

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

139 N. Fourth Street
Emmaus, Pennsylvania

August 28, 2011

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 AM

The People of God Gather For Worship

Thought for Meditation: "God, I thank You not only for the help You send, but for the people who bring it."

-Edward Grinnan, "101 Moments of Hope"

Prelude: Old Time Hymns

...All May Stand...

Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

#4

...Please Be Seated...

Welcome and Announcements

...All May Stand...

Solemn Declaration

Call to Worship:

Leader: Why have we gathered on this holy day?
What has drawn us to this time and place?

People: **We have been drawn to a flame burning here.**
We sense the glory of God in this place.

Leader: God calls us to this time of worship.
The place where we are standing is holy ground.

People: **Give thanks to God: sing praises.**
Give attention to the voice of God.

Leader: Out of a burning bush, God spoke to Moses.
In the rhythms of worship, God speaks to us.

People: **We will listen for God's message to us.**
Surely God's strength will supply our needs

The People of God Confess Their Sins

Act of Confession:

Leader: So often we are complainers, not seekers. We proclaim our innocence and justify our anger when so much in life does not go the way we had hoped. We blame God for conditions entrusted to our stewardship. We become stumbling blocks, not facilitators, of God's design. Let us seek reconciliation with our God.

People: **O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering, and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are, and have even tried to correct you. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening for your direction and heeding your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see your reign among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve in your realm. Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Kyrie:

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Leader: God is ever willing to grant us forgiveness, but we cannot receive it if we are unwilling to be changed by it. As long as we focus on preserving our own lives, protecting our advantages, we will be lost. If we want to be Christ's followers, we will deny ourselves and take up the cross, not as a burden, but as the joyous symbol of loving and giving for all the right reasons. We will overcome evil with good.

Sung Response: “*Gloria Patri*”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.
...Please Be Seated...

The People of God Share the Word of God

A Time to Pass Our Faith To Our Children

Solo: “*Because He Lives*”

Carl Frantz

The Holy Scripture:

Old Testament: Exodus 3:1-15

Page 44

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

Page 922

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:21-26

Page 798

Sermon: “Meeting God”

Rev. Curt Sandrock

...All May Stand...

Hymn: “*My God and I*”

Insert

...Please Be Seated...

The People of God Pray

Celebrations of Joy and Moments of Concern

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Lord’s Prayer:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

Sharing our Tithes and Offerings

Invitation: God invites us to observe the misery of our sisters and brothers who live in oppression and poverty. We have the resources to help make a difference in their lives. Beyond the limits of charity, we are challenged to invest our lives for the mutual benefit of all God’s children. Let us give as God has blessed us, with joy.

The Offering

The Offertory: “*Precious Lord*”

Carl Frantz

...All May Stand...

The Offertory Response: “*Doxology*”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer:

All: **May our offerings be an expression of genuine love that reflects your love for us, O God. We seek to honor you as we serve one another in Christ’s name. We reach out to overcome evil with good. Direct our use of the resources you entrust to us that we may not only contribute to the needs of the saints but also devote our lives to the building of a peaceable worldwide community in which all are valued. Amen.**

The People of God Go Forth In Mission

Commission and Blessing:

Leader: Seek everyday the presence we have known here. God offers strength for every challenge we face.

People: **We will give thanks and call on God’s name.**

We will open our eyes to see God’s daily miracles.

Leader: God promises life in all its fullness, not earthly riches. Life is fruitful when lived for others.

People: With mutual affection, we honor one another.
With hope and joy, we reach out helping hands.
Leader: Let worship continue as we pray for one another.
May God's will be done as we overcome evil with good.
People: Praise God for all the wonders of this life.
Praise God for opportunities to serve in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn: "The Voice of God Is Calling" #666
Silent Moment
Postlude: "Psalm of Glory" Smith

Preparation for Worship

"O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides" (Psalm 26:8, NRSV). Let us prepare to worship our glorious God.

Welcome

Thank you for joining us in the Lord's house. Take a moment to greet one another in the love of Christ.

Stewardship Moment

We do not give in order to get something back from God. That would be a form of spiritual selfishness likely to damage us more than help us. Yet, the Bible is clear – in both the Old Testament and the New Testament – that we will receive in the same measure that we give. Our offerings each week in worship do more than help with God's work. They also give God a chance to deliver on that promise from Scripture.

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

9:15 AM

Acolytes: Alexis Hanna, Brian Lance
Lay Reader: Les Schoenberger
Greeters: Bonnie Keck, Bill and Jackie Knappenberger
Ushers: Tom Capehart, Matthew Beck, Christine Hanna, Kyle Heck
Sound System: Mike Ackerman
Tape Ministry: Harold Huber
Flower Delivery: Kay Yanochko

Thank you to Carl Frantz for the special music.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger, Senior Pastor,
pstpaul@stjohnsuccemmaus.org
Rev. Curt Sandroock, Assisting Pastor
Patrice DiCarne, Minister of Music
Colleen Bernini, Administrative Secretary
Diane Ritter, Financial Secretary, dedemarit@juno.com
Pat Dillman, Director of Christian Education
Kayli Freeman, Seminarian
Cheryl Clauser, Sexton
Church Office Hours: 8:30 to 11:30 & 12:30 to 3:30
Phone Number: 610.965.9158.....Fax Number: 610.967.5380
Email: office@stjohnsuccemmaus.org
Website: www.stjohnsuccemmaus.org

