

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

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

August 16, 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 (inspired by Psalm 33)

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

We gather together to worship the Holy One in unity!

How very good and powerful it is when we commit to the kingdom of God!

We gather together to discern God's will and declare God's reign!

How very good and hopeful it is when we reconcile and repair our brokenness and bless one another!

We gather together to love and to serve! Praise the Holy One!

*Opening Hymn

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

#31

*Opening Prayer - ***Gracious and Healing God, in your presence, we find the fullness of joy, love, and life. Expand our vision and write a new way forward upon our hearts. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We need your comfort and conviction. We trust your provision and power. As we come near to you, we affirm your goodness and the goodness within us. Receive our presence and our dreams of the world you help us make possible. Amen.***

*Opening Prayer - ***Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who has entered the world bringing hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

Passing of the Peace: Peace be with you. **And Also with you**

Words for All, Especially Children

Scripture Readings

Matthew 6:19-34

Special Music

"Life with Purpose" written/performed by Ron Zug

Message

"From Possessions to Purpose"

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: Generous God, receive these gifts as a deposit into the kingdom and an act of trust and gratitude. May these offerings provide for the needs of our neighbors and enable this faith community to offer ministry in your name and your honor. Amen.

*Hymn

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

Insert

*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.

THANKS - Thanks to Ron Zug for sharing his talents this morning!

THIS WEEK

Monday, August 17	8:30 am - 1:30 pm 6 pm 6:30 pm 7 pm	Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH) EVAN. Empty Arms Group (CR) SUMMER BOOK STUDY (GP) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)
Tuesday, August 18	8:30 am - 1:30 pm 9 am 10 am 10:30 - Noon 1 pm - 4 pm 7 pm - 9:30 pm	Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH) TUESDAY TRUDGERS (FH) Community Harvest (GP) Willowbrook Strings (FH) Community Harvest (KTCHN) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)
Wednesday, August 19	8:30 am - 1:30 pm 9 am	Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH) GARDEN HARVEST (GARDEN)
Thursday, August 20	8:30 am - 1:30 pm 8:30 am- 10:30am 9 am - 10:30 am 1:30 pm - 3 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH) WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) CONSISTORY (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (FH)
Friday, August 21	8:30 am - 1:30 pm	Orchestra Camp (SANCT/FH)
Saturday August 22	8 am - 11 am 11 am - 4 pm	Central Association (FH) Fellowship Hall rsvd. by Member (FH)
Sunday, August 23	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 -August's mission offering is dedicated to the **Union County Food Bank**.

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 or Sue Kindya. The next food distribution will be **September 19th**, 10 am - Noon. **Our next cooking session will be Monday, August 31st, 1-4 pm.**

FALL RETREAT - Please mark your calendars for our Fall Transformation & Prayer retreat to be held on September 11 - 13th at Central Oak Heights. Registration forms are available in the Narthex.

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., Serita Barry, Rev. Patty Dodds, Isaiah English, 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, The Family of Walter Swineford, Rick Wherley, Samantha Wyvill, Brett Yarger.

CHANCEL FLOWERS -

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

August 2, 2026

Building Use - \$40.00; Current Expenses - \$5,114.00;
Davy's Cards - \$225.00; Food Pantry - \$290.00; Giant Cards - \$500.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$510.00; Loose Offering - \$45.00;
OCWM - \$679.00; St. John's Quilters - \$40.00;
Weis Cards - \$250.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$ 7,693.00 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*

Sylas Wilde, *Kitchen Manager*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Sue & Jim Tomlinson, *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.