

The Spirit

Volume 75 No. 3 March 2022



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

From Pastor Caroline:

“Beware the Ides of March,” writes William Shakespeare in his play “Julius Caesar” (1599). I cannot help but think of this quote as we approach March 15, the date of our last “normal” worship service before COVID-19 impacted nearly every aspect of our lives. None of us had any idea what we were in for or how long this pandemic would last. We are still trying to find the exits, to know for sure that the worst is over and we can slowly but surely resume a more normal and predictable life. We are committed to loving our neighbors and the most vulnerable among us. I am grateful for this family of faith that keeps growing in love of God and neighbor.

March marks the turn to a new liturgical season: Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2, we enter into a 40-day period of reflection, an invitation to connect with God. The Lenten journey can involve giving something up or taking something on. In college one year I gave up Facebook for Lent. It was much easier then; I didn’t have the app on my phone. In more recent years, I have added reading an additional devotional to my spiritual practice. There is no “one way” to observe Lent; find what works for you and listen for God’s still-speaking voice.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. This service will be livestreamed. Our weekly Lenten services will begin on March 9 and run through April 6. These services will be in Fellowship Hall with a light potluck dinner served by one of our ministry teams from 6:00-6:30; worship will be from 6:30-7:00 pm. We will have two services on Maundy Thursday: Noon and 6:30 pm. The Noon service will be in the Sanctuary and livestreamed; the 6:30 pm will be a service of Tenebrae in Fellowship Hall. These are opportunities to connect with each other and with God. We hope to see you there as we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross.

Our care and compassion and curiosity lead us forward. We lean on God’s everlasting arms, on God’s grace and mercy, and we seek and strive to be Jesus’ hands and feet in the world.

The lyrics of “Closing Time” by Semisonic are particularly appropriate these days: “every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” I have been reflecting on that lyric and liminal space both personally and professionally. Thank you so much for your support and prayers over the last few months. I am grateful for your understanding as I continue to care for my dad and brother, taking on new responsibilities for both of them. It was so good to be with them in February and to know that while one chapter is ending, another one is just beginning. There is yet more life to be lived. May God grant us the wisdom and courage that we need for the living of these days.

May we be light. May we be leaven. May we journey with Jesus, trusting in God’s goodness and love, and sustained by the Spirit.

*Peace,
Pastor Caroline*

Church Office

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm

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.





USED BOOK SALE

Proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity



Donate Books from Jan. 30 through February to:

- St. John's United Church of Christ
- Habitat's RESTORE (1662 Lincoln Way E.)
- any of the 6 local Patriot Credit Union offices

Buy Books at St. John's UCC (Parking Lot B)

- March 19 from 9 am to 4 pm
- March 20 from noon to 4 pm
- March 20 is Clearance Sale (\$5 per bag)

St. John's United Church of Christ, 1811 Lincoln Way E. Chambersburg

In Addition to the BOOK Sale

Habitat is need of the following items:

7 penny or 16 penny loose nails (in boxes or buckets),

Safety glasses,

Ear plugs,

Leather palm gloves

DeWalt charger(s) & batteries,

Paint rollers,

1 ½ inch drywall screws

White power outlet receptacles and covers

Single Gang Wire Junction box/blue “new work”

Donations can be placed in the shopping cart in the Main lobby through March.

Thank You for your support!



CALLING ALL BAKERS:

In conjunction with the book sale, Saturday, March 19, 2022, St. John's Fellowship Ministry will host a Bake Sale from 8 am—?

What is a Bake Sale without baked goods? Empty tables! We would be so grateful for your donation of cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, and deliciousness delivered to the kitchen on Friday, March 18 or first thing Saturday morning. The more the merrier.....Questions? Please contact Sue McMurtray @ 717-504-8015 or mcmurtray1567@centurylink.net

YOUTH MINISTRY

March Calendar

6 9:00 Church School

13 9:00 Church School

During worship Children's Corner

11:15 Confirmation

20 9:00 Church School

27 9:00 Church School

During worship Children's Corner

11:15 Confirmation

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.

A Message from the “Caring Corner” The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in late 2009 after Nina brought the suggestion to start making prayer shawls to the congregation in a mission moment. Following approval, the first shawl was given in January 2010. Since then we have given about 270 shawls as gifts. Each prayer shawl is accompanied with a personalized prayer card. It was decided that this ministry would come under Called to Care. However, suggestions of names of recipients has always been open for anyone. We just asked that Called to Care be informed when a shawl has been taken.

A number of people have knitted prayer shawls over these last 22 years. Since the shawls are sometimes just dropped off at the office, there is no accurate list of knitters. There have even been a few non-members of St. John’s who have donated shawls. Called to Care has been deeply appreciative that there has always been a supply of shawls to choose from when a need has arisen.

Each prayer shawl has been blessed by the pastor, usually during Sunday worship service. The shawls are stored in drawers outside the office. Please note that all prayer shawls have been knitted at the crafter’s own expense, or with donated yarn. There has been no cost to the congregation.

New knitters are always welcomed. Most shawls are knitted, some are crocheted. The pattern is up to the crafter. However, the shawl should be at least 54 inches long. One suggested pattern is: size 10 ½ or 11 inch needles. Cast on 57 stitches, knit 3, purl 3 to end. Each row begins and ends with knit 3. This creates a modified garter stitch.

A huge thank you to everyone who has made a prayer shawl and also thank you to those people who have donated yarn. Recipients of prayer shawls have often expressed their appreciation of being cared for by this generous and loving congregation.

Submitted by Nina Widmann



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.





Thank you so much for the flowers from the service on Sunday January 16. It really brightened our day. Thanks again, Ann and Jeff Aldrich

Dear Church Family:

Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards, flowers and calls during my long recovery from two back surgeries.

I am happy to let you know that I'm slowly getting much better.

Thanks to your prayers and Jack taking such good care of me and taking on the household chores I'm very blessed!

God Bless, Naomi Mull

ONA Ministry

What a joy it was to celebrate the anniversary in November 2021 of St. John's adoption of our Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation! We took the step of commitment to be a welcoming and affirming community of faith to all – many of whom have felt rejected, misunderstood, and struggling to find themselves to be embraced and cared for in a church community. Our commitment is also to reflect this same welcome and affirmation in the broader community. It is easy to say we are welcoming and affirming on Sundays. Do we carry that out into our everyday activities and lives? Do we see any conflict in our worship of Jesus and what we do when we walk out of the door of our church?

After much dedicated research and discussion by the borough council, the ONA Ministry and others at St. John's were thrilled when the Borough of Chambersburg adopted in November 2021 a Non Discrimination Ordinance. Wow! – were we proud to see our community begin to reflect the inclusiveness which we have heard through Jesus's words! But then, we were extremely disappointed to see the newly elected borough council reverse that ordinance before there was even time to set up a commission and to give its inception a chance even from the start.

So, we on ONA Ministry, are committed as ever to not throwing in the towel as several in our borough council did in recent weeks. We adopted a Covenant which we will continue to strive to live out on Sundays, all days and nights of the week in our church activities and meetings, and in our broader community as we advocate on behalf of those who have been marginalized, not only in thought, but in action as well.

As we approach this Lenten season, may we as a church community not throw in the towel, but honor our commitment to continue to work vigorously to live our Covenant.



Outreach Ministry Recipients for 2022 Lenten Offering

Each year Outreach Ministry designates three or four recipients of our Lenten Offering collected over the Sundays leading up to, and including, Easter. There will be three recipients this year.

Refugee Resettlement. Through Catholic Social Services which has a very efficient process for resettlement, Chambersburg has recently embraced a second Syrian family into our community. Support for these efforts have come through various religious communities and members of the broader community here in Chamberburg. Housing, furnishings, clothing and an automobile were obtained very quickly through the generous work of our community members. The parents and their three sons moved here on October 26. The children are enrolled in one of our public schools and the family is currently living near the first Syrian family which moved here a couple years ago. This obviously has contributed to a helpful transition for them.

