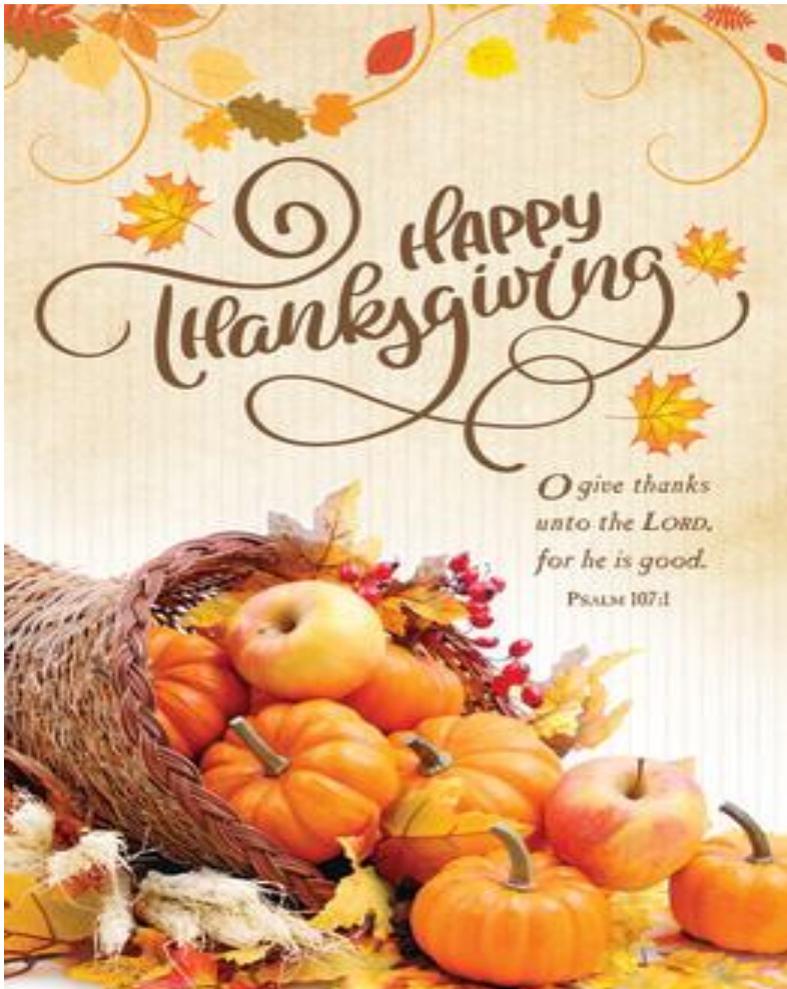


# The Spirit

Volume 74 No. 11 November 2021



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

## *From Pastor Caroline*

The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting longer, and we anticipate the cooler temperatures and falling leaves that announce that fall is here and winter will soon be on the way. All around us are signs that things are changing, both in nature and in our lives.

We have been “Canoeing the Mountains” and using new and different tools to do ministry in this “liminal season” where, as Susan Beaumont puts it, “the old way of doing things no longer works but a way forward is not yet clear.” The COVID-19 pandemic has required us to do things differently. We are still figuring out just where we are going, what has changed for the moment, and what is forever changed. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we keep going, learning and growing along the way.

Everything we do at St. John’s UCC is guided by our love of God and our love of neighbor. We give thanks for faithful people who say “yes” when asked to lead; people who say “yes” to participating and encouraging and being part of our mission and ministry in this time and place. We give thanks for the generosity of giving that fund our programs, maintains our building and grounds, and allows us to make an impact in our community. The work that we do is made possible because of you.

Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14, following worship. Congregational meeting packets are available electronically on our website under Church Documents, with hard copies available at the Welcome Center and in the Narthex. This meeting will be held both in-person and via Zoom. Instructions for how to participate via Zoom are included in the meeting packet. We hope to seeing you there!

