

# The Spírit

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

### ***From Pastor Caroline***

There are times when writing an article for *The Spirit* feels like writing a chapter book. I have to refer to what I wrote last month, or the month before, or the month before that, to remember the common threads and where we are in the plot. Where are we now, what things have changed, what things do we look forward to, what things do we hope for?

There are moments when it feels like we're moving backwards, stuck in slow-motion, just treading water. I look at the COVID-19 positive rate and case numbers for Franklin County and it scares me. I worry about the health and safety of our children and families, our young people, our teachers and the most vulnerable among us. God desires for us to not only survive, but thrive. God asks us to care about other people, to love our neighbor. And I know that we'll keep doing that, putting love in action, guided by science and God's grace.

We are planning to (safely) offer more in-person activities, such as choir and bell choir, church school classes for children/youth and adults, and some social gatherings where we can be socially distanced. Technology is our friend as we offer hybrid options for those who are comfortable attending virtually rather than in-person. We are exploring opportunities for service that take us into the community (look for more information to come about how to participate in a Habitat for Humanity faith build later this fall). The coronavirus keeps mutating; we as the church keep adapting and innovating. This is what we do. This isn't love in the time of cholera; this is church in the age of COVID. It might look a little different, but our mission and ministry continue in this time and place.

The Regathering Team and Consistory have been carefully and consistently monitoring the COVID-19 data for Franklin County. At our August meeting, Consistory voted to move to a Modified Phase V plan. The updated plan is posted on our church website. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our church community healthy and safe.

The replacement of our HVAC system continues and we look forward to its completion. Our "Mission Possible: Hot or Cold, We Walk Together" campaign has launched. Please see the article from our Mission Possible Committee with an update on where we are. Look for a visual representation of this campaign to be placed in the sanctuary soon.

Outdoor Worship is planned for Saturday, September 11 (5:30) and Sunday, September 19 (10:00). A prerecorded service will be available on September 19 for those worshipping from home. It has been wonderful to worship outside this summer.

Remember that you are worth the quiet moment. You are worth the deeper breath. You are worth the time it takes to slow down, be still, and rest.

*Peace,  
Pastor Caroline*



- ◆ ***Office Hours:***  
Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm
- ◆ ***Reminder:***  
The Church Office is CLOSED on Monday, September 6 2021 in observance of Labor Day.
- ◆ ***Donations:***  
We are still accepting donations of cleaning supplies such as disinfectant wipes and spray
- ◆ ***Welcome Lisa Shew, our Office Assistant!***  
Learn more about Lisa on page 17.  
Say hello the next time you visit the church office!

# ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

We have been blessed to reopen our Nursery School and welcome children back into our building. St. John's Nursery School has now entered its 50th year of providing quality early childhood education to children in our community! This year we have 27 toddlers, 36 three year olds, and 60 four and five year olds.

We welcome back our Teaching Staff: Lisa Etter, Angie Leedy, Sara Dice, Kristi Benbow, Katlyn Heverley, and Jenn Smith, along with our Assistants: Debby Eyer, Carrie Lynn Parris, Charon Barclay, and Lori Smith. Joining us as assistants this year is Janel Kauffman and Chazalynn Hackney. This school year may come with it's challenges, but our Nursery School staff is ready and excited to face the year head-on.

Thank you in advance for your support of our Nursery School and a special thanks to the Nursery School Ministry for their outpouring of support, encouragement, and direction in planning this new school year.

Blessings,

Kari Rock, Director





## REFLECTING ON OUR PANDEMIC YEAR

As most of you know, things will look and be much different after COVID-19 has slowed in our country. How does this affect all of us?

We have lost almost half of our choir for one reason or another. Some have moved, some are scared they will get COVID and some will come back, but not all. This is why I plea for new members to set up and help.

We have the same problem with our handbell choirs. We have lost members and not really sure how many want to continue ringing. Choir and handbell music are vitally important and will remain a part of our church's fiber. Ringing requires a great deal of interaction and community.

Socialization is a very important part of any rehearsals and people need time to get to their neighbors better. In the near future, you will see different size bell choirs, some small and sometimes a larger group. Whatever the size, we hope and know that our ringers will do their best to bring you music that will help you to have a more meaningful and rewarding worship experience.

Gary Crum, Director

## **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.

### **“MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE”**

A lot has happened since the June 13 Congregational meeting. We all have seen the progress on the new HVAC system, which appears close to being fully operational. On July 16, we borrowed \$500,000 from F&M Bank at a rate of 3.75%. Thus far, we have paid \$236,927 in HVAC expenses.

#### **CAMPAIGN STATUS at July 31:**

Outstanding commitments	\$252,430
Total payments received	<u>178,058</u>
Current project status	430,488      61.5%
Shortfall to goal	<u>269,512</u> 38.5%
Project Goal	<b>\$700,000</b> <b>100.0%</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.

#### **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. See the article on page 6 of this month’s 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. This includes Sue McMurtry, Vera Reber, Jerry Thomason, Skip Elliott, and Scot Orndorff.

Thanks for your support of this project. **Hot or Cold, We Walk Together!**



### **Ladies Luncheon Group**

We had very comfortable chairs, good service, and delicious food at the Trojan Diner on Wednesday, August 11 at 11:30.

Eight ladies were present. Messages were written on get well cards for three absent members. We discovered the dessert selection as we were leaving which may necessitate a return visit sometime.

OLIVE GARDEN will be the location when the group meets in September on the second Wednesday, September 8th at 11:30 am. Please call Bev Peters if you plan to attend so the restaurant will have seats ready.



### **Men's Breakfast!!!**

**Perkins Restaurant Thursday, September 2 at 7am.** We will continue to meet the first Thursday of every month. All men invited!

# September BIRTHDAYS

<b>Michele Wadel</b> 9/3	<b>Swann Kongkeattikul</b>	<b>9/18</b>
<b>Margaret Schollaert</b> 9/4	<b>Manuel Cuesta</b>	<b>9/18</b>
<b>Melissa Reichelderfer</b> 9/6	<b>Virginia (Ginni) Parker</b>	<b>9/20</b>
<b>Sherry Zimmerman</b> 9/6	<b>Brayden Brown</b>	<b>9/20</b>
<b>Evan Michael Blumberg</b> 9/6	<b>Tracey Wright</b>	<b>9/22</b>
<b>James Moyer</b> 9/7	<b>Matthew Strunk</b>	<b>9/22</b>
<b>Scott Cairns</b> 9/7	<b>Kyra Sollenberger</b>	<b>9/22</b>
<b>Michael Herbert</b> 9/7	<b>Hannah Herbert</b>	<b>9/22</b>
<b>Margaret Rockwell</b> 9/9	<b>Carl Barton</b>	<b>9/23</b>
<b>Connie Morrill-Hair</b> 9/9	<b>Stephen Wright</b>	<b>9/27</b>
<b>Lisa Hess</b> 9/11	<b>Dr. James Strite Jr.</b>	<b>9/29</b>
<b>Harold Wissinger</b> 9/11	<b>Jack Mull</b>	<b>9/29</b>
<b>Diana Macfarlane</b> 9/13		
<b>Lisa Singleton</b> 9/14		
<b>Aiden James Van Why</b> 9/14		
<b>John Tucker</b> 9/15		
<b>Larry Stenger</b> 9/15		
<b>Virginia Cairns</b> 9/15		
<b>Catherine Kinton</b> 9/18		



# Youth Ministry

Church School '21-22

Welcome back to a new Church School year. Things will look a little different this year and with COVID that look may change along the way. Stay posted for updates. To begin the year, due to staffing and numbers all school age students will be in a combined in person class, with Zoom connection available. We are looking for a Teacher to work with our 2-3 yr. old children, introducing them to God, 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 "Nook in the Narthex" is still under construction but has been well received by our families. For these families to get the often much needed spiritual boost each week, we are looking for anyone who be willing to help supervise during the worship hour.

Children's sermons will continue to be offered each week. Children's Corner will resume in September on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, following the Children's Sermon. As before, there are Children's bags in the Narthex to help busy our students.

