



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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

August 22, 2021

(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

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Moment of Meditation

Call to Worship:

Whether we gather our hearts at home or afar,

We are the church, the body of Christ.

Whether we are at home or in a building together,

We are in the house of God, for God is with us.

Whether we sing in the choir or pray under the trees,

We are at worship, for God is everywhere.

Come, join in worship, wherever you are,

For we are God's people.

Hymn #31 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Prayer of Brokenness - Holy One, we come before You to confess our divisions, the walls we have built, the lines we have drawn. We confess that we have determined with our human understanding who is just and who is not, who is loved and who is not, who is right and who is wrong. We have been exclusive in our love instead of inclusive in Your Gospel. Forgive us. Remind us that all of us are created in Your image. All of us are worthy of love. All of us have sinned, and all of us can participate in the work of reparation, restoration, and forgiveness. Call us as Your children, O God. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Brother, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness - *No matter what boundaries and borders we have made; God transcends them all. God's love knows no measure, no limit. There is nothing in all of creation that can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ. Know that you are forgiven, and called into the work of healing and hope, mercy, and justice. Live into God's ways and know that Christ is with you. 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:

Psalm 84

Special Music

Message

"God's Dwelling Place(s)"

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

A Moment of HC Spirit

Dedication of Gifts and Offerings - Accept our offerings of praise in grateful thanksgiving for Your presence in our lives and the many blessings You bestow upon us. Consecrate our offering, O God, that it may become bread to fill the emptiness and heal the brokenness of the lives in this community and beyond. And may we be reminded that our real life begins when we give with generous hearts to proclaim the gospel in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hymn #2 "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"

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 in loving memory of Rev. LeRoy C. Brumbaugh, by his daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Ron Zug.

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.

THIS WEEK

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, August 23 | | |
| Tuesday, August 24 | 6:30 pm 6:30-8:30 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm | Committee on Ministry (CR) Girl Scout Troop 60006 (PAV) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH) |
| Wednesday, August 25 | 7:00 pm 7:00 pm | BVS Rehearsal (FH) TECHNOLOGY TEAM MEETING (ZOOM) |
| Thursday August 26 | 9:00-1030 am | TOPS 1158 (CR.) |
| Friday, August 27 | | |
| Saturday August 28 | | |
| Sunday, August 29 | 10:00 am | WORSHIP |

FUTURE

GATE HOUSE PROJECT - We will be collecting necessities for The 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 4th Thursday of the month, will be on a brief pause until September 23rd, 2021. Have a great Summer!

RALLY DAY 2021 - Please join us on **Sunday, September 12th 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 15, 2021

Chancel Flowers - \$84.00; Current Expenses - \$990.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$10.00; Loose Offering - \$50.00; OCWM - \$41.00;
Metal Recycling - \$32.00; Strengthen the Church - \$200.00; Weis Cards - \$100.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$1,507.00 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: 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*

Beth Moser, *Greeter*

Acolyte

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

CCLI #20796546 One License #738455-A

At Home with God

Psalm 84 begins,

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

For many of us, our church buildings are the sacred dwelling places of God. They hold the memories of generations of singing, prayer, baptisms, funerals, and even meetings. They hold the hope for the faith of our children and grandchildren. For many of us, they are home.

So, when a fire broke out at Berkeley First Congregational Church in Berkeley, California in October 2016, for the members of the church and the community around the church, it was like losing a home. But they rolled up their sleeves, cleaned up and began the long process of imagining how they might rebuild.

Like many American cities, Berkeley faces a housing crisis. So, after much prayer and discussion, the decision was made to develop low-income housing on one part of a parking lot, and to rebuild a new community building for worship space and offices. What has been a spiritual home for many generations, will one day be a literal home for those priced out of the competitive housing market in Berkeley. What a beautiful way to realize the sweet dream of Psalm 84,

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.

Scripture citations from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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