



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
April 21, 2024***

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONGS

"The Sanctuary at St. John's" and "This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

OPENING SONG

"And All the People Said Amen"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

We are your people, O God—

**the sheep of your pasture,
the flock you have gathered.**

Lead us beside still waters;

**teach us the way of righteousness;
and feed us at your table.**

May we listen for the call of the Holy Spirit,

and respond to the love of Jesus.

Come, let us worship in truth and grace!

***PRAISE SONG**

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

adapted from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship

God, we thank you for your love and your grace, so abundant, so overflowing, that you receive us in spite of our fear and our timid lives of faith. As you encouraged the first Christians to witness in the face of all risks, encourage us to follow your call rather than to cower before the powerful. Good Shepherd, grant us peace in the midst of the challenge; and fill us with your Holy Spirit, through the risen Christ. Amen.

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

Shepherd of all, by laying down your life for your flock, you reveal your love for all. Lead us from the place of death to the place of abundant life, that guided by your care for us, we may rightly offer our lives in love for you and our neighbors. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18

UNISON READING

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Sweet By and By"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Roxanne Davenport

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 3:16-24

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERING SONG

"Easter Offering"

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have shown us the meaning of love through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. Show us how to share Christ's love for one another; to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

"My Savior, My God"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

SENDING SONG

"Forever"

Join us after worship for coffee hour in the lobby!

Birthdays this week: 04/23 Elijah Herbert; 04/26 Harold Collier

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Amistad Praise Band	Guz Mora, Roxanne Davenport, Diana Kongkeattikul, and Kathleen Mooshian
Deacon in Charge	Chris Willman-Bunge
Lector	Connie Kaiser
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz & Ginny Cairns
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of our beloved daughter Ame Norcross by Mary and Jim Moyer.



St. John's Vision

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ
as a congregation that welcomes everyone,
and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

St. John's Mission

To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

NEWS IN THE PEWS April 21, 2024

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday, April 22

5:30 pm Cooking Class – Kitchen
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall / Scout Room 207
4:00 pm Nursery School Fundraiser – Panera Bread

Tuesday, April 23

1:30 pm Teacher In-Service – Room 116
5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall / Scout Room

Thursday, April 25

6:00 pm Girl Scouts – Room 116
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117
7:15 pm Choir Practice – Choir Room 103

Saturday, April 27

8:00 am St. John's Camp Clean Up – Camp

Sunday, April 28

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119
8:45 am Spark! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115
8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Youth Room 206
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116
10:00 am Sunday Service – Sanctuary

Thank you so much for all the wonderful help with the St. John's Spring Tea! We appreciate all who advertised, invited friends and attended the event. We also thank the set-up team (men & ladies), the prep workers, the kitchen help, the dapper waiters, the busy dishwashers, the clean-up/tear down volunteers, and tablecloth washing ladies! Thanks to Pastor Caroline for her support and assistance. A special thanks goes to Heather and Loretta who expertly and kindly handled the ticket sales and table chart!

Sticky Bun Sale Your “ready to bake” sticky buns will be available for pick up on Sunday morning, April 21. Freshly baked sticky buns will also be on sale, after church this Sunday, April 21 for \$2 each. Thank you for supporting St. John’s Camp!

St. John’s Camp Clean Up will be held on Saturday, April 27! Help is needed to get the camp cleaned and ready for the summer camping season. The Boy Scouts will be helping to clean the grounds and taking on the big task of leaf removal. We will also clean cabins, the dining hall, kitchen, etc. Join us!

New Members: Interested in joining St. John’s UCC? New members will be received on Sunday, April 28, 2024 (originally scheduled for April 21). New members’ classes will be scheduled to suit the group. Please speak with or contact Pastor Caroline if interested.

Save the Date: The American Red Cross is having a blood drive here at St. John’s on Friday, May 31, 2024 from 11:30 am – 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Poverty Simulation: Will be rescheduled for the fall. SCCAP is in the process of revamping that simulation to have more accurate data.

St. John’s Future Together Strategic Plan copies are available at the Welcome Center, in the Narthex, and by request from the Church Office. Check out the “Progress Report” on the Strategic Plan each month in the Spirit demonstrating how we are living into our future.

Prayer Chain For many people, participating in the prayer 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 siblings in Christ are praying for them. If you’d like to participate in the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Prayer requests can be emailed to Pastor Caroline, Loretta or Heather to be shared with the prayer chain.

St. John’s Nursery School is hosting a fundraiser at Panera Bread 979 Norland Ave. Chambersburg, PA between 4:00 and 8:00 pm on Monday, April 22, 2024. You can also use code FUND4U at online checkout in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-café.

Salvation Army Auxiliary Fabric Fair Set up begins for the 32nd annual Salvation Army Fabric Fair on Monday, April 22 in Fellowship Hall and Suite 121. Actual Sale dates are May 1 – 3 from 8 am to 4 pm and May 4 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Mother’s Day Dance Join us on Friday, May 10 from 6 – 9 pm for an evening of ballroom dance to celebrate Mother’s Day. Tickets will be \$10 per person at the door. This donation will help us provide further dance opportunities in our community.

Congregational Church Picnic The church picnic will be held after services on Sunday, May 19. A freewill offering will be accepted.