

# The Spirit

Volume 77 No. 7 July 2024



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

## ***From Pastor Caroline***

In 2019, I applied for and was accepted into the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) program of the UCC Pension Boards. I've talked a lot about NGLI over the years, both the learning opportunities it has given me and the colleagues who have been there for me as we pastored during a pandemic and this post-pandemic period. I am now in the second phase of the program, and in December created my own learning covenant wherein I reflect on and articulate my current capacities as a transformation leader.

One of the things that I discovered during the community interviews part of our strategic planning work was a passion for community development from a Christian perspective. This feels particularly relevant as we look toward how we utilize our space (building and grounds) to meet the needs of others in our community. I'm really excited to welcome Jessica and Friends into our building (see page 8) and to consider other partnerships we can form that continue our mission to grow in love of God and neighbor. Local colleagues Rev. Scott Bowerman and Ben Raber have both introduced me to the work of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) and have recommended I attend their annual conference, which I plan to do this fall in Portland, OR.

One of the other things that I identified in my Learning Covenant was to fill my own cup (take care of me) and participate in justice work that has a creative and artistic focus. I have long wanted to attend the Wild Goose Festival in Union Grove, North Carolina. I will be away July 9 to 15 for this opportunity that I anticipate will be filled with music and art, as well as powerful and prophetic speakers. Tending to my own soul is necessary so that I can continue doing the work of pastoral ministry without it coming at the cost of myself.

I will have the joy of attending Wild Goose alongside my good friend and colleague, Rev. JT Hills, and seeing another of our NGLI cohort, Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, who serves as the pastor of Holy Covenant UCC in Charlotte, NC. I am excited to hear Jim Wallis and Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, to connect with old friends and make new ones, to engage my senses and try not to get eaten by mosquitos. Many thanks to Rev. Bob Macfarlane for leading the Saturday Service on July 13 and Rev. Peter Emig for leading worship on Sunday, July 14, so that I can be away to have these experiences.

The Christian mystic Rev. Howard Thurman, noted for his book *Jesus and the Disinherited* (1949), reminds us to focus on what makes us come alive. The poet Mary Oliver says "Tell me, what it is you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" ("The Summer Day")

I still don't know exactly what I'm going to do with the rest of my life, but I know this to be true: I choose love.

*Peace,*  
*Pastor Caroline*



# MUSIC MINISTRY

Members and Friends of St. John's,

I am writing to let you all know that our Summer Singers will be giving a concert in our church on July 28, 2024 at 3 PM. I also wanted you all to know that this group was formed in 2008 with a number of our choir members and it has grown over the years to now having over 50 singers from 21 different churches in the Chambersburg area last year. I am so pleased to bring so many people together from all these churches who enjoy singing. We also have 18 singers from our own St. John's choir singing this year.

We will be singing five concerts including the one in our church, mentioned above. We have also been asked to sing at the opening ceremony for celebrating the 60th year of the founding of Menno Haven. This program on September 15 will be the opening of a week long celebration for this anniversary with activities going on all week. We also have 13 singers from Menno Haven who sing in our choir. Sure hope many of you can come to the concert in our church. Thank you for your support.

-Gary Crum

# 2024 USED BOOK SALE

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**1811 Lincoln Way E. Chambersburg PA 17202**

**Friday October 25th - 2pm to 8pm**

**Saturday October 26th - 9am to 5pm**

**Sunday October 27th - noon to 4pm**

Proceeds go to



# *Member Spotlight!*

## JOHN AND JOLENE MCGINLEY

John and Jolene have enjoyed meeting the nice people of St. John's congregation and have appreciated their support and prayers over the years.

They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year and met when John interviewed Jolene while he was a reporter for The Waynesboro Record Herald. John is retired from The Patriot-News and Penn State Mont Alto. Jolene is retired from the Chambersburg Hospital, where she was a social worker.

They enjoy spending time with their four-year-old poodle and their three cats as well as gardening, traveling, and collecting antique postcards and local ephemera.



# Future Together Progress Report

July 2024 continues the progress on our work together into the future. You will note that several of these activities overlap in different areas of our Strategic Plan. We hope this “progress report” helps everyone to see how we are living into our St. John’s UCC Future Together Strategic Plan.

## **SPIRITUAL DEEPENING**

- ◆ Prayer in Nature will offer another opportunity near our church
- ◆ Henry Hopper is hosting a meditation class weekly, Mondays at 10 am
- ◆ The Wired Word class continues over the summer months. Join us at 8:45 in room 116!
- ◆ Watch for a new prayer jar ministry coming soon. A designated prayer center is being prepared.
- ◆ If you missed a copy of the Spirit, links for past editions are now available online.
- ◆ Diana Kongkeattikul writes a weekly devotional for our website. We are exploring creating an opt-in email list to send this directly to your inbox each week.

