

SEPTEMBER 2 - YARD SALE - 8 am - 3 pm

SEPTEMBER 6 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION - 10 AM

SEPTEMBER 11TH - 13TH - REATREAT AT CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 13 - WORSHIP, RALLY DAY - 10 AM

SEPTEMBER 13 - RALLY DAY PICNIC - 11 AM

SEPTEMBER 19 - COMMUNITY HARVEST - 10 AM - NOON

SEPTEMBER 20 - CHANCEL CHOIR BEGINS - 9 AM

SEPTEMBER 20 - WORSHIP - 10 AM

SEPTEMBER 27 - BELL CHOIR BEGINS - 8:45 AM

SEPTEMBER 27 - WORSHIP - 10 AM



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



Summer Season of Transformation is Wrapping Up!



Has anything changed?

A couple of months ago I wrote: "If we are serious about moving from fear to trust, from strangers to neighbors, and from division to reconciliation, then we must be willing to practice those values in real and consistent ways. One act at a time, we can become the kind of people - and the kind of church - through whom God's transforming love is made known."

Has anything changed? Yes, I believe so. Perhaps not in large "seismic shifts" but in small and meaningful ways. Perhaps we have become a bit more like the people God is shaping us to be. This was a wonderful summer and I am looking forward to how the new program year begins to take shape and where God leads!

What's happening in September?

We begin September with the Annual Yard Sale, which is a wonderful opportunity to share in fellowship, serve the community and be good stewards of God's gifts.

We have a retreat scheduled: please register by September 1st for the retreat at Central Oak Heights on September 11th through 13th. We will be gathering in Cottage on the grounds and spend a weekend in fellowship, fun, worship and prayer. The theme for the retreat will continue the Journey of Transformation as we "Arrive as We Are", knowing that we are loved by God and leading into a celebration of God's goodness as we leave after breakfast and share in worship on Rally Day on the 13th.

Music Ministries are restarting - come and sing or ring with us!

We will be starting new book studies and are looking towards starting a "Confirmation Class for Adults".

Our Diversity Festival on October 18th promises to be a new and exciting adventure as we partner with other faith and community organizations to provide a space of welcome and celebration for ALL!!

I can't wait to see where God leads and how God uses our lives and ministries to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Let's Keep Dreaming God's Dream!

Love in Christ! Pastor Alice

“Red Book” Memories Continued XLVI

“Do They Know Who We Are?”

About eight years ago, our Interim Pastor, Rev. Robert Stoudt (2017-2019), conducted a little research project. Rev. Stoudt talked to 20 people around Lewisburg to see if any knew where St. John’s was located, and what they knew about the congregation and its activities. He wanted to know if our faith community stood out from others and why.

Rev. Stoudt discovered that 6 out of the 20 interviewed had heard of our congregation. Most of the people knew where the church building was located. But, none could really say anything about the congregation or its activities, except to say that the church and its grounds were a gathering place for community groups. That wasn’t very encouraging news for our faith community, especially since it was seeking to grow.

These results naturally lead to two important questions. Has St. John’s even been well known in the Lewisburg area? And, if so, what was it known for? A reading of our “Red Book” yields some positive answers, which can serve as a guide for our dreams of growing St. John’s.

During the pastorates of Rev. Henry Harbaugh (1843-1850), Rev. Daniel Heisler (1850-1852), Rev. U. Henry Heilman (1869-1873), Rev. R. Leighton Gerhart (1900-1920), Rev. Henry Harbaugh Rupp (1920-1937), and others, the membership of St. John’s grew steadily, thanks to the efforts of these pastors and the congregation to draw individuals into the congregation. St. John’s was seen in the Lewisburg area as a community church, an important place of worship that even moved a president of Bucknell University to send congratulations when the congregation’s new church building was dedicated in 1903, and where the Bucknell Chapel Choir gave a benefit concert in November 1953 to support the church’s organ fund. These events are indicators of an active evangelism effort at St. John’s, which brought life-giving attention to our congregation.

