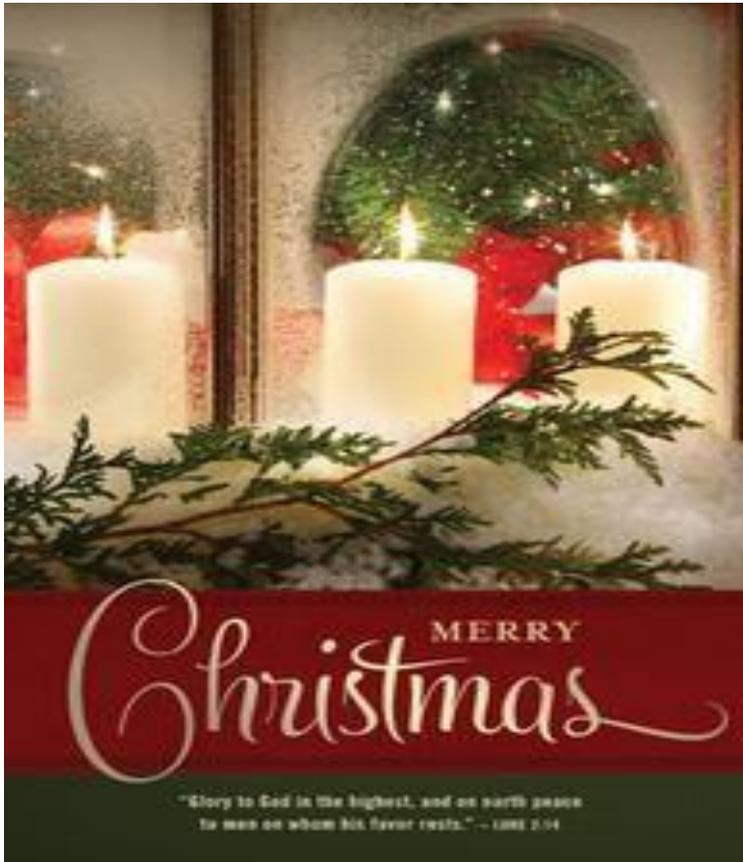


# The Spirit

Volume 75 No 12 December 2022



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

## *From Pastor Caroline*

Have you found an appropriate Advent calendar for this year? Or maybe an Advent devotional that helps you to center and prepare spiritually for this season? There are many ways in which we get ready for Christmas, for the coming of Christ, in our hearts and minds, our spirits and souls. With hope, peace, love, and joy, we find our way forward, knowing God is with us. One of my favorite passages of scripture is Luke 1:46-55, known as “Mary’s song.” There are several beautiful musical interpretations of this passage, including “My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise” (Ruth Duck, 1985), “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” (Miriam Therese Winter, 1987), and “The Canticle of the Turning” (Rory Cooney, 1990). We read this scripture and sing these songs in Advent, which is a season of preparation not dissimilar to pregnancy. We take time to get ready to receive Jesus, to welcome him once again in our hearts and lives, knowing that we and our world are to be transformed by God’s wondrous gift. Advent is a season in which we are making room for the new.

“Making Room for the New” is one of the themes the St. John’s Future Together Task Force has identified in the congregational surveys, community interviews, and conversations with our visioning partners at Convergence. A report from the Future Together Task Force was shared at the congregational meeting on November 13, and is included in this newsletter as well. We feel it is important for everyone to know about the work we are doing and to be included in the visioning process. During the four Sundays in Advent, we will meet during the Sunday School hour (9 am) to have conversations and explore topics such as: making room for the new; church in the digital age; how to use what we already have. Sessions will be held in-person in Room 116 and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome! No advance preparation is necessary.

December brings many opportunities; it is a busy month! The Cookie Walk benefiting homeless youth in our school district (CASD) will be Saturday, December 3, 9 am to Noon. We will have An Evening with Elvis on December 3, 6-8 pm, with proceeds benefitting the “power packs” program providing food for the weekend to students at Falling Spring Elementary. Angel Tree gifts will be dedicated on Sunday, December 4, and plans are underway for Christmas caroling that afternoon. BellFest will be Sunday, December 11, 7 pm. Christmas Eve services will be at 5 pm (Fellowship Hall) and 7 pm (Sanctuary and livestreamed). These candlelight services are an opportunity to witness to the light of Christ and to take that light back out into the world. While we will not have in-person worship on Christmas Day, encouraging you to spend that day with those you love, a pre-recorded service will be available on our YouTube channel.