We gather together to love and learn, worship and witness, welcome and serve. Technology helps to keep us connected, livestreaming our worship services on YouTube and using Zoom to facilitate hybrid ministry meetings and church school classes. Our Faith Build with Habitat for Humanity was a fantastic experience to partner with another non-profit and with friends from First UCC in Carlisle. As we navigate the emerging “new normal,” may we embrace new possibilities and opportunities to live out our faith as Jesus’ disciples.

In this liminal season, may we find joy and beauty and blessing, even when we’re still not entirely sure just where we are going. God is always with us. As Henry Emerson Fosdick wrote, may God “grant us wisdom and courage for the living of these days.” Jesus journeys with us. The Holy Spirit sustains us. God is creating and renewing still. May we vision and plan and dream, secure in the knowledge that God loves us and guides us.

*Peace,  
Pastor Caroline*



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHURCH YEAR

The month of November marks the beginning of a new Church year. This is the start of Advent.

Advent is the season when we focus on the coming Christ. The first three Sundays in November mark the end of Pentecost and the last Sunday of the month we begin thinking of the arrival of Jesus Christ. We contemplate his birth and the changes that will make in our lives. My favorite Advent hymn is listed below:

### COME, THOUGH LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to raise in us forever, now the gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Enjoy the season! Gloria



- ◆ ***Office Hours:***

Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm

- ◆ **Reminder:**

The Church Office is CLOSED on Thursday, November 11 for Veterans' Day

The Church Office is CLOSED on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful holiday!

# ***The “Caring Corner”***

**ROAR:** Reaching Out and Reconnecting.....For the past six months we have set up a program where members of St. John’s call and check in on other members once a month. Those who participated in this program made new friends and old friendships were renewed. With winter coming and the COVID situation continuing, The Call to Care Team would like to continue this program for another 6 months. If you are interested in making phone calls and connecting with other members, please notify Lisa Frantz. If you chose to be a caller, we will assign you 4 members to call once a month for the next 6 months. This is just call to check in and let our members know that we care about them. This a win-win for all involved in this program. Thank you so much for your assistance with this caring program.

**Blue Christmas:** On Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 there will be a “Blue Christmas” service. This service is offered to provide comfort to those who are experiencing a difficult time during the holiday season. If you are grieving the loss of a love one, experiencing depression, or are sad this time of year, this service is designed to recognize your pain and provide you with comfort and hope. We hope to see you there.



## ONA Ministry

Can it possibly be November 2021 already? No doubt these past 20 months have left us all a bit disconcerted from time to time. But ONA Ministry wishes to celebrate along with each of you the fact that it will be a year on November 15 that we adopted our Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation at our congregational meeting last November.

This was an incredible step for St. John's UCC in the midst of some very challenging times for us as citizen communities and communities of faith. We continue to be proud that our congregation has stepped forth in declaring our care and support to those who are often marginalized here in our southcentral Pennsylvania community. Throughout this year, the ONA Ministry has continued to meet and we have moved forward in support in various ways:

- We joined with Outreach Ministry and reached out to the larger congregation in First Fruits support to sponsor and participate in the Race Against Poverty.
- We participated in the Love Demonstration on Juneteenth which has since been declared a national holiday. Juneteenth is a celebration of the freedom, culture and empowerment of African Americans by declaring the end of slavery in the U.S. when two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, news of the end of slavery finally reached African Americans in Texas.
- Some members of St. John's UCC participated in MLK (Martin Luther King) Day service activities in the community.
- We are exploring St. John's becoming a site for a PFLAG group to meet (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).
- Support was given to the Borough Council of Chambersburg in approving a Non Discrimination Ordinance prohibiting discrimination in housing and employment to LGBTQ+ in Chambersburg. Members of St. John's attended these meetings via zoom or in person, and Jim Boyer, our chair, testified in support of the ordinance.

