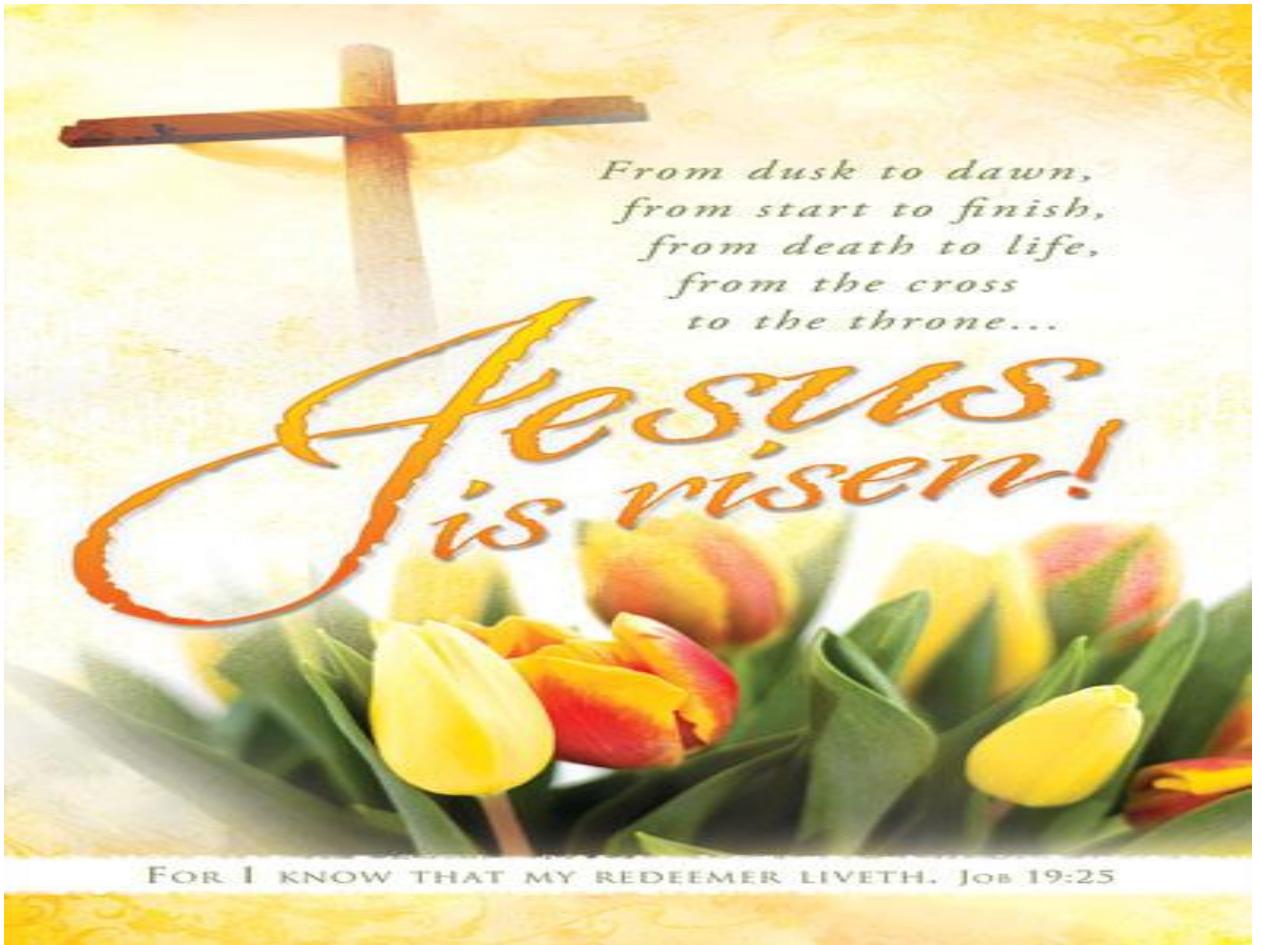


# The Spirit

Volume 76 No 4 April 2023



A publication of St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

## *From Pastor Caroline*

One of my favorite Easter hymns is “Now the Green Blade Rises,” with its beautiful refrain: “Love has come again like wheat that rises green.” We recall the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection, living with the pain of Good Friday and the joy of Easter morning. Love indeed comes again to embolden us to live as the people of God, people who share and care, marrying piety with justice, compassion with action. Our world is changed by the work of God in Jesus Christ, and we do indeed live as resurrection people.

