

St. John's United Church of Christ
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MOTHER'S DAY

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister

The Service: 10:00 a.m. May 13, 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: Let us who live with faith in God proclaim,

Many: "Lord, You are my refuge and my fortress, my God I will trust forever."

One: Let us who trust in the Lord know that holy love surrounds us.

Many: God's protection will follow us throughout our days.

One: When we call out to the Lord,

Many: We know that we are heard.

One: God is with us in every trial and temptation.

All: Therefore, let us joyfully worship this God! Amen!

*Hymn #212 "O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns"

*Prayer of Confession (together) - O Lord, You have indeed carried me on Your wings. By Your mercy, You have delivered me from sin and death. You have set me free from their bondage. Once I was a slave, but now I am free to be Your servant. Thank You, Lord. Even as I seek to live faithfully as a child of the new covenant, help me to live each day by grace. May I continue to ride on Your wings as You guide and empower me to serve You in every aspect of my life. All praise be to You, gracious Lord, because You carry me on your wings. Alleluia! Amen!

*Words of Assurance -

One: The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them. I will satisfy them with a long life, and give them my salvation".

Many: Brothers and sisters, let us be at peace. Our sins are forgiven.

All: Amen!

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-10 Matthew 23:37-39 Lay Reader: Chris DeSantis

Anthem: "Whisper To My Heart" - Angerman/Martin

Children's Chat

Hymn #318 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

Sermon: "God as Chicken"

Time for Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith (together) - I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into Heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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): God of enduring and radical hope and promise. You make Yourself known to us, filling us with love and life and abundance. May our lives be filled with welcome and the promise of hope renewed. Give us the gift of Your light and love. Fill us with Your grace. Explore our hearts to

the pursuit of justice in love. May we be faithful stewards of Your love, hope, and promise. Amen.

*Hymn #460 *"Be Not Dismayed"*

*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 Carol & Don Erdley, in loving memory of our Mothers; Helen Bowersox and Kathryn Erdley.

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, Jim Tomlinson (at home, following an outpatient procedure last week), Mary Stover, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Fred Brouse, 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, Larissa Young.

A VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! -- We wish a very special day to all the Moms at worship this morning. In celebration of the occasion, all women will be given small potted plants as gifts, with our best wishes for a fabulous day!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING- Will take place today, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the new By-laws/Constitution.

CONGRATULATIONS! - To the St. John's bowling team, which recently won the championship for the year. Among the team members are Wayne Williams, Nick Riccio, Gary Snyder, Bill Laiddecker, and Jim Ritter.

MANY THANKS - To the members of our Youth Sunday School Class (Daniel DeSantis, Erin DeSantis, James Donlin, and Addie Miller), who, under the leadership of their teacher Liz DeSantis, recently completed a lovely original prayer to be included in our "Local Congregational Profile."

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 14	7:00 p.m.	Buffalo Valley Singers (SANCT.)
Tuesday, May 15	06:00 a.m. 09:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	ELECTION DAY (FH) PCCUCC CLERGY (CR) ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (LIB) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, May 16	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Weight Watchers BELL CHOIR
Thursday May 17	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR.) H.O.P. Heart of Pa Women's Chorus (SANCT) TOPS (CR) CONSISTORY (PAR)
Friday, May 18	9:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Music Together (FH) Lewisburg Garden Club Plant Sale (PAV) Buffalo Valley Singers Rehearsal (SANCT.)
Saturday May 19	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Central/Northern Assoc. Town Hall Meeting (FH) Girl Scouts (CR) Buffalo Valley Singers Concert (SANCT/FH)
Sunday, May 20	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP, LAP QUILT BLESSING FELLOWSHIP HOUR Buffalo Valley Singers Concert (SANCT/FH)

BUFFALO VALLEY SINGERS POPS CONCERT - The Buffalo Valley Singers present their annual Pops Concert. Performances are Saturday, May 19th, 7:30 pm, and Sunday, May 20th, 3:00pm, here at St. John's UCC. Admission is \$5. View the BVS webpage for more information: BuffaloValleySingers.org

FUTURE

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SIGN-UP SHEET - has been placed in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a month! Still open for sponsorship are the months of August, November and December.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - St. John's Quilters will sponsor Fellowship Hour, next Sunday, May 20th. Please plan on staying for a few moments of Fellowship.

Bean Sale - Just in time for Memorial Day! St. John's "Famous Baked Beans" will be available by pre-order. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, or you can call (570) 523-0162 or e-mail stjohnsucc@ptd.net to order. Pints are \$4 and Quarts are \$8. Order deadline is Monday, May 14. You may pay at pick-up, or ahead of time to the church office, Chris DeSantis, or Linda Sartwell. Beans will be available for pick-up on Thursday, May 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Saturday, May 26, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. John's. We will also need help on Tuesday, May 22, in the afternoon and evening, to cook and package beans, as well as during the pick-up times. Please see Todd, Chris, or Linda if you are able to help. All proceeds from the sale will support St. John's Adopt-a-Family programs.

HELP NEEDED - The Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program is looking for teens and adults to volunteer to carry groceries at the Food Pantry distributions on the first and third Fridays of each month from 1:15-3:30, or any portion of that time that you are available. We are located in the basement of the First Baptist Church at 51 South 3rd Street in Lewisburg. If you can carry groceries up a flight of steps, please just show up to help on May 18, June 1 and 15, July 6 and 20, and August 3 and 17. Questions?? Call Cindy 570-523-6898.

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 - May 6, 2018 - 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

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*
Acolyte
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*