

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

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister  
The Service: 10:00 a.m. November 11, 2018

*(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: Come! Come, praise the eternal God!*

**Many: Let all that is within us—body, emotions, mind, and will—praise God's holy name!**

*One: So come! Come, praise the eternal God!*

**Many: We will sing songs from a grateful heart, and remember all that God has done for us!**

**All: So, come, and let us worship our God!**

\*Hymn #13 "O My Soul, Bless Your Creator"

\*Prayer of Confession (together) - Loving God, our relationships with each other are not all that they can be or should be. There is hurt and injury between ourselves and others. There are walls of anger and hatred between us and our neighbors. Forgive us for how we deny our part in this, and for how we blame others for the brokenness around us. Forgive how we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Gracious God, we believe that You offer to us and our world a whole and good life. For all that we have done to deny this life to each other and to ourselves, we ask Your forgiveness and Your mercy. Amen!

\*Words of Assurance -

*One: Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we choose again this day to love God and to love one another, know that God has forgiven us that which is past, and offers to us a new and full life.*

**All: Praise be to God, now and forever! Amen!**

Scripture: Psalm 103

Lay Reader: Angie Donlin / Rita Griffith

Anthem - "We Will Sing a Song to the Lord" - Price/Besig

Children's Chat

Hymn: #23 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Sermon: "Getting a Jump on Thanksgiving"

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

\*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 offer these gifts to You, O God, as a sign of our commitment to Your grace and authority. Take us and use us and all that we have, so that the Kingdom of Heaven will be realized on earth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Hymn #419 "Now Thank We All Our God"

\*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.

**Chancel Flowers** - Are given by Shirley Seese, and family, in loving memory of Dale Seese.

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

**In Hospital** -

**At Home**- Sid Bowersox, Mary Stover, Walter Swineford, Merdyth Updegraff.

**Shut-In/Homebound**- Ann Beasom, Peg Brouse (Rm#256, BVLV), Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg (Riverwoods, E-420), Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

**In our Prayers** - Christine Sartwell, Larissa Young

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - Will take place on today, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is two-fold; one, to elect new members of Consistory, and two, vote on the 2019 budget. Please plan to stay for a bit after church for the meeting.

**THANKS** - To Carol Berry, Barbara Woodson, and Hue Stoudt for hosting last Sunday's Coffee Hour.

**THIS WEEK**

Monday, November 12	11:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) Susquehanna Valley Youth Choral (CH.RM.) BVS Rehearsl (FH)
Tuesday, November 13	7:30 p.m.	Men's Westbranch Chorus (SANCT.)
Wednesday, November 14	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bell Choir (SANCT)</b>
Thursday November 15	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	TOPS 1158 (CR.) TOPS (CR) H.O.P. Heart of Pa Women's Chorus (CH. RM) Central Assoc. Exec. Comm. (LIB) <b>CONSISTORY (PAR)</b>
Friday, November 16	9:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Music Together (FH) Music Together (FH)
Saturday November 17	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	<b>LEADER RETREAT (FH)</b> Girl Scouts (CR) Susquehanna Valley Youth Chorale Rehearsal (SANCT>)
Sunday, November 18	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> 3:00 p.m.	<b>CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.)</b> <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> Susquehanna Valley Youth Chorale Concert (SANCT)

**LEADERS' RETREAT** - A short but timely "retreat" is being scheduled for all newly-elected officers and all members of our six primary Working Committees, in order to provide a running start to our reorganized look in 2019. This special time-together will take this Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 a.m., in our Fellowship Hall, with coffee/tea and donuts. It will adjourn by 11:30. All our leadership for the coming year are strongly encouraged to share in this important reorganizational time together!

**YOUTH CONCERT** - The Susquehanna Valley Youth Chorale will present its Fall season concert here at St. John's, on **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m.**, in the Sanctuary. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of great music!

## 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: stjohsucc@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*  
Linda Williams, *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.**

**DECORATING THE CHURCH** - Will take place on **Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**, at **2:00 p.m.**

Many hands are needed to decorate the various areas of the Church. Come out for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

**ADVENT ADULT CLASS - "Singing Mary's Song"**, You are invited to join with the adult Christian education class during the month of December as we explore the devotional book, *Singing Mary's Song: An Advent Message of Hope and Deliverance* by John A. Stroman. This four-part series will help you gain a deeper understanding of the Advent journey, as seen through the eyes and experience of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Each program will take place in the Library at 9 AM on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, December 9<sup>th</sup>, December 16<sup>th</sup>, and December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Let this poignant journey with Mary to Bethlehem enhance the wonder and joy of the Advent season for you. We hope to see you there!

**DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR** - Volunteer(s) are needed for the December Fellowship Hour. We know that December can be a busy month, so we'd like to have a few people sign up to sponsor/host the event, to be held after worship on **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Many hands make light work for all! Please see Kay Nottis or speak to Todd in the office if interested in volunteering.

**SELINGROVE CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY** - the annual, St. John's pilgrimage to the Selingsgrove Center for their Christmas party, will take place on **Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, departing from the EAST parking lot at **6:15 p.m.** Donations of soft cookies (without nuts) are greatly appreciated for this special event. Please speak with Anna Brouse, if interested in participating/donating cookies for this fun party!

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** - the Men's Westbranch Chorus will present their Christmas concert here at St. John's, on **Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30 p.m.** Come and listen to a perfect blend of harmonies for the Holiday season!

**BUFFALO VALLEY SINGERS** - will present their annual Christmas Concert, *"An Angelic Christmas"*, at St. John's on **Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**, **7:30 p.m.**, and **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, at **3:00 p.m.** Come out and enjoy the festivities!