

The Spirit

Volume 76 No 11 November 2023



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

From Pastor Caroline

November is one of my favorite months of the year. I love the crisp air, the fall foliage, the smells of soup and chili, and cuddling with my two cats Leah and Naomi. In November, we intentionally remember to give thanks for our blessings, to be in relationship with others, and to care for those among us who might need some extra support. It is also when we celebrate All Saints' Day and Totenfest, remembering those who have been important in our lives and have gone on to glory with God.

All Saints' is a tradition that remembers those who have gone before and it highlights the "communion of the saints." All Saints' is typically observed on November 1, coinciding with the more secular holiday of Halloween on October 31. This year, our communion liturgy on November 5 will help us to honor and remember All Saints'.

Totenfest is not a tradition I was familiar with prior to serving St. John's. Observed on the last Sunday of the church year, on Reign of Christ Sunday, we specifically remember those in our community of faith who have died in the last year. In recent years, we have expanded this observance to include loved ones of our members and friends. We share the name of each person we are remembering, lighting a candle and ringing a bell in solemn observance of their transition from this life into the next. Please contact the church office if there is someone in your life that you would like to be remembered in our Totenfest service on Sunday, November 26.

These liturgical observances connect us to Christians locally and globally. We give thanks for these opportunities to engage with our past, our present, and our future.

I hope you will join me for the Chambersburg Area CROP Walk on Sunday, November 5. The starting point is Zion Reformed Church, 259 South Main Street. Registration is at 1:30 pm and the walk begins at 2 pm. The mission of Church World Service and CROP remains the same: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and heal the sick. Materials about CROP Walk are available at the Welcome Center.

Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, November 19. Copies of the meeting packet will be available at the Welcome Center, in the Narthex, and by request from the church office on Sunday, November 5. This meeting is an important one in the life of our church. We will be discussing our budget for 2024 and formally voting to adopt our "Future Together Strategic Plan" that will guide our work as a church. Please, make every effort to attend this important conversation in the life of St. John's UCC.

May we continue to say "yes" to the possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead of us as we grow in love of God and neighbor and live out and into our calling as Christians, loving and learning, worshipping and witnessing, welcoming and serving as the body of Christ.

I will be away November 10 to 16 with my Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) colleagues. I give thanks for this program and the way that it has helped me to grow as a leader, pastor and person. Thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers. I am truly privileged to be your pastor.

Peace, Pastor Caroline

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 11 AM

Join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom via video chat or call-in

Meeting ID 216 127 9033 & Passcode stjoh

Call in option: 646 558 8656 or 301 715 8592

(use Meeting ID and Passcode to join by phone)

Meeting packets are available at the Welcome Center
and Narthex and by request from the church office.



St John's Nursery School

Fall is by far our favorite season at the Nursery School. Our Nursery School children are eager to learn about all of the changes that are happening outside. We are reading books, going on nature walks, and appreciating the beauty that God has given us with the arrival of this season of change.

The Nursery School students had quite a busy October. They began the month with school picture week, with many of the children experiencing their very first school picture. Then, they had a visit from the Fayetteville Fire Co. A big thank you to the Fayetteville Fire Co. for teaching our students about fire safety and for letting them tour the fire trucks and ambulance! The children ended the month with Fall classroom parties, planned by our Nursery School parents. They had Fall-themed crafts, snacks, and activities and the children even found a pumpkin in our pumpkin patch!

Our Butcher Shoppe fundraiser is in progress now through November 15th. Members of the Nursery School Ministry will be selling cookie dough tubs (2.5 lbs) for \$17 and Big Oak Café coffee (12 oz) for \$13, before and after church services on November 5th and November 12th. Cookie dough and coffee can be picked up from the Parlor refrigerator starting on Wednesday, December 6th. This year, we are also selling tickets for Butcher Shoppe Subs (\$7) and pizza (\$11). These tickets make great stocking stuffers!

Thank you to the Nursery School Ministry for your continued support and to the St. John's Church members for your participation in these events. Your support of our Nursery School does not go unnoticed and your involvement supports our success!

As we prepare for the upcoming Holidays, we are thankful for the gifts God has given us. We appreciate those family, friends, co-workers, students, parents, and community members who bless our lives each and every day.

We wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

First Fruits of November



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

The First Fruits for November will be the Heifer Project. The Heifer Project International Gift Animals is Our Service Project again this year. It is a gift giving opportunity for the church to support Heifer Project International which gives a hand up to families in third world countries around the world by providing them with an animal to supply the family with much needed food, wool.... The family is then expected to share the next generation of that animal with another family. Other opportunities to help families is also available but we will be targeting the giving of a gift animal. This will be open for “shopping” during the weeks of November. A great idea for those people that are hard to shop for.



Fall Clean-Up Church Grounds 18 Nov 2023: Clean-up of St. John's grounds is scheduled for 18 Nov 2023 at 8:00 AM. Bring your favorite rake or choose a rake from the church's inventory. Coffee, Hot Chocolate, and donuts will be provided. Cub Pack 136, the adult leaders, and family members will be supporting this clean-up effort. You are cordially invited to join-in for a fun-filled morning.



Remember to turn your clocks back on Sunday, November 5th for daylight savings!!

St. John's t-shirts and hoodies for sale!

St. John's U.C.C Shirts!!

T-Shirts - \$12 each

Hoodies - \$25 Each

Sizes: Small - 2 XL



**Visit the office to
get yours today!**

1811 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, PA 17202

(717) 263 - 8593

COOKIE WALK

**Saturday
Dec. 2, 2023**

Save the Date





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia, please complete the form and return it to the church office by **Monday, December 4, 2023. Cost - \$15.00 each**

Donor's name: _____

(as it will appear in the bulletin insert)

I would like to order _____ poinsettias to be placed:

_____ In memory of: _____

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ To the Glory of God

****Thank you for your support. Please arrange for your flowers to be picked up.**

Please include your payment with this form and return it to the church office by **Monday, December 4, 2023. Make checks payable to St. John's UCC.**



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

The church office will be closed November 10 in observance of Veteran's Day.



The church office will be closed November 23 and 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

We are still in need of office volunteers! Please contact Loretta if you are interested and can help.

Loretta Zimmerman - Office Manager

Heather Nickey - Office Assistant

Church office # (717) 263-8593

NOVEMBER 20, 2023 | 6:30 PM

BIBLE & A BEER

Theological conversations
Rich discussion
Powerful testimony

Join us at 6:30 pm 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.*



November 11, 2023

5:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

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



Thank you

Dear St. John's family,

I can't thank all of you enough for the expressions of prayers and support as I fight cancer.

The flowers, cards, phone calls and especially prayers are greatly appreciated.

I know with your continued prayers, this will be a fight I hope to win.

Fondly, Nina Widmann

*Many thanks to the members of St. John's U.C.C. Helping Hands Committee for all of their dedicated help with the Celebration of Life Reception for Mary Ann Castelli on October 21, 2023. Cathy Kinton, Bill Slothower, Mary Lou Hendrickson, Judy Patterson, Lynne McGough, Cindy St. Clair, Carol Marotte, Connie Kaiser, Lisa A'zary, and Diana MacFarlane.

- Donna Hilton



MUSIC MINISTRY

Why do we have music in church?

Each Sunday as we come together to worship the Lord, what forms our services? You guessed it, MUSIC

Music teaches us the gospel as hymns and spiritual songs take our faith and compact it. Hymns and other forms of music instruct us in the Good News, touching our hearts as well as our minds.

Music connects us to God in unique ways. In many ways it connects us to God in ways sermons can't and don't. Singing allows a part of our hearts to speak to God in a different way than the spoken word. Have you ever noticed that singing with a congregations can awaken our hearts to each person around you?

Music allows us to express our love to God with our whole self. Singing is one of the way sin which we can express our love towards God with our entire being. Whenever we sing and donate our whole selves to God, sometimes Godly things happen within us.

God commands us to sing—Check it our in Psalm 5:11, Psalm 9:11, Psalm 98:5 and Psalm 100:2. God calls us to sing praise to the Lord and to sing in his presence. Music that honors God will call our hearts to sing. And when our hearts sing, worship happens

Gary Crum



THE CARING CORNER

It is impossible for Pastor Caroline to be everywhere with everyone. Called to Care supports the Pastor in the care of the congregation. Whether through phone calls, cards, and/or visits, we are a resource for this congregation.

