

The Spirit

Volume 76 No 5 May 2023



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

From Pastor Caroline

The old saying “April showers bring May flowers” is certainly true this year, as we see the beautiful blooms of flowering trees and plants all around our church. We give thanks for the sunshine and rain, the warming temperatures, and the gifts of our many gardeners! God calls us to care for creation, loving and protecting our precious planet.

One of my favorite scriptures is 1 Thessalonians 5:11, “so encourage each other and build each other up, as you are already doing.” In a world where tearing each other down seems to be the norm, we have the opposite task: to build each other up, to commend and praise and support each other. Paul writes in Philippians 4 about focusing on what is good and honorable and true. Valerie Kaur tells us “there is so much pain and turmoil in our world; we cannot join with it or become overwhelmed by it—we are to bring good to it, bring healing to it, with God’s help and leading, in any way we can. We are live and act as though the arc of the universe bends toward moral justice.” As Christians, we are called to be the church, Jesus’ hands and feet in the world, moving onward and forward, being the church.

What does that really mean? I’m glad you asked! The work of the St. John’s Future Together Task Force with Rev. Cameron Trimble of Convergence is focused on how we are being the church, how we live out Micah 6:8 (to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God) and what we can do now that will serve us well in the near future (the next 1-3 years). The themes that are emerging in our work and generating ideas and energy are: spiritual deepening, energizing participation, community impact, congregational care, and financial sustainability (leadership development has been interwoven into several of these themes).

Being the church requires us to have faith and to put that faith into action and practice. In seminary, I learned about praxis: prayer, action, and reflection. We pray and we act; we act and we pray. These two things are inseparable. And we keep learning as we go. Rev. Donna Schaper writes, “The Jesus story is not something we believe; it is something we trust.” That trust in Jesus enables us to take risks, to listen deeply to one another, to build bridges rather than barriers, and to take advantage of partnerships and opportunities to increase our impact. We do not know what tomorrow will bring, but we do know what we can bring to tomorrow: love. Keep choosing love, for that is truly what Jesus taught us to do.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the April 29 workshop on Creating Healthy Congregations. Our second workshop, facilitated by Rev. Jan Nolting Carter, is Saturday, June 3, 9 am to 3 pm. This workshop will help us to respond to anxiety, manage conflict, respond to change, and plan for a healthier future. In all aspects of our lives, we can benefit from learning how to handle change and conflict in productive ways. We will offer lunch and childcare; please RSVP by Tuesday, May 30, so we can make appropriate arrangements. YOUR voice and participation are important as we continue to journey together in faith.

Please also make sure to save the date of June 4 for an all-church picnic after worship!

I am truly blessed to be your pastor. The last five years have not been easy; we have lived through a lot together. I look toward the future with anticipation and hope, and thank you for the ministry we have done, are doing, and will continue to do in the future. Together, we are indeed being the church.

YOU'RE INVITED!
JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP ON

**HEALTHY
CONGREGATIONS:
RESPONDING TO
ANXIETY & CHANGE**

Date: Saturday, June 3

Time: 9 am to 3 pm

(lunch and childcare provided)

Location: Room 116

Facilitator: Rev. Jan Nolting Carter

This workshop will help us to respond to anxiety, manage conflict, respond to change, act flexibly and creatively, and plan for a healthier future

Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 30

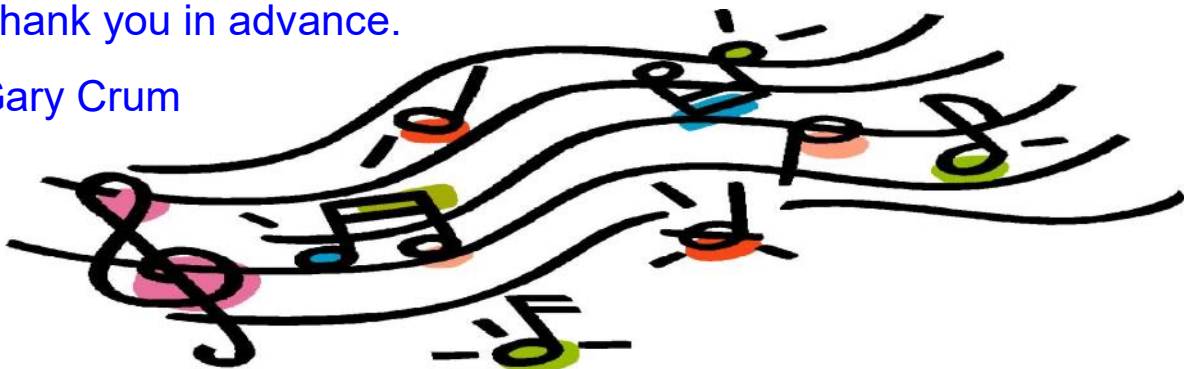
sponsored by the St. John's Future Together Task Force



