



**NOVEMBER 3, ALL SAINTS DAY WORSHIP, COMMUNION - 10 am**  
**NOVEMBER 10 - WORSHIP - 10 am**  
**NOVEMBER 10 - CONGREGATIONAL KITCHEN INFO MEETING 11 am**  
**NOVEMBER 16 - CONFIRMATION CLASS - 3 pm - 6 pm**  
**NOVEMBER 17 - WORSHIP - 10 am**  
**NOVEMBER 17 - CONGRATIONAL MEETING FOR KITCHEN VOTE - 11am**  
**NOVEMBER 24 - WORSHIP - 10 am**

# November

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





How are you doing?

When you receive this newsletter, we will likely be a few days away from a national election. We have experienced so much divisiveness in our nation. If you watch TV the political ads don't seem to stop and each one contradicts the last one. It is hard to avoid the anxiety and distress around this upcoming election.

It's not just the election that divides peoples these days. There are ideological divides in denominations, nations, institutions and many other areas of our lives. The tension is palpable and impacts us as groups and as individuals.

While there are no easy answers, there are some things we can do to be about the work of reconciliation even in a time of discord. For us, as people of faith, it begins with recognizing our priorities that take us above any of the divides we may experience as humans. In a recent "meme" on social media there's a quote that says, "no matter who you see, you can be certain that God loves them." That's a good starting point. If God loves the person that I am talking to (and God does) who am I to do anything other than love them - translation - treat them with respect as a child of God.

That sounds lovely, but there's a step beyond "looking at them" and what we might be thinking about our understandings of a person, but then we might engage in conversation with a person (or be in a situation in which we have to share in conversation). How do we do so and maintain our respect and love as we talk across the divide?

In a recent article in Christian Century, it tells of a retired social worker who has never "felt at home in any ... camp". He described his situation as one in which he felt very torn - almost like being split in half. "I didn't want to reject them [people he loved who thought differently] and everything that was near and dear to them. But I also wanted to make my way and was drawn to pursue social justice." This can be a difficult and exhausting place to find ourselves.

The author of the article tells about several efforts to move across the divide. One is called "Untying Knots - an initiative to bring communications workshops to Catholic and Protestant churches, colleges and retreat centers." An important premise in their work is abandoning the immediate desire to convert people to our opinion. Another important observation is that we can work side-by-side with people who think, worship and vote differently than we do. The founder says, "The first service we owe to others is in learning to listen to them. The ministry of healing is committed to us by God, who is the great listener."

Another effort is called the "People's Supper" a weekly meal designed for neighbors to come together and talk about things that concerned them. Over time, it became obvious that political differences threatened to destroy the gathering and make it impossible for them to continue in their weekly gatherings. On one night the leader said, "There's no ignoring we're not in agreement about what we hope for [in a particular election]. We have this dinner every week, but let's figure out how we want to move through this." As the group talked about things they "decided to put their phones away, share a normal dinner and watch the election together, acknowledging in advance that no matter the outcome, some would be pleased, others devastated."

The People's Supper founder, K Scarry, believes that relationships can be maintained across differences if "both [all] participants can grow in self-awareness of their own emotional responses."

There are many ways to enter into difficult conversations - of course starting with respect for all as God's children, a willingness to check our own emotional responses. Another tool is being willing to be curious about how someone else "holds together" Leah Sargeant, founder of "Braver Angels" says it 'makes sense to map the other side's viewpoint before trying to knock it down - asking "Why do you think this?" She notes that [some] might be on the same side of an issue but for different reasons, which also matter."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

My prayer for each one is that we can move through this season with grace, humor and a desire for healing and reconciliation; with all of this being infused with a deep belief that God’s love is greater than any human difference. In response to differences with others, we are to “love them, respect them, and seek to understand where they are coming from.” This is not easy work, but it is important work and is a fundamental part of our identity as followers of Jesus, whose ministry was about love for all of humanity. "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" Galatians 6:9.

Blessings in this season! Alice

The Christian Century, November 2024: “Bridging the Ideological Divide” by Jeanne Marie Pitas



**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. **Please bring in packaged snacks by Sunday, November 17, so that care packages can be made by Thanksgiving.** 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.



Thanksgiving Baskets

**THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

Our congregation will be providing Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for 15 Children and Youth families who need assistance to have a holiday meal. We will be collecting both monetary donations, and nonperishable foods such as (cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, canned veggies and fruits, and dessert such as Jello/pudding, pie filling and crust, and cake mixes). Please have all donations to the Church no later than **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Please be generous this holiday so others may be able to enjoy a nice holiday meal and leftovers.



**SEPTEMBER 2024 REPORT**

Current Operating Receipts	\$	19,110.85
Current Operating Disbursements	\$ -	<b>24,721.98</b>
Current Operating Balance	\$	<b>-5,611.13</b>

*"Continuous Celebration"*

**Celebrate and be glad forever! I am creating a Jerusalem, full of happy people.**

– Isaiah 65:18 (CEV)

Our congregation's special commemorative worship service on the afternoon of October 20<sup>th</sup>, as well as the catered dinner that followed, officially marked the end of our eight-month-long bicentennial observance. However, that doesn't mean that our celebrations have finished. There will still be some "unofficial" activities, including the filling and burial of a congregational time capsule and the publication of a special, illustrated collection of my "Red Book" articles from over the years, which will include information about our bicentennial events. But even then, our celebrations should not conclude.

Psychologists have found that celebrating helps us to be appreciative of our blessings and more hopeful when things seem uncertain. What's more, celebrating works to build our capacity to be resilient and enhances our overall wellbeing. These are vital resources we will need to draw upon as we build our church's future. Our ongoing celebration should manifest itself in how we continue to function as a church.

As I have noted in my previous "Red Book" articles, we have a history of inspiring worship and music ministries. These have enhanced our congregational life and fellowship, drawing those who hear or participate in them into a deeper experience of God and Jesus. Our worship and music have also promoted spiritual growth.

We have a history of quality Christian education, not only through classroom lessons, but also by participation in the full life of the church, mission projects, and community outreach. These activities have taught us how to live and act in the world as disciples of Jesus the Christ. Additionally, our Christian education opportunities have deepened and nourished our faith.

We have a history of congregational generosity and of encouraging church members to give of their time, talents, and resources in support of the life of our faith community. Our worship services, Christian education efforts, church administration, and facility upkeep, as well as church dinners and community outreach, have all benefited from this aspect of our congregational life.

We have a history of hospitality. It has been demonstrated by intentional acts of invitation and community service. These have not only been directed toward its members and related families, but also individuals in the wider community. All are welcome at St. John's.

We have a history of being actively involved in mission and service to our neighbors, whether they are children, the elderly, those struggling with physical or mental disabilities, people facing financial and food insecurity, or even prisoners in nearby facilities.

Finally, we have a history of seeking quality pastors. We have searched for and called well-trained, dedicated servants of God and Jesus, who have guided and nurtured our faith community through peaceful and prosperous years, and through times of hardship, such as war and economic downturn. They have loved us, cared for us, challenged us, inspired us, and journeyed with us through good times and bad. They have helped to make us the vital faith community we are today.

All of these things have come to define St. John's, and how we exist as a church and express our devotion for God, Jesus, and the people we encounter. When we enact them, we celebrate who we have been, who we are, and who we will become. We show an appreciation for our blessings. We build confidence in our ability to be a vibrant congregation in the face of changing times, being flexible and adaptable. We approach the future with hope. That is why the celebration must be unending.

Let us embrace and enact the best of St. John's, as we have before. Let the celebration continue!

– Gary Nottis

## Important Congregational Meetings about a Proposal to Renovate the Kitchen

On **Sunday, Nov. 10**, There will be an informational meeting for the congregation about the proposed kitchen renovation immediately after the church service, with a **congregational vote to be held on Sunday, Nov. 17, after the service**. Since early 2024, a Kitchen Renovation Committee composed of Linda Sartwell, Penny Cooper, Dee Ledgerwood, Todd Hummel, Sue Tomlinson, Alice Rauch, and Ann Smit (chair) has considered issues with the church kitchen, including:

- a partially working gas stove and non-working ovens
- an old and energy-inefficient refrigerator and a freezer that is too small
- non-working electrical outlets in the countertops
- damaged and dated cabinetry

Additionally, the kitchen does not meet current codes, due to lack of a dedicated hand-washing sink, lack of a fire suppression system in the hood, and lack of a wheelchair-accessible sink and counter.

The committee considered at length how the kitchen could be used over the next 35 years, given St. John's own needs and its long-standing commitment to serving the community. Because of the scope of the issues, the Committee engaged a consultant to assist in updating the kitchen to meet future needs and to bring it up to code.

The committee decided to switch to electrical appliances when replacing the gas stove and ovens, primarily for reasons of safety and energy efficiency. The consultant urged them to keep the existing commercial dishwasher, the commercial hood, the triple sinks, and the wooden shelving in the storage closet, all of which are still in good working order, which helps to keep costs down. At the same time, the total costs for the renovation are substantial, as they include several new and energy-efficient commercial appliances, new cabinetry, new waterproof flooring, a hood fire-suppression system, engineering costs, construction costs, and costs related to a building permit.

