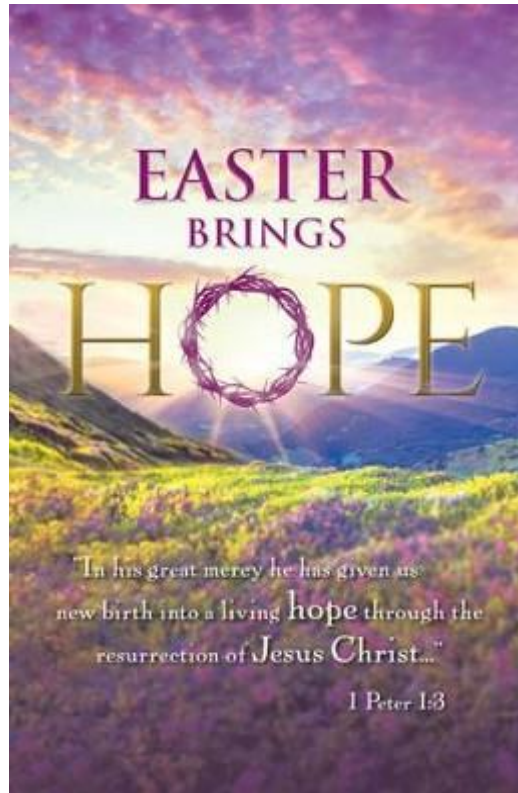


The Spirit

Volume 75 No.4 April 2022



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

From Pastor Caroline

“Keep your hand on the plow, hold on, hold on; keep your hand on the plow, hold on.” These words from an African-American spiritual have been a touchstone for me over the last two years. They are a reminder that no matter how hard things get, we are to keep going. Keep trusting in God, keep believing in the goodness of others, and push forward. The promise is not that life will be easy; the promise is that God will always be with us.

The story of the prodigal son came up in the lectionary recently. It is a reminder that no matter how far we may wander or how many mistakes we have made, God always welcomes us home. As a church, we seek to offer an extravagant welcome and radical hospitality, living into our covenant of Welcome and Affirmation, growing in the love of God and neighbor.

We continue on the road to Jerusalem, the road to the cross. Our Lenten disciplines have helped us to focus on Jesus, to reflect on where we’ve been and where we’re going, always attuned to the movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit. As Rev. Kaji Douša says in the introduction to the 2022 UCC Lenten Devotional “The Long Haul”, “Stay with it for the long haul. Seek out and recognize your companions for the trip. Know God to be with you. May these devotionals help.” We do not make this journey alone. We have God and we have each other.

The season of Lent will soon give way to the season of Easter, with the pain of the crucifixion and the glory of resurrection. Palm Sunday leads us into Holy Week. Our Maundy Thursday services will be at Noon and 6:30 pm. The Noon service will be in the Sanctuary; a pre-recorded service will also be available. There will be a service of Tenebrae at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will have two Easter services, one at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall and the other at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary (livestreamed). An Easter Egg Hunt will be at 9:30 am; please contact Roxanne Davenport with any questions. Lent invites us to repent and return to God. Easter invites us to rejoice and spread the good news of

From Pastor Caroline Continued

Jesus' resurrection. We are called to worship and witness. May our Lenten journey and our Easter celebrations indeed bring us closer to God.

None of us knows what the future may hold. But we trust in God's goodness and God's grace. Our care and compassion and curiosity lead us forward. We seek and strive to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world, creating the beloved community and advancing the realm of God.

Our love and prayers, our actions and attitudes, indeed make an impact in this world. Our work continues in big ways and small ways. We are indeed being the church.

““Being the church” takes all of us. Thank you for your love and support of St. John's UCC with the gifts of time and talent and treasure that you so freely offer. None of the things we do would be possible without you, for the church is the people.

May your Easter season be filled with promise and possibility, for Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia! Amen.

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

Spring has sprung! Our Nursery School students and teachers are so thankful to be able to go outside and enjoy this beautiful weather!

