



JANUARY 5 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION - 10 AM  
JANUARY 6 - UNDECORATING THE CHURCH - 10 AM  
JANUARY 12 - WORSHIP - 10 AM  
JANUARY 12 - 2ND SUNDAY SOCIAL - 11 AM  
JANUARY 19 - WORSHIP - 10 AM  
JANUARY 26 - WORSHIP - 10 AM

# January

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





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each one of you!!

I am excited to see where God will lead us in the new year. How about you?

I am looking forward to taking one month of my sabbatical in January and I am grateful for the opportunity to have time for study, reflection, prayer and even some rest. I will be taking the rest of my sabbatical time later in the year. During these times, I look forward to worshiping with some other congregations and experience some days of prayerful quiet. I hope to explore ways in which our ministry at St. John's can continue to grow. Of course, growth means many different things.

Here are a few of the ways we can grow:

Growth in faith - an invitation for each one to study, pray and serve in ways that will make faith deeper.

Through our growth in faith, we become slowly transformed into Christ's image and become more Christlike in our thoughts, actions and attitudes.

Growth in community - an invitation for us to become an even more inclusive and loving congregation in which members, friends and visitors connect in meaningful and supportive relationships with one another.

There's growth in service - an exploration of the ways God is calling us to serve the world in new or familiar ways so that Christ's love is made known in the communities around us and into the world.

During the time I am on sabbatical I am very happy that Rev. Gary Nottis has agreed to provide leadership for worship (for most of the Sundays) and to be available for emergency pastoral care and other pastoral needs. We are blessed to have Pastor Gary!

I ask for your prayers that God will use this precious gift of time and bless our congregation through it.

Many thanks! Many blessings! See you in February!

In Christ's love, Alice

## “Red Book” Memories Continued XXVIII

### *“Through Thick and Thin”*

Throughout the history of St. John’s, our ancestral congregants enjoyed times of prosperity and peace. They also endured periods of economic hardship and rationing due to war, which required careful and creative use of resources, as well as flexibility. Our congregation’s capacity to deal with times both “thick and thin,” are clearly reflected in our church’s cookbooks.

We currently have three cookbooks in our archives, published by our church in 1940, 1947, and 2004. Each contains recipes contributed by church members. It’s fascinating to look through them, especially when it comes to seeing how some recipes have remained the same over the years while others have markedly changed. It’s also interesting to find recipes in the older cookbooks that you won’t find in later ones.

For example, all three cookbooks have recipes for Banana Bread that are remarkably the same, no matter the year of the cookbook. All call for mashed bananas, sugar, shortening, flour, salt, and other familiar ingredients. The amount of sugar used remains the same. Further, each recipe requires a baking time of about an hour and at a temperature of 350° F.

However, the earlier 1940 and 1947 cookbooks have recipes unique to the times when they were written, ones of rationing, shortages, and uncontrolled high food costs. In those publications, you will find recipes for “Butterless, Eggless, and Milkless Cake.” The primary ingredients were brown sugar, raisins, citron, shortening, flour, baking powder, and assorted commonly available spices, like cinnamon and cloves. There are also recipes for “Eggless Cookies” (which used minimal flour) and a “Graham Roll,” made from Graham Crackers, dates, walnuts, and marshmallows. One other recipe that deserves attention is “Shredded Wheat Pudding,” made with easily obtained Shredded Wheat biscuits, along with two eggs, molasses, and milk. It is just one of a number of pudding recipes found in the earlier cookbooks.

The 1940 and 1947 cookbooks also offered a number of casserole recipes that made use of beef, pork, cheese, and noodles. These foods were readily available, locally. Most call for the inclusion of milk and toppings of bread or cracker crumbs. These ingredients were added to increase the number of servings in a casserole and to make them more filling. What a practical way to stretch food and grocery money!

Something else found in the 1940 and 1947 St. John’s cookbooks, that does not appear in the latest one, are recipes for making cough syrup and hand lotion. The cough syrup was made from “horehound tea,” lemons, licorice, brown sugar, and rock candy. “Tragacanth,” glycerin, and water were used for making the hand lotion. Why purchase a remedy that might be costly and unavailable, when you could make your own?

Our 2004 cookbook, written during a time of relative prosperity compared to the earlier books, is very different. It features recipes that make use of a variety of meats, vegetables, grains, and other ingredients. This is demonstrated by the recipes provided for haddock fillets, scallops, salmon, and tofu. Except for a couple of canned salmon recipes, none of those other ingredients appeared in the 1940 and 1947 cookbooks.

Regardless of when the cookbooks were written, the recipes provided were designed to make use of available resources. and to produce meals that were nutritious, filling, and satisfying. They reflect careful thought and creativity, as well as flexibility and adaptability. No doubt, that same kind of practical approach during times of “thick and thin” was applied to the resources of people, money, and goods available to the congregation of St. John’s. It allowed our church to prosper and meet the needs of its members, as well as the people our faith community has touched over the years, despite times of scarcity. Let us always remember the example set by the authors of our cookbooks and use it to carry us into the future, as we continue to be faithful to God and our Lord, Jesus.

– Gary Nottis



Dear Quilters,

Thank you so much fo the beautiful quilt I received yesterday. I plan to bundle up in it on my to my next visit at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Receiving this lovely quilt feels like Joseph wrapped me in his own coat of many colors.

Thankyou for sharing your talents and showing me such love!

Fondly,

Mary Lou Rich

Quilters,

Thank you so much for the quilt that was provided to me after my surgery. The quilt is absolutely beautiful. The craftsmanship and love can be felt from all those who created it.

Dennis Meckley

Dear Quilters,

The quilts are so beautiful and mean so much to us. Knowing theses quilts were made with love makes them extra special. Thank you for being caring friends.

God's love to all!

