

# The Spirit

Volume 76 No 3 March 2023



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

## ***From Pastor Caroline***

The season of Lent is an invitation, not only to give something up or take something on, but to be drawn into deeper relationship with God. This involves a willingness to change, to encounter God in new ways, to open our eyes and hearts and minds to new ideas and new ways of living out our faith. Being willing to change is the first step; there are many more steps after that. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote that “faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” Everything starts with the first step. What is the next faithful step in your life?

One of the pieces of wisdom that my Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) program reminds us of is to “ask for what you need and offer what you can.” It is a reminder that our needs do matter, and so do our gifts. Jesus meets people where they are and invites them into his mission and ministry. As disciples, we are part of the beloved community. We are partners in Christ’s service. Sometimes, following Jesus is easy and sometimes we are (in the words of the UCC StillSpeaking Lenten Devotional for 2023) “running from empty.” We may be running *on* empty as well as *from* empty; even when we are exhausted, there can be a fear of what happens when we are still, alone with our thoughts and with God. Matt Laney writes, “May [these devotionals] inspire you to breathe deeply, love fully, act justly, and find Jesus in stillness and in storm.” Take time for what you need; make room for God; and do not be afraid: God is still with us, leading us onward and forward, in love.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the February 12 webinar “Creative Churches: A Virtual Tour of Growing Churches Changing Their Communities.” We saw a wide variety of churches living out their love of God and neighbor, deepening their discipleship and being a force for good in their communities. The ideas that we encountered help to open our minds and stimulate our own creativity, thinking about what our church, St. John’s UCC, can do that will make a difference in an ever-changing world. Your enthusiasm and energy are vital as we explore and implement new ideas, embracing opportunities and possibilities.

An update from the St. John’s Future Together Task Force dated February 8 was shared with our church family via e-blast. Copies of that update, as well as a summary of the congregational survey and a timeline of our Convergence process, are available at the Welcome Center and by request from the Church Office. May God grant us the wisdom and courage, grace and discernment, needed for the living of these days, knowing that the world is changing and so is the church.

We are dust, and to dust we shall return. May the season of Lent not only draw us closer to God, faithfully following Jesus, but allow us to explore the fullness of life and faith, in this time and place, as we grow in love of God and neighbor.

# CONVERGENCE

## **PROCESS WITH CONVERGENCE (Future Together Task Force)**

### Survey Assessment (September-October 2022)

- ◇ Report returned with analysis November 2022
- ◇ Summary report available for congregation at Welcome Center or by request from Church Office

### Community Interviews (October-November 2022)

- ◇ 55 community interviews by task force members of individuals and organizations in the wider Chambersburg area
- ◇ Summary analysis returned to St. John's January 2023
- ◇ Interviews gave task force a sense of needs existing and work already being done in the wider community

### Advent Series (November-December 2022)

- ◇ "Making Room for the New" discussion opportunities and sermon series

### Webinars for Congregation (January-February 2023)

- ◇ "How the World is Changing and What it Means for the Church"
- ◇ "Creative Churches: A Virtual Tour of Growing Churches Changing Their Communities"

### Update Report to Congregation (February 8, 2023)

- ◇ Sent via eblast; hard copies available at the Welcome Center and by request from the Church Office

### So...What's Next?!

- ◇ Wednesday night Lenten services – highlighting some of our work
- ◇ Compiling and Drafting Report of Ideas and Goals
- ◇ Implementation for Now and the Future