- We, as a congregation, participated in a worship service wherein we were able to join in the renewal of vows between a same sex couple.
- Members of St. John's participated in a Habitat Build, providing their physical gifts along with their spiritual care in contributing to the provision of affordable housing for a family in Franklin County – another example of collaboration to address community needs.
- We are exploring a multi-ministry collaboration within our congregation, to continue working with other communities of faith and agencies to support the relocation of a refugee family in the Chambersburg area.

Although this clearly points to our commitment to living into our covenant, it does not take long to realize that there is still much work to be done on behalf of many marginalized. To that end, ONA Ministry sincerely asks that St. John's members feel free to share their ideas as to our 'living out and into our covenant' which may be generated by your employment environment, your involvement in other agencies, organizations, and interactions with others in our broader community.

We look forward to furthering our mission in this coming year!  
And, we sincerely thank you for your continued support to St. John's mission.



# ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

Fall is by far our favorite season at the Nursery School. Our Nursery School children are eager to learn about all of the changes that are happening outside. We are reading books, going on nature walks, and appreciating the beauty that God has given us with the arrival of this season of change.

We had a very busy and successful October. Many of the children experienced their first school picture! Our teachers planned fun Fall Festival crafts and activities and the children even found a pumpkin in our pumpkin patch. A big thank you to Falling Spring Fruit Farm for providing big, beautiful pumpkins for such a great price! We also had volunteers from the Fayetteville Fire Department visit with their fire trucks. Thank you to the Fayetteville Fire Department for helping our kids learn about fire safety!

Our Butcher Shoppe cookie dough and Big Oak Café coffee fundraiser is in progress now through Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to stock up on delicious cookie dough and coffee for the holidays, please contact the Church office. Cookie dough tubs (2.5 lbs) are available for \$15 and Big Oak Café coffee (12 oz) for \$12. Cookie dough and coffee can be picked up from the kitchen freezer starting Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Delivery is available upon request. Thank you to the members of St. John's Church for your participation in these events. Your involvement supports our success!

As we prepare for the upcoming Holidays, we are thankful for the gifts God has given us. We appreciate those family, friends, co-workers, parents, and community members who bless our lives each and every day.

We wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving!





## ST. JOHN'S CAMP SCHEDULE 2022

**Camp Noah** July 5 - 8 -grades completed K - 2nd

**Camp Kum Ba Yah** July 10-15 grades completed 3rd-5th

**Camp Galilee** July 17-22 grades completed 6th-9th

**Mark your calendars and save the dates!**

**Come enjoy our treasure in the woods!**



## Ladies Luncheon Group

The ladies luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 11:30 am at Olive Garden. Please call Bev Peters if you plan to attend.

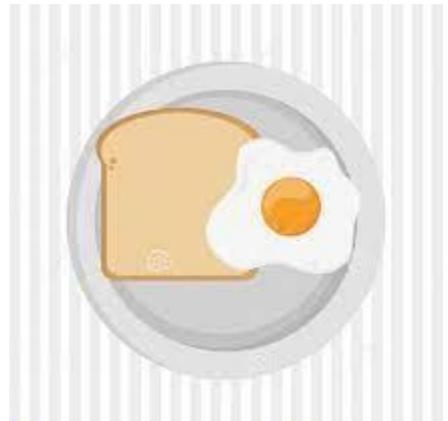


## Men's Breakfast—NEW Location:

Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

We will be meeting on Thursday,  
November 4th—7am

All men welcome!  
All men invited!



