

**THE
EAGLE**

DECEMBER

**INDOOR WORSHIP CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

December

DATED MATERIAL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. John's UCC
1050 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
stjohnslewisburg.org





Newsletter Article for December 2020

The introductory piece to "Fill the Night with Music and Light" says this:

"The history of humanity is fraught with pain-especially the pain that comes accompanied by fear and leads to oppression and violence of one people against another. This is the world into which Jesus was born and through which his teachings would challenge and call for transformation. The opening words of an anonymous Jewish poet, "I believe in the sun, even when the sun is not shining," were scrawled on a wall during the Holocaust. This theme song for our season calls us to examine our penchant for annihilating fear by annihilating each other. The power of narrative and music will call us to a different response - transformation and reconciliation through hope, love, joy, and peace. This Advent and Christmas, let us fill the night with music and light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still "believe, even when" we are discouraged."

What a timely message. I believe - even when ...

As this season of Advent begins many of us will find ourselves feeling disoriented, frustrated and perhaps even in despair. This Advent and Christmas won't be like any other.

Or will it? Several of my colleagues reminded me to think again about saying that. They reminded the folks on the ZOOM gathering to think about the very first Christmas. That was the year when there was Roman occupation and the Hebrew people had to go be counted in the town of their ancestors. That was the year there wasn't enough housing for all the people who had to travel, and traveling circumstances were rough - in fact sometimes a couple had to share a donkey and take turns. THAT was the year when people ended up sleeping in dirty, smelly, damp and chilly caves and barns. THAT was the year that an unwed pregnant woman almost got set aside by the man she was engaged to.

As we think about those realities we are reminded that the first Christmas wasn't as "Calm and Bright" as the greeting cards make things look.

Interestingly enough, that was also the year that God was at work in strange and new ways. That was the year that there were startling occurrences - things like angels showing up to young women and men, and babies jumping in their mothers' wombs. THAT was the year that angels showed up all over the place!! There were shepherds minding their own business in the fields - and all of a sudden the night was "full of music and light"! There were Wise Ones following a star that took them a long way from home to visit a child (well, maybe that was a year or so later, but the star kept them searching diligently until they found him).

THAT was the year that God came to us in the flesh ... and reminded us that no matter what our current circumstances God is doing something amazing and new. We might not be able to see it right now, but there is nothing that can keep our God's love, redemption and peace from permeating our lives and the world.

Hold on, dear ones ... "I believe in love even when I don't feel it. I believe in God in when God is [or seems] silent" I believe ... I believe ... I believe!!!

Love, peace, joy and hope!

Alice

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: DON ADAMS, BRENDA ADAMS, JIM TOMLINSON

Lock-up Person: JIM TOMLINSON

Lay-Reader: JOHN LETTEER

Preparation of Communion Elements: TESS GROOVER & RUTH RICHARDS

DECEMBER	Children's Church	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
6		ANNA BROUSE
13		
20		
24		
27		

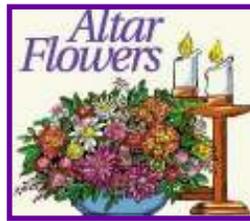
DECEMBER	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte	Drivers Route 1*
6	DEE & BILL LEDGERWOOD		
13	BRENDA & DON ADAMS		
20	JANET & MICHAEL ROBERTS		
24	LOLA & BILL FULLER		
27	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON		

DECEMBER	GREETERS
6	RUTH BROUSE
13	MILLIE SATTESON
20	MARTHA & BRUCE RAUCH
24	
27	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON

DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/01 James Donlin
 12/02 Brenda Adams
 12/02 Debby Catherman
 12/05 Justin Baughman
 12/10 Linda Sartwell
 12/15 Lynn Dean
 12/15 Betty Hackenberg
 12/18 Anna Brouse
 12/19 Janet Heaton
 12/23 Richard Berry
 12/23 Carol Hahn
 12/23 Ann Louise Snyder
 12/24 Michael Catherman
 12/29 Jean Pacholok
 12/29 Roger Spickler

12/23 Roberts, Janet & Michael
 12/26 Fuller, Lola & Bill
 12/29 Dreese, Alice & Palmer
 12/30 Letteer, Jeanne & John
 12/31 Fennell, Vicki & William



The Flower Chart has been placed in the Narthex!
 Please consider picking a Sunday to honor/celebrate
 an event! The cost is \$42.00 for two vases. You can
 also sponsor just one vase at \$21.00.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURUER

In our 2020 budget, St. John's included mission goals. We are currently shy of some of our goals for this year. Please consider donating to these worthwhile goals to help us meet or exceed our expectations.

