

The Spirit

Volume 74 No. 12 December 2021



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

From Pastor Caroline

We have entered into the season of Advent, a time filled with longing and hope, promise and possibility, for the transformation of the world and ourselves. Advent is more than just a countdown to Christmas (despite what our consumerist culture would have us believe). Advent is a time of preparation, getting ready to receive the gift of Jesus once more into our hearts and into our lives.

Week by week, we light a candle, culminating on Christmas Eve when we light the Christ candle, Jesus, the light of the world. With hope, peace, love, and joy, we are finding our way forward, knowing that God goes before us and Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. We are learning to walk in the dark, with the light of God's love in our hearts.

Our life together is made richer by gifts of time, talent, and treasure; by the patience and persistence that keeps us moving forward; and by our ability to experiment and adapt. We are thankful for the ways that we care for each other, guided by God's wisdom and grace.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Fall Congregational Meeting held via Zoom and in-person on November 14. We adopted our 2022 budget and voted to replace the roof over the two-story education wing. In worship, we celebrated our one-year anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming church and are continuing to find ways to live into our Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation, loving all of our neighbors in real and tangible ways.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to reimagine how we worship together and the opportunities we have to witness God at work inside and outside of our walls. We will have two Christmas Eve services this year, one at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall and one at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The service in the Sanctuary will be livestreamed for those worshipping from home. These candlelight services are an opportunity to witness to the light of Christ and to take that light back out into the world, bringing hope, peace, love, and joy.

Thank you for your commitment over these many, many months to keeping our church community healthy and safe in the midst of these challenging and trying times. We are prayerfully optimistic that 2022 will indeed be better and brighter, and we are blessed by the energy, enthusiasm, and ideas for our church.

"The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Jesus Christ has shown us how to live: loving God and neighbor, sharing what we have, engaging in acts of mercy and justice. As we celebrate his birth, and wait in hope for his coming again, let us dedicate our lives before him" (adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*).

Let us wait. Let us watch. Let us ready ourselves to rejoice, for we hold one another in love and we hold one another in prayer. Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!



MUSIC MINISTRY

In last month's article, Gloria talked about the New Year beginning in Advent.

I just want to emphasize the difference between Advent and Christmas. As we sing the songs of Advent, they are all about the coming of Jesus. Such as:

Come, thou Long Expected Jesus
Christians All, Your Lord is Coming
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Prepare the Royal Highway
People Look East

On the other hand, when Christmas arrives we sing songs about the baby Jesus and His presence:

Joy to the World, the Lord is Come
Once in Royal David's City
Away in a Manger
Gently Mary Laid Her Child

Well, I am sure you all get the idea; however we always hear complaining from those who say, "Why can't we sing Christmas Carols before Christmas"? Well, how many of you open your Christmas gifts a few weeks before Christmas? Most people wait until Christmas Day. Remember this during Advent so we do not get the "cart before the horse". Christmas IS coming. Have a wonderful Christmas Season and Merry Christmas to all.

Gary and Gloria



THE CHURCH OFFICE

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm

Reminder:

The Church Office is CLOSED on Monday December 27 and Tuesday December 28 for Christmas.

Have a Merry Christmas from all of us!!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CARING CORNER:

We are very pleased to report that we have several volunteers to help with the distribution of flowers on Sundays when fresh flowers are available. John and Jolene McGinley, Henry and Alison Hopper, Don and Mary Hendrickson, James and Mary Moyer, and back up support from Lynda Pound and Lee Powell. We thank these folks for volunteering. On the Sundays when flowers are available, these folks take turns creating bouquets of flowers from flowers used during the Sunday worship service and then delivering the bouquets to some of our members and friends. If you have interest in volunteering to help with this effort, please contact the church office. It is a great way to meet some folks you may not know.



BLUE CHRISTMAS

Christmas may be especially difficult this year.

Some of us are in the midst of loneliness, pain, sorrow, or loss, making Christmas a “Blue Time”

Called to Care invites you and your friends to a service to recognize and acknowledge these emotions through scripture, song and prayer.

Join us for a time of Remembrance and Support

Sunday, December 5, 3 pm

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia, please contact Lisa at the Church Office by Monday, December 6, 2021.

The cost of each flower is \$13 and make checks payable to St. John's UCC.





Christmas Eve



at St. John's United Church of Christ

December 24, 2021

5:00 PM Praise Service in Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Parking Lot B Fellowship Hall, Parking Lot A Sanctuary

See sjucc1811.org for
YouTube Link & Order of Worship

SJUCC 1811 Lincoln Way E, Chambersburg PA 

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

Thank you for your continued support of our Nursery School. Our Butcher Shoppe fundraiser was a great success this year! Friendly reminder that cookie dough and coffee may be picked up Thursday, December 2nd after 12:00pm or Sunday, December 5th.

Our Nursery School children are excited to celebrate the Christmas season. This month, we will have a fun-filled *Polar Express movie day with themed crafts, snacks, and activities*. We will end our year with *class Christmas parties and a special visit from St. Nick!*

On behalf of the Nursery School Ministry and Staff we would like to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas! We hope you enjoy this very blessed time with family and friends.

Kari Rock
Nursery School
Director





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

The Olive Garden was the location for the gathering of 8 St. John's ladies for lunch Thanksgiving and "Missing" messages were sent to Evelyn Sites, Joann Brechbill, Peggy Orr and Lois Young.

Two Christmas gifts have been purchased for South Mountain residents from this group.

Bags of Christmas treats for Meals on Wheels will NOT be filled this year.

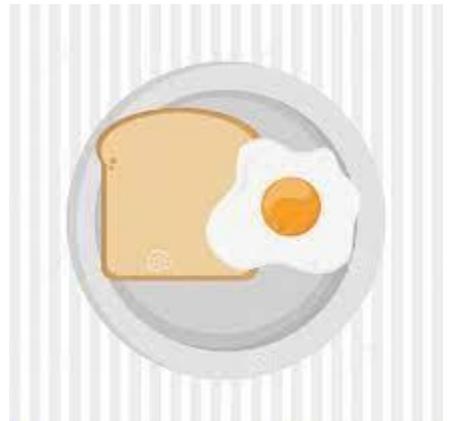
Since December is a busy time, the group hopes to meet on January 12 at the Italian Village on Route 11 at 11:30am.

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!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dorothy Pheil	12/01	Kathleen Mooshian	12/23
Jeanne Welch	12/03	Beth Johnson	12/25
Robert Lewis	12/04	Holly Hoover	12/26
Stephanie Brown	12/04	Connie Evans	12/27
Mary Moyer	12/05	Mark Hoger	12/29
Chani Wolfe	12/05	Randall Kegerreis	12/30
Judith Patterson	12/08	Sue Sprenger	12/31
Virginia McCright	12/09	Mary Ann Castelli	12/31
Anne Miller	12/13	Jared Leister	12/31
Mary (Allison) Hopper	12/13		
Peter A'Zary	12/14		
Judy Knepper	12/16		
Bobby Hockensmith	12/16		
Olivia Myers	12/17		
Jacob Marotte	12/18		
Roberta Peters	12/20		
Bernie Tosten	12/21		
Gloria Crum	12/22		
MaryLee Yaukey	12/23		



Youth Ministry

December

12/5 Church School 9am

Confirmation

12/12 Church School 9am

Children's Corner Christmas Scavenger Hunt!!

12/18 Christmas Eve Portrayal rehearsal 10:00am or 11:30 am

12/19 Church School Party 9am Youth room

12/24 Christmas Eve Portrayal arrival 4:45pm

Christmas Eve Portrayal arrival 6:45pm

12/26 No Church School

Angel Tree Shopping

The Youth and their families are again offering to shop for anyone who would like to pull an Angel Tree name but cannot shop themselves. Contact Roxanne Davenport or the church office if you are interested in arranging a personal shopper for your angel, or are a family interested in helping!

