

A decorative frame with a gold-colored border and ornate corner pieces. It is adorned with several autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, some floating around the frame and others clustered at the bottom.

OCTOBER 5 - CONFIRMATION CLASS - 3 - 6 PM
OCTOBER 6 - WORSHIP, COMMUNION - 10 AM
OCTOBER 13 - WORSHIP, HISTORY PRESENTATION - 10 AM
OCTOBER 20 - WORSHIP - 10 AM
OCTOBER 20 - 200TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP - 3 PM
OCTOBER 20 - 200TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET - 5 PM
OCTOBER 24 - WIRED WORD STUDY - 7 PM VIA ZOOM
OCTOBER 26 - TRUNK-OR-TREAT - 3 - 5 PM
OCTOBER 27 - WORSHIP - 10 AM

OCTOBER

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



Pastor's COLUMN

I had the blessing of attending a recent training on ZOOM. It was a training to learn more about "Spirituality in Nature Groups" (SING) and how different congregations and ministries have participated in different kinds of activities in the outdoors

Part of the training and material reminded those participating in the benefits of being outside and in the presence of God's creation. According to the material from the training, there are any number of reasons why it is beneficial to spend time in nature, including:

- *Satisfying the human yearning for quiet and rest

- *The health benefits of nature, including lowered blood pressure, lessened anxiety and depression, and increased physical health.

- *In addition, spending time outdoors encourages compassion for both humans and non-humans alike. It reaffirms our interdependence and interconnectedness with all living things and restores our place in the web of Creation.

These benefits are undergirded by the spiritual reminders that "nature was the first way in which God made God's self known - through the provision of the earth, through the burning bush, through living waters. ... people reflect time and time again that they feel closer to the Divine when they are out in nature."

As the season changes into autumn, the days become shorter, and we spend more time indoors, I am challenging myself and all of us to spend some time outdoors and to not forget the benefits of spending moments outside - being present in God's Creation.

Happy Autumn, blessed new season ... may you find places of quiet and rest - and spiritual nourishment, whether indoors or outdoors.

Blessings! Alice



“Red Book” Memories Continued XXV

“Rooted in tradition, progressive in our outlook”

“Rooted in tradition, progressive in our outlook.” That is the theme adopted by our leadership for St. John’s for 2024, to orient and guide us as we celebrate 200 years of serving God, Jesus, and the people around us. It is very apt, as I hope you will agree, because it is something that has been apparent in past “Red Book Memories” articles.

We have certainly been a church grounded in tradition. When we began as a German Reformed congregation in 1824, we followed that institution faithfully until 1934, when through a denominational merger, we became an Evangelical and Reformed (E&R) church. We then rooted ourselves in that faith tradition until 1961, when once again, through denominational merger, we grew into a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation. We have firmly remained a UCC faith community to this day.

We have demonstrated our rootedness in tradition through the upkeep of our buildings and grounds. As years passed, church members identified issues with our facilities and raised the necessary money for repairs and upgrades. They also either hired the necessary people to do the required work or did it themselves. All of this was done to maintain and sustain an environment that nurtured the St. John’s faith community.

We continued to embrace traditions even after changes in our denominational affiliations. We maintained previously accepted governance structures, worship styles, and hymnals through those transitions and for a time afterwards. What’s more, we followed other traditions over the years that go beyond denominational shifts and how we function and worship. Here, I am thinking of our long-term tradition of Sunday Christian Education classes for children, youths, and adults. Those have been part of our congregational life since nearly our beginning as a faith community. And let us not forget the past tradition of hosting our own Vacation Bible Schools or participating in ecumenical community Vacation Bible Schools.

Over our long history, we have also maintained the traditions of calling quality pastors to serve us, having vocal and instrumental choirs to enhance our worship, reaching out to the surrounding community through public dinners and service projects, and providing support of different mission efforts. Just think about how we have given “White Gifts” for residents of Bethany Homes these past 80 years or sponsored Christmas parties for adults with special needs at Selinsgrove Center since the mid-1950s.

Yet, we have also been progressive in our outlook. For instance, during the pastorate of Rev. Samuel H. Reed (1842-1843), when our services were performed in German, our church experimented with English language sermons to meet the needs of non-German speaking residents of Lewisburg. Likewise, when we changed affiliations, we eventually shed some of our previous traditions and adopted new ones in terms of worship and governance that conformed with our new denominational identity. We learned to use new hymnals, sing new songs, to speak of our faith with updated language, and to meet the changing needs of people around us. Consider that our worship services, which were previously in-person only, were taped and shared with home-bound members, and are now broadcast through social media platforms, thus making Worship and the Word available to individuals at any time, a real benefit for those who want to be a part of a church, but face the realities of work and other obligations on Sunday mornings.