If you know of someone who needs support from this ministry team, please contact the church office, Pastor Caroline, or any member of our ministry team.

2023—2024 Active Ministry Team members include:
**Diana MacFarlane, Carol Marotte, Connie Morrill-Hair,
Mary Moyer, Judy Patterson, Lynda Pound, and
Eileen Shaffer**

Living Into Our Covenant -- Autumn 2023

When you read this, many leaves will likely have fallen from the trees. It seems when this was written in mid October 2023, that the multiple diverse colors do not seem as evident in the trees as in previous autumns here in southcentral PA in Franklin County. However, we at St. John's UCC continue to pursue ways in which to support and show care in many of the diverse needs of neighbors in our community:

---by our hard work in book collection, book sorting, book sale, raising funds in helping Habitat for Humanity build affordable housing for those who struggle in housing purchase

---by our sponsorship and participation in the PRIDE event held on October 8th at Wilson College in support of the LGBTQ+ community, providing opportunity for the LGBTQ+ community and allies to join in multiple activities together

---by our continuation of First Fruits Offerings which support food pantries, 'power packs' for elementary school children, basic supplies for homeless, youth programs at Network Ministries, in addition to other First Fruits support throughout the entire church year

---by our offering a book discussion that develops an understanding of how we often have lacked recognition of the implicit or complicit exclusion of African American history in our denomination.

We do not engage in these for prideful reasons but because we believe in God's love and embrace of all. On November 19, in our worship service, we will have the opportunity to join together in reaffirmation of our commitment and continuation in building a part of the beloved community – here in southcentral Pennsylvania – a beloved community we are called to help create and support, so that others feel God's unconditional love.



Ladies LUNCHEON

The Ladies Luncheon group dined at Rosalie's on Wednesday, October 11 at 11:30. Both Pastor Caroline and Diana Macfarlane invited guests who were able to attend— Mary Lynn Cate and Dixie Weller. The food was delicious. Three people chose desserts— which looked fabulous.

Fun trivia questions such as: “What are the names of Snow White’s seven dwarfs?” and “What is the name of the number one movie of all time in terms of box office money?” Stimulated conversations.

Windy Knoll has been chose as the site for November 8 at 11:30 A.M. We decided we could handle ice cream in the fall as well as in June. Feel free to join us. Friends are always welcome.

MENS BREAKFAST



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

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Marlin Douglas

11/01 Julia Marker

11/02 Frederick Leister

11/03 Shirley Fenstermacher

11/03 The Rev. Bonnie Hoffman

11/03 The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

11/07 John McCright

11/07 W Robert Strunk

11/07 Karie Leister

11/09 Sarah Herbert

11/09 Maggie Ryder

11/10 Joanne Slothower

11/10 Teresa (Tracy) Burkard

11/11 Nancy Harrison

11/13 William Hughes

11/13 Angela Miller

11/16 George Diehl

11/17 Mason Leister

11/18 Beth Rensch

11/22 Gerald Shipp

11/27 Eileen Shaffer

11/29 John Widmann Jr.

11/29 Ann Aldrich

11/29 Douglas Rebok

11/29 Adrion Barbour

11/30 Madison Tucker





Youth Calendar of Upcoming Events

November

5 Church School 8:45

During Worship: Heifer Moment and Gift Table -help needed

Children's Corner

11 Older Youth Queens Tea at Sue McMurtray's house 11:30

12 Church School 8:45

During Worship: Heifer Moment and Gift Table -help needed

NO CHILDREN'S CORNER

Confirmation Class 11:30

19 Church School 8:45

During Worship: Heifer Moment and Gift Table -help needed

26 Church School 8:45

During Worship: Heifer Moment and Gift Table -help needed

Children's Corner



Queen's Tea for Older Youth

The Older Youth will be having a Queen's Tea prepared by Sue McMurtray at her home on Saturday, November 11th at 11:30. Cost is \$30 per person and service hours may be applied. Spaces are limited so see Roxanne Davenport ASAP. Permissions and up to date medicals are also required.