## **ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION**

- ◆ The poverty simulation workshop with SCCAP has been postponed—watch for a new date this fall.
- ◆ A task force continues their work reviewing the governance and leadership teams needed to succeed in reaching our goals. A presentation on this work was included as part at the congregational meeting in June 2024.
- ◆ Cathy Kinton has prepared visitor bags to share with our visitors. These are very popular and have been appreciated by those who have received them.
- ◆ The “Blessing of the animals” service will be on August 25th outside on the lawn.

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

- ◆ Our May 26th service focused on mental health and celebrated how we as a church can be welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged (WISE).
- ◆ “Camp Firelight” VBS is scheduled July 28th through August 1st, 6:00-8:15 pm.
- ◆ The Elders are working to reach our members and help connect and support our journey together.
- ◆ A Healing Service was held on June 2nd. Many thanks to Called to Care for helping to support this special service.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- ◆ We will help “Stuff the Bus” with United Way to provide needed school supplies to kids and families throughout Franklin County.
- ◆ The Autumn Tea is planned for Saturday, September 21st .
- ◆ The Habitat for Humanity Book Sale is scheduled for October 25,26, and 27.
- ◆ We are hosting a concert on Friday, August 16th —Outdoor fun and food for all ages before the concert on the lawn. More details coming soon.
- ◆ Summer Singers will be giving a concert at St. John’s on July 28 at 3 pm.
- ◆ St. John’s was a sponsor of the Juneteenth celebration held on June 22.
- ◆ Family Fun Day returns on Sunday, September 29.

## **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILTY**

- ◆ Camp Ministry has developed a new rental fee structure and is completing a mailing to churches located close to camp to make them aware of its rental availability.
- ◆ With the help of Berkstresser Realty, the organization Jessica and Friends will be renting space in our building. See page 8 for more information about them.
- ◆ With the help of Ghostwriter, LLC, St. John’s received a grant from the Alexander Stewart, MD Foundation to offset the cost of replacing two sets of exterior doors.
- ◆ Chrystal Miracle will host two classes on planned giving on September 10.
- ◆ Online giving and other giving opportunities are regularly advertised. A QR code is placed in our publications. Finance-related articles are included in every Spirit.

## ***Welcoming Jessica and Friends to St. John's!***

Several months ago, Consistory voted to engage Berkstresser Realty to advertise rooms in our building that were left vacant when First Start Partnerships opened their own location on LWE (the old Lincoln Lanes building). This partnership has yielded fruit in the form of a new tenant: Jessica and Friends.

Jessica and Friends is a faith-based organization that provides services and support for individuals and families with autism and intellectual disabilities. Their values of inclusion, virtue, empowerment, development, collaboration, unity, and honesty align well with our church's values expression in our mission and vision statements and our Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation. Jessica and Friends started in York and they are expanding their services, both community-supported living (SCL) and a day program in Franklin and Fulton Counties.

St. John's UCC will provide space for an adult day program run by Jessica and Friends. They are still in the process of setting up security, internet, and other infrastructure needs before welcoming persons-served into our building later this year (the exact timeframe is still TBD).

This partnership is a win-win, providing a safe and secure environment for an underserved population while also generating income from rooms that were otherwise not being used (~\$2000/month). Jessica and Friends will utilize one of the large classrooms for programming and an upstairs room for office space.

We are excited by this new venture and how we can continue to live into our commitment to love, learn, worship, witness, welcome and serve all who come through our doors.

*-Pastor Caroline, on behalf of the Finance Task Force  
(Scot Orndorff, Jerry Thomason, Lisa Fair)*



# MEDITATION GROUP



-EVERY MONDAY @ 10 AM  
-CHURCH LIBRARY ROOM  
106  
-NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT HENRY HOPPPER AT  
HENHOPPER@AOL.COM OR  
(717) 660 - 2325

JULY 15, 2024 | 6:30 PM

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# **BIBLE & A BEER**

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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.*



**July 13, 2024**

**5:00 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

St. John's UCC

1811 LWE Chambersburg, PA 17202





*Thank You*



Thank you for supporting Franklin County Jail Ministry! Your gift enables us to share the Gospel with the inmates. Lives are changed and God is glorified. What a great investment! Make checks out to "FCJM" or

Franklin County Jail Ministry

Ramona Torres

Franklin County Jail Ministry

PO BOX 102

Scotland, PA 17254



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



The church office will be closed on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day




Loretta Zimmerman - Office Manager  
Heather Nickey - Office Assistant

Church office # (717) 263-8593

**You're Invited! Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30 PM**  
AT THE NETWORK COMMUNITY GARDEN  
REDWOOD/SOUTH/BUCHANAN STREETS IN CHAMBERSBURG



**JAZZ**  
**IN**  
**THE**  
**GARDEN**



*Featuring  
Global Cuisine  
from our  
Neighbors!*

**Live Music, Performances and Artwork from Kids  
Appetizers, Food Vendors, and Opportunities to Give  
Meet NETWORK staff and enjoy visiting our garden and ministry**

PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024  
networkchambersburg@gmail.com OR 717-264-4640

**To learn more about NETWORK, visit [network-ministries.org](http://network-ministries.org)**



*Join us for a Concert with*

# **Bobby Jo Valentine**

**A Night of Award-winning  
Songs and Stories**

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

**August 16, 2024 | 6 pm**

“Catchy songs with good  
tunes and intelligent,  
thoughtful lyrics in the  
tradition of Bob Dylan and Cat  
Stevens”

# First Fruits

First Fruits for July will be the annual Stuff The Bus hosted by the United Way of Franklin County. Help us "Stuff the Bus" by donating needed school supplies to be used by students at all five school districts in Franklin County. Please visit the United Way of Franklin County website for more details on the different ways you can help!

**<https://www.uwfcpa.org/stuff-the-bus>**



St. John's QR Code  
for Giving Online

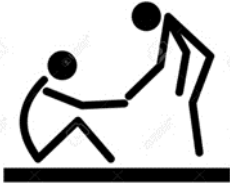


St. John's United Church of Christ, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg PA



# The Caring Corner

## REMINDER ABOUT CONGREGATIONAL CARE



The St. John's UCC Strategic Plan is alive and well. Reminders are included in the Spirit and through many of the church initiatives. And, as a reminder, one of the themes established was Congregational Care.

This care and support goes beyond the Called to Care Team--it's about building caring Christian relationships by 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 how our worship service works, take a few minutes and help them through it. If you are 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 in Called to Care, please let us know. But more importantly give some thought to things YOU can do to foster Congregational Care.

Our current active Called to Care Team includes:

Diana Macfarlane, Carol Marotte, Jolene McGinley, Connie Morrill-Hair, Judy Patterson, Lynda Pound, Eileen Shaffer, Mary Moyer, Pastor Caroline.

Our adjunct team includes: Connie Evans, Lisa Frantz, Lee Powell, Nina Widmann

### **Don't Forget—St John's Cares about you**

Need a prayer—the office can take your prayer request and send it to the prayer chain.

Need a meal—the office can contact Caring Cooks and arrange support for you.

Need a visit or know of someone who does—The office can contact Pastor Caroline and/or the Called to Care team and arrange the visit.

Want to add flowers to the Sanctuary—the office can make sure your name is added to the flower chart and work with you on your order.

We have a wonderful team in our church office that are ready and available to help facilitate your needs.

# CAMP

CAMP –St. John’s 2024 camp season ended on Friday, June 28. It was an exciting and active program with 22 campers from kindergarten to eighth grade. A big thank you goes to all the many people who helped give youth in our community this unique and fun outdoor experience at our wonderful camp! Go to the camp page of the church’s website to see pictures of our campers enjoying their time at St. John’s Camp!





## *Tea News*

Thanks to many church members and friends, St. John's two teas have been a joy to offer to the community and profitable for the church. These two endeavors have raised over \$4,000. The tea in the fall of 2023's profit was \$2,200 that was paid toward the loan for the HVAC system. The spring tea raised \$1,800 and was used to help with the cost of repainting the Fellowship Hall.

We have been very delighted with the high attendance and positive responses!

Please, mark your calendars for our "Autumn Afternoon Tea" on Saturday, September 21. Consider being a part of our amazing team of helpers working in fellowship and creating a charming event. We look forward to another lovely well attended TEA!

Women and men are invited to attend this enjoyable tea!

Sue McMurtray, Connie Strunk,  
Mary Lou Hendrickson & Renee Byers

## ***Report on the Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting***

I had the great joy of participating in the shared four-conference Annual Meeting held June 7-9 in State College. With worship and workshops, business meetings and plenary sessions, it was a lot like a mini-General Synod. Clergy and laypeople from across the Commonwealth converged at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center as we gathered to explore what it might mean to be one Keystone Conference.

