

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

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister
The Service: 10:00 a.m. April 14, 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: They shouted, "Hosanna!"

Many: May God be honored!

One: They shouted, "Blessed in the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Many: May God be praised!

One: They shouted, "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!"

Many: May God be worshiped!

All: Hosanna in the highest heaven!

*Hymn #213 "*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*"

*Confession of Sin -

One: Like the people in Jesus' day, we look for direction and guidance in finding the right path by which to walk.

Many: And like those people, we stumble in our best intentions, and we fall short even in our most serious efforts.

One: Too full of self, we can want it . . .

Many: ...but not seek diligently enough to find it.

One: Too full of self, we can yearn for it . . .

Many: . . . but get distracted from wholeheartedly pursuing it.

One: Too full of self, we have often taken the wrong path, a path that avoids unpleasantness and sacrifice, a path that fails to lead to the fullness of life.

Many: In having chosen that path, we find ourselves estranged from God and neighbor, lost, and in need of forgiveness.

One: Forgive us, God.

Many: Forgive us, God, and grant us a new way forward. Amen.

*The Assurance -

One: At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us.

Many: God comes! Not to punish, but to gift us with peace; not to judge, but to save us.

All: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Scripture: Mark 1:1-11

Lay Reader: Jim Tomlinson

Anthem - "*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*" - Martin

Children's Chat

Hymn: #216 "*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*"

Sermon: "*A Question of Will*"

Time for Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith (together) - You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God. You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to You. You have revealed and proved Your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now, You are God. You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be Your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; You overcome death. You are our God. We worship You.

*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): **These gifts seem so small when we remember Your sacrifice for us. And yet, we know as well that You are present in any act of love and generosity. Be present through this offering and help us to transform it into new life and new beginnings, we pray. Amen.**

*Hymn #215 *"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty"*

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction - *"Hebrew Benediction" - Schmidt*

**May God bless you and keep you, may God always smile upon you;
may God's light shine forever on your path and give you peace.**

*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 it 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 in loving memory of Richard E. Pauling, by Donna Pauling and family.

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

At Home- Sid Bowersox , Lou Goff, Joanne Stahley, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Peg Brouse, Leona Fertig, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg, Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Shirley Seese, Mary Stover, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Barb Kugler, Christine Sartwell.

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

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| Monday, April 15 | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | BVS Rehearsal (FH) STEWARDSHIP/PERSONNEL |
| Tuesday, April 16 | 9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. | PCCUCC Clergy (PAR) ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR) CONSISTORY (LIB) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH) |
| Wednesday, April 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Leaders (CR) |
| Thursday April 18 | 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | TOPS 1158 (CR) TOPS (CR) MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE |
| Friday, April 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Good Friday Service, St. John's, New Columbia |
| Saturday April 20 | 10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. | Japanese Drumming (FH) EASTER EGG HUNT |
| Sunday, April 21 | 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. | CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) SUNDAY SCHOOL COFFEE CAFÉ EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP, COMMUNION |

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Holy Week is now underway, St. John's observing it through our special Maundy Thursday service. This meaningful order of worship is highlighted by the receiving of Communion "Upper Room" style. Plan to share in this memorable worship experience.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - St. John's UCC, New Columbia, has invited us to share in their Good Friday service, held this Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.

CARDS FOR HENRY - Henry Aulenbach is a 7 year old boy, who has just undergone brain surgery for a tumor. Henry is progressing well, 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.

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.

WE NEED YOU! - The Hospitality and Growth committee needs more wonderful faces to add to the Welcoming Greeters team. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this joyful service for your St. John's church family. Let our warmth, acceptance, and love surround all that enter here. Your time commitment is minimal, but the rewards are great. Speak with a member of the committee: Beth Moser, Linda Williams, Brenda Adams, Molly Reitz, or Jim and Sue Tomlinson for more information.

Your Help is Needed for the Easter Egg Hunt - Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is going to be held on this **Saturday, April 20 at 2:00 p.m.** Donations of wrapped candy that can fit into a plastic egg are needed. Please drop the candy off in the work room, next to the office. All donations are greatly appreciated.

MANY THANKS! - To all who contributed food or money to this year's Easter Family Dinners that St. John's will be providing to ten local families. Thanks, too, to our Mission & Social Action Committee for coordinating this effort once again for us.

COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING - Please plan on remaining after worship this morning to share in one of our always-popular Coffee Hours, featuring drinks and light refreshments. This time of fellowship with your St. John's friends is hosted by Carol Berry, Hue Stoudt, and Sue Tomlinson.

CARD SHOWER - A card shower is planned for Alda Wagner's 102ND birthday, on April 19th! Please send cards to Alda at: **131 S. 11th St., Lewisburg.**

THE OUTWARD SIGNS **Attendance - April 7, 2019 - 69**

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*
Don Adams, *Children's Church*
Daniel DeSantis, *Acolyte*
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*