

The Spirit

Volume 76 No 6 June 2023



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

Having celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the birthday of the church on May 28, we are now in the “season after Pentecost” a/k/a “Ordinary Time.” In many ways, this is the time when we slow down after a busy program year. The choir and bell choir break until fall; church school classes conclude; and we (often) have fewer meetings. But “ordinary time” is not ordinary. It is a time of discovery, a time to continue considering how we are the church—not just doing church, but being church. After all, “we will never change the world by going to church; we will only change the world by being the church.”

In the parable Jesus tells in Matthew 25, we are told that “whatever you have done to the least of these, you have done it to me.” I keep coming back to that scripture again and again, reminders of how Jesus tells us to care for those most in need. The “Be the Church” mission planning guide invites us to “Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.” I think of these two ideas as being interconnected. Jesus’ message of love, radical hospitality, extravagant welcome, forgiveness and grace is at the heart of all these ideas. By practicing these things, we grow in love of God and neighbor.

Our visioning work with Rev. Cameron Trimble and Convergence began last fall, September 2022. The members of the St. John’s Future Together Task Force (Peg Bryner, Harold Collier, Lisa Fair, Connie Morrill-Hair, Eileen Shaffer, Connie Strunk, and myself) have worked hard to gain feedback from the congregation in a variety of settings (including an extensive survey), to engage in interviews with 50+ community leaders, to arrange two webinars, and to provide two “Healthy Congregations” workshops aimed at helping us improve our communication skills, as well as, our understanding as how to more effectively deal with anxiety and change.

Along with our mission, vision, and values, we have identified five themes with multiple goals for each one. These themes are: spiritual deepening; energizing participation; community engagement; congregational care; and financial sustainability. We all want our church to thrive as a vibrant and loving community of faith.

At our Congregational Meeting on June 11, we will be discussing the initial draft of the Strategic Planning Document for 2023-2026 (available as part of the Congregational Meeting Packet). The Action Steps will be an important topic of conversation over the next several months, as we strive to live into these goals and dreams. We need you to be a part of this important work! We are a resilient and generous congregation with a message of love and acceptance to share.

Henry Emerson Fosdick wrote “God of Grace and God of Glory” in 1930. While the refrain changes slightly with each verse, the hymn emphasizes asking God to “grant us wisdom, grant us courage.” I have often used this phrase in my pastoral prayers on Sundays, as we do indeed ask God for the wisdom and courage needed “for the living of these days.” We continue to seek God’s guidance and grace, as we faithfully follow Jesus Christ in this time and place. May our work together indeed help us to bring forth God’s kin-dom on earth.

Peace, Pastor Caroline

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

A BIG THANK YOU FOR SOME OF OUR MUSICIANS

It is the time of the year when we discontinue our musical activities for the summer months to give our musicians some free time to rest and recuperate. I would like you to reflect on the time these people practice, in order to help to make our Sunday services more meaningful. I am speaking for our Church Choir and our Handbell Choir. Each group spends one hour each week for about 9 months rehearsing music to be used in worship. This amounts to about 40 weeks out of the year. Also, eleven of these people are in both groups so their time doubles. Please consider giving them a big **THANK YOU** the next time you see them. They will certainly appreciate it. The following are the people who sing in our choir and play handbells.

CHOIR MEMBERS:

Peter A'Zary	Willa Kaal	Lee Powell
John Bryner	Chris Long	Nancy Rebok
Roxanne Davenport	Lynne McGough	Eileen Shaffer
Debbie Dilling	Jerry Miller	Bill Slothower
Kathy Dryburgh	Connie Morrill-Hair	Joanne Slothower
Don Hendrickson	Dale Myers	Dixie Weller
Linda Hoffman	Ginni Parker	Chris Willman-Bunge
Gary Patterson	Linda Zeger	

HANDBELL CHOIR MEMBERS:

