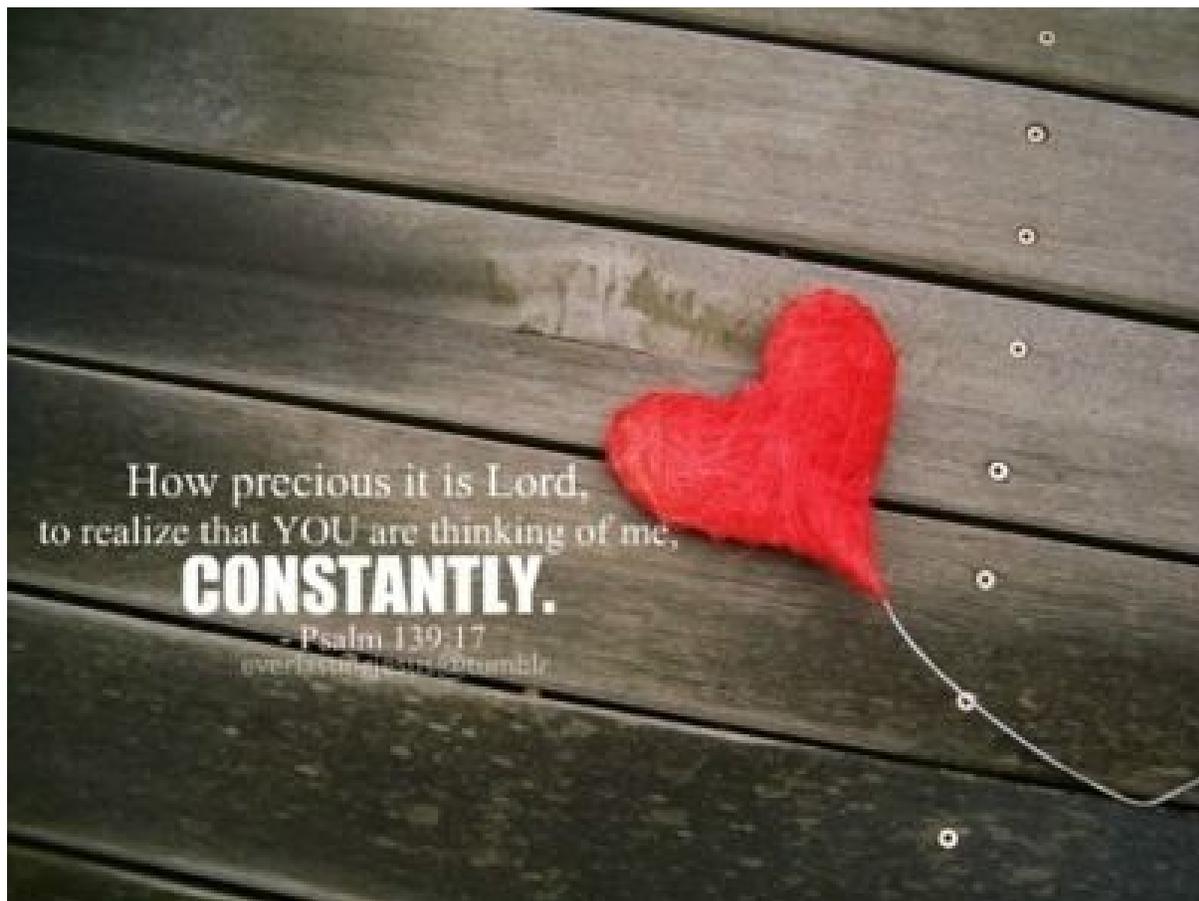


The Spirit

Volume 76 No 2 February 2023



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

From Pastor Caroline

One of my favorite hymns is “How Firm a Foundation.” In a world where so much seems to be changing and is challenging, it is a good reminder that our faith is our foundation, rooted in the knowledge and love of God. No matter what we may face, we do not face it alone. God is there, and we know “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” and the power of prayer. One of the prayers that I often pray is “Spirit of God, Holy Breath, work on us and in us that you might work through us.” We stand on Christ, the Solid Rock, and listen for the still-speaking voice of God and are guided by the Holy Spirit.

Like the song “Seasons of Love” from the musical *Rent* reminds us, we measure our lives in many different ways—but most of us, we measure our lives in love. Love is what binds us together; love is stronger than hate; love is the most powerful force for good there is. Love is what caused God to send us his Son, Jesus. How are you showing and spreading love? As we approach the liturgical season of Lent, when we think about what we give up and what we take on, may we focus on how we embody love, as individuals and as a congregation.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the January 25 webinar with Rev. Cameron Trimble of Convergence as we considered “How the World is Changing and What It Means for the Church.” The webinar was recorded and we will be sharing that recording with you via email in case you missed it or want to engage more deeply with the material shared and how it applies to you and to our church.

