

The Spirit

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

From Pastor Caroline

Growing up in Iowa, the saying “knee high by the Fourth of July” referred to the growth of the field corn, one of our staple crops. There are always benchmarks and measurements that help us to know that we’re growing, maturing, and moving forward. This is true in life; it is also true in faith. Faith is a living, dynamic, experience. No wonder I like the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: scripture, reason, tradition and experience, all coming together to form and shape us, our understanding of God, and our life in community.

In the liturgical season of “Ordinary Time,” the “season after Pentecost”, there is nothing really “novel or marvelous, just the regular rhythms of life”, as Diana Butler Bass writes. Yet is in the living of these days, doing ordinary things, that we discover the power and mystery of the Divine. We may not be able to see it as it happens; we can see so much more clearly when we look back. But God is there; God is here; God is always at work in our lives and in our world. As Diana Butler Bass writes, “For all the hoopla of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, the truth of the matter is that God is the God of Ordinary Time. All the ordinary, regular, forgettable years. It has all been a journey. Sometimes we just haven’t noticed.”

In this “Ordinary Time” the work of the St. John’s Future Together Task Force continues. At our spring congregational meeting on June 11, we shared the initial **draft** of the Strategic Planning Document for 2023-2026, which highlighted the five themes (spiritual deepening, energizing participation, community engagement, congregational care, and financial sustainability), seventeen goals, and the commitments for each. The task force has been hard at work developing some initial **action plans** that will help us to put “flesh on the bones” and see how we might begin to live into these goals and dreams. Copies of the slides providing examples of action plans shared at the Congregational Meeting are available in the Narthex and at the Welcome Center.

The challenge of implementation is a critical piece of all visioning work. We can craft grand plans and develop great goals; yet if we do not put them into practice, we have not done our job. I am incredibly pleased with the work we have done to this point and we need **you** to be a part of this important work. Your ideas, energy, and support are greatly appreciated.

I will be attending the United Church of Christ’s General Synod in Indianapolis, IN, June 30 to July 4, and I look forward to spending time with friends and colleagues from across our denomination. I will be traveling further west after Synod to spend time with my dad and brother David. Dad asked him recently when we’ll be “nose to nose” and I was happy to say “soon, Dad. July 6.” I will return to lead the worship service on Sunday, July 16.

I must also express deep appreciation for your care and concern following my recent fall and subsequent non-displaced fracture of my nose. I’m steadily healing and giving thanks for good friends, medical and dental care, and the resilience of (relative) youth.

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for inspirational worship, conducting the business of the church, formal church witness, and fellowship with friends.

The 34th General Synod will be held in Indianapolis, IN, June 30 to July 4, 2023.

The theme for the 34th General Synod is based on Isaiah 43:18-19, “Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

With dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, it is sure to be a powerfully spiritually renewing time for delegates and visitors alike. Delegates (including our own Pastor Caroline and Jerry Thomason) will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. The Keynote speaker (Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber) will offer illumination and insight into the challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness and worship together.

We hope that the 34th General Synod will indeed be a vibrant, spirit-filled and inspiring event in the life of the United Church of Christ.

In addition to serving as a delegate from the Penn Central Conference, Pastor Caroline will be attending General Synod as part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI). A program of the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, NGLI has been instrumental in Pastor Caroline’s growth as a local church pastor.



*Making
all things
New*
Isaiah 43:18-19





MUSIC MINISTRY

THE ORIGIN OF CHURCH CHOIRS

Have you ever thought about where the first church choir was formed? Well, there is some information available that helps with this question. The following are some examples. In the Hebrew Scriptures, we read that the first choir was formed by Moses and the children of Israel. Then we read about a choir begun by Miriam and her maidens and following this there was a woman's group who came out of a city in Israel to meet Saul and the fourth was a men's group who eventually used boys to sing the high parts and this was the beginning of Boys choirs which we still have today. Also we read about a choir in the second temple made up of twelve adult men who were Levites. These men all played string or percussion instruments and played while they sang.