The proposed renovation plan has been approved by the Building and Grounds Committee, the Finance, Stewardship, and Personnel Committee, and the Consistory. St. John's has a Building Fund - Phase II that can only be used to expand or improve the building. This fund was created by generous donors when the present church was built in 1990, and it has accrued a very substantial amount of interest over the years. The Finance Committee recommends using some of this money for the kitchen renovation.

Both the informational meeting and the vote will be held in the sanctuary immediately after the church service. They will be available to members who join via Facebook or YouTube. Information about how to vote will be provided.







# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

## United Church of Christ

PO Box 6625 | 6490 Linglestown Rd. Harrisburg, PA 17112

717-652-1560 | [pccucc.org](http://pccucc.org) | [facebook.com/penncentralconferenceucc](https://facebook.com/penncentralconferenceucc)

October 20, 2024

St. John's United Church of Christ

1050 Buffalo Rd

Lewisburg PA 17837

Dear Pastor Alice, Members, and Friends of St. John's UCC,

"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace." Philippians 1:3-7a

As the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, I echo to you in celebration of your 200th Anniversary! Your covenant with the Penn Central Conference and the United Church of Christ invites this thanksgiving and celebration. May you continue to grow in love for one another and in your response to God's call to work in the world!

God has blessed your ministry throughout your 200 years. Indeed, God has blessed each of you on this day of celebration! May those blessings on mission, ministry, and people continue far into the future!

Peace,

Rev. Carrie Call

Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ



11/01 Beasom, Ann  
 11/02 Baish, James  
 11/02 Gemberling, Suzann  
 11/03 Williams, Wayne  
 11/04 Anderson, Rev. Marian  
 11/09 Rauch, Bruce  
 11/14 Catherman, Alexander  
 11/18 Rich, Thomas  
 11/21 Catherman, Justin  
 11/21 Griffith, Keith  
 11/21 Wilkins, Dotty

11/22 Sue & Jim Tomlinson



### Fall Book Study

#### God in the World/How Then Should We Live: Biblical Wisdom Literature

For our Book Study this fall we will study the Wisdom Literature in the Old and New Testaments, focused on the way the Biblical writers understood God to be revealed in the world or, given the nature of the world, how they thought they should live. We will consider how their wisdom can be applied to our lives today.

We will read and discuss these books of the Bible:

- The Book of Ecclesiastes
- The Book of Job
- The Book of Proverbs
- The Book of Jonah
- The New Testament Book of James

Our only book will be the Bible itself, no matter what the translation.

We will meet at our usual time: on **Monday afternoons at 4:00 or 4:15, beginning on Monday, October 7, and through Monday, November 11.** Everyone Is Welcome!

THANKS  
FROM THE  
HEART

To the Yard Sale folks at St. John's,  
A note of thanks for your donations from your yard sale to the Mazeppa  
Manna. Your church has been so supportive of our mission to help others.  
Thanks so much!  
In Christian Love,  
Beth Hackenberg

Dear St. John's Quilters,  
A sincere thank you for the beautiful quilt I received yesterday. The love put into it is quite evident. Not only is golf my sport of choice, but the back of it is my favorite color!  
May God who loves us all beyond measure continue to grant each of you His grace, mercy and peace daily.  
Sincerely,  
John Marshall

Dear Quilters,  
I am trying to find the right words to describe how much the quilt you made for me means to me. I have brought the quilt with me for 21 cancer treatments, with 1 more treatment to go. When I cover myself, during the treatment, I am warmed in my heart. Your quilting group are doing an amazing ministry, that goes beyond a warm blanket. Each piece sewn together is a part of you, and the love can be felt.  
Thank you so much for your love and concern!  
  
Love,  
Donna Bennick

Join us for Our Retreat *5th grade to College Graduation or age 22*

January 17-19

Rock and Roll with it

Meals and lodging included

Early Bird Discount! Before December 2nd

Hartman Center Campground  
5725 Old US Hwy 322,  
Milroy, PA 17063

**Hartman Center Winter Youth Retreat 2025**  
**"Rock & Roll With It" January 17-19, 2025**

We will be returning to Hartman Center Campground as guests.  
5725 Old US Highway 322, Milroy, PA 17063  
Grades 6 through College Grad (or age 22)  
Meals and Lodging included  
\$100 until December 2, 2024  
\$150 after December 2, 2024  
Use coupon code PCC2025 if you would like to use a Penn Central Conference Outdoor Ministries scholarship of 50% off your registration fees.





### Wired Word Study Group

The Wired Word Study Group will be on a break for November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Our next meeting will be on a new day of the month! Please join us on **Monday, December 2, 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! The weekly 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.