- Habitat For Humanity (\$53)*
- Local Disaster Relief (\$48)*
- Neighbors In Need (\$500)*
- Veteran's of the Cross (\$500)*
- Strengthen the Church (\$500)*
- Our Church's Wider Mission (\$3,500)*

Also, remember one of our greatest missions, Adopt A Family. This provides meals to families during the holidays.



OCTOBER 2020 REPORT

Current Operating Receipts	\$ 19,953.89
Current Operating Disbursements	\$ - 14,463.38
Current Operating Balance	\$ 5,490.51



THANK YOU!

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank you for the generous Halloween candy donations. We were able to put together 34 bags with candy, snacks, bookmarks, and Halloween sun catchers, as well as some books for the very young. The committee delivered them to the kids and friends of the congregation. It really brightened their Halloween, in a year that has brought many changes to routines and favorite traditions. For some kids, it was the only candy they received for Halloween!

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Dear St. John's Quilters'

Thank you so much for the family pillow made from the prayer flags. It is absolutely beautiful and extra special! We are so grateful for our church family. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

With love and thanks,

Duane, Kelly, Abigail and Adam
Snayberger

I want to thank Pastor Alice, the crafters and all the People from St. John's for such a lovely handmade Prayer and Blessing Quilt, that I received during my short stay at Evan.

Blessing and Thank-you to All!

Nancy Weslosky

Dear Pastor Alice and the UCC,

Thank you for the bible. It was fun to receive it on my birthday! Thank you for giving it to me even though I can't be at Church very often!

Lillian Nelson

What a nice surprise for the lovely afghan! You've been most generous and loving: I appreciate being a member of St. John's!

Love you!

Jane Hayes

CARD SHOWER

On Sunday, December 27th, our Dear friend Velma Ruhl will turn 100 years old! Velma is Dianna Spickler and Tom Ruhl's mother. Let's help make this a SUPER BRIGHT BIRTHDAY for Velma and flood her with well wishes and thoughts!

Please send cards to:

VELMA RUHL

c/o BUFFALO VALLEY PERSONAL CARE,
305 EAST TRESSLER BLVD

Room # 307

Lewisburg, PA 17837





YOUR MISSION/SOCIAL ACTION TEAM AT WORK

We would like to thank EVERYONE who contributed to our annual Thanksgiving Meal Drive!

Thanks to the generosity of many, we have provided 14 Thanksgiving Day meals, and were also to add a few “post-holiday” staples for the families!

The boxes were blessed during the worship service on Sunday, November 22, 2020, and will be out for delivery on Monday, November 23, 2020!

Blessings to all!

Christmas Baskets 2020

St. John's is again seeking donations of food for Christmas Baskets. We will be providing 14 Christmas meal boxes to Children and Youth families and residents in the community. These boxes are greatly appreciated by the families that receive them. If you would like to contribute to the project, you may leave any for the following items in the box in the Narthex on or before Sunday, December 16, 2020.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Instant Potatoes | Filling (Boxed Stuffing) |
| Canned Vegetables | Muffin Mix |
| Apple Sauce | Jell-O or Pudding |
| Brownie Mix | |

Monetary donations are also needed to cover the cost of the hams.

Thank you for sharing with local families in our community during this holiday season, and making a difference in the lives of others!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOSPITALITY AND GROWTH COMMITTEE:

The Hospitality and Growth committee is excited to see the many opportunities that St. John's has provided for members, guests, and neighbors to join with each other in worship. Rather it is in person at Sunday morning services in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., on Facebook Live, or listening in the parking lot on radio station 88.5 FM, we are happy to have you worship with us. Post cards will soon be available for posting on community bulletin boards and sharing with close neighbors and friends so we can spread the word that all are welcome to explore us in ways in which they feel most comfortable.

We have a new set-up in the Narthex. We are to still enter Sunday services thru the front doors, but there are now clearly marked tables placed around the perimeter so everyone wanting to participate in the various mission projects or sign up to volunteer or sponsor various activities know exactly where to go. In November, the theme, "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart" has been enjoyed. On Nov. 29th, when we celebrate our 1st Sunday of Advent the related displays will change. For those that are not attending in person service but want to contribute and be of service, remember during the work week the doors by the church office are unlocked and you may enter there. Wearing masks within the church, as well as social distancing are required at all times.

