

# MAY



## THE EAGLE

- May 2 - Worship, Communion - 10:00 a.m.
- May 9 - Worship, Mothers' Day - 10:00 a.m.
- May 9 - ZOOM Fellowship Hour - 11:30 a.m.
- May 12 - Holy Envy Book Study - ZOOM - 7:00 p.m.
- May 16 - Worship - 10:00 a.m.
- May 18 - Union County Municipal Primary Elections 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (FH)
- May 19 - Holy Envy Book Study - ZOOM - 7:00 p.m.
- May 20 - Consistory Meeting - ZOOM - 7:00 p.m.
- May 23 - Worship, Pentecost Sunday - 10:00 a.m.
- May 27 - Wired Word Study Group - ZOOM - 7:00 p.m.
- May 30 - Worship - 10:00 a.m.
- May 31 - MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED



DATED MATERIAL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

stjohnslewisburg.org

Lewisburg, PA 17837

1050 Buffalo Road

St. John's UCC





## God keeps God's promises from generation to generation - based on Psalm 100:5

As some of you know I am in the process of planning and prepping for a summer camp experience coming up in August (HC Spirit Week from August 8<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> at Camp Mount Luther). The theme for the camp is based on Psalm 100:5. While the facility of Hartman Center is being sold, the spirit and community of Hartman Center's Outdoor Ministries is still alive and well. Lives have been changed from Outdoor Ministries. During their time at camp young people have realized their call to ministry or to a life of faithful commitment. Bonds have been formed that are sustained across the years and despite geographical distance. I am blessed to have been a part of many years of summer camp and a part of an ever-extending "family" that welcomes everyone. In many ways camp is church for me!

There is so much about camp that really is about "church". 'Simon Sinek, a contemporary author, talks about a "circle of safety" that people need in order to develop healthy community relationships. In an organization, that translates to increased engagement with its mission and its continuation into the future. In the faith community, this circle of safety allows individuals to move beyond their needs to lives that serve others, confident that they themselves are not going to be forgotten in their time of need.'

We live in a time of uncertainty and life can be unpredictable and challenging. In a time like this we can be consumed with fear **OR** we can trust that something and someone greater than our circumstances is caring and benevolent and able to get us through what life brings.

I am thankful for this community of faith - and pray that you experience St. John's as a circle of safety. I am blessed by the compassion, kindness and generosity I see in St. John's UCC, Lewisburg. I am blessed to be a part of a community that is caring and benevolent and supports and sustains the community - both the membership of the church and the community outside of our four walls. St. John's is an amazing witness to God's steadfast love. My prayer is that each one will find the support and "circle of safety" needed in order to grow in faith and to be inspired to fuller faithfulness and service.

There may be times when we fall short in terms of providing the support others need, but we know and trust that "God's steadfast love, which endures across the generations, provides a circle of safety ... freed from fear, we step out, trusting that missteps will not destroy us, that God's guidance will take us where God has called us to go, creating relationships based on care and compassion."

Thanks be to God for the "Circles of Safety" in our lives. Especially, I praise God for the community of faith that enables us to move in vision and mission, all in Christ's name.

Blessings and love, Pastor Alice

\*materials adapted from Generation to Generation Camp Curriculum.

**MAY Birthdays**

05/01 Rev. Joseph Lingenfelter  
 05/02 Jean Ressler  
 05/03 Susan Baish  
 05/04 Richard Mabus II  
 05/05 Jessica Busler  
 05/09 Yvonne Dean

05/09 Melissa Ransdorf  
 05/10 Dorothy Griffith  
 05/17 Alice Savidge  
 05/18 Ann Lingenfelter  
 05/19 Lauren Rautzhan  
 05/20 Park McKissick Jr.  
 05/22 Duane Snayberger  
 05/22 Jeanne Letteer  
 05/24 Rebecca Renno  
 05/25 Pat Groover  
 05/26 Mark Satteson  
 05/27 Penelope Shetler  
 05/31 Kevin Dock

**MAY Anniversaries**

05/21 Karin & Charles Knisely  
 05/21 Dianna & Roger Spickler

**Wired Word ZOOM**

You're invited to a ZOOM Sunday School class on a Thursday evening in May. Linda Williams, Gary Nottis, and Pastor Alice will lead us in a discussion about one of the Wired Word topics. We will let you know ahead of time which topic we will use as our focus. So, mark your calendars for a **ZOOM gathering on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.** The ZOOM link will be sent out a few days before the gathering. **Please call the office no later than May 26<sup>th</sup>, to be added to the ZOOM link email.** Join us for reflection on scripture in conversation with an event or idea from the current news.

