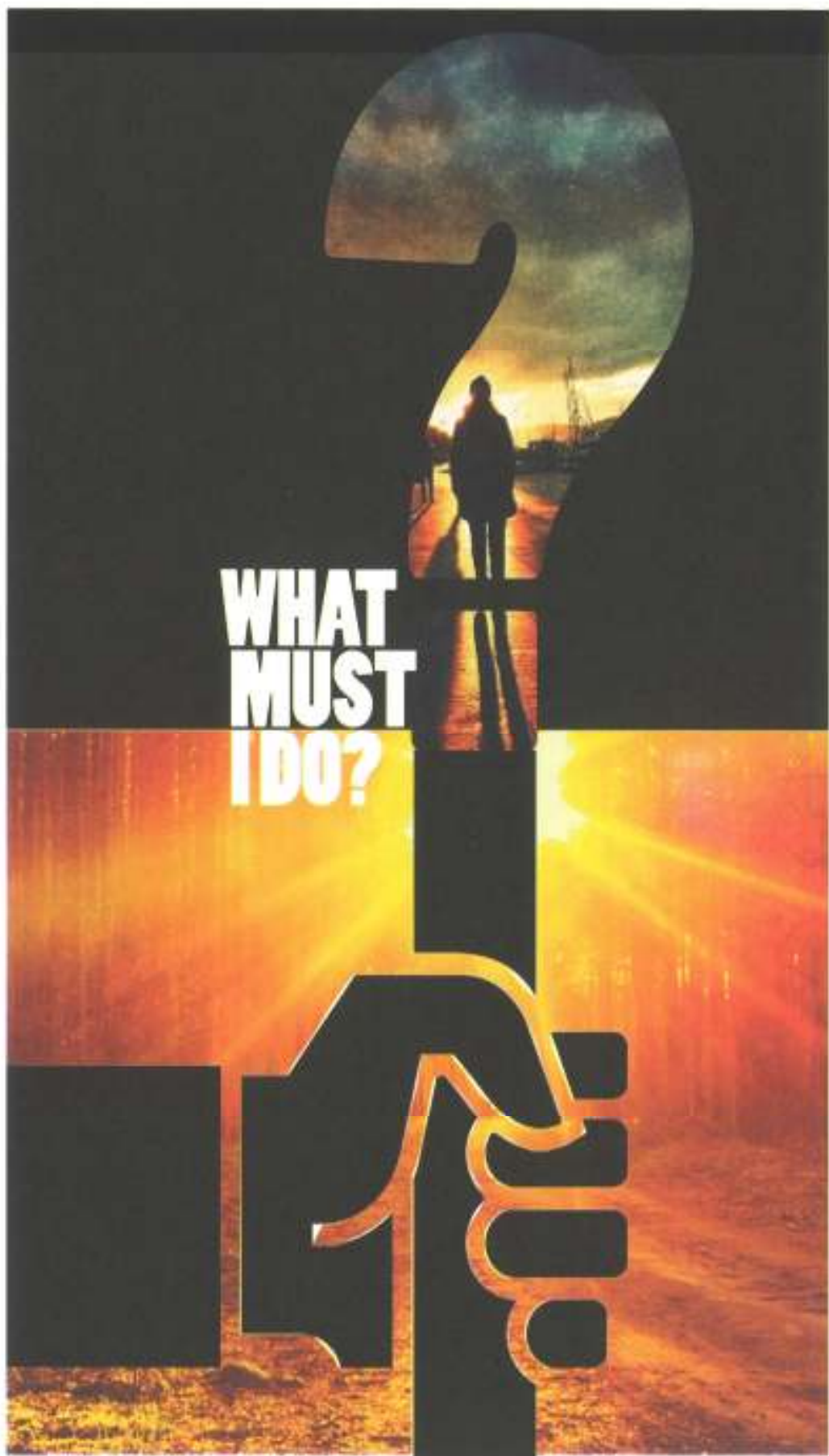


**WHAT
MUST
I DO?**



St. John's United Church of Christ
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor- Rev. Gary Nottis, Pastoral Care Assoc.

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

October 13, 2024

(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.

Rooted in tradition, progressive in our outlook.

Prelude

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

*Call to Worship

God summons men and women to ordain through all the ages.

They are called to teach us faith, to be counselors and friends, blessed with unique and precious gifts, offered with love and grace.

We come today to rejoice in God's work.

We come today to give thanks for God's call and to those who said yes.

We come to worship the God who calls and ordains; the God who loves and redeems.

Let us worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.

*Hymn

"We Praise You O God"

#420

Call to Confession

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life — Holy One, we long to be faithful stewards of Your abundant grace. To serve each other in love and humility. To serve Your world with wisdom and energy. Forgive us when we stumble over pride, when our words and actions are not guided by love. Turn our hearts back to You, when we act in folly. Restore our energy when it is gone. Bless us with Your unending strength, courage, wisdom, and hope; unconditional and unending. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Sharing the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

Response

"I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"

#474

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

Words for All - Especially Children

Anthem - ***"Shall We Gather at the River"*** -

arr. John Coates, Jr.

