

St. John's United Church of Christ
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Pastor
The Service: 10:00 a.m. September 10, 2017
(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.

Prelude

*Passing of Peace

Sharing of Announcements and Joys & Concerns

Time for Centering

*Call to Worship

One: We gather in the name of Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and blessed by God.

Many: We come to worship one holy God!

One: O God, our own God, how wonderful is Your name in all the earth!

Many: Your majesty is the music of the starry skies, yet even children of dust can sing Your praises!

One: In the name of the Healer, the Provider and the Enabler, let our gratitude and joy be made known!

All: O God, our own God, how wonderful is Your name in all the earth!

written by Bruce Prewer

*Hymn: #558 "O How Glorious, Full of Wonder"

*Prayer of Confession (together) We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when You would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about You, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts. Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of Your Gardener, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon: God abides in us! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring us in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news! As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, in order that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Scripture: *Psalms 8:1-9* (page 386 in pew bible) Lay Reader: *Sue Gemberling*
 John 15:1-11 (page 764 in pew bible)

Anthem

Children's Chat

(The children are invited to attend Children's Church, immediately following the chat)

Hymn - #96 "Sun of My Soul, O Savior Dear"

Sermon: "Being Taken Seriously"

Time of 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) Giver of life, just as were our ancestors, we are but sojourners living on Earth for a while. May our gifts contribute to the flourishing of Your creation and Your larger vision for life and wholeness, for this generation and for those to come. Amen.

*Hymn: #439 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction - Go In Love

Go in Love; Have no fear. God will guide you, He is Always near.

Go in love; take God's hand. God will hear you, He will understand.

May God's light forever shine upon you; may His peace be always in your heart.

Go in love; face each day. God will lead you, He will show the way.

Go in love and live your faith. Amen

*Postlude

*All who are able, please stand.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS
Attendance – September, 03 2017 – 57

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF FUND - The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries has asked the churches of the United Church of Christ to receive a special offering to help those suffering from the terrible destruction of Hurricane Harvey. Over 8 million people live in the area of impact and the need is very great. An offering envelope is enclosed with your bulletin this Sunday for your gift to those in need. The money will be sent through the Penn Central Conference. If it is easier, you may designate a gift on your regular church envelope.

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM -- The next in our series of Congregational Forum gatherings will take place this morning, immediately following the conclusion of our worship service. Please plan to remain, as we learn more about ourselves as a congregation and sharpen further our focus for what the next Settled Pastor might look like. We will adjourn by noon.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY -

The Meaning of Faith: Lessons from the Historical Jesus - join our new Sunday morning class, led by Gary Nottis, as it explores various aspects of Christianity and its practice. It will begin with an inaugural three-Sunday series focused on the meaning of faith from the perspective of the historical Jesus. Key to this study will be an ongoing class reference book, *The Gospel of Jesus, According to the Jesus Seminar*. Classes will normally meet on Sunday mornings, from 9:00 to 9:45 AM, in the Library. If you are interested in taking part in this exciting series, please contact Gary Nottis (570-523-7137) for more information or Todd Hummel, at the church office, to receive your copy of the class reference book. We hope to see you there!

RALLY DAY- Next Sunday, September 17th, 2017, 10:00 a.m. Our worship service will be held outdoors in the picnic pavilion. Please join us and help celebrate God's creation. Bring your lawn chairs and dress casually. Following the service we will have a picnic for **all** in attendance. Bring a dish to share.

St. John's United Church of Christ

1050 Buffalo Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 - (570) 524-7606 or (570) 523-0162 Fax: 570-524-0468

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Office: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

www.stjohnslewisburg.org stjohns@dejazzd.com

A QUIET ROOM for adults and one for children are available
where the service can be seen and heard.

Phonic-Ear Hearing Units available . . . wherever you sit;

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & BIBLES AVAILABLE . . .

ASK AN USHER

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Given by Todd Hummel

In celebration of September birthdays!

Monday, September 11	11:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) Soccer Practice (EAST LAWN)
Tuesday September 12	11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Union County PASR (FH) Soccer Practice (EAST LAWN) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, September 13	10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Weight Watchers Soccer Practice (EAST LAWN) BELL CHOIR (SANCT.)
Thursday September 14	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR.) Music Together (FH) Soccer Practice (EAST LAWN) H.O.P. (Heart of Pa, Women's Chorus (CH.RM)) TOPS (CR)
Friday, September 15	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Music Together (FH) OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON Soloman Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday September 16	3:00 p.m.	Soloman Wedding
Sunday, September 17	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	RALLY DAY WORSHIP, OUTDOORS PICNIC

It is a privilege to serve you . . .

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoult, *Interim Pastor*
Rev. James E. Johnson, *Pastor Emeritus*
Todd R. Hummel, *Dir. of Music/Organist*
Rita Griffith, *Choral & Bell Choir Director*
, *Nursery*

Linda Sartwell/Sue Baish, *Sound Technician*
Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*
Dot & Art Bower, *Greeters*
Liz DeSantis, *Children's church*
Erin DeSantis, *Acolyte*
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

St. John's is pleased you have joined with us today. We hope that you have found this time both a blessing and a renewal. Please sign the attendance board (and include your complete mailing address/telephone number and/or email) as it is passed down the pew, and introduce yourself to the person receiving the attendance board. If you are looking for a new church family of faith and would like to consider St. John's, please speak with the pastor or the ushers following worship.

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.**

Opportunities and Concerns - September 10, 2017

Today, September 10, 2017 - FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP
11:00 a.m.	CONGREGATIONAL FORUM

Next Sunday, September 17, 2017 - RALLY DAY WORSHIP, PAVILION

10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP
11:00 a.m.	PICNIC

Prayer List - (Please contact the church office, at 524-7606, with any updates!)

In Hospital - June Seaman (rm. #728), Joanne Stahley (Riverwoods, Rm. 612), Richard Heaton (Geisinger).

At Home- Sid Bowersox, Ruth Brouse, Carol Erdley, Betty Hackenberg, Elaine Klingler, Donna Pauling, Mary Stover.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Fred Brouse, Marilyn Correll, Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Watsontown Rehab, (rm. 17), Ethel Moser, Robert Ritter, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Marlin Rautzhan, Christine Sartwell, Sheila Seaman.

Prayer for Healing

O God You are the only source of health and healing, the spirit of calm and the central peace of this universe. Grant to me such a consciousness of Your indwelling and surrounding presence that I may permit You to give me health and strength and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADULT ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY -- The three week seminar based on Carl Jung's provocative little book, **The Undiscovered Self**, begins this Tuesday, the 12th, at 7 p.m., and concludes on the 26th. A few copies of the book remain for late registrants. If interested, talk to Pastor Bob this morning.