



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

Reflecting God's unconditional love to all!

217 Berkley Road
PO Box 399 (for mail)
Devon, PA 19333
610.688.5222
www.stjohnsdevon.com

October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday

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.

Reformation Sunday is observed on the last Sunday in October. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted a list of "95 theses" decrying abusive practices of the Catholic Church on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. This is widely considered to mark the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, giving rise to the Protestant Church and eventually Presbyterianism.

Both of the hymns this morning were written by Martin Luther in the 1500s and can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the bulletin.

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

"Meditation in F"

Michael Helman

Answering God's Call to Worship

From Psalm 90

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**All: Before the mountains were brought forth,
or you had ever formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

One: Satisfy us with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**All: Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.**

One: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands.

All: Let us worship God!

^ Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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 (#71 in the red hymnal)

**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.**

John Calvin (1509-1564) was a French pastor and theologian during the Reformation, and his work helped give birth to Presbyterianism. His congregation regularly recited the Ten Commandments during worship. He intentionally placed this after the Prayer of Confession and Promise of Forgiveness to emphasize that we follow God's law not to *earn* God's grace and forgiveness, but as a *response* to God's love. *Because* we are forgiven, we want to live in ways that show love for God and our neighbor.

The scripture reading can be found on the back of the bulletin.

Katy Love will be our featured stewardship speaker today, sharing what she is grateful for in the life of our church family

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		
God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath. You shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house or anything that belongs to your neighbor."		
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.		
Scripture Reading	Matthew 15:1-2, 10-20	Bruce Phillips
Children's Time		
<i>As Pre-K-7th graders leave for Sunday School, we send them with this liturgy:</i>		
Pastor: Now we go our separate ways to worship and learn about God.		
Cong.: May God be with you there!		
Children: May God be with you here!		
Anthem	"Simple Gifts"	<i>Traditional arr. Thomas</i>
Sermon	"Defining Sin"	Rev. Dr. Marshall
<i>After the sermon, there will be a brief musical interlude, offering time for reflection.</i>		
^ 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		
"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"		
^ Benediction		
^ Postlude		
"Amazing Grace"		
<i>Traditional arr. Thomas</i>		
<u>Enriching Our Worship of God</u>		
Music Director	Janet Kaido	
Usher	Bruce Phillips	
Coffee Servers	Bruce & Nancy Phillips	
Devon Brass	Mark Ator, Jeff Estabrook, Frank Mercurio, Paul Steege	
Bell Choir	Betsy Miller (Director), Diane Alleva, Stephanie Crill, Christina Fish, Jocelyn Huang, Karen Huang, Jim Tiede, Nancy Veronesi	

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

Martin Luther, 1529

Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

Martin Luther, 1529



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;




Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;




For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a -
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y




power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.



Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Unison

1. Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word;
2. Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known
3. O Com - for - ter of price - less worth,

curb those who by de - ceit or sword
for you are Lord of lords a - lone;
send peace and u - ni - ty on earth;

would seek to o - ver - throw your Son
de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that we
sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and to de - stroy what he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Announcements

Congregational Life

October 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. If you would like to be included in our birthday lists, please contact Barbara McConnell (blbmccconnell@aol.com).

October 1 Steve Oliver	October 15 Jim Little
October 1 Joe Loomis	October 17 Patrick Marshall
October 7 Garrick Bellew	October 19 Andrew Ward
October 8 Nader Engheta	October 21 Christian McGreevy
October 12 John Shaw	October 23 Ben Loomis
October 13 Troy Fisher	October 26 Tom Higgins
October 15 Jim Little	October 28 Matt Crill

Supper at St. John's

Join us on Wednesday at 6 p.m. for a delicious dinner and fellowship. We will have a table of games set out for anyone who wants to play games after dinner together! Sign up by clicking the link in our weekly email.

On **Wednesday, November 4**, we will be having a potluck supper! St. John's will provide the main course and you bring the sides/dessert! You can sign up and let us know what you're bringing on the weekly email!

Fall Fun Day at Linvilla Orchards

We hope you'll join us on Sunday, November 1 from 1:45-3:00 p.m. for an afternoon at Linvilla Orchards as a church family. We will ride in a private hayride together, wind our way through a corn maze, enjoy apple cider donuts, and catapult apples in the field! To RSVP, click the link in the weekly email!

Coming in Spring: A Do-It-Ourselves Photo Directory!

We need to update our paper photo directory, and for the first time ever, we are going to make our own picture directory! Stephanie Crill has kindly volunteered to take photographs of individuals, couples, and families following worship on October 25 and November 8 in Fellowship Hall. For the first two weeks, this is on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional dates will be provided in November, December, and January. If you are unavailable to have your picture taken, you may send a favorite picture to Stephanie (sacrill@yahoo.com).

Faith Formation

Pop-up Sunday School on Exodus - Today

Join us after worship in the Carriage House for part two of a two-week class on the book of Exodus! The class will be led by Rev. Dr. Brennan Breed, the Associate Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Seminary.

Women's Book Study – 2 Opportunities

The Sunday group meets at 8:15 a.m., both in person in the Carriage house and on Zoom. They started the book *Braving the Truth* by Rachel Held Evans this morning. If you would like to find out more or are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Wolfe at nj.wolfe@verizon.net.

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. Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net) for more info.

Men's Group

The Wednesday morning men's group meets on **Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House to discuss chapter 3 of the book *Sacred Balance*. All men are welcome!

LAST CALL: St. John's Camino Survey

Last month we held an info meeting with Progressive Pilgrimages to learn more about St. John's doing a Camino together in Spain! If you are even a little bit interested, please fill out the linked survey in the weekly email by November 1, so that we can schedule a date together. This event is open to all, so please do invite your friends! The more the merrier!

Coming soon: Advent!

This year for Advent our worship series will be extra special! The theme, "Words from the Beginning" has a visual focus of quilts! The Advent planning team is hoping that you could donate a quilt (or two) for us to use in the sanctuary throughout the season of Advent. They will be well taken care of! We will be collecting them starting November 15 and can return them after Christmas. For more information, contact Pastor Ridgley.

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

The church office is open Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email must be sent to Annie by Noon on Wednesday.

Friday is Patrick and 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

Outreach

Gemma Services Classroom Volunteers Needed!

Gemma Services is looking for classroom volunteers for their new autism-centered program for students in grades K-5. The program is housed at the Plymouth Meeting campus of the Martin Luther School. For more information, please contact Nancy Higgins at nrhiggins76@gmail.com.

Fall Clothing Drive for Chester County Migrant Ministry

Our youth are collecting socks for men, women, boys and girls; hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens; personal hygiene bundles for men, women, girls, and boys. We also receive donations of new pajamas for children from 6 mos - 12/14 for boys and girls for Chester County Migrant Ministry. You can leave your donations in the wooden bin by the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall through November 10!

Music

Choir Rehearsals

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Email Janet Kaido at music@stjohnsdevon.com for more information.

Adult Handbells Rehearsal

The Devon Chapel Bells (older teens and adults) rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7 in the Music Room. New ringers are always welcome! Contact Betsy Miller with any questions.

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



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 September 30, year-to-date operating income from all sources totaled \$542,852, above budget by \$14,844. Expenses year-to-date are \$552,114, under budget by \$14,752. Income minus Expenses yielded a deficit of \$9,263.

Thank you for all the ways that you make the life and ministry of our church family possible!

Don't forget to RSVP for Consecration Sunday!

On November 15 after worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to have brunch together, free of charge, to celebrate all that God has done and is doing among us at St. John's! RSVP on the website or in our weekly email.

Budget Presentation

Do your eyes glaze over every time you look at the church's budget spreadsheet? If so, join Jim Tiede in the Carriage House after worship on **Sunday, November 1** for a pictorial look at the church's budget that will show how your gifts of gratitude are turned into the variety of actions supported by St. John's.

Children & Youth

Sunday School - After the children's time, children in grades 1-7 will leave for Sunday School. Youth in grades 8-12 gather for weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the youth room.

Fall Festival - Today (4-6 p.m.)

Children and adults of all ages are invited to join us for the Fall Festival! We will have game stations, dinner, BINGO, and the youth will play GROG from 6-7 p.m. in the Carriage House!

Looking Ahead

Saturday, November 1

Fall Fun Day at Linvilla for ALL AGES 1:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Saturday, November 14

David Sheep Memorial Service (10:30 a.m.)

Sunday, November 15

Consecration Sunday (worship & brunch)

Sunday, December 6

Advent Crafternoon (crafts & brunch)

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall

Senior Pastor

patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com

Rev. Ridgley Beckett

Associate Pastor

rbeckett@stjohnsdevon.com

Annie Carruthers

Church Administrator

admin@stjohnsdevon.com

Janet Kaido

Director of Music

music@stjohnsdevon.com

Nancy Arico

Treasurer

(outgoing funds)

treasurer@stjohnsdevon.com

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, October 25

9:30 am Worship

11:00 am Pop-Up Sunday School with Brennan Breed (Carriage House)

4:00 pm Fall Festival

Monday, October 26

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

Tuesday, October 27

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, October 28

6:00 pm Supper at St. John's (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Youth Bible Study (Youth Room)

Thursday, October 29

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 pm Adult Bells Rehearsal (Bell Room)

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, October 31

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, November 1

9:30 am Worship & Communion

1:45 pm Fall Fun Day at Linvilla Orchards

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

Matthew 15:1-2, 10-20

¹Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ²"Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat."

¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."

¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Notes
