

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

The Service: 10:00 a.m. May 17, 2026

(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.

In 2026 We Are Dreaming God's Dream Together

Prelude

Announcements

*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 68)

Let God rise up! Sing to God; lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds-the Holy One- be exultant before God.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!

Let God rise up! Ascribe power to God, full of majesty and power.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!

Let God rise up! Awesome is God in the sanctuary, who gives power and strength to the people.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy! Blessed be God!

*Opening Hymn

"Now in the Days of Youth"

#350

Prayer of Transformation and New Life: Righteous God, you offer the newness of life and we cling to dry and desolate places. We withhold our trust and cling to the ways of the world while retreating from witnessing to your goodness in the world. We allow hopelessness to reign in our lives and direct our attitudes and actions. Help us, O God, to believe that resurrection is not a onetime event but a way of being we commit to living. Let the resurrected live in us transform our being, thinking, and doing in the world. Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

New Creation in Christ, the resurrected life is yours. We place our hope in the assurance that, in Christ, all things are made new. Change is possible. The world we seek is ours to build, nurture, and sustain. God has given us grace and authority as well as a Companion to make a difference in the world. Receive these gifts freely as they are given.

Passing of the Peace:

Song of Joy

"Halleluja"

#236

Words for All, Especially Children

Rite of Confirmation (pp 38-43 New Century Hymnal)

Invitation and Introduction of Confirmands

Sentences

Questions of the Candidates

Affirmation of Faith

Prayer of the Candidates

Prayers of the Congregation

Act of Confirmation

Prayer of Confirmation

Address

Questions about Participation

Welcome

Greeting in Christian Love

Prayer and Benediction

Choir Anthem *"One Step, He Leads"*

Scripture Reading John 17:1-11

Message *"In the Middle"*

Morning Prayer

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

*Singing Our Gratitude as We Dedicate our Offerings (tune: Canonberry)

**Bless Thou the gifts our hands have brought;
Bless Thou the work our hearts have planned;
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Thy hand. Amen.**

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: **Generous God, may these gifts we bring be used to bless, to build, and to beautify through generous and faithful care. Amen.**

*Hymn *"God, When I Came into This Life"* #354

*Benediction:

Postlude

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

(Please contact the church office, at 570-523-0162, with any updates)

Ongoing Needs- Anna Brouse, Peg Brouse, Dorothy Griffith, Bill Fuller, Bill Geyer, Brock Hare, Jean Hartman, Kristian K., Ethel Moser, Christine Sartwell, Alice Savidge, Leslie Shearer, Victor Snyder, Dianna Spickler, Emily Weaver, Linda Williams, Rev. Sharon Von Blohn.

Immediate Concerns - Laurie Anderson, Rev. Patty Dodds, Hunter English (Sharon Von Blohn's grandson), Peg Heitman, Riley Hoey, Craig Hoffman, Steve M., Pam Mabus, Ben Moyer, Craig O'Neil, Todd O'Neil, Bruce Rauch, Colleen Ross, Ann Smit, Renee St. Clair, Rick Wherley, Samantha Wyvill, Brett Yarger.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - Are sponsored by Carol & Chuck Laudermilch.

TODAY

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. Offering plates are located at the rear of the Sanctuary.

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 18	9 am - 11 am 6 pm - 8 pm 7 pm	Kindermusik (PAR) Empty Arms Group (CR) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)
Tuesday, May 19	7 am - 8 pm 10:30 - Noon 7 pm - 9:30 pm	ELECTIONS (FH) Willowbrook Strings (NARTHX) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, May 20		
Thursday, May 21	8:30 am- 10:30am 9 am - 10:30 am 1:30 pm - 3 pm 7 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) CONSISTORY (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (SANCT)
Friday, May 22		
Saturday May 23		
Sunday, May 24	8:45 am 9:15 am 10 am	BELL CHOIR (SANCT) CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM) WORSHIP, 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 - May's mission offering is dedicated to **Getting Ahead in the Valley**.

CHANCEL FLOWER CHART - The Chancel Flower Chart is located in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday or two for flowers.

COMMUNITY HARVEST MEAL - If you have any questions or are interested please contact me through messages or email. 570-492-4487 - Riley. Hoeyriley32@gmail.com The next food distribution will be **June 20th**, 10 am - Noon.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

May 10, 2026

Building Use - \$50.00; Chancel Flowers - \$50.00; Current Expenses - \$2,150.00;
Davy's Cards - \$125.00; Getting Ahead in the Valley - \$295.00;
Giant Cards - \$600.00; LEAF Fund - \$200.00; Loose Offering - \$71.25;
OCWM - \$150.00; Weis Cards - \$150.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$ 3,841.25 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*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Staci & Shannon Prutzman, *Greeters*

Keira Aulenbach, Kora Aulenbach, *Acolytes*

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.