



Bread of  
Life

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

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

August 1, 2021

*(Let us be silent and prayerful as we prepare ourselves for worship.)*

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**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.

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*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Moment of Meditation - Ravi Evans, Saxophone

Call to Worship

*Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.*

**"Whoever comes to me will never be hungry."**

*Whoever comes to Christ will never be thirsty.*

**"Lord, give us this bread, always."**

*May we come to God with hungry hearts;*

**May we come to Jesus with thirsty souls.**

*May we find fulfillment in the body of Christ;*

**May we worship God, knowing the fullness of God's love for us.**

Hymn #321

***"Break Now the Bread of Life"***

Prayer of Brokenness - God of All, we come to You with broken hearts. We confess to You that we have sinned. We have broken faith with one another and with You. Our hearts have been led astray by the promises of the world. We have failed to live into Your intention for our lives. We have failed to view Your image in one another. We have taken what we wanted and taken it for granted and have harmed others in the process. Forgive us. Refine us and purify us, so that our hearts might heal, and fill with Your love for one another. Remove the stains of the world that blister and fester, that lie to us about our needs and confuse them with our desires. Restore us fully to You, O God, and help us to seek forgiveness, reparation, and restoration wherever possible. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness - *Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Blessed are you when you seek the right ways of God; blessed are you when you pursue justice. You are forgiven, loved and restored on this journey of faith. Go with full hearts, wise minds, and the spirit of God in you, to love and forgive and bring healing to our broken world. Amen.*

Affirming the Peace Among Us

The peace of 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.)*

Words for All - Especially Children

Scripture -

*John 6:24-35*

Special Music - Ravi Evans, Saxophone

Message                    *“Hunnnngggrrryyy”*

Morning 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.

Sharing our Joys and Celebrations

Dedication of Gifts and Offerings - God of wonders, who enabled Jesus to feed the multitudes, bless these gifts and use them to fill empty stomachs and empty hearts. May our offerings be multiplied to abundantly nourish all the people.

Order for Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer - *Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation, for the gift of life, and for your abiding love which brings us close ... which we share the gift of eternal life.*

*With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.*

Prayer (Cont.) - *Consecrate, therefore ... Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion ... do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.*

**We do remember and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Together) - **We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Hymn #347                    *“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*

Benediction

Postlude

**THANK YOU** - We’d like to thank Ravi Evans for sharing his talents with us this morning!

**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, Ingrid, Christine Sartwell, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Leanne Trout (Dee Ledgerwood’s Mother), 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, Marv Border, Scott Bower, Charlie Dreese, Joyce, Maryjane H., The Family of Carol Hahn, Katelynn Mattison, Karin Shawver, Barbara Smith, Peg Swinehart, Merdyth Updegraff, Logan Williams, The Family of Landyn Zerby.

## 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 book located in the Narthex (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 in loving memory of Fred Groover, by the family.

## THIS WEEK

Monday, August 2	12:00 pm 7:00 pm	CALL TO CARE MINISTRY (FH) HOSPITALITY COMM. (FH)
Tuesday, August 3	6:30-8:30 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, August 4		
Thursday August 5	9:00-10:30 am 7:00 pm 7:00-9:15 pm	TOPS 1158 (CR.) BUILDINGS/GROUNDS H.O.P. Heart of Pa Women's Chorus(CH.RM.)
Friday, August 6	10:00 am	FRED GROOVER MEMORIAL SERVICE
Saturday August 7	10 am - 1 pm	Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV)
Sunday, August 8	10:00 am	WORSHIP



"Agnus Day appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)"

## FUTURE

**GATE HOUSE PROJECT** - We will be collecting basic necessities for Gate House, in Danville, Pa., i.e.: Toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, dishwashing detergent, garbage bags, etc.

The Gate House was founded in 1997 to provide safe shelter to homeless families. We provide a secure environment to residents of Pennsylvania in Montour and Columbia Counties. Our support and emergency services are a direct solution to families who are facing personal crises to include but are not limited to; abandonment, divorce, illness, accidents such as fire, flood, rent increases, or evictions. Our focus is to treat families with dignity and respect and to provide the resident and avenue to self-sufficiency.

**WIRED WORD** - The monthly Wired Word Study, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, will be on a brief pause until September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Have a great Summer!

