



St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
EASTER SUNDAY - COMMUNION
Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. April 20, 2025

(Let us be silent and prayerful as we prepare ourselves for worship.)

MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Remembering that God calls us through Christ to be ministers with each other, St. John's United Church of Christ, as inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit, seeks: To be inclusive and accessible to all people; To provide loving service to all of God's people through mission and ministry; To strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

Rooted in tradition, progressive in our outlook.

Prelude

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Opening to Lent - Opening to God

Sung response:

**Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Sung response:

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you, I want to see you.**

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Amen!

Amen!

***The Peace**

*As a people forgiven and freed, we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ.
Peace be with you! **And also with you!***

*Hymn

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

#233

Words for All - Especially Children

Anthem

"Acclamation for Easter"

Paige

Scripture:

Luke 24:1-12

Message

"Unfinished Business"

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (sinned and sinned against us): **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Bell Choir Anthem

"Christ Triumphant, Alleluia"

Stephenson

Celebrations and Joys

*Singing Our Gratitude (tune Doxology)

**Praise God, Creator of us all, Praise Christ, by whom we hear our call,
Praise Spirit, that which sets us free, Our awe is yours, the One-in-Three.**

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: **To the witness of new life emerging, God open us. To the work of new world building, God commit us. To the power of love persisting, God dedicate us. For the calling of faith rising up, God equip us. Amen.**

*Order for Holy Communion

Invitation

Christ invites "all" to the table of reconciliation ... our responsibility in living in love and peace with one another and all creation so as to be joined together as one Holy Communion of Body and Spirit throughout this good earth.

Prayer: Holy God, we praise and bless... We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Communion Prayer (cont.)

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer ... and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Gluten free bread is available

***The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Together):** We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Hymn

"The Day of Resurrection"

#245

*Benediction

*Postlude

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

(Please contact the church office, at 570-523-0162, with any updates)

Ongoing Needs- Anna Brouse, Betty Hackenberg, Jean Hartman, Kristian K., Christine Sartwell, Leslie Shearer, Dianna Spickler, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams, Rev. Sharon Von Blohn.

Mostly Homebound- Ann Beasom, Peg Brouse, Bill Fuller, Ethel Moser, Ann Louise Snyder, Joanne Stahley.

Immediate Concerns - Ed Crow, Rev. Sally Dries, Hunter English, Richard Furman, Bill Geyer, Brock Hare, Craig Hoffman, The Family of Shirley Hoffman, John Marshal, Pam Mabus, Ken Miller, Sue Miller, Todd O'Neil, Pastor Gary Nottis, Alice Savidge, Renee St. Clair, The family of Larry Walters, Cyndi Weaver.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - are given by Alicia and Lisa Graybill. HAPPY EASTER! HE IS RISEN!

THIS MORNING

St. John's is pleased you have joined with us today. We hope that you have found this time to be a blessing. **Please sign** the attendance book located in the Narthex (and kindly include your mailing address/telephone number and/or email) or fill out a Welcome Card (located on the Welcome Table in the Narthex) and introduce yourself to the people who are worshipping around you. If you are looking for a new church family and are interested in knowing more about St. John's, please indicate that following worship to the Pastor or one of the greeters.

EASTER EGG HUNT - There will be an Easter Egg hunt immediately following the worship service **TODAY** near the Portico out front.

THIS WEEK

Monday, April 21	OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am 7 pm 7 pm	OFFICE CLOSED Kinder Music (PAR) BVS Rehearsal (FH) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)
Tuesday, April 22	9:30 am 10:30 am 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (PAR) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CHRM)
Wednesday, April 23	11 am 5:30 pm	Lewisburg Ministerium (GP) GTS (CH.RM.)
Thursday, April 24	8:30 am 9 am 1:30 pm 7 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) CONSISTORY (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, April 25	4 pm	Suzuki Class (SANCT)
Saturday April 26	3 pm	CONFIRMATION CLASS (GP)
Sunday, April 27	8:45 am 9:15 am 10 am 2 pm 3 pm	BELL CHOIR (SANCT) CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM.) WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH GTS (CH.RM.) GTS (SANCT)

FUTURE

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH - Rides to Church services are now available for folks. If you're in need of a ride to one of our services, please call the Church office (570) 523-0162 by at least the Friday prior to needing a ride.

