



July 1 - Worship, Communion
 July 8 - Worship
 July 15 - Worship
 July 22 - Worship, Fellowship Hour
 July 29 - Worship

July

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St. John's UCC
 1050 Buffalo Road
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A few weeks ago, I was awakened in the dead of the night by a noise that shouldn't have been there. Ordinarily, I tend not to be a very deep sleeper, so anything that is out of the order--like this noise--will pretty easily rouse me to consciousness.

It was a faint, high-pitched beeping sound to which I got awake.

At first I thought that it must be coming from outside, but as I lay there, trying to get a better fix on what had roused me, I heard it again. *Beep!*

Sure enough, it was coming from someplace inside and upstairs. No sooner did I have this recognition, now mostly alert, than I heard it again. *Beep!*

I knew what the beeping was all about, because I had heard it before, when one or another of the ceiling smoke alarms in my house is crying out for a new battery. All these smoke alarms are electrically connected, but in each there is a back-up system powered by a battery--and one of these was demanding to be replaced at 3 a.m. It couldn't have picked 1 o'clock in the afternoon, right? *Beep!*

OK, so now I knew what the culprit was; it remained only to discover which of the seven alarms in my house was the needy one. That was to be the stimulus for several minutes of walking from room from room in the dark, trying to figure out exactly which one needed to be disconnected so I could get back to sleep. *Beep!*

I crawled up on a chair and took down what I thought was the problematical unit, removing the battery, but then I heard the irritating sound coming from someplace else. I dragged the chair into that room and took that unit down and did the same, and then into the next room. It continued like this for some time, as unit after unit was detached and "de-battered," but with no positive results. The intermittent sound continued: *Beep! Beep! Beep!*

Disgusted by this frustrating cat-and-mouse game in the middle of the night, I finally resolved to remove and neutralize every detector in the house, upstairs and down, so I couldn't possibly miss the offending one. In the end, all seven were stacked on a cardboard lid, like so many large-shelled crabs waiting to go into the boiling water. I would sort out the problem in the morning, I thought, and went back to bed again. *Beep!*

I couldn't believe what I was hearing! How could a smoke alarm which has no power source still be beeping?! At that hour, I couldn't even imagine an answer, and wishing to deal with this phenomenon no further, I resolved to take the entire carrier of dismantled smoke alarms out into the garage, way out of earshot, so I would be irritated no more. *Beep!*

Alright, it was clear that there would be no more sleep until I figured this thing out, and I took to prowling through my house, one room at a time, flashlight in hand, surveying every square foot of every ceiling until I could come up with an answer. It was either that, or for sure I would need to be sleeping in the car!

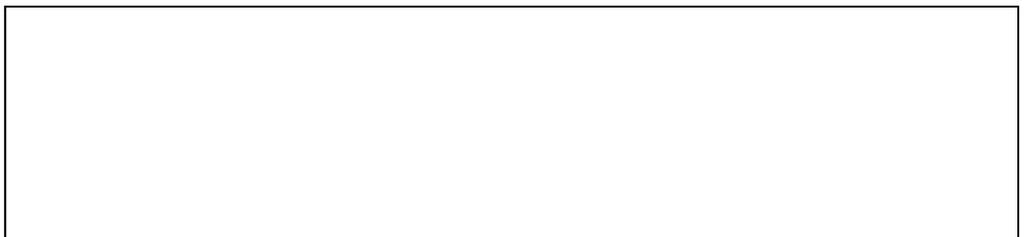
Then I spotted something--in the corner of the hallway, a smaller detector of another sort, this one sniffing for carbon monoxide. In all my searching about before, I literally had not seen this little unit at all. And sure enough, as I stood there with that device in my beam, it sounded for the final time. *Beep!*

A few hurried moments later, the double-A batteries were removed and, finally, quiet ruled the hallways again. I might yet have a few additional hours of sleep before the sun rose. Remarkably, Hue slept through the entire episode.