We are following Jesus and doing our best to take the next faithful step. Lent is a season that invites reflection and discernment. Easter is a season that invites action, sending us forth to tell the good news and continue our work to bring forth God’s kingdom on earth. The Easter story reminds us of God’s power for life—abundant life, joyful life, a life that is defined by grace, forgiveness, and love. Jesus will spend the 50 days of Eastertide with his disciples, encouraging them to continue the movement and spread his message of love. We are called to be the church, Jesus’ hands and feet in the world, moving onward and forward.

The work of the St. John’s Future Together Task Force with Rev. Cameron Trimble and Convergence is focused on how we are being the church, how we live out Micah 6:8 (to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God), and what we can do now that will serve us well in the near future (the next 1-3 years). The themes that are emerging in our work are: energizing participation, congregational care, community impact, spiritual deepening, financial sustainability, and leadership development.

You’ll read in this issue of the Spirit about new partnerships with the Gleaning Project, expansion of our partnership with the Circles Program, and volunteer opportunities with Franklin County Legal Services’ book sale. We are gearing up for another season at St. John’s Camp (complete with a sticky bun sale), planning intergenerational activities, and have a session on mindfulness meditation scheduled for April 19. As we work toward a formal strategic plan, we are also implementing ideas along the way.

The St. John’s Future Together Task Force especially invites you to an upcoming workshop on Healthy Congregations on **Saturday, April 29, 9 am to 3 pm**. This is the first of two workshops facilitated by Rev. Robin Miller Curras on Healthy Congregations. Our congregational survey last fall indicated that we could improve on our skills in healthy communications, responding to change, and conflict management. In all aspects of our lives, we can benefit from learning how to communicate well and to handle change and conflict in productive ways. The second workshop on Healthy Conflict (Managing Anxiety and Change) will be **Saturday, June 4, 9 am to 3 pm**. **You** are invited and encouraged to attend each of these opportunities. We will offer lunch and child care for both workshops.

Look for more information in the News in the Pews and e-blast during the month of April.

Together, we are following Christ, crucified and risen. Together, we are being the church.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP ON**  
**CREATING HEALTHY**  
**CONGREGATIONS**

**Date:** Saturday, April 29

**Time:** 9 am to 3 pm

(lunch and childcare provided)

**Location:** Fellowship Hall  
and Room 116

**Facilitator:** Rev. Robin Miller Curras

This workshop will help us to  
accept differences, focus on strength,  
and focus on mission.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**WORKSHOP: HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS  
RESPOND TO ANXIETY AND CHANGE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 9 AM TO 3 PM**

*sponsored by the St. John's Future Together Task Force*



# MUSIC MINISTRY

We are planning this year to have our Summer Singers program for anyone who likes to sing. This means any person in our community can sign up and come to St. John's and join our group of singers. Our largest group of singers come from our choir and our church. We are pleased with this fact. However in the past few years we have had singers from as many as 20 different churches in our area and I would like to have more. I am asking our church members who might know people outside our church who enjoy singing, to sign up for this year's program. There will be sign-up papers on the counter in our front lobby and anyone may take one or more to give to potential singers who might be interested in joining our program. On this sign-up paper you will find all the rehearsal dates and signing engagements and how to sign up. We will begin rehearsals in mid May and be finished with our concerts by the end of July. This is NOT a forever event.

Sincerely, Gary Crum

# St. John's Nursery School

Happy April! Our Nursery School students and teachers are SO thankful to be able to go play outside and enjoy this beautiful weather!

March was quite a busy month for the Nursery School. We started the month by collecting donations for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. Thank you so much for all of your donations! We also thank the youth of St. John's for supporting us in this project. They made collection boxes for the entrances and delivered the donations to the shelter!

We then held a school-wide reading initiative and celebrated our love of reading with an ice cream party! Children read throughout the month of March and recorded the names of the books they read on paper fish, which were collected and displayed in our Nursery School fish tank.

St. John's Nursery School values the importance of supporting our families with their transition to Kindergarten. Ms. Amanda Pursel, a Kindergarten teacher with CASD visited us in March and shared a wealth of information about Kindergarten, and what families and children can expect from the registration process.

The Nursery School also held its annual Smith's Chicken BBQ Fundraiser on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket. It was a great success!! A huge THANK YOU also goes to the Nursery School Ministry and Staff (as well as their families) for helping to prepare the meals. It is definitely a team effort!

We look forward to celebrating Easter this month with classroom parties, complete with a visit from the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt!

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is well on its way! We are currently 73% full. If you are interested in registering your child in one of our preschool programs or know someone who is, please contact the nursery school office at 717-264-8224 or visit [www.sjucc1811.org](http://www.sjucc1811.org) for more information.

Wishing you a blessed and joyous Easter!

Kari Rock, Director



## *Coming Soon: Food Preservation with the Gleaning Project!*

Beginning in April, the Gleaning Project and St. John's UCC are embarking on a new partnership to help food insecure families in our community. Once a month, volunteers from the Gleaning Project and the wider community will utilize our St. John's kitchen to preserve fresh produce, either by freezing or canning, helping to fill the food gap and reduce food waste.

St. John's has committed to providing space for this project April to November 2023. We are excited about this new venture and will provide more information about how to be involved as the project progresses. The flyer included in this month's Spirit (and posted in various locations around St. John's) helps to explain more about the need and the goal of this program.

Donations of jars, lids, and rings are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support of South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP), the Gleaning Project, and St. John's!

*Thank you for your generous support of our Lenten Projects. Contributions toward these projects can be made through the end of April.*



# THE GLEANING PROJECT

of South Central Pennsylvania

## HELP SAVE THE HARVEST

1 in 5 kids in South Central PA is "food insecure" and miss out on dependable fresh fruits and vegetables  
20-30% of food loss occurs during agricultural production, harvesting, and distribution. All of that waste is perfectly delicious, nutritious, local food that doesn't make it to market for a variety of reasons which are usually cosmetic (size, color, shape etc.)  
In 2022, The Gleaning Project saved and supplied **750,000+ lbs** of fresh produce to community partners in Franklin and Adams Counties

In 2023 we're hoping to save even more. Here's how:



### Freezing

Labeled fresh fruits and produce can be used anywhere from months to a year after harvest depending on storage! This produce, picked at peak ripeness, contains important nutrients essential for a healthy lifestyle that will be preserved by freezing instead of going to waste!



### Canning

Canning produce can extend its life from 12-18 months! Both water bath and pressure canning can be used to salvage produce from fields and extend harvest year round to those who are food insecure and without freezers!



### Saving the Veggies

With the help of the community, The Gleaning Project hopes to save more produce than ever and continue to fill the food gap that occurs during months where harvest has stopped but hunger persists.



## Interested in Helping?

### CONTACT US!

Franklin Co. Gleaning Coordinator - Cory Hess  
Assistant Coordinator - Bernie Armstrong

chess@sccap.org  
barmstrong@sccap.org



thegleaningproject@gmail.com



717-492-6269



## A SHORT TIME COMMITMENT TO VOLUNTEER

Sometimes, we look for an opportunity to volunteer which is not a long term commitment but a chance to be engaged in a very worthwhile project. We are looking to gather a cadre of St. John's members/friends to do just that!

The Franklin County Legal Services is having its large book sale again in May of 2023. Franklin County Legal Services is a non-profit organization founded in 2002. Their mission is to provide access to legal representation, advice and education to low-income individuals with civil legal problems (i.e., family, housing, safety, liberty, human rights, and other basic needs). The proceeds from this sale enable the important work of this nature by professional lawyers.

We are invited to assist in this very successful community event by volunteering to help in several ways May 17 to May 21. The event is being held at the Chambersburg Mall.

