



**APRIL 1 - SOUP & SCRIPTURE - NOON - CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**APRIL 6 - WORSHIP - 10 AM**  
**APRIL 7 - LENTEN BOOK STUDY - 4 PM**  
**APRIL 7 - WIRED WORD STUDY - 7 PM (ZOOM)**  
**APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10 AM**  
**APRIL 13 - 2ND SUNDAY SOCAIL - TOM RICH - 11 AM**  
**APRIL 14 - LENTEN BOOK STUDY - 4 PM**  
**APRIL 17 - MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP - 7 PM**  
**APRIL 20 - EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION - 10 AM**  
**APRIL 20 - EASTER EGG HUNT - 11 AM**  
**APRIL 26 - CONFIRMATION CLASS - 3 - 6 PM**  
**APRIL 27 - WORSHIP - 10 AM**

April

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





We are moving, full swing, into Spring and it's almost Easter, the seasons of joy and new life. Easter's joy is a powerful reminder of God's power over evil and death. What a wonderful time of year! Easter's joy is an invitation to transformation and the journey toward wholeness that is ours as we grow in the likeness of Christ. I wish you all a blessed, sacred and happy Easter.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Alice

PS In our journey toward wholeness we can uplift one another in a variety of ways. In the newsletters ahead we will be talking about the Ministry of Wellness. For a focus this month, I invite you to both be aware and be prayerful for each other in navigating the Health Care System. This can be difficult for everyone, but is especially challenging for folks who are neurodivergent. The definition of neurodivergent is: differing in mental or neurological function from what is considered typical or normal (frequently used with reference to autistic spectrum disorders). The article is written by Kristian Keefer, one of our members who is not able to join us in worship. Thanks, Kristian, for this informative article.

**Navigating the HealthCare System:  
A Guide for Neurodivergent Individuals**

Navigating the healthcare system can be a daunting task for anyone, but for neurodivergent individuals, it can present unique challenges. Sensory sensitivity, communication differences, and difficulties with executive function make appointments, procedures, and understanding medical jargon overwhelming. In order to effectively navigate the healthcare system, careful preparation and self-advocacy are crucial.

Before an appointment, writing down specific questions and concerns helps maintain focus and ensures all necessary information is conveyed. Bringing along a trusted friend or family member for support also alleviates anxiety and provides a second set of ears.

During the appointment, it's important to be upfront about neurodivergence and how it affects our ability to understand or participate in the treatment process. It helps to explain to health care providers any sensory sensitivity or anticipated communication challenges. There is nothing wrong with asking for clarifications or requesting that information be presented in a more understandable way, such as simplified language or visual aids.

Sometimes it's necessary to utilize tools like noise-canceling headphones or fidget toys to manage sensory overload. If we find it difficult to articulate our needs, preparing a written statement ahead of time helps. We know our individual experiences and needs better than anyone; therefore, advocating for ourselves is essential for receiving appropriate and respectful care.

Despite taking these steps, when moments of frustration and anxiety remain, faith provides a profound source of strength and resilience. Prayer offers solace and a sense of connection with something greater than ourselves. Turning to God in times of uncertainty provides a sense of peace and guidance.

Faith offers us the reassurance that we are not alone in our struggles, and that God does have a plan for us, even when we find His purpose difficult to understand. Faith encourages self-compassion and acceptance, as we learn to understand and love ourselves for who we are.

Recognizing that we are all imperfect beings made in God's image allows for a more forgiving attitude toward ourselves and our limitations. When faced with the challenges of navigating the healthcare system, faith helps us to accept our vulnerabilities and approach a situation with patience and understanding.

Faith inspires us to advocate for ourselves with courage and perseverance, knowing that we are worthy of receiving care and respect. Ultimately, faith provides a framework for understanding and coping with the difficulties of life, including the complexities of health care by grounding us in hope, purpose, and a deep sense of spiritual connection with God.

### **An Update on the Church Kitchen Renovation for April 2025**

Many of you have wondered, "Why isn't anything happening, now that the kitchen has been gutted?" The answer is that things have been happening, but mostly behind the scenes.

We encountered a fundamental problem with the make-up air unit for the hood. This system continuously replaces the large volume of air that is exhausted from the hood. The system that we had, such as it was, had not been built according to the original architect's plans, and it was so substandard that it had to be torn out. Then we had to contract with a local company to provide a make-up air unit that WILL meet code. All of that took time, and we still have a wait for the new equipment to be ordered and delivered.

In the interim, there actually has been some progress. The kitchen's original pass-through doors have been reinstalled in a new steel frame, and the unit that goes on the kitchen side of the pass-through is on a cart in the kitchen, waiting to be installed after the new flooring has been put in.

