

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

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

May 25, 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:

*Seeds of hope and love are planted in our hearts,
Where they sprout and grow and bring forth plants.*

ALL: In hope and unity, we go forth sowing seeds of God's mercy and grace, where they grow in the hearts of others.

*Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

*Opening Prayer - Creating God, provide us with all that we need to grow into who You have created us to be: As the womb of the earth nourishes seeds, may we be nourished by this gathered community and the assurance of Your holy presence. As the sun provides energy, leading seeds to transformation, may we find the courage to embrace new life through the example of Jesus. As water refreshes and replenishes growing seedlings, may we be restored by the movement of the Spirit. In times of drought, when we cannot feel your warmth or taste Your goodness, protect us from harmful attitudes and actions that may secure our well-being at the cost of others, and lead us again to abundant life. Amen.

*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

"Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones"

Scripture:

Psalm 67

Message

"They Ain't Heavy"

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

Strengthen the Church Video

Bell Choir Anthem

"America"

arr.

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: We thank you, God, for the circle of life: the cycle of receiving and giving and the cycle of seed time and harvest. Bless these gifts that we now present, trusting in their future promise. Amen.

*Hymn

"How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"

#594

*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, 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 -

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 communion 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.

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

May 18, 2025

Building Use - \$6.00; Current Expenses - \$1,775.00; Envelope Expense - \$5.00;
Getting Ahead in the Valley - \$155.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$30.00;
Loose Offering - \$42.00; OCWM - \$120.00; UCC Cornerstone Fund - \$22.54;
UCC Cornerstone Fund Redemption - \$10,003.56;

GRAND TOTAL - \$12,159.10 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*

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)

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.

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 26	OFFICE CLOSED 6 pm - 9 pm	OFFICE CLOSED GTS (SANCT)
Tuesday, May 27	9:00 am 10:30 am 6 pm - 9 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (NARTHX) GTS (SANCT) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CHRM)
Wednesday, May 28	3:00 pm - 5 pm	GTS (SANCT)
Thursday, May 29	8:30 am 9 am 1:30 pm 6 pm - 9 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) GTS (SANCT) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, May 30	6 pm - 9 pm	GTS (SANCT)
Saturday May 31	3 pm - 6 pm	CONFIRMATION CLASS
Sunday, June 1	10 am 11 am 12 pm	WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH GRADUATE RECEPTION PAV/FH RESERVED