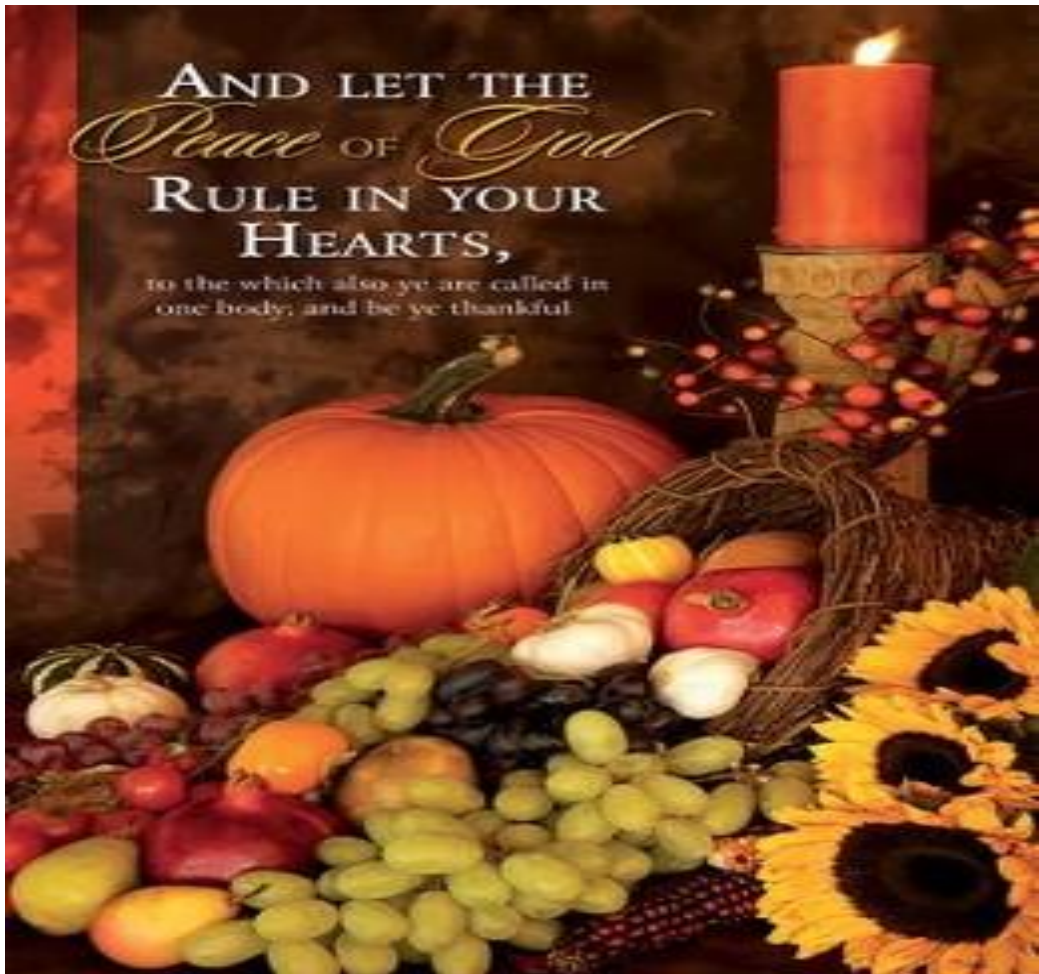


# The Spirit

Volume 74 No. 10 October 2022



A publication of St. John's United Church of Christ

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

## *From Pastor Caroline*

Back in June 2020, James Corden and Niall Horan lip-synced to The Proclaimers classic “I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles).” The video is hilarious and provided some much-needed levity. While I did not walk 500 miles, I did drive nearly 2000 miles round-trip to see my family and friends in Iowa. I greatly needed that time away to rest and recharge my physical and emotional batteries. It is nice to be home, sleep in my own bed, and reunite with my kitties. Rest is necessary for all of us. I hope that you are finding time to pause, breathe, and rest.

Both the program year and the school year have started. It is good to have increased (safe) activity in our building. I love seeing children learning and growing, supported by their teachers, in our six Nursery School and three Head Start classrooms. Our hybrid church school classes for children and adults are going well. Thank you to our facilitators for offering options that foster connection, in-person and virtually. We give thanks for the musicians and their faithful rehearsals, giving glory to God in song. Things might look and feel a little different; that’s okay. We are living out our love of God and neighbor.