The St. John’s Future Together Task Force is excited to invite you to an additional webinar on **Sunday, February 12, at Noon**. The topic of this webinar is “Creative Churches: A Virtual Tour of Growing Churches Changing Their Communities.” Rev. Cameron Trimble will help us explore how these churches have improved their communities, built coalitions for change, crossed interfaith divides, shaped dynamic worship experiences, and deepened their members’ spirituality. We will share a meal together in Fellowship Hall following worship, and the webinar will begin at Noon. You can attend in-person in Room 116 or on Zoom; Meeting ID is 216 127 9033 and Passcode is stjohn

These webinars are an important next-step in our visioning process with Convergence. Look for more updates from the task force and ways to be involved in this important work.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22. Opportunities to prepare for Lent are planned; check them out on pages 10 and 11. Mid-week Lenten services will begin on Wednesday, March 1 (see page 3). There’s a lot happening here!

Guided by love, may God grant us wisdom and courage for the living of these days.

Peace,
Pastor Caroline



Ash Wednesday

{INTO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN}

reflect & renew

22 FEBRUARY
20
23

WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30 PM
SANCTUARY &
LIVESTREAMED

Wednesday Nights in Lent

Beginning March 1, 2023

6:00 pm Potluck (hosted by ministry teams)

6:30 pm Worship Service

All activities will be in the Front Lobby & Sanctuary

Please park in Lot A

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

First surprise! There were beautiful flowers on the altar in my honor. Then I was absolutely stunned by the number of people who attended the reception to honor me on the occasion of my retirement from the organist position at St. John's. I had no idea what had been planned but what a job you all did. The food was lovely. Thank you to the planners. And, the set-up and tear-down crew was incredible. I think Dale Myers spend a lot of time coordinating the entire program—even writing lovely words to a well-known hymn. The speakers covered a wide variety of info and were very kind in their remarks. (There were some yucky things they could have included! They were kind!) Another pleasant surprise was the piano music and the saxophone solo. Thank you for all the cards with your lovely comments as well as the contributions to St. John's music fund. Also, a big thank you to our church choir for the lovely presents of the music box and the personalized ornament. You are a wonderful church family and I also appreciated the "Summer Singers" who attended.

With love and gratitude, Gloria Crum

Thank You!

To the St. John's Congregation,

I thank you for your prayers during John's illness and at his death.

The thanks also include the phone calls received, the beautiful poinsettia delivered by Carol Marotte from Christmas Eve, and the cards and phone calls.

John chose to hasten his earthly departure to his heavenly home when told nothing could medically be done to improve his quality of life.

Although our paths have not crossed very often since we moved to Menno Haven and joined St. Luke Lutheran Church, memories of dear friends during 23 years are fresh.

Of all the buildings Noelker and Hull have designed during their 50+ years, St. John's has remained the one John was most proud of. When he spoke of the design process it was his collaboration with Pastor Glenn Schultz, artists Karl Giehl and Peter Recker that he prized. You could hear the enthusiasm and esteem he had for these men in his voice.

These four men designed a worship area that is as compelling and harmonious today as when it was built. May God bless each and everyone.



MUSIC MINISTRY

This is a note to the entire congregation and many of you who enjoy good music done by an outstanding organization. This would be the Susquehanna University Choir & Chamber Singers which are coming to sing a beautiful concert of choir music. This Concert will be on:

Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 3pm

St. John's United Church of Christ

Sanctuary

Please put this date and time on your calendar and be ready for some great music. COME & ENJOY!



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

We are seeking a part time office assistant!

Interested applicants should submit a resume to our office manager, Loretta Zimmerman: manager@sjucc1811.org

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2023 in observance of President's Day.



St. John's Nursery School

The school year is just flying by! 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, 2023. If you know someone who may also need this information, please let me know.

We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day this month. Our room parents will be planning a fun day filled with Valentine-themed crafts, games, and snacks. Children will also have the opportunity to pass out valentines to their friends! It is an enjoyable day for parents and children and we appreciate the time our parent volunteers put into these celebrations.

February is also Dental Health Month. We will have Dr. James Barra visit our classrooms to help us learn how to keep our teeth healthy. We thank him so much for spending time with us!

Nursery School registration for the 2023-2024 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.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who brought in pajamas for the Nursery School Pajama Drive. We were able to donate 179 pajamas and storybooks to Little Daisy's Closet! What a blessing it is to be able to help the community in this way.