MONTHLY MISSION OFFERING - April's communion offering is dedicated to TRANSITIONS and our annual Easter Basket project which provides food for 15 local families.

CHANCEL FLOWER CHART - The Chancel Flower Chart is located in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday or two for flowers.

LAY-READERS NEEDED - There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Lay-readers. Please sign up for a month or split a month with someone.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

April 13, 2025

Easter Baskets - \$35.00; Building Use - \$235.00; Current Expenses - \$1,710.00;
Davy's Cards - \$25.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$50.00;
Loose Offering - \$116.00; Maundy Thursday - \$10.00; OCWM - \$60.00;
Transitions - \$30.00; UCC Cornerstone Fund - \$57.97; Weis Cards - \$100.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$2,428.97 THANK YOU!!!

St. John's United Church of Christ

1050 Buffalo Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 -- (570) 523-0162
Worship 10:00 a.m. Office: Mon.- Fri. 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Website: www.stjohnslewisburg.org Email: stjohnsucc@ptd.net

It is a privilege to serve you today . . .

Rev. Alice Rauch, *Pastor*

Rev. Gary Nottis, *Pastoral Care Assoc.*

Todd R. Hummel, *Dir. Of Music/Organist*

Todd R. Hummel, *Bell Choir Director*

Hannah Loughhead, *Chancel Choir Director*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Dee & Bill Ledgerwood, *Greeters*

Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

Brenda Adams, Don Adams, Sue Baish,
Barry Catherman, Alicia Graybill,
Lisa Graybill, Linda Sartwell, Dave Smit,
Tech Team

CCLI #20796546 One License #738455-A

Available to you, if needed, are Quiet Rooms for adults and children, where the service can be seen and heard. Also available are phonic-ear hearing units, large print bulletins, and large-print Bibles. Ask any greeter or A/V team member.

LIVESTREAM OF SERVICE - We are live streaming the worship service on both Facebook and YouTube. If you would prefer NOT to be seen on the live stream, please ask a greeter to be seated in an area that is not visible by the cameras.
(Quiet room or elsewhere in the Sanctuary)

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20, 2025

John 20:1-18

Resurrection Joy

The morning sun was peeking over the hills of the cemetery where the faithful had gathered to sing the first alleluias of Easter. As the sky turned from black to gray to an orangey pink, casting a warm glow on the sleepy headstones, the pastor spoke of a stone rolled away, an empty tomb revealed, and angels in bright clothing asking the living among the dead, "Who are you looking for?"

It was then a young woman attending the sunrise service could no longer hold back her tears. With them flowing freely, she offered no apologies but rather she proclaimed the message of Easter more eloquently than any pastor ever could.

It's amazing that Easter joy begins in a graveyard! There is resurrection all around! We live because He lives!

Those around her smiled. Some even joined her in the tears she shed.

Yes, isn't it amazing, my friends, that Easter joy begins in a graveyard. Isn't it amazing that God brings new life from what has passed away? Death does not have the last word. Endings are new beginnings. Good-byes are followed by blessed hellos.

And yet, how many times do we fully embrace the Easter promise, believing beyond belief that the end is never the end with God?

The late Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong once said that "the Easter moment is a call to life, to love and to the courage to be all that God created us to be." We will never get to that Easter life, though, if we linger among that which is dead. For what are we hoping to revive? What are we clinging to? Who are we looking for?

As the angels proclaimed that first Easter morning, Jesus is alive. He is waiting to meet us on our paths where we discover the Risen Christ in the care shown to us from strangers as well as the compassion we give in return. We might not always recognize Jesus, but He is indeed there. Our cynical eyes just need to see through the lenses of faith.

May this Easter we stop our woeful gaze into the tomb of dead dreams and hopes and shout to the world, as Mary did, "I have seen the Lord!" For you have. He is alive among us — within all our hearts.

God of Easter new life, we thank You and praise You for fresh beginnings. May we begin to live as Easter people, holding tightly to the promise that death is no more. With our Risen Lord by our sides, there is always hope and amazing possibilities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



8-1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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