

**THE  
EAGLE**

**OCTOBER**

OCTOBER 7 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION 10:00 AM  
OCTOBER 11 - REJOICING SPIRITS - 6:30 P.M.  
OCTOBER 14 - FELLOWSHIP HOUR 11:00 A.M.  
OCTOBER 28 - TRUNK-OR-TREAT - 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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St. John's UCC  
1050 Buffalo Road  
Lewistown, PA 17837  
stjohnslewisburg.org





The other morning I was sitting on my back porch, sipping my cup of tea, when something startled my attention.

My thoughts were of what I was planning to do that day, and in what order, when this thing occurred. It was the sight of a few leaves dropping off the flowering tree which is situated at the corner of this porch, serving to jog my awareness that, while all the mugginess that is around sure feels like it's still Summer, nature is already undertaking the shift into Fall.

In no area of the world does a single season last forever. One season inevitably gives way to another, whether it's a "dry season" yielding to a "rainy season," or, as in Pennsylvania, a spring to a summer and a summer to an autumn, and so on through the series.

In short, the seasons of the natural order remind us that there is something similar to be expected in the human one. Simply put, no one season lasts forever; the constant in life is change, some subtle, some not subtle at all.

I've heard many persons say how much they appreciate the change of seasons here in the Northeast and that that's one of the things that prevents them from, say, moving to Florida, where Fall's amazing coloring of the leaves cannot be experienced. I would agree with that sentiment, recognizing at the same time that what is found to be delightful in nature is often not regarded with such high spirits when it comes to our lives.

Whether looked at from the individual or collective point of view, we'd like nothing better than to have change controlled, or even prevented from happening. After all, we work hard at making of our situations something that are basically agreeable to us. When that state is achieved, therefore, all our time and effort are dedicated to keeping it that way--in other words, anchoring securely at that place and resisting anything which might pose a threat to it.

While understandable, such a posture is never supported by life itself, which, remember, is motivated by constant change--of ups and downs, of comings and goings, of beginnings and endings. Each requires ongoing adjustments to the state of things as they are at the moment, knowing that they, too, will give way sooner or later to something new.

I wonder if this pattern on nature's part isn't intended to disturb our predisposition towards settling down, declining to move forward, and choosing instead to stiffen up and rust away.

As the pleasures of Summer once more give way to the special treats of Fall, let us bring some focus to what "next season" in life we are being called to, as persons and as St. John's United Church of Christ. Most assuredly, I join you in that.

Cordially,

Bob Stoudt

## ***OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS***

Ushers: **LINDA SARTWELL, COLLEEN ROSS, ANNA BROUSE, SUE BAISH**

Lock-up Person: **WAYNE WILLIAMS**

Lay-Reader: **SUE GEMBERLING**

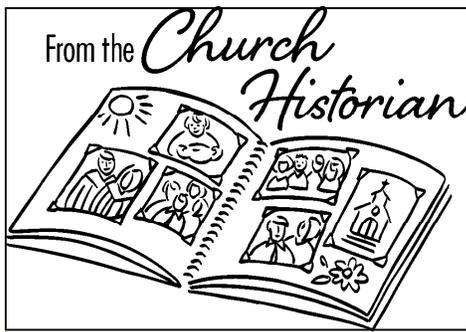
Preparation of Communion Elements: **CAROL BERRY / MARY GEYER**

<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>OPENER/FLOWER DEL.</b>
7	<b>LINDA WILLIAMS</b>	<b>ANNA BROUSE</b>
14	<b>LIZ DeSANTIS</b>	
21	<b>ANGIE DONLIN</b>	
28	<b>DON ADAMS</b>	

<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>FLOWER SPONSORS</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Drivers Route 1*</b>
7	<b>ANNA &amp; BOB BROUSE</b>	<b>ADDIE MILLER</b>	<b>ADAMS</b>
14	<b>KAY &amp; GARY NOTTIS</b>		<b>BAISH</b>
21	<b>ANG &amp; ED DONLIN</b>	<b>JAMES DONLIN</b>	<b>BAISH</b>
28	<b>SUE BAISH</b>	<b>ERIN DeSANTIS</b>	<b>ADAMS</b>

<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>
7	<b>MARTHA/BRUCE RAUCH</b>
14	<b>DOT/ART BOWER</b>
21	<b>TESS/FRED GROOVER</b>
28	<b>LINDA &amp; WAYNE WILLIAMS</b>

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



## “Red Book” Memories X

*“I Know That Place!”*

In last month’s edition of the Eagle, Rev. Stoudt, presented the results of a little research project he had undertaken. Rev. Stoudt had talked to 20 people around Lewisburg to see if any knew where St. John’s was located and what they knew about the congregation and its activities. He found that 6 out of the 20 interviewed had heard of the congregation. Most of them knew where the building was. But, none could really say anything about the congregation or its activities,

except to say that the church and its grounds were a gathering place for community groups. This isn’t very encouraging news for a faith community seeking to grow.

These results naturally lead to two important questions. Has St. John’s even been well known in the Lewisburg area? And, if so, what was it known for? A reading of our “Red Book” yields some positive answers, which can serve as a guide for our dreams of a renewed St. John’s.

