

The Spirit

Volume 74 No. 4 April 2021



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

From Pastor Caroline

This has been a year of change, a year of exploration and adaptation and experimentation. We have tried things that we never thought we would—YouTube and Zoom and worship out on the lawn. The proverb, “necessity is the mother of invention,” has shown us that there are alternate ways of doing things and that we can do hard things, bold things, as we do our best to love God and love our neighbors. I am incredibly proud of our congregation.

I have spoken in recent sermons about the biblical stories of the exile and the return, those 70 years of people being apart, away from what was familiar, and how those stories feel so much more relevant to us now than ever before. I knew about those stories, the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. But that was history, not lived experience. Now we have been living in a kind of exile ourselves and we are still just scratching the surface of what it will mean for us to have lived through this pandemic time, where all of us are figuring out when and how to come back together as a community.

Yet as hard as some of this might feel, I know that it has been done before. We can do it too. We will come back together and we will hear each other’s stories and honor them. We will find our way forward, knowing that the world in front of us looks nothing like the world behind us. We’ll keep learning and adapting and growing, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

At our special congregational meeting on March 21, we voted to replace our HVAC system, take out a bank loan of up to \$500,000 as interim project financing, and raise \$700,000 thru a HVAC Replacement Financing Campaign over 5 years to finance the cost of the project plus estimated loan interest and fees. We must be able to heat and cool our building in order for us to love, learn, worship, witness, welcome and serve now and into the future. Look for more information to come about ways to support this badly needed project. And we will be continuing our visioning work, thinking about how best to use the resources of building, parking and space for mission, ministry, and service with the wider community.

“Being the church” takes all of us. Thank you for your love and support of St. John’s UCC throughout this pandemic, with the gifts of time and talent and treasure that you so freely offer. None of the things we do would be possible without you, for the church is the people.

May your Easter season be filled with promise and possibility, for Jesus Christ is risen!
Alleluia! Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Caroline



- ♦ **Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm

- ♦ **REMINDER:**

The church office is CLOSED on Monday, April 5, for Easter Monday.

- ♦ **Donations:**

We are still accepting donations of cleaning supplies such as disinfectant wipes and spray

- ♦ **Volunteers Needed:**

We are still accepting volunteers for the church office. Volunteers would be assisting in phone/door coverage, greeting visitors, and light office duties as needed. To sign up to be an office volunteer, please call the church office.

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

Dear St. John's Family,

Happy Spring and Happy Easter!

The weather is warming, the birds are singing, and we are eagerly planning for our 50th year in operation at St. John's Nursery School! Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is well on its way. Our classes are now 55% filled with both of our All By Myself (2 year old) classes 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 nsdirector@sjucc.net or visit www.sjucc1811.org for information and registration form.

I pray that everyone is healthy and well.
Let us all look forward to celebrating Easter... He is Risen!!

Kari Rock
Director, St. John's Nursery School

THANK YOU for your support of St. John's Nursery School thru our Smith's Chicken fundraiser.
It is truly appreciated!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Gary and I were very pleased during the Pandemic to have several people e-mail us, and even more speak to us about really missing the music in our worship services. A few people said they could hardly wait to sing hymns again. This is wonderful, because singing hymns and responses is a desired, helpful worship experience.

With our choir there is an added dimension. They spend a lot of time learning vocal parts, experiencing the mood of the music, and working hard to clearly enunciate the words. We do not consider this to be a performance for the singers, but it becomes a means of worship for them and an aid to the worship experience of the entire congregation.

As many of you know, Pastor Caroline chooses the hymns, Gary picks the anthems, and I am responsible for the organ voluntaries. These should complement each other and they vary because of the particular Sunday or season of the church year. For instance, as we look to the cross, the music is more somber and slower than on palm Sunday when the music is happy with shouts of Hosanna.

At the beginning of the worship service we make announcements and then get ready to begin our worship experience. The organ prelude is a good time to put away thoughts of the week etc. and set our minds on worship. As we sing and listen to the spoken parts we are immersed in the message of the day. At the end of the service and the benediction, the postlude becomes a good time to reflect on the service.

WE HOPE WE CAN SOON SING TOGETHER, BECAUSE I REALLY MISS YOUR HYMN SINGING!!!!!!

Gloria Crum



Easter

St. John's U.C.C.
April 4, 2021
Communion Sunday

8:30 am in Fellowship Hall
With the Praise Team - Parking Lot B

10:00 am in the Sanctuary
With the Choir - Parking Lot A

10:00 am Livestream on YouTube
Link on website: sjucc1811.org

Join us!

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

Maundy Thursday worship Thursday, April 1, 6:30 pm

Join us in the Sanctuary or via the Livestream
for a service of Tenebrae.

JOIN US FOR

Saturday Night Worship

April 10, 2020 | 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

"Bible and a Beer" will not be held in April. We plan to resume in May.

THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

As the Open and Affirming Ministry continues to provide resources for our growth in learning and understanding, we provide the following information for the month of April:

April *Celebrate Diversity Month and Autism Awareness Month*

April 2 World Autism Awareness Day

April 23 The Day of Silence – On this day there is a daylong vow of silence to protect the actual silencing of the LGBTQIA+ community due to bias and harassment



I cannot find the exact heartfelt words to express my gratitude for all the blessings I have received especially this past month - from my God, my family, my friends and my church family. I have been blessed from the timing of my TIA event where God kept me safe until I arrived at the car dealership. I have been blessed by the many people that God sent to me from strangers to my dear friends who sent me food, cards, 24 hour companionship, offers to help in any way they could. I appreciate the Frantz family, Ken, Doug and Lee who helped me pack up and move my material possessions and share memories with me. I truly have felt and thank you for my life as part of the St. John's family.

