are walking with our Risen Lord, that we are choosing to live with great joy despite all the world throws our way?

If the Lenten season called for us to observe 40 days of following Jesus to the cross, then shouldn't we give the same attention to these 50 days of now witnessing to the resurrection?

As Andrew Peterson, a contemporary Christian musician once observed, "the Easter feast far outweighs the Lenten fast." It is time for us to feast. It is time for us to step into our role as resurrection witnesses.

God of resurrection hope, we are honored to be witnesses of the redeeming love of our Risen Lord. As we continue the Eastertide celebration, we ask that you strengthen our hearts and make loud our voice so that we have the courage to speak truth to power and show love amid hate. May we truly become your Easter people in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



8-1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

BUL0309

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2025 United Church of Christ