

The Spirit

Volume 75 No. 2 February 2022



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

From Pastor Caroline

It took me a while to choose my “word of the year” for 2022. Finally, I landed on purpose. What does it mean to live a life of purpose? How do we create meaning? Where is God in the midst of our busy and distracted lives?

Each of us benefits from having meaningful work, healthy relationships, the sense that who we are and what we do matters. My dad recently made the transition from living in his own home to an apartment at an assisted living community. This is a new chapter for him, as well as for me. He is a good listener, an excellent storyteller, an avid reader. Time will tell, but I feel that this move will open up opportunities and possibilities; it may even provide him with an increased sense of purpose in this time in his life.

Having a sense of purpose, particularly when it is paired with passion, is essential not only for our personal lives but for the life of our church. What are we passionate about? What is our purpose as a church? How might we live out our mission and vision in 2022?

These are not easy questions. They do not have easy answers. We may need some help in determining the next faithful step, what opportunities are out there and which ones align best with our mission and vision, our purpose and passion as a congregation. But we are already doing the hard work of asking curious and open-ended questions, open to where the Spirit might lead and what God has in store for us.

As we follow Jesus, we remember that the most important commandment is love. We are growing in love of God and neighbor, caring deeply about each other. Love is always the answer. When in doubt, ask: “what is the loving thing to do?” Love is an action; it is a verb.

We remain flexible and adaptable, creative and innovative, willing to try new things even when we’re not sure how they will turn out. We are canoeing the mountains, gaining new tools for this part of our journey, seeking and striving to “be the church” in 2022.

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Peace,
Pastor Caroline*

YOUTH MINISTRY

February Calendar

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 2 | 6:45 | Children and Youth Meeting in the Parlor |
| 6 | 9:00 | Church School |
| | 11:15 | Confirmation |
| 13 | 9:00 | Church School |
| | | During worship Children's Corner |
| 20 | 9:00 | Church School |
| 27 | 9:00 | Church School |
| | | During worship Children's Corner |

COMING NEXT FALL!

GODLY PLAY

St. John's Church School is looking forward to adding a new program to our Christian education, geared towards our younger children, beginning at age 3.

"The Godly Play® method is a curriculum of spiritual practice exploring the mystery of God's presence in our lives. The Godly Play curriculum engages what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting us into—and pursuing us in the midst of—Scripture and spiritual experience. Godly Play practice teaches us to listen for God and to make authentic and creative responses to God's call in our lives." It is a hands-on, manipulative, storytelling approach. The Godly Play curriculum guides participants through self-discovery, which is fundamental to the Montessori tradition from which Godly Play developed.

Trainings for this program are being arranged and more leaders and helpers are needed. Please see Roxanne Davenport if you are interested.



THE CHURCH OFFICE

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm

Reminder:

The Church Office is CLOSED on Monday, February 21, in observance of Presidents Day.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER: FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN AND STAFF — WHEN COMING INTO THE CHURCH DURING THE WEEK, PLEASE DO NOT LET ANYONE IN THE CHURCH THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

A Message from the Caring Corner: **THE POWER OF PRAYER--The Prayer Chain**

You may or may not be aware that St. John's has a very active prayer chain. This chain is coordinated by Lois Young, has been in existence for over 15 years, and currently has approximately 30 members.

When people become aware of a situation where prayer will help, they contact Lois Young with the request. She distributes the request to the members of the chain and prayers begin. For many people, participating in the chain has become a real source of comfort and a way of knowing they are helping others through the power of prayer. For others it is a source of comfort to know that fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and praying for them. We encourage you to make sure your prayer requests are shared with Lois so that you too can feel the positive power of prayer.

Contact Lois Young at younglp@comcast.net if you have questions and/or a prayer request.



VBS 2022

Mark Your Calendars!

July 31-August 4th

"The Quest for the King's Armor"....The search for volunteers!!!!!! See Roxanne to help.

JOIN US FOR

Saturday Night Worship

February 12, 2022 | 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



FEBRUARY 21, 2022 | 6:30 PM

BIBLE & A BEER

Theological conversations
Rich discussion
Powerful testimony

Join us at 6:30 pm at The Cottage Pub
572 Wayne Avenue Chambersburg

Bring your questions,
Invite your friends!



ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

The school year is certainly moving along quickly! We are continuously amazed at the growth and confidence we see in all of the children.

Information regarding Kindergarten registration in the Chambersburg Area School District went home to the families of children who will turn five by September 1, 2022. If you know someone who may also need this information, please let me know.

In conjunction with Kindergarten registration, we will be holding a Parent's Night Out on the topic of Kindergarten Readiness. Amy Stockslager, a kindergarten teacher with the Chambersburg Area School District, will conduct a brief information session on the registration process and what to expect when transitioning from preschool to Kindergarten. We take pride in helping families with this transition.

February is a busy month here at the Nursery School. We will start the month learning about the Winter Olympics. Children will even get to participate in some Olympic 'events' in Fellowship Hall.