Currently, we have four UCC Conferences in Pennsylvania: Penn West, Penn Central (us), Penn Northeast, and Penn Southeast. These Conferences were part of the original structure of the UCC when we were formed in 1957. Times have changed and it is time to consider what models will serve us well into the future. As someone told me several years ago, “we can’t live in what used to be.”

The proposed Keystone Conference would bring together churches across the state into one Conference, with a new staff model helping to support the work of Associations and the local church. Over the last two years, the Keystone Working Group met to consider what is possible, what is practical, and what God might be calling us into. This shared Annual Meeting provided time to wonder together as delegates of our churches, no matter what conference we are part of, and to engage in honest dialogue about what we would gain, as well as what we might lose, by joining together as one Conference.

I continue to be inspired by the efforts of the Keystone Working Group and the stirrings of the Holy Spirit as we lean into the next phase of what it means to be the church in our wider church work and all settings of the church.

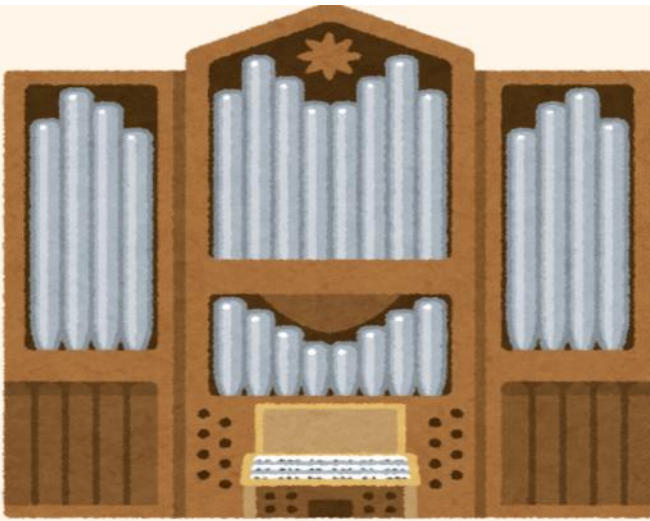
While no votes were taken (that will happen in November), it was an important event in the life of our church and in the work and witness we are all called to undertake.

As a member of the Penn Central Conference Board of Directors, I’m grateful for the work of our conference staff and all of the clergy and lay leaders who have faithfully and prayerfully engaged in discerning what our future might hold.

Attending the shared Annual Meeting also provided me with time and space to spend time with colleagues, form new relationships, see old friends, and be inspired by worship services filled with music and preaching that lifted us up.

Thank you again to Eileen Shaffer for her leadership on Sunday, June 9, allowing me to fully participate in the worship life of the wider church.

May we journey together “Into the Unknown” (as Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister and President said in her sermon at State College), knowing that Jesus is praying for us and leading us on.

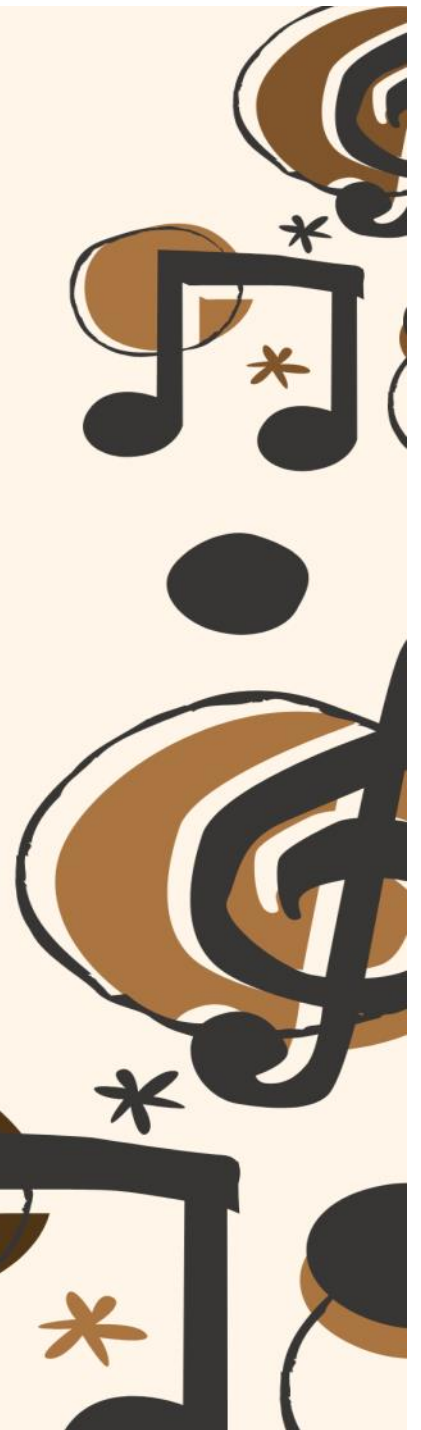


# *Organ Recital*

Join us to hear beautiful music  
played by Ferree LeFevre

Sunday, September 29, 2024  
3:00 PM  
Sanctuary at St. John's UCC  
1811 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, PA 17202