As I lay there, thinking back over the process that had so thoroughly engaged me, I recognized a familiar human pattern: Sometimes we are so fixated on what we think is the problem that we completely overlook what really is the problem.

Aren't we a piece of work, though?

Cordially,
Bob Stoudt



JULY VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: **MARK BROUSE, ART BOWER, ASHLEY GRIFFITH, CRAIG SWINEFORD**

Lock-up Person: **BARRY CATHERMAN**

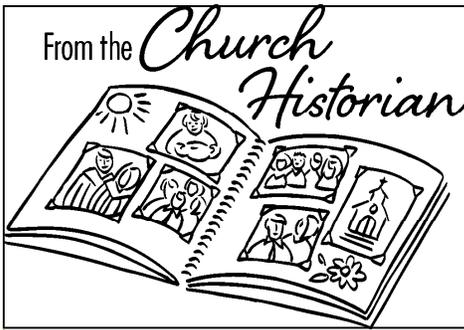
Lay-Reader: **DON ADAMS**

Preparation of Communion Elements: **CAROL BERRY, MARY GEYER**

JULY	Children's Church	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.	
1	LIZ DeSANTIS	LINDA SARTWELL	
8	LINDA WILLIAMS		
15	DON ADAMS		
22	LIZ DeSANTIS		
29	ANGIE DONLIN		
JULY	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte	Drivers Route 1*
1	LINDA/WAYNE WILLIAMS	JAMES DONLIN	ADAMS
8	BETH MOSER		SPICKLER
15		ERIN DeSANTIS	BAISH
22		ADDIE MILLER	ADAMS
29		JAMES DONLIN	SPICKLER

JULY	GREETERS
1	MARTHA/BRUCE RAUCH
8	DOT/ART BOWER
15	TESS/FRED GROOVER
22	LINDA & WAYNE WILLIAMS
29	COLLEEN ROSS/LINDA SARTWELL

If you need a ride to church, please contact Ron Zug (570-523-3987) who schedules the drivers.



“Red Book” Memories VII

Bold Moves

Our “Red Book” portrays the people of St. John’s as a faith community not afraid to make “bold moves.” What do I mean by “bold moves”? These were events in the life of the congregation that significantly redefined how St. John’s would be a faith community. Each “bold move” brought about a renewal in our congregation’s energy, enthusiasm, and outlook for the future.

Every one of them also drew people and resources into our faith community and spurred the congregation to greater service in the Lewisburg area and beyond. All of them sustained our church for decades to come.

There are three examples of “bold moves” in our church history that really stand out. The first came in 1832 when our faith community made the decision to separate from our parent congregation at Dreisbach in order to become an independent church. That “bold move” resulted in rapid growth and a new church building that served the needs of Lewisburg.

The next “bold move” took place in 1900 when the congregation made the courageous choice to deal with difficult internal issues and to extend a call to a former pastor. Consequently, a decision was also made to literally tear down the church building in Lewisburg and to build a new, more modern facility. This “bold move” reenergized the congregation, created a faith community more able to handle internal problems, grew the church’s membership and resources, and brought about an expansion of services to others. It was a “bold move” that nurtured and nourished the church for many, many years.

The third “bold move” came in the late 1980s when congregants recognized that in order to meet the future needs of its members and the people of Lewisburg, the congregation would either have to extensively renovate the old church building in downtown Lewisburg or build a new one elsewhere. After much debate and two votes, the congregation made the “bold move” to relocate and to construct a multi-use facility, which is our present church. Once more, new life and expanded service to others were the result.

These “bold moves” by the people of St. John’s took time to develop and enact. Each began with discerning the leadings of the Spirit. In addition, they required the gathering of information, education of congregants on a particular issue to be addressed, and much discussion among members as to the implications of making a “bold move.” It was only after these things took place, that the congregation moved to act.