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:1-10

Reflection and PowerPoint Presentation: *"In Celebration of Our Pastors"*

Rev. Gary Nottis

Morning Prayer

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.

Celebration and Joys

*Singing Our Gratitude *"Take My Gifts"* #562

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light, and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply.

Take whatever I can offer - gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for 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 - We offer our gifts to you, O God, with grateful, cheerful hearts. Thank you that you have met our needs on our journey of faith, providing what we need when we need it, especially through our congregation's pastors. Trusting you, we can share what we have with others, and we do this joyfully, together, today. Amen.

*Hymn *"Jesus, I Live to You"* #457

*Benediction

Postlude

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

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

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

Immediate Concerns - The family of Lisa B. (Linda & Wayne Williams' daughter), Ed Crow, Bill Geyer, Craig Hoffman, John Marshal, Park McKissick, The Family of Evelyn Mabus, Pam Mabus, Todd O'Neil, Alice Savidge, Dianna Spickler, The Family of Bill Stahley, Renee St. Clair, Cyndi Weaver, Nancy Weslosky.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - are given by Anna & Bob Brouse in celebration of their 59th Wedding Anniversary, and Lisa & Brad Bingaman's 23rd anniversary.

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, October 14	9 am - 1130 am 9 am 12 pm 2 pm 4 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) ST. JOHN'S QUILTERS (CR) Lewisburg Garden Club (FH) WORSHIP/MUSIC (GP) FALL BOOK STUDY (GP) BVS rehearsal (FH) CHRISTIAN ED. (ZOOM)
Tuesday, October 15	9 am - 1030 am 10:30 am 7 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (FH) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH) STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE (GP)
Wednesday, October 16	6:30 pm	CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT)
Thursday, October 17	8:30 - 10:30 am 9 am - 10:30 am 1:30 - 3:30 pm 7 PM 7 - 8:30 pm	WW (FH) TOPS (CR) Trailside Troubadours (FH) CONSISTORY (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, October 18		
Saturday October 19		
Sunday, October 20	9:00 am 10 am 1:30 pm 2:15 pm 3 pm 5 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM) WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR (SANCT) BELL CHOIR (SANCT) 200TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP (SANCT) 200TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET (SILVER MOON)

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 October is dedicated to the Neighbors In Need fund (NIN).

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - Mark your calendars for our big 200th Anniversary Celebration worship and banquet. We will hold a service of celebration on Sunday afternoon, 3pm, October 20th, in the Sanctuary, then followed by the banquet at Silver Moon.

FALL BOOK STUDY - 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 meet on **Monday afternoons at 4:00, beginning on Monday, October 7, and through Monday, November 11.**

TRUNK - R - TREAT - Please consider signing up for our annual Trunk-r-Treat event on Saturday, October 26th, 3pm - 5 pm. We're looking for donations of individually wrapped candy. Please place candy donations in the workroom.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 13, 2024

Mark 10:17-31

What Must I Do?

There's a contemporary hymn — a fun one to sing with children — that goes, *"I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back."*

Sadly, the young man in today's lesson from the Gospel of Mark was never taught the song, as he turns back after hearing what it takes to follow Jesus.

So eager at first, he proudly tells Jesus how he has followed the commandments since he was a boy. That's great, Jesus affirms, before saying the one word we dread to hear — but.

You can follow me, but you must sell all you have. We are told that the young man owned many possessions, too many to part with. He walks away from Jesus greatly grieved.

Jesus then turns to his disciples who have witnessed this encounter, saying to them, "It is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the Kingdom."

"Who then can be saved?" they ask.

Excellent question, for we all come to Jesus with possessions we dearly hold onto. They don't necessarily have to be riches in the way of a robust real estate portfolio or soaring stocks and bonds. "Costly" possessions can be anything that cost us from going deeper in our walk with Christ.

As early as the 9th century there was an interpretation of Jesus' "eye of a needle" illustration that went beyond an actual sewing needle. It was said that the "Eye of the Needle" was a small gate in Jerusalem in which merchants traveling at night would enter through, as the main gate would have been closed.

If the merchant's camel was carrying a heavy load, though, the animal would not have been able to get through the gate. To squeeze through the "Eye of the Needle," the merchant would have to remove all the treasures that were piled high onto the beast of burden's back.

Such a gate has never been verified by scholars, but the image of an actual camel carrying a heavy load, and a narrow gate helps us to better understand what Jesus was saying about what it takes to follow him.

We all go through life with baggage — things that we insist on holding on to that weigh us down and prevent us from the life Jesus has for us.

What is Jesus asking us to let go of so that we can follow him unencumbered and with great joy? Will we find ourselves singing this day, *"I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back! No turning back!"*

God, whose riches are not of this world, help us take inventory of the very things that are keeping us from truly following Your Son, Jesus. Give us the strength to let go and trust the path Jesus invites us on. Amen.



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

BUL0107

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