



JULY 7 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION - 10 am

JULY 10 - BOOK STUDY - TRIP TO HAVEN MINISTRIES - 5pm

JULY 14 - WORSHIP - 10 am

JULY 14 - PICNIC - 11 am

JULY 21 - WORSHIP - 10 am

JULY 24 - BOOK STUDY WRAP-UP - 7 pm

JULY 28 - WORSHIP - 10 am



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



Pastor's COLUMN

“As we step into the heart of summer, a season that brings warmth, growth, and an abundance of light, we find ourselves surrounded by the blessings of renewal and growth in both nature and spirit.

Just as the sun rises each morning, bringing forth light and warmth to nourish the earth, so too does God's love and grace shine upon each of us, offering us the opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal.

During this month of July, let us reflect on the theme of renewal in our lives. As we witness the beauty of blooming flowers and flourishing gardens, let us also take time to nurture the gardens of our hearts and minds. Perhaps this is a time for each of us to reflect on our spiritual journey, to seek forgiveness where needed, and to renew our commitment to living a life aligned with God's will.

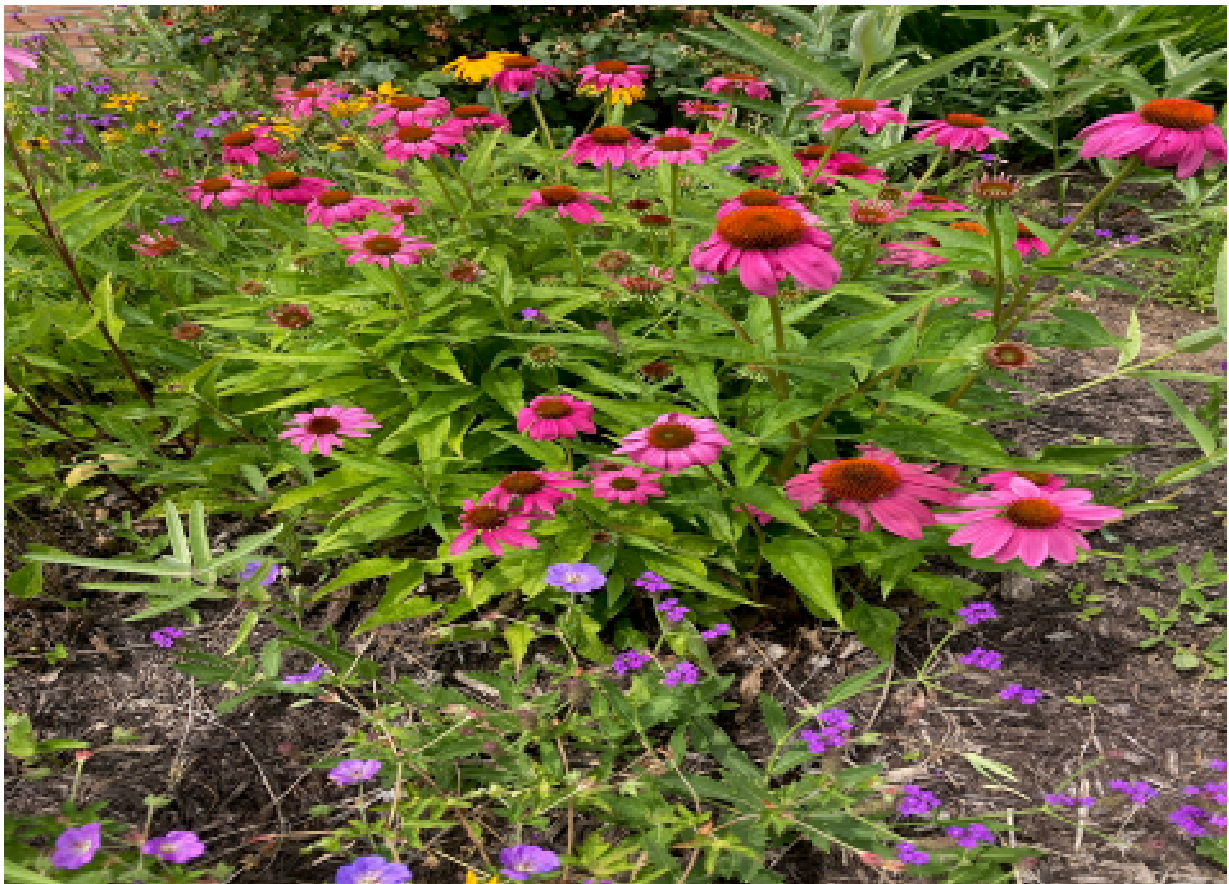
Summer invites us to embrace the outdoors, to marvel at the intricacies of creation, and to find solace in the quiet moments of prayer and contemplation. Whether it be through a walk in the park, a hike in the mountains, or a moment of stillness in our own backyard, let us open our hearts to receive the peace and wisdom that God offers us.

