



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

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

November 17, 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

Choral Introit *"Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place"*

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

*Call to Worship (Inspired by I Samuel 2:1-10)

The Holy One raises up the poor from the dust and lifts the needy to inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth belong to the Holy One. O on them God has set the world.

Exalt in the Holy One! Find strength in God. God guards the faithful.

Wickedness will perish. Righteousness will thunder. For not by might does one prevail.

Exalt in the Holy One! Find strength in God. God guards the faithful.

Worship the Holy One through grief and gladness, in despair and hope, in peace and trial.

Exalt in the Holy One! Find strength in God. God guards the faithful.

*Hymn

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

#119

Call to Confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life - Redeemer and Liberator, we call upon your power to make all things new. We confess that we have compromised your good news and settled for a comfortable gospel rather than embrace the radical love, hospitality, and inclusion of your kingdom. We have been satisfied with a faith that conforms to the world rather than one that challenges the systems and ways of the world. Forgive us for our focus on our own survival and pleasure while your creation perishes all around us. For your mercy and in repentance, we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace - Beloved, you bear the image of God. You receive power from the Spirit of God. Be encouraged that Holy Love meets you with boldness and renewal. Let God be glorified as you accept the call to be the activating agents of a new world where love reigns, hope endures, and peace abounds.

Sharing the Peace

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

Response ***"We Praise You, O God"*** #420 (vs. 1)

**We praise you, O God. Our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

Words for All - Especially Children

Anthem ***"Praise God"*** *McAlpine, arr. Besig*

Scripture 1 Samuel 1:4-20

Message ***"Pouring Out Our Souls"***

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.**

Moment for Mission ***"Devitt House"*** Pastor Gary Nottis

Celebration and Joys

*Singing Our Gratitude ***"We Give You But Your Own"*** #785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully. Amen.**

***Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Holy Love, may these gifts and offerings make a difference in this
life of the community we love, serve, and reflect. May these gifts and offerings extend beyond the
borders and boundaries of the stones that encase us to the world that needs us. May these gifts and
offerings be a balm to a world in need of comfort and a fire to a world in need of refining. May it begin
within us and flourish beyond us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

*Hymn ***"For the Fruit of All Creation"*** #425

*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, Craig Stumpff, 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, Joanne Stahley.

Immediate Concerns - The family of Lisa B. (Linda & Wayne Williams' daughter), Ed Crow, Bill Geyer, Craig Hoffman, John Marshal, Pam Mabus, Sue Miller, Todd O'Neil, Alice Savidge, Dianna Spickler, Jim Spidle, Renee St. Clair, Cyndi Weaver.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - are given by Alicia Graybill in celebration of Lisa Graybill's birthday.

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.

Congregational Meeting - a congregational vote to be held **TODAY, Sunday, Nov. 17**, after the service. The vote will be held in the sanctuary immediately after the church service.

THIS WEEK

Monday, November 18	9 am - 1130 am 6 pm 7 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Empty Arms Group (CR) FINANCE/PERSONNEL (ZOOM) BVS rehearsal (FH) Girl Scout Leaders (GP)
Tuesday, November 19	9 am 10:30 am 7 pm	Kinder Music (PAR) Willowbrook Strings (NARTHX) Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH RM)
Wednesday, November 20	10:30 am	Lewisburg Ministerium (GP)
Thursday, November 21	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, November 22	1:30 pm 4 pm	Violin Class (SANCT) Suzuki Class (SANCT)
Saturday November 23		
Sunday, November 24	8:45 am 9:15 am 10 am	BELL CHOIR (SANCT) 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 November is dedicated to Devitt House.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - The Advent/Christmas decorating will take place on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25 AT 10 AM**. Please see Linda Sartwell if interested in lending a helping hand this day.

YOU ARE INVITED - To the Mifflinburg Getting Ahead in the Valley Graduation, 2 pm, Sunday December 8th, 2024 at St. John's United Church of Christ, 417 Market St. Mifflinburg. Refreshments will follow the ceremony.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

November 10, 2024

Thanksgiving Baskets - \$160.00; Building Use - \$40.00;
Current Expenses - \$1,790.00; Davy's Cards - \$150.00; Devitt House - \$110.00;
Improvements/Maintenance - \$60.00; Loose Offering - \$22.00;
OCWM - \$70.00; St. John's Quilters - \$50.00; Weis Cards - \$200.00;

GRAND TOTAL - \$2,652.00 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*

Beth Moser, *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

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)

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 17, 2024

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Praise the Holy One

Are you weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care, precious Savior still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Joseph M. Scriven knew what it was like to be cumbered with a load of care. Early on, Scriven had to drop out of military school due to poor health. Then, in 1844, on the eve of this wedding his fiancé drowned. After moving to Canada, Scriven found — and lost — love again. His fiancé died this time after a short illness.

Yet through it all, Scriven kept believing that there was a Heavenly Ear listening to his cries. In 1855, he expressed that belief in the ever-popular hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

Scriven’s reminder to take our sorrow-riddled sighs and desperation-filled whys to God is one we need today. We live in a time where we no longer know how to wait for anything — let alone God’s answer to prayer. We live in an on-demand society expecting God to be an on-demand God.

God, though, never forgets us. It might seem like God keeps us waiting in our sorrow, questions and trials, but God’s timing is not like ours. In the waiting, we need to draw closely to God and remain persistent with our prayers.

Hannah is the poster child for being persistent. Although her load of care — her infertility — was breaking her heart, she kept asking God to “open her womb.” Hannah’s husband, Elkanah, was kind to her, but Peninnah, the other wife, loved to flaunt her fertility in front of Hannah.

Years of societal shame, marital failure and personal grief, would have taken its toll on any person of faith. Hannah, though, kept praying.

In the end, Hannah’s prayers were heard. She conceived a son and, as promised, to show her praise to the Lord, she gives the child to the service of the priest, Eli.

What are the unanswered prayers you are carrying this day? How long have you been lifting them to God? Whatever you do, don’t stop praying. For you just can’t see how close you really are to receiving God’s answer.

Dear God, grant us the persistence we need this day to keep on praying, knowing that You are not only listening but that You are working on the most beautiful answer to our deepest desires. Thank you for the answered prayers that we know will come — in your perfect timing. Amen.



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