

The Spirit

Volume 74 No. 3 March 2021



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

From Pastor Caroline

There are days that fly by and there are days that feel like an eternity. We have a strange relationship with time, especially during this pandemic. We began a new liturgical season, Lent, on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17), but it feels as though we have been in Lent for far longer than the calendar indicates. After all, the whole world changed in March 2020.

The biblical stories about the Wilderness feel very apt: times of wandering and wondering, of questioning what is going on and whether God is still here, of testing and trusting. There are also elements of the biblical stories about the Exile and the Return as described by the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel, when the people were separated from each other. We have been living different lives, apart from one another and there will be no going back to what was, only living into what is and what will be.

Living in this particular season of Lent, I hope that we give up bitterness, cynicism, hatred, intolerance, selfishness and the inclination to disengage from those who think differently than we do. I hope that we take on the postures of listening, learning, praying, and patience. May we hold onto the promises of God, for in a world where there is so much pain and polarization, God is trustworthy and God makes all things possible.

Our 2021 Lenten Series will be held this year on Zoom (see page 11) as we seek to come together to ponder and process the past year, plan for the future, and consider who we are and who we want to be. We will gather together for scripture, prayer, and communion, and use the breakout rooms' feature on Zoom for small-group conversation. I look forward to our time together at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays during Lent.

The Regathering Team and Consistory have been carefully and consistently monitoring the COVID-19 data Franklin County. At their January meeting, Consistory voted to move to our Phase IV plan which allows for in-person worship and activities to be held when the positivity rate had fallen to 12% or below for a two-week period. We resumed in-person worship and activities as of February 21. We are now able to livestream the service as it happens in the Sanctuary, as well as record the service to be viewed later. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our church community healthy and safe.

As we live into our future, we honor our past and stay grounded in the present. May we trust in the promises of God, as we journey with Jesus in this Lenten season and always.

Peace,

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Pastor Caroline



- ◆ **Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm

- ◆ **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 Church Families,

We are thrilled to announce that we will reopen in September for the 2021-2022 school year! Registration opened for current Nursery School families and church members on Tuesday, February 16.

Registration will open to the public on Monday, March 1st.

Church members can request their registration form from the church office or by email to nsdirector@sjucc.net.

We are so excited to welcome our teachers and children back into the building and to continue this wonderful ministry of St. John's UCC.

Thank you for your prayers though out the past year and we ask for your continued support as we plan to safely reopen.

Blessings,
Kari Rock, Director

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
concerning upgrading our HVAC system

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 11 AM

Join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom via video chat or call-in

Zoom information will be shared in our e-blasts

Meeting packets will be available at the Welcome Center
and posted on our website.

