

St. John's United Church of Christ

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor Gary Nottis, Guest Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. March 11, 2018

(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: The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: The cold days of winter are giving way to the warmer days of spring, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: The vines and trees are awakening from their slumbers, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: Our lives are filled with love of family and friends, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,

All: Thank you!

One: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to You, O God, as enter into this service of thanksgiving and praise!

*Hymn #28 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

*Prayer of Confession (together) - **Blessing God, we are finite and fearful beings. We sometimes focus so much on our own anxieties, pride, and sense of entitlement, that we see the world as hurtful and unfriendly. The negatives of life overwhelm us and grow to be the guiding influences of our existence. Forgive us, O Lord, for becoming blind to the true nature of Your creation and life within. When we embrace ingratitude, stop us dead in our tracks. Prompt us to open our eyes and view the world through lenses of love and understanding. Grant that we recognize the great good and positives of our wonderful lives. Inspire us to see You, the essence of goodness, in every moment, place, and thing. And then, help us to live that truth and thank You in all words and deeds. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance - *The ones we love may reject us. The world might heap sorrows upon us. We might even turn against ourselves. But, God never does any of that. God calls each of us His special creation, His child, His beloved, His accepted, without condition. With our contrite plea, God heals us of our brokenness, renews our spirits, and sends us forth once more to journey through life with gratitude and joy as our companions. Praise be to God! Amen!*

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-11 Luke 17:11-19 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

Lay Reader: Kay Nottis

Anthem: "*Praying Hands*" - Choplin

Children's Chat

Hymn #292 "Breath On Me, Breath of God"

Sermon: "*Gratitude Walk*"

Time for Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith (together) - **In faith, we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a holy history. In faith, we confess that God seeks to rule our lives today. In faith, we affirm that God continues to send prophets and speak through willing vessels to guide the course of all history toward its end. In faith, we imagine that end to be characterized by the traits we find in Jesus Christ: compassion, justice, and love. In faith, we long to be part of that purpose. Amen. after James T. Fatzinger**

*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

*The Offertory Response #785

**We give You but Your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

*Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (together): **Generous God, we bring before You our meager attempts to express our thankfulness for Your blessings on each of us. We pray, accept our offerings and multiple their worth so we may extend Your kingdom on earth to all peoples. We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

*Hymn #4 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction - #77 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

**Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

*Postlude

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 board (and kindly include your mailing address/telephone number and/or email), and introduce yourself to the persons 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 ushers.

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.

The Chancel Flowers Are given in loving memory of Roger's mother, Florine Spickler, by Dianna & Roger Spickler.

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

At Home- Brad Bingaman (after shoulder surgery), Sid Bowersox, Ruth Brouse, Betty Hackenberg, Mary Stover, Wayne Williams, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Fred Brouse, Marilyn Correll, Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg, Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Robert Ritter, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Christine Sartwell, Sheila Seaman.

LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING - Our worship this morning will be led by Pastor Gary Nottis as part of a unit of supervision under Pastor Bob. This unit is part of an effort to position Gary for formal ordination in the United Church of Christ. We wish him every success in this endeavor.

GUEST ORGANIST - Thanks to Judy Blee for sharing her talents with us this morning.

WHAT'S A CHRISTIAN TO DO? - We are confronted by a variety of personal and social issues on a daily basis. These issues can often test the practice of our faith. How should we approach them from a Christian perspective? Join the Sunday morning adult Christian education class as we examine and discuss topics ranging from aging to income disparity, and more. Our conversations will continue to take place in the Library, at 9 AM. Each Sunday's discussion will be devoted to one specific issue, enhanced by Bible study and instruction. We hope to see you on Sunday morning.

THIS WEEK

Monday, March 12	11:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) Girl Scout Troup 60351 (CR) Buffalo Valley Singers (FH)
Tuesday, March 13	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	LENTEN SERIES (CR) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, March 14	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Weight Watchers BELL CHOIR
Thursday March 15	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR.) B.I.L.L. (FH) H.O.P. (Heart of Pa, Women's Chorus (CH.RM)) TOPS (CR) CONSISTORY (PAR)
Friday, March 16	9:00 a.m.	Music Together (FH)
Saturday March 17		
Sunday, March 18	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP

FUTURE

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SIGN-UP SHEET - has been placed in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a month!

FAMILY EASTER DONATIONS - As in past years, our Mission and Social Action Committee will partner with Family Services of Union County to support area families in need this Easter season. Recognizing the year-round need for neighborly support, this is similar to the drive we regularly do at Christmas and Thanksgiving. We are hoping to support 15 families this year and are asking anyone who is able to bring canned goods/pre-packaged candy items to the narthex between now and **Sunday, March 25th**. You may also help with a monetary donation by clearly marking an envelope for "Easter dinners" and placing it in the offering plate on any Sunday up to and including **March 25th**. These funds will be used to purchase any other items that might be needed to complete an Easter dinner. The hams are already sponsored. Watch for the designated boxes in the narthex in the coming weeks.

HARTMAN CENTER SUMMER CAMP - Camping materials for this year's opportunities at Hartman Center, Penn Central Conference's camping center, are currently available. The possibilities include camps focused on the arts, adventure, fishing, soccer, and many other areas of interest. For more information, check the brochure in the church Narthex, or access it online at "www.hartmancenter.com."

POSSIBLE ADULT ENRICHMENT SERIES - There are thoughts to offer a five-week study of the Qur'an (Koran), over the consecutive Tuesday evenings of April 3rd through May 1st, under the leadership of Pastor Bob. We'd like to have a class of 8 to 12 persons to make the required expenditure of time and energy reasonable. So far four persons have indicated their interest. If there are others out there who would like the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the Muslim Holy Book, please call the Church Office (524-7606) or talk to Bob.

LEWISBURG "MARCH FOR OUR LIVES" - A community-wide event is being planned for Saturday, March 24th, to coincide with the occasion of the national "March for our Lives," the specific goal being to stand in solidarity with the students and families of the Parkland High School, in Florida. Locally, there will be a ringing of the churches' bells for 5 minutes, beginning at 2 p.m. It will be followed by a gathering in Hufnagle Park for a time of poetry, readings, and music, "demanding consistent change in gun legislation that will protect innocent people from further mass shooting events." If interested, do check this out!

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.**

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

Attendance - March 04, 2018 - 73

Easter flowers - \$95.00; Chancel Flowers - \$42.00; Communion - \$340.00;
Current Expenses - \$1,936.00; Easter Boxes - \$25.00; Giant Gift Cards - \$250.00;
Improvements & Maintenance - \$15.00; Loose Offering - \$39.00; OCWM - \$166.00;
Building Use - \$40.00; Weis Gift Cards - \$700.00;
GRAND TOTAL - \$3,648.00 THANK YOU!

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

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*
Angie Donlin, *Children's Church*
, *Acolyte*
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*