# November BIRTHDAYS

<b>Marlin Douglas</b>	<b>11/1</b>	<b>Angela Miller</b>	<b>11/13</b>
<b>Julia Marker</b>	<b>11/1</b>	<b>George Diehl</b>	<b>11/16</b>
<b>Frederick Leister</b>	<b>11/2</b>	<b>Mason Leister</b>	<b>11/17</b>
<b>Shirley Fenstermacher</b>	<b>11/2</b>	<b>Beth Rensch</b>	<b>11/19</b>
<b>Rev. Bonnie Hoffman</b>	<b>11/3</b>	<b>Gerald Shipp</b>	<b>11/22</b>
<b>Rev. Caroline E. Saxton</b>	<b>11/3</b>	<b>Dawn Stoudt</b>	<b>11/23</b>
<b>Marilyn Diehl</b>	<b>11/5</b>	<b>Eileen Shaffer</b>	<b>11/27</b>
<b>Stacie Smith</b>	<b>11/5</b>	<b>John Widmann, Jr</b>	<b>11/29</b>
<b>John McCright</b>	<b>11/7</b>	<b>Ann Aldrich</b>	<b>11/29</b>
<b>W Robert Strunk</b>	<b>11/7</b>	<b>Douglas Rebok</b>	<b>11/29</b>
<b>Karie Leister</b>	<b>11/7</b>		
<b>Rev. Dr. Mary Mason</b>	<b>11/9</b>		
<b>Sarah Herbert</b>	<b>11/9</b>		
<b>Maggie Ryder</b>	<b>11/9</b>		
<b>Joanne Slothower</b>	<b>11/10</b>		
<b>Teresa (Tracy) Burkard</b>	<b>11/10</b>		
<b>Nancy Harrison</b>	<b>11/11</b>		
<b>William Hughes</b>	<b>11/13</b>		
<b>Ronald Edwards</b>	<b>11/13</b>		



# Youth Ministry

Thank you to the Herbert family for the wonderful fellowship, bon fire and hayride at their farm, in October!

## **Church School**

We are still looking for Teacher Assistants and Substitute Teachers for all levels. A commitment of every week is not necessary, as we can split schedules. **Church School cannot continue without your support!!**

## **Children's Worship time**

The Deacons serving worship now have a list of volunteers who are willing to supervise young children during the worship hour, when a request is made by a family. Thank you to those who have stepped forward and more can always be added!

Children's Corner will continue to be held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

## **Mark Your Calendar!!!**

The dates for 2022 Vacation Bible School have been set so save the dates of July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup>. Our theme will be Knights of North Castle, finally! (We bought this curriculum 2 years ago, then COVID hit....!)

## **Christmas Pageant this year?**

Plans for Christmas Eve have begun, and the question is if we have interested Youth for the main character parts. Please contact Roxanne, ASAP, if your family has youth interested in participating.



To my St. John's Family:

Thank you all for the cards and prayers you shared during his journey. It is hard to think that I will not see him until I make that journey.

Thank you for the beautiful plant. I love plants.

Blessings, Sharon Mayer

Dear Pastor Caroline and congregation,

We'd like to thank you for the warm welcome that you've extended to us since we arrived. We feel like we have truly found a home here. Thank you also for making our marriage renewal possible. We truly appreciate the warm reception we received after the service. We felt loved and accepted. Thank you so much for everything!

With much love, Shawn & Lisa Naugle

Thank you so much for your donations to the ministry.  
What a blessing as we share the gospel of Christ with others.

God Bless, Ramona, Franklin County Jail Ministry

# **"MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE" (as of 10/4/21)**

## CAMPAIGN STATUS at October 4:

Outstanding commitments	\$231,280	
Total payments received	<u>202,331</u>	
Current project status	433,611	62%
Shortfall to goal	<u>266,389</u>	38%
Project Goal	<b><u>\$700,000</u></b>	<b><u>100%</u></b>

## PROJECT STATUS

Amount Borrowed July 2021	\$500,000
Principal Repayment – in advance Aug 2021	250,000
Monthly principal payments	<u>3,384</u>
Current Loan Balance	<b><u>\$247,686</u></b>

NOTE – The early principal payment should save about \$45,000 in interest over the expected payment period of 5 years.

## COST OF HVAC PROJECT TO DATE

As of Sept 30	\$243,996
Unpaid invoice at 10/4/21	239,525
Estimated additional costs to complete project	<u>100,000</u>
	<b><u>\$ 583,521</u></b>

If you haven't yet sent in your commitment card, please do so as soon as you can. Also, the sooner you can make payments on your commitments the better, as we plan to use existing cash to pay down the debt as early as possible to reduce our interest costs. If you can't locate your commitment card, please contact the office and they will get a new one to you.

# **"MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE"**

## **GIVING CONSIDERATIONS**

Besides the normal giving via checks, VANCO system, or electronic transfers, there are a couple other ways that may provide some tax advantages.

The first method is donating appreciated stock (held more than a year) directly to SJUCC. This essentially provides the fair value of the stock to SJUCC while allowing a potential tax deduction and avoiding capital gains tax for the donor. SJUCC utilizes F&M Trust to handle the stock transfers, so contact Loretta in the church office or Scot Orndorff (Treasurer) if you have any questions.

The second method is utilizing the "Required Minimum Distributions" (RMD's) from your IRA. A separate article has been included in this SPIRIT that explains how this works.

No matter how you decide to support "Mission Possible", please remember to let the office know that your donation is intended for that purpose. This is critical so we can use the funds in accordance with your intentions.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Remember to contact one of the Mission Possible Committee members with any questions you may have. Committee members are Sue McMurtray, Vera Reber, Jerry Thomason, Skip Elliott, and Scot Orndorff.



## **Can I Use Money from My IRA to Donate to Charity?**

Yes! You can use money from your IRA to donate to charity. What's more, your donation from a traditional IRA will be nontaxable since Congress made that tax break permanent at the end of 2015.

### **How a Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA Works**

Normally, when you take a distribution from a traditional IRA, you pay taxes on it since you didn't pay taxes on the money when you put it into your IRA. But if you are age 70½ or older and make a contribution directly from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity, you can donate up to \$100,000 without it being considered a taxable distribution. To avoid paying taxes on the donation, you must follow the IRS's rules for qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), also called charitable IRA rollovers. Most churches, nonprofit charities, educational organizations, nonprofit hospitals and medical research organizations are qualified charities. The charity you give to will not have to pay taxes on your donation.

Since you are already getting a tax break on your donation, you cannot double dip and also claim the donation as a tax deduction. You're allowed just one tax break, not two. If you make other donations to charity that don't use your IRA funds, however, you can still claim each of those donations as an itemized deduction on Schedule A. If you don't itemize your deductions on Schedule A and you take the standard deduction on your annual tax return instead, a charitable IRA rollover will give you a tax break that you otherwise couldn't receive for donating money.

### **QCDs and Required Minimum Distributions**

You can also use your qualified charitable donation to meet all or part of your IRA's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. Traditional IRA owners must start taking RMDs at age 70½ or face tax penalties. The charity must receive your donation by Dec. 31 for you to apply it to that year's tax return. Roth IRAs do not require distributions while the account holder is alive.

### **The Bottom Line**

Using your IRA to make a charitable donation can help you lower your tax bill and help any charity you designate, as long as it is a qualified 501(c)3 organization. Keep in mind, too, that distributions must be made directly to the charity, not to the owner or beneficiary. All distribution checks need to be made payable to the charity or they will be counted as taxable distributions.

