

St. John's United Church of Christ

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister

The Service: 10:00 a.m. April 15, 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: We still tell the good news!

All: Rejoice in our God always, again we say rejoice!

One: The tomb was empty, and Jesus appeared to them.

All: Rejoice in our God always, again we say rejoice!

One: Jesus gives peace to the people.

All: Rejoice, rejoice, again we say rejoice!

One: Jesus says, "Don't be afraid."

All: Rejoice, rejoice, again we say rejoice!

One: We are here to hear the good news, so we can tell others!

All: Rejoice, rejoice, again we say rejoice!

*Hymn #253 "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!"

*Prayer of Confession (together) - God, we break your laws all the time. Sometimes intentionally, sometimes unintentionally. We do not care for one another as You taught us to do. We prioritize the things of this world over the things of Your world. We are afraid, even though You tell us not to be. We forget to be joyful when You show up when we need You. We say we are sorry, and sometimes aren't sincere. Forgive us, and grant us a spirit of courage, that we may. May we change our ways and live out Your love, as Christ lived and taught. Amen.

*Words of Assurance -

One: As Easter people, we know what Christ has done for all.

All: Embracing God's forgiveness, let us celebrate this good news with joy and delight!

Scripture: Mark 12:13-17 Lay Reader: Colleen Ross

Solo: "Finding Joy" - written/performed by Ron Zug

Children's Chat

Hymn #247 "My Shepherd Is the Living God"

Sermon: "Rendering Unto Caesar"

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 overcame death. You are our God. We worship You. Amen.

*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): **Receive our gifts, almighty God. We offer them as we offer ourselves, fully. We pray that they would enable this community of faith to serve all of Your people. May it make us better friends, may it make us better able to open up seats at the table and offer breakfast to those who need it. Amen.**

*Hymn #441 *"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"*

*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.

Chancel Flowers - Are given by Ruth Richard and family, in loving memory of Russell Richard.

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

At Home- Sid Bowersox, Ruth Brouse, Betty Hackenberg, Mary Stover, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Fred Brouse, Marilyn Correll, Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg (Rolling Hills Manor, rm #7), Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Robert Ritter, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Christine Sartwell, Sheila Seaman.

THANKS - To all who shared in last Sunday's congregational dinner and Special Congregational Meeting regarding proposed changes to our Constitution, changes that will reorganize our future approach to the way that we do ministry and mission here at St. John's. Copies of this proposal will be mailed shortly to all active members, in preparation for an official vote to amend the Constitution at our upcoming Congregational Meeting, scheduled for the morning of Sunday, May 13th, immediately following worship.

THIS WEEK

CONSISTORY MEETING - The Consistory will hold it's meeting on **Thursday, April 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.** Minutes from last month's meeting are ready for pick up from members envelopes, located in the workroom.

YOU ARE INVITED - To share in a Coffee Hour immediately following worship next Sunday, the 22nd. Plan to linger a bit next week over refreshments, and enjoy some conversation with your fellow "St. Johners." Our hosts for this occasion will be the Stoudts and Carol Berry.

EVER WONDER ABOUT ISLAM? - If you have and you want to know more, then you have an opportunity to join our present Adult Enrichment Class (currently studying the *Qur'an*) as they make a field trip to the local Islamic mosque, which is situated in Sunbury. The trip is planned for next Sunday afternoon (the exact time still being determined). Some ten persons so far are set to make the visit and, if you're interested, we'd love to have you join us. Please let Pastor Bob know asap so that we know to include you in our plans.

Monday, April 16	7:00 p.m.	Buffalo Valley Singers (FH)
Tuesday, April 17	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	PCC UCC CLERGY (PAR) ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, April 18	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Weight Watchers BELL CHOIR
Thursday April 19	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR.) H.O.P. Heart of Pa Women's Chorus (SANCT) CONSISTORY (LIB) BVS Rehearsal (FH)
Friday, April 20	9:00 a.m.	Music Together (FH)
Saturday April 21		
Sunday, April 22	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP HOUR Quilters (FH)

FUTURE

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

THE SPRING MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION - Is scheduled for two weeks hence, on the afternoon of April 29th, at St. John's Church, New Columbia. Representatives from all the several UCC congregations in this geographical area will gather for worship and to take care of common business. If you are interested in being one of our "reps," please let the church office know (524-7606).

BUFFALO VALLEY SINGERS CONCERT - The Buffalo Valley Singers Chorus is performing John Rutter's Requiem with orchestra. Performances are **Saturday, May 5th, 7:30pm** and **Sunday, May 6th, 4:30pm** at St. John's UCC, 1050 Buffalo Rd, Lewisburg. Admission is \$10. View the BVS webpage for more information: BuffaloValleySingers.org

MAY COMMUNION OFFERING - The offering for May 6, 2018 is dedicated to **Hartman Center**. Hartman Center is the Outdoor Ministries facility owned by Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ since 1964. Programming includes retreats, conferences, workshops, dinner meetings, summer camps, and other events which, while designed for particular age levels and interests, are open to all persons without regard to race, creed, or ethnic origin, and who accept the guidelines and philosophy of the Center. Located in the "Seven Mountains" area of central Pennsylvania, Hartman Center is comprised of 192 acres of open and wooded areas, with easy access to nearby streams, hiking trails, and state parks. It is located on Old US Highway 322, 10 miles north of Lewistown (70 miles from the Conference Center in Harrisburg) and about 20 miles southeast of State College. Brochures are available in the Narthex for more information.

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 - April 8, 2018 - 77

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

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*
 Tess & Fred Groover, *Greeters*
 Linda Williams, *Children's Church*
 Erin DeSantis, *Acolyte*
 Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*