



Great Service

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

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. October 20, 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 (Inspired by Psalm 104)

Today we gather to worship, with all our hopes, weariness, joys, and concerns swirling within us. We gather to worship One who both ascends above our condition and descends to meet us in the midst of them.

Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.

We are humbled and grateful that the Majestic God knows our names and seeks our presence.

Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.

We raise our spirits as one body, strengthening, fortifying, and encouraging one another as we honor The Holy One's glorious and precious name.

Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.

*Hymn **"Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"** #6

Call to Confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life - Liberating God, break us free from all the ways this world enslaves and ensnares Your people. May our hearts be infused with Your compassion. May our works be filled with Your generosity. May our lives be testaments that new life in freedom, in love, and in You are possible. Transform us by Your Spirit each day to be the part of You the world needs from us. We trust in Your mercy and grace to make room and empower us to make it so. Amen.

Words of Grace - *Beloved, even now, the Holy One supplies the means to rewrite your story. God will strengthen you in your weakness, direct you in your uncertainty, and encourage you in your weariness. God has formed you, sustains you, and will be with you through it all.*

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

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45

Message

"With Great Love"

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 *"Children of God"* #533

*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 Ann & Dave Smit.

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.

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION -We will hold a service of celebration on this afternoon, 3pm, October 20th, in the Sanctuary, then followed by the banquet at Silver Moon Banquet Hall at 5 pm.

THIS WEEK

Monday, October 21	9 am - 1130 am 4 pm 7 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) FALL BOOK STUDY (GP) BVS rehearsal (FH) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM) Girl Scout Leaders (GP)
Tuesday, October 22	9 am - 1030 am 10:30 am 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (FH) Men's Westbranch Chorus (FH)
Wednesday, October 23	11 am	Lewisburg Ministerium (GP)
Thursday, October 24	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) WIRED WORD (ZOOM) Women's Barbershop Chorus (CH.RM)
Friday, October 25	1:30 pm 4 pm	Violin Class (SANCT) Suzuki Class (SANCT)
Saturday October 26	3 pm - 5 pm	TRUNK - OR - TREAT (EAST PARKING LOT)
Sunday, October 27	8:45 am 9:15 am 10 am	BELL CHOIR (SANCT) CHANCEL CHOIR (CH.RM) WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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)

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).

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, 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.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

October 7, 2024

Hunger Walk - \$100.00; Thanksgiving Baskets - \$65.00; Building Use - \$40.00;
Chancel Flowers - \$50.00; Current Expenses - \$4,795.00;
Davy's Cards - \$225.00; Giant Cards - \$500.00; Harvest Home - \$100.00;
Hurricane Helene - \$640.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$145.00;
Memorial Fund - \$50.00; NIN - \$433.00; OCWM - \$135.00;
St. John's Quilters - \$25.00; Weis Cards - \$100.00

GRAND TOTAL - \$7,403.00 THANK YOU!!!

October 13, 2024

CCLI Refund - \$249.00; Current Expenses - \$1,225.00; Davy's Cards - \$50.00;
Giant Cards - \$50.00; Hurricane Helene - \$400.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$20.00; LEAF Fund - \$20.00;
Loose Offering - \$15.00; Memorial Fund - \$175.00; NIN - \$200.00;
OCWM - \$20.00; Reitz Est. - \$9,917.55; UCC Cornerstone Fund - \$118.16;
Weis Cards - \$350.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$12,809.71 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*

Ruth Brouse, *Greeter*

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 20, 2024

Mark 10:35-45

Great Service

The committee tasked with updating the church's mission statement gathered in the fellowship hall. They had been sitting in rickety wooden chairs much longer than they had wanted, getting nowhere with a statement that would miraculously guide them towards a future full of hope. Back and forth the suggestions went.

A church for worshipping God and loving others.

Good, but what about ...

We seek to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Scratch it. The church down the block says that. How about ...

Empowered by God to reach others for God.

Some heads nodded "yay"; others nodded "nay." Silence ensued. Finally, a teen invited to the group to share their youthful viewpoint, spoke softly, suggesting:

We have come to serve, not to be served.

Eyes lit up. Smiles smoothed wrinkled frowns. A new mission statement — echoing Jesus' words in Mark that the "Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve" — was adopted.

Sometimes we forget that the church was not established to serve us nor cater to our whims — singing hymns we love or keeping those antique pews rather than replacing them with folding chairs.

Even before the church became an institution, James and John, followers of Jesus, found themselves caught up in the "What's in it for me?" mentality.

The brothers of Zebedee pulled Jesus aside requesting positions of influence in Jesus' new order. One wanted to sit at Jesus' right side, the other on his left.

They didn't understand yet that the kingdom Jesus' was proclaiming was one built on a foundation of selfless love, with bricks and mortar of sacrifice and suffering.

Are you willing to drink the cup I will drink? Or be baptized in the baptism I will be baptized in? Jesus' questions of the brothers were referring to his death on the cross.

Jesus still asks the question today: Are we willing? Can we sacrifice our own gain or comfort for the betterment of others?

There once was a church which replaced the exit sign over the main door with one that read, "Servant's Entry." The congregation was perplexed until the pastor explained that when worship ended, they were all to exit the church building as servants now entering the world as the hands and feet of Christ.

Loving God, may today we leave Your house of worship remembering that we are called to continue the work of our Suffering Servant — selflessly caring for all we encounter on our paths. Amen.



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