



Wisdom  
Quest

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor - Pastor Jan Garinger, Guest Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

August 15, 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 - "Twinkle, Variation A" - Suzuki, Elliot Nelson, Violin

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Moment of Meditation - "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" - Lillian/Joanna Nelson

Call to Worship: (from Psalm 111)

*Praise the Lord!*

**I will give thanks to the Lord,**

*With our whole hearts,*

**In the company of the congregation.**

*Great are the works of our God,*

**Studied by all who delight in God's ways.**

*God's work is full of honor and majesty,*

**God's righteousness endures forever.**

Hymn #28

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

Prayer of Brokenness

**Eternal and Wise, Holy One, we confess before You that we have failed to live into Your Wisdom. We have failed to be in awe of You; instead, we have taken Your works for granted. We have sought the ways of this world that lead to our immediate, short-term satisfaction and worldly gain. We have neglected those in need around us. Instead of seeking our daily bread, we have sought our daily pleasures, confusing wants for needs, the short-term gain instead of the eternal reward in You. Forgive us. Call us away from the streets of foolishness to Your house of Wisdom, built upon the pillars of justice, righteousness, and mercy. Guide us to Your steps upon the firm foundation of trust in You. In the name of Christ, in the name of Wisdom, our Wise Eternal Creator, we pray all things. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness - May Wisdom lead us back to God. May we turn with trembling hearts, quiet minds, and open hands. May we know the love and grace of Jesus Christ and be filled with overflowing compassion. May we know the forgiveness, love, and assurance that Christ has given us, and share it with the world. In wisdom, may we live all our days, trusting in God's word, and the assurance that new life has already begun. We are forgiven, loved, and restored. Go and share the good news. 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:            *1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14.*

Special Music - *"Humoresque" - Dvorak, Lillian & Joanna Nelson, Violinists*

Message                *"What Will You Ask For?"*

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 - **Gracious God, thank you that you have plans for us that are for our good and your glory. You said, "Give, and it will be given to you; for in the same measure as you give, it will be given to you again." We give to you today as a response to your goodness to us. We ask that you receive our offerings and continue to supply all our needs. May your peace be in our hearts, your grace be in our words, your love be in our hands and your joy be in our souls. In your mighty name, Amen.**

Hymn #76     *"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"*

Benediction

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 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 by Kay & Gary Nottis, in loving memory of Lorelei Ketter, Mother and Grandmother.

**THANKS** - We would like to thank the Nelson Family, Elliot, Lillian, and Joanna for sharing their incredible 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., Katelynn Mattison, Karin Shawver, Barbara Smith, Peg Swinehart, Logan Williams.

## THIS WEEK

Monday, August 16	<b>2:00 pm</b> 6:30 - 8:30 pm <b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>WORSHIP/MUSIC COMM. (R.R.)</b> Evan. Child loss Support Group (PAV) <b>CHRISTIAN ED. COMM. (ZOOM)</b>
Tuesday, August 17	6:30-8:30 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, August 18	7:00 pm	BVS Rehearsal (FH)
Thursday August 19	9:00-10:30 am <b>7:00 pm</b> 7:00-9:15 pm	TOPS 1158 (CR.) <b>CONSISTORY MEETING (ZOOM)</b> H.O.P. Heart of Pa Women's Chorus (CH.RM.)
Friday, August 20		
Saturday August 21	10am - 1 pm <b>5:00 pm</b>	Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) <b>VESPERS SERVICE (PAV)</b>
Sunday, August 22	<b>10:00 am</b> 1:00 pm	<b>WORSHIP</b> Piece Makers Quilters Guild (FH)

## 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. 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.

**SAVE THE 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! **A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.**

**RALLY DAY 2021** - Please join us on **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** 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, August 8, 2021

Chancel Flowers - \$42.00; Current Expenses - \$3287.00; Food Pantry - \$20.00;  
Giant Gift Cards - \$275.00; Heiter Center - \$205.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$175.00;  
LEAF Fund - \$10.00; Loose Offering - \$3.00; Memorial Fund - \$800.00;  
Mission/Social Action Fund - \$100.00; OCWM - \$220.00; Weis Gift Cards - \$350.00;  
**GRAND TOTAL - \$5,487.00 THANK YOU!**

### 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 Email: stjohsucc@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*

Pat Wigsмоen, *Greeter*

*Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

## Wisdom Quest

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). Faith and finance are inextricably bound together. Faith entails values, and those values call for embodiment in all areas of life. How we mobilize financial resources in the spending and making of money is one reflection of how our values are expressed and put into action.

This perspective is the basis for the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ’s new publication: *Generations: A Journal of Faith and Finance*, an online magazine that explores the places in our economic lives where our faith values meet our financial obligations and opportunities.

Generations features articles and commentary on socially responsible investing, the faith dimensions of economic and global issues, interfaith perspectives, church finance and stewardship work, issues related to personal debt, and more. Writers come from the worlds of both church—within and beyond the United Church of Christ—and finance.

In the first issue, Deenabandhu Manchala, Area Executive for Southern Asia, Wider Church Ministries, UCC, reports on anti-human trafficking efforts during a pandemic: “... while hurrying the world onto a frightening path towards an unknown future, [the pandemic] has also exposed more clearly our world’s existing systemic greed, sharp economic disparities, war economies, continued environmental destruction, and dehumanization of vulnerable people.”

Timothy Smith, former Executive Director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, looks at the UCC’s involvement in socially responsible investing, in “The UCC: A Force for Change 50 Years Later.” And in a provocative article, former UCC General Minister and President, John Thomas asks, “What does it mean to be religious but not spiritual?” and explores the limits of the “dutiful Christian.”

Read *Generations: A Journal of Faith and Finance* at [www.pbucc.org](http://www.pbucc.org). The most recent issue—with the theme “Thinking Globally, Acting Locally,” was released in May of this year.