Right now, as we approach our bicentennial, we are considering another “bold move,” namely our declaration of being an Open and Affirming Church. We would be making a very public statement that as a church devoted to Jesus Christ, we welcome into the full life and ministry of our congregation all persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Our congregation would be joining a growing number of faith communities in the United Church of Christ who have made this “bold move.” We would redefine what it means to be church at St. John’s

The United Church of Christ offers many resources to help us in this venture. Let’s take advantage of them and prepare for this next “bold move,” as our ancestors in faith have done before. Take the time to educate yourself on this issue and discuss it with a fellow member of St. John’s. This “bold move” deserves your full participation.

Gary Nottis



OUR GRADUATES

NICHOLAS FISHER

Graduated with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice - Police Science Graduated May 10, 2018 Harrisburg Area Community College Future Plans: To get into State or Federal Corrections.

ASHLEY GRIFFITH

Ashley is planning to attend Penn State University Park in the fall of 2018 majoring in Secondary Education for physics.

While in high school Ashley was highly involved in the music program as a member of the band, choir, marching band, musical, jazz band, percussion ensemble and chamber choir. This past year Ashley was the drum major for marching band. She participated in district and regional competitions for both band and choir. On stage, she has held roles all six years of her high school career. She was in Annie, Bye Bye Birdie, Mary Poppins, Cinderella, and The Sound of Music. Finally in her senior year, she danced her toes off in 42nd Street; adding tap dancing to her already full bag of tricks and skills. She excels in her academics as well being selected to be a member of the National Honor Society - being on distinguished honor roll for her entire high school career and being ranked 3rd in her class. Ashley was also selected as Centre County's Outstanding Young Woman for 2018.

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for all the love and support you have shown me in my first 18 years of life. I am blessed to have such great people to guide me in life. Thank you for helping me in my faith journey and letting me share my gifts with you. **WE ARE!**

Love,

Ashley Griffith

THE ADULT CLASS TAKES A SUMMER VACATION

The Sunday morning adult Christian education class will be taking time off for the summer months. The class will return, starting October 7th, with a new year of fascinating topics meant to enhance your faith and its practice. Planning for the coming class year is underway. However, the following has already been determined for the months of October, November, and December.

The class will kick off in October with a four-week study of selected "Bad Boys" and "Bad Girls" of the Bible. Then, in November, we will take an in-depth look at the "Apocrypha," those often-overlooked books that separate the Old Testament from the New Testament in many Bibles. Finally, we will engage in the December observance of Advent through a consideration of *Singing Mary's Song*, a devotional written by John Stroman and focused on how to find hope and deliverance in our personal lives.

Stay tuned for further updates! We sincerely hope you will join with us on October 7th for the start of a new year in faith building.



At Home- Sid Bowersox, Ruth Brouse, Betty Hackenberg, Alice Savidge (after a fall), Mary Stover, Merdyth Updegraff.

Shut-In/Homebound- Ann Beasom, Fred Brouse, Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg (Rolling Hills Manor, rm #7), Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Robert Ritter, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

In our Prayers - Christine Sartwell, Larissa Young.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

On Sunday, June 24th, we received three new members as part of worship. Following the brief liturgy by which they were formally received into our fellowship, each was briefly introduced to the congregation. Those intros were as follows:

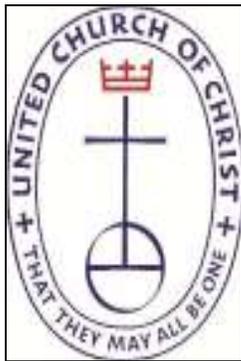
KEN MOORE

Ken's spiritual roots are actually to be found in the Methodist Church. In fact, his father was a Methodist Pastor. For the past year, however, he has been a fairly frequent visitor here at St. John's. Living just across the street, in the assisted living section of the Buffalo Valley units, he found us to be a lot closer and the parking a lot easier than continuing on at the Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church, from where he has transferred his membership. Thirty years of Ken's earlier working life were spent as a manager with the J.C. Penney company, a job that had him variously taking up residency in Maine, on Long Island, and in Connecticut. With his retirement some twenty years ago, he moved to Lewisburg, and, more recently, with the death of his wife about two years ago, he relocated to where he lives now. After his first visit to St. John's, why did he keep coming back? Besides the convenience factor, he found the people to be "very friendly" and, he says, he thought the place had a "pretty good minister." Among other things that you might want to know about him, he has two sons--one living in Arizona, the other in California, the latter of whom has given Ken the pleasure of two grandsons. We are grateful to have the pleasure of Ken as a formal part of our fellowship.

