



St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
TRINITY SUNDAY - FATHER'S DAY
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor - Rev. Gary Nottis, Pastoral Care Associate
The Service: 10:00 a.m. June 15, 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

Announcements

Father's Day Prayer

Prayer Concerns

Call to Worship (responsive)

*Gathered in the name of Jesus the Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit,
and blessed by God, we come to worship one, holy God.*

O God, our own God, how wonderful is your name in all the earth.

Your majesty is the music of the starry skies.

Yet, even children of dust can sing your praises.

*In the name of the Healer, the Provider and the Enabler let your
gratitude and joy be made known.*

O God, our own God, how wonderful is your name in all the earth!

***Hymn: "Creating God, Creating Still" #278**

Recognition of Our Brokenness

Prayer of Brokenness (unison) Wisdom of God inspire us. Renew our faith, restore our vision, and revive our love. Wisdom of God inspire us. Replace our sorrow, relieve our sins, and redeem our situation. Wisdom of God inspire us. Repair our brokenness, recover our nakedness, and resurrect our deadness. Wisdom of God, come. Refresh, redeem, and restore us. Amen.

Assurance

We live and move and have our being in God. The Holy One never abandons us. God is always present to transform our lives and to empower us to answer Jesus' call to loving service. Walk in attentiveness to the Wisdom of God within and around you, and you will experience the rebirth and the deepening of your faithfulness that you seek. Amen.

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

Joyful Response: "I've Got Peace Like a River" #478, vs. 1-2

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

Words for All – Especially for Children

Special Music *"Concerto For Three" - Vivaldi*
 "Theme from Jurassic Park" - Williams

Scripture: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Message: *"Growing in Wisdom"*— Rev. Gary Nottis

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.

Celebrations and Joys

*Offering Response: "We Praise You, O God" #420, v. 1

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings:

As we focus our attention on God and the countless blessings we receive from the Holy One, we pray that these gifts will be blessed and multiplied beyond their value. We pray that they will help to serve the genuine needs of many, to draw us closer to God and Jesus, and to enhance our wisdom for the benefit of all. Amen.

*Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory" #436

*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, Rev. Betsy Bruaw, Ed Crow, Rev. Sally Dries, Hunter English, Richard Furman, Bill Geyer, Brock Hare, Craig Hoffman, Pam Mabus, Sue Miller, Todd O'Neil, The Family of Cliff Ressler, Alice Savidge, Roger Spickler, Renee St. Clair, Cyndi Weaver.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - are given in celebration of Keira's 10th birthday, by her family!

Are also given by Alicia & Lisa Graybill in celebration of Jameson's 19th birthday!

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.

THANKS! - A huge THANK YOU to the Nelson family for sharing their talents with us this morning!

THIS WEEK

Monday, June 16	8:30 - Noon Noon - 6 pm 6 pm - 8 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAV) GTS (SANCT) Empty Arms (CR) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)
Tuesday, June 17	8:30 am - Noon Noon - 9 pm 7 pm - 9 pm	Kinder Music (PAV) GTS (SANCT/FH) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CHRM)
Wednesday, June 18	8:30 am - Noon Noon - 6 pm	Kinder Music (PAV) GTS (SANCT./FH)
Thursday, June 19	8:30 am - Noon 8:30 am - 11am 9 am - 11 am Noon - 9 pm 1 pm - 3 pm 7 PM 7 pm - 9 pm	Kinder Music (PAV) WW (FH) TOPS (CR) GTS (SANCT) Trailside Troubadours (FH) CONSISTORY (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, June 20	8:30 am - Noon 4:30 pm - 10 pm	Kinder Music (PAV) GTS (SANCT/FH) PLAY
Saturday June 21		
Sunday, June 22	10 am	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 - June's communion offering is dedicated to the Strengthen the Church Fund.

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

June 8, 2025

Building Use - \$250.00; Current Expenses - \$1,645.00; Davy's cards - \$700.00;
Giant Cards - \$600.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$30.00;
LEAF Fund - \$170.00; Loose Offering - \$2.00; OCWM - \$120.00;
St. John's Quilters - \$15.00; Strengthen the Church - \$65.00;
Weis Cards - \$600.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$4,197.00 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*

Sue & Jim Tomlinson, *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)

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 15, 2025

Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31

Wisdom Calls

I had a seminary professor who would start each class reading from his dogeared copy of *Aesop's Fables*, regaling us with lessons from Greek antiquity such as slow and steady always wins the race. (Thank you wise tortoise for showing us how to outsmart the hare.)

After closing the book he would sit for a moment, seemingly lost in thought, before letting out deep sigh and remarking, "Wisdom is a precious gift many seek yet so few find."

The quest for wisdom has been around since the dawn of time, even before the classic, ageless tales Aesop told. For Christians, we have wisdom come to us in the person of Jesus Christ, who models for us through word and deed the smart choices we all need to make in life if love is to prevail and justice is to reign.

Before God sent Jesus into the world, though, wisdom was often personified in literature as a woman crying out to be heard as we have here in today's reading from Proverbs.

It is here that personified wisdom is found standing beside the gates at the entrance of a town, calling out to those who would dare to stop and listen. This location of the town's gate wasn't random. In ancient society it was that spot where the town's elders would conduct business and settle legal matters.

Now many of us don't live in a gated community, which leads me to wonder where then can we find wisdom and hear her call in our lives, especially amid the noise of too many people via too many venues chattering incessantly? What is it going to take for wisdom's life-changing and life-saving lessons to reach our ears?

Perhaps for wisdom to be heard we need to first hold our tongues from so quickly spewing out the answers we think we have. Maybe that is what Socrates was getting at when he said that "wisdom is in the knowing that we don't know anything."

Admitting we don't know something is often seen as being uneducated and that is often viewed as being inferior or powerless. But in a world where a slow tortoise can win a race against a speedy hare, perhaps it is time for us to start listening more to the cries of wisdom who stands by our proverbial gates in lives, urging us to drop the pretenses of knowing everything and to finally listen to the One who does indeed have the answers: God.

All-knowing God, we admit we don't have the answers that are needed in this world today. We turn to you now for wisdom from above, which will guide us in the right direction always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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