Coming back to today, we find that many choirs are disappearing and church music is leading more towards contemporary music. In today's culture, Mary Preus, a choir director at a Lutheran church in Minneapolis says, "We don't sing anywhere else in our lives as we once did." She says "I grew up in a singing home, singing in school and church every week and now people think they are not good enough to sing."

"Don't count choirs out", said Eileen Guenther, Professor of church music at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington. "Churches are struggling to find a style that is engaging. But there is a reason choral music is called "traditional". It's been around for a long time and contemporary music may not have as much staying power." Time will tell!

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

JULY 17, 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.*



July 8, 2023

5:00 pm

Outside on the Church Lawn
(in Fellowship Hall if inclement weather)

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





A Message from the Caring Corner—CONGREGATIONAL CARE

As part of the June Congregational Meeting, you received a draft copy of the St. John's UCC Strategic Plan. That plan establishes five themes that will be our focus for the foreseeable future.

One of the themes that is near and dear to the Called to Care Team is Congregational Care. This care and support is much broader than the focus of the Called to Care Team—it's about building caring Christian relationships with each and every one of us. If you don't know those folks sitting near you in church, introduce yourself and make them feel welcomed. If you notice someone who doesn't understand our worship service, take a few minutes and help them through it. Feeling unconnected at St. John's, join a small group, check out the opportunities to get involved, make some calls. We on Called to Care think you will find personal interactions with those you know and don't know will be so rewarding for you and for those you interact with.

As always, if you have interest in participating with this ministry, please let us know. And give some thought to things YOU can do to foster Congregational Care.

Lisa Frantz and Connie Morrill-Hair
Co-Chairs, Called to Care

Core Team: Diana Macfarlane, Carol Marotte, Judy Patterson, Lynda Pound, Eileen Shaffer, Mary Moyer, Pastor Caroline.

Adjunct Team: Connie Evans, Lee Powell, Nina Widmann

First Fruits for July



Our First Fruits for July is the Maranatha Food Pantry

The Heart of Maranatha is to share the Love of Christ.

Through the generosity of donors, they have provided assistance to 100's of families.

This support is especially important with the cessation of enhanced SNAP (food stamp) benefits as the COVID federal emergency funding is over.

We thank you for your continued generosity in our community.

Ladies LUNCHEON

Ladies Luncheon

Windy Knoll is annually the Ladies Luncheon venue in June. There would have been an even dozen women but Pastor Caroline had an unfortunate accident so she was absent. Diana Macfarlane gave the grace before a wide variety of lunches and ice cream treat were enjoyed. In honor of the month of many weddings each lady shared photos of her wedding, her parent's, her children's or grandchildren's weddings. Many interesting stories and comments evolved.

The Norland Pub will be the location for Wednesday, July 12 at 11:30am.
Think about your BEST Summer Vacation Ever!

MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting Thursday July 6, 2023 at 7am at Chris's Kitchen (across from Perkins)

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

July BIRTHDAYS

Joanne Shew 7/3

Marco Dereef 7/5

Kelly Ann Hoover 7/5

Jeffery Baltozer 7/6

Rodney Byers 7/7

Robert Archibald 7/10

Linda Zeger 7/10

Betty Koontz 7/11

Kimberly Rzomp 7/11

R Kyle Myers 7/11

Renee Byers 7/12

William Slothower 7/13

Barbara Fisher 7/13

Elizabeth Nutter 7/13

Atley John Van Why 7/13

Cassandra Rzomp 7/14

Alexis Reichelderfer 7/15

Charles Reichelderfer 7/16

Grace Kongkeattikul 7/18

Sandy Domer 07/19

Connie Stenger 7/21

Maurice Marotte III 7/23

Kevin Woy 7/23

Kirk Johnson 7/25

Kiana Smith 7/25

Jill Bard 7/28

Jackson Tucker 7/29

Deanna Statler 7/30

Stacey Johnson 7/30

Jessica Hoffeditz 7/30

Ryan Jr. Brown 7/31



Thank you!