March was quite a busy month for the Nursery School. All month, we collected donations for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. Thank you so much for all of your donations! We also thank the youth of St. John's for supporting us in this project. They made collection boxes for the entrances and delivered the donations to the shelter!

We held a school-wide reading initiative and we celebrated with an ice cream party! Children read throughout the month of March and recorded the name of the book on paper balloons, which were displayed on the doors of the Church.

The Nursery School also held its annual Smith's Chicken BBQ Fundraiser on March 26th. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket. It was a great success!! A huge THANK YOU also goes to the Nursery School Ministry and Staff (as well as their families) for helping to prepare the meals. It is definitely a team effort!

We look forward to celebrating Easter this month with classroom parties, complete with a visit from the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt!

Registration at St. John's Nursery School for the 2022-2023 school year is well on its way! We are currently 73% full. If you are interested in registering your child in one of our preschool programs or know someone who is, please contact the nursery school office at 717-264-8224 or visit www.sjucc1811.org for a registration form.

Wishing you a blessed and joyous Easter!

Kari Rock, Director



CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY !

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with four verses. The first line of the treble staff has a fermata over the final note, which is a half note G4. The second line of the treble staff has a fermata over the final note, which is a half note G4. The bass staff has a fermata over the final note, which is a half note G2.

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Love's re-deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Have you ever wondered from where this hymn has come? . To start with, the Hymn Tune is "Easter Hymn". The hymn was written by Charles Wesley and yes he was the co-founder of the Methodist movement. It was written in 1739 and originally was titled "Hymn for Easter Day" The original hymn had 11 verses. Over the years it was reduced to 6 verses and the "alleluias" were added to the end of each line.

It is an example of where the Roman Catholic and Anglicans ceased to use the "alleluia" during lent but then it was again added to the service on Easter Day.

The hymn is really a variation of a 14th Century Latin hymn that has been translated into English. This hymn draws inspiration from the Bible in Matthew 28: vs. 5 and 6. The wording as well as the "alleluias" are drawn from the book of Psalms. The rousing original melody was composed by George Frederick Handel for an oratorio. This choice for a militaristic theme was intended to reinforce the depiction of Christ as a victorious warrior who had vanquished death and the powers of evil.

Hope to see all of you in church on Easter day to sing this rousing hymn. Gary Crum

VBS 2022

Mark Your Calendars!

July 31 thru August 4



Confirmation Candidates

St. John's currently has four young people who have been traveling on a faith journey for six months now on the Confirmation path with the help of wonderful mentors. Zoe Dereef, Elijah Herbert, McKenna Mooshian, and Jared Reichelderfer. We have been enjoying their questions, doubts and insights, and look forward to their future contributions. Join us on Pentecost to welcome those that make the next step.

CVAS Donations

On April 2nd any youth who can help are invited to meet at St. John's at 10:00 to load the Nursery School's 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

April Calendar

- 2 10:00—1:00 Delivery of Donations to CVAS
- 3 9:00 Church School
11:15 Confirmation
- 10 9:00 Church School
During worship Children’s Corner
- 17 NO CHURCH SCHOOL
9:30 Easter Egg Hunt Playground
- 24 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”

Caring Cooks

Just a reminder that we still have our **Caring Cooks** program. Our team supports families by providing meals to members in times of need, such when the main cook in the family has surgery, or is ill, or there is a crisis in the family and food prep is not a high priority or any situation when one may find themselves in need of the support of meals for a short term basis. Lisa Frantz is in charge of our “on call cooks”. Any member of St John’s may request a meal by contacting Lisa Frantz. (717-264-3066, 717 552-8496, or at [a frantz@comcast.net](mailto:frantz@comcast.net))

Ministry of Hugging

Today many of us want to know how to help people, here is one way to offer support to people in need. Hugging is healthy; it helps the body’s immune system, it keeps you healthier, it cures depression, it reduces stress, it induces sleep, it’s invigorating, it’s rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects, and hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug. Hugging is all natural: organic, naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, non-fattening, no artificial ingredients and 100 percent wholesome. Hugging is practically perfect: there are no moveable parts to wear out, no batteries, no periodic checkups, low energy consumption, high-energy yield, inflation proof: no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, theft-proof, non-taxable, non-polluting and of course fully returnable! **Keep on Hugging!**

(By Ray L. Kauffman)





Easter Sunday at St. John's UCC

April 17, 2022

with Holy Communion

8:30 am Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Sanctuary

Also join us . . .

