

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT - PEACE
Rev. Dr. Robert S. Stoudt, Interim Minister
The Service: 10:00 a.m. December 9, 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

Advent Wreath Lighting (see insert) - *The Donlin Family*

A Time for Centering

*Call to Worship

One: God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

Many: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with peace.

One: God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

Many: We will sing a song of Advent, to the One who hears our words and silence.

One: God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

All: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a peace we cannot begin to understand. ~
written by Thom Shuman

*Hymn #109 "With Joy Draw Water"

*Prayer of Confession (together) - Merciful God, forgive us, heal us, encourage us and speak through us, that we may be transformed through the refiner's fire, and the offerings of our hands and our hearts may prepare the way for the Christ child to be welcomed among us in peace. Amen.

*Words of Assurance -

One: Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

All: "I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you."

Scripture: Isaiah 45:1-7

Lay Reader: Deb Catherman / Beth Moser

Anthem - *"Come, Messiah"* - Larson

Children's Chat

Hymn: #108 *"Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old"*

Sermon: *"God Comes! Uh, Oh!"*

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): **Provider God, You know how hard it is for us to listen and speak up in turn. May these offerings be shared in ways that cause Your people to speak Your name and hear Your voice. Amen.**

*Hymn #110 "Now Bless the God of Israel"

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction - #349 *"I Come with Joy"*

**And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ will soon be here,**

that Christ will soon be here.

**Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.**

*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 Kay & Gary Nottis, in loving memory of Robert Lewis Ketter, Father and Grandfather.

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 Geyer, Bill Hoban, Mary Stover, Walter Swineford, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Peg Brouse (Rm#256, BVLV), Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Seneca Foote, 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

THANKS! - To all who shared in last Sunday's decorating of the Church for the Advent and Christmas season. It is looking great!

PLEASE PLAN TO REMAIN FOLLOWING WORSHIP - And join us in the month's Coffee Hour! Thanks to the many folks responsible for serving as our hosts this morning.

THANKS! - To all who shared in last Sunday afternoon's Congregational Christmas Dinner, contributing in any way to its annual success.

THANKS! - to St. John's for the beautiful flowers I received last Sunday. Evelyn Mabus.

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 10	2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	WORSHIP/MUSIC (LIB) BVS Rehearsal (FH)
Tuesday, December 11	6:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	SELINGROVE CHRISTMAS PARTY (EAST SIDE) Men's Westbranch Chorus (SANCT.)
Wednesday, December 12	6:00 p.m.	BELL CHOIR (SANCT)
Thursday December 13	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TOPS 1158 (CR) TOPS (CR) REJOICING SPIRITS (SANCT/NARTH) Heart of PA Women's Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, December 14	6:00 p.m.	BVS rehearsal (Sanct)
Saturday December 15	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts (CR) Buffalo Valley Singers Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 16	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP Buffalo Valley Singers Christmas Concert

SELINGROVE CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY - the annual, St. John's pilgrimage to the Selingsgrove Center for their Christmas party, will take place on **Tuesday**, 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!

REJOICING SPIRITS -We look forward to a special Christmas service on **Thursday, 6:30 p.m.**, in the Sanctuary. Volunteers are always welcome to help as greeters, providing refreshments, set-up, clean-up and providing hospitality to our special worshipers! Special Note: Rejoicing Spirits is an innovative ministry that works to enrich the faith lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and friends and other supportive community members.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS
Attendance - December 2, 2018 - 79

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*
Don Adams, *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.**

ADOPTED CHRISTMAS FAMILIES - The Mission Committee is asking you to please help support 10 area families from Union County Children & Youth with some Christmas Joy again this holiday season. Red Bins, located in the Narthex, can be filled with non-perishable items for each families Christmas dinner. Cash donations can also be made to help cover the expense of the hams and gifts to be enjoyed by the entire family.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES - are on the table in the Narthex. Please remember to pick yours up!

FLOWER CHART - Is available for 2019. It is located in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday! The cost is still \$42.00 for both vases.

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

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - the Men's Westbranch Chorus will present their Christmas concert here at St. John's, on **Tuesday, December 18th, at 7:30 p.m.** Come and listen to a perfect blend of harmonies for the Holiday season!

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 thru December 23rd. 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!