



Dazzling Reign

ET TRANSEIV

St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPHANY

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

February 19, 2023

(Let us be silent and prayerful as we prepare ourselves for worship.)

MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Remembering that God calls us through Christ to be ministers with each other, St. John's United Church of Christ, as inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit, seeks: To be inclusive and accessible to all people; To provide loving service to all of God's people through mission and ministry; To strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

Sharing Earthy and Spiritual Resources

Prelude

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Moment of Meditation

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (based on Psalm 99)

The Lord is Creator of all! May we tremble in awe.

May we praise God's great and awesome name.

Our Mighty God is a lover of justice,

May we strive for equity and righteousness.

When our ancestors cried out to God, God answered them,

And God responds to our prayers and pleas.

Worship the Wondrous and Mighty One,

Holy is our God!

*Hymn

"Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"

#307

Prayer of Confession:

Mystery of Mysteries, we confess that we think we know far too much than we actually do. We think we know right from wrong, good from bad. We think we know who is beloved by You and who is not. We think we have the authority to judge. We have messed up badly. Wondrous God, call us back into Your ways of love and mercy and turn us away from snap judgments and overconfident perceptions. Remind us that of all You have made in this universe, we are but a grain of sand. Yet You have loved us, molded and shaped us. Call us back into a place of awe and wonder, a place where we question and listen more than we demand and answer. May we become slow to judge, quick to forgive, develop a posture of compassionate listening, and silence the voices that make us think we know better. In the name of our Wise God, our Savior Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Blessing/Assurance - *The Beloved One loves us all, and has shown us the way, the truth, and the life. Love one another. Serve one another. Be moved by empathy and compassion and love, and not by measures of success in this world such as wealth and fame and worldly power. Listen, seek, serve, and love, and it shall go well with you. You are God's beloved, and God calls you to follow the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom you are forgiven, loved and restored. Amen.*

Passing the Peace of Christ

Words for All - Especially Children

Available to you, if needed, is a Quiet Room 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. See Greeter(s).

3 Hour and 30 Minute Famine - World Vision sponsors a wonderful program called the 30 Hour Famine. Our youth will be experiencing an abbreviated version of this on Saturday, February 25th when we will have a “3 Hour 30 Minute Famine”. The famine session will spend a bit of time learning about the world’s injustices and learn about God’s perspective on poverty.

During the gathering, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the youth will participate in local service projects to help folks in the community.

We are accepting donations to World Vision’s 30 Hour Famine fund to help feed hungry people all around the world. The link for donations will be posted soon on the facebook page and website. Help us be a part of this year’s efforts to change the world with God’s love in action. Email the church or Pastor Alice for more information: stjohnsucc@ptd.net or alirauch07@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

Monday, February 20	9am - 10 am 4-6:30 pm 6 - 8 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) GTS Puppets (SANCT) Empty Arms (CR) BVS Rehearsal (FH) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM)
Tuesday, February 21	9 am - 10 am 1030 - noon 6:30 - 8 pm 7 pm - 930 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (FH) Girl Scout Troop 600006 (CR) Men’s Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, February 22	7 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Thursday February 23	9am - 1030am 9am - 1030am 1:30 - 3:30 pm 7 pm 7pm - 8:30pm	TOPS (CR) WW (FH) Trailside Troubadours (FH) WIRED WORD (ZOOM) Women’s Barbershop Chorus (CH RM)
Friday, February 24	4- 6 pm	Suzuki Class (SANCT)
Saturday February 25	9 am - 3 pm	30 HOUR FAMINE (WHOLE BUILDING)
Sunday, February 26	10 am 11 am	WORSHIP CHILDREN’S CHURCH Piece Makers Quilters (FH)

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.

FLOWER CHART 2023 - The 2023 flower chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for chancel flower sponsorship(s).

LENTEN SOUP & SCRIPTURE - The Lewisburg Council of Churches will be holding the Lenten Luncheon Soup and Scripture series starting on **Ash Wednesday, February 22**. The series runs through March 29 at Christ’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. The meal starts at noon followed by a Bible study led by the Ministerium. Donations are accepted to cover meal costs. More information to

follow. St John's will be preparing and serving the first meal on February 22. Please see Beth Moser or Pastor Alice if you can help.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

February 12, 2023

Earthquake Relief - \$225.00; SoupRbowl - \$271.00; Chancel Flowers - \$50.00;
Church Vocations Fund - \$260.00; Current Expenses - \$2,924.00;
Davy's Gift Cards - \$100.00; Easter Flowers - \$127.50;
Envelope Expenses - \$10.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$120.00;
OCWM - \$135.00; St. John's Quilters - \$20.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$4,242.50 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. James E. Johnson, *Pastor Emeritus*

Todd R. Hummel, Dir. of Music *Organist*

Todd R. Hummel, *Bell Choir Director*

Rev. Gary Nottis, Pastoral Care Assoc.

Linda Sartwell / Sue Baish / Dave Smit, *Sound*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Dot & Art Bower, Greeters

Keira Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

Hannah Loughhead, Chancel Choir Director

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

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TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 19, 2023

Matthew 17:1-9

Dazzling Reign

Bleach and ashes.

This week, we mark the beginning of the season of Lent on Wednesday, traditionally called Ash Wednesday. But before we get to Wednesday, we pause here on Sunday, and with the disciples climb the mountain where we see Jesus transfigured, his face and clothes dazzling, almost as if they've been bleached.

Bleach and ashes.

The ashes on Wednesday symbolize our mortality - they remind us that we come from God and to God we return. When the mark of ashes is placed on a forehead or hand, we are invited to step into Lent in a posture of repentance. But before we are reminded we are all human, we are reminded by Jesus that we are also all divine. Before we are invited into repentance, into a time of turning from sin, we are invited into a moment of grace so glorious it seems blinding.

Bleach and ashes.

It's no accident that we always acknowledge the Transfiguration, just days before we step into Lent. It's because we need both. We need the blinding light of the divine as much as we need to remember that we are ultimately made of the same dirt as the rest of creation. We are star stuff and we are earthy stuff and both are vital to our experience as humans.

Bleach and ashes.

As you begin the long Lenten journey this week, you are invited up the mountain to raise your arms in wonder to the Light. In a few days you will be invited to the valley as, with your bare hands, you scoop the dirt from the ground. Carry both the light and the dirt with you. You will need them both. Remember both.

Bleach and ashes.



8-1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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