

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister
The Service: 10:00 a.m. January 13, 2019

(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.

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Prelude

*Passing of Peace

Sharing of Announcements and Joys & Concerns

A Time for Centering

*Call to Worship

One: In the beginning, God created.

Many: And it was good!

One: In the present, God creates.

Many: And it is good!

One: In the future, God will continue creating.

Many: And it will be good!

One: Let us gather to worship our God!

Many: Who creates goodness in us, through us, and all around us! Amen.

*Hymn #164 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

*Prayer of Confession (together)-

One: This day we come to renew the promises made at our baptism. Let us first seek forgiveness for the ways that we have resisted and denied God's claim on us. Let us pray.

Many: God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

One: For the sin that has made us slow to learn from the example of Christ, reluctant to follow him, and afraid to bear the Cross:

Many: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, forgive.

One: For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship, the selfishness of our prayers, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, and our hesitating witness for Christ:

Many: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, forgive.

One: For the sin that has led us to misuse Your gifts, evade our responsibilities, and fail to be good stewards of Your creation:

Many: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, forgive.

One: For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good, and instead to be tolerant of injustice, quick to condemn, and selfish in sharing Your love with others.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, forgive. Amen.

*Words of Assurance:

One: This is the Good News: The One who has created us and who continually calls to us is more powerful than we are. And Christ baptizes us not just with water, but also with the Holy Spirit.

Many: As we receive and reaffirm that baptism, we become a new creation! We are forgiven!

One: And God sees that it is good!

All: Amen!

Scripture: Mark 1:9-11 Romans 6:3-11

Lay Reader: Sue Gemberling

Anthem - "*Christmas Communion Song*" - Callaway

Children's Chat

A Reaffirmation of Baptism (see insert)

Hymn:

Offering and Offertory

*Offertory Response No. 780 "The Doxology"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (together): God of Water and Wind: We worship this morning, grateful for the good things that fill our lives. As we offer our gifts to You, may we continue to open our hearts in generosity to others, that Your will might be accomplished through us here. In the name of the Son, who pleased You so well, we pray. Amen.

Our Service of Communion

The Greeting:

Pastor: God is with us!

People: Here in this place!

Pastor: At this time of sacred refreshment and renewal!

People: Called in grace and gifted in love!

The Communion Prayer (Together):

God, You know us better than we know ourselves. You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our failures, and You love us still. Forgive us when we find it difficult to believe that such love is true or possible; when we wonder how You could embrace us just as we are; when we forget to appreciate our intricate creation, wonderfully made in Your image! During these moments, remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from You. Break down the walls that we have built, push aside our pride, and increase our trust, that we might welcome and receive You anew. Amen.

Words of Institution:

On the night of betrayal, Jesus gathers with his friends and shares a meal. We recall: Bread of life, cup of blessing. "Do this in remembrance of me."

The Invitation:

This Table is God's offer of grace, and an invitation to community. We are called to be the Body of Christ, affirmed in our shared mission, and empowered for discipleship. Come, let us share the feast!

(The bread and juice are shared at the Altar)

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Together):

We give thanks to You, God, for this holy meal. Simple and powerful. Refreshing and recreating. May we hear Your call, and truly love one another as You have loved us. Strengthen Your claim on us: one body, many members. Let us be the Body of Christ. Amen.

*Hymn #154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

*Benediction

One: On this second Sunday of a new year, may God renew in us all the gifts of baptism. And through our eating and drinking at the Table of the Lord, may we have strength for life's journey, patience and courage in the time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the sure hope of new life.

Many: Send us forth in Your Name, Holy One!

All: Amen!

*Choral Benediction - #349 "I Come with Joy"

**And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ will soon be here,
that Christ will soon be here.**

**Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.**

*Postlude

THIS MORNING

ST. JOHN'S IS PLEASED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US THIS MORNING! - We hope that you will find this time to be a blessing in many ways. If you are visiting with us, are seeking a new church family, or are interested in knowing more about this congregation, please indicate that to one of the ushers or to the Pastor. Please complete one of our visitor cards, in order that we might know more about you. We hope to see you again!