Further, we have been progressive in our outlook in regards to our church buildings. When they outlived their ability to serve our future needs or that of the people of Lewisburg, we have been bold and either completely rebuilt our facilities or established them elsewhere. That took vision and a devotion to God, Jesus, and the mission our Lord has challenged us to fulfill.

Yes, we have been rooted in the tradition, which has nourished our faith and given us an identity. But we have also been progressive in our outlook, ready to do whatever was necessary to enact our faith in an everchanging world. Tradition and progressive outlook are in our lifeblood. Let us take both to heart. Together, they will serve our church well in the years and decades yet to unfold.

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! In July there was an old-fashioned picnic with plenty of delicious food and fun games.

As our 200th Anniversary year progresses, you will continue to have so much more to look forward to. In our final months, we will focus on a other aspects of our congregational life. That schedule includes:

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

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 **FREE** 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!

Please RSVP to Todd at 570-523-0162 or stjohsucc@ptd.net by **October 1st**
We hope you can join us!

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



AUGUST 2024 REPORT

Current Operating Receipts	\$ 12,813.57
Current Operating Disbursements	\$ - 21,241.22
Current Operating Balance	\$ -8,427.65

9-8-24

Jerard and Pat Jordan
P.O. Box 386
Dorset, Vermont 05251

CONGRATULATIONS!.... from Pat and I to the members of St. John's United Church of Christ on your 200th anniversary.

My parents Rev. Paul and Adele Jordan had the very fortunate experience of serving St. John's from 1956-1969. Much of that time my mother was the choir director.

I vividly recall that both of the Sunday morning services were full and many times the overflow doors of the sanctuary were open. My parents often mentioned that this ministry was an exciting ministry. The members were fantastic as there were the Brouses, the Webers, the Golds, the O'Neals and the Grovers. And who could ever forget Eddie Spots, a devote Catholic who would go to early mass and then somewhat late come to St John's to hear my father at the second service. He would limp down the aisle and take a second row seat...almost as if the service could now start. And there were so many more in the church that made this ministry a very important ministry within my parents life.

My father along with the Baptist minister started the all town New Year's Eve bash at Davis Gym at Bucknell with the 1st one highlighting Little Richard. And then when you put Rev. Thomas Musser of the West Milton, UCC, Rev. Merritt of the Lewisburg Presbyterian Church and the Lewisburg Baptist minister plus the other town ministers together it was a dynamic time of spirituality in Lewisburg.

My father was very interested in establishing a historical society of St. Johns and to that end several years ago I sent about a dozen of his sermons to be placed in your historical archives. I trust they were received, possibly even looked at occasionally, and placed with other important aspects of St. John's history as a tribute to your past. His sermons were biblically based and thoughtful for one's faith and everyday life.

St. John's was and is a vital church and as you move into the next hundred years may that excitement found within the Christian faith infiltrate the hearts, souls and prayers of each member.

Pat and I cannot be present at your celebration but we do wish you a sincere 200th.

Jerard and Pat Jordan

Rev. Jerard Jordan



10/04 Brian Brown
 10/06 Evelyn Mabus
 10/07 Ashley Griffith
 10/12 Palmer Dreese
 10/14 Bethany Moser
 10/15 Arthur Bower
 10/15 James Tomlinson
 10/22 Ruth Brouse
 10/24 Kimberly Satteson
 10/26 Mary Geyer
 10/27 Lisa Bingaman
 10/27 Bill Fuller

10/07 DeSantis, Elizabeth & Chris
 10/09 Brouse, Anna & Robert
 10/10 Gutelius, Debra & Joseph
 10/13 Bingaman, Lisa & Bradley
 10/24 Rautzhan, Lauren & Richard
 10/24 Satteson, Kimberly & Mark
 10/26 Donlin, Angela & Edward



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!



I want to thank the crafty hands at St. John's for the recent prayer shawls my parents received when Pastor Alice recently visited.

It was an especially enjoyable visit for Dad and the prayer shawls are greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Ann Fuller Teschner

Quilters, Knitters, and Knotters,

VNA would like to say "thank you " for the beautiful quilts. Your time and patience in creating the design is awesome.

Many thanks to all!