Hospitality and Growth, representing St. John's, was happy to provide some of the home cooked dishes for the Thanksgiving style meals that Chaplain Kurt Nelson, Bucknell University held in their Fellowship House on Tuesday Nov. 10th. The fellowship and take-out meals were open to the Chapel and Multi-Faith Committees and students attending Bucknell that had signed up for food assistance this semester. Kurt extended his deep appreciation for our participation and reported that it was very well attended.

Christmas Gifts to Be Delivered to Selinsgrove Center

As most of you already know, each year we have a party and deliver Christmas gifts to one wing at Selinsgrove Center. Those of us who have participated in the past have found it to be a very rewarding experience to sing with and distribute gifts to a group of ladies that live there. This year, due to the pandemic, no parties can be held but, we are able to deliver gifts in early December. This is really important because for some of them, we give them the only gifts they will receive.

Thanks to St. John's Quilters, each lady will be receiving a festive lap quilt. Also, thanks to St. John's Women's Guild and the work of Anna Brouse, each will also receive warm slippers and a group of pre-packaged snacks. Thank you to both groups who so generously are providing some holiday cheer!

Kay Nottis, on behalf of St. John's Quilters and St. John's Women's Guild



Bethany Children's Home

BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME WHITE GIFT COLLECTION PROGRAM

Bethany White Gifts

This year we will be collecting items to donate as white gifts for Bethany Children's Home. Bethany Children's Home is a residential facility which provides a structured environment for children who have experienced trauma in their lives.

A list of needed articles will be included in the newsletter (SEE PAGE 8) and also can be found in the narthex. These items are used as gifts throughout the year for special occa-

Bethany Homes' 2020 Christmas Wish List

Cottage Needs

- small bins with handles for toilet-ries
- bed pillows
- twin sheets
- twin zippered waterproof mat-tress pads
- bath & pool towels
- shower curtain liners and rings
- kitchen dish cloths/towels
- twin comforters
- 4-slice toasters
- flashlights & nightlights
- sketch books
- MP3 players

Teen Girls' Clothing

Juniors and misses sizes please

- sweatpants– small-2X
- panties – size 5,6,7 & 8
- sports bras/bralettes- Small-2XL
- socks-all types
- pajamas – all sizes
- bath robes
- tank tops
- slippers
- gym shorts
- snow boots

Teen Boys' Clothing

mens' sizes please

- sweatpants for men-sizes small-2XL
- underwear-boxer briefs
- socks-all types
- pajama pants-Sizes Small–2XL

- white t-shirts – all sizes
- gym shorts
- rubber-soled slippers or slides
- robes
- snow boots

Accessories

- umbrellas
- digital alarm clock with no radio
- washbaskets
- rain ponchos & boots
- wrapping paper
- gift bags
- tissue paper
- large storage containers

Activity Items

- art & craft kits
- adult coloring books
- paint-by-number
- tie-dye kits (with white shirts and pillowcases)
- card stock
- paint brushes
- hand-held games
- board games
- scrapbook paper
- canvas boards
- yarn
- crochet & knitting needles
- colored pencils
- hardbound journals

Recreation

- agility ladder
- basketballs (29.5-inch)
- kickballs & playground balls
- pickleball paddles & balls
- TRX Workout Band (Brand)
- 1.5-inch yoga mats
- meditation pillows
- black ¾-inch buckles for para-cord bracelets
- Lego sets
- Pony Beads
- Rexlace plastic lacing
- embroidery thread
- Sculpey clay & Accesso-ries/Tools
- Nalgene water bottles
- storage bins
- *large Bluetooth speaker for outside use*
- larger easy-up tent
- Mechanic tool sets
- 2-stage locking carabiners
- 3-stage auto-locking carabiners
- teambuilding sports
- bookcases



VIRTUAL WORSHIP HOURS
Worship: 10:00 a.m.
online at
Facebook or YouTube

Visit us on the Web!
www.stjohnslewisburg.org



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

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!

1050 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone: 570-523-0162
E-mail: stjohnsucc@ptd.net

MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS
DECEMBER—*General Account*
SPECIAL DECEMBER OFFERING—*Transitions*
JANUARY - LEAF Fund
FEBRUARY - Church Vocation Fund

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020

