



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Welcome Back to Indoor Worship
November 22, 2020
10:00 a.m.***

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HARVEST HOME CELEBRATION

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

November 15, 2020

(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

Sharing of Announcements and Joys & Concerns

Call to Worship: (from Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;

come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God. It is God that made us, and we are God's;

We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

Give thanks to God, bless God's name.

For the LORD is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,

And God's faithfulness to all generations.

Opening Music:

Rejoice, The Lord is King

Prayer of Confession - *Everlasting to Everlasting, we confess that we are short-sighted. We make quick decisions to help ourselves now and do not foresee the long-term consequences of our actions. We make choices that benefit us and fail to notice how our choices may harm others. Call us into repentance, into turning back. Broaden our view, so we may understand how our actions may cause more harm than good. Guide us into ways of sustainable living, caring for those in need around us, and remembering Your intention and commandment for our lives: to love our neighbors as ourselves. For You first loved us, called us into being, and set us on this earth with intention: to have dominion as You have dominion over us, to care for this beautiful planet You gave us as our home. May we work to do our part to help Your reign be established on earth as it is in heaven. In Your precious name we pray, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness: - *This is the new covenant that God declares is written in our hearts: God loves us. God's wisdom is planted in our hearts. No longer do we have to say, "Know the Lord," because if we know love, we know God. God will forgive our wrongdoing and remember our sin no more. God's love is in your heart. Embrace it. Know that You are God's beloved child. Go and share the good news of God's love, grace, and forgiveness. Amen.*

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

Special Music - ***"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"***

- Louise Christensen & Marvin Border, Flute Duet

Scriptures: Matthew 25:31-46

Message

"Who Me?"

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.*

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

Dedicating Our Gifts - *God of abundance, we give these offerings of material goods as our commitment to give back to you and to care for your people. Let our giving remind us to see Jesus all around us. Use our offerings of money and of our lives for ministry to your purposes. Amen*

Music to Send Us Forth

"Thanksgiving Medley"

(This may be a good time to count your blessings and give thanks to God while we hear familiar Thanksgiving hymns)

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, Nancy Sechler, Mary Stover, Amelia Troutman.

Immediate Concerns -Helen Barsh, Scot Bower, Fred Groover, Ethel Moser, Pat & Jim Pomeroy, Melissa & Tom Ransdorf, Velma Ruhl, Christine Sartwell, Peg Swinehart, Nancy Weslosky, Samantha Wyvill.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

November 15, 2020

2020 Christmas Baskets - \$100.00; 2020 Poinsettias - \$12.50; Bethany Homes - \$100.00;
Building Use - \$24.00; Current Expenses - \$1,600.00; Food Pantry - \$250.00;
Giant Gift Cards - \$200.00; Harvest Home - \$136.00; Improvements & Maintenance - \$15.00;
Loose Offering - \$26.00; Mission/Social Action Fund - \$10.00; OCWM - \$155.00'
Thanksgiving Baskets - \$485.00;
GRAND TOTAL - \$3,113.50 THANK YOU!

CHANCEL FLOWERS - Are given by Brenda & Don Adams.

THIS WEEK

Monday, November 23		
Tuesday, November 24	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	TOPS (CR) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, November 25		
Thursday November 26	OFFICES CLOSED	OFFICES CLOSED
Friday, November 27	OFFICES CLOSED	OFFICES CLOSED
Saturday November 28		
Sunday, November 29	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (SANCT./FACEBOOK/88.5 FM) DECORATE THE CHURCH

BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME WHITE GIFT COLLECTION PROGRAM - This year St. John's will once again be collecting gifts for the children's home This is a UCC supported program and gifts are used throughout the year for birthdays, special events in a resident's life and Christmas. **The list of items requested by Bethany are printed and in the Narthex. Please have all donations at the church by Sunday 12/13.** We are also asking for a volunteer to drive the gifts to Bethany Home located in Womelsdorf. Please contact Brenda Adams with any questions.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS - Our congregation will be providing Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for 14 families this year. 10 of our 14 dinners will be designated for a Children and Youth families who need assistance to have a holiday meal. We need monetary donations to cover the costs of items that were purchased.

CHANGE OF PLANS - On Sunday, November 29, **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE**, help is needed to decorate the Church for Christmas! **(HANGING OF THE GREENS)** Please plan to come join in the fun. Many hands make light work for all!