

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister
The Service: 10:00 a.m. August 26, 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 - Judy Blee

*Call to Worship

One: Trust in the Lord at all times, O people; God is a refuge for us.

Many: God is our rock and our salvation; we shall not be shaken.

One: God is good and in God's work we find our strength.

Many: We sing of all God's wonderful works! We give thanks and praise to the Lord!

All: Let us worship our God!

*Hymn #403 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

*Prayer of Confession (together) - O God, our refuge, our strength, our help; You are the bedrock upon which our lives are built, the mighty fortress which surrounds and protects. Though the earth should change, the mountains shake, the waters rise, we will not fear. Help us, O Lord, to live fearlessly amidst the storm. But in so doing, guide us as followers of the Prince of Peace, the Servant King, away from a fortress mentality, where outsiders are enemies, toward a Kingdom where Love is the final word. Forgive our failures, and open wide the doors of our hearts, that the music of the Kingdom may resound in our homes, our communities, our world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Words of Assurance -

One: How we love to hang on to the past! We get all tied up remembering, keeping count, bearing grudges.

Many: God doesn't.

One: Our past is accepted. God's forgiveness means our letting it go.

Many: If we will do that, we shall live in the freedom that God hands to us afresh each day.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27 Luke 6:46-49

Lay Reader: Linda Sartwell

Special Music - Judy Blee

Children's Chat

Hymn: #607 "We Would Be Building"

Sermon: "You Just Never Know"

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): God, our possessions often bring us a sense of safety and reassurance. We are too quick to place our faith and hope in earthly things. In giving, we accept your invitation

of the true security that is offered through your son, Jesus Christ. Accept this day each giver and each gift. Amen.

*Hymn #407 "How Firm a Foundation"

*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 in loving memory of Rev. LeRoy C. Brumbaugh, given by his daughter, Janet & Ron Zug.

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

At Home- Katie Aulenbach, Lisa Bingaman, Sid Bowersox, Richard Berry, Ruth Brouse, Ann Louise Snyder, Mary Stover, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg (Rolling Hills Manor, rm #7), Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

In the Hospital - Sandy Lenig (Geisinger, ICU, Room 505)

In our Prayers - Christine Sartwell, Larissa Young.

CONGRATULATIONS! - To Ashley Griffith who recently was accepted into Penn State's "Blue Band."

THANKS! - To all who helped on Tuesday morning to prepare the September *Eagle* for mailing.

THIS WEEK

Monday, August 27	5:00 p.m.	Susquehanna Youth Choral (CH.RM)
Tuesday, August 28	7:30 p.m.	Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, August 29	8:00 a.m.	CARPET CLEANING
Thursday August 30	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, August 31		
Saturday September 1		
Sunday, September 2	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP, COMMUNION

ST. JOHN'S "LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE" - Is available now for final review. This Profile--which is the means by which the open pastoral position is "marketed" through the UCC--has been a year and a half in the making. Members of the congregation have the opportunity to view this 80-page document for themselves and make suggestions to improve it. If you are interested, call the church office within the next few days, after which time it will be forwarded to Penn Central Conference.

Empty rectangular box at the bottom of the page.

FUTURE

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SIGN-UP SHEET - has been placed in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a month! Still open for sponsorship is the month of December.

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.**

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING - Is designated to The Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program distributes food to the needy in eastern Union County the first and third Friday of every month, from 1:30 to 3:30. They are located in the basement of the First Baptist Church at 51 S. 3rd St. in Lewisburg. The program is always in need of volunteers at every distribution to carry groceries to the recipients' cars. If interested, please just show up to help any first or third Friday of the month, from 1:30 to 3:30. For questions, call Cindy at 570-523-6898.

CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN - The music program will begin its Fall season, starting with the Chancel choir on Sunday, September 9th, at 9:00 a.m. The Bell Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 19th, at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see a few new members for both choirs! Come out and join the fun!

THE NEXT ADULT ENRICHMENT SEMINAR - As Fall approaches, thoughts go to the next seminar offering, which will concern "The Gospel of Thomas." At the time when the New Testament is being brought together, there are gospels other than Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John that are available but that are excluded from the finally-accepted list. One of these, bearing the name of Thomas, is the most interesting since it shows striking relationship to the canonical four, making it well worth a study. Investigation of this intriguing gospel will take place over the five Wednesdays in October (3, 10, 17, 24, and 31), starting at 7 p.m. each evening. The only cost for the course covers the textbook (about \$10), but "registration" is required, so that we can be sure to have enough copies of all materials that will be distributed. If you wish to be included on this list, talk to Pastor Bob or call the church office (524-7606) by Sunday, September 16th, please.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

Attendance - August 19, 2018 - 52

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
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*
Linda & Wayne Williams, *Greeters*
Angie Donlin, *Children's Church*
James Donlin, *Acolyte*
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*