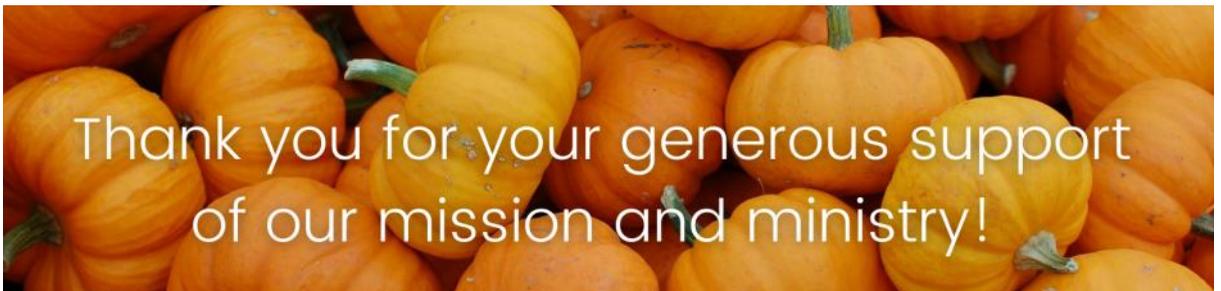
Another way to donate IRA assets to charity is through your estate after you pass away by naming the charity as the designated beneficiary of your IRA. The charity will receive whatever percentage of your IRA assets you provide for on the beneficiary form. Distributions from SIMPLE IRAs are not eligible to be qualified charitable donations.

# FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 11 AM

Join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom via video chat or call-in  
Meeting ID 889 2317 7981 & Passcode 804315  
Call in option: 646 558 8656 or 301 715 8592  
(use Meeting ID and Passcode to join by phone)

Meeting packets are available at the Welcome Center  
and posted on our website on the Church Documents page.



Thank you for your generous support  
of our mission and ministry!

JOIN US FOR

# Saturday Night Worship

November 13, 2021 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Family-friendly worship with Communion  
(bring your own elements)

Join us for a wonderful worship experience!

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



# **ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT BIBLE AND A BEER**

Bible and a Beer will NOT be held in November due to the continued high number of positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and our desire to keep everyone healthy and safe.

We hope to resume Bible and a Beer in December.

Stay Safe! Be Well!

**-Pastor Caroline & Jerry Thomason**



## **November 2021 First Fruits Offering / Thanksgiving Meals**

This has continued to be a challenging year in many ways at St. John's UCC, along with other communities of faith. As we come upon one of our most celebrated holidays where families have traditionally joined together in thanks for the many blessings we all experience, we are cognizant that there are those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, enormously because of COVID-19. Outreach Ministry is reaching out to the generosity of our members to again support our goal this year of providing Thanksgiving meals for fifteen (15) families in the Chambersburg area. Our scouts are continuing to support this mission with donations of nonperishable items. Consistent with our successful model of last year, we will purchase gift cards to enable the families to independently purchase perishable items (providing them the dignity of respecting their familial traditions) for this holiday. If you are unable to attend worship in house on November 7<sup>th</sup> or November 14<sup>th</sup> we ask that you please send your contribution to the church no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>, indicating your donation towards the Thanksgiving Meals First Fruits Offering. Thank you so much in this traditional witness of care by St. John's members.

ST. JOHNS FALL CLEAN UP,  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2021,  
8AM—12 NOON



# Ministry Chairs

## 2021-2022

**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**—*Linda Zeger*

**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 2021-2022

## Trustees

Peter A'Zary

Thomas Harrison

Tom Kinton, **Head Trustee**

## Elders

Peg Bryner

Harold Collier, **Vice President**

Connie Morrill-Hair, **Secretary**

Gary Patterson

Eileen Shaffer, **President, Head Elder**

## Deacons

Mike Blumberg

Julie Dereef

Calvin Frantz

Michael Herbert

Cathy Kinton

Sarah Myers

## Pastor

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**Sunday Worship will be at 10 am  
(Offered Online and In-Person\*)**

***St. John's UCC Communion Dates for 2021***

Sunday, November 7, 10:00 am (Online & In-Person\*)

Saturday, November 13, 5:30 pm (Fellowship Hall\*)

Sunday, December 5, 10:00 am (Online & In-Person)

Saturday, December 11, 5:30 pm (Fellowship Hall\*)

\*In-Person dates subject to COVID-19 restrictions



**St. John's United Church of Christ**

**1811 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, PA 17202**

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

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

***Office Hours: Mon — Fri from 9 AM — 3 PM***