During the pastorates of Rev. Henry Harbaugh (1843-1850), Rev. Daniel Heisler (1850-1852), Rev. U. Henry Heilman (1869-1873), Rev. R. Leighton Gerhart (1900-1920), Rev. Henry Harbaugh Rupp (1920-1937), and others, the membership of St. John’s grew steadily, thanks to the efforts of these pastors and the congregation to draw individuals into the congregation. St. John’s was seen in the Lewisburg area as a community church, an important place of worship that even moved a president of Bucknell University to send congratulations when the congregation’s new church building was dedicated in 1903, and where the Bucknell Chapel Choir gave a benefit concert in November 1953 to support the church’s organ fund. These events are indicators of an active evangelism effort at St. John’s, which brought life-giving attention to our congregation.

However, it wasn’t just person-to-person contact by our pastors and church members that brought recognition to St. John’s. It was also community service and public events. As I noted in a previous “Red Book Memory,” the congregation offered “social services” to Lewisburg and the surrounding during the pastorate of Rev. Rupp. Congregational members provided a Christian program for the younger children of Lewisburg, called the “Happy Hour, starting in 1946, when Rev. Perry Smith (1938-1949) served St. John’s. During that same pastorate, the people of St. John’s also supported an area Boy Scout Troop.

In addition, the congregation offered several public meals, while served by Rev. John Ehrhart (1950-1955). Then, when Rev. Paul Jordan was pastor at St. John’s (1956-1970), the membership worked to support Devitt House, launched the annual Chicken Barbeque, and served hot breakfasts to families visiting inmates at the Lewisburg Penitentiary. Further, church members made it a point to visit individuals at the Selinsgrove State School and Hospital and the Laurelton School, and to host parties in both places at Christmas time. The party at Selinsgrove Center continues today.

If Rev. Stoudt had taken his survey in the not too distant past, I am sure most of the people he would have spoken to would have said of St. John’s, “I know that place!” They would have known us by our efforts to invite others into our church, as well as by our community service and public events. And because the St. John’s congregations of the past did those things, the church flourished.

Invitation, community service, and public events—these are crucial keys to our congregation’s future growth and well-being. It doesn’t take a lot of people and resources to make these happen. But, what it does take are committed individuals who are not afraid to try with the resources that are available. Amazingly, such efforts often draw other people to help, sometimes from the community, and to make even more resources available.

As we move into our church’s next 100 years, let’s strive once again to make the word’s, “I know that place!” a common response to the name, “St. John’s.”

Gary Nottis

### A NOTE ON OUR RE-ORGANIZATION

A few months ago, we amended a significant part of our congregational Constitution, a change which calls for a very different manner by which to carry out our ministry as a church.

The key to our efforts now will be focused on several Standing Committees that are critical parts to our re-drafted vision. Moving forward, at the center of things will be these several working groups--Building & Grounds, Christian Education, Hospitality & Growth, Mission & Social Action, Stewardship/Finance & Personnel, and Worship & Music.

The nucleus for each of these committees will consist of an elected group of four persons, actively supported by an undetermined number of others who are interested in its objectives and efforts.

At a Congregational Meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup>, we will for the first time adopt a slate of officers and committee persons under this new system. Between now and then, our current leaders will be about the business of filling that slate with nominees who are willing to serve one or two year terms.

Please give some thought as to where in our new structure you might best fit, in order that, together, we might build a foundation that gives St. John's the best possible chances of success in the future.

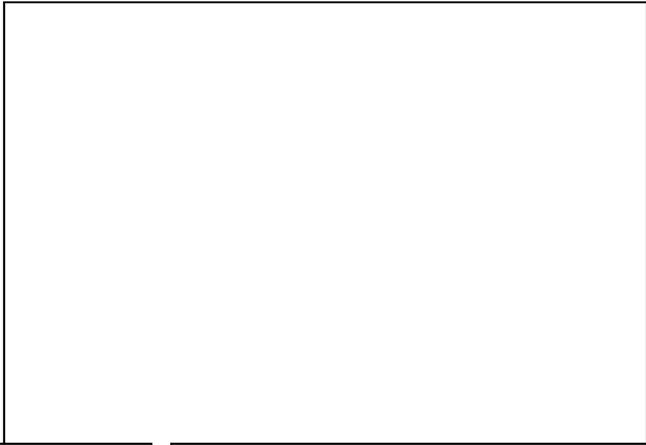
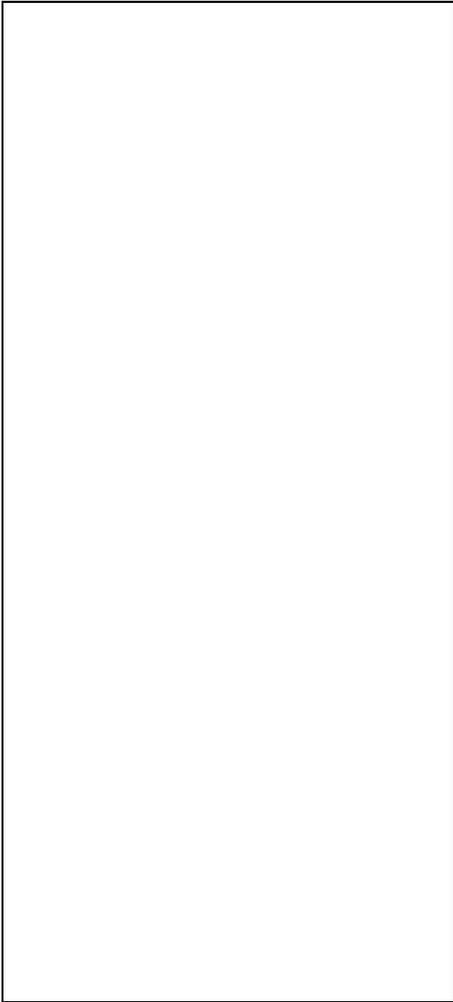
A tap on your shoulder cannot be far away!