Linda is asking for suggestions on a topic from the Wired Word series. If anyone has a suggestion, please let Linda know.. 570/524-4039

**HOLY ENVY BOOK STUDY**

We will continue to share in conversation around the work of Barbara Brown Taylor in her book, "*Holy Envy*". "The renowned Christian preacher ... recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching world religions to undergraduates in Baptist-saturated rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations." We will finish the study this Spring with a few ZOOM sessions on Wednesday evenings in May. Please let Pastor Alice or Todd know if you are interested in participating.



**MARCH 2021 REPORT**

Current Operating Receipts	\$	89,104.83
Current Operating Disbursements	\$ -	22,816.44
<b>Current Operating Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>66,288.39</b>



Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your gift given to our Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program. Every dollar of your contribution will be used to supply food for those enrolled in our program.

Our program provides supplemental food for income-eligible individuals and families in Eastern Union County, twice a month. It takes generosity like yours to help us serve them. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

Jo Orris, Sec./Treas.

Dear Alice, Gary, Kathryn, and the Quilters,

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the kind notes and the quilt that was delivered to my office by Kurt Nelson a few weeks ago. First of all, I am always cold, so the quilt is very much appreciated. Second, your words and gift made me feel so welcome, and are such an affirmation-to me and my spouse- That we are among friends and have much to explore and many connections to make here in our new home. I hope that our paths will cross in person before too long! I am thoroughly enjoying my work at Bucknell and look forward to building our Jewish community, which I hope will include lots of interreligious collaboration in the future.

Thank you again for the warm welcome. God bless you all!

L'Shalom - Toward Peace

Rabbi Jessica Goldberg

Thank you for the prayers and blessing from you all!

The prayer quilt is lovely and the colors spirit lifting and is getting a lot of use.

Carol Hahn

To the members of St. John's Quilters,

Thank you for creating the beautiful quilts, like the one you sent me by your member, Kay Nottis, during my recovery. It warmed my spirits as well as my body!

May God Bless You All!

Vicky Best

Dear Quilters of St. John's UCC,

Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt! It now rests on the back of my small couch, where it brightens my living room and will offer me a warm cover when it is cold outside. I'm so glad my daughter, Colleen, has such a caring church family. I wish you all the best, highlighted by a healthy and happy 2021.

Sincerely, Gary Earl Ross



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the Easter dinners you provided for our families in need. The pandemic has caused much upheaval in everyone's lives, so it was nice that they could experience some normalcy in the form of a holiday meal with family. They appreciated your generosity.

Thank you again for thinking of our struggling families at Easter and throughout the year. Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Jamie Batman, Foster Care Coordinator

Dear St. John's,

I wanted to thank you for the kind care package I received from you. I have really enjoyed snaking out of it while I am studying. I'm so glad Spring has sprung!

Happy Easter,

Ashley Griffith

Dear Congregation of St. John's UCC,

Thank yo so much for your generous gift to DIG Furniture Bank.

All undesignated gifts will go towards the sustainable operations of our furniture bank to help us continue to provide this much-needed resource for people living in our rual community.

Best,

Emily Gorski, Founder



### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Building and Grounds is in process of evaluating/ recommending projects to improve the use and 'curb appeal' of the Church. PLEASE consider making any observations YOU may have regarding issues and concerns regarding the exterior or interior of our facility.

Please contact Jim Tomlinson [jimnsue@ptd.net](mailto:jimnsue@ptd.net) with any comments/suggestions you have. BG will be meeting to discuss these issues.



**Fellowship ZOOM**

Join your church family for a **ZOOM Fellowship time on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m.** The ZOOM connection will be available a few days before the gathering. It will good to see each other's faces (even on a screen) and share in conversation, prayer concerns and updates. Please join us!

**Clean-up Kits for CWS**



**Clean Up Bucket Program**

The Mission and Social Action Committee is requesting monetary donations for the Clean Up Buckets program. Due to the devastation in Texas there is a need for cleaning buckets. Please consider donating to assist families in being able to return to their homes in a clean environment.

**Mission and Social Action Project**

The Mission and Social Action Committee has been researching organizations which also follow our church's vision. World Vision International, a "Christian humanitarian organization helping children, families, and their communities overcome poverty and injustice" was recommended by a church member. Five thousand dollars from the Parsonage Missions Fund will be donated to the program which is in support of clean well water for a community in an under-developed community.

The committee welcomes mission ideas for our congregation to support and participation. If you should become aware of a project which you would like the committee to consider, please make any of the committee members aware of these ideas.

**Committee Members:**

Alice Rauch, Brenda Adams, Sue Tomlinson, Marian Anderson, Beth Moser, Lauren & Rick Rautzhan



**ACOLYTE HELP NEEDED**

We are searching for a few people age 10 - 99, to be acolytes for our Sunday worship services. If you are someone who feels comfortable attending in-person worship, and think you'd like to help out, please reach out to Pastor Alice or Todd. (570) 523-0162. Training will be provided!