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!

Peace,

Pastor Caroline

Convergence Conversations

# Making Room for the New

& Finding Our Calling

## Join us during the four Sundays of Advent

Explore topics like:

- Making room for the new*
- Church in the digital age*
- How to use what we already have*

**St. John's UCC**  
**1811 LWE**  
**Chambersburg, PA 17202**



November 27  
December 4, 11, 18  
9-9:50 am



**Sessions offered in-  
person (Room 116)  
and on Zoom**

Everyone welcome!  
No advance  
preparation necessary.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82191913087?pwd=UUhVZWptSWwwd2dXTFVwMUg0TlpkZz09>



Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am –3pm



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27 for the Christmas Holiday.

# St. John's Nursery School

**Merry Christmas!**

**Our Nursery School children are so 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 then end our year with class Christmas parties and a special visit from St. Nick!**

**Thank you for your continued support of our Nursery School. Our Butcher Shoppe fundraiser was a success again this year! Friendly reminder that cookie dough and coffee may be picked up from the Parlor refrigerator starting on Wednesday, December 7th after lunch.**

**Butcher Shoppe Sub and Pizza tickets will be available to purchase through the Nursery School or the Church Office through Thursday, December 15th .**

**We also appreciate your contributions to our Pajama Drive. The response so far has been exciting! We look forward to delivering a trunk full of pajamas and storybooks to Little Daisy's Closet. Pajamas can be donated through December 13th .**

**On behalf of the Nursery School Ministry and Staff, we would like to wish you the Merriest Christmas and Happiest New Year!**

**Kari Rock, Nursery School Director**





# MUSIC MINISTRY

## ADVENT IS HERE!

What is Advent all about? The word comes from the Latin word “adventus” which means “arrival” or “coming”. This is the time of joyful anticipation celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ and a preparatory period of repentance and meditation. In western civilization, Advent marks the beginning of the church year.

The lighting of the Advent candles began in the 16th Century Germany and we still do it in our church today. So what is the music we use in our worship today during our Advent service? Some of the more common hymns that we will possibly sing can be any of the following:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
Come, Though Long Expected Jesus  
People, Look East

Enjoy the Advent music as we prepare for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Gary & Gloria Crum



Bad weather could be upon us at any time. Remember that the church follows the CASD schedule. If school is cancelled for the day, all church activities are cancelled for the day. If school is delayed in the morning, all morning church activities are cancelled. If school is dismissed early, all evening church activities will be cancelled. It is the goal to hold all scheduled worship services.

When in doubt, safety first!

## **Report from the St. John's UCC Future Together Task Force**

At the Spring Congregational Meeting in June 2022, the congregation was introduced to Rev. Cameron Trimble of Convergence, our coach and visioning partner, as we entered into an intentional visioning process. Consistory considered several options for strategic planning and re-engaging with clarified vision before selecting Convergence and Cameron. Convergence assists churches in finding their calling.

The St. John's Future Together Task Force is made up of seven people: Peg Bryner, Harold Collier, Lisa Fair, Connie Morrill-Hair, Eileen Shaffer, Connie Strunk, and Pastor Caroline. This group of lay and pastoral leaders began their work with Convergence in August.

We started with an internal survey to our members and friends. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. We are incredibly pleased with the number of responses, and we truly thank you for sharing your thoughts; opinions.

The second phase of the process involves conducting "community interviews."

Members of the task force have identified leaders in a variety of fields and areas of expertise. Some of the organizations we have talked to include:

- Occupational Services, Inc. (OSI)
- Cumberland Valley School of Music (CVSM)
- Chambersburg Memorial YMCA
- Chambersburg Area School District (CASD)
- Salvation Army
- Women in Need
- Franklin County Historical Society
- United Way
- Habitat for Humanity, Franklin County
- Healthy Communities Partnership
- Franklin County Human Services Administration and many others

These conversations have been fun, challenging and inspirational. The community interviews are still in process and will be completed by November 30.

