



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
September 1, 2024***

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from the UCC Worship Ways, inspired by Psalm 15

O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who want to journey with you, who may have missed a turn, and who may struggle with rocky patches and rough terrain.

O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who seek and search for you and for community with doubts and hopes, joys and fears, smiles and tears.

O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who try and those who sometimes give up. Those who are beautifully, wonderfully, and imperfectly human – all of us! Thanks be to God!

***HYMN #500**

"Just As I Am"

INVOCATION

from the UCC Worship Ways

Loving God, we rejoice to be with you and with one another. In life, we find the fullness of life—from joy beyond measure to despair that consumes. Your presence sustains us through the depths and the plateaus. We acknowledge your sovereignty and express our bold trust that hope is our portion and assigned position in your everlasting and incomparable realm. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER/CONFESSION

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from the UCC Worship Ways, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown

The Holy One renews, redeems, and restores through continued creative acts. God has not concluded the good work begun in you or in our communities. By grace, our hearts can be changed. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive courage, counsel, and conviction to do the new thing God is calling us to do while holding fast to those things that build, sustain, and encourage. Be assured: you are loved, and you are forgiven.

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 15, The Message Bible

God, who gets invited to dinner at your place? How do we get on your guest list?

“Walk straight, act right, tell the truth. Don't hurt your friend, don't blame your neighbor... Keep your word even when it costs you, make an honest living, never take a bribe.”

“You'll never get blacklisted if you live like this.”

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SERMON

Rev. Julia L. Brown

SPECIAL MUSIC

Barb Motichka

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from the UCC Worship Ways

Generous God, bless these gifts that we share for the flourishing of the kingdom. Prosper the work of our hands, order the steps in our days, and align the balance of our resources. In our time, talent, and treasure, may you be glorified. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #490**

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

***COMMISSION & BLESSING**

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit go with you, and be with you always! Amen.

POSTLUDE (seated)

The “Nursery Nook in the Narthex” quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available. See the deacon for assistance.

Join us following the service for coffee hour!

Birthdays this week: 09/03 Michele Wadel; 09/04 Margaret Schollaert and Melissa Reichelderfer; 09/06 Evan Michael Blumberg; 09/07 James Moyer and Michael Herbert

Worship Participants:	
Guest Pastor	Rev. Julia L. Brown
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Sarah Myers
Lector	Henry Hopper
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz & Ginny Cairns
Bulletin cover	"Washing Hands" found at https://barbdahlgren.com/?p=1202

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in loving memory of our parents, Mickey & Edna Scubelek by Wayne Scubelek and Sue McMurtray.



St. John's Vision

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ as a congregation that welcomes everyone, and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

St. John's Mission

To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources:

Worship Ways, by the United Church of Christ
The Message Bible, by Eugene Peterson

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Julia L. Brown to St. John's this morning. Pastor Julia received her Master's in Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and is currently the minister at Solomon's UCC in New Franklin, PA. She is passionate about environmental stewardship and loves learning! She lives in Chambersburg with her husband (Ben), their daughter (Louise), 2 cats (Hank and Monty), and a bulldog (Pepe).

NEWS IN THE PEWS September 1, 2024

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday, September 2

Church Holiday – Office Closed – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

7:00 pm Amistad Praise Band Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 6

4:00 pm Ladies Retreat – St. John's Camp

5:30 pm Dance class – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 7

All Day – Ladies Retreat – St. John's Camp

Sunday, September 8

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119

8:45 am Spark! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115

8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Youth Room 206

8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116

10:00 am Sunday Service – Sanctuary

Sunday, September 8 marks the start of the program year. We look forward to resuming church school classes for all ages, bell choir and choir practices, and more. Join us!

Ladies Retreat: A St. John's Camp Ladies Retreat is being planned for Friday, 9/6 through Saturday, 9/7. Please join us for meaningful spiritual discussion and reflection, crafts, light yoga, meditation, get-acquainted games and delicious food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be in the church lobby area or you may call Diana Kongkeattikul at 717-552-0610.

