



Scripture: Epistle I Corinthians 12: 1-11
Gospel: John 2: 1-11

Message: *"Gifts for All"* – Rev. Mike Price

Prayers of the People

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.**

Celebrations and Joys

*Offering Response: "Take My Gifts" #562

**Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find.
Gifts that I am slow to sharper, talents of the hand and mind.
Things made beautiful to others, in the place where I must be.
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.**

*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Holy One, may our gifts declare Your glory and benefit the common good. Receive them with our gratitude for Your generosity and the opportunity to participate in Your kingdom on earth. Amen.

*Hymn: "Forward Through the Ages" #377

*Benediction

Postlude

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

(Please contact the church office, at 570-523-0162, with any updates)

Ongoing Needs- Ann Albee, Anna Brouse, Betty Hackenberg, Jean Hartman, Kristian K., Christine Sartwell, Leslie Shearer, Joanne Stahley, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams, Rev. Sharon Von Blohn.

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

Immediate Concerns - Ed Crow, Bill Geyer, Craig Hoffman, John Marshal, Pam Mabus, Sue Miller, Todd O'Neil, Alice Savidge, Dianna Spickler, Renee St. Clair, The Family of Craig Stumpff, Cyndi Weaver.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - Are given by Jean Maurer.

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.

THIS WEEK

Monday, January 20	9:30 am 6 pm 6 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) BVS Board meeting (PAR) Empty Arms Group (CR) Finance/Personnel (ZOOM) Girl Scout Leaders (GP)
Tuesday, January 21	9:30 am 10:30 am 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (PAR) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CHRM)
Wednesday, January 22		
Thursday, January 23	8:30 am 9 am 1:30 pm 7 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) Women's Barbershop (CH.RM.)
Friday, January 24	4 pm	Suzuki Class (SANCT)
Saturday January 25		
Sunday, January 26	9:00 am 10 am	CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM) 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 January is dedicated to the LEAF Fund.

CHANCEL FLOWER CHART - The Chancel Flower Chart is located on the table in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday or two for flowers.

LAY-READERS NEEDED - There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Lay-readers. Please sign up for a month or split a month with someone.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

January 12, 2025

Chancel Flowers - \$200.00; Current Expenses - \$2,530.00;
Davy's Cards - \$150.00; Envelope Expenses - \$25.00; Giant Cards - \$100.00;
LEAF Fund - \$50.00; Loose Offering - \$55.00; Mission/Social Action - \$1,200.00;
OCWM - \$60.00; Reitz Est. - \$10,653.00; Weis Cards - \$200.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$15,223.00 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*

Bonnie & Dennis Meckley, *Greeters*

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)

Extravagant Sign

Jesus is making his public debut as the Son of God, performing the first of seven recorded miracles in John's Gospel — turning 120 gallons of water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

Now it wasn't the place or the time that Jesus had intended to display his divinity, but when your mother asks you to do something, as Mary did, you do it.

Mary's insistence for Jesus to intervene was out of concern for their hosts, as running out of wine was a great embarrassment. It was expected for food and drink to be abundant for the many days of wedding feasting. (Weddings in Jesus' time weren't just a sit-down dinner or a morning brunch. They went on for days.)

John's telling of this miracle, though, is not about saving face — or even revealing the face of God in Jesus.

There's a life-changing lesson for us today that is swishing around the six stone jars of water that are on the premises of the wedding banquet.

To start, John's point of telling us there are six jars is important. Numbers have great significance in Jewish teachings. Seven, for example, represents perfection and completeness. Six, however, symbolizes imperfection. Jesus viewing those six jars as valuable for this miracle moment shows us how God sees all the things we deem unworthy as worthy.

There's more. The water in those jars were not meant for drinking, but rather for ceremonial washing. It was customary for Jews to wash their hands and say a blessing before any meal that included bread. It would be considered disgusting to drink from those six jars.

Jesus, though, does the unthinkable. He disregards Jewish beliefs and traditions, turning the untouchable water into the best wine anyone has ever tasted. Had the guests known the water for ceremonial washing was used for the wine they were sipping; they would have been aghast. Yet those privy to this miracle were getting a preview of what Jesus' mission would be: To dismantle the systems that separate the clean from the unclean, that keep the downtrodden down and the oppressed oppress.

Would we have sipped that wine if we knew where it came from? Would we be willing to bend rules, break traditions, rid ourselves of rituals if it meant experiencing amazing water-into-wine miracles that God has for us?

There's so much God wants to do in our lives, but first we need to let go of our assumptions of how life should be. Are you ready for a boundary-breaking, rule-busting God to turn your water into wine?

God, forgive us for those times we are so set in our ways that we close our hearts to the new thing You want to do in our lives. Open us this day to all the beautiful and exciting possibilities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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