Wayne & Sara Woods

### Selinsgrove Center Party a Success!

On Tuesday, December 10, a party was held for one of the neighborhoods at Selinsgrove Center. The ladies that reside there were thrilled! Thank you to everyone who worked to make this a success. A big thank you to those who made the colorful quilts for gifts, those who provided cookies and puddings, and those who attended the party and sang Christmas carols. Please consider participating in this worthwhile event next year.

### Save the Date: January Second Sunday Social

The Christian Education team will begin the next set of Second Sunday Socials on **January 12, 2025**, after church in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a light lunch and learning opportunity!



### NOVEMBER 2024 REPORT

Current Operating Receipts	\$	40,430.60
Current Operating Disbursements	\$ -	<b>21,762.67</b>
<b>Current Operating Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,674.93</b>



01/06 Margaret Brouse  
 01/06 Jerry Weslosky  
 01/09 Dee Ledgerwood  
 01/13 Rose Williams  
 01/14 Andrew Derr  
 01/24 Pamela Mabus  
 01/27 Craig Swineford

01/04 Baish, Susan & James  
 01/21 Berry, Carol & Richard  
 01/26 Macpherson, Cherie & Bryan

**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.

### **Thanks for Doing Nightly Church Walk-throughs**

Buildings and Grounds would like thank everyone who signed up in 2024 to do a month of nightly walk-throughs of the Church facility: Jim Tomlinson (two months), Mark Satteson, Ed Donlin, Ron Zug, Don Adams, Dave and Ann Smit, Shannon Pruitt, Lisa and Alicia Graybill, and Chuck Laudermilch. We particularly want to thank Bob Brouse and Mark Brouse who have done these nightly walk-throughs ever since the church was built—for 35 years! These walk-throughs are important for the security of the building and for preventing maintenance problems, so we are grateful for these volunteers' service to the Church.

### Those St. John's Reformed Dishes

Some church members may remember the St. John's Reformed dinnerware that the church has owned for many years. We have about 100 place settings—dinner plate, salad plate, cup, and saucer, along with various serving items such as gravy pitchers and platters. Our best guess is that this dinnerware was purchased for church dinners 80-100 years ago. In recent years, we have rarely used the place settings because they are very heavy. We also have located 34 plates commemorating St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will not have space for any of these items in the renovated kitchen. We have preserved one place setting of the dinnerware and one of the commemorative plates in a glass-front cabinet in the narthex. We plan to keep some of the serving pieces.



The Kitchen Renovation Committee would like to make place settings of the St. John's Reformed place dinnerware available to members of the congregation, along with the commemorative plates. There is no charge, but you are welcome to donate to the Kitchen Refurnishing Fund. We will look for a way to pass the rest of the place settings along to people who can use them. In fact, several place settings have already been donated to a refugee family new to the area.

Please contact Dee Ledgerwood (201-370-6979; [deeledgerwood@gmail.com](mailto:deeledgerwood@gmail.com)) if you would like a place setting or a commemorative plate, or if you have any questions.



### The Kitchen Refurnishing Fund

The Consistory of St. John's UCC has authorized setting up a fund called the Kitchen Refurnishing Fund, to be operative throughout 2025. We are looking forward to having a licensed kitchen, which means that as much cooking gear as possible should be washed in the commercial dishwasher. At present, many of the pots and baking pans are aluminum and cannot go through the commercial dishwasher. Additionally, many utensils such as cooking spoons and spatulas are either aluminum or have plastic, resin, or wooden parts, and they cannot go through the dishwasher. We are looking to replace these items with stainless steel versions. The Kitchen Renovation Committee is developing a "wish list" of needed items for refurnishing the kitchen, and we will provide that information in the next newsletter. The items that we can no longer use will go to agencies or people who can use them.



**Wired Word Study Group**

The Wired Word Study Group will meet on a new day of the month starting in December. Please join us on Monday, **January 6, 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 high, but we are running out of funds. At present we have promises for about half 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".

# JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up:

Lay-Reader: **BETH MOSER**

**Preparation of Communion Elements:**

JANUARY	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
5	DURING WORSHIP	CAROL BERRY
12	DURING WORSHIP	
19	DURING WORSHIP	
26	DURING WORSHIP	

JANUARY	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
5		Keira/Kora Aulenbach
12		Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
19		Keira/ Kora Aulenbach
26		Keira/ Kora Aulenbach

JANUARY	GREETERS
5	CAROL & CHUCK LAUDERMILCH
12	NANCY & JERRY WESLOSKY
19	BONNIE & DENNIS MECKLEY
26	SUE & JIM TOMLINSON





**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**

January – LEAF fund

February – Mazeppa Manna

March – One Great Hour of Sharing\*

April – Transitions

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\*

November – Devitt House

December – The Christmas Fund \* (Veterans of the Cross)

(Youth) Souper Bowl of Caring

Easter Food Baskets

(Easter Food Baskets Cont.)

Walk (Hunger)

Thanksgiving Baskets

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*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</p> <p>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am PEO (GP)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Building &amp; Grounds (PAR)</p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am Girl Scouts (FH)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</p> <p>8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)</p> <p>9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP - COMMUNION</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm M.A.S.H. (ZOOM)</p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</p> <p>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS &amp; MORE (CR)</p> <p>1:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP)</p> <p>7:00pm CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm CONSISTORY (ZOOM)</p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00am Girl Scouts (FH) makeup date</p>
<p>19</p> <p>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</p> <p>8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)</p> <p>9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p> <p>3:00pm Eagle Scout service (SANCT/FH)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00pm BVS Board meeting (PAR)</p> <p>6:00pm Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR)</p> <p>7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)</p> <p>7:00pm Girl Scout Leaders (GP)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</p> <p>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:00pm Girl Scouts (FH)</p>