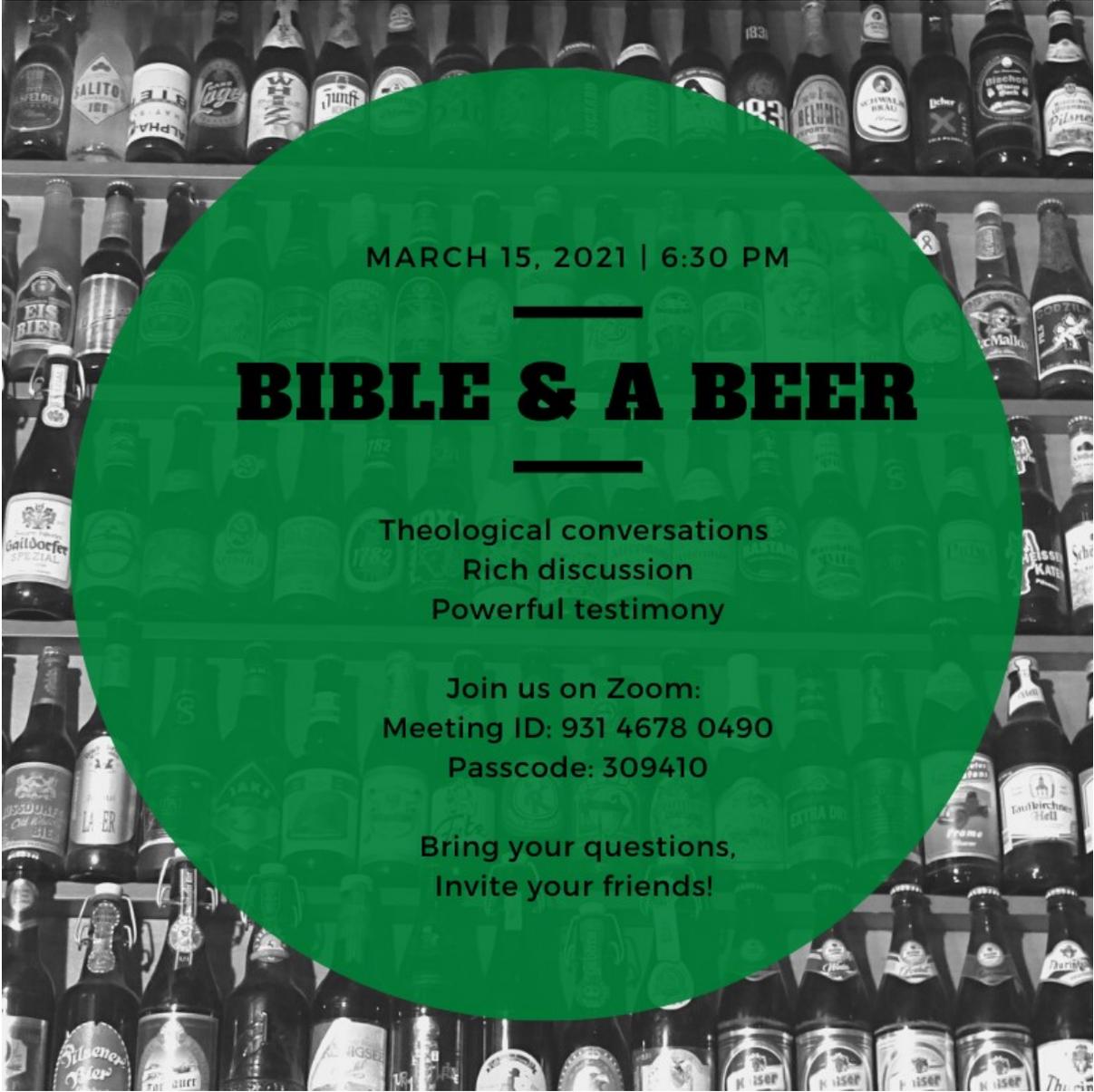


MUSIC MINISTRY

In Remembrance:

As many of you already know, a few weeks ago a dear friend Jack Davenport passed away. I have only known Jack for the years that he has belonged to St. John's church. Jack was a percussionist who played tympani in college at Bloomsburg Univ., after graduating he continued to play with the college orchestra until recently. As choir director, there were many times that the music called for various percussion instruments to be used with the singing. Upon asking Jack if he could help us out. He would always immediately say, "sure, get me the music" I would give him copies of it and he would want to know when we were practicing.

When the practice time arrived, Jack would be there at least fifteen minutes ahead of time, all set up and have all instruments needed for the part he was asked to play. And then he practiced it ahead of time and played it correctly. WOW! One could not ask for anything more. This kind of person is very hard to replace and I for one will really miss him. Jack also had other duties around the church and I am sure that he took care of them in the same efficient manner. Jack was interested in many things and it was wonderful to watch him find time to participate in musical activities. He will certainly be missed for both his talent and being so willing to be involved in church activities. He truly lived his Christian beliefs. -Gary Crum



MARCH 15, 2021 | 6:30 PM

BIBLE & A BEER

Theological conversations
Rich discussion
Powerful testimony

Join us on Zoom:
Meeting ID: 931 4678 0490
Passcode: 309410

Bring your questions,
Invite your friends!

JOIN US FOR

Saturday Night Worship

March 13, 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

THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

Happenings of Inclusivity and Kindness

At its most recent ONA (Open and Affirming) Ministry meeting, there were many reasons to celebrate during this challenging time through which we have all been moving in this past year. We would like to share with you the efforts to walk the journey of inclusiveness at St. John's UCC.

At the January consistory meeting, two items were approved as we continue to find ways we can 'live out' or 'live into' our Covenant of Welcoming and Affirmation. In late fall, early winter, many churches, businesses and organizations in our community were asked to review and consider support via signing a *Community Pledge of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity* in Franklin County. Consistory was presented with this request at its November meeting, asked to review the Community Pledge, and to entertain a vote supporting signing thereof at its January meeting. Recognizing the importance of allying with others in our community to address concerns of equity, inclusion and diversity, yielding further support to carry out our Covenant adopted in November, Consistory voted to approve St. John's UCC commitment in submitting our pledge to this effort by Racial Reconciliation – Franklin County, PA.