Heifer Project International Animal Gift Table



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

Heifer Project International Gift Animals is Our Service Project again this year. It is a gift giving opportunity for the church to support Heifer Project International which gives a hand up to families in third world countries around the world by providing them with an animal to supply the family with much needed food, wool.... The family is then expected to share the next generation of that animal with another family. Other opportunities to help families is also available but we will be targeting the giving of a gift animal. This will be open for "shopping" during the weeks of November and will also be the church's First Fruits for November. A great idea for those people that are hard to shop for.



Network Ministries STEP TEAM Workshop

Earlier this summer we had the privilege of hosting Network Ministries STEP Team during one of our worship services. They were so awesome, and I thoroughly enjoyed talking with them and their advisor. They are coming back to our Worship on Nov. 12th!!!! I invite you all to come! I am still interested in the possibility of having them come do a workshop for our Youth and any young at heart church members. Let me know if you are interested.

If you are unfamiliar with their program, please check network-ministries.org, talk to me, Pastor Caroline, or John Bryner. Check out the flyer on the Youth bulletin board outside the office also. I would love to see our youth linked up with them.

Angel Tree Shopping

The Youth and their families are again offering to shop for anyone who would like to pull an Angel Tree name but cannot shop themselves. Contact Roxanne Davenport or the church office if you are interested in arranging a personal shopper for your angel, or are a family interested in helping!

♪ **Fa La La La La** ♪

The Youth and their families will be spreading Christmas Cheer again this year through song as we plan to travel around to our shut-in church family members. This is open to anyone who like to join us!! Working with Called to Care, we will visit and sing on December 3th leaving the church at 2:00. We will end back at the church around 5:00 to share in a covered dish social. Mark Your Calendars

With a New Introduction by the Author

TEN DAYS TO SELF-ESTEEM

IN 10 EXCITING STEPS YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

DEFEAT DEPRESSION

DEVELOP SELF-ESTEEM

DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF JOY IN DAILY LIVING

David D. Burns, M.D.

Author of *Feeling Good: The New Mood Therapy*,
the breakthrough 3-million-copy bestseller

Suffering from major depression and anxiety? Join us to work through your feelings. Thursday evenings 6:00—7:30 pm January 11 through March 14, 2024. St. John's parlor. Facilitated by Carol Yarema. Sign up sheet in lobby. You will need to order your own workbook costing \$22 each.

Ministry Chairs

2023-2024

Called to Care—*Connie Morrill-Hair*

Camp—*MaryLee Yaukey*

Caring Cooks—*Lisa Frantz*

Children & Youth Ministry—*Roxanne Davenport*

Facilities Ministry—*Tom Harrison*

Fellowship—*Sue McMurtray*

Finance—*Scot Orndorff*

Invitational Ministry—*Susan Collier*

Library—*MaryLee Yaukey*

Nursery School—*Connie Strunk*

Open and Affirming— *TBD*

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* 22

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 2023-2024

Trustees

TBD

Thomas Harrison—**Vice President**

Larry Wadel

Elders

Harold Collier, **President**

N. Aaron Hartman

Jill Miller

Gary Patterson

Dwight Sollenberger

Carol Yarema

Deacons

Allen Frantz

Mike Blumberg

Cathy Kinton

Sarah Myers, **Secretary**

TBD

TBD

Pastor

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

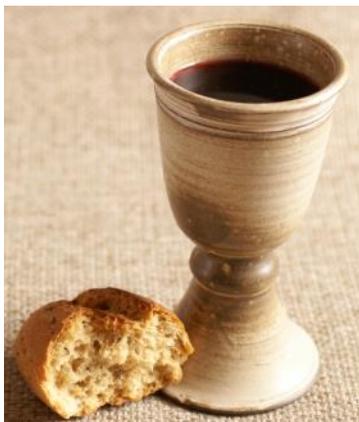
Sunday Worship will be at 10 am (Offered In-Person and on YouTube)

Sunday, November 5, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, November 11, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 3, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, December 9, 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