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

Kari Rock
Nursery School Director



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.*



February 11, 2023

5:00 pm

Fellowship Hall (Park in Lot B)

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



FEBRUARY 20, 2023 | 6:30 PM

BIBLE & A BEER

Theological conversations
Rich discussion
Powerful testimony

Join us at 6:30 pm **now at**
The Trojan Diner & Sports Bar!
1121 Lincoln Way E
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Bring your questions,
Invite your friends!





Preparing for Lent, Enhancing your prayer life

Led by: Pastor Rick Noll, retired United Methodist pastor
February 8th, 6:30pm in Conference Room 111 and via Zoom
Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2161279033?pwd=NDNZNGZPWVpWaWNVK05ick5SWUV4Zz09>
Meeting ID: 216 127 9033
Passcode: stjohn

Join us as we investigate simple questions as to what prayer is and isn't and why we pray. We will look at different kinds of traditional prayer (thanksgiving, confession, etc.) Prayer from different persons and several Christian traditions offer a look at the variety of prayer. Lastly, a few practical suggestions for deepening one's prayer life completes the class.

Preparing for Lent, Exploration of Prayer

Led by: Henry Hopper, retired Presbyterian pastor
February 15, 6:30 pm in Conference Room 11 and via Zoom
Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2161279033?pwd=NDNZNGZPWVpWaWNVK05ick5SWUV4Zz09>
Meeting ID: 216 127 9033
Passcode: stjohn

Join us as we explore approaches to prayer that emphasize meditation, silence, and listening. We will look at the attitudes, sympathies, and desires as individuals and as a community that guide and affect our prayer. We will share examples from church history, scripture, monastic practices, and other religions, offering perspective from many sources. All of the above will be complemented by poetry and music.



JOIN US FOR

SHROVE TUESDAY

5:30 PM FEB 21 2023

PORK &
SAUERKRAUT
DINNER

Ladies LUNCHEON

Happy 2023! What was happening in YOUR life when you were 23? Do YOU have any BIG plans for the year 2023?

When the eleven ladies were asked these questions at the Olive Garden on Wednesday, January 11, someone was meeting her future husband, someone was pregnant, and someone was planning a Columbia River Boat Cruise.

Yes, we do find out information and have many chuckles when St. John's ladies luncheon group meets. Join us on Wednesday, February 8 at Longhorn Steakhouse at 11:30 am. RSVP to Bev Peters.

MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 7am at Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/2– Tom Harrison “tall Tom”, Mt. Union Road

2/3—Gary Crum, Don Hendrickson

2/4—Mike Bitner, Jolene McGinley, Kurt Widmann

2/5—Helen Douglas

2/6—Gary Patterson & Alma Dietrich, Maelynn Dietrich

2/7—Julie Dereef

2/8– Ernie Welch

2/9—Denny Domer

2/10—Greg St. Clair

2/11—Colleen Woy

2/12—Christopher Willman-Bunge

2/13—Richard Collier

2/14—Aryn Martin (Rebok)

2/17—Donna Hilton

2/19—Kristin Brown , Marvin Zeger, Casimir Rzomp, Cindy St. Clair

2/23—Harold St. Clair

2/27—Allen Frantz, Sophie Hoger



“NOTES” FROM ONA (Open and Affirming) MINISTRY

ONA Ministry wishes to thank St. John’s members who participated in the **MLK Day of Service and/or MLK Day of Learning** on January 16. Aside from participation in a service project in the morning, the MLK Day of Learning featured Dr. Tony Allen, President of Delaware State University as keynote speaker. Special entertainment included:

- James Martin who serves as the coordinator of the Voice Studio and program at Dickinson College;
- Dramatic excerpt readings from Voices of Lament (a powerful collection of reflections from Christian Women of Color on themes of injustice, heartache, and deep suffering; and,
- Julian Davenport, an urban poetry artist and author.

Kids activities were held throughout a large portion of the day.

Adult workshops included:

- Radical Hospitality for the Sake of Reconciliation (co-facilitated by our own Pastor Caroline);
- Civic Engagement Team: The History of Voting in the USA; (co-led by one of our members, John Bryner)
- Civility Response Network: Racial Harassment and Assault Incident;
- Economic Impact Team: Championing Businesses and Professionals of Color;
- Education Team : DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) Within our Education System;
- Faith & Spirituality Team: Recognizing and Combating White Christian Nationalism;
- Public Awareness Team: How to Use Your Personal Platform for Change

Round Table Discussions: Disparities of the Criminal Justice System and Music of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement added to this day of learning and engagement in our community.

St. John’s ONA Ministry also wishes to inform of a **winter gathering** by ONA Ministry of Penn Central UCC Conference on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This gathering entitled “**Embracing the Beloved LGBTQ Community**” will feature a keynote speaker, Henry Sias. Mr. Sias is a transgender attorney and community advocate from Philadelphia, PA. There will be workshops with opportunity to select two of the four. Workshops will be: 1) Queer Bible Study;, 2)The “T” in LGBTQ; 3) ONA 101 (How to get started to become an Open and Affirming congregation); and 4) ONA 201 (Now that you have become an ally what next?) This winter gathering will be held at Colonial Park UCC Church, 5000 Devonshire Rd., Harrisburg, PA.

