

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. September 8, 2019

*(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

\*Passing of Peace

Sharing of Announcements and Joys & Concerns

A Time for Centering

\*Call to Worship

*One: Take the offbeat path, the lesser-worn trail;*

**Many: Seek the deeper wisdom of God, and you will find your way.**

*One: Meet the people on the margins, help those suffering from oppression;*

**Many: Follow Jesus, and learn how to love your neighbor and yourself.**

*One: Seek peace by pursuing justice, practicing kindness and mercy;*

**Many: Know the Spirit is working all things in you for the  
goodness of God.**

*One: Come, turn from the ways of the world, and into God's ways;*

**Many: The journey may not be easy, but we are in this together.**

**All: Come, worship God, follow Jesus, and trust the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

\*Hymn #502 "*Dear God, Embracing Humankind*"

\*Confession of Sin (Together) **God of justice and mercy, we confess that our ways are not always Your ways. We often choose the easier path where we do not have to see those who are suffering. We choose the well-worn trail for simple acts of kindness rather than the radical way of mercy, empathy, and compassion. We choose the hall of mirrors that shows us what we want to see, more of people like ourselves, rather than the long hall that requires the work of justice, leading toward restoration. Forgive us. Call us to double-back and relearn Your ways of justice, mercy, and love. Though they are hard, they are worth it, and they are what you intended before humanity made the world with the systems of sin we live in. Help us to crack open the hall of mirrors, to break away from the well-worn trail and take the more difficult way of love that calls us to meet the needs of others. In the name of Jesus Christ, who gave up the world's ease and went to the cross, we pray. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Pardon - We can never be truly lost, because God is always with us. God knows exactly who we are, even when the systems of the world work to make us forget. We are made in the image of God, we were created to be together, partners with one another in tending the earth God made. This is who we are, beloved of God. Christ came to remind us of our beloved-ness. Know the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ, follow the ways of God instead of the world, and have abundant life with all of humanity and creation. Amen.

Scripture: Jeremiah 8:1-11

Lay Reader: Sue Baish

Anthem

Children's Chat

Hymn #503 "*O Savior, Let Me Walk with You*"

Sermon - "Pottery Shack"

\*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.**

\*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.**

Offering and Offertory

\*Offertory Response No. 780 "*The Doxology*"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (together): Gracious God we thank You for the opportunity to give our time, talent, and treasure for the building of Your Kingdom on earth. Bless every gift, tithe, and offering that's deposited into Your Kingdom today; we offer this prayer in Your mighty name. Amen

\*Hymn #495 *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction - *"Hebrew Benediction"* - Schmidt  
 May God bless you and keep you, may God always smile upon you;  
 may God's light shine forever on your path and give you peace.

\*Postlude

**THIS MORNING**

**ST. JOHN'S IS PLEASED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US THIS MORNING!** - We hope that you will find this time to be a blessing in many ways. If you are visiting with us, and are seeking a new church family or are interested in knowing more about this congregation, please indicate that to one of the ushers or to the Pastor. Please fill out a visitor's card, in order that we might know more about you. You may drop the card into the offering plate or give it to the Pastor at the door. We hope to see you again!

**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** -

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

**At Home-** Lou Goff, Betty Hackenberg, Janet & Richard Heaton, The Family of Barbara Snyder, Joanne Stahley, Merdyth Updegraff, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams, Samantha Wyvill.

**Shut-In/Homebound-** Ann Beasom, Sid Bowersox, Peg Brouse, Leona Fertig, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg, The Family of Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Shirley Seese, Mary Stover, Alda Wagner.

**In our Prayers** - Barb Kugler, Christine Sartwell.

**THIS WEEK**

Monday, September 9	11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) <b>WORSHIP/MUSIC COMM. (LIB)</b> Soccer Practice Susquehanna Valley Youth Chorus (CH.RM) <b>CHRISTIAN ED. COMM. (LIB)</b>
Tuesday, September 10	11:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	PASR meeting (FH) Soccer Practice Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, September 11	5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Soccer Practice <b>BELL CHOIR</b>
Thursday September 12	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR) Soccer Practice TOPS (CR) <b>REJOICING SPIRITS</b> H.O.P. (Heart of Pa, Women's Chorus) (CH.R.)
Friday, September 13	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Nelson Suzuki Class (CH. RM.) Soccer Practice
Saturday September 14	10:00 a.m.	Japanese Drumming (FH)
Sunday, September 15	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	<b>COFFEE CAFÉ</b> <b>WORSHIP</b>

**THE OUTWARD SIGNS**  
**Attendance - September 1, 2019 - 57**

**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](http://www.stjohnslewisburg.org) Email: [stjohnsucc@ptd.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@ptd.net)  
Pastor Bob: 717-460-2464

***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*  
Rita Griffith, *Choral Director*

Linda Sartwell/Sue Baish, *Sound Technician*  
Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*  
Rita & Brian Griffith, *Greeters*  
Liz DeSantis, *Children's Church*  
James Donlin, *Acolyte*  
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

**FUTURE**

**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.**

**BELL CHOIR BEGINS** - We are in desperate need for bell ringers! Please consider coming out to join this fun group! Our rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.

**CHANCEL CHOIR BEGINS** - The Chancel choir will begin rehearsals on **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.**, in the choir room! Do you enjoy singing? Come on out and join us!

**BUDGET MEETING** - On Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Finance committee will hold our annual budget presentation for the 2020 fiscal year, immediately following the worship service. Please plan on staying for a few minutes after the service for this important meeting.

**RALLY DAY** - On Sunday, **September 22** we will be celebrating Rally Day. Bob Schmoyer and his Puppet Friends will be joining us during the service and provide a message for people of all ages. Following the worship service we will be having a covered dish fellowship time. Hot dogs, rolls, paper goods and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

**It's Time to Smile!** -The Consistory has approved having a pictorial directory published. It has been 10 years since our last directory and some of us have changed a little bit, and we have many new faces to add!

The dates for photos will be **Tuesday, October 15th and Wednesday, October 16th from 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Watch for further information in the upcoming bulletins and October newsletter. Sign up for your photo session soon! Details will be announced in the near future.