

St. John's United Church of Christ
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister

The Service: 10:00 a.m. July 8, 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: All heaven and earth proclaim the majesty of God's creative power!

Many: Praise God for the amazing and awesome beauty!

One: God has given to us codes by which to live together in harmony and peace.

Many: In these commandments, God has summed up the ways we must respect one another!

One: Let us rejoice in the goodness of God!

All: Let us praise God for God's complete and steadfast love for us! Amen!

— written by Nancy C. Townley

*Hymn #372 "God, You Have Set Us"

*Prayer of Confession (together) - If we were to name all the gods we have before You, God, we would be here a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse Your name so much during the day, we have trouble speaking to You in prayer at night. We are so busy, we do not notice how creation witnesses to Your goodness and grace. Forgive us, God our Hope. Help us to let go of what we value most, so we may open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen!

*Words of Assurance -

One: Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

Many: Loved, we are sent to love; forgiven, we are freed to forgive; graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet.

All: We are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-21

Mark 12:28-34

Lay Reader: Don Adams

Special Music - Rita Griffith

Children's Chat

Hymn: #311 "**Renew Your Church**"

Sermon: "**In Our Best Interest**"

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

*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): Gracious God, with Your guidance in word and through spirit, we seek to become wise in how we live in this world. We seek to have an impact for the sake of goodness and justice and to deliver the message that all are loved and embraced by You. As we set our gifts before you, be with us in this calling. Amen.

*Hymn #575 "O for a World"

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction - #460 "God Will Take Care of You"

Be not dismayed what-e'er betide, God will take care of you;
Beneath God's wings of love abide, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
God will take care of you, God will take care of you.

*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 Beth Moser, in honor of July Family Birthdays! (Erin Shaeffer, Sarah Heggenstaller, Jennifer Fareed) and in memory of Jacob Moser and DeLa Showers.

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, Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg (Rolling Hills Manor, rm #7), Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Robert Ritter(Milton Rehab Rm.# 69), Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Christine Sartwell, Larissa Young.

THANKS! - From Pastor Bob for last Sunday's remembrance of his 45th year of ordination. Thanks, too, for the generous gift certificate to Engle's Farm & Greenhouse (and the shovel!).

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.**

THIS WEEK

Monday, July 9	6:00 p.m.	BVS Board Meeting (PAR)
Tuesday, July 10	7:30 p.m.	Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, July 11		
Thursday July 12	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR.) H.O.P. Heart of Pa Women's Chorus (SANCT) TOPS (CR)
Friday, July 13	9:00 a.m.	Music Together (FH)
Saturday July 14		
Sunday, July 15	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP HOUR

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - please plan on staying for a few extra minutes next Sunday, July 15th, as Sue & Jim Tomlinson will be hosting Fellowship Hour, immediately following the worship service.

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 November and December.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS – The Summer music schedule is in need of guest musicians. If you or someone you know would like to offer their talents for us, this Summer, please contact the office.

FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED – There are several dates open for July, on the Chancel flower sponsor list. July 15, 22 are available. Please consider sponsoring one or two vases (\$42.00 for both), by signing your name on the schedule, on the bulletin board, across from the office, **AND** contacting the church office.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS
Attendance - July 1, 2018 - 70

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*

Linda Williams, *Children's Church*

, *Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*