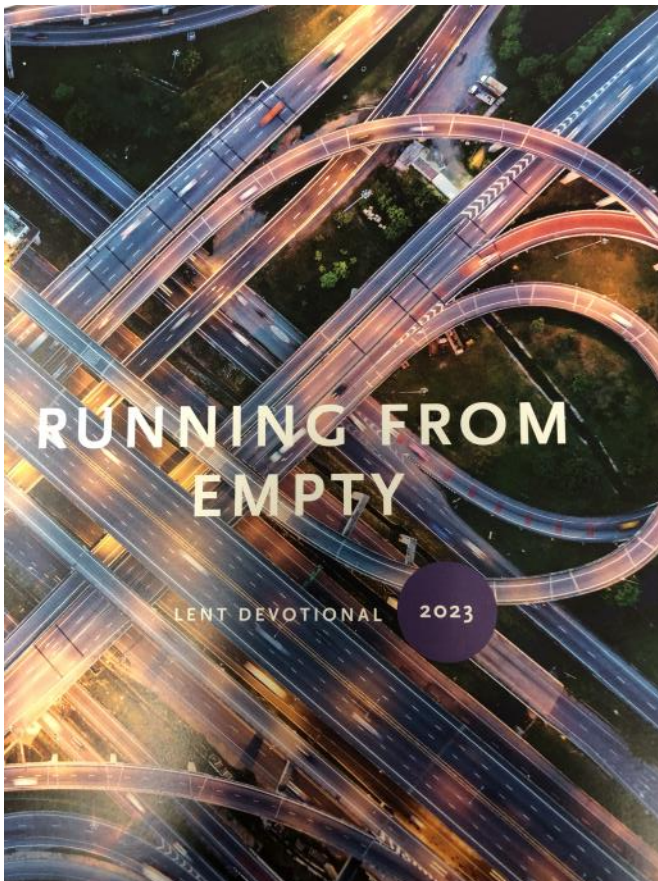
## Wednesday Nights in Lent

Beginning March 1, 2023  
thru March 29, 2023

6:00 pm Potluck (hosted by ministry teams)

6:30 pm Worship Service

All activities will be in the Front Lobby & Sanctuary



Copies of the UCC  
StillSpeaking Lent Devotional  
"Running From Empty" are  
available in the Narthex.  
Suggested donation: \$2



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## LENT

Lent is the remembrance of Christ in the desert for 40 days and nights where He fasted and was tempted by the devil. Today many Christians also celebrate the time of Lent with fasting and prayer in anticipation of Holy Week and the Resurrection. As we settle into the season of Lent, our worship takes on a more reflective nature. Lent is a time of reflection about our lives, a time of preparation for the repentance and preparation of the remember of Christ's passion and music meets us in profound places.

One of my favorite hymn during Lent is "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Enjoy the hymns of Lent.

Gary Crum



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

We are still in need of office volunteers!

Please contact Loretta if you are interested and can help.



**St. John's is Now Hiring!**

Spread the word!  
Part-time position  
9 am to 3 pm, M-F

**Job opening: Part-time church office assistant.  
Please see our office manager, Loretta Zimmerman.**

Email: [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto:manager@sjucc1811.org)  
Phone: 717-263-8593

Our church office has a friendly environment and is the communication hub for our church and community.

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

# 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 2023-2024 school year has already begun. Current Nursery School families and Church members began registering their children on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and registration is opening to the public on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:nsdirector@sjucc.net). Registration information is also available on the Church website [www.sjucc1811.org](http://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!

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>, at Lowe's on Lincoln Way East.

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

Kari Rock, 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.*



March 11, 2023

**5:00 pm**

Fellowship Hall (Park in Lot B)

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





MARCH 20, 2023 | 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 **now at**  
**The Trojan Diner & Sports Bar!**  
1121 Lincoln Way E  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Bring your questions,  
Invite your friends!



## LENDING SUPPORT TO UPCOMING EVENTS

Living out our Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation and our St. John's statement of mission, there are numerous ways presented before us to do that within our own facility as well as in the larger community.

Three upcoming events offer an opportunity to engage in programs/activities beyond our walls:

On Saturday, March 4, the Penn Central Conference ONA Ministry Team is holding a Winter Gathering – **“Embracing the Beloved LGBTQ+ Community: The Role of the Church.”**

Henry Sias, a civil rights lawyer in Philadelphia, will be the keynote speaker. A graduate of Yale Law School, Mr. Sias was a specialist in postconviction work, civil rights litigation, and immigration appeals. He serves as a Commissioner on Pennsylvania's Commission on LGBTQ+ Affairs and represents the LGBTQ+ Section on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Mr. Sias's presentation will include thoughts on how the church can assist in issues confronted by the LGBTQ+ community.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.; workshops will be offered in addition to the keynote speaker, and closing will be at 3:00 p.m. Lunch is included and gathering is at Colonial Park United Church of Christ, 5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

Those interested in attending should **contact Don Hendrickson** to be included in the RSVP from St. John's.

The **Franklin County Legal Services will be having its large book sale again in May of 2023**. Franklin County Legal Services is a non-profit organization founded in 2002. Their **mission is to provide access to legal representation, advice, and education to law-income individuals with civil legal problems** (i.e., family, housing, safety, liberty, human rights, and other basic needs). The proceeds from this sale enable the important work of this nature by professional lawyers.

The items for the sale can be dropped off at the Chambersburg Mall on Saturday, March 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If one is unable to drop them off, you can call 717-496-3364 or email [legalservicesbooksale@gmail.com](mailto:legalservicesbooksale@gmail.com) to arrange a pick up.

