

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

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister
The Service: 10:00 a.m. October 14, 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

*Call to Worship

One: The buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears.

Many: Call us into Your way of life, O God!

One: The complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision.

Many: Lead us into Your vision of life, O God!

One: The cries of the poor, the oppressed, and the outcast pierce our hearts.

Many: Guide us in Your example of living for others, O God!

One: Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with Your love, O God.

Many: Let us be Your hands and feet in the world, O God!

Let us worship You together! ~ *written by Rev. Mindi*

*Hymn #506 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

*Prayer of Confession (together) - You call us, and we ignore Your whisper, listening to the voices of this world.

You call us, and we choose a different path, following our own devices. You call us to be Your voice in this world, to be Your hands in this world, to be Your feet in this world, to proclaim Your peace, Your comfort, forgiveness, healing, love and grace. Forgive us, open our ears, call us again, and use us. Amen!

*Words of Assurance -

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

All: By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Lay Reader: Sue Gemberling

Anthem - *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* -

Children's Chat

Hymn: #173 *"You Have Come down to the Lakeshore"*

Sermon: *"Getting Real"*

Time for Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith (together) - I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves, but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way. I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God. I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations, as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future. Because Christ has us to this, we truly believe. Amen.

— written by Bruce Prewer

*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

*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): We pledge, O God, to discover how much is enough for us to be truly fulfilled, neither rich nor poor, and to consume only that. We pledge, O God, to be part of the discovery of how much is enough for everyone, not only to survive but to thrive, and find ways for all to have access to that. May this offering of restraint and justice teach us to live like Jesus - healing our lives and the life of the

world. Amen.

*Hymn #305 "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction - #75 "Lord, Make Me More Holy"

Lord, make me more holy. Lord, make me more holy.
Lord, make me more holy, until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy until we meet again.

*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.

Last week's Chancel Flowers - Were given by Anna & Bob Brouse, in celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary, and their daughter, Lisa and Brad's 17th anniversary!

Chancel Flowers - Are given by Kay & Gary Nottis, in honor of the congregation of St. John's!

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

At Home- Sid Bowersox, Mary Stover, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Peg Brouse (Rm#256, BVLV), Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg (Health South Rehab/Pleasant Gap Rm. 223), Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Christine Sartwell, Larissa Young

THANKS! - To Sue Gemberling for hosting this morning's Fellowship Hour!

WE ARE INVITED - to the Ecclesiastical Council for DiAnn Baxley, as she is examined regarding her suitability for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. This special gathering of the Central Association will take place at neighboring Dreisbach Church, this afternoon, starting at 3 p.m.

THE ADULT CLASS BEGINS TODAY! -Beginning today, a new year of adult Christian education, featuring fascinating topics to bolster your faith and its practice, is set to begin; with a study of what many would call the "Bad Boys" and "Bad Girls" of the Bible. Classes will take place in the Library at 9 AM, each Sunday in October and into November. Come join us, as we start this series by looking at Potiphar's Wife (*Hint: Her story is found in Genesis 39*). (see full class description in the October issue of the Eagle newsletter.)

THIS WEEK

Monday, October 15	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Susquehanna Valley Youth Choral (CH.RM.) BVS Rehearsl (FH)
Tuesday, October 16	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Central Assoc. Clergy (PAR) ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM.)
Wednesday, October 17	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bell Choir (SANCT) GOSPEL OF THOMAS (CR)
Thursday October 18	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR.) B.I.L.L. Music Appreciation (FH) H.O.P. Heart of Pa Women's Chorus (CH. RM) TOPS (CR) CONSISTORY (PAR)
Friday, October 19	09:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Music Together (FH) Music Together (FH)
Saturday October 20	9:00 a.m.	Girl Scouts (CR)
Sunday, October 21	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP, HARVEST HOME

2018 HURRICANE RELIEF FUND - UCC Disaster Ministries, has established a 2018 Hurricane Relief Fund to help those devastated by the recent hurricanes, most recently, Florence! You can donate to this important mission by marking your envelope "Disaster Ministries", or by visiting the web site: <https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/Disaster> . Please keep the families in your prayers for continued recovery efforts.

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.**

WE ARE INVITED - To the Service of Installation for the Rev. Amelia Price as Pastor at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Verdilla, next Sunday, October 21st, beginning at 3 p.m. The preacher for the occasion will be the Rev. Nora Foust, of the Penn Central Conference staff. A meal will follow for the service, for those who are interested in remaining afterward.

TRUNK-or-TREAT - will take place on **Sunday, October 28th, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**, in the East parking lot. Please consider decorating your auto and serving treats to the kids. Food, fun, games! Donations of wrapped candy is appreciated, and may be dropped off in the workroom, across from the office by Friday, October 26th.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS
Attendance - September 30, 2018 - 75

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*
Dot & Art Bower, *Greeters*
Liz DeSantis, *Children's Church*
, *Acolyte*
Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*