Love and Blessings to all.
Connie Evans



April BIRTHDAYS

Mabel Perry 4/4

Brenda Marotte 4/19

Evelyn Sites 4/4

Nancy Gaal 4/20

Cynthia (Cindy) Edwards 4/4

Sven Burkard 4/20

Roberta (Bobbie) Sponseller 4/5

Karen Hockensmith 4/25

Diana Kongkeattikul 4/6

Harold Collier 4/26

Sharon Mayer 4/8

Ruth Bard 4/30

Beverly Peters 4/9

Heather Rensch 4/30

Diane Bigler 4/10

Doris Miller 4/11

Shirley Hudson 4/13

Jeryl Miller 4/13

David Frantz 4/13

Katie Boyer 4/15



Youth Ministry

VBS is Taking Shape!

The Children and Youth Ministry Team has been hard at work envisioning and planning what Vacation Bible School will look like in 2021.

We are exploring an alternative curriculum that would suit a one-day VBS experience. Dates and details are coming soon!

The items you have saved for “Knights of North Castle” will be used in 2022. Please do feel free to bring those items to the church. The decorated shopping cart is located at the entrance by Fellowship Hall.

Items for “Knights of North Castle”

Cotton filler/batting

Rolls of Iridescent cloth/paper

Long brown paper used as filler in packaging

Styrofoam coolers/lids used in shipping frozen food/medications

Puzzle pieces small to medium size

Scrabble tiles

Media at St. John's

Yes, the big screen will be on again - soon! Our media team has been getting comfortable live streaming, and if you have watched St. John's YouTube's, you know they are doing very well and are even getting creative with the cameras.

But more than ever, the media team needs help. As we all begin to travel again, we worry that there may be Sundays with no live stream and/or no screen. Please consider learning the basics of live streaming or helping with power point (or Google Slides). Sometimes we just need someone to forward slides of a prepared Power Point. Any degree of aid will be appreciated. If you can turn on a computer or operate your smartphone, you can do it!

Please contact Ginny Cairns, Calvin Frantz or Connie Morrill-Hair. Thank you!



Thank you for your generous support of our First Fruits and our Lenten Projects. Students at CAMS North and South benefited from your generosity in donating monies and items of non-perishable food, school supplies, and hygiene supplies. NETwork Ministry, Malawai HIV/AIDS Support Group, the Peru School, and Doctors Without Borders all received financial support through your Lenten Project donations. These organizations continue to do needed and important work, especially during this pandemic. Thank you for your generosity and your support during these difficult times.



Spring has arrived and our thoughts turn to the outdoors and St. John's Camp. The Camp Ministries team is working toward the goal of being ready for our three (3) camps. We are working on new guidelines. Camp Rentals by the day, weekend, or week for 2021, have already been approved. Responses from the Camp Survey were mostly favorable about having camp as well as some offsite activities with indoor meals honoring safety precautions. Our Safety Plan will incorporate CDC guidelines and those of our bus company requirements. CDC guidelines for camps were updated on Jan. 1, 2021. As more people get vaccinated, we expect more current guidelines.

Our next Camp Ministries meeting will be Monday, April 5. We intend to finalize the Safety Plan and incorporate it into the registration materials. Information will be posted on our St. John's website and sent to previous campers. Previously, we had agreed to extend the eligibility by one year for the overnight camps. This was done so campers would not miss their final year at Camp Kum-Ba-Yah and Camp Galilee. Camp descriptions also were updated. Current camp descriptions and dates as well as the Camp Rental Contract are on our new website at sjucc1811.org/camp Other information will be added to the camp website as it becomes available.

Ministry Chairs

2020-2021

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

Camp—*Eileen Shaffer*

Caring Cooks—*Lisa Frantz*

Children & Youth Ministry—*Roxanne Davenport*

Facilities Ministry—*Ken Dilling*

Fellowship—*Sue McMurtray*

Finance—*Scot Orndorff*

Invitational Ministry—*Susan Collier*

Library—*Mary Lee Yaukey*

Nursery School—*Linda Zeger*

Open and Affirming—*Jim Boyer*

Outreach—*Lynda Pound*

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 2020-2021	
Trustees	
Peter A'Zary	
Ken Dilling, Head Trustee	
Tom Kinton	
Elders	
Peg Bryner	
Fran Herrity	
Diana Kongkeattikul, Vice President	
Connie Morrill-Hair	
Gary Patterson	
Eileen Shaffer, Secretary, Head Elder	
Deacons	
Mike Blumberg	
David Dietrich	
Julie Dereef	
Lisa Fair, President, Head Deacon	
Calvin Frantz	
Michael Herbert	
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

Easter Sunday, April 4, 8:30 am and 10:00 am (Online and In-Person*)

Saturday, April 10, 5:30 pm (Fellowship Hall*)

Saturday, May 8, 5:30 pm (Fellowship Hall*)

Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 10:00 am (Online & In-Person*)

*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

Web site: www.sjucc1811.org

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