MUSIC MINISTRY

Summer is fast approaching and as many of you already know, the choir and handbell choir take a summer break during this time. Also as you probably remember, we try to get special music for each service during the summer months which brings me to the purpose of this new letter! Please think about being a part of this special music and volunteer to do something special this summer for the church services. This could be a variety of things including singing a solo, duet, trio, etc. It could also be playing an instrumental solo, duet, etc. This can be an excellent time to explore your talents and have a good time with some fellow church members during practice time. We would also welcome friends or relatives who might like to help in our worship services during the summer. Accompaniment can be provided if it is needed, free of charge! There will be a date chart on the choir room door for you to sign up. Please consider participating. Thank you in advance.

Gary Crum



St. John's Nursery School

It has been an amazing year here at St. John's Nursery School. The 2022-2023 school year has been filled with many blessings and I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with such talented staff and supportive families.

The toddlers have grown so much and mastered so many important developmental skills! They have grown in confidence and are ready to move on to our 3-year-old program next school year. The 3 year olds are an amazingly fun group. They have learned to be productive and confident members of our classroom communities and I am so proud of how much they have learned this year! The 4 year olds are ready for Kindergarten! Through the curriculums of Eureka, Heggerty, and Foundations, our teachers have laid the groundwork for our students to be successful Kindergarten learners. I wish them the best in their next schooling adventure!

We will end our year with many fun activities:

- ◆ Teacher Appreciation week, May 8th-12th, is being planned by Nursery School families. We cannot wait to show our hard-working teachers how much we love and appreciate them!
- ◆ Our Family Carnival will be held Friday, May 19th from 10am-1pm here at the church. The carnival is a time to celebrate the children and families who we have had the privilege to get to know this year.
- ◆ Graduation ceremonies for our 4/5 year olds will take place on Wednesday, May 18th and Thursday, May 19th at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join as we celebrate those children who will be transitioning to Kindergarten in the fall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nursery School Ministry, Teachers and Assistants, Nursery School parents and children, Office Staff, Pastor, and SJUCC church members for your support, prayers, and dedication to our Nursery School mission.

Wishing everyone a fun, adventurous, and safe summer!
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.*



May 13, 2023

5:00 pm

Fellowship Hall (Park in Lot B)

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



THE CARING CORNER

Did you know that the St. John's Called to Care Team was commissioned June 3, 2007? For Over 15 years a variety of folks have been committed to caring for members of our congregation as well as some non-members. When we are notified that someone is homebound in their private home or in a facility, is hospitalized, or has suffered a loss and would like some contact from the church, there is a team of folks who share in connecting with them. This may be through phone calls, personal visits, and/or cards.

Did you know that six of the original team of 15 continue to support Called to Care? They include Connie Evans, Lisa Frantz, Mary Moyer, Judy Patterson, Lynda Pound, and Nina Widmann. In addition to these folks, Diana Macfarlane, Carol Marotte, Eileen Schaffer, and Connie Morrill-Hair are also regular team members in support of Pastor Caroline.. And we have to mention our 'adjunct' team member, Lee Powell who visits regularly and keeps us posted.

We wanted to take a moment to share a special thanks to Connie Evans and Nina Widmann who have decided they can no longer support the visitation of our team. These two ladies have had continuous service on Called to Care for all 15+ years. What a COMMITMENT! Connie will continue to be in the loop for our homebound and will continue to be an ambassador for St. John's in the Manor Building of Penn Hall. And Nina Widmann will continue to be an ambassador to the folks she has connected with through Called to Care and coordinate the Prayer Shawl Ministry. So they are not saying goodbye, they are simply saying it's time to let someone else play an active role in future visitation assignments!

