

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

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister
The Service: 10:00 a.m. May 19, 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: We gather here in anticipation, seeking an encounter with our Holy God!

Many: Who comes among us when we least expect it, who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts!

One: Who richly blesses us, and calls us each by name!

All: Let's worship God together!

*Hymn #407 "How Firm a Foundation"

*Confession of Sin (Together) **Merciful God, You show an unending willingness to enter into the messiness of our human struggles—into fractured relationships, family differences, and un-reconciled situations with people we care about. Often we fear that our very lives will be dislocated by Your influence over our hearts and Your reign in our world. We confess that too often we push against Your efforts in our behalf, and that we are more committed not to loosening our grip on our possessions or our selfish desires. Help us to wrestle with the conflicting values, passions, and pressures that confront us daily, so that we can unclench our hands and open ourselves to the transforming power of Your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, O loving God. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

One: There is bad news, and there is good news.

Many: What's the bad news?

One: The bad news is that we humans are imperfect and that we are capable of all sorts of mischief and madness.

Many: And what's the good news?

One: The good news is that God loves us anyhow, believing that love will soften hardened hearts and that mercy will prevail over resistant spirits.

Many: In love for us, God forgives and, over and over again, sets before us a bright new way forward.

All: How blessed we are! Amen!

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-31

Lay Reader: Colleen Ross

Anthem - "Praise & Alleluyas" - McCleary

Children's Chat

Hymn #519 "In Solitude"

Sermon: "Wrestling with God"

Time for Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith (together) - **We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called by the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! 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 - "Thine Is the Glory" - arr. Geschke

*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): **Giver of Life, we share what we have received. We dedicate**

these gifts as we rededicate ourselves to preparing the way for a new heaven and renewed Earth where all people and all Creation know the full measure of Your peace. May these gifts reflect our praise and gratitude for the work of Your spirit, drawing us ever deeper into the richness of relationship upon which we all depend. Amen.

*Hymn #573 "Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

*Benediction

*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 placed in loving memory of Helen Bowersox, and Kathryn Erdley, by Carol and Don Erdley.

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

At Home- Sid Bowersox, Joanne Stahley, Merdyth Updegraff, Wayne Williams.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom(recently hospitalized), Peg Brouse, Leona Fertig, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Alice Savidge, Shirley Seese, Mary Stover, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Barb Kugler, Christine Sartwell.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Please remain following worship this morning for a time of light refreshments and conversation with your St. John's friends. Thanks to Angie Donlin for serving as our hostess today.

THANKS! - To all who supported the now-concluded stewardship project of our Confirmation Class (Erin DeSantis, James Donlin, and Addie Miller). From the original \$60 in "seed money," they raised a total of \$236 (well done, good and faithful servants!), which was turned over to Consistory at its meeting last Thursday.

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 20	5:00 p.m.	Soccer Practice
Tuesday, May 21	7:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	ELECTION DAY (FH) PCC/UCC Clergy (LIB) NEWSLETTER MAILING (LIB) ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR) Soccer Practice Men's Westbranch Chorus (SANCT)
Wednesday, May 22	5:00 p.m.	Soccer Practice
Thursday May 23	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR) Soccer Practice TOPS (CR)\ Central Assoc. Exec. Comm. (LIB) H.O.P. (Heart of Pa, Women's Chorus) (CH.R.)
Friday, May 24	5:00 p.m.	Soccer Practice
Saturday May 25	10:00 a.m.	Japanese Drumming (FH)
Sunday, May 26	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) SUNDAY SCHOOL COFFEE CAFÉ WORSHIP, BLESSING OF THE QUILTS CONFIRMATION CLASS Quilters (FH)

NEWSLETTER MAILING - The Eagle newsletter will be readied for mailing on **Tuesday, May 21st**, at **10:00 a.m.** Please consider coming out to lend a helping hand! The more the merrier!

THE OUTWARD SIGNS
Attendance - May 12, 2019 - 71

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
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*
Kelly & Duane Snayberger, *Greeters*
Angie Donlin, *Children's Church*
James Donlin, *Acolyte*
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

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.

GREETERS NEEDED - 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. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex.

"WHAT'S A CHRISTIAN TO DO?" Part II - Join the Sunday morning adult Christian Education Class as we once again dare to examine and discuss issues that can challenge the practice of our faith. Our conversations will take place in the Library at 9 AM, during specific Sundays in May and June. May 19, 26 and June 2nd.

WANTED: BACK PACKS! - This year's Annual Meeting of Penn Central Conference (June 7-8, at Susquehanna University) has a Mission Project attached to it--school supplies for Snyder County Children & Youth Services. Each of the eight Associations within Conference is requested to bring different items, Central Association (of which St. John's is a part) challenging its congregations each to bring 5-10 empty back packs of any size. Any donations can be dropped off at the Church Office during normal hours. Thanks for the support!

CELEBRATING A MINISTRY - St. John's has a very dedicated and very talented group of Quilters which has been hard at their tasks for a long time. As part of worship on Sunday, May 26th, many of their quilts (those that haven't already been given out to folks) will be blessed. Do come and celebrate the industry and service of these good folks, as we bless the fruits of their labors that morning.

YARD SALE - St. John's will be having a Yard Sale on **JUNE 5, 2019**, between **8:00 AM** and **3:00 PM**. We are accepting clothing, jewelry, books, dishes, etc. and ask that you put your donations on the picnic tables in the Pavilion. The Pavilion will be checked daily for drop-offs. **ALL DONATED ITEMS SHOULD BE AT THE PAVILION NO LATER THAN May 31st**. Anyone interested in helping with the sale, please contact the Church office. We are looking forward to having fun and helping St. John's financially at the same time.