Also, ongoing: We are working with a concrete company to design and provide a concrete pad behind the kitchen for the new make-up air unit. That pad will be continuous over to the west edge of the building, and the work will also include a path to the new dumpster location on that side of the building. No longer will the cooking crew need to lug a trash bag or a bin over 60 feet of grass to get to the dumpster!



To my wonderful Church family,

I want to express my thanks for all the prayers, cards, visits, flowers, food and the beautiful lap quilt given to me when Rick passed away. I am truly blessed to have you in my life. Pastor Alice, it meant so much to have you by my side., it was a true blessing to have you sing my favorite hymn.

Sincerely, Carol Berry

### The Best-Kept Secret of Church Life

Hmmmm... The best-kept secret of church life is that you get out of it more than you put into it! If you regularly attend services, you can go home with thoughts for the week. Same for one of our book studies. If you participate in the choir or play handbells, you have joy of music to carry you forward. If you serve on one of St. John's committees or boards, you know that the work you do is important for the life of the church and for the many people we support in one way or another.

Which brings us to...**the nightly walk-throughs**. You may not know that every night of the year, a member of our congregation walks through the building checking for lights left on, doors not locked, and less routine events such as leaks or broken items. St. John's has a large physical space, and the walk-through person is the only person who gets a look at all of it at once.

Would you consider becoming a member of the walk-through team? We provide training and guidelines and telephone numbers, should you need them. Volunteers usually sign up for a month at a time, but recently we have experimented with splitting months with another volunteer. Some volunteers like to walk through the facility by themselves, one of us likes the company of his dog, and several couples do the walk-through together. All of us get the satisfaction of completing an important job—and of knowing far more about the church facility than most people!

For 2025, we have walk-through volunteers for all the months except May and October. Would you—yes, you!—consider signing up for one of those months? If so, please let Todd, our administrative assistant, know you are interested so that we can get in touch with you.

### LENTEN SOUP & SCRIPTURE

Soup & Scriptures is sponsored by the Lewisburg Council of Churches and the Lewisburg Ministerium on 6 dates during Lent.

Come and meet with members of the community, share in a luncheon served by member churches, and listen to ministers/speakers as they share thoughts on this year's topic - "Bread in the Bible's New testament (Gospels). The meal is served at noon followed by the speaker of the day.

Come and join us at Christ Lutheran Church, downtown.



# APRIL

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

04/06 Barbara Kugler  
 04/07 Riley Hoey  
 04/11 Adam Snayberger  
 04/15 Stephen Gemberling  
 04/16 Marvin Border  
 04/19 Mark Brouse  
 04/25 Katrina Aulenbach  
 04/27 Michael Roberts

04/08 Dean, Yvonne & Lynn  
 04/10 Ransdorf, Melissa & Thomas  
 04/26 Aulenbach, Katrina & Zachary  
 04/30 Mabus, Pamela & Richard

### Title: **April Second Sunday Social: Railroads and Railroaders - Behind Every Photo Lies a Story**

You are invited to stay after the worship service on April 13, 2025 (Palm Sunday) for a light lunch and presentation by Tom Rich on railroads and railroaders. The railroad history of our area is full of interesting stories involving the interactions of people with the powerful machines that transported both people and freight across the region's miles. Tom has taken eleven such stories from his research for the Union County Historical Society; some are humorous; some tragic and others offer insights into peoples' life-work among the trains. The format of the talk allows the members present to choose which ones they would like to hear. Come to hear about the fascinating history of our area.

Due to Mother's Day, there will not be a 2nd Sunday social in May.

**Inclement weather policy** - During the winter months when there are snow or ice storms, our leaders will carefully and prayerfully decide if it is advisable to cancel a worship service or another event. If worship is cancelled, the information will be posted on the Facebook page and an email will be sent to the congregation. In addition, for those who can't access the internet, our president and vice-president are available for your phone calls on Sunday mornings after 8:30 a.m. Please call Don Adams (570-412-5332) or Deb Catherman (570-246-3544) if roads conditions are questionable.



### **Easter Candy Donations**

We will hold an Easter Egg Hunt directly after worship on **Easter Sunday, April 20**, for kids in attendance. We are looking for donations of individually wrapped candy to fill the plastic Easter eggs. Please bring in candy donations by **Sunday, April 6**, and place them on the workroom table. Thank you!



**Wired Word Study Group**

Please join us for the Wired Word Study Group on **Monday, April 7, at 7 p.m., on Zoom**. The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent out via email. Please contact the church if you'd like to be on the Wired Word email list!

What is the Wired Word Study Group? We get together once a month to discuss topics from the weekly Wired Word emails. The emails relate current events to scripture, to create thought-provoking, stimulating discussions. This is a great way to connect our modern-time experiences to the teachings of the Bible. A topic for this month's Wired Word conversation will be chosen ahead of the meeting from the weekly emails. Please join us for this lively discussion time!

