

The Spirit

Volume 76 No 1 January 2023



From Pastor Caroline

Over the last several years, I have chosen a “word of the year” rather than make any New Years’ Resolutions. I’ve had a theme going; all of my words have started with the letter P: persist, pivot, patience, and purpose. 2023 brings new opportunities and possibilities. I think my word for 2023 is going to be “passion.”

We know that passion and purpose go hand in hand. We are willing to spend more time on things about which we are passionate and things that we feel have a purpose. All of us have many obligations on our time. It can be hard to carve out space to fit one more thing onto the calendar, to prioritize what is most important, vital, and necessary for our well-being.

What intentions are you setting for the new year? Where does St. John’s fit into your plans? Our Advent series, “Making Room for the New,” helped us to explore various topics that have come up during the congregational surveys and community interviews. It is important and healthy to dream, discuss, and vision, considering what God is calling us to do, what our capacity is, and how we partner with others to bring dreams and visions into reality.

Now, in this New Year, we have the opportunity to continue the conversation. A webinar with Rev. Cameron Trimble on the topic of “How the World is Changing and What it Means for the Church” is planned for Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 6:30 pm. It is our hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend. You have the option to participate via Zoom or in-person. This is an opportunity to explore the wisdom needed for this moment and the coming days. See page 3 for more information and a full description of the webinar.

There are also other exciting opportunities in January to follow your passions. Take a look through the newsletter, website, Facebook page and News in the Pews to find out what’s happening at St. John’s and how you can be involved.

This is also the time of year when it is even more important to say thank you. Thank you for the time, talent, and treasure that you have given that make our mission and ministry possible. None of what we do as a church is possible with you and your generosity.

None of us knows what the future will hold, but we know that God is with us, that we are a community of peace who care deeply about each other and the world, and that we are led by love. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

God is near. God is here. May God grant us wisdom and courage for the living of these days.

Peace,

Pastor Caroline

Webinars with Rev. Cameron Trimble of Convergence

Webinar #1 will be held Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 6:30 pm Zoom and In-Person

Webinar 1:

How The World is Changing and What It Means for the Church

Join us in this webinar as Rev. Cameron Trimble explores the church's journey through the troubling, challenging, and curious days that are unleashing people of faith into a world seeking wisdom but not seeking institutional Church. We are being invited to create a world without many of the constraints of previous ages that perhaps narrowed our imaginations and options for growth. We will have a chance to engage her presentation as well as explore with other participants the wisdom needed for this moment and the coming days.

Webinar #2 will be held Sunday, February 12, 2023, Noon Zoom and In-Person

A meal in Fellowship Hall will be shared between worship and the webinar

Webinar 2:

Creative Churches: A Virtual Tour of Growing Churches Changing Their Communities Join Rev. Cameron Trimble for a one hour webinar as we tour creative churches around the country and learn from their ministries. We will explore how these churches have improved their communities, built coalitions for change, crossed interfaith divides, shaped dynamic worship experiences, embraced environmental activism and deepened their members' spirituality.



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



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Years Day and January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

St. John's Nursery School

Happy New Year!! St. John's Nursery School had an amazing first half of the year and we look forward to all that 2023 has in store.

December was a busy and exciting month! The children made gifts for their families and celebrated with a Christmas party complete with crafts, games, and even a visit from Santa! We also had a Polar Express day where the children enjoyed hot chocolate and snacks while lounging in their pajamas. A special thank you to our Santas that took time out of their busy schedules to help us with our celebrations.

On behalf of the Nursery School Staff, I would like to thank the Nursery School Ministry for their continued support and for the delicious Christmas breakfast and gift! We are blessed with such a loving and knowledgeable Board that supports our mission here at St. John's Nursery School!

May 2023 bring you peace, love, and memories that will last a lifetime!

Kari Rock, Director





MUSIC MINISTRY

EPIPHANY JANUARY 6

When Christians talk about Epiphany, we are referring to the Three Wise Men or the Magi's revelation that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, Israel had been waiting for (Matt 2,1-12). On this day we recognize the wise men's journey to see, worship and bring gifts to Jesus.

I know that you are asking about what we sing during this celebration! If you check our church hymnal you will find the following hymns for Epiphany, and probably the one most popular is---

We Three Kings

We three Kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
O star of wonder star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Others you may know are:

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Jesus Shall Reign

Fairest Lord Jesus

Wonderful Words of Life

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Please enjoy the music of Epiphany.



JANUARY 15, 2023 | 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

*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.*



January 14, 2023

5:00 pm

Fellowship Hall (Park in Lot B)

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





Thank you to all the prayer shawl knitters:

Following my surgery last week, Pastor Caroline visited me and brought me a lovely purple patterned shawl. Such a comforting and warm gift from you and all of St. John's family. I have knitted a few prayer shawls and now I know what it is like to receive one too! Thank you, Cathy Kinton

A Message from the Caring Corner

Happy New Year! As we reflect on 2022, we are thankful that YOU continue to support each other in many acts of Called to Care, Flower Ministry, Caring Cooks, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry often need your help to make sure other members of our church family are doing OK, making meals, visiting, sending cards, making calls, taking care of the flowers on Sunday, supporting the Sunday School classes, offering to help with coffee, supporting the HVAC project, and the many other ways that YOU can and do make a difference.

