

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister – Pastor Gary Nottis, Guest Pastor
The Service: 10:00 a.m. February 10, 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

L: God calls us this day to a life of joy.

Many: With God, joy cracks through the bonds of despair.

L: With God, joy bursts forth from moments of quiet pleasure.

Many: With God, joy guilds the edges of even ordinary days.

All: This is the day which our God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Hymn #459 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*Prayer of Confession (together)- O God, our God, we celebrate the new life which you have given us. We have experienced broken lives made whole; old wounds of alienation healed over, and tired spirits rejuvenated with new vision. Gracious God, we are so grateful for the purpose and possibilities you have placed before us. Yet there are times when doubt has overcome hope, cynicism has replaced dedication, the world's values have captured us more than yours. Forgive us for those times, we pray. Help us let go of the past that we might move joyfully into the undiscovered country of rich and expanded lives filled with joy and compassion, guided by your patient and loving hand. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon - *God says to us: You are my chosen ones. I love you. I'm proud of you. Stand firm in your renewed commitment. Know that I have forgiven you; I call you by name; you are mine. I have entered into covenant with you and will stand by you in all times and all places. Dare to live fully the life to which I have called you. Amen.*

Scripture: Deuteronomy 1:26-2:3 Luke 5:1-11 Lay Reader: Kay Nottis

Anthem - *"Delight Yourself In the Lord"* - Barrett

Children's Chat

Hymn: #63 *"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"*

Sermon: *"Walkabout"*

Time for Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith (together) - **We believe in the God of Abraham and Jesus, of sinner and saint, doubter and believer. We believe the Holy Spirit lives and reigns in us and among us. We trust in the love of God that moves through us for our highest good. We will honor the Living Spirit in each and every step we take. With Jesus and the Holy Spirit, in and through us, we are God's love.**

*Pastoral Prayer

*Let us continue to pray in the words that Jesus taught 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.**

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): Thank you, God, for the chance to be transformed into the people who have gifted us to be and to share in Your creative and restorative work among people. Because You have blessed us, we have much to give in return. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully Your children and the vibrant community of faith, as You intend us to be. Amen.

*Hymn #442 "I'm Pressing on the Upward Way"

*Benediction

*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, and 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 fill out a visitor's card, in order that we might know more about you. You may drop the card into the offering plate or give to the Pastor at the door. 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 - Are presented by Angie and Ed Donlin.

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

In Hospital -

At Home- Sid Bowersox , Mary Geyer (following knee replacement surgery), 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! - Continuing every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., in the lobby we will offer 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.

THIS WEEK

Monday, February 11	11:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) WORSHIP/MUSIC COMM. (LIB) BVS meeting (PAR) BVS Board Meeting (PAR) BVS Rehearsal (FH) CHRISTIAN ED. COMM. (LIB)
Tuesday, February 12	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	MISSION/SOCIAL ACTION COMM. (LIB) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, February 13	6:00 p.m.	BELL CHOIR (SANCT.)
Thursday February 14	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR) TOPS (CR) REJOICING SPIRITS (SANCT) Heart of PA Women's Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, February 15	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Music Together (CR) BLOODMOBILE (FH)
Saturday February 16	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Japanese Drumming (FH) ITALIAN DINNER (FH)
Sunday, February 17	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) SUNDAY SCHOOL COFFEE CAFÉ WORSHIP

CARDS FOR HENRY - Henry Aulenbach is a 7 year old boy, who has just undergone brain surgery for a tumor. Henry is progressing well, but is still in the hospital, and will require further radiation treatment and chemo. Henry loves getting mail. Please consider sending Henry a get well card, to brighten his spirits! Henry Aulenbach, 7 Purple Martin Drive, Hackettstown NJ 07840.

LASAGNA NIGHT - You are invited to an evening out of Italian Cuisine on February 16th, at 6:00 pm, in our Fellowship Hall. The menu will include salad, bread, lasagna and a dessert. Donations will be accepted to offset the cost of the meal, and any additional moneys will be donated to the local Food Pantry. Reservations can be made on the poster in the narthex. Invite a friend or another couple to share an evening of fellowship and food. Sponsored by the Hospitality and Growth Committee.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS
Attendance - February 3, 2019 - 58

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: stjohnsucc@ptd.net
Pastor Bob: 717-460-2464

It is a privilege to serve you today . . .

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, *Interim Pastor*
Rev. James E. Johnson, *Pastor Emeritus*
Todd R. Hummel, *Dir. of Music/Organist*
Rita Griffith, *Choral & Bell Choir Director*

Linda Sartwell/Sue Baish, *Sound Technician*
Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*
Dot & Art Bower, *Greeters*
Liz DeSantis, *Children's Church*
Addie Miller, *Acolyte*
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

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.**

FLOWER CHART - Is available for 2019. It is located on the bulletin board, across from the office. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday! The cost is still \$42.00 for both vases.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education Topics - During the month of February, the Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education class will be completing one fascinating study and then beginning another.

First, the class will be completing its five-part study of the Apocrypha, those 17 "In-Between" books that separate the Old Testament from the New Testament in some, but not all Bibles. These final discussions will take place on February 3rd and February 10th.

Following the completion of the Apocrypha study, the class will launch into a four-part exploration of the Book of Galatians, Paul's witness to the Celtic tribes situated in the ancient Roman province of Galatia. Our consideration of the **Book of Galatians will begin Sunday, February 17th and continue into the month of March.** The tentative class schedule is as follows. February 17th – Introduction; February 25th – Paul's Teachings for the Celts; March 3rd – Foolish Celts: Issues Addressed in Galatians; March 10th – Galatians and the Rise of Celtic Christianity. If you are considering attending these classes, please remember: There is no cost for any class materials. You don't need to make a commitment to participate every Sunday. Just come when you can. All our welcome! Don't miss out on these wonder opportunities to expand and enrich your faith!

THE NEXT ADULT ENRICHMENT SERIES – Will begin on **Wednesday, March 13th**. The focus this time will be upon the celebrated 14th Century figure of Meister Eckhart, German pastor, preacher, scholastic, and mystic. Many of Eckhart's stirring and provocative sermons have survived the centuries, challenging readers down to our own day, a suitable area of consideration for the coming weeks of Lent. The seminar will cover the Wednesdays through April 10th, starting at 7 p.m. each evening. The only cost is \$10 towards the textbook. If interested in participating in the course, please "register" by February 24th by contacting the church office (523-0162), so that we know to include you in our planning.