Youth Ministry

Christmas Eve Portrayals

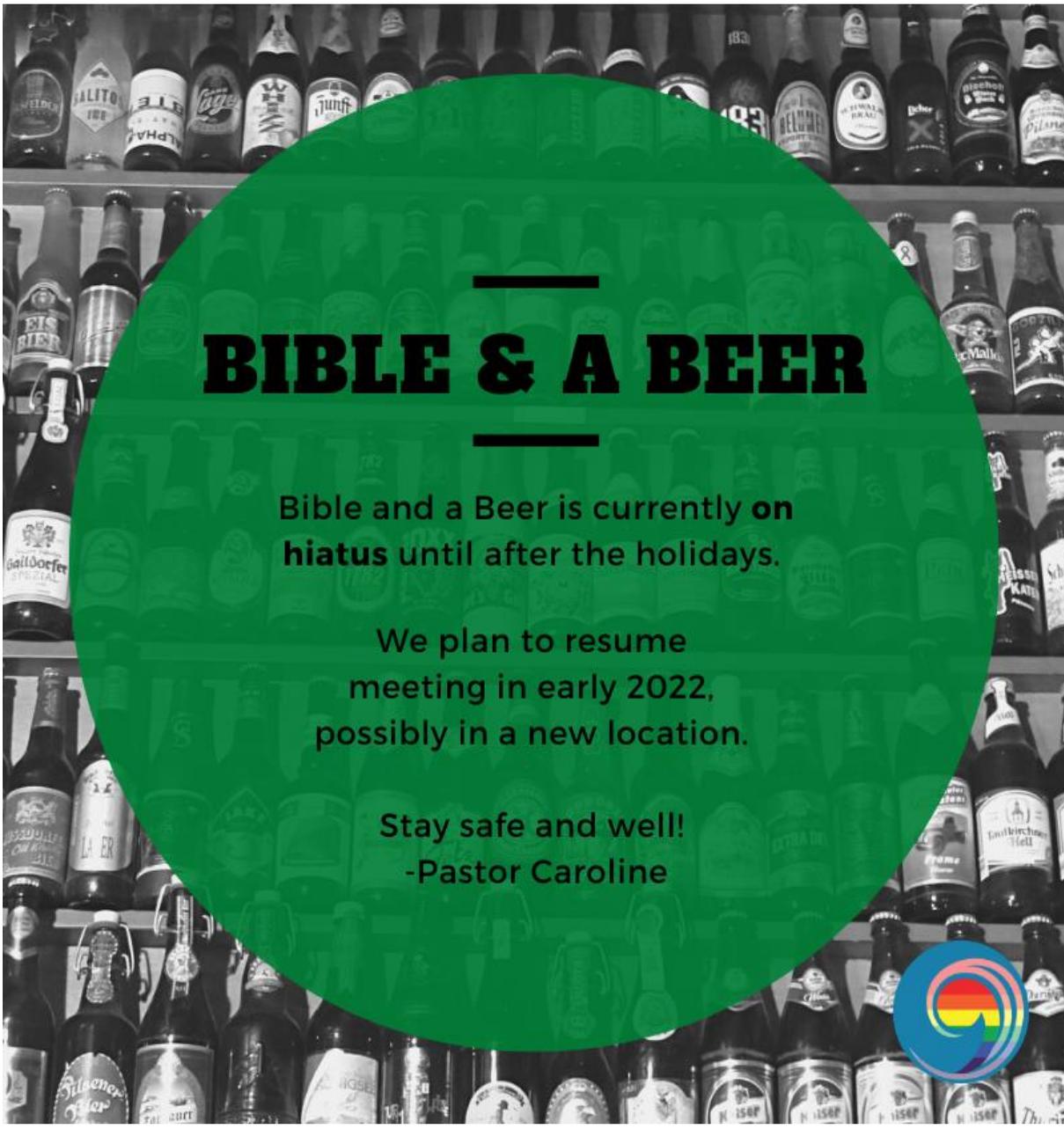
Plans are now being made to once again, have character portrayals of the Nativity story during the scripture readings at the Christmas Eve services. It has been a huge hit each year so don't wait!! A sign up, by character is now posted on the Youth bulletin boards. This opportunity is open to all who would like to participate, not just Youth. No speaking is involved. Must be available for rehearsal on Saturday, the 18th at 10:00am or 11:30, depending on the service choice.

Help tell the story by "creating a picture"!

See Roxanne Davenport with any questions..

Mark Your Calendars for Fun!!!

Dates have been set aside for another tubing and Lock In adventure! Jan 28, Feb 11 and 18 will be considered. A final date will be decided after the holidays based on weather and group responses.



BIBLE & A BEER

Bible and a Beer is currently **on hiatus** until after the holidays.

We plan to resume meeting in early 2022, possibly in a new location.

Stay safe and well!
-Pastor Caroline



JOIN US FOR

Saturday Night Worship

December 11, 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





Outreach Ministry

November and December each year always present with many activities and decisions as how Outreach Ministry can address needs in our local community. We thank you for your generous support of our Thanksgiving Meals to 15 families in November.

For December, please note two activities that Outreach is coordinating:

Angel Tree

The tree is set up in area between the two set of doors in the main entry

50 tags will be placed on the tree for your selection

Gifts will **need to be purchased and returned to the church office by December 3** in preparation for the dedication in worship on December 5, and transferred to Salvation Army by the 8th.

If you wish to take a tag, but do not wish to shop for the gift, the youth group will assist with the shopping (information as to how this is to be handled can be found in the Youth Section of The Spirit.)

Gifts are to be in gift bags, and not wrapped, making sure you attach your tag to the gift bag.

Special Offering

When we reflect on the journey that two adults made over 2000 years ago, finding themselves in a somewhat 'homeless' situation, we are reminded of the unfortunate level of homelessness in our community and country.

With that thought in mind, Outreach Ministry has decided to receive a special offering on December 19 to support a local program, "Homeless Matters of Franklin County." This is a committee of concerned citizens working to address the most urgent and critical need of homeless families. Its mission is to ease some of the burdens that homeless families experience and assist in giving them the opportunity to be successful, even in the face of such personal hardship. 'Homeless Matters' collaborates with various community stakeholders within Franklin County to obtain items such as food, school supplies and hygiene products.

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**

Diana Macfarlane

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*)**

*In-Person dates subject to COVID-19 restrictions

***St. John's UCC Communion Dates for
2021/2022***

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

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

Sunday, January 2, 2022 10:00 am (Online & In-Person)

There is no Saturday Service in January

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

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