Introduction to Planned Giving sessions with Chrystal Miracle will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 1:30 & 6:30 pm in Room 116. Please plan to join us at one of these information sessions and discover the power of giving from your heart to make a positive impact and create a legacy of generosity for our church family.

The Nursery School is selling mums from Backroads Greenhouse! These gorgeous mums in 9-inch pots are available in Red, Orange, Yellow, Purple, or White for \$10 each. Orders and money are due no later than Tuesday, September 10. Please make checks payable to St. John's Nursery School. Mums will be available to pick up Wednesday, September 18, 11:30am – 3:30pm, at St. John's Nursery School, Parking Lot B.

Autumn Afternoon Tea is Saturday, September 21. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, September 3. Make sure to reserve your ticket(s)/table soon—spaces are limited!

Knock on Wood Marimba Band will perform here at St. John's on Sunday, September 22, at 3:00 pm. Please join us for a unique celebration of rhythm and melody featuring the talents of Jay Brown, Jill Work, Roger Myers, Christina Roncin, and Marlin Barnes. There will certainly be something for everyone to enjoy!

Tie Die Craft Night Join us on Monday, September 23, 6 pm in room 202. Cost is \$15; indicate your t-shirt size when you sign up at the Welcome Center or you can bring your own shirt with you (100% cotton and prewashed). Contact Chani Wolfe with any questions you may have.

Family Fun Day will be on Sunday, September 29, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. To volunteer to help, contact Roxanne or the office.

Organ Recital Join us on Sunday, September 29, 3:00 pm for an organ recital in the St. John's Sanctuary given by Ferree LeFevre. A freewill offering will be taken; light refreshments to follow. This should be a delightful afternoon of beautiful pipe organ music.

Habitat Book Sale the Habitat for Humanity book sale is fast approaching. Sale dates will be October 25, 2 pm - 8 pm, October 26, 9 am – 5 pm and October 27, 12 pm – 4 pm. Donations will be accepted here at St. John's starting September 3 through October 12.

Meditation Group Henry Hopper is holding a Meditation Group every Monday at 10 am in room 116. New members are welcome; no experience needed! Questions? Contact Henry.

Prayer Chain For many people, participating in the prayer chain has become a real source of comfort and a way of knowing they can help others through the power of prayer. For others it is a source of comfort to know that fellow siblings in Christ are praying for them. If you'd like to participate in the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Prayer requests can be emailed to Pastor Caroline, Loretta or Heather to be shared with the prayer chain.

Diana's Devotional Corner Every week Diana Kongkeattikul writes a reflection that is posted to our website. We are now offering a special Eblast weekly with these reflections/devotionals. If you would like to receive these directly, please let the office know so we can put you on the list!

Lectors Needed Would you be willing to serve St. John's by being the lector/reader on a Sunday morning? Reach out to Judy Hodges via email or text.

Just As I Am

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not to
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight,
 5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, wilt
 6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known hath

that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidd'st me
 rid my soul of one dark blot, to Thee, whose blood can
 man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears, with -
 rich - es, heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need in
 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause Thy prom - ise
 bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be Thine, yea,

come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

490 Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
 2. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 3. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
 4. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no
 5. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its

Lord, to Thee; take my hands, and let them move
 ful for Thee; take my voice, and let me sing
 I with - hold; take my mo - ments and my days,
 long - er mine; take my heart, it is Thine own,
 trea - sure store. Take my - self and I will be

at the im - pulse of Thy love, at the im - pulse of Thy love.
 al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 let them flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 it shall be Thy roy - al throne, it shall be Thy roy - al throne.
 ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1874
 MUSIC: Henri A. C. Malan, 1827; harm. Lowell Mason, 1841

HENDON
 7.7.7.7
 Higher key, No. 443