Dear St. John's, Thank you for your recent 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. It takes generosity like yours to help us serve them.

Sincerely, Jo Orris, Secretary/Treasurer





**Sandra Lenig**

*January 16, 1937 - August 24, 2018*

*In memory of Fred Brouse*

by Red Hatters

by Lou Goff

by Lola & Bill Fuller

by Barb & Bill Kugler

by Deb & Barry Catherman

*In memory of Sandra Lenig*

by Deb & Barry Catherman

by Shirley & Roger Bohner

by Jill & Larry Lenig

by Diane & Frank Hummel

by Linda & John Courter

by Geraldine & Stanley Shaffer



**In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning** (please contact the church office, at 524-7606, with any updates):

**At Home-** Sid Bowersox, Ruth Brouse, Ann Louise Snyder, Mary Stover, Merdyth Updegraff.

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

**In our Prayers -** Christine Sartwell, Larissa Young.



## WHERE ARE WE AT IN THE INTERIM PROCESS?

Twenty months into the interim period, we have reached a milestone of sorts! After much effort and many hours on the part of numerous persons, our “Local Congregational Profile” is finally complete and in the hands of Penn Central Conference.

This 80+ page document (including some 16 pages of pictures) is the means by which the open position here of Settled Pastor will be advertised through the denomination. In both numbers and words, in as comprehensive and honest a fashion as we could develop, our Profile tells of our past struggles and of our future potential as a congregation.

We sincerely believe that St. John’s has a bright and promising future, and trust that our Profile will attract a number of great candidates for our review and interview. More on that as the details become available!

Our Search Committee will be forming in the near future. In the meantime, if you would like to see the “office copy” of the Profile that we have sent along, stop off anytime and ask Todd to share it with you!

## THE ADULT CLASS TO LAUNCH IN OCTOBER!

A new year of adult Christian education, featuring fascinating topics to bolster your faith and its practice, is set to begin in October with a study of what many would call the “Bad Boys” and “Bad Girls” of the Bible. We will take a close look at Potiphar’s Wife, Jephthah, Jezebel, and Samson. Were they really so bad or just weak and challenged? How are their stories still relevant, today? Can they teach us how to discover a better and deeper faith?

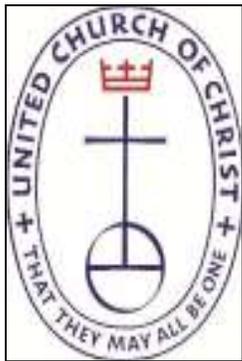
Classes will take place in the Library at 9 AM, each Sunday in October and into November. **Please note:** This study will begin October 14<sup>th</sup>, rather than the date of October 7<sup>th</sup> that as previously reported in the September newsletter.

Every Sunday morning discussion will focus on a particular individual, enhanced by Bible study and instruction. Remember:

There is no cost for any class materials.

You don’t need to make a commitment to participate every Sunday. Just come on those Sundays when the topic is of interest to you.

Come join us on October 14<sup>th</sup>, as we start this series by looking at Potiphar’s Wife (*Hint: Her story is found in Genesis 39*).



**WORSHIP HOURS**  
**Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.**  
**Worship: 10:00 a.m.**

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.stjohnslewisburg.org](http://www.stjohnslewisburg.org)



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

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

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



The Communion offering for **October** is dedicated to the **William Cameron Engine Company**.

The Communion offering for **November** is dedicated to the **Hoffman Homes**.  
**Special November** offering, is dedicated to **Neighbors in Need!**

**Thanks for your continued support of St. John's missions!**



St John's annual **TRUNK OR TREAT** will be held on **Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, from 3:30 - 5:00 PM. in the East parking lot. Last year we had a great turnout. Bring your car, decorate your trunk, and hand out candy to the children. We usually have around 80 children or more.

This provides a safe place for the community children to celebrate Halloween. There will be games, crafts, and food. We need everyone's help and participation to make this happen. The safety of our children is the main focus. Of course this is more fun with lots of cars.

Donations of wrapped candy can be brought to the workroom (room with copier) across from the office.

For more information or to help organize this event please contact Linda Williams @ 524-4039.