Love the VNA



William Stahley

10/06/1936 - 9/12/2024

WILLIAM STAHLEY

by Sue & Jim Tomlinson

by Kay & Pastor Gary Nottis



What is the Rainbow Faithnet?

An inter-faith coalition of public support, education, resources, and sanctuary for LGBTQ+ individuals & allies in the Susquehanna River Valley.

Some of you may know that I have attended these meetings and have been working with this organization on some recent projects. It is important for us, as an Open and Affirming congregation, to find ways to express God's Wide Welcome. There are people in our communities who have been deeply wounded by faith communities because of their sexual/relational orientation or gender/identity. Through this organization faith communities are making sure individuals know that it is possible to find resources and support in their lives of faith from congregations in the area. Our prayer is that we will continue to find ways to educate ourselves and provide resources and support for those who are seeking a faith community in which they can learn, grow and serve.

The WiredWORD

Wired Word Study Group

The Wired Word Study Group will meet on **Thursday, October 24, 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!



The Second Sunday Socials will be on a break for October, and November, but there will be no shortage of ways to gather and celebrate during those months! Please save the date for our **Advent Social on Sunday, December 8**, directly after church.



Our **FROZEN FOOD COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY** is a key part of our outreach. 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.

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Lock-up: **BOB BROUSE**

Lay-Reader: **JOHN LETTEER**

Preparation of Communion Elements:

OCTOBER	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
6	DURING WORSHIP	LINDA SARTWELL
13	DURING WORSHIP	
20	DURING WORSHIP	
27	DURING WORSHIP	

OCTOBER	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte
6	ANNA & BOB BROUSE	Keira Aulenbach
13		Keira Aulenbach
20	ANN & DAVE SMIT	Keira Aulenbach
27	ANGIE & ED DONLIN	Keira Aulenbach

OCTOBER	GREETERS
6	MARTHA & BRUCE RAUCH
13	CAROL BERRY
20	RUTH BROUSE
27	CHUCK LAUDERMILCH & SYLAS WILDE



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

1050 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone: 570-523-0162
E-mail: stjohnsucc@ptd.net

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!

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**.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

St. John's Trunk-or-Treat will be held on **Saturday, October 26, from 3:00 -5:00 PM** in the East parking lot. Bring your car with decorated trunk (simple is fine!), and hand out candy to our visiting trick-or-treaters.

This activity provides a safe place for the community children to celebrate Halloween. Admission is free, and we'll be collecting canned goods again this year for the local food pantry.

We need everyone's help and participation to make this a fun and safe event. Please put it on your calendar and sign up in the Narthex. It will be more fun with lots of cars and friendly faces!

We can also use donations of individually wrapped candy to boost our supply, and hot dog buns and apple cider for the free refreshment stand. Please sign up for those in the Narthex. Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	30 8:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:15am KITCHEN RE-DO COMM. (GP) 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)	1 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	2	3 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)	4	5 3:00pm CONFIRMATION CLASS (GP)
6 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	7 8:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club Board (PAR) 4:00pm FALL BOOK STUDY (GP) 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)	8 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	9	10 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm M.A.S.H. (ZOOM) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	11 1:30pm Violin Class (SANCT.) 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)	12 10:00am WINDS OF THE SPIRIT - NEW BERLIN UCC
13 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	14 8:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 9:00am ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS, KNITTERS & MORE (CR) 12:00pm Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) 1:00pm WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP) 4:00pm FALL BOOK STUDY (GP) 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH) 7:00pm CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE (ZOOM)	15 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	16	17 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)	18	19
20 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP 3:00pm 200TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP 5:00pm 200th ANNIVERSARY DINNER (Silver Moon)	21 8:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 4:00pm FALL BOOK STUDY (GP) 6:00pm Evan. Empty Arms Group (CR) 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH) 7:00pm FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM) 7:00pm Girl Scout Leaders (GP)	22 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	23	24 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)	25 1:30pm Violin Class (SANCT.) 4:00pm Suzuki Class (SANCT.)	26 3:00pm TRUNK-or-TREAT
27 CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING WORSHIP 10:00am WORSHIP	28 8:30am Kinder Music (PAR) 4:00pm FALL BOOK STUDY (GP) 7:00pm BVS REHEARSAL (FH)	29 9:00am Kinder Music (PAR) 10:30am Willowbrook Strings (FH) 7:00pm Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)	30	31 8:30am WW (FH) 9:00am TOPS (CR) 1:30pm Trailside Troubadours (FH) 7:00pm Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)	1	2