SUE & JIM TOMLINSON

The Tomlinsons also live across the street in the Buffalo Valley housing, but they occupy one of the newly constructed cottages. They just happen to live opposite Brenda and Don Adams who, while rather new to that neighborhood themselves, invited Jim and Sue to join them some Sunday morning at St. John's. Previously they had been United Methodists, and moving to Lewisburg they had already looked into a few Methodist congregations in the area--but, thanks to the Adams' invitation, shortly after the New Year, they made their first appearance here, and they've been regulars ever since. We had a pretty good idea that they were a great fit for us when, after visiting that first time, Jim was quick to sign on for the seminar regarding the *Qur'an*, due to begin in another few weeks. They have since gone on, among other things, to help with the Easter Egg Hunt as well as the more recent baked beans fundraiser. As far as their careers are concerned, for Sue, a Bachelor's Degree in hand in Early Childhood Education meant that there was no problem getting a job everywhere they have lived. Besides that, she also ran a private catering business for a number of years. For Jim, after 37 years, he recently retired from Bloomsburg University as a Professor in Communications Studies, the couple very much enjoying both the community and institution of Bloomsburg over their many years there. A little known fact regarding them: Both are cancer survivors. And the Tomlinsons' impressions of St. John's on that first visit? First and foremost, that this is a "very friendly" and "very welcoming and open" church. In part, it was all those warm "Hello's" that brought them back over and over again. In part, too, it was the quality of our music program--from Todd's capabilities on organ and piano, to Rita's leadership with our choir and bell choir; to say nothing of the vision of those who came before us for providing a facility that is handicapped accessible. Also, Jim mentions that "the speaking of the Pastor is quite good . . . occasionally." (Thank heavens for those occasions!) Not coincidentally, they also identify being pleased with the receptivity here towards laughter. In a word, says Jim, they are both "tickled pink" to have found St. John's. It is fair to say that we are tickled pink to have the Tomlinsons among us.

We are grateful for the various paths that have brought these three persons our way, and we wish them every satisfaction as they begin their lives now as members of St. John's United Church of Christ!



WORSHIP HOURS
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Visit us on the Web!
www.stjohnslewisburg.org



St. John's United Church of Christ

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

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



The Communion offering for **July** is dedicated to **Heifer Fund**.
The Communion offering for **August** is dedicated to the **Donald Heiter Center**.
Thanks for your continued support of St. John's missions!



JULY COMMUNION OFFERING - is dedicated to the **HEIFER PROJECT**. Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. We provide livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to help farmers struggling daily for reliable sources of food and income. Through their hard work and commitment, our gifts help our farmers improve their lives and their communities. And we continue to make incredible progress toward that mission in the approximately 30 countries in which we work.



AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING - is dedicated to The Donald L. Heiter Community Center is a non-profit organization, which strives to be the hub of the community activity by providing innovative and responsive programs, welcoming facilities to house multigenerational activities, coordinating diverse community resources, addressing community needs, and supporting the wellness of all its people.

Today, a large focus for the Community Center is children and youth ages 5-13 years old. Through after school programs, activities, and summer youth programs, the Center works to promote healthy self-esteem, peer relationships, independence, adventure and exploration, leadership, environmental awareness, friendship skills, values and decision making skills, and social comfort.



Thanks to all, who helped make this year's yard sale, a great success! We made a profit of \$853.00!