



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Welcome Back to In-person Worship
Also on Facebook & FM 88.5
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021
10:00 a.m.***

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

April 25, 2021

(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

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Threshold

Response: **Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again.**

Call to Worship:

We lean into this day with the strength we have.

We lift up our heads to meet the day.

God sends out a call that will not let us go.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of love and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

Hymn #252 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Early let us seek Thy favor,
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, oh blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Prayer - Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation - We know Your voice, the sounds of Your steps. Your love gathers us, urges us, encourages us. Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek You - so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ. Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Affirming the Peace Among Us

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

And also with you!

(You are invited to turn to the people around you and wave as a sign of graceful greetings this day.)

Song of Praise # 236 *"Halleluja"*

Words for All - Especially Children

Scripture: I John 3:16-18, 23-24

Special Music

Message *"Open Hearts"*

Morning Prayer

Lord's Prayer (sinned and sinned against 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.

Sharing our Joys and Celebrations

Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Loving God, bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give. May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity You envision for the world. Amen.

Hymn *"They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Benediction

Postlude

In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning

(please contact the church office, at 570-523-0162, with any updates)

Ongoing Needs- Betty Hackenberg, Janet & Richard Heaton, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Richard Berry, Peg Brouse, Bill & Lola Fuller, Jane Hayes, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Loretta Roberson, Mary Stover, Amelia Troutman.

Immediate Concerns -Oliver Auman, Scott Bower, The Family of Helen Barsh, Joyce, Maryjane Derr, Maryjane H., Carol Hahn, Christine Sartwell, Peg Swinehart, The Family of

THIS WEEK

Monday, April 26		
Tuesday, April 27		
Wednesday, April 28		
Thursday April 29	1 - 2:30pm	Evan. Hosp. Support Group (PAV)
Friday, April 30		
Saturday May 1	12:00 p.m.	Pavilion rsvd. By member
Sunday, May 2	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP, COMMUNION

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

April 18, 2021

Chancel Flowers - \$42.00; Clean-up Kits - \$210.00; Current Expenses - \$3,325.00;
Devitt House - \$200.00; Giant Gift Cards - \$200.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$25.00;
Loose Offering - \$1.00; OCWM - \$425.00; OGHS - \$411.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$4,839.00 THANK YOU!

CHANCEL FLOWERS - There are MANY dates available on the Chancel Flower Chart. Please consider stopping by the chart and sign up to sponsor a single vase (\$21.00) or both vases (\$42.00).

ACOLYTE HELP NEEDED - We are searching for a few people age 10 - 99, to be acolytes for our Sunday worship services. If you are someone who feels comfortable attending in-person worship, and think you'd like to help out, please reach out to Pastor Alice or Todd. (570) 523-0162.

CLEAN-UP KITS - Church World Services is in need of clean-up kits for disaster relief. We are accepting monetary donations for Church World Services to complete the kits needed. The cost of one Clean-up Kit is \$75.00. ANY donations will be greatly appreciated.

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES - Hartman Center Spirit Week, **When:** Saturday, August 8 - Saturday, August 14 **Where:** Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg, PA. Brochures are available in the Narthex.

Also available, summer camp brochures for camps Kirchenwald & Nawakwa. Penn Central has partnered with the Lutheran Camping Corporation, with a variety of camping options available from mid-June, through August. Scholarship support is available through our congregation, and through Penn Central Conference. Questions? Please talk with Pastor Alice.