# CHURCH YARD SALE

## YARD SALE - SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

St. John's will be having a Yard Sale on **SEPTEMBER 1**, between **8:00 AM** and **3:00 PM**. We are accepting clothing, jewelry, books, dishes, etc.

**WE ASK THAT YOU HOLD ALL DONATIONS AT HOME UNTIL AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

Anyone interested in helping with the sale please contact Linda Sartwell or the Church office. We are looking forward to having fun and helping St. John's financially at the same time.



### Called to Care

We are blessed to have had a long history of Lay Ministry/Called to Care here at St. John's. We are hoping to work towards this being an active ministry of our congregation again in the near future. This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals to "learn the nature of ministry, to strengthen communication skills and to engage in significant ministry that may change your life and the lives of others." This ministry supports and complements the pastoral ministry in providing care for persons who are hurting and/or experiencing significant events in their lives. These caregivers will also reach out to those who are unable to be connected with our congregation by attending worship and other events.

**Who can participate?** "Persons of any age who are sensitive to the love of God and who want to show their love for others. Qualities needed are: the ability to listen, patience, tactfulness, Christian compassion and confidentiality."

**What is required to be a part of Called to Care?** We ask participants to participate in a training sessions (approximately 6 hours) which we will schedule once we have a list of potential participants. Once the training is completed, participants in the ministry will be commissioned as part of a Sunday service as the congregation and pastor covenant with them in this important ministry.

**Please let Pastor Alice or Todd know if you are interested by May 31<sup>st</sup>.** We have a few folks who have indicated their interest, but would like to schedule times for the training in the near future.

**Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this important call to ministry.**

**Pastor Alice**

\*quotes from Called to Care materials crafted for the trainings by Rev. Dr. Gary Hackenberg and Betty Hackenberg

## ***MAY VOLUNTEERS***

Ushers: **DIANNA & ROGER SPICKLER**

Lock-up: **JIM TOMLINSON**

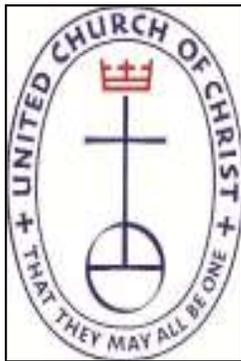
Lay-Reader: **ANNA BROUSE**

Preparation of Communion Elements: **DIANNA SPICKLER**

<b>MAY</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>OPENER/FLOWER DEL.</b>
2	UNAVAILABLE	MILLIE SATTESON
9	UNAVAILABLE	
16	UNAVAILABLE	
23	UNAVAILABLE	
30	UNAVAILABLE	

<b>MAY</b>	<b>FLOWER SPONSORS</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Drivers Route 1*</b>
2	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON	?	UNAVAILABLE
9	LINDA SARTWELL	?	UNAVAILABLE
16		?	UNAVAILABLE
23	JEANNE & JOHN LETEER	?	UNAVAILABLE
30	TODD HUMMEL	?	UNAVAILABLE

<b>MAY</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>
2	BETH MOSER
9	MILLIE SATTESON
16	TESS GROOVER
23	CAROL BERRY
30	TESS GROOVER



**Worship: 10:00 a.m.**  
**Indoor or online**  
**on Facebook or YouTube**  
**Broadcasting on FM 88.5**

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.stjohnslewisburg.org](http://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](mailto:stjohnsucc@ptd.net)

**MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS**  
**MAY - Devitt House**  
**JUNE - Disaster Relief Fund for Local Emergencies/Council of Churches**  
**JULY - Heifer Project**  
**AUGUST - Donald Heiter Center**



**St. John's Quilters Have Been Busy**

You may have noticed the occasional thank you notes in our newsletter from individuals who have received one of the patchwork lap quilts made by St. John's Quilters. Throughout the past year, the group has been very busy. The need for some measure of comfort during a time of social distancing, or even isolation, has been great. As an unknown author once wrote, "One who sleeps under a quilt is comforted by love."

In addition to gifting quilts to church members, the group has also made and provided quilts to residents at Selinsgrove Center, Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Heritage Springs Memory Care, Riverwoods, Transitions, and Geisinger Hospital, Danville. Both adults and children have been the recipients of a comforting quilt, lovingly made. As we end the fourth month of 2021, we have already distributed 98 quilts, more than we ever imagined!

We are always looking for new members to join us. If you are a quilter, and enjoy connecting with others who also quilt, please consider becoming a part of this ministry. Even if you don't sew or have never quilted, there are still things you can do. You could help with designing the fabric patterns or with knotting the quilts. You could also help with getting the quilts ready for distribution or by just being a general support for the group.

This ministry has been a blessing for many, as well as for those who take part in it. Won't you consider joining in this wonderful expression of God's love in the world?

Kay Nottis, on Behalf of St. John's Quilters