



St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

July 14, 2024

(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 - *"What a Friend We Have In Jesus"* - Ravi Evans

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 85:8-13)

Let us turn our hearts to hear from the Holy One!

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will embrace.

Let us turn our hearts to gain insight from the Holy One!

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Let us turn our hearts to receive from the Holy One!

Righteousness will go before them, and will make a path for their steps.

*Hymn

"We Love Your Realm, O God"

#312

Prayer of Confession/Brokenness - You have called us by name, Lord, and made us Your family. Yet we do not always live as one body in Christ—we neglect to care for Your creation; we forget that our neighbor is also our sibling; we ignore suffering children in lands far away. Forgive us, we pray. Loosen the chains we place on our lives—chains of burden and busyness, chains of ignorance and stress.

Free us to care for Your family, that we all might dance, sing, and praise Your glorious name! Amen.

Words of Grace - *We belong to the king of glory who joyfully sets us free.*

In Christ's healing hands, we find forgiveness and peace. Thanks be to God!

Sharing the Peace *The Peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!*

Joyful Response: *"Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God"*

#760

Amen, we praise your name, O God (Sing Amen)

Amen, we praise your name, O God (Sing Amen)

Amen, amen, Amen, amen,

Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Words for All - Especially Children

Special Music

"Amazing Grace"

Ravi Evans

Scripture:

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Message

"Where is God?"

Morning Prayer

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.

Celebration and Joys

*Singing Our Gratitude *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* #28 (stanzas 1 and 4)

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,

For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Refrain: God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude.

For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.

Refrain: God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings - Creator of all things, we give back to You in praise of Your glory. We do not wish to simply praise You with our song and our words and our hands; we wish to praise You by loving one another. Take and use our gifts, that they may serve Your kingdom. Amen.

*Hymn *"Live into Hope"* (insert)

*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, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Craig Stumpff, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams, Sharon Von Blohn.

Mostly Homebound- Ann Beasom, Richard Berry, Peg Brouse, Bill & Lola Fuller, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Ann Louise Snyder.

Immediate Concerns - Lisa B. (Linda & Wayne Williams' daughter), Peg Heetmann, Craig Hoffman, Park McKissick, Pam Mabus, Todd O'Neil, Alice Savidge, The Family of Merdyth Updegraff, Cyndi Weaver, Nancy Weslosky.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - are given by Dot & Art Bower in celebration of their 68th wedding anniversary.

WELCOME AND THANKS - please extend warm wishes and thanks to our special musician this morning, Ravi Evans.

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 persons 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 ushers.

PICNIC -We will hold a picnic immediately following the worship service **TODAY**. Please join us! Beverages and paper products will be provided.

THIS WEEK

Monday, July 15	5 - 830 pm 6 pm 7 pm	GTS (CH.RM) Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)
Tuesday, July 16	10 - Noon 10:30 am 7 pm	GTS (CH.RM.) Willowbrook Strings (FH) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, July 17	5 - 8:30 pm	GTS (CH.RM.)
Thursday, July 18	8:30 - 10:30 am 9 am - 10:30 am 1:30 - 3:30 pm 7 pm 7 - 8:30 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) CONSISTORY (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, July 19		
Saturday July 20		
Sunday, Jul 21	10 am	WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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 - The mission communion offering for the month of July is dedicated to the Donald Heiter Center.

LAY READERS NEEDED - The signup sheet for Lay-Readers is in the Narthex. Please consider signing up for a month or two!

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

July 7, 2024

Chancel Flowers - \$50.00; Current Expenses - \$4,145.00; Davy's Cards - \$25.00;
Giant Cards - \$1,200.00; Heiter Center - \$520.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$35.00; Loose Offering - \$20.00;
Memorial Fund - \$50.00; Mission/Social Action - \$300.00; OCWM - \$50.00;
Reitz Est. - \$9,917.55; St. John's Quilters - \$45.00; UCC Cornerstone - \$116.88;
Weis Cards - \$500.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$16,974.43 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*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*
, *Greeter*

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)

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July 14, 2024

2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19

"God-inspired Joy"

A prayer of confession based on 2 Samuel 6:5

Reader One: David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

Reader Two: In those days, the people were so delighted in God that they whirled and spun, sang and shouted, and played their instruments as loudly as they could.

Reader One: Why is it that we cannot remember the last time that we whirled our bodies in grateful amazement? Why do our songs fall tuneless from our mouths? Why is our praise so constrained, our rejoicing so quiet?

Reader Two: And when was the last time we did anything at all before our God with "all of our might?" Our prayers are half-hearted, our rejoicing is lukewarm, and our commitment to be fully present to the presence of God is flagging.

Reader One: But it is not too late, for us, sluggish though we have been. Sound the trumpet! Strike up the tambourines and castanets and cymbals! Play the instruments with all your might! Sing aloud and LOUD! Let God know of your gratitude and delight!

(Congregational dance break.)

Reader Two (a bit breathless, from dancing): Friends, by the grace of God, we are here! By the glory of God, we are a grateful and joyful people!

Reader One: By the sweat on our brows, by the breath that moves within and through us, by the bodies that awoke this day ready to sing and dance and move, we give thanks for God's presence with us, even when we forget to be present with God.

Congregation: We are God's people and so we sing! We are God's beloved people and so we dance! We are God's beloved, forgiven people and so we shout, AMEN!