**Please contact Roxanne Davenport if you can help in any capacity. If we want to be family friendly, we need to not only plan these programs, but staff them as well. Spiritual Refreshment is much needed for Young Families. Child Abuse clearances are required for all volunteers in these ministry programs. We must have two adults in each group for Safe Church compliance.**

CPR/AED recertification's are past due for many in the church and a recertification course may be scheduled, soon, if we have enough interest.



To our St. John's family-

We are thankful for all your expressions of kindness and thoughtfulness after my mother passed away. We are comforted knowing that she is back together with my father after 10 years apart.

Scott and Ginny Cairns



Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in our area, we have made the decision to postpone our plans for a fall all-church retreat to be held at St. John's Camp. We hope to be able to gather together for fellowship, fun, and spiritual renewal in the spring.

Thank you for your understanding.

-Diana Kongkeattikul, Eileen Shaffer, and Pastor Caroline

# ***Introducing the “Caring Corner”***



*Do you know about the Called to Care, Prayer Shawl, Caring Cooks, Prayer Chain, Flower Delivery and the Reach out and Reconnect (ROAR) initiatives at St. John’s UCC? Maybe you have heard of them but aren’t sure what they do, who to contact, or how you can help. Starting with the September 2021 Spirit, we will be including information about one or more of these initiatives and hope you will provide feedback to help us improve and/or increase awareness and support.*

## ***An Overview of the caring initiatives:***

The Called to Care team works in conjunction with other volunteers within the church to support the Pastor in the care of the congregation with special needs such as those who are sick or grieving. We respond as friends to those who need a ‘caring presence.’ This primarily includes visiting home bound members, making hospital visits, providing meals (Caring Cooks), sending cards and notes to those in need of a caring word. We are only successful when we are aware of the needs of our members and we count on you to ask for our support when needed.

Our core team includes: Connie Evans, Diana Macfarlane, Carol Marotte, Judy Patterson, Lynda Pound, Eileen Shaffer, Nina Widmann, and co-chairs Lisa Frantz and Connie Morrill-Hair. There are several folks within St. John’s who routinely contact and/or visit folks we have on our radar, and we are truly blessed to have this on-going support.

## ***The “Caring Corner” continued***

### *Additional Caring Initiatives*

The newly created ROAR team (Lisa Frantz) is making calls to members to help us stay connected even when we are unable to worship together.

The prayer shawl ministry (Nina Widmann) knits and makes available prayer shawls that often provide a tangible sense of love and support.

The prayer chain initiative (Lois Young) notifies folks on the prayer chain when a prayer request is submitted to her so that the power of prayer can provide comfort to those in need. Folks who want to be a regular member of the prayer chain can contact Lois for inclusion.

Caring Cooks is coordinated by Lisa Frantz when she is made aware of need of a few meals especially after hospitalization or the loss of a loved one.

The Flower Delivery initiative is under construction as our friend and former leader Linda Barton has had to step aside for personal reasons. This initiative creates bouquets of flowers from the donated flowers in the sanctuary and delivers them to a variety of members.

More details about some of these initiatives will be included in future Spirit publications.

We welcome you to join any of these initiatives and to consider contacting us when you have a caring need.

Peace and Blessings,

Lisa Frantz and Connie Morrill-Hair



**JOIN US FOR**

# *Saturday Night Worship*

September 11, 2021 | 5:30 pm | Outside by Parking Lot B

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





SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 | 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 at Norland Pub  
454 Norland Avenue Chambersburg

Bring your questions,  
Invite your friends!





First Fruits for September will be used to support the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund , as the name implies, is used for situations that the pastor deems necessary to assist. Many times people come to the church in need of money for gas, food, or other needs, The church usually provides gift cards if deemed necessary. With the COVID 19 changes to all of our lives the needs have only grown.

Thank you for your support of this vital ministry.

*Office Assistant*  
*Lisa Shew*



My name is Lisa Shew. I am originally from Western PA and currently reside here in Chambersburg with my husband, son and three fur daughters. I am an avid Steelers fan and love to cheer on my favorite Chambersburg Trojan football player. My favorite things include going to yard sales and online shopping.

I am a graduate of Hagerstown Business College and worked in offices for many years. After I had my son I did child care for several years and now I am back in an office doing what I love.

I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone better.

## **WHO WAS JEAN AUDREY WILLIAMS?**

This question arose when I stumbled upon two artifacts dedicated to Jean on St. John's property.

The first was a plaque on the log cabin at St. John's Camp. It states this cabin was erected in memory of Jean and lists eight people who gave their services. One was Charles Williams (later identified as the father of Jean).

The second was a gold plated cross, two feet tall and one foot across, found in our display case in the Narthex of our sanctuary that says in loving memory of Jean presented when we were an Evangelical and Reformed Congregation.

The Williams' family had great love for St. John's during life's tragedies. Their tombstone in Cedar Grove tells of losing two children the year of their birth!

Jean graduated from Chambersburg High School in 1937 and died in 1938! Her obituary tells of her participation in our choir and teaching in Sunday School.

I would note two theories known between the Williams clan and present St. John's members. Dick Rebok recalls the day Charles Williams and Glenn Burkholder gave him the keys to the camp in 1969! Another name on the plaque was Christ Burkholder (father of Glenn) and great grand father of Connie Evans and Bobbie Sponseller. Are there any other tie-ins of this sort out there?

-Lee Powell



Cabin and Plaque  
at St. John's Camp



# ***Open and Affirming Ministry***

Open and Affirming Ministry (ONA) continues to provide information about resources that offer opportunities for activities in the community that will hopefully enable further education and understanding of diversity and equality. Such learning is crucial to any community as we seek to fully embrace and welcome those whom we invite or who visit our faith community. SLICE (Seekers Leaning into Intentional Conversations about Equality) is a 4-part series that began on August 14 at Central Presbyterian Church (4:00 – 5:15 p.m.) The purpose is to create a space for Christians to gather monthly and actively engage in faithful conversation. Each meeting will have a guest presenter, music/art, and intentional discussion and reflection. Through the lens of Christ's teaching and Christian faith, examination and discussion of challenges facing our world related to community, justice and equality will be the focus. The three remaining dates for this series will be: September 11, October 9, and November 13. At the current time, because of the increase in Covid cases, masks are requested to be worn.

As we enter into the 2021-2022 church year, ONA will continue to communicate with you regarding additional resources in the broader community as we seek to live out our Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation adopted almost a year ago at our November congregational meeting. Our mission continues to be welcome and affirmation within our walls as well as more broadly in our community. Jesus modeled movement into many venues to spread the message of love and compassion. May we do so!



**Ernie Welch Adult Sunday School**  
9:00 am to 9:50  
**The Life and Authentic Works of Paul, the Apostle**



**Paul: God's Pick as 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle?**

“... there is a description of Paul which is probably the best...he is described as ‘small in size, bald-headed, bandy-legged, well-built, with eyebrows meeting; rather long nosed.’”

### **Adult Sunday Class – Ernie Welch**

Assuming the pandemic situation doesn't change for the worse, the Adult Sunday class taught by Ernie Welch will begin on Sunday, September 12th in room 116. The class will again be held from 9:00 am to 9:50 am (allowing class members ten minutes to arrive in the sanctuary for worship service).

After a summer of relaxation, rejuvenation, and some research, Ernie will teach the following topic, with an emphasis on scriptural references: “The Life and Authentic Works of Paul, the Apostle”.

From September of '21 to May of '22, we will be, closely and in detail, studying the real life of Paul (from birth to death). We will use biblical details and contemporaneous sources to uncover little known facets of his life. Concurrently, we will only be using the seven epistles known to have been written by Paul (others attributed to his name are in dispute and may have been written by his students or others).

# Ministry Chairs

## 2021-2022

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

**Camp**—*TBD*

**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**—*TBD*

**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*

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**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**

Fran Herrity

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\*)**

**Summer Outdoor Worship 3rd Sunday of the Month**

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

Saturday, September 11, 5:30 pm (Outside on the Lawn\*)

Sunday, September 12, 10:00 am (Online & In-Person\*)

Sunday, October 3, 10:00 am (Online & In-Person\*)

Saturday, October 9, 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**