As a community, let us also remember those who may be struggling during this season. Summer can be a time of joy for many, but it can also be a challenging time for those who are lonely, facing hardships, or experiencing illness. Let us extend our hands in compassion and support, embodying the spirit of Christ in our words and actions.

May this July be a month of renewal, growth, and deepening faith for each of us. Let us embrace the blessings of summer with gratitude and joy, knowing that God's love is ever-present and abundant.”

(newsletter article by an anonymous writer)

Blessings and peace! Alice



“Red Book” Memories Continued XXII

“In Celebration of... Our Hospitality”

“Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it.”

— Hebrews 13:2 (CEV)

A congregation's hospitality is an expression of its love for God and Jesus. It is demonstrated by intentional acts of invitation and community service. These are not only directed toward its members and related families, but also individuals in the wider community. Further, the very best expressions of a church's hospitality are based on one-to-one interactions and a willingness to be adaptable to changing times and circumstances. We, at St. John's, can celebrate many such acts of hospitality that our faith community has performed over the past 200 years, and continues to enact. We have worked and strived to be obedient to the biblical mandate from Hebrews 13. Here are a few examples.

According to our “Red Book,” our congregation's very first act of hospitality was the establishment of a faith community in Lewisburg. The “Red Book” notes that in 1824, the population of Lewisburg was 924 people, some of which belonged to the Reformed faith. The presence of a Reformed church served the needs of those individuals and offered others in Lewisburg another opportunity to worship God and nurture their faith.

Another example of hospitality, noted in our “Red Book”, was our faith community's experimentation with both German and English language worship services during the pastorate of Rev. Samuel H. Reed (1842-1843). This was an effort to make the Reformed tradition more accessible to a larger group of people in Lewisburg. Still another instance is recorded during the pastorate of Rev. Henry Harbaugh Rupp (1920-1937). At that time, the people of St. John's began offering “social services” to the community, which was something new for Lewisburg and the surrounding area. Then in 1946, when Rev. Perry Smith (1938-1949) served St. John's, congregational members opened the church's doors and provided a Christian program for the younger children of Lewisburg, called the “Happy Hour.”

Additionally, as reported in a previous “Red Book Memories Continued” article, in the past our congregation has provided financial support to Devitt Home in Allenwood, visited with residents, maintained a garden, and even grew fresh vegetables for the home. The people of St. John's made resources and facility space available to Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, as well as a Prison Visitor's Service, which served hot breakfasts for families visiting with 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 those places at Christmas. A Christmas party is still held at Selinsgrove.

Our church has distributed food to area pantries, gathered and shared clothing with immigrants and refugees, assembled and delivered kits for Church World Service, and created and sustained the pastor's LEAF fund to provide some emergency financial assistance to individuals and families in need. We have also sponsored families through “Christmas Giving Trees,” provided gifts for young residents of the Bethany Children's Home, and given generously to various benevolences through monthly and special offerings. While some of these activities may seem more like mission and service projects, they are also expressions of our congregation's hospitality.

Many of the activities noted above, continue to this day with new ones offered. Consider that our present church building was constructed with the hope that we could offer space and resources to varied community organizations, which is happening. The pastor's LEAF fund is actively used, food is gathered and donated to others through the Lewisburg Food Hub and our Frozen Food ministry. Other examples of hospitality include our annual Christmas Day Dinner, holiday food baskets, and the efforts of our Quilters, Knitters, and Knotters group. And of course, let us not forget the volunteer work of our greeters and ushers who welcome people to our church services, as well as the day-to-day ministries of our paid staff.

All of these things and more, demonstrate our lasting commitment to hospitality and our love of God and Jesus. Hospitality has been a hallmark of our church since the very beginning. Let us endeavor to keep it flourishing in our next 100 years. We might just be welcoming angels as guests.

— Gary Nottis

Earlier this year, we kicked-off our bicentennial celebration with the creation of special logos by Dot Bower and Riley Hoey. These adorn selected clothing and other items made in honor of this milestone occasion. Some have already been sold and delivered to members. But, if you missed the chance to get these 200th Anniversary keepsakes, they will again be advertised for purchase at a later date.

In March, our months-long celebration began in earnest with the hanging of a beautiful 200th Anniversary quilt in our Narthex. It was lovingly made by one of the St. John's Quilters, Knitters and Knotters. This was followed by our Sunday, March 10th, worship service, which featured a special, thought-provoking sermon offered by Penn Central Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, followed by a delicious congregational meal. In June we had a music festival featuring different musical groups who call St. John's home!