As we consider how best we can use our building and grounds to meet needs of people in our community, we give thanks for your generous support of Mission Possible, our HVAC replacement campaign. Look for an artistic representation demonstrating our campaign progress to be installed in the Sanctuary soon. Information about how to donate to this campaign was included in the [September Spirit](#). Please contact the Church Office or church Treasurer Scot Orndorff if you have questions about the ways you can give.

Mark Story, Director of Community Engagement for Habitat for Humanity, will join us for worship on October 3. Information about our upcoming Faith Build with Habitat is included in this month’s Outreach Ministry article. We hope to have many participants involved in this mission project, giving of your time, talent, and treasure.

The story of the Church is one of resilience. It is a story of perseverance and adaption. That is true in ancient times and recent times. And I know that we are feeling it acutely.

People of God, I know that we are tired. We are weary and almost worn-out by all of our worries, particularly around COVID-19. But we cannot stop caring about our neighbors, about the most vulnerable among us. Keep wearing your mask. Get the vaccine. Practice social distancing. Enjoy the nice weather and gather outside for fellowship and fun.

The Great Commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Guided by science and God’s grace, may we continue to live out love in this time and place.

*Peace,  
Pastor Caroline*



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## ABOUT VIVALDI

Our senior choir sings many different kinds of music. Some very old and some very new arrangements. On Sunday, October 24, we will sing a composition that our choir has done previously and has enjoyed singing. This piece is “Sing to the Lord” and composed by Antonio Vivaldi and arranged for choir by Hal Hopson.

Vivaldi was born on March 4, 1678, in Venice, which at that time was the capital of the Venetian Republic. He is regarded as one of the greatest Baroque composers and his influence was widely spread across Europe being paramount in the development of Johann Sabastian Bach’s instrumental music. Vivaldi was a renowned violinist and he composed many instrumental concertos, as well as sacred choral works are more than fifty operas. He also worked as a Catholic priest for about 18 months. During the 20th Century his music underwent a revival with much scholarly research devoted to it.

Enjoy this anthem on October 24th.

Gary Crum

# ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

The Nursery School year is off to great start! We are so proud of our students. The children are adjusting well and they are making so many new friends. They are learning the rules and routines, and about what it means to be a part of the classroom community.

October is a busy month at the Nursery School. Children will have their school pictures taken, they will learn about fire prevention, and they will celebrate Fall with fun crafts, snacks, and games.

The Nursery School will also be selling The Butcher Shoppe cookie dough and coffee again this year. It has been a very successful fundraiser in the past. Students will begin to take orders on October 18th with delivery to the Church on December 2nd.

Thank you for your continuing support of our Nursery School.

Kari Rock

Director





# FALL FAMILY FUN

**Join us for a night of bonfire, hayride and pumpkin decorating as well as fellowship and food! Bring a covered dish to share.**

**October 16, 2021 6pm**

Herbert Farm  
2798 Warm Spring Rd.  
Chambersburg. PA 17202

**RSVP to [youth@sjucc1811.org](mailto:youth@sjucc1811.org) by October 13th**



## **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>	<u>38.5%</u>
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 McMurtray, 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 will be meeting at OLIVE GARDEN when the group meets in

October on the second Wednesday, October 13 at 11:30 am.

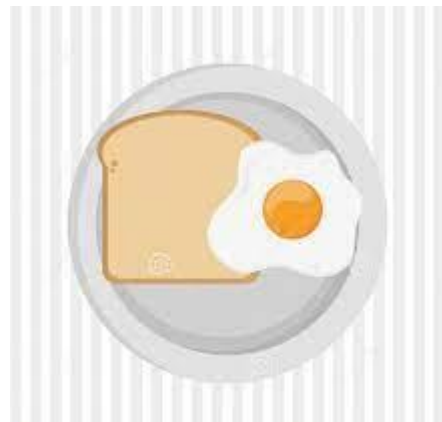
## **Men's Breakfast—NEW**

### **Location:**

Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

We will be meeting on Thursday, October 7th—7am

All men welcome





# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

**Lynne McGough 10/1**

**Susan Collier 10/2**

**Katrina Dietrich 10/5**

**Kenneth Dilling 10/7**

**Camden Wadel 10/8**

**Sandra Lewis 10/10**

**Judy Cook 10/10**

**Charity Brumfield 10/11**

**Logan Parson 10/12**

**Scot Orndorff 10/12**

**Wayne Scubelek 10/14**

**Peggy Bryner 10/14**

**H Mark Bard 10/14**

**David Taylor 10/14**

**Barbara Aveni 10/16**

**The Rev. Robert Macfarlane 10/16**

**Teena Keeney 10/16**

**Mike Hoffeditz 10/16**

**Tyler Kuhn 10/16**

**Sarah Myers 10/18**

**Johnathan Miller 10/20**

**Roxanne Davenport 10/25**

**Harold Hopple 10/26**

**Lisa Fair 10/26**

**Nancy Rebok 10/27**

**David Collier 10/30**



# 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 3yrs. to 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be in a combined in person class, with Zoom connection available. 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade are also in person or Zoom. We are 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 "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.**

**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.**



Dear St. John's Family:

Thank you for showering my mother Edna Scubelek with many birthday cards on her 96th year. With each mail call you brought her more joy and smiles that her birthday was remembered.

Blessings, Sue McMurtray

Dear St. John's Family:

Thank you very much for your well wish, prayers and flowers during my illness. Hopefully, I will soon be able to attend church services. Your kindness is appreciated.

Sincerely, Lynne McGough

Call to Care Team:

Thanking you for the Prayer Shawl, delivered by Nina, in sharing your prayers and blessings during this stressful time of my son Jeff's illness.

Sharon Mayer

# **The “Caring Corner”**



*Our thanks to those of you who continue to reach out to other members and friends of St. John’s UCC.*

*This month we would like to continue a discussion on Flower Delivery and a need for volunteers.*

*For years, flower delivery was coordinated by Linda Barton. On the weeks when flowers were available in the Sanctuary for distribution, she or her volunteer divided the flowers into bouquets and delivered them to two or three folks who typically were not able to attend church...a birthday for a shut in, hospitalization, or just a caring concern.*

*We thank Linda for tireless efforts and appreciate all that she did to brighten other people’s lives.*

*Now it’s time to pass the torch.*

*There have been many challenges for flower delivery in the recent COVID times. Few if any flowers were available for delivery, volunteers were concerned about their own health risks, and delivery became increasingly difficult in facilities. BUT as we have become vaccinated and opened up the Sanctuary for worship, it is again time to consider sharing flowers with others.*

*WHAT WE NEED: We need some volunteers to help with flower delivery. It is not difficult, no meetings are required, it can help you meet some other folks in the church, and you will feel wonderful when you know you have brightened someone's day.*

*WHO WE NEED: People who can create the bouquets and deliver them. The more people who help, the less often we will need to ask for your help. And we will help you with names of potential recipients.*

*HOW TO VOLUNTEER: Lisa Shew, our new office assistant, will be glad to take your name. Jolene and John McGinley have already taken care of a few dates. Let's have some more folks get involved.*

*Peace and Blessings,*

*Lisa Frantz and Connie Morrill-Hair*



JOIN US FOR

# Saturday Night Worship

October 9, 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



\*In the event of rain, we plan to worship in Fellowship Hall

# **ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT BIBLE AND A BEER**

Bible and a Beer will NOT be held in October due to the increasingly 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 November.  
Stay Safe! Be Well!

**-Pastor Caroline & Jerry Thomason**



First Fruits for October will support Habitat for Humanity by doing a “Faith Build”, Saturday, October 16, in the Fayetteville area.

St. John’s will sponsor a “Team Build’ in which 5 to 15 members of the congregation will donate one day of labor at the site.

There are four ways to participate:

1. Be a member of the “Team Build”
2. Make a monetary donation
3. Donate 16D and 17D nails found at any hardware store
4. Prepare lunch for the team

Outreach Ministry feels that this is an organization worthy of our support.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Questions about how to participate in the Team Build can be directed to Tom Kinton or Pastor Caroline.



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

Saturday, October 9, 5:30 pm (Fellowship Hall\*)

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

Saturday, November 13, 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**