“NOTES” FROM ONA (Open and Affirming) MINISTRY

WINTER WARMTH DRIVE

Another Opportunity for “Mission-ing”/Serving

We have been blessed with some warm temperatures off and on these last few weeks. But, we have also experienced some challenging cold times. Those cold times remind us to be reflective and thoughtful of many who experience serious health and survival challenges in the cold weather. Living up to our mission of sharing love beyond our immediate community extends the opportunity for us to respond to much of the basic need of those often marginalized who lack much of which we take for granted.

United Way of Franklin County is conducting a “Winter Warmth Drive” from January 16 through February 10. **St. John’s is one of the designated locations** for items to be donated to help address the needs of many in our area. **Donation boxes are in the front and back lobbies of St. John’s.**

The following can be placed into those boxes:

Warm Accessories – blankets, gloves, mittens, hats and socks

Personal Care Items – First Aid kits, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, laundry detergent, toothpaste, paper towels, and tissues

Books – new or gently used books for readers of all ages and interests

Food – whole grains, seasonings, cooking oils, condiments, flour, sugar, boxed meals and canned goods (a can opener might also be handy as not all canned goods have flip top openings)

And, there is always the financial support that one can offer (checks should be made out to St. John’s UCC with a notation of “Winter Warmth Drive” on the memo line). Such donations help families to stay in their home.

As you can see, there are numerous ways to assist in this effort. Picking up a few extra items at the store or supporting via a monetary donation will go a long way in helping. This enables many families to stay warm, clean and well-fed. Outreach and ONA (Open and Affirming) Ministries continue to support such ways of showing our ‘welcome and affirmation’ to those who are a part of our larger community.





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. Call the church office and select option #1 to hear about any weather-related worship cancellations. When in doubt, safety first!



Outreach Ministry 2023 Lenten projects

Each year the Outreach Ministry designates three or four recipients of our Lenten First Fruits. This year there are four groups that we have decided to support.

Peru Adopt a school program. St John's association with this program began in 2008 when the Crum's and Powell's visited the school on their trip to Peru. All donations go to the purchase of school supplies for an elementary school in Yamamoto. We continue to receive communications in appreciation of our support.

Refugee Resettlement. Chambersburg continues to embrace refugee families through Catholic Charities. Support for these efforts has come through various religious communities and members of the Chambersburg community. It is the goal of this program to support the ongoing resettlement of refugees who have had to escape from deplorable and life threatening conditions in several countries including Afghanistan.

African Mission Healthcare. This mission is in support of compassionate medical access and treatment in Kenya and Malawi. It is the Mission in which the Jon and Amanda Fielder family serve.

The Women Healthcare Initiative Foundation. This organization's mission: To work with local governments, religious institutions, NGO's and local, national and international stakeholders to empower women and children in Burkina Faso to break the cycle of poverty through healthcare teaching, formal education with basic technical skills, and to offer solutions to improve the quality and delivery of healthcare. The vision is a nation where women come together to overcome health disparities in Burkina Faso.

The Outreach Ministry hopes to have representatives from each of these four recipients to share mission moments to you for the four Sunday's in March.

The proceeds of these offerings by the congregation will be evenly divided between these four programs. Our collection will be during Lent and will end on **April 2nd, Palm Sunday**. We are very happy to offer this opportunity for global outreach in the life on St John's UCC.



February Calendar

- 5 9:00 Church School
Children's Corner during Worship
- 12 9:00 Church School
- 17-18 Snow Tubing and Lock-in 6PM-11PM
- 19 9:00 Church School
- 26 9:00 Church School
Children's Corner during Worship

March ??? Delivery of Nursery School sponsored Animal Shelter Donations

Coming This Spring!!!!!!



Escape Room Event for Older Youth! Watch for more information!

Mark Your Calendars!!

July 30th-August 3rd

CHANGEMAKERS LAB V.B.S.

"Imagine a New World"



Snow Tubing and Lock In Liberty Mountain Resort

February 17-18, 2023

Meet here (church) 5:30 PM-Pick up 10:00 PM or 11:00 AM

\$40.00

Deadline to order tickets February 9th

(Service hours applicable.

Contact Roxanne for your status and permissions)

Must be 42" tall to ride slides.





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)

Mark your calendars and
join us for Camp Sunday!

February 19, 2023, 10 am





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

Saturday, February 11, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 12, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Sunday, March 5, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, March 11, 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