- **Wednesday, May 17** – assist in moving boxes – this does involve lifting (9 am to noon)
- **Thursday, May 18** - placing books on the tables (there will be individuals who will be doing the lifting, so you are able to simply unpack and arrange books on tables) (9 to 12)

The three days of the book sale,

- **Friday, May 19** -- 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 20** -- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 21** --- 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers can do one of two things primarily:

- serve on a cashier team – where one reads amount of book to cashier and then books are placed in bag for purchaser, or be the one who runs tab total
- be a runner where, as areas on tables become in need of books, replenish (can involve bending to access books that are under the table)
- One can also help to pack up books at the end of the sale (not required to lift but just pack the boxes and others will be available to lift).

Please Note:

- Those who assist on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, and/or on Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, have the opportunity to scout through books and make purchases early.
- You can work any time period -- anywhere from 2 hours to whatever amount of time you can participate on any of the days.
- Because of the need for prescheduling personnel on the actual days of the book sale you **need to specify the number of hours you wish to volunteer and provide a Contact phone number.** Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the front lobby.

**Volunteers from St. John's will be wearing t-shirts which will help to add to our visibility in our larger community. We encourage you to sign up to volunteer as part St. John's team!**

## Broadening and Welcoming an Outreach Partnership

St. John's has supported SCCAP (South Central Community Action Program) for several years in our support to their varied programs via First Fruits Offering and donations from our annual Benevolence Budget, our sponsorship and participation in the Race Against Poverty, volunteering at the food pantry and some members serving as allies to their Circles Program. In the *March Spirit*, we learned how St. John's support has broadened in further partnering with SCCAP in providing meeting space for their Circles program.

The Circles program offers the opportunity for individuals to get ahead in life via time and space together, building purposeful relationships, and in turn engaging more fully in community as they create a realistic pathway out of poverty. Our provision of space allows for their gathering weekly in sharing a meal together, followed by adults' engagement in the *Getting Ahead* curriculum with speakers, discussion, etc. At the same time, activities are provided for their children, thus enhancing this weekly gathering as a time that parents and children benefit from these guided activities and conversations.

We are pleased to announce that the Circles Program will begin their weekly meetings at St. John's on Wednesday, April 12. We want to keep you apprised of such activity in the event you are at the church and see additional people in our building on those nights. This program runs year round. SCCAP provides their own staffing for the adult and children programs. We are excited that our "outreach" and support over the years has resulted in this opportunity to further support this program in our community.

There will be opportunity for our church attendees and members to become further engaged after the program has been firmly established here at St. John's. There will be opportunities for meals to be provided (along with meal donations from other churches in our area). When the program is a bit further along, individuals can become "allies"/mentors to those participating in the program. SCCAP will provide information and guidelines for this when timely.



# Thank You!

St. John's Members:

Thank you to all who kept me in your thoughts and prayers during the time of my husband's (David) illness and subsequent passing. The cards sent to the family were appreciated by all.

Diane Bigler



PASTORAL RELATIONS

**The Pastoral Relations Committee** meets on a regular basis to facilitate the healthy relationship between pastor and congregation. Members of the Committee are: Lisa A'Zary, Tom Harrison, Tena Keeney, and Lee Powell. Please feel free to bring any concerns, conflicts, and/or celebrations to any



Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am –3pm

We are still in need of office volunteers!

Please contact Loretta if you are interested and can help.

*The Church Office will be closed Monday, April 10 in observance of Easter Monday.*



**St. John's is Now Hiring!**

Spread the word!  
Part-time position  
9 am to 3 pm, M-F

**Job opening: Part-time church office assistant.  
Please see our office manager, Loretta Zimmerman.**

Email: [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto:manager@sjucc1811.org)  
Phone: 717-263-8593

Our church office has a friendly environment and is the communication hub for our church and community.