Ginny Cairns	Linda Hoffman	Eileen Shaffer
Roxanne Davenport	Willa Kaal	Joanne Slothower
Brittlyn Dennis	Tena Keeney	Erik Strunk
Jeff Diller	Chris Long	Eric Wadel
Debbie Dilling	Mindy Orndorff	Erin Wadel
Don Hendrickson	Nancy Rebok	Barb Wissinger
Linda Zeger		

USED BOOK SALE



Save the Dates



St. John's 2023 sale will be:

Friday, October 27, 4 to 9 pm

Saturday, October 28, 9 am to 6 pm

Sunday, October 29, Noon to 4 pm

Donation Dates at St. John's

Tuesday, September 5 to Friday, October 6

M-F 9 am to 3 pm, plus Saturday Sept. 30 &

Saturday Oct. 7

Please, call 717-263-8593 for pickup of large quantities

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

JUNE 19, 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!



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.*



June 10, 2023

5:00 pm

Outside on the Church Lawn

(in Fellowship Hall if inclement weather)

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



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.



June First Fruits

The First Fruits for June is in support of Sponsor a Camper.

Please help sponsor a camper so that all children in our community are able to enjoy to love of God and the outdoors at our Treasure in the Woods- St John's Camp.

We hope that all children, regardless of their financial status can experience faith and fun at the camp.



Ladies LUNCHEON

Mary Mason arranged for a new location at Menno Haven for our May 10 meeting. Eight ladies enjoyed a variety of lunch items in the private dining room of the Cypress Café.

Topics of discussion included weddings (of the past and upcoming), Hoffman Home, and our knowledge of horses-how they are measured, famous ones, and horse-related expressions. A “thinking of you” card was prepared for Sharon Mayer.

On Wednesday, June 14, we will hold our annual visit to Windy Knoll at 11:30. Continuing our interest in weddings, please consider bringing YOUR wedding photo or a relative’s wedding photo. We hope to share a surprise “wedding photo” from the past.

MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting Thursday June 1, 2023 at 7am at Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

We look forward to seeing any and all for June's Breakfast

June BIRTHDAYS

Mark Reichelderfer 6/03

Cheryl Sollenberger 6/3

Owen Reichelderfer 6/4

Adelaide Dietrich 6/4

Connie Strunk 6/5

Gary Johnson 6/7

Constance Reichelderfer 6/9

Matthew Hoover 6/10

Stephanie Baltozer 6/14

John Campbell 6/14

Carol Yarema 6/16

Lynda Thomason 6/17

Jill Miller 6/19

Thomas Kinton 6/20

Lynda Pound 6/21

Kerry Miller 6/21

J Christian Snavely 6/23

Antonio Cuesta 6/24

Kay Hughes 6/26

Forrest Koontz 6/29

Betty Niemond 6/29

Susan Weller 6/29

Marlee Rae Ridings 6/29

Eleanor Collier 6/29

Barbara Soper 6/30



Reaching Beyond our Walls

As the ONA (Open and Affirming) Ministry continues to participate in ways in which we help to educate, learn and engage in our diverse community, we share the following with you.

1.) Juneteenth Celebration – Saturday, June 17 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

At Network Ministries – 10 Redwood Street, Chambersburg, PA

Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston, Bay, TX. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as “Juneteenth” by the newly freed people in Texas and it became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021.

Join in this community celebration to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans. The celebration is free and open to the public featuring live entertainment, vendors, games and fun activities for adults and children, bounce houses, food for purchase (including an ice cream truck), book giveaway for K-12, educational opportunities and more.

(Historical note: On Juneteenth in 2020, Racial Reconciliation Franklin County organized a Love Demonstration attracting nearly 400 community members to our square in Chambersburg. This captured national attention, being featured on the front page of The New York Times, and then in 2021, our racial reconciliation founders’ journey/story was highlighted in an ABC Soul of Nation Juneteenth Special as well as on Good Morning America on their morning show. The celebration has expanded here in Franklin with its celebration last year at Wilson College and moving to Network Ministries location this year).