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sunday, August 28

9:15 am Worship Service

Tuesday, August 30

9:00 am Quilts For Kids

Saturday, September 3

8:30 am AA

8:30 am Al Anon

Sunday, September 4

9:15 am Worship Service/Holy Communion

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Church Announcements for Sunday, August 28, 2011

August Mission – Church World Service School Kits

The quilters have made 100 school bags that need to be filled with supplies. This is twice as many as we've done in the past! These will be going overseas as children prepare for the new school year. School kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. Requests are pending for Liberia, Pakistan and Moldova – they will go to the children who need them most. Please visit the display in the narthex and choose the bag(s) you want to fill. Each bag contains a list of items to be purchased. This includes: blunt metal scissors, 3 spiral notebooks, a ruler, a hand-held pencil sharpener, an eraser, 6 new pencils, and a box of 24 crayons. **Filled bags should be returned before August 31st.** Monetary donations can be made out to "St. John's UCC" with designation for School Kits.

In September, members of the mission committee will be delivering these kits, along with the Emergency Clean-up Buckets, to CWS headquarters in New Windsor, Maryland. Our current challenge is to find a vehicle large enough to transport the amount of donations we have generously received so far!

The need for these items at CWS is great! Thank you for helping to replenish their supply of these vital recovery kits.

Attention Members of St. John's

The Nursery is in desperate need of volunteers to help in the nursery during the 10:30 worship. We have recently lost several helpers who have been involved for many years. If we don't get the adequate help that we need, we will need to have the nursery available only for parents who wish to watch their own children during the service. Please call Kris Wentz at 610-965-7067 if interested.

Gemeinde Platz

Gemeinde Platz is sponsored this morning by St. John's Consistory. The Garden Committee will be our sponsors next Sunday for the last Gemeinde Platz of the summer.

Confirmation Classes

Our 2011-2012 Confirmation classes will begin with an orientation night on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:30 PM with the students and parents. If you are in at least 7th grade and have not been confirmed, you are welcome to take part in this year's confirmation program. If interested, please call Colleen in the church office at 610-965-9158.

Bethel Bible Fellowship Food Bank

The Mission Committee again wants to thank the congregation for so generously giving to the June Mission of the Bethel Bible Fellowship Food Bank "PLUS" for children. The following was donated: one case each of juice, tuna, mac & cheese, dry pasta, ravioli, vegetables, cereal, peanut butter & jelly, fruit, combination case of spaghetti, soup and beef stew, and a half case each of Jello and miscellaneous snacks. A check for \$600.00 was given for their much needed purchase of meat, which brought some happy faces. Thank you!

Altar Flowers

If you have signed up to sponsor altar flowers in the upcoming months, please call the church office and let us know what you would like the dedication to be in the bulletin.

Monthly Food Collection

Please remember that next week is the first Sunday in the new month – time to bring in food donations for the monthly food collection for the local food bank located at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church. Items most needed include cereal, peanut butter & jelly, tuna, pasta, rice, canned meats & stews, canned vegetables & fruit, soup, canned milk and spaghetti. Please place your donations on the designated baskets in the narthex.

White Rose

The White Rose placed on the altar this morning is in memory of **Fred Eisenhard** who passed away on August 18. We offer our prayers and support for his family and friends.

Confidentiality

It is important that we honor the rights to privacy of medical information for our St. John's members. If someone in the congregation shares a prayer concern, a medical issue, or hospitalization information with you, **please ask their permission** before sharing that information with the pastors, Undershepherd Ministry, Prayer Tree or church office, or for announcement in worship. If you are hospitalized or are sharing any prayer concerns, the pastors will ask your permission before disclosing information to anyone beyond the pastoral staff.

Church Hospital Code Number is 466!

The pastors visit our hospitalized members. If you, or a member of your family enters the hospital, please ask the hospital to place the patient's name on church code #466, St. John's UCC, Emmaus or call the church office to inform us at 610-965-9158.

Recently Hospitalized – Ardella Guth

Greeting Cards

The Undershepherd Ministries give us the opportunity to sign greeting cards for folks on our Home Visitation List, for members of the congregation who need a lift, or just to say "hello". All cards are in the Narthex. Please take a minute to sign the cards and send these folks our Christian greetings. Today we are signing cards for:

Loretta DeLabar, Anna Eisenhard & Family, Ronald & Shirley Hillegass, Buraldine Mabus

The Altar Flowers are sponsored by Deb & Les Schoenberger in memory of Julia Hoffer, Les' grandmother who passed away January 2009.

The Organ Flowers are sponsored by Kay Joseph in memory of her parents, Richard W. and Mervana Williams.

Church Attendance – Sunday, August 21, 2011: 9:15 AM – 116

Income Report for Sunday, August 21, 2011:

Mortgage Account (BOFFT, Building Blocks, Building Fund) – \$681.00

General Fund - \$2,254.00