As our 200th Anniversary year progresses, you will have so much more to look forward to. For example, each month, we will focus on a major aspect of our congregational life. That schedule includes:

July – Hospitality and growth

August – Buildings and grounds

September – Christian education

October – Celebration of our church pastors, church leaders, and spiritual children

Activities appropriate for each month, including presentations, picnics, sales, and displays, have been planned. Dates for them will be announced in coming newsletters and worship services. Do look forward to them and please plan to participate!

Additionally, there is one event you should certainly mark on your calendar to attend:

October 20th – 3 PM Worshipful Celebration of St. John's, followed at 5 PM by a catered congregational dinner at the Silver Moon Banquet Hall in Lewisburg.

St. John's is 200 years old! Be sure to come and celebrate this wonderful milestone with your church family as events are offered. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:3, NIV)



07/04 Dreese, Darryl
 07/06 Bower, Dorothy
 07/07 Brouse, Robert
 07/08 Laudermilch, Carol
 07/12 Kugler, William
 07/18 Ransdorf, Caleb
 07/18 Zug, Janet
 07/24 Ledgerwood, Bill
 07/25 DeSantis, Erin
 07/28 Fennell, William
 07/28 Rich, Mary Lou

07/03 Linda & Wayne Williams
 07/27 Donna & Darryl Dreese
 07/29 Donna & Forrest Aepli
 07/30 Sharon & Clair Brown
 07/30 Bonnie & Dennis Meckley



ANNUAL YARD SALE AUGUST 28TH

It's time to sort through all of your outgrown clothing, books, unwanted items, clutter and STUFF!

We will be accepting all items in the old nursery room off of Fellowship Hall, or under the pavilion. We will be meeting Monday mornings from 10 am till noon to sort things.

This is our one fund raising event for the year where you can come, do a little work, enjoy some fellowship with other members and make some money for the good of the Church. Please reserve **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28TH** to come and help!



MAY 2024 REPORT

Current Operating Receipts	\$ 12,916.82
<u>Current Operating Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ - 21,941.79</u>
Current Operating Balance	\$ -9,024.97



Dear St. John's Quilters,

I was so touched when Liz brought me one of your beautiful quilts before my recent surgery. I'm keeping it at the foot of my bed and will pull it up over me as the evenings cool and when I need a little extra comfort in the night. You may be sure that I'll remember your kindness and your prayers each time I wrap the quilt around me.

May God continue to bless you and your special ministry.

With sincere thanks

Peg Heetmann

Dear Friends at Church,

Thank you so much for the snack box. Even though I received it too late for school, I still enjoyed it none the less. I appreciate all of your letters and the kind gesture that was the whole package.

Thank you again,
Adelaide (Addie)

I was very surprised and touched by the lovely quilt received yesterday - how thoughtful of you! And by your church for the project they have taken up.

Truth be told, I am using it already and love it. So light and the right warmth when resting or reading.

Long Covid has not been officially diagnosed as yet - a matter of ruling out everything else, since some tests are inconclusive, further testing is ongoing. I was actually hoping it was med side effects - easier to treat - but may not be.

In the meantime, am doing what I can and trusting the healing will come one way or another - having both good and not so good days.

Warmly,
Evelyn Landis

Mark Your Calendars! - A trip to Knoebels

Sponsored by our Youth Group

On Sunday, August 18th, you are invited to join your church family for an afternoon at Knoebels Amusement Park. We have reserved Pavilion S and will be having a lunch provided for us at 1:15 p.m. Lunch will include hamburgers, hot dogs, and mac and cheese. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share if you'd like to. Beverages will be provided.

The church will be purchasing tickets, too (no wristbands available that day), that will be provided for the youth and children that are signed up. We are asking all folks going to Knoebels to pay \$5 to help defray the cost of food and tickets.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or call the church office to let us know you will be coming, by Monday, August 5th. Let's have a great time of fellowship and fun together!

ST. JOHN'S WAS ALIVE WITH MUSIC!

Despite the heat and humidity, the Sanctuary and halls of St. John's were filled with the sound of music on Sunday afternoon, June 23rd. It was a festival performed as part of the church's months-long 200th Anniversary celebration. The various music groups who use the church facility for practices and performances offered more than two-and-a-half hours of Barbershop, Blue Grass, Contemporary, and religious selections, as well as a seasoning of humor. The musical talents of the Willowbrook Strings, Heart of PA Women's Chorus, Buffalo Valley Singers, Men's West Branch Chorus, and the Railside Troubadours entertained those who came to this free event which was open to the public. Most who attended remained the entire afternoon and were treated to free hotdogs, chips, drinks, and ice cream provided by the Ard's Freeze Ice Cream Truck.

Congratulations were offered by all of the musical groups regarding the church's 200 years of ministry, along with notes of appreciation for the generosity and hospitality of St. John's through its provision of space and time for the musical organizations. It was a wonderful way to spend a warm Sunday afternoon!