The following items in GOOD condition can be donated:

- New and used books on all subjects
- Paperback books on all subjects
- Audio books
- Movie CDs & DVDs
- Music CDs & DVDs
- Sheet music
- Puzzles
- Board games



## LENDING SUPPORT TO UPCOMING EVENTS

A popular community event that lends strong support to the Circles Program at SCCAP (South Central Community Action Program) is the annual **“Race Against Poverty.”** This will be held on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. More details will be forthcoming but we ask that you put this on your calendar. St. John’s UCC will be supporting via sponsorship again as we have in past years. This is a great opportunity to begin summer like weather and join with others as they walk or run to raise funds for the Circles program. “Circles” is a curriculum driven program, along with much personal interaction and exchange in building alliances in a group of individuals working together to move out of poverty and make further contributions to their community.



# Ladies LUNCHEON

Valentine's Day was celebrated on Wednesday, February 8th at 11:30am at Longhorn Steakhouse. Conversations began and continued until it was to adjourn.

We collectively filled in blanks in a paragraph entitled, "When you are in love" with such words as Christmas, steamy, pitter-patter, smile and magical.

If a loud, strange noise was heard after our gathering, it was probably Judy Patterson sharing her door prize (a chocolate/marshmallow "BOMB") with Gary.

The Italian Village restaurant on Route 11 North was selected on Wednesday, March 8th @ 11:30am. Wear Green.

## MENS BREAKFAST



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

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

# March BIRTHDAYS

**Dr. Allan Judson 3/1**

**Mackenzie Miller 3/2**

**Skip Elliott 3/3**

**Wilbur "Wes" Augenstein 3/4**

**Rebecca Pound 3/5**

**Lois Young 3/6**

**Jennifer Tucker 3/8**

**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**

**Emily Stull 3/23**

**Nina Widmann 3/24**

**Lavonna Wadel 3/24**

**Richard Foerster 3/28**

**Hayley Tosten 3/28**

**Carolyn (Cookie) Miller 3/31**



You're invited to celebrate

# EASTER

at St. John's UCC

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

12 pm Sanctuary Service

7 pm Tenebrae Service in Fellowship Hall

## GOOD FRIDAY

Community Service @

Central Presbyterian Church

## HOLY SATURDAY

5 pm Saturday Night Worship


## EASTER SUNDAY

8 am Worship in Fellowship Hall

9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt

10 am Worship in Sanctuary & Livestreamed

You are invited you to join us for Holy Week and Easter services at our church. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

  
St. John's UCC  
1811 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, PA 17202  
(717) 263-8593  
[www.sjucc1811.org](http://www.sjucc1811.org)



*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 **Friday, March 24, 2023** **Cost - \$15.00 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

**Friday, March 24, 2023. Make checks payable to St. John's UCC.**



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 2<sup>nd</sup>, Palm Sunday**. We are very happy to offer this opportunity for global outreach in the life on St John's UCC.



## Calendar of Children and Youth Events

### March

1 Children and Youth Team Meeting 7:15 pm Parlor

5 Church School

12 Church School

Children's Corner

19 Church School

26 Church School

Children's Corner

### April

2 Church School

7 Deliver of Animal Shelter Donations 10:30 am

9 NO Church School Easter Egg Hunt 9:15 am

NO Children's Corner

16 Church School

21 Escape Room Adventure 6:00

23 Church School

Children's Corner

30 Church School



# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**APRIL 9, 2023**

**9:15 AM**

**DOOR TO PLAYGROUND**

RAIN LOCATION FELLOWSHIP HALL



**Escape Room  
Adventure**

**April 21st**

**RSVP by April 16th**

**Limited space**

**6pm meet at church**

**\$25**

**Ages 10 and above**

**Steel Key Escapes**

**Cold Case room**

# St. John's Camp



The Camp Ministry members are very excited about the 2023 camp season!

The ministry team has been busy planning for this summer's camps –

*Camp Galilee* for grades 9-12 is **June 18-23**,

*Camp Kum Ba Yah* for grades 5-8 is **June 25-30**

*Camp Noah* for grades K-4 is **June 26-30**.

Note: Camp Noah and Kum Ba Yah will basically be run as two separate camps.

The camp brochure and registration form are available  
on the Church's website and at the welcome center.

**[sjucc1811.org/camp/](http://sjucc1811.org/camp/)**

Campers and staff are needed.

Support this fun and important community outreach program.

Register for camp, share information with family and friends,  
volunteer to help, donate to the "Sponsor a Camper" fund  
and pray for the campers and staff.



If you would like to help, Email: **[camp@sjucc1811.org](mailto:camp@sjucc1811.org)**

Come and join us at camp!

# 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 Communion Dates**

Sunday, March 5, 10 am (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

Saturday, March 11, 5 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Maundy Thursday, April 6, Noon (Sanctuary) and 7 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, April 8, 5 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Easter Sunday, April 9, 8 am (Fellowship Hall) and 10 am (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)



**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>24</sub> Fri from 9 AM — 3 PM***