



St. John's United Church of Christ
Welcome Back to Indoor Worship
October 25, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 25, 2020

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,
we are glad you are connecting with us today!!*

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Joys & Concerns

Time for Centering

Call to Worship:

We are called to be the people of God's kingdom. In God's realm we will find healing and hope. We are called to be people who love as God has loved us. In God's world, we will reach out with God's love to all God's people. We are called to be those who would serve. We ask God to be with us as we worship together this day and as we serve and love our neighbors, near and far.

Opening Music: *"This is the Day That the Lord Has Made"*

1. This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the Day, this is the day that our God has made.
2. This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day Jesus rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.
3. This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful and gracious God, we gather here this day, coming together seeking your healing wisdom. Our lives are filled with anxiety and fear. We turn our backs on people in need and close ourselves away from opportunities to serve. Confusion and anger abound in our nation and in our hearts. Forgive us when we have chosen the pathways of greed and fear instead of the high way of peace and hope. Bind up our sounds and calm our spirits. Teach us again to turn to you in love. Write the commandment to love our neighbor as we ourselves would want to be loved, as you have loved us. It is in Jesus' name that we offer this prayer. AMEN.

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness:

God's love has been poured over us to heal and nourish our thirsting spirits. We have been forgiven. Now we are challenged to go forth in peace and hope to a hurting world. Thanks be to God for all God's mercies shown continually to each one of us. AMEN.

Children's Time (Children will remain with their families during this time of sharing)

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-36

Message *"The Best Answer"*

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer (sinned and sinned against 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.

Dedicating Our Gifts

As you have poured your healing love into our lives, O God, we now offer these gifts to you. Let them be used in ministries of peace and justice through the work of this church in your world. AMEN.

Music to Send Us Forth *"More Love to You, O Christ"*

As the music plays you are invited to prayerfully consider how you might choose to be more loving in the week ahead. Either write your thoughts on your paper heart or find a way (send yourself a text or write a note somewhere) to remind yourself of your goal to be more loving as you leave this time of worship.

1. More love to you, O Christ,
more love to you!
Hear now the prayer I make
faith to renew.

Refrain:

In all I say and do,
more love, O Christ, to you,
more love to you,
more love to you!

2. Once earthly joy I craved,
sought peace and rest;
Now you alone I seek,
give what is best: [Refrain]
3. Then shall my latest breath
whisper your praise;
This be the parting cry
my heart shall raise: [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

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, Karen Morgan, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Richard Berry, Peg Brouse, Ethel Foor, Bill & Lola Fuller, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Nancy Sechler, Mary Stover, Amelia Troutman.

Immediate Concerns - Dot Bower, Scot Bower, Fred Groover, Shelia Crockett (Kay Nottis' friend), The Family of Larry Miller, Pat & Jim Pomeroy, Melissa & Tom Ransdorf, The Family of John Ruhl, Velma Ruhl, Christine Sartwell, Peg Swinehart, Nancy Weslosky, Samantha Wyvill.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

October 18, 2020

2020 Poinsettias - \$13.00; 2020 Turkey Donations - \$30.00; Building Use - \$100.00;
Chancel Flowers - \$210.00; Current Expenses - \$2,113.00; Giant Gift Cards - \$300.00;
Harvest Home - \$25.00; Heiter Center - \$100.00; Loose Offering - \$10.00;
OCWM - \$136.00; St. John's Quilters - \$400.00; Thanksgiving Baskets - \$100.00;
Weis Gift Cards - \$200.00; William Cameron Engine Co. - \$75.00;
GRAND TOTAL - \$3,812.00 THANK YOU!

CHANCEL FLOWERS -are given by Angie and Ed Donlin, in celebration of their 18th wedding anniversary!

THIS WEEK

Monday, October 26		
Tuesday, October 27	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Committee on Ministry (LIB) Men's Westbranch Chorus Rehearsal (FH)
Wednesday, October 28	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	W,I.R.M. (FH) BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT) BOOK STUDY (ZOOM)
Thursday October 29	9:00 a.m.	TOPS (CR)
Friday, October 30		
Saturday October 31		TURN CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR
Sunday, November 1	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP ALL SAINTS DAY, COMMUNION (SANCT./FACEBOOK/88.5 FM)

Seeking Halloween Candy Donations - Halloween will be quite different for most kids this year, with fewer Halloween events, no parties, and changes to trick-or-treating traditions. We'd like to reach out to the kids in our congregation by delivering a goody bag of candy to each kid. We have volunteers ready to deliver the bags close to Halloween, now we just need the CANDY! Please bring in **INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED** Halloween candy to the church by **Sunday, October 25th**. You may leave your candy donations in the Resource Room/Lending Center across from the office. Thank you!

PLEASE BE REMINDED - In an effort to maximize air circulation to meet current CDC recommendations, the ceiling fans and air handlers (just air, no cooling) will be turned on! Please be reminded to wear a sweater or something warm, as it might get a bit chilly in the Sanctuary.