**SUMMER YOUTH LUNCH PROGRAM (SYLP): APPEAL FOR FUNDS**

The program has been in existence for nearly a decade and works with, and through the Union County Food Bank, now at the UPC church on Rt. 192. Its purpose is to cover the gap during the summer vacation for families with school-age children who would, during term time, receive free school lunches. From June through August, SYLP distributes extra bags of food, including milk, cheese, bread and ham, to eligible clients at the food bank. As you probably know, each twice-monthly distribution is managed by volunteers from one of the six participating churches. In recent years the number of clients and the price of food that we buy from the Central PA Food Bank in Williamsport has steadily risen. Last summer, SYLP distributed 277 bags of food to 188 families with 481 children at a total cost of \$3707.00. We are expecting numbers and costs for the next summer to be comparable or slightly higher, but we are running out of funds. At present we have promises for about half of the \$4000 we are going to need. SYLP has always appreciated the sterling service given by church volunteers, without whom the program could not exist-but, now, we need extra funding as well and have turned first to those whose support we've always relied on. Any contribution, great or small, will be gratefully received!

To support the SYLP, you can make a donation via your offering envelopes, by marking "Summer Youth Lunch Program".

**Recent Grad Care Packages**

Our recent high school graduates are working hard and making their way in the world. Whether at college or in the work force, we'd like to show them some extra support and love from St. John's UCC by sending them care packages. Please bring in packaged snacks by Sunday, April 6, so that care packages can be delivered by mid-April. We're looking for donations of both sweet and savory snacks that are easy to store and prepare. A basket will be marked in the Narthex for collecting the snack items. Our high school graduates within the last few years are Justin Catherman, Addie Miller, Hannah Loughhead, Jameson Graybill, and Riley Hoey.

# APRIL VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up:

Lay-Reader: **SHANNON PRUTZMAN**

Preparation of Communion Elements:

APRIL	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
6	DURING WORSHIP	CAROL BERRY
13	DURING WORSHIP	
20	DURING WORSHIP	
27	DURING WORSHIP	

APRIL	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
6	REV. ALICE & PALMER	Keira/Kora Aulenbach
13		Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
20	ALICIA & LISA GRAYBILL	Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
27		Keira/ Kora Aulenbach

APRIL	GREETERS
6	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON
13	BONNIE MECKELY
20	DEE & BILL LEDGERWOOD
27	STACI & SHANNON PRUTZMAN



**Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Indoors or online  
via Facebook or YouTube**

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**

- April – Transitions (Easter Food Baskets Cont.)
- May – Getting Ahead in the Valley
- June – Strengthen the Church\*
- July – Donald Heiter Center
- August – Union County Food Bank
- September – William Cameron engine Company
- October – Neighbors in Need\* Walk (Hunger)
- November – Devitt House Thanksgiving Baskets
- December – The Christmas Fund \* (Veterans of the Cross) Christmas Food Baskets
- AND Bethany Children's Home Holiday Gifts (aka White Gifts)
- Christmas Eve Offering – Operating Fund

“Extra” offerings: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Lent/Advent are earmarked for **OCWM\***

*\*indicates one of the 5 for 5 UCC Offerings*



## St. John's United Church of Christ

## April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.) 9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM) 10:00am WORSHIP	31 9:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 4:00pm LENTEN BOOK STUDY 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)	1 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	2	3 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am PEO (GP) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Building & Grounds (PAR) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	4	5
6 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM) 10:00am WORSHIP	7 9:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR) 4:00pm LENTEN BOOK STUDY 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH) 7:00pm WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM)	8 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	9	10 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm M.A.S.H. (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	11 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)	12
13 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.) 9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM) 10:00am P.A.I.M SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00am 2nd Sunday Social (FH)	14 9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS & MORE (CR) 9:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) 1:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP) 4:00pm LENTEN BOOK STUDY 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH) 7:00pm CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)	15 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	16	17 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP	18	19
20 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM) 10:00am EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP, COMMUNION 11:00am EASTER EGG HUNT (PORITCO)	21 9:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 6:00pm Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR) 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH) 7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)	22 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	23	24 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm CONSISTORY (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (SANCT./CH.RM)	25 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)	26 3:00pm CONFIRMATION CLASS (GP)
27 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.) 9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM) 10:00am WORSHIP 6:30pm GTS AUDITIONS (GP)	28 9:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 6:30pm GTS AUDITIONS (GP) 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH) 7:00pm Girl Scout Leaders (GP)	29 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 3:30pm Violin Class (CH.RM.) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	30 3:30pm Violin Class (CH.RM.)	1 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am PEO (PAR) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Building & Grounds (PAR) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	2 3:30pm Violin Class (CH.RM.) 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)	3 10:30am Suzuki Class Recital (SANCT.) 1:00pm Girl Scouts (PAV/FH)