What have we learned so far?

We've learned we're not the only church struggling with:

- the impact of COVID
- an aging population
- lack of youth/younger people
- the challenge of change

That is both encouraging and discouraging. It is good to know that we're not alone. And we're not the first people to encounter these kinds of challenges. We're just getting our turn at it.

Where does this lead us? What do we do?

- Cultivate spiritual practices
- Develop a unified mission
- Find ways to work together regardless of our differences

That work will take time. After all, the cliché "Rome wasn't built in a day" is true. We love our church. We want it to be the best version of itself it can possibly be. Several themes have emerged from the internal survey and community interviews, as well as conversations the task force has had with Rev. Cameron Trimble:

- What does church look like in the digital age?
- What does community look like, within and outside of St. John's?
- What does outreach look like?
- How do you use what you already have?
- Making room for the new The season of Advent is a time of preparation, a time when we get ready to welcome Jesus once more into our world and into our hearts.

During the four Sundays of Advent, you have the opportunity to join others to engage in conversation around these themes. Small group sessions will be held during the Sunday School hour at 9 am, in-person in Room 116 with a hybrid option (Zoom) offered in the conference room. We hope you'll join us.

*Join us for*



# Saturday Night Worship

*This service is designed to provide a relaxed, informal,  
intimate atmosphere for worship and fellowship.  
This family-friendly worship service includes communion  
and activities for children.*



**December 10, 2022**

**Now at 5:00 pm**

**Fellowship Hall (Park in Lot B)**

**St. John's UCC 1811 LWE Chambersburg, PA 17202**



DECEMBER 19, 2022 | 6:30 PM

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# **BIBLE & A BEER**

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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!





# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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 complete the form and return it to the church office by **Monday, December 5, 2022.** **Cost - \$14.00 each**

Donor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

(as it will appear in the bulletin insert)

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias to be placed:

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ To the Glory of God

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to take the poinsettia with me after the service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate the poinsettia for a home bound member.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be available to help deliver flowers to home bound members.

Please include your payment with this form and return it to the church office by **Monday, December 5, 2022. Make checks payable to St. John's UCC.**



AN EVENING WITH

# ELVIS

"50's & 60's" and  
"The 70's with Fat Elvis"  
featuring Taylor Brown

SAT. DEC. 3, 2022  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

*ALSO*

Country Dan & the Sidewinders  
Performing as Hank Williams Sr.  
Blue Grass Tribute ... The Hits from 1947-1953

**Cost: \$25 at the door**

Net proceeds will be used to provide  
"power packs" which are weekend  
backpacks for children in need  
at Falling Spring Elementary School

ST. JOHN'S  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1811 Lincoln Way East,  
Chambersburg, PA  
Parking Lot B for Fellowship Hall.



**Dear Choir Members, Just received a beautiful floral arrangement to brighten up our spirits. Thank you for thinking of me. Each day gets a little better. All my love, Jerry Miller**

### **A WORD OF THANKS**

**In mid October, I injured my left kneecap, followed by surgery and now onto recovery. So now it is my turn to be the recipient of all the caring that this church shares with other members and friends of St. John's.**

**The calls, cards, flowers, and offers to help have been amazing and have certainly had a positive effect on me personally and my family. Thanks to all of you for helping me with this recovery journey. It may be a while before I can return to St. John's, but please know I am with you in spirit every step of the way.**

**Peace and Blessings,**

**Connie**

## **CARING CORNER—THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS**

The Called to Care team, supported by Caring Cooks, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Flower Delivery team, and many others who spend time calling, visiting, and writing to others in our St. John's Family, wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas.

This season can be a happy time as we gather with friends and family. It can also be a time of remembrance and sadness. Our hope is that your Christmas is meaningful to you and that the promise of Christmas fills your hearts with comfort and peace.

**“Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance – a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved.”**

**Augusta E. Randel**



# Ladies LUNCHEON

We had a cozy private corner at Mario's on Wayne Avenue when nine ladies met on Wednesday, November 9, at 11:30 am. A card was sent to Connie Morrill-Hair since she will be absent for quite awhile. The \$40 collected for the Heifer Project will be used to help purchase chicks and goats.

After good food was enjoyed, Mary Mason's birthday was acknowledged and the group played Thanksgiving Jeopardy. Linda Zeger acquired the most money so she was awarded a colorful turkey.

Christmas will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 14th at Menno Haven's Grille beginning at 11:30 am. Remember ALL St. John's ladies are welcome to join the group at any time. Please call Bev Peters to reserve a seat.

## MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 7am at Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

We look forward to seeing any and all for December's breakfast.

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/3 Jeanne Welch
- 12/4 Robert Lewis and Stephanie Brown
- 12/5 Chani Wolfe and Mary Moyer
- 12/8 Judith Patterson
- 12/9 Virginia McCright
- 12/13 Mary (Allison) Hopper
- 12/14 Pete A'Zary
- 12/16 Judy Knepper
- 12/17 Olivia Myers
- 12/20 Roberta Peters
- 12/21 Bernice Tosten
- 12/22 Gloria Crum and Kathleen Mooshian
- 12/23 Mary Lee Yaukey
- 12/25 Beth Johnson
- 12/26 Holly Hoover
- 12/27 Connie Evans
- 12/29 Mark Hoger



## FIRST FRUITS FOR DECEMBER

Our first Fruits for December is the Angel tree. Please consider brightening Christmas morning for kids right here in Franklin County!

Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning. The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of thousands of children around the country each year. Once a child or senior adult has been registered and accepted as an Angel their Christmas wish list is shared with donors in your community who purchase gifts of new clothing and toys. The gifts are distributed to the family to place under their family Christmas tree.

The gift tags are on the tree and the gifts should be brought to St. John's for dedication by Friday, December 2nd.



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

ONA is excited to report that we have continued to partner with other groups in the community in our goal of reaching out and into conversation and action on behalf of marginalized individuals. We had a very positive experience in our direct “graceful engagement” with the Pride event held at Wilson College in October. We handed out bookmarks, pens, booklists of suggested readings. Children especially enjoyed the candy and the temporary tattoos. The colorful St. John’s banner (which can be utilized by other groups in the church at events), along with the artistic skill/gift of Chani Wolfe in the tablecloth she created, added to the colorful representation of St. John’s at this event highlighting the “Love” we wish to extend as a faith community. T-shirts supporting “Love” were worn by St. John’s participants.

Another opportunity for continued “graceful engagement” will be on January 16, 2023. On this Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, there are many exciting activities taking place.

1) Racial Reconciliation will be hosting a thematic Day of Learning with an over-arching theme of “Why We Can’t Wait.”, including an all-day children’s/youth program at Coyle Library concurrent with a program for adults at Central Presbyterian Church. There will be workshops, lunch, entertainment and a keynote address by Dr. Tony Allen, Chair of the President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Registration for this event can be accessed at [www.racialreconciliationfc.org/mlkday](http://www.racialreconciliationfc.org/mlkday). St. John’s is supporting this event additionally by being a sponsor.

2) Franklin County Coalition for Progress is also hosting an all morning “service day”.

Registration for this is at [www.fccforprogress.org/mlk-day-of-service](http://www.fccforprogress.org/mlk-day-of-service). Service projects will be at various locations. Lunch is included and opportunity then is available to attend the afternoon sessions of the Racial Reconciliation Day of Learning. We strongly encourage you to join in this day of offerings where we can together continue to learn and serve in our community.

ONA ministry also wishes to note that we acknowledged the deaths of transgender individuals over this past year as part of our Totenfest Sunday where we honored those of our faith community who passed in this last year. This year Totenfest coincided with Transgender Day of Remembrance.

ONA Ministry looks forward to continuing our engagement in our community as we enter 2023.

We invite you to join in whatever ways you can to learn more about a diversity in our community, in our country and in our world which we wish to celebrate as part of God’s family.

# COOKIE WALK

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**Saturday, December 3**

**9 am - 12 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

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Bake your favorite holiday cookies, make your signature holiday candy, & share the recipe to benefit a good cause. Please provide 8-10 dozen of each cookie

Sign up in the lobby!

Proceeds to benefit homeless children in the Chambersburg Area School District (CASD)

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Holiday treats to be sold by weight

Cookies \$8/lb | Candy \$12/lb



# COOKIE WALK

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Purchase delicious homemade cookies & candy for cookie exchanges, gifts, and holiday parties!

Cookies \$8/lb | Candy \$12/lb

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**Saturday, December 3**

**9 am - 12 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

---

Proceeds to benefit homeless children in the Chambersburg Area School District (CASD)

ST. JOHN'S UCC  
1811 LINCOLN WAY E  
CHAMBERSBURG PA 17202



# Youth Ministry

## Calendar of Events

### December Calendar

- 4 9:00 Church School  
2:00pm—Christmas Caroling
- 11 9:00 Church School  
Children's Corner
- 18 9:00 Church School
- 25 No Church School—Happy Birthday Jesus

Fa La La La La 

The Youth and their families will be spreading Christmas Cheer again this year through song as we plan to travel around to our shut-in church family members. This is open to anyone who would like to join us!! Working with Called to Care, we will visit and sing on December 4<sup>th</sup> leaving the church at 2:00. We will end back at the church around 5:00 to share in a covered dish social. Contact Roxanne for more information and to RSVP.

# Youth Ministry Continued

## Silent Night... Holy Night

The story and characters are the same, but the actors change!

Again, this year, there will be two Christmas Eve Services. An earlier Contemporary Family service in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 and a Traditional Service at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. We will portray the story again at one or both services, depending on the interest. Actors are needed (older youth and maybe some adults may be asked to shadow, in costume, our newer younger children) so look for the sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board or see Roxanne.





## 2023 Summer Camps

Camp Galilee June 18-23 (grades 9-12)

Camp Kum Ba Yah June 25-30 (grades 5-8)

Camp Noah June 26-30 (grades K-4th)





### **Camp Noah (K-4th Grade)**

Camp Noah is a day camp for children who have just completed kindergarten, first, second, third or fourth grades. Bus transportation is provided each day Friday from St. John's U.C.C., 1811 Lincoln Way East or Sunnyway Foods in Hamilton Township or Milky Way Restaurant in Fort Loudon. Birds will be our focus as we learn about nature, do arts and crafts, explore the outdoors, go swimming and participate in all St. John's Camp has to offer.

### **Camp Kum-Ba-Yah (Grades 5-8)**

Camp Kum Ba Yah is an overnight camp. Come and play, learn, make new friends, sing, swim and create. Discover again that God is all around us and even within us. Campers will spend their days outdoors finding the wonder in nature! There's no better place than summer camp to do this!

(Kum-Ba-Yah and Camp Noah will basically run as separate camps.)

### **Camp Galilee (Grades 9-12)**

Galilee is an overnight camp. Come and delight in God's special creation and enjoy nature. Campers will sing, enjoy nightly camp fires, and do arts and crafts. While at camp make new friends, learn about nature, explore the beautiful outdoors, go swimming and participate in all that St. John's has to offer.

# Ministry Chairs

## 2022-2023

**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**—*Mary Lou Hendrickson*

**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 2022-2023

## Trustees

Peter A'Zary—Head Trustee

Thomas Harrison—Vice President

TBD

## Elders

Peg Bryner

Harold Collier, **President**

N. Aaron Hartman

Jill Miller

Gary Patterson, **Secretary**

Carol Yarema

## Deacons

Allen Frantz

Michael Herbert

Cathy Kinton

Sarah Myers

TBD

TBD

## Pastor

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**Sunday Worship will be at 10 am  
(Offered Online and In-Person)**

***St. John's UCC Communion Dates***

Sunday, December 4, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, December 10, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 8, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, January 14, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall



**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 —<sub>28</sub> Fri from 9 AM — 3 PM***