**St. John's United Church of Christ 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg PA**

# Ladies LUNCHEON

It was a beautiful sunny Wednesday, March 8, when the ladies gathered on International Women's Day at the Italian Village Restaurant on Route 11 North. Everyone agreed it was wonderful to have Sharon Mayer as part of our group of 10. The tasty Italian lunches were followed by a green dessert treat in honor of St. Patrick's Day as well as memories shared by Connie Evans and Connie Hair of their trips to Ireland

The ladies did well answering questions found by Beverly on her computer under the title "Interesting Stuff" except the following; "What is the only part of the human body that can't heal itself?" And "What fruit can't reproduce itself without the help of man?" Answers next month!

Wednesday, April 12 the meeting will be at the Avocado Café on North Main Street at 11:30am. Please call Bev to reserve your seat and prepare to enjoy a few chuckles or least a smile or two.

## MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7am at Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

We look forward to seeing any and all for April's breakfast.

# April BIRTHDAYS

Jayla Marie Wheeler 4/3

Mabel Perry 4/4

Evelyn Sites 4/4

Diana Kongkeattikul 4/6

Sharon Mayer 4/8

Beverly Peters 4/9

Diane Bigler 4/10

Doris Miller 4/11

Bryce Brown 4/11

Shirley Hudson 4/13

David Frantz 4/13

Katie Boyer 4/15

Nancy Gaal 4/20

Sven Burkard 4/20

Elijah Herbert 4/23

Harold Collier 4/26

Matthew Tucker 4/29

Ruth Bard 4/30

Heather Rensch 4/30



APRIL 17, 2023 | 6:30 PM

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# BIBLE & A BEER

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Theological conversations  
Rich discussion  
Powerful testimony

Join us at 6:30 pm **now at**  
**The Trojan Diner & Sports Bar!**  
1121 Lincoln Way E  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Bring your questions,  
Invite your friends!



Conference  
Room 111

Wednesday, April 19  
6:30 pm



# mindfulness meditation

Come to experience an hour  
of meditation and mindfulness

Brad K. Byers, facilitator



ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1811 LINCOLN WAY EAST  
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202

You're invited to celebrate

# EASTER

at St. John's UCC

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

12 pm Sanctuary Service

7 pm Tenebrae Service in Fellowship Hall

## GOOD FRIDAY

Community Service @

Central Presbyterian Church

## HOLY SATURDAY

5 pm Saturday Night Worship

## EASTER SUNDAY

8 am Worship in Fellowship Hall

9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt

10 am Worship in Sanctuary & Livestreamed

You are invited you to join us for Holy Week and Easter services at our church. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

  
St. John's UCC  
1811 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, PA 17202  
(717) 263-8593  
[www.sjucc1811.org](http://www.sjucc1811.org)



# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**APRIL 9, 2023**

**9:15 AM**

**DOOR TO PLAYGROUND**

RAIN LOCATION FELLOWSHIP HALL



## Calendar of Children and Youth Events

### April

2 Church School

7 Deliver of Animal Shelter Donations 10:30 am

9 NO Church School Easter Egg Hunt 9:15 am

NO Children's Corner

16 Church School

21 Escape Room Adventure 6:00

23 Church School

Children's Corner

30 Church School

### Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter



The Youth have once again helped the Nursery School in their collection of items for the CVAS by creating wonderful animal displays and signs for the collection sites in the church. We will embark on a delivery of these items on Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> so they are out of the way for our Easter celebrations. Meet at 10:30 to load donations, spend time visiting the animals after unloading and then enjoy fellowship at Caretti's Pizza! Return to church is scheduled for around 1:30. Let Roxanne know if your youth can help!!

## **Are You There God? It's Me Margaret!**

The famous Judy Blume's book is coming out in movie form on April 28<sup>th</sup>! We have several youth and parents interesting in going as a group to see this! If interested, contact Roxanne ASAP, as we have not set a date/time but will see what suits those interested! Join us for the fun!

## **Save the Date**



**VBS**

July 30 – August 3, 2023

“Where children learn that everyone can make a difference in the world!”

See Roxanne to help!!!!!!!

## **CPR/AED Recertification**

The Children and Youth Ministry Team is looking to schedule CPR/AED recertification class for those who need. A date has not been set yet, as we are just assessing the number of individuals interested.

Please contact Roxanne to have your name added to the list.