**SAVE THE DATE - August 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 2021, at noon. There will be a call to care team gathering in the Church Parlor. Please bring a bag lunch.

**SAVE THE DATE - August 6, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**, we will celebrate the life of Fred Groover, in the Sanctuary.

**SAVE ANOTHER DATE** - On **Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**, we will hold a Vespers Service in the Pavilion. A cookout is also in the plans for the event! Come join us!

**RALLY DAY 2021** - Please join us on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> for our celebration of Rally Day. This year, our guest musicians will be **THE RE-CREATION SINGERS**. Please join us in worship and then a covered dish dinner to follow.

**YARD SALE** - The wait is over! You can now bring in your items for the Yard Sale, which is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, 8am - 3pm**. For all of those with slightly used items for the yard sale, we will be accepting them in the Fellowship Hall starting in Aug. We will be using the hall for the sale of clothing, shoes, books, puzzles etc. The garage/pavilion will be used to sell the bigger items, household goods, furniture, etc. Linda Sartwell will be available from 10-12 every Monday in August to help sort and organize and we will set up the Fellowship Hall Monday Aug 30 and the garage Tues Aug 31. If you can help, please call Linda Sartwell at 570-966-1101.

### **THE OUTWARD SIGNS**

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Building Use - \$25.00; Chancel Flowers - \$84.00; Current Expenses - \$1,171.00;

Food Pantry - \$20.00; Giant Gift Cards - \$400.00; Heifer Project - \$25.00;

Improvements & Maintenance - \$35.00; Loose Offering - \$37.00;

Memorial Fund - \$100.00; OCWM - \$195.00; Stroke Victim - \$49.00;

Weis Gift Cards - \$400.00

**GRAND TOTAL - \$2,541.00 THANK YOU!**

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#### **St. John's United Church of Christ**

1050 Buffalo Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 -- (570) 523-0162

Worship 10:00 a.m. Office: Mon.- Fri. 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Website: [www.stjohnslewisburg.org](http://www.stjohnslewisburg.org) Email: [stjohnsucc@ptd.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@ptd.net)

#### ***It is a privilege to serve you today . . .***

Rev. Alice Rauch, *Pastor*

Rev. James E. Johnson, *Pastor Emeritus*

Todd R. Hummel, *Dir. of Music/Organist*

Todd R. Hummel, *Bell Choir Director*

Linda Sartwell/Sue Baish, *Sound Technician*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Carol & Chuck Laudermilch, *Greeters*

*Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

August 1, 2021

John 6:24-35

**Bread of Life**

**ONE VOICE:** Creator of All, When everything was nothing, you drew life from the void - separating night from day, setting the stars in the sky, placing plants, fish, birds and all living creatures on this planet that we call home. And you created us, earth creatures, molded from the dust of the ground and created in your image.

**MANY VOICES:** From the very beginning, we looked for signs that you were near.

**ONE VOICE:** You tried to show us your power and your mercy. You set us on journeys of faith and transformation. You fed us in the wilderness. Through your prophets, you spoke under trees and on mountaintops and in city streets.

**MANY VOICES:** Still, we asked for signs of your presence.

**ONE VOICE:** So, at last you sent us Jesus. As an infant, he gathered both kings and peasants to his side. As a child, he astonished all with his teaching. As a man, he told stories and healed the sick and welcomed the cast out. He walked on water and fed a great crowd with a few loaves and fishes. By his life, he showed us how to live completely filled up with God.

**MANY VOICES:** And we said, "We still need a sign."

**ONE VOICE:** And so, he said, "I am the bread of life."

**MANY VOICES:** Slowly, we began to understand. Maybe if we followed him, we could sometimes taste what it was like to live a life completely filled up with God, too.

**ONE VOICE:** And then, on the night before he was killed by those who feared his message of love and forgiveness for all people, he gathered those closest to him and took the bread, and he blessed it and broke it and he gave it to us and said, "This bread is my body. Eat this and remember you and you will not go hungry." And he also took up the cup, and gave it to them and said, "Drink this, and you will no longer thirst for righteousness." And so, they ate and drank. And so, we eat and drink.

**MANY VOICES:** And we give thanks for this sign, Holy One, that you are near. Amen.



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST