

Prelude "Sheep May Safely Graze" by J. S. Bach

Greeting and Announcements

* Call to Worship

L: We gather together to worship You

C: Because our lives have been blessed by You.

L: We come to be immersed in Your Word and filled with Your Spirit

C: So that Your thoughts can become our thoughts.

L: We come to be empowered and inspired

C: So that the work of our hands and the words of our mouths may be acceptable to You and bring glory to Your name.

* Hymn "We Love Your Realm, O God", BNCH #312, v. 1-4

* Invocation

We come to discover Your presence in our lives, to experience Your love and to receive Your blessing. But we also come to be filled with Your spirit, to have our lives shaped by the example of Christ, to discover our purpose and how we can truly please You. Open our spirits to Your presence with us here and in every moment of our lives. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God forgive us when we say one thing and do another, when we know the truth but do not act on it, when we seek blessings and love for ourselves but fail to see the need in others, when we are quick to speak and slow to listen, when we fail to notice the overwhelming love You have for all Your creation, and all Your people. Deal with us, not as we would deal with ourselves and others, but as the Spirit of Christ, whose work was to bring us Your Grace and to die on the cross for us, would deal with us. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Song of Praise (tune: Red Hymnal #493)

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.

Scripture Reading James 1:17-27; Mark 7:2-8,14-15,21-23

Sermon "Keeping Life in Balance", Pastor Ernest Diefenderfer

Hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God", BNCH #292

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory "My Heart Ever Faithful" by J. S. Bach

* Doxology (tune: BNCH #780)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ all creatures here below. Praise Holy Spirit, evermore. One God, Triune, whom we adore.

Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer and 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

* Hymn "I Sing the Mighty Power of God", BNCH #12

* Invitation

L: God offers adoption into the family of God.

C: We invite all here to be our sisters and brothers in spirit.

L: Jesus offers eternal life in heaven.

C: We invite all here to believe in Jesus and live forever.

L: God loves us and asks us to love one another.

C: We invite all here to share this love, as God requests.

* Benediction

Postlude "March" by J. S. Bach

Welcome to St. John U.C.C.
Riegelsville, PA † September 1, 2024

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored
by **Kathleen Kurtz and Leidy E. Cook**
in memory of Robert Kurtz Cook's birthday on September 8..

Thank you, everyone, for the many generous contributions
in August for the Easton Area Neighborhood's Senior Hub.
During the month of September, the **BENEVOLENT BASKET**
will be collecting **pet food** for Common Sense for Animals,
a no-kill animal rescue shelter in Stewartsville, NJ.

For those who cannot attend in person,
please let them know our Sunday worship services are
LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK at www.facebook.com/SJUCCRiegelsville.

*When we return to holding our services in the Sanctuary, we will also return
to streaming live on YouTube. Until then, please join us on Facebook!
The bulletin & hymns are posted at noon on Saturday.*

CHURCH CONTACTS

Pastor: Douglas Donigian, 610-393-0737, SJRpastor@gmail.com
Pastor: Joyce Donigian, 610-392-4611, SJRpastor@gmail.com
Organist/Pianist: Kyle Page, page.kyle@gmail.com
Flower Sponsors: Barbara Corrigan, 908-995-4879, becaruba@ptd.net
Social Hall Usage: Sharon Rinaldi, 610-749-2198
Consistory President: Tony Rinaldi, 610-360-9857

St. John United Church of Christ
Riegelsville, PA

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*

Every GOOD
and PERFECT gift
is from above.
JAMES 1:17

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024 † 10:00 a.m.