2.) “Ruby: The Story of Ruby Bridges” – Weekend of June 16-18 at Capitol Theatre

Performance by our own local Chambersburg Community Theatre which is an independent, non-profit, volunteer based theatre.

(Historical Note: Ruby Bridges was only 8 years old when the Civil Rights movement came hammering at her door, making her the first black child to attend an all-white elementary school in New Orleans. On the heels of Brown v. Board of Education, schools were ordered to integrate with all deliberate speed, and in 1960, Ruby became one of six black children to integrate all-white schools in the city. As white families learned of this, they pulled their children from her class, leaving her and her teacher the only ones left in the classroom for the entire school year. With songs inspired by the Shirelles, Sam Cooke and Smokey Robinson, this musical performance explores a little girl’s unbeatable courage in the face of adversity as she helped to lead the Civil Rights Movement up the front steps into an elementary school).

Tickets can be obtained by going on Chambersburg Community Theatre website: <https://cctonline.org>. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and matinee performances at 2:30 on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend.

St. John’s ONA Ministry is a sponsor of the Juneteenth Celebration and we encourage your attendance. We are also a sponsor and will be participating in the Franklin County PRIDE Festival on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at Wilson College. This event will be held from 12 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Much more detail will be provided as this scheduled event becomes closer.

We encourage all who can, to support these events which help to build the bridges of understanding, acceptance and celebration of the diversity of our community. It is one of the ways for us to “live into” our covenant of addressing those who have, and still are experiencing marginalization.

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!

April 2023

Dear St. John's UCC Community,

The Refugee Resettlement Welcoming Committee thanks you for the continued generous support you provided to our Chambersburg refugees. Your donations have helped our committee provide funds for used vehicles to allow them to get to work. We are so grateful for your most recent gift. They are moving toward financial independence and security.

Sincerely,

Refugee Resettlement

A Message from the Caring Corner—The Power of Prayer



In a recent Sunday School class, it was mentioned that there is evidence that prayer for healing works. It doesn't even matter if the person mentioned in the prayer is aware. This reminded us that here at St. John's we can share requests for prayer in several ways including the Prayer Chain and during the time of sharing Cares and Concerns during worship.

We believe you know how Care and Concerns works, but perhaps we should remind folks about our prayer chain. When you become aware of a situation where prayer will help, contact Lois Young at younglp@comcast.net and she will share your request with folks who are on our prayer chain.

For many people, participating in the chain has become a real source of comfort and a way of knowing they can help others through the power of prayer. For others it is a source of comfort to know that fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for them.

We encourage you to share your prayer requests and let others pray for you and your concerns.

And if you would like to participate in the prayer chain, please let Lois Young know at the above email address.



Youth Calendar of Events

June

4 Special Children's Message during Worship

11 Children's corner

25 Children's corner

VBS Work Day after Worship



VBS Work Days have been scheduled and there is plenty to do! Mark your calendars for June 25, July 9 and 23rd, directly after worship each date. Lunch will be provided so please let Roxanne know of your intent to help before each event, so we have a food count.

Wish List for VBS

Smooth sided, Clear, plastic, 2 or 1 liter drink bottles

1 or 2 gal. clear plastic water bottles

Silver, foil dryer venting

Please place donations in the cart in the lobby

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.



Special Handbell presentation during worship for the children

June 4th



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.

*The Church Office will be closed Monday June 19, 2023
in observance of Juneteenth.*

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 Cooks Needed!!

We will need 2-3 helpers for each day. Please see the sign up sheet in the lobby to volunteer!

Camp Noah/Camp Kum-Ba-Yah

June 26-June 30

Camp Galilee

June 18-June23

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

Sunday, June 4, 10 am Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, June 10, 5 pm Church Lawn (Fellowship Hall if inclement weather)

Saturday, July 8, 5 pm Church Lawn (Fellowship Hall if inclement weather)

Sunday, July 9, 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