Consistory also gave approval to ONA Ministry's request to place a 5x7 Rainbow Comma on the Lincoln Way East church sign. As highlighted in the February 'Spirit', the comma portrays the UCC 'God is Still Speaking' theme of 'Never put a period, where God has placed a comma' reflecting new ideas, new people, and new possibilities in God's creation. The colorful comma reminds us of the diversity in all of God's creation, especially those of our human family.

As you have been reading in the Spirit and e-blast, the ONA Ministry is also trying to keep congregants informed of educational resources and activities via webinar, etc. in which we can all continue to walk this journey of learning together in our own growth as Christians.

Additionally, we are happy to highlight that our current chair, Jim Boyer, wife Katie and daughter Sadie are being featured in the March issue of "Chambersburg Neighbors" ('The Boyers Are Running on Kindness'). We encourage you to read this article as Jim and Katie share the importance of this community, and specifically the committed effort to seek out St. John's UCC when they moved here. They faithfully worked in helping St. John's in becoming an ONA congregation. Their story of love for this community and their many efforts of involvement to help carry forth the meaning of our covenant in the larger community cannot be overstated. St. John's UCC is so important a part of their lives, that they chose to have the photos for this article be taken at the church. Keep an eye out for this young family's feature in that publication. We are so grateful they are part of our faith community and we celebrate our community's recognition of them.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Dr. Allan Judson 03/01

Mackenzie Miller 03/02

Skip Elliott 03/03

Wes Augenstein 03/04

Rebecca Pound 03/05

Lois Young 03/06

Jennifer Tucker 03/08

Carol Rockwell 03/10

Deborah Dilling 03/12

Peg Marotte 03/14

Lee Powell 03/14

Ed Foltz, Jr 03/17

Belinda Johnson 03/19

John Bryner 03/21

Donna Harrison 03/23

Rev. Glenn Schultz 03/24

Nina Widmann 03/24

Lavonna Wadel 03/24

Nelson Brechbill 03/28

Richard Foerster 03/28

Hayley Tosten-Ridings 03/28

Cookie Miller 03/31



Youth Ministry

The VBS dates for 2021 are July 25-29!

Please save the following items:

Cotton filler/batting

Rolls of Iridescent cloth/paper

Long brown paper used as filler in packaging

Styrofoam coolers/lids used in shipping refrigerated foods/medications

****Puzzle pieces small to medium size (3/4"-1 1/2" pieces) **still need a lot of these****

Scrabble tiles



This is an on-going list and more will be added as we go along so please continue to check it. Items may be dropped in the decorated cart at the entrance by Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your ongoing support to this great ministry!

JOIN US FOR

Wednesday Night Lenten Services

Begins February 24 | Services start at 6:30 pm
Bring your own Communion elements

Worship will be held on Zoom
Meeting ID: 982 6621 3165
Passcode: 604896

The **Direct Link** is posted on our Website

Join us by Phone! Dial 1 301 715 8592
(Zoom will ask for Meeting ID and Passcode)

SJUCC 1811 Lincoln Way E, Chambersburg, PA



Outreach Ministry has determined the Lenten Projects for 2021. They will be: NETwork Ministry, Malawi HIV/AIDS Support Group, Doctors Without Borders, and Peru School. We feel these local and international organizations are doing important work, particularly during this pandemic. Lenten boxes will be available at the welcome center. The boxes and all donations will need to be returned to the church office by Palm Sunday, March 28th. We at Outreach Ministry thank you for your generosity in these trying times.

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give



We had a meeting in February to try to move forward reopening our Camp. Camp Rentals are now being processed. The form is available on the Camp page of our website. With uncertainty still surrounding us because of COVID, we sent a survey about interest in alternative structures to our 3 residential camps and a few other questions. If you would like to be included, send a message to us at our new email address (camp@sjucc1811.org).

Please return your comments by March 8th so we can review them at our March meeting. We're hoping to have Camp for our Campers in some form this summer. Stay tuned!

Ministry Chairs

2020-2021

Called to Care—*Connie Morrill-Hair*

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* 14

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

Sunday, March 7, 10 am (Online and In-Person*)

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

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

Saturday, April 10, 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

Web site: www.sjucc1811.org

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