“Thank you for supporting Franklin County Jail Ministry. Your gift enables us to share the Gospel with the inmates. Lives are changed! God is glorified! What a wonderful investment.”—Ramona Torres

“Thank you so much for selecting The Woman’s Healthcare Initiative Foundation as part of your Lent outreach/giving! We felt so honored to join you in worship and celebration of Christ’s unfailing love. With him, anything is possible! Your donation will provide nourishment and healing to those in need in Burning Faso, and shine light as he does!”
Blessings, The WHIF team



Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 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 Tuesday July 4, 2023 in observance of Independence Day.

The Church Office will be closed Fridays for the remainder of the summer until Friday, August 18, 2023.



Youth Calendar of Events

July

9 Children's corner

VBS Work Day after Worship

23 Children's corner

VBS Work Day after Worship

24 VBS Volunteer Meeting 6:30 Fellowship Hall



VBS Work Days have been scheduled and there is plenty to do! Mark your calendars for 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 narthex.

Registration is Open!!

Help is needed

Crew Leaders

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 it. We are looking at a July date but it has not been set yet. Please contact Roxanne ASAP if interested.

Youth Swim Party



End summer with a splash at the Chambersburg Aquatic Center. Tentatively set for August 11th, weather pending. We will have food and fun, and service hours can be used. Mark your calendars!

Food Preservation with the Gleaning Project!

The Gleaning Project and St. John's UCC have partnered together to help food insecure families in our community. Once a month, volunteers from the Gleaning Project and the wider community utilize our St. John's kitchen to preserve fresh produce, either by freezing or canning, helping to fill the food gap and reduce food waste.

St. John's has committed to providing space for this project thru November 2023 as a pilot program. We are excited about this venture and the opportunities we have to reach out in love to our neighbors.

Donations of jars, lids, rings, and recipes are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming food preservation dates:

- ◆ Saturday, July 22
- ◆ Saturday, August 26
- ◆ Saturday, September 23

Thank you for your support of South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP), the Gleaning Project, and St. John's!



THE GLEANING PROJECT

of South Central Pennsylvania

HELP SAVE THE HARVEST

1 in 5 kids in South Central PA is "food insecure" and miss out on dependable fresh fruits and vegetables

20-30% of food loss occurs during agricultural production, harvesting, and distribution.

All of that waste is perfectly delicious, nutritious, local food that doesn't make it to market for a variety of reasons which are usually cosmetic (size, color, shape etc.)

In 2022, The Gleaning Project saved and supplied **750,000+ lbs** of fresh produce to community partners in Franklin and Adams Counties

In 2023 we're hoping to save even more. Here's how:



Freezing

Labeled fresh fruits and produce can be used anywhere from months to a year after harvest depending on storage! This produce, picked at peak ripeness, contains important nutrients essential for a healthy lifestyle that will be preserved by freezing instead of going to waste!



Canning

Canning produce can extend it's life from 12-18months ! Both water bath and pressure canning can be used to salvage produce from fields and extend harvest year round to those who are food insecure and without freezers!



Saving the Veggies

With the help of the community, The Gleaning Project hopes to save more produce than ever and continue to fill the food gap that occurs during months where harvest has stopped but hunger persists.



Interested in Helping?

CONTACT US!

Franklin Co. Gleaning Coordinator - Cory Hess

Assistant Coordinator - Bernie Armstrong

chess@sccap.org

barmstrong@sccap.org



thegleaningproject@gmail.com



717-492-6269



SCCAP

South Central Community Action Programs
Empower • Engage • End Poverty

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

Sunday, July 9, 10 am Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Sunday, August 6, 10 am Fellowship Hall (an online service will be provided)

Saturday, August 12, 5 pm Church Lawn (Fellowship Hall if inclement weather)



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

Office Hours: Mon —₂₀Fri from 9 AM — 3 PM