Available to you, if needed, is a Quiet Room 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 usher.

Chancel Flowers -

In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning (please contact the church office, at 524-7606, with any updates):

In Hospital - Frank Carr

At Home- Sid Bowersox , Mary Stover, Linda Sartwell, Walter Swineford, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Peg Brouse (Rm#128, BVLV), Leona Fertig, Seneca Foote, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg (Riverwoods, E-420), Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Christine Sartwell, Larissa Young

THE "COFFEE CAFE" IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS! - Every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., we will offer in the lobby a self-serve cart with coffee/tea for adults, drinks for children, and a little snack. Arrive early for worship and take the chill off while visiting with some of your St. John's friends! Thanks to our Hospitality & Growth Committee for this added feature to our Sunday mornings.

TODAY'S WORSHIP - Will feature an Order for the Reaffirmation of Baptism, a service that proved to be very meaningful last year on its first run. Part of the morning also includes receiving Communion at the altar front, the only Sunday of the year that we do that.

OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE - Will be formally installed into their duties as part of worship today. We thank them as they officially undertake the all-important search for the next Settled Pastor of St. John's!

"UN-DECORATE" THE CHURCH - Immediately following worship **TODAY**, we will remove the Christmas decorations and store them away for another year. If you have a little time to spare and would care to add your hands to the work, that would be greatly appreciated!

THE OUTWARD SIGNS
Attendance - January 6, 2019 - 73

St. John's United Church of Christ

1050 Buffalo Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 -- (570) 524-7606 or (570) 523-0162
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Office: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Website: www.stjohnslewisburg.org Email: stjohsucc@ptd.net
 Pastor Bob: 717-460-2464

<p><i>It is a privilege to serve you today . . .</i> Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, <i>Interim Pastor</i> Rev. James E. Johnson, <i>Pastor Emeritus</i> Todd R. Hummel, <i>Dir. of Music/Organist</i> Rita Griffith, <i>Choral & Bell Choir Director</i></p>	<p>Linda Sartwell/Sue Baish, <i>Sound Technician</i> Todd Hummel, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> Dot & Art Bower, <i>Greeters</i> Don Adams, <i>Children's Church</i> Addie Miller, <i>Acolyte</i> Barry Catherman, <i>Video Technician</i></p>
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THIS WEEK

Monday, January 14	7:00 p.m.	BVS Rehearsal (FH)
Tuesday, January 15	9:30 a.m.	PCCUCC Clergy (PAR)
	1:00 p.m.	ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR)
	7:30 p.m.	Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, January 16	6:00 p.m.	BELL CHOIR (SANCT.)
Thursday January 17	9:00 a.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR)
	6:00 p.m.	TOPS (CR)
	7:00 p.m.	CONSISTORY (PAR)
	7:00 p.m.	Heart of PA Women's Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, January 18	9:00 a.m.	Music Together (FH)
	4:30 p.m.	Music Together (FH)
Saturday January 19		
Sunday, January 20	9:00 a.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.)
	9:00 a.m.	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	9:30 a.m.	COFFEE CAFÉ
	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP
	11:00 a.m.	CONFIRMATION CLASS

FUTURE

Need a ride to church services or events at St. John's UCC? Arrangements will be made for we want everyone to be able to attend and participate in events held at the church. **Contact Ron Zug at 523-3987.**

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES - are on the table in the Narthex. Please remember to pick yours up!

FLOWER CHART - Is available for 2019. It is located in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday! The cost is still \$42.00 for both vases.

CALL FOR OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - We will have our Congregational Dinner and Annual Meeting in two weeks, on Sunday, January 27th, immediately following worship. Things begin in our Fellowship Hall with one of our fabulous covered dish luncheons (we provide the meat dishes, you complement them with a vegetable or fruit dish or a dessert), and will be followed by our annual congregational reporting. Please plan to be part of this important gathering to see where we've over past months and where we're headed in the future.