We wanted to share with you that for Nina, it has been so rewarding to maintain personal contact with the people who she no longer sees in church. And for Connie, she credits Called to Care with helping her to be comfortable praying out loud for others and for expressing her beliefs to others. We have been so blessed to enjoy these two ladies as our teammates and our friends—thank goodness the friendship doesn't end. So to Connie and Nina a great big THANK YOU from the Called to Care Team and from St. John's church.

And of course, if you can pitch in and help with visitation, please let any member of the team know. You won't regret it.

St. John's Mission in Supporting Others in our Community

Did you know that one in every 4 Franklin County residents cannot afford basic living expenses? Poverty impacts the entire community and requires community solutions. We are fortunate to have a program via South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) that can assist individuals overcome poverty (Circles Program). The Circles Program builds relationships and skills in its participants that inspire and equip them to overcome poverty, helping individuals move into a long-term strategy and thus help create a more vibrant community.

St. John's supports the program in several ways:

- 1) We are providing space for the Circles Program to meet this next year in our facility on Wednesday evenings.
- 2) The Outreach Ministry and ONA (Open and Affirming) Ministry have joined to provide funds for St. John's to be a sponsor in the Race Against Poverty. This provides an opportunity for us to highlight St. John's visibility in our community.
- 3) Outreach Ministry has designated **our First Fruits Offering for the month of May to support the Race Against Poverty.**
- 4) St. John's has registered to have a team participate in this race event.

You can do so by:

Going to raceagainstpoverity.org to register

When asked, select an already "existing group" -- click on that and register for the St. John's team

This year the ***Race Against Poverty is Friday, June 2.*** It provides an opportunity for you to walk, to run, as well as for children (ages 11 and under) to join the Raber Run for Kids, making this a multigenerational event in Chambersburg. 100% of the registration fees for the race goes to support the Circles Program. If you choose not to walk or run, you can simply show up and take in the energy of citizens of the Chambersburg broader community coming together for this fun and missional event. And, just a reminder – you can support via our First Fruits Offering during the month of May.



DEVELOPING AWARENESS AND RESOURCES

The month of May is one of the times in the year that there is special focus on the area of mental health. It is a time to reach out to millions of people to spread the word that mental health is something everyone should care about. It is a time to share Information, stories and resources: to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support those with mental illness and their families.

In May 2023, there are several opportunities to engage in support of these efforts.

1) 2023 Wellness Conference – Friday, **May 5** – 9:30 am. to 3:00 p.m.

Falling Spring Church – Chambersburg

“It Takes a Village” – Keynote Address

Sessions include: Everyday Meditation; Supporting Each Other; Drumming and Music Therapy; Suicide Prevention Training; Panel – ‘Asking for Help’; Pour Painting Workshop; and, Resiliency.

2) Community Support Program Art Show (**May 12-13**) at Council for the Arts

3) Walk the Walk (**May 19**) – Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. at Recreation Center; Registration deadline is May 5th. Theme: “Talk Brings Hope”

Rally on the Square at 10:45 a.m. - Keynote Speaker: Govan A. Martin, III, founding member and chairman of the Suicide Prevention Alliance.

Also speaking, Jackie Umer, Crisis Intervention Program Supervisor at Keystone Health

All these events are coordinated with Mental Health Association (Franklin/Fulton Counties). Questions and further information -- available at info@mhaff.org or phone 717-264-4301. Flyers with more detail are posted at St. John’s. We continue to communicate about programs we believe are engaged in helping us address the diverse needs of our community.



Ladies LUNCHEON

Remember there was a promise last month to provide the answers to two questions: The TOOTH is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself. The BANANA is the fruit that needs the help of man to reproduce itself.

Eight ladies enjoyed lunch at the Avocado Café on Wednesday, April 12 at 11:30. The history of St. John's Ladies Lunch meetings from 2004-2018 in photos was shared with those present. Over forty different women were pictured in one or more gatherings in that time frame.

With summer arriving soon, locations were chosen for May (The Grille at Menno Haven); June (Windy Knoll); and July (Norland Pub). Always, the second Wednesday; always, 11:30; always, a chair for ANY lady who wants to join the group.

MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7am at Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

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

May BIRTHDAYS

Erika Burkard 5/01

Margaretta Kennedy 5/05

Sabrina Sollenberger 5/05

Mary Lou Hendrickson 5/07

Pamela Reichelderfer 5/07

Keiran Dereef 5/07

Doreen Horn 5/09

Larry Wadel 5/11

Christina Myers 5/11

Neilan Rensch Jr. 5/14

Lori Leister 5/14

Heather Myers 5/14

Naomi Mull 5/15

Jeffrey Young 5/16

James Boyer 5/16

Colton Wadel 5/16

Joe Wohl 5/17

Zoe Dereef 5/18

Rafael Cuesta 5/20

Jared Reichelderfer 5/20

Vera Reber 5/23

James Patterson II 5/23

Reed Zeger 5/24

The Rev. Stephen Hoffman 5/25

Brenna Rosenberry 5/25

Luke Herbert 5/26

Jerry Miller 5/29

Nathaniel Widmann 5/29

Sutton Collier 5/29

W Richard Rebok 5/30

Hayden Johnson 5/30

Noah Wright 5/30

Melinda Orndorff 5/31

Amanda Gillan 5/31



MAY 15, 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!





Hobbies, Crafts & More!

May 9, 2023

in Fellowship Hall

from 6 – 8 pm

Share your interests with a display, poster, or information sheet. Set up after 3 pm on this day. Enjoy light refreshments and getting to know each other better!

Please sign up in the front lobby.

Ideas:

- Reading
- Biking, Hiking
- History
- Cooking
- Dancing
- Knitting
- Playing cards/games
- Watching sports
- Touring, Cruising, Camping

SAVE THE DATE!

ALL CHURCH PICNIC!



HOT DOGS, CHIPS, DRINKS AND DESSERT

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**



ST. JOHN'S UCC

presents

*Fit For a
Queen*
**Afternoon
summer
tea**

SAVE THE DATE!
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Thank you!

Several weeks ago Pastor Caroline asked me for the name of some of my favorite hymns. WOW! Was I surprised when on Palm Sunday the hymn “Love Devine, All Love Excelling” was sung as the final hymn, but with different words which were appropriate for the day. And, the new words were dedicated to my service to the St. John’s as a junior choir director, pianist and organist. I thought the reception was wonderful, and now the hymn will be a lasting memorial. Thank you again for being a wonderful church family.

With my sincere thanks, Gloria Crum

2023 Summer Singers

Rehearsals begin May 16

You can still join! Contact Gary Crum.





Calendar of Children and Youth Events

May

7 Church School

14 Church School & Children's corner

21 Last Church School

28 Children's corner



Special Handbell presentation during worship for the children

June 4th

Registration is Open!!

Help is needed!



VBS

July 30 – August 3, 2023

“Where children learn that everyone can make a difference in the world!”

<https://vbsmate.com/events/sjucc1811/27144>

See Roxanne to help!!!!!!!

CPR/AED Recertification

The Children and Youth Ministry Team is looking to schedule CPR/AED recertification class for those who need. A date has not been set yet, as we are just assessing the number of individuals interested.

Please contact Roxanne to have your name added to the list.



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.

Welcome to our new office assistant Heather Nickey!
Please stop by the church office and say HI!

*The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 29, 2023
in observance of Memorial Day.*

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

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***

Come and join us at camp!

Camp ministry thanks the St. John's church family for supporting a successful Camp Sticky Bun Sale. A fun crew, that included - Peter A'zary, Renee Byers, Roxanne Davenport, Deb Dilling, both Tom Harrisons, Mary Lou Hendrickson, Diana Kongkeattikul, Mary Lee Yaukey and Linda Zeger, gathered early on a Saturday to make 31 dozen sticky buns and all were sold. On Sunday, April 23, many sticky buns were enjoyed during a delightful fellowship time!

We are looking forward to Camp 2023!

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

Harold Collier, **President**

N. Aaron Hartman

Jill Miller

Gary Patterson, **Secretary**

Dwight Sollenberger

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 In-Person and on YouTube)

Upcoming Communion Dates

Saturday, May 13, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Trinity Sunday, June 4, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, June 10, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall or Church Lawn (weather permitting)



St. John's United Church of Christ

**1811 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, PA 17202**

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Website: www.sjucc1811.org