



FAITH • LOVE • SERVICE
ST. JOHN'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reflecting God's unconditional love to all!

217 Berkley Road
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Devon, PA 19333
610.688.5222
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July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Notes

There are offering trays located at each entrance to the sanctuary. If you would like to give, you can put your offering there before worship. You can also give online using this QR code.



If you have a prayer request, there are blue prayer cards in your pew racks that can be put in the trays, as well.

The ^ symbol indicates that you are invited to stand, as you are able.

The hymns can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the bulletin, and the scripture reading is printed on the back.

Please note: This service is being live-streamed and archived through our social media channels. While the video focuses on the worship leaders, participants may also appear in the recordings.

Welcome to St. John's!

No matter who you are, where you come from, what you look like, or what you are wearing, you are welcome here! No matter where you are in your faith, you belong here. All we want is to help you experience the presence and love of Jesus Christ! If there is anything we can do to help you feel more at home, please feel free to ask one of the greeters located at the sanctuary doors. We would love for you to join us for refreshments downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We are so glad that you are here and hope you will worship with us again soon!

Welcome & Announcements

Introit "Spirit of the Living God"

Answering God's Call to Worship

One: Lord, we come to you when we are rejoicing...

All: Because you are the source of all good things!

One: We come to you when we are struggling...

All: Because you are the source of all good things!

One: Whether we are rejoicing or struggling, we come to you now, that we may be filled with your Spirit of life.

All: Because you are the source of all good things!

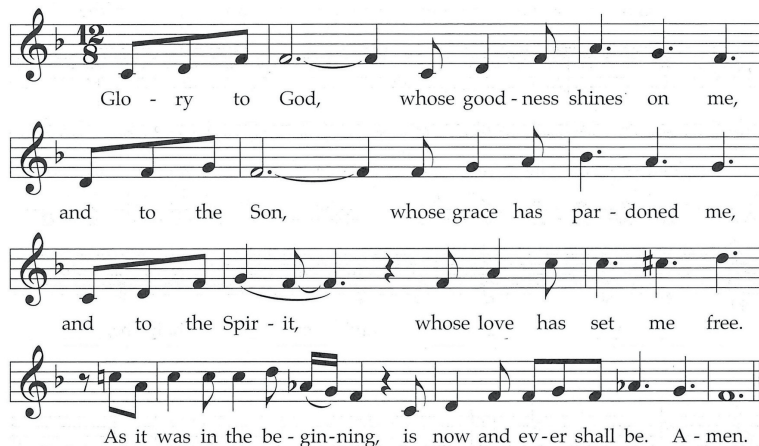
^ Hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Prayer of Invocation & Confession (ending with the 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 forever. Amen.

Promise of Forgiveness

^ Gloria Patri "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"



Today we are saying goodbye to **Mark, Sheila, Papa, Nana, and Jewel Owusu-Ntow** and sending them with a blessing as Mark and the kids move to Edinburg, Texas, where he will be working toward his PhD at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. You will be invited to come forward (as you are able) to lay hands on them in prayer as we ask God's blessing upon them.

After the Postlude, you are encouraged to greet one another (especially people you don't already know!) and come downstairs for a time of refreshments and fellowship. If you see someone standing alone, go talk to them!

^ Affirming Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father, Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:3–13

Jeanne Lynam

Blessing Our Departing Members

Anthem

"Stand By Me"

Charles Albert Tindley

Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:22–31

Sermon

"The Struggle Is Real"

Rev. Dr. Marshall

Summer Sermon Series: "Anything but Ordinary"

After the sermon, there will be a brief musical interlude, offering time for reflection.

^ Presentation of Offering & 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.**

^ Prayer of Dedication & Prayers of the People

^ Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

^ Benediction

^ Postlude

"Marching Saints"

Enriching Our Worship of God

Pastors Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall, Rev. Ridgley Beckett

Music Director Janet Kaido

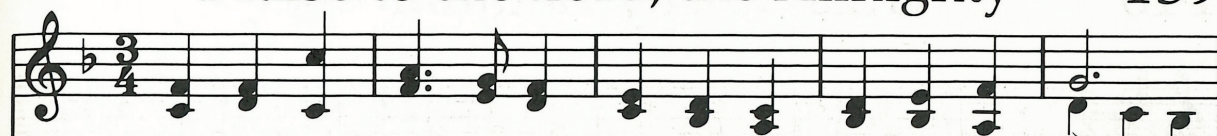
Greeter Jeanne Lynam

Coffee Servers Wanda Odom

Pianist Dwight Jaggard

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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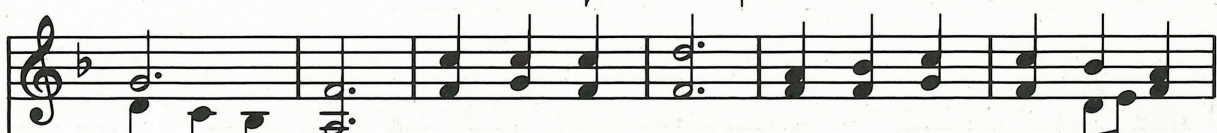
1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - mighty, the King of cre - a -
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore



tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
ing bears thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep - ing main -

him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -



va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
tain - ing. God's care en - folds all, whose true good he up -

fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -



near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
holds. Hast thou not known his sus - tain - ing?

gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.



WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1, 3, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863
st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986; st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 (Ps. 103:1-6; 150)
MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

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Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 280

AMAZING GRACE CM

Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1779

Stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

Virginia Harmony, 1831

Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900



1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;



I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.



Announcements

Congregational Life

July Birthdays

Happy birthday to everyone in our church family who is celebrating a birthday this month! Please wish them a happy birthday in person at church or send them birthday wishes by text, email, or a card in the mail. Join us after worship today for cake in Fellowship Hall to celebrate our July birthdays. If you would like to be included in our birthday lists, please contact Barbara McConnell (blbmccconnell@aol.com).

July 1 Meredith Carty

July 4 Nancy Arico

July 4 Mimi Wright

July 5 Bruce Phillips

July 6 Logan Carty

July 9 Bob Miller

July 9 Andy Walsh

July 12 Kris Graham

July 24 Cameron Oliver

July 31 Jason Feldman

Conversation on Immigration - Today!

Immigration can be a controversial political topic in our country. But so often, we lose sight of the personal aspects of this subject and the real lives that are involved with it. Today, July 26, the Outreach Committee will be hosting a conversation in the Carriage House with some members of our church family who have left their home countries and immigrated to the United States. The hope is that as we hear their unique stories about the blessings and challenges that they experienced, we might understand the issue of immigration on a more personal level. We would love for you to join us after worship for this deeply meaningful conversation.

Wednesday Men's Day Lunch

Our next men's lunch will be on **Wednesday, August 5 at Noon**. Men of all ages are invited to bring their lunch to the church and eat together in Fellowship Hall! No RSVP needed, and there's no agenda; just an informal time of food and fellowship together. Come a little late or leave early if you need to. If you have any questions, just ask Pastor Patrick.

Children & Youth

Scan the QR code to subscribe to
our Children & Youth Newsletter:



Vacation Bible School 2026

OPERATION RESTORATION: Mending God's World

Join us August 3-7 from 9 a.m. to Noon at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon for VBS! We will gather for music, Bible study, games, crafts, and FUN. Registration for students and volunteers is open now. You can register through May 30 using the link in the weekly email through. We are looking for volunteers to help with shepherding, station leading, and more! We have a volunteer position for everyone, even those who can only come one day. For more information, contact Pastor Ridgley!

Youth Bible Study will not be meeting for the summer and will resume in the Fall!

Faith Formation

Women's Book Study - 2 Opportunities

The Sunday book group is taking the summer off and will resume with a new book study in September. Contact Nancy Wolfe (nj.wolfe@verizon.net) for more information.

The Monday group meets at 10:00 a.m., both in person and on Zoom (use the church Zoom link found on the website under Resources). They are reading *From Widows to Warriors: Women's Stories from the Old Testament* by Lynn Japinga. Copies are available in the church office. If you would like to find out more, Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net) for more info.

Men's Group

The Wednesday morning men's group is taking a break for the summer and will resume in the fall. Until then, come to one of our Wednesday Men's Day lunches!

Interested in Joining St. John's?

We would love for you to become a part of our church family! You can indicate your interest on the Fellowship Pad or contact one of our pastors. They will get in touch with you to set up time for coffee to discuss your interest.

This Week in the Church Office

Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email must be sent to Annie by Noon on Wednesday.

Friday is Pastor Patrick and Pastor Ridgley's sabbath day, and the church office is closed on Saturday. If you email or call on those days, you will not get a response until they are back in the office.

If you have a pastoral emergency pertaining to a death, hospitalization, or crisis situation when the office is closed, please call 484-604-0499

Nursery Help Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help our nursery worker on Sundays this Summer. We already have people in the nursery who can pick up kids and handle any physical parts of the role, but we need another adult to sit in the rocking chair and engage with our kids to help fulfill our child protection policy requirements. If we cannot have two adults in the nursery, then we cannot provide nursery care, which is one of the most hospitable things we can do for our young families (and visitors!) Please contact Pastor Ridgley or click the link in the weekly newsletter if you can help!

Office Subs Needed

Annie will be out of the office **Monday, August 3 through Friday, August 7**, attending the Montreat Youth Conference as an adult leader with Pastor Ridgley and our high school youth. We are in need of some help in the church office, primarily answering the phone and letting people into the building. Training is provided for those unfamiliar with the phone and door systems. **There will be two shifts each day, mornings from 9:00-12:00, and afternoons from 1:00-4:00.** Many times during the summer it is very quiet, so you can bring some work to do or a book to read while you're here! If you are able to help, click on the link in the weekly email to sign up.

Giving

If you would like to support the life and ministry of St. John's, you can scan this QR code to give online.



Financial Update

As of June 30, year-to-date operating income from all sources totaled \$429,891, above budget by \$72,408, due largely to some people already giving their full pledges for the year. That always slightly inflates the financial picture in the first part of the year, but averages out as the year progresses.

Expenses year-to-date are \$323,167, under budget by \$11,100.

Income minus Expenses yielded a surplus of \$66,765. Thank you for all the ways that you make the life and ministry of our church family possible!

Congregational Care

Giving Thanks for the Life of Sue Parsons

Longtime St. John's member **Sue Parsons** died on Monday, July 20. We are still waiting on details for a memorial service, and we will let you know about it as soon as possible.

Thank You from the Jaggards

We thank you for your prayers, cards, support and condolences on the passing of my brother, Keith Jaggard, in June. We especially appreciate the spiritual care and concern of Pastors Patrick and Ridgley, and the Deacons of St. John's.

Warmly with gratitude,
Dwight Jaggard for the entire Jaggard family.

Looking Ahead...

Sunday, August 16 - Our High School youth will lead worship, sharing what they experienced at their annual Youth Conference in Montreat, NC!

Sunday, September 13 - We will once again be packing 10,000 meals for *Rise Against Hunger* in the afternoon.

Sunday, September 20 - Save the date for our Fall Kickoff! We will gather for our first Sunday School class of the year followed by a meal together as a church family after worship.

Scan this QR code to subscribe to our weekly email update:



Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall

Senior Pastor

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Rev. Ridgley Beckett

Associate Pastor

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Annie Carruthers

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Nancy Arico

Treasurer

(outgoing funds)

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Brian Bouvier

Financial Secretary

(incoming funds)

brianbouvier57@gmail.com

This Week at St. John's

Scan this QR Code for the complete church calendar:



Sunday, July 26

9:30 am Worship

10:45 am Conversation on Immigration (Carriage House)

Monday, July 27

10:00 am Women's Book Group (Kean Room)

Tuesday, July 28

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, July 30

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, August 1

6:30 am Youth Depart for Montreat (Swarthmore Pres.)

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, August 2

9:30 am Worship & Communion

St. John's Mission Statement

Reflecting God's unconditional love to all!

Core Values

Faith

We seek to grow in our faith and to recognize God's presence in our lives through scripture, worship, music, fellowship, study, and prayer.

Love

All people are welcome here. We are a caring, inclusive, intergenerational community, following Jesus Christ's example to love everyone, to be with one another in difficult times, and to share in each other's joys.

Service

We are passionate about helping those in need within our church family, in our local communities, across the country, and throughout the world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we are generous with our time, talents, and resources to bring hope to others in tangible, transformative ways.

Vision Statement

A spiritual home for the community where...

- everyone is welcomed with open hearts, showing each other grace in a complicated world
- people find belonging as they are known, valued, and loved
- together, we grow in our knowledge and love of God
- Jesus inspires us to serve others with compassion

Today's Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:2–13

³Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, ⁴instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have lived with Laban as an alien, and stayed until now; ⁵and I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male and female slaves; and I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.'" ⁶The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him." ⁷Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies, ⁸thinking, "If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the company that is left will escape." ⁹And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,' ¹⁰I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan; and now I have become two companies. ¹¹Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. ¹²Yet you have said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.'" ¹³So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau...

Genesis 32:22–31

²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Notes
