

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - HOLY COMMUNION
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. July 5, 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 and Prayer Concerns

*Call to Worship

O come let us sing to the Lord;

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

*Opening Hymn

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

#594

Prayer of Transformation and New Life:

Gracious and loving God, forgive us when turn a deaf ear to your call in Jesus Christ and to the cries of those in the world who need your love and our help. Forgive us when we treat discipleship as a yoke of oppression rather than a blessing and gift for leading a faithful life as your people. O Lord, forgive our sin. Help us to know and love you with all that we are that we may love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We pray for the strength of your Holy Spirit to equip us for our calling as followers of Jesus Christ, in whom we have our hope and put our trust. Amen.

Sung Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

#283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Grace: *For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' God invites us to be loved and to love others. Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.*

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

How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me;
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am, and ever hope to be; I owe it all to you.

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
To God be the glory for the things you have done.
With your blood you have saved me;
With your power you have raised me;
To God be the glory for the things you have done.

Words for All, Especially Children

Scripture Reading

Matthew 14:22-33

Message

"From Fear to Trust"

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 #376 Stanza #1

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
Hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here is hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Accept these gifts we bring, O Lord. Give us the wisdom, courage, and love we need to use them in ways that please you, spread the gospel, and care for our neighbors with the love of Jesus. We thank you for your indescribable gift! Amen.

*Order for Holy Communion

Words of Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Holy God, you alone are Majesty, you alone are Excellency, you alone are Sovereign. Within the vast reaches you splashed into being, you formed our star and this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines. Here you fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home. In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire, you came in Jesus to share our life. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

In the night in which he was betrayed, ...

Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom— freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, for the *shalom* that you have first shown to us. Faithful God, loving God: Your Majesty shines forth in weakness. Your Excellency is revealed to infants. Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross. Yours, O God, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Share

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:
Taste and know that God is good to all.

Sharing the Elements

The elements will be brought to you in your pews. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served and we will partake of the elements at one time. Gluten free bread is available for those who need it.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: **We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us.**

Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. Amen.

Communion Liturgy from ELCA Worship Resources: US Semiquincentennial, July 2026

*Hymn

“Lead Us From Death to Life”

#581

*Benediction

Postlude

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, July 6	Noon - 1 pm 1 pm - 4 pm 6:30 pm	Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR) Community Harvest (KTCHN) SUMMER BOOK STUDY (GP)
Tuesday, July 7	9 am 10:30 - Noon 6:30 pm 7 pm - 9:30 pm	TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) Willowbrook Strings (FH) VBS PLANNING MEETING (GP) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, July 8	9 am	GARDEN HARVEST (GARDEN)
Thursday, July 9	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) MASH (GP/ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (SANCT)
Friday, July 10		
Saturday July 11		
Sunday, July 12	10 am 11 am	WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH CHURCH PICNIC (PAV)

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 -July's mission offering is dedicated to the **Donald Heiter Center**.

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 **July 18th**, 10 am - Noon.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - "All Things Bright and Beautiful" will be the theme of VBS this year. It will be held on Wed., Thurs., and Friday - August 5-7 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Registration is open, forms are located in the Narthex. Meeting of the leadership team for planning is scheduled for July 7th at 6:30 p.m.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

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

Immediate Concerns -Pat B., Rev. Patty Dodds, Hunter English (Sharon Von Blohn's grandson), Deb Hackenberg, Craig Hoffman, Steve M., Pam Mabus, Dennis Meckley, Ben Moyer, Craig O'Neil, Todd O'Neil, Dusti Ramey, Ann Smit, The Family of Victor Snyder, Renee St. Clair, Rick Wherley, Samantha Wyvill, Brett Yarger.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - are Given by Mike and Janet Roberts in birthday celebration of grandchildren Wyatt (the 3rd), Brooke (the 4th) and son Matt (the 14th).

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

June 28, 2026

Building Use - \$300.00; Chancel Flowers - \$1,047.10;
Current Expenses - \$1,590.00; Davy's Cards - \$175.00;
Envelope Expenses - \$5.00; Loose Offering - \$30.00;
OCWM - \$80.00; Pavilion Use - \$100.00; Strengthen the Church - \$85.00;
Vacation Bible School - \$20.00; Weis Cards - \$200.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$ 3,632.10 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*

Sylas Wilde, *Kitchen Manager*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Beth Moser, *Greeter*

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.