However, it wasn’t just person-to-person contact by our pastors and church members that brought recognition to St. John’s. It was also community service and public events. For example, the congregation offered “social services” to Lewisburg and the surrounding during the pastorate of Rev. Rupp. Congregational members provided a Christian program for the younger children of Lewisburg, called the “Happy Hour, starting in 1946, when Rev. Perry Smith (1938-1949) served St. John’s. During that same pastorate, the people of St. John’s also supported an area Boy Scout Troop.

In addition, the congregation offered several public meals, while served by Rev. John Ehrhart (1950-1955). Then, when Rev. Paul Jordan was pastor at St. John’s (1956-1970), the membership worked to support Devitt House, launched the annual Chicken Barbeque, and served hot breakfasts to families visiting inmates at the Lewisburg Penitentiary. Further, church members made it a point to visit individuals at the Selinsgrove State School and Hospital and the Laurelton School, and to host parties in both places at Christmas time. The party at Selinsgrove Center continues today.

In the not-too-distant past, I am sure many people in the Lewisburg area would have said, “I know that place!” if the name of St. John’s was mentioned. They would have known us by our efforts to invite others into our church, as well as by our community service and public events. And because the St. John’s congregations of the past did those things, our faith community flourished. Is that the case today? If Rev. Stoudt performed his research project now, would the results be better?

Invitation, community service, and public events—these continue to be crucial keys to our congregation’s future growth and wellbeing. We are taking steps in the right direction. For example, we now host the Community Harvest program and have been contributing abundant produce to the Lewisburg Food Hub. Consider, also, that our Quilt Ministry has become known in area nursing homes, cancer care facilities, and other places where tangible signs of God’s presence and love, as well as our congregation’s caring, are needed.

Even so, how many really know who we are as a church, what we stand for, or what we are doing to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others? Do we stand out from neighboring churches or service organizations in ways that may prompt people to join with us to explore their faith or work with us to make a better world?

It doesn’t take a lot of people and resources to make that happen. But, it does take committed individuals who are not afraid to try with the resources that are available. It also takes creativity and an openness to new ideas and ways to go about being a church. Amazingly, such efforts often draw other people to faith communities to help, sometimes from the community, and to make even more resources available.

Let’s ever more strongly seek to serve others on behalf of God and Jesus, as did our ancestral congregations. Let us do so in a way that makes the word’s, “I know that place!” a common response to the name, “St. John’s.”



SEPTEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

09/06 Don Adams

09/10 Todd Hummel

09/11 Kora Aulenbach

09/13 Jean Maurer

09/16 Mildred Satteson

09/23 Kelly Snayberger

09/28 Lois Passi

09/10 Laudermilch, Carol & Chuck

Join Our Music Ministry: Bell & Chancel Choir. Are you looking for a wonderful way to share your musical gifts? We are warmly inviting anyone interested in making music to join our vocal choir and bell choir. No prior musical experience is required—just a willing heart and a desire to make a joyful noise! Whether you read music fluently or are just starting your musical journey, we have a place for you. **Chancel Choir rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 20th, Bell choir begins on September 27th. Please contact Pastor Alice or Todd if you have any questions.**

September 13: Rally Day!

Please join us for our Rally Day worship service and picnic on Sunday, September 13. We'll be celebrating a return to our regular routines after this summer's adventures, and reflecting on this summer's worship theme, "Made New: Journeys of Transformation". Explore how the past season has transformed us in various ways, bringing us newness in our lives, in our communities, in our church, in the world, and even in our gardens.

We will hold a potluck picnic after the worship service. The Christian Education Committee will provide Sloppy Joe sandwiches as well as a vegetarian option. We invite you to fill in the meal with some other dishes and desserts. A food information sheet will be available in the Narthex for planning purposes. Please consider signing up to bring a dish. However, all are welcome! You need not bring a dish to attend the picnic. We just want you to be there!

YARD SALE 2026

The annual yard sale will be **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND**.

We already have a lot of donations, so this will be a very big year!!

Help will be needed Mon. (8/31), Tues. (9/1) at 10 am to set up. Then help is really needed on Wed. (9/2). If you can help in any way or even part of the time, please contact; Linda Sartwell, Dee Ledgerwood, or Penny Cooper.