We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day at school. The children will have a fun day filled with Valentine-themed crafts, games, and snacks. Children will also have the opportunity to pass out valentines to their friends!

February is also Dental Health Month. We will have Dr. James Barra, Dr. Eve Drake, and Dr. Erin Adamson visit our classrooms to help us learn how to keep our teeth healthy. We thank them so much for their time!

Lastly, Nursery School registration for the 2022-2023 school year will begin for current Nursery School and Church families on February 15th. Registration paperwork will be available on the Church website as well as in the Nursery School hallway. Registration will open to the public on March 1st.

I pray that everyone is doing well and that you are staying warm!

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 group hopes to meet on February 9, 2022, at the Italian Village on Route 11 at 11:30am.

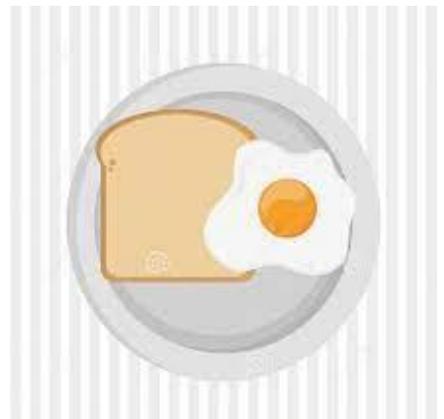


Men's Breakfast—NEW Location:

Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

We will be meeting on Thursday,
February 3, 2022—7am

All men welcome!
All men invited!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tom Harrison	2/02	Aryn Martin (Rebok)	2/14
Gary Crum	2/03	Donna Hilton	2/17
Dr. Donald Hendrickson	2/03	Marvin Zegar	2/19
G. Michael Bittner	2/04	Casimir Rzomp	2/19
Jolene H. McGinley	2/04	Cynthia St. Clair	2/19
Kurt Widmann	2/04	Harold St. Clair	2/23
Helen Douglas	2/05	Allen Frantz	2/27
Gary Patterson	2/06	Sophie Hoger	2/27
Alma Dietrich	2/06		
Maelynn Dietrich	2/06		
Julie Dereef	2/07		
Ernie Welch	2/08		
Denny Domer	2/09		
Alex Bishop	2/09		
Gregory St. Clair	2/10		
Colleen Woy	2/11		
Richard Collier	2/13		



MUSIC MINISTRIES

A DELIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE

On Saturday, January 15, I attended a music reading workshop. This event has been called “Music in the Valley” and was held in St. Matthews Lutheran Church in downtown Hanover, PA. I have attended these events before and have found them to be a very helpful experience which I will explain:

The event, being a reading session, meant that many musicians and other interested people had signed up to attend. The day began at 8:30 am in the morning and concluded at 3:30 in the afternoon. During this time, we sang 80 new choir anthems that had been published in the last year. This took 6 hours to sing this new music. No time to practice, but just sing straight thru the piece to get the feel of it and to decide if this piece would be a good fit for our choir to sing in the coming months.

Directing this event were musicians who had arranged many of these anthems I including Joseph Martin, Stacy Nordmeyer, Heather Sorenson and Lloyd Larson. I know that many of you would find this to be a very boring day. For me, I find this event to be exciting to hear what music different arrangers have produced to be used in God’s house. In fact, it is such an outstanding experience that I had to share it with all of you. I also want to thank our church for providing a sufficient budget for us to be able to purchase a selection of new anthems each year to use along with our old favorites. You will be privileged to hear some of these new anthems in the coming months.

Gary Crum





Outreach Ministry

Outreach Ministry's First Fruit for February will be donated to the Fayetteville Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry is hosted in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Fayetteville, and is operated in partnership with the South-Central Community Action Programs (SCCAP). St. Paul's supports the operation of the small emergency food pantry which is stocked with nonperishable foods in a small cabinet in front of the Outreach Center along Main Street.

The food pantry serves approximately 120-130 families in the Brownsville, Fayetteville, North Mont Alto and South Mountain communities. The food pantry is managed by St. Paul members, but receives considerable support, both volunteer labor and financial, from Fayetteville and surrounding communities. The food is available to anyone who has a need and there are no eligibility requirements. This pantry is entirely financed and stocked through local donations.

In keeping with COVID-19 mitigation policies, current procedures are to prepack all food in boxes and bags and load client's vehicles under the canopy at the rear entrance to the St. Paul Outreach Center. New clients can sign up for food distribution without leaving their vehicles.

Hours of operation are the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of each month from 12 PM – 2 PM. The Fayetteville Food Pantry provides a valued service to the aforementioned communities, especially in these continuing trying times.

The Outreach Ministry sincerely appreciates your contributions for this worthy local charitable organization.

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

Saturday, February 12, 2022 5:30 pm (In-Person)

Sunday, February 13, 2022 10:00 am (Online & In-Person)

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 6:30 pm (Online & In-Person)

Sunday, March 6, 2022 10 am (Online & In-Person)

Saturday, March 12, 2022 5:30 pm (In-Person)

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