**Escape Room**

**Adventure**

**April 21st**

**RSVP by April 16th**

**Limited space**

**6pm meet at church**

**\$25**

**Ages 10 and above**

**Steel Key Escapes**

**Cold Case room**

# ***St. John's Camp***

The Camp Ministry members are very excited about the 2023 camp season!

The ministry team has been busy planning for this summer's camps –

*Camp Galilee* for grades 9-12 is **June 18-23**,

*Camp Kum Ba Yah* for grades 5-8 is **June 25-30**

*Camp Noah* for grades K-4 is **June 26-30**.

Note: Camp Noah and Kum Ba Yah will basically be run as two separate camps.

The camp brochure and registration form are available  
on the Church's website and at the welcome center.

**[sjucc1811.org/camp](http://sjucc1811.org/camp)**

***\$25 discount for anyone who registers before May1!***  
***Campers and staff are needed.***

Support this fun and important community outreach program.

Register for camp, share information with family and friends, volunteer to help, donate to the "Sponsor a Camper" fund, and pray for the campers and staff.

*If you would like to help, Email: **[camp@sjucc1811.org](mailto:camp@sjucc1811.org)***

*Come and join us at camp!*

## **Camp Sticky Bun Sale** **Sunday, April 23**

Camp volunteers will be making and selling cinnamon sticky buns for \$10/dozen and \$7/half dozen! Orders and payment will be taken before and after church on Sundays, April 2 and 16. Pick up your "ready to bake" sticky buns on Sunday morning, **April 23**. Fresh baked sticky buns will also be on sale, after church, on April 23 for \$1 each. Help support St. John's Camp and enjoy a tasty treat! All proceeds support the Camp Fund.

# Ministry Chairs

## 2022-2023

**Called to Care**—*Connie Morrill-Hair  
and Lisa Frantz*

**Camp**—*MaryLee Yaukey*

**Caring Cooks**—*Lisa Frantz*

**Children & Youth Ministry**—*Roxanne Davenport*

**Facilities Ministry**—*Peter A'Zary*

**Fellowship**—*Sue McMurtray*

**Finance**—*Scot Orndorff*

**Invitational Ministry**—*Susan Collier*

**Library**—*MaryLee Yaukey*

**Nursery School**—*Mary Lou Hendrickson*

**Open and Affirming**—*Jim Boyer*

**Outreach**—*Sarah Myers*

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** — *Nina Widmann*

**Public Relations**— *TBD– Suggestions/ Volunteers Welcome!*

**Safe Church Compliance**—Safe Church Compliance Steward, *Sarah Herbert*

**Safe Church Response**—Safe Church Compliance Steward, *Sarah Herbert*

**Safety and Security**—*Tom Kinton*

**Technology and Media Ministry**— *Calvin Frantz*

**Worship/Music Ministry**—*Gary Crum*

Want to serve  
on a Ministry?

These Ministry teams  
would welcome you &  
your talents!

Speak to them or Pastor  
Caroline today to be a part  
of these ministries.

# CONSISTORY 2022-2023

## Trustees

Peter A'Zary—Head Trustee

Thomas Harrison—Vice President

Larry Wadel

## Elders

Harold Collier, **President**

N. Aaron Hartman

Jill Miller

Gary Patterson, **Secretary**

Dwight Sollenberger

Carol Yarema

## Deacons

Allen Frantz

Michael Herbert

Cathy Kinton

Sarah Myers

TBD

TBD

## Pastor

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

# **Sunday Worship will be at 10 am (Offered In-Person and on YouTube)**

## Upcoming Communion Dates

Maundy Thursday, April 6, Noon, Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday, April 9, 8 am, Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday, April 9, 10 am, Sanctuary and Livestreamed

Saturday, May 13, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Pentecost, Sunday, May 28, 10 am, Sanctuary and Livestreamed



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**Phone: 717-263-8593 Fax: 717-263-9010**

*Website: [www.sjucc1811.org](http://www.sjucc1811.org)*

***Office Hours: Mon —<sub>24</sub> Fri from 9 AM — 3 PM***