Thanks, Your yard sale team!



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.

July 30 - LeBron James Makes Final NBA Move

What the State of Religious Freedom in China May Teach Us

August 6 - Blockbuster Film "The Odyssey" Explores Christian Themes

Court Rules State Can't Force Clergy to Report Child Abuse

August 13 - Quantum Physics Can Teach Us About God, Say Physicists

Nonagenarians Fly High for Charity

August 20 - People Weigh Pros, Cons of Data Centers

Italian Police Recover Stolen Paintings Worth Millions

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.

Dear St. John's,

Thanks to all the people for your thoughtfulness and cards and especially to Pastor Alice for her prayers, support and officiating during the passing of my father, Walter.

Thank you,

Craig Swineford

Dear St. John's Quilters,

Thank you to the Quilter for the beautiful PA themed quilt. The many cards and prayers during my surgery and recovery meant a lot.

Dennis Meckley



St. John's,

Thank you again a delicious meal and heartwarming fellowship! It's more than a meal and smile it doing God's work being His hand and feet. I think you for always being willing and available to graciously donate to our Getting Ahead friends.

We so greatly appreciate your generosity, love and support. Together we can change lives.

Blessings,

The Mifflinburg Getting Ahead Team

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for allowing us to use the Church space for orchestra camp. We know that it is loud, and there are lots of kids hither and thither all week! We're so grateful to have this space.

Best,

Joanna & Fiona

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up: SYLAS WILDE

Lay-Reader: RON ZUG

Preparation of Communion Elements:

SEPTEMBER	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
6	DURING WORSHIP	CAROL BERRY
13	DURING WORSHIP	
20	DURING WORSHIP	
27	DURING WORSHIP	

SEPTEMBER	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
6	SUSAN & KEN KINDYA	Keira/Kora Aulenbach
13	ALICIA & LISA GRAYBILL	Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
20	DEB & BARRY CATHERMAN	Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
27		Keira/ Kora Aulenbach

SEPTEMBER	GREETERS
6	KAY & GARY NOTTIS
13	KAY & GARY NOTTIS
20	
27	



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

Visit us on the Web!
www.stjohnslewisburg.org



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

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

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

MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS

- September – William Cameron engine Company
- October – Neighbors in Need*
- November – Devitt House
- December – The Christmas Fund * (Veterans of the Cross)
-
- Christmas Eve Offering – Operating Fund
- * denotes Five of Five special offerings

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	31 1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN) 5:30pm Daisy Scouts (CR)	1 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:00am YARD SALE SET UP (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	2 8:00am YARD SALE (PAV, FH) 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN)	3 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am PEO (GP) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Building & Grounds (GP) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (SANCT)	4	5
6 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP - COMMUNION	7 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	8 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	9 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN)	10 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 10:00am CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm M.A.S.H. (GP/ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	11 CHURCH RETREAT AT CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS	12 CHURCH RETREAT AT CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS
13 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP CHURCH RETREAT AT CENTRAL OAK HEIGHTS 10:00am WORSHIP - RALLY DAY 11:00am RALLY DAY PICNIC	14 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS & MORE (CR) 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) 2:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP) 5:30pm Daisy Scouts (CR) 7:00pm CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)	15 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	16 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN) 12:00pm Qigong (PAR)	17 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 10:00am Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm CONSISTORY (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (SANCT)	18 10:00am Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	19 9:00am Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM/SANCT) 10:00am COMMUNITY HARVEST (FH)
20 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP 1:00pm PRIDE EVENT	21 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 1:30pm FH Piano tuning (FH) 5:30pm Daisy Scouts (CR) 7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM) 7:30pm Girl Scout Leaders (GP)	22 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	23 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN)	24 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	25	26 10:00am Heiter Center Retreat (FH)
27 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	28 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 1:00pm Community Harvest (KTCHN)	29 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 9:00am TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	30 9:00am GARDEN HARVEST (GRDN)	1 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am PEO (GP) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Building & Grounds (GP) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	2	3