The Wired Word team wishes you a very Happy Thanksgiving and hopes to see you in December!



### Advent Social

The Second Sunday Social will be on a break for November, but please mark your calendars for the Advent Social on **Sunday, December 8**, directly after the worship service. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for food, crafts, music, and an outreach project for our members who are mostly homebound. We hope you can join us for this fun, relaxing time of fellowship!

## **What Should We Put into Our Time Capsule?**

A time capsule reaches out to future generations and says, "Remember Us." As we mark our bicentennial year, how do we want to be remembered? What do we want future church members or others to know about us, 50 or 100 years from now? What should we put into our church's third time capsule, a sealed vessel of mementos to be buried in the near future on the church grounds?

In September, on Rally Day Sunday, the congregation was asked for input. So far, the suggestions we have received are:

- Sheet music for "A Joyous Song of Praise," as a representation of our lives as Christians.
- A fork, representing all of the mouths we have fed.
- A milkweed seed pod and monarch butterfly, as a representation of our butterfly garden, and our concern and care for the natural world.
- Something representing Kamala Harris as possibly the first black woman president.
- A COVID mask, representative of the recent pandemic and our difficulties we faced as individuals and a church.
- A candle, representing God and Jesus lighting our way.
- A Bible.
- Eye glasses, representing our looking to the future.
- A copy of the celebratory hymn written for our bicentennial observance.
- An olive wood cross, representing our uniqueness, the Holy land, and the timeless meaning given to it.
- A tiny quilt, representing our quilt and prayer shawl ministries.

What other thoughts might you have? Please let Pastor Alice, Pastor Gary, Todd, or any member of Consistory know so we can best represent St. John's with a time capsule, during this period in our history.

# NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up: **CHUCK LAUDERMILCH**

Lay-Reader: **BETH MOSER**

**Preparation of Communion Elements:**

NOVEMBER	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
3	DURING WORSHIP	CAROL BERRY
10	DURING WORSHIP	
17	DURING WORSHIP	
24	DURING WORSHIP	

NOVEMBER	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
3	SUE & JIM BAISH	Keira Aulenbach
10	JANET & RON ZUG	Keira Aulenbach
17	ALICIA & LISA GRAYBILL	Keira Aulenbach
24	BRENDA & DON ADAMS	Keira Aulenbach

NOVEMBER	GREETERS
3	BETH MOSER
10	BETH MOSER
17	BETH MOSER
24	BETH MOSER



**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**  
**October - NEIGHBORS IN NEED**  
**November - DEVITT HOUSE & THANKSGIVING BASKETS**  
**December - CHRISTMAS FUND, BETHANY GIFTS, CHRISTMAS BASKETS**



The Quilters, knitters and knotters donated lap quilts to Orangeville Manor, a shelter for homeless veterans. During the visit to deliver the quilts it was evident that these persons had very little. What better time than around Veterans' Day for St. John's to show our appreciation to these persons. We will be collecting toiletry items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs) and socks to distribute to them. Please place the items in the narthex by **November 17**.



**HOLD THE DATE**  
Tuesday, December 10th, at 6:30 pm., St. John's will once again be holding a Christmas party at Selinsgrove Center for a group of ladies who reside there.  
Please consider being a part of the group that goes to this event.  
More information will be provided in the December newsletter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)</p> <p>9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>4:00pm FALL BOOK STUDY (GP)</p> <p>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</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>1</p> <p>4:00pm IEP workshop (GP)</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP - ALL SAINTS DAY - COMMUNION</p> <p>3:00pm GTS (FH)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR)</p> <p>4:00pm FALL BOOK STUDY (GP)</p> <p>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>ELECTION DAY (FH)</b></p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (NARTHX)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM.)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</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>8</p> <p>1:30pm Violin Class (SANCT.)</p> <p>4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)</p> <p>9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p> <p>2:00pm Evan. Remembrance Service (SANCT/FH)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS &amp; MORE (CR)</p> <p>12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH)</p> <p>1:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP)</p> <p>4:00pm FALL BOOK STUDY (GP)</p> <p>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30am WW (FH)</p> <p>9:00am TOPS (CR)</p> <p>11:30am CHRISTIAN ED. (ZOOM)</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>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3:00pm CONFIRMATION CLASS (GP)</p>
<p>17</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>9:00am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>6:00pm Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR)</p> <p>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)</p> <p>7:00pm Girl Scout Leaders (GP)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</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>22</p> <p>1:30pm Violin Class (SANCT.)</p> <p>4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP</b></p> <p>8:45am BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)</p> <p>9:15am CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHRM)</p> <p>10:00am WORSHIP</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Kinder Music (PAR)</p> <p>10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY</b></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>