Special thanks go out to the performers, the church volunteers who served as greeters and prepared the food, and to Alan Ard for providing his ice cream truck. Extra special thanks go out to Todd Hummel and Pastor Alice for their behind-the-scenes efforts that made this inspiring afternoon possible.



HOSPITALITY AND GROWTH NEWS

New and exciting ideas abound at St. John's UCC as we continue to delve into the richness of our 200 years old history. The Hospitality and Growth committee has been interwoven into the many events that we have had in celebration and expression of gratitude for our church facilities, and everyone, past and present, that we have been fortunate to call our church family. Our next opportunity to share together as one is the July 14th church picnic, being held immediately following church services outdoors in the pavilion or in Fellowship Hall if weather dictates. We hope to have it be a nod to the past by having covered dishes featuring dishes that are from your family's past. Or it may be something new, a recipe you have recently discovered that will definitely be a culinary fixture in your future. A sign-up sheet will be located in the Narthex. We look forward to seeing you there!



Wired Word Study Group

The Wired Word Study Group will be on break for the months of July, and August. Have a safe, happy, and blessed summer, and we hope to see you in the study group in September!



Mark Your Calendar - Second Sunday Social on August 11

The Second Sunday Social is on a break for July, so that everyone can attend the Congregational Picnic after worship on July 14. Please mark your calendar for the next Second Sunday Social, **August 11**, when Sue Baish will introduce us to the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Second Sunday Social is held directly after church with a light lunch provided.



Our **FROZEN FOOD COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY** is officially kicking off. Wendy G. brings her years of food service to guide us as our Coordinator. We thank her for her leadership and service on this journey. She is a pure delight and if some of you have not personally met her yet, we hope you will do so in the near future.

St. John's U.C.C. has always had a wonderful tradition of recognizing the act of bringing simple nourishment to individuals or families as a way to show compassion and Christian love in many different situations. Keeping with our vision for 2024, "Rooted in Tradition, Progressive in our Outlook" we are ready to take that tradition forward. We are setting this ministry up for success. The display in the Narthex will have everything you may need: containers for your use, instructions regarding labeling, dropping off completed meals, and the hours and drop-off location.

St. John's has recognized the need for this frozen food ministry and we have the heart and desire to meet it. As an individual, a family project, or as a small group, we need you. Make a planned extra serving for one or more or donate your leftovers to this project. Instead of putting extra food into your refrigerator where it often gets forgotten and then thrown out, we need you. This will be an ongoing ministry with a new twist. There will be no need to set schedules. You will experience the undeniable knowing in your heart, when the time is right and what you would like to do.

JULY VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up: DON ADAMS

Lay-Reader: SYLAS WILDE

Preparation of Communion Elements:

JULY	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
7	DURING WORSHIP	LINDA SARTWELL
14	DURING WORSHIP	
21	DURING WORSHIP	
28	DURING WORSHIP	

JULY	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
7	DOT & ART BOWER	Keira Aulenbach
14		Keira Aulenbach
21		Keira Aulenbach
28	SYLAS WILDE & WENDY GENTZEL	Keira Aulenbach

JULY	GREETERS
7	CAROL BERRY
14	
21	CAROL BERRY
28	



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

[Visit us on the Web!](#)

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!

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MONTHLY COMMUNION MISSIONS

July - DONALD HEITER CENTER

August - UNION COUNTY FOOD BANK

September - WILLIAM CAMERON ENGINE CO.

October - NEIGHBORS IN NEED



HC Spirit Homecoming

Registrations are open for HC Spirit Homecoming 2024, **Sunday, July 28th through Saturday, August 3rd**, located at Hartman Center. A variety of camps is available, with offers for all ages.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	1 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV) 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR) 7:00pm HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE (GP)	2 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	3 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV)	4 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV) 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Building & Grounds (PAR) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	5 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV)	6
7 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP - COMMUNION	8 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV) 9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS & MORE (CR) 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) 1:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP) 7:00pm CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)	9 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	10 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV) 5:00pm BOOK STUDY/YOUTH GROUP TRIP TO HAVEN MINISTRIES	11 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV) 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm MISSION/SOCIAL ACTION COMM. (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	12 8:30am GTS (FH/PAV)	13
14 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP 11:00am PICNIC (PAV)	15 6:00pm Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR) 7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)	16 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	17	18 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm CONSISTORY (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	19 7:00pm GTS (SANCT)	20
21 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	22 8:30am Kinder Music (Pav)	23 8:30am Kinder Music (Pav) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	24 8:30am Kinder Music (Pav) 7:00pm BOOK STUDY/YOUTH GROUP (GP)	25 8:30am Kinder Music (Pav) 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY (GP/ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	26 8:30am Kinder Music (Pav) 5:00pm GTS (SANCT)	27 5:00pm GTS (SANCT)
28 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	29	30 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	31	1 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Building & Grounds (PAR) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	2	3