Palm Sunday - April 10

Sanctuary at 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday - April 14:

Sanctuary at noon

Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm

Parking Lot A for Sanctuary / Parking Lot B for Fellowship Hall

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

APRIL 18, 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

April 9, 2022 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Family-friendly worship
with Communion

Join us for a wonderful worship experience!

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



“NOTES” FROM ONA (Open and Affirming) MINISTRY

As struggles in the global world surround us, it is sometimes easy to lose focus on matters close to home in which we can be helpful and influential. As we seek to live out our Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation, we are mindful of some of the struggles of those around us here. We continue to confront systemic racism, lack of support to many disabled individuals, failure to recognize and reach out to those with mental illness, and seeking overall equal opportunity and justice to our neighbors in our local communities, including LGBTQ individuals.

Opportunities will present themselves over the next several months for direct support and engagement in events that seek to enhance public participation and dialogue to help a better understanding of each other. There is always opportunity for us to learn more about others, and more importantly, perhaps, to become aware of our own biases and grow in our understanding of ways in which we cause harm to others.

This summer our ONA ministry will continue to support the Juneteenth holiday gathering in downtown Chambersburg. This event has become known as the ‘Love Demonstration’ here in Chambersburg. It offers the chance to participate along with others in recognition of a day known as the country’s “second independence day”, celebrating the freedom of enslaved people in the US at the end of the Civil War. This has been celebrated for more than 150 years in African/American communities across the country and seen as a celebration of hope. It is a combination of two words “June” and “nineteenth” and is considered the oldest African/American holiday. And, it is now a declared official holiday in the U.S.

“NOTES” FROM ONA (Open and Affirming) MINISTRY CONTINUED

In addition to the chance for participation in this gathering in June, one can always also sign up to participate in the Racial Reconciliation group that meets regularly in the area. “Black Lives Matter” is often misunderstood and through this ongoing public dialogue, much can be learned as to the goal and purpose of this organized effort. It opens the dialogue to further understanding of problems that happen in the African/American community that does not happen in other communities. Black Lives Matter is an international national social movement, formed in the US in 2013 and dedicated to fighting racism and anti-black violence.

ONA will also continue to support the LGBTQ community in its Pride Fall Mum fundraiser (in September), as well as having a presence via a St. John’s table at its October Pride Fest at Wilson College. The Pride Franklin County Festival incorporates traditional Pride Festival elements and activities while maintaining a family-friendly and welcoming atmosphere

As we continue to reflect during this Lenten season on the love demonstrated by Jesus in his thirty some years in human flesh, may we consider ways to demonstrate that same love in many of the events and opportunities in our community to enhance our public dialogue and affirmation of others.





Thank you for your donation to the Boys and Girls Club of Chambersburg and Shippensburg! Donations like these allow us to keep costs low for our families and provide “scholarship” for families with additional need. These funds allow us to provide safe and meaningful clubs for our local kids.

Thank you for making a difference in their lives!

Jessica Brindle

Dear St. John’s Family:

Thank you for all the birthday cards you sent for my 90th birthday. The notes and good wishes you wrote were wonderful. We truly are a family here at St. John’s.

Lois Young



Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ—

Your generous contribution to our Food Pantry is greatly appreciated. The prices of food items purchased through the Pennsylvania Food Bank have increased, so our “virtual purchasing power” has decreased. Additionally, meat products are not available as often. So...we find ourselves purchasing meat and other food items from local markets—using real money!

Your donation is most welcomed. We find that families who have not previously registered with us are asking if we can help them. We do, we turn away NO ONE! And it is through contributions such as yours that help to feed families in the area.

Thank you, Blessings to you and yours, St. Paul Food Pantry

Pat Dougal, Council Liaison

CAMP CLEAN UP
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022
9 AM





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!



Church Office

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, APRIL 18TH IN OBSERVANCE OF EASTER.

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.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jayla Marie Wheeler	4/03	Elijah Herbert	4/23
Mabel Perry	4/04	Karen Hockensmith	4/25
Evelyn Sites	4/04		
Cynthia (Cindy) Edwards	4/04	Harold Collier	4/26
Roberta (Bobbie) Sponseller	4/05	Matthew Tucker	4/29
Diana Kongkeattikul	4/06	Ruth Bard	4/30
Sharon Mayer	4/08		Heather Rensch
Beverly Peters	4/09		
Diane Bigler	4/10		
Doris Miller	4/11		
Bryce Brown	4/11		
Shirley Hudson	4/13		
David Frantz	4/13		
Katie Boyer	4/15	4/30	
Brenda Marotte	4/19		
Nancy Gaal	4/20		
Sven Burkard	4/20		



LADIES LUNCHEON

The Ladies Luncheon group had a BIG attendance in February when it met at the Italian Village. Valentine's Day was celebrated. Then March came in like a lion and caused the cancellation of our monthly gathering and St. Patrick's Day activities.

We will be meeting at the Family Table Restaurant, 2830 Lincoln Way West on Wednesday, April 13th at 11:30am.

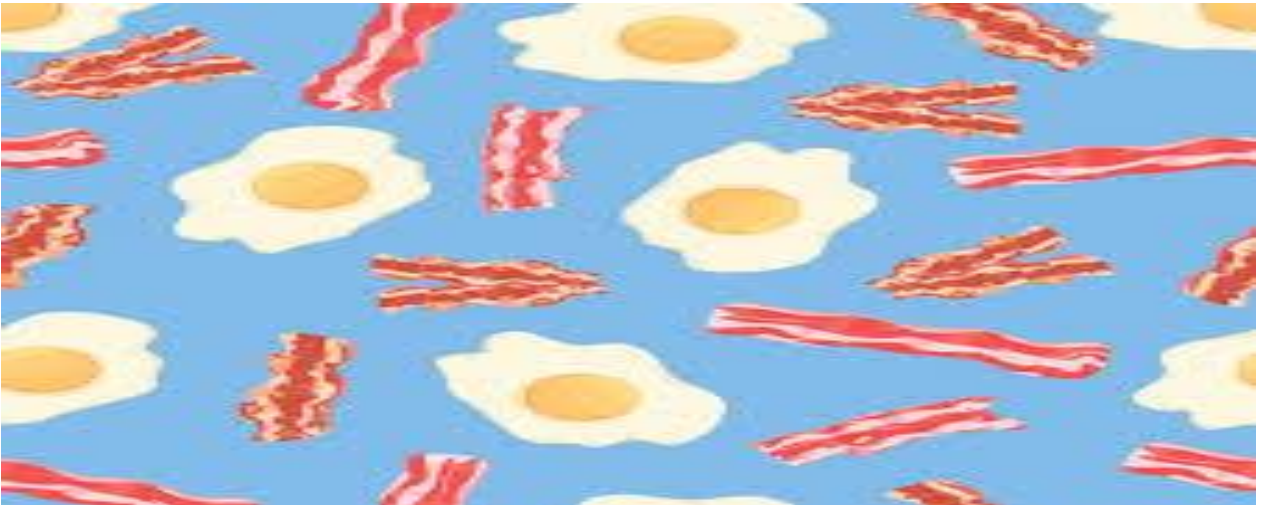


Men's Breakfast Location:

Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

We will be meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022—7am

Will look forward to seeing any and all for April's Men's Breakfast.



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*)**

St. John's UCC Communion Dates 2022

Saturday, April 9, 2022 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall (In-Person)

Maudy Thursday, April 14, 2022 12 pm Sanctuary (pre-recorded service available & 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)

*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*

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