As we look forward to 2023, we invite you to reflect on your gifts and talents and to continue to find ways to share them within our community and within our St. John's Family.

Prayers for Peace in the New Year!

Called to Care, Lisa and Connie



Ladies LUNCHEON

Exactly twelve ladies gathered around the tables at Menno Haven's Grille on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, to celebrate Christmas. Two new faces were in the group—Mary Lou Hendrickson and Sally Shelly.

After a variety of luncheon choices were enjoyed, Mrs. Claus passed out candy treats for dessert.

Pastor Caroline and Connie Evans were the prize winners in an activity to remember all the tools shown in a Santa's workshop picture.

The ladies were urged to try to keep the true spirit of Christmas alive each day of the new year.

Wednesday, January 11 at 11:30 am the group plans to meet at Olive Garden. You are invited to join us if you are a lady who attends St. John's Church.

MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 7am at Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Lucille Hopple, Paul Kaiser, Michael Hair, Sue McMurtray, David Bigler and David Dietrich

1/2 Carol Marotte and Liam Dietrich

1/4 Charles Miller and Madeleine Miller

1/7 Ruth Ann Cuesta

1/10 Thomas Harrison

1/11 Deborah Olson

1/12 Jeffrey Aldrich

1/14 Alan Young

1/15 Erik Strunk

1/18 Linda Barton and Jack Myers

1/19 Alex Strunk

1/20 Anna Knelle Stormer and Lisa Frantz

1/24 Calvin Frantz

1/25 Abbie Reichelderfer and Hannah Jean Myers

1/27 Paulette Wohl

1/28 Barb Wissinger and Brooke Reichelderfer

1/29 Douglas Stepler

1/30 Robert Schollaert

1/31 Emilio Cuesta



Outreach Ministry

So here we are in January and experiencing a bit of post partum blues. I am sure that new mom Mary benefitted from community support as she became a mother.

We have the opportunity to offer support to local families in our community with diapers and wipes. Our brothers and sisters at Central Presbyterian distribute diapers monthly to our community. They serve 180-200 families each month. They also have offered baby items, breakfasts and some food for families. We know that 1 in 3 families struggle to provide clean diapers for their babies and toddlers. Your contribution of money for diapers or wipes can go a long way to support this mission. This is 100% volunteers and diapers can be purchased by this organization at a wholesale price, so your contributions have a large impact.

The Outreach Ministry thanks you for your donations.

Thank you, Sarah Myers



“NOTES” FROM ONA (Open and Affirming) MINISTRY

ONA Ministry wishes to remind us of an opportunity for engagement with many others in our community on January 16, 2023 (Martin Luther King Jr. holiday). There are varied activities and times in which you can participate:

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. St. John’s is an official sponsor of the MLK Day of Learning.

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. 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.

These events are free but do require registration. If you register by January 1, you can get a free t-shirt for the day’s events. 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 will continue to seek ways in which we welcome and affirm those who enter our doors seeking spiritual nourishment. We also commit to reach out into the larger community to seek ways in which we benefit from the beauty of God’s love in our interactions in the diversity of our larger community.

ONA Ministry meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Coference Room. A zoom option is also available. We welcome any who would wish to join us at our meetings and are open to listening for ideas you might have in our living out St. John’s Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation.



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!



Youth Ministry

Calendar of Events

January Calendar

- 1 No Church School
- 8 9:00 am Church School
Children's Corner during Worship
- 15 9:00 am Church School
- 22 9:00 am Church School
Children's Corner during Worship
- 27-28 Snow tubing and lock in? - meet 5:30 pm and pick up 11 am
- 29 9:00 am Church School

Thanks to all our Youth who helped at the Cookie Walk and the Caroling to Shut-ins, as well as making cards to send Christmas cheer. Service hours have been awarded.

It's that time of the year again!

Family Snowtubing and Lock-In

Tentative dates January 27-28, 2023

Depart from the church at 6pm

Pick up Saturday 11am

Bring a friend!!!

More information to follow. Service hours can be used.

Youth Ministry Continued



Our Heifer Project was a huge success with the following being purchased to help families around the world:

2 Heifers + 2 shares

1 Goat + 1 share

7 Flocks of Chickens

2 Sheep + 1 share

2 Pigs + 1 share

4 Bee colonies

3 Flocks of ducks

1 Water Buffalo

2 Mating Alpacas

1 share of a Community Health worker kit

A total of \$2,650.00 was given.

Thank you to everyone who donated or purchased and to those youth who helped with announcements and at the table.



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

Larry Wadel

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, January 8, 10 am, Sanctuary and Livestreamed

Saturday, January 14, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 11, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 12, 10 am, Sanctuary and Livestreamed



St. John's United Church of Christ

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Chambersburg, PA 17202**

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Website: www.sjucc1811.org

Office Hours: Mon —₂₄Fri from 9 AM — 3 PM