Freewill offering  
Light refreshments to  
follow



# Ladies LUNCHEON

On section of Windy Knoll's dining area was nearly filled when fourteen St. John's ladies gathered for lunch on Wednesday, June 12. Pastor Caroline offered our prayer. Since "fathers" are honored in June, each lady shared a story about her father. Then many different flavors of ice cream were enjoyed.

The group will meet at the Olive Garden on Wednesday, July 10 at 11:30 am. Please bring a red, white and/or blue object to share and comment upon it. Ours will be called "Patriotic Roadshow."



## MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7am at Texas Lunch (108 LWW, Chambersburg, PA)

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

# July BIRTHDAYS

07/01 Makayla Sheele

07/03 Joanne Shew

07/05 Marco Dereef

07/05 Kelly Ann Hoover

07/06 Jeffery Baltozer

07/07 Rodney Byers

07/10 Robert Archibald

07/10 Linda Zeger

07/11 Betty Koontz

07/11 Kimberly Rzomp

07/11 R Kyle Myers

07/12 Renee Byers

07/13 William Slothower

07/13 Barbara Fisher

07/13 Elizabeth Nutter

07/13 Atley John Van Why

07/13 Annabella Burns

07/14 Cassandra Rzomp

07/15 Alexis Reichelderfer

07/16 Charles Reichelderfer

07/18 Grace Kongkeattikul

07/21 Connie Stenger

07/23 Maurice Marotte III

07/23 Kevin Woy

07/25 Kirk Johnson

07/25 Kiana Smith

07/28 Jill Bard

7/29 Jackson Tucker

07/30 Deanna Statler

07/30 Stacey Johnson

07/30 Jessica Hoffeditz

07/31 Ryan Jr. Brown





## Youth Calendar of Events

July

14 Children's corner

VBS Work Day after worship

21 VBS Work Day after worship

22 All Volunteers meeting for VBS 6:30 Fellowship Hall

28 Children's Corner

28- Aug 1 VBS 6-8:15pm



**VBS**

**July 28- August 1, 2024**

**6:00 pm—8:15 pm**

Registration for students and volunteers is open on the church website. Pre School Crew leaders, snack helpers, craft helpers and decorators are needed.

See Roxanne to help!!!!



We are in need of paper towel cardboard tubes for VBS. A cart is in the lobby to collect these.

Workdays are July 14 and 21 after worship. Please let Roxanne know if you will attend so a lunch count can be obtained.

All Volunteers Meeting for this year's VBS will be held on Monday, July 22 at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Please try to attend, particularly if you are new to helping with VBS.



# Ministry Chairs

## 2023-2024

**Called to Care**—*Connie Morrill-Hair*

**Camp**—*MaryLee Yaukey*

**Children & Youth Ministry**—*Roxanne Davenport*

**Facilities Ministry**—*Tom Harrison*

**Fellowship**—*Sue McMurtray*

**Finance**—*Scot Orndorff*

**Invitational Ministry**—*Susan Collier*

**Library**—*MaryLee Yaukey*

**Nursery School**—*Renee Byers*

**Open and Affirming**— *N. Aaron Hartman/Mark and Emily Hoger*

**Outreach**—*TBD*

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** — *N. Aaron Hartman*

**Public Relations**— *TBD*

**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 2023-2024

## Trustees

TBD

Thomas Harrison—**Vice President & Head Trustee**

Larry Wadel

## Elders

Harold Collier, **President**

N. Aaron Hartman

Jill Miller

Gary Patterson

Dwight Sollenberger, **Head Elder**

Carol Yarema

## Deacons

Allen Frantz

Mike Blumberg

Cathy Kinton, **Head Deacon**

Sarah Myers, **Secretary**

Chris Willman-Bunge

TBD

## Pastor

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

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

Communion Dates:

Sunday, July 7, 10 am Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, July 13, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 10, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 11, 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](http://www.sjucc1811.org)*

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