A third of our contributions to the Lenten Offering this year will go to continue to support this family as they secure social security eligibility and seek employment. There has been a 501c3 entity established to handle the donations. So all funds from contributing entities go through this account. As of the beginning of February, \$10,000 of the \$15,000 needed to help the family become self-reliant has been donated by local religious and community members.

It is the goal of this program to continue to support the ongoing resettlement of refugees who have had to escape from deplorable and life threatening environment in several countries, including Syria and Afghanistan.

Peru Adopt-A-School program. St.John's association with this organization began as a Lenten Project recipient in 2008 when Crum's and Powell's visited the school when they traveled to Peru. All donations go to the purchase of school supplies for an elementary school in Yamamoto II. St. John's has received communications indicating their appreciation of the support of the St.John's congregation.

Malawi HIV-AIDS Support Group. St. John's will again partner with this group in Malawi to improve the provision of treatment, care and support for individuals living with HIV-AIDS and to mitigate the socio economic impact infections have on individual families and communities in Malawi.



We are now taking orders for lilies to decorate the Sanctuary for the Easter Sunday service.

If you would like to donate a lily, please complete the form and return it to the church office by **Monday, March 21, 2022** **Cost - \$14.00 each**

Donor's name: _____

(as it will appear in the bulletin insert)

Phone number: _____

I would like to order _____ lily (lilies) to be placed: **(Please pick one)**

_____ In memory of: _____

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ To the Glory of God

I would:

_____ like to take the lily after the Service

_____ be available to help deliver to home bound church members

Please include your payment with this form and return it to the church office by **Monday, March 21, 2022. Make checks payable to St. John's UCC.**

“MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE” (as of Jan 31, 2022)

CAMPAIGN STATUS:

Outstanding commitments	\$204,180	
Total payments received	<u>\$241,616</u>	
Current project status	\$445,796	64%
Shortfall to goal	<u>\$254,204</u>	<u>36%</u>
Project Goal	<u>\$700,000</u>	<u>100%</u>

LOAN STATUS

Amount Borrowed July 2021	\$500,000
Principal Repayment – in advance Aug 2021	\$250,000
Monthly principal payments	\$ <u>12,211</u>
Current Loan Balance	<u>\$237,789</u>

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NOTE – The early principal payment should save about \$45,000 in interest over the expected payment period of 5 years. The loan is not due until July 2031, but our goal is to pay it back by July 2026.

The total PROJECT COST at January 31, 2022, including interest, is \$584,483. We will continue to use your MISSION POSSIBLE donations to pay down our debt as quickly as possible.

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. A separate article has been included in prior SPIRIT’s that explains how this works and is available on request.

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

Please contact one of the Mission Possible Committee members with any questions you may have. Committee members are Sue McMurtray, Vera Reber, Jerry Thomason, Skip Elliott, and Scot Orndorff.

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

CVAS Donations

This year again, our nursery school is collecting donations for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter during the month of March. Our Youth have been helping by creating the collection “Dog House” and Cat tower!

On April 2nd any youth who can help are invited to meet at St. John’s to load our donations and deliver them to the animal shelter. Of course, we will visit with our furry friends while there.

Bring a friend, help our furry friends, nursery school and earn service hours for future outings!

We will stop for lunch on the way home. Return by 1:00. Drivers needed! See Roxanne for permission slips.



VBS 2022

Mark Your Calendars!

July 31-August 4th

“The Quest for the King’s Armor”....The search for volunteers!!!! See Roxanne to help.



MARCH 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!



JOIN US FOR

Saturday Night Worship

March 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



MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Members of St. John's Congregation:

I have an important concern about our organ. We have had some problems with ciphers in the organ. Ciphers are unwanted sounds, sometimes caused from dust getting into the pipes and various other reasons. Our maintenance company, Lawless in Greencastle, was here on Christmas Eve and then a week later for this problem. After being here twice, the Lawless rep called to say that some of the organ pipes have been tampered with between her visits for repairs. Also, the pipe with the problem was marked and had been moved. Some of the pipes have been turned around and when put back into their proper place they were very much out of tune. The organ is normally tuned twice a year and was recently done in the fall. This means that it must be done again is very costly. No one should be on the balcony without a good reason and under no circumstances should any one touch any of the pipes. We ask for your cooperation with this problem. Please respect the workings of this beautiful instrument.

Gary Crum



WELCOME TO LENT

I cannot believe that Lent is upon us already. I know that most of you do not give a thought to what kind of music we will be choosing and singing during this period. I have found that in many churches the words Alleluia, Hallelujah or Gloria should not be used during the Lenten season. This is a way of recognizing the solemnity of the season and anticipation of the glorious praise to be sung in celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter. Music has a way of piercing into our soul that assists in our expression and response to God and the church. The Gospel alone unites believers to one another. However, music is a tool that allows us to do so.

You may wonder why we sing in church. Well, here are some reasons. God commands us to sing. There are hundreds of references of singing in the Bible. Jesus himself sang songs of praise after the Last Supper. Christians have sung through history, and this is how Christian hymnody as a whole began. The book of Psalms in the Bible is a great resource for reading songs of believers who have gone before us. Songs of celebration have the power to lead us to dance, while songs of lament have the power to lead us to tears. Singing helps unite us to the church. As we gather on the Sabbath, we join together as one body, and praise God with one voice. We recognize that God gives each of us different gifts. But at the end of the day, we all are called, wanted, and expected to sing.

My hope for you comes from the proclamation found in Psalm 96. "Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord! Bless His name! Share the news of His saving work every single day!"

Hope to see you in church, Gary

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

Spring is in the air! We are LOVING the warmer weather and all of the signs of Spring!

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year has already begun. Current Nursery School families and Church members began registering their children on Tuesday, February 15th and registration is opening to the public on Tuesday, March 1st. If you know someone who is interested in registering a child in one of our Nursery School classes, please have them call 717-264-8224 or email nsdirector@sjucc.net. Registration information is also available on the Church website www.sjucc1811.org under the Nursery School tab.

In March, we celebrate our pets and the joy they bring to our families. We will be collecting items for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter again this year. The youth of St. John's will be helping by making displays and delivering the items to the shelter. Collections boxes are available at the entrances of the Church. Please help our animal friends at CVAS by bringing in donations!

Wednesday, March 2nd is National Read Across America Day! For the month of March, the Nursery School will be celebrating our love of books and reading all month long. Parents are encouraged to read aloud with their child every day and enjoy this special reading time. To celebrate our reading success, we will end the month with an ice cream party!

The Nursery School's chicken BBQ fundraiser is quickly approaching! We will be selling tickets for Smith's Chicken BBQ to be picked up on March 26th, at Lowe's on Lincoln Way East.

Thank you for supporting St. John's Nursery School!

Kari Rock, 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!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Dr. Allan Judson	3/01	Richard Foerster	3/28
Mackenzie Miller	3/02	Hayley Tosten	3/28
Skip Elliot	3/03	Carolyn (Cookie) Miller	3/31
Wilbur "Wes Augenstein	3/04		
Rebecca Pound	3/05		
Lois Young	3/06		
Jennifer Tucker	3/08		
Carol Rockwell	3/10		
Deborah Dilling	3/12		
Margaret (Peg) Marotte	3/14		
Lee Powell	3/14		
Charles "Ed" Foltz, Jr	3/17		
Belinda Johnson	3/19		
John Bryner	3/21		
Donna Harrison	3/23		
Nina Widmann	3/24		
Lavonna Wadel	3/24		



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 2022

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

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

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

Maudy Thursday, April 14, 2022 12 pm Sanctuary (Online & In-Person)

Maudy Thursday, April 14, 2022 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall (In-Person)

Easter Sunday April 17, 2022 8:30 am Fellowship Hall (In-Person)

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 10 am Sanctuary (Online & 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