

# The Spirit

Volume 77 No. 8 August 2024



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

## ***From Pastor Caroline***

As we enter into August (how did that happen?!), we savor the “dog days” of summer and look toward the start of the program year in September. There is so much happening in the life of our church. I’m encouraged and energized by the ways we are living into our mission as a church and embracing the goals and action plans identified in our strategic plan. Thank you for being collaborators with me and the Holy Spirit as we seek to faithfully follow Jesus in this time and place, truly being the church. God is at work in our midst!

I want to highlight a few things that are coming up and invite YOU to be part of them:

- Sunday, August 4, Celebration of Vacation Bible School, held in Fellowship Hall
- Friday, August 9, Youth Swim Party (details on page 25; contact Roxanne)
- Sunday, August 11, Blessing of the Backpacks (fun for all ages, not just for kids)
- Friday, August 16, Concert with Bobby Jo Valentine (flier & details on page 15)
- Sunday, August 25, Blessing of the Animals (including an online video slideshow); this worship service will be held outside on the lawn—all critters welcome!
- Sunday, September 1, Pulpit Exchange with Pastor Julia Brown of Solomon’s UCC (Pastor Julia will preach and lead worship here at St. John’s; I will preach and lead worship at Solomon’s)
- Friday, September 6 & Saturday, September 7, Ladies’ Retreat @ St. John’ Camp
- Tuesday, September 10, “Introduction to Planned Giving,” 1:30 & 6:30 pm, Rm 116

Additionally, I’m very excited to welcome Jessica and Friends adult day program and the Church of Jesus Christ in the Americas (see page 8 for more information on this church) to St. John’s. We pray these partnerships sharing our space will be fruitful for all.

Thank you again for allowing me the time and space to attend the Wild Goose Festival in NC in July. I continue to process what I experienced and how to share that with you, pastorally and prophetically, discerning what it means to be faithful to the Gospel in this moment.

Please note that I will be away August 19-24, traveling to Nebraska to inter my dad’s ashes on the one-year anniversary of his death, August 20. It feels right and fitting to return him to the earth, to the prairie land he loved, and to reunite him with my mom and join all those from his family who have gone before. I will also visit my brother David, who continues to heal from his broken ankle and is re-learning how to walk.

May we continue to seek God’s guidance and grace, and receive the wisdom and courage we need for the living of these days.

*Peace,  
Pastor Caroline*



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## History of “Lift Up Your Voice and Sing”

Few hymns have the capacity to define the identity of an entire group. “Lift Every Voice and Sing” began as a hastily-written composition for an unassuming school assembly, but has become known as the African-American National Anthem.

James Weldon Johnson lived from 1871 to 1938, receiving a degree in literature and a Masters of Arts from Atlanta University. His versatile career as a writer, teacher, Lawyer, and diplomat took him to Venezuela and Nicaragua where he served as an American consul. But his most prominent leadership role was as the executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a position he assumed in 1920.

Johnson had been asked to speak at a school in his hometown, Jacksonville, Florida for an observance celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Rather than write a speech, he wrote a poem. As the time drew near, he turned to his brother, J. Rosamund Johnson, to compose music for his text.

Eventually the piece was adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as its theme song, “Lift Up Your Voice and Sing” gave hope to many during the Civil Rights Era. This song isn’t just for African-Americans and people from Africa but it belongs to all of us who are “true to our God and true to our Native Land.”

Hope you all hear our Summer Singers sing this beautiful song during one of our concerts in July. If you did, many thanks for coming.

# 2024 USED BOOK SALE

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

**Donation Dates: Sept. 3 - Oct. 12**

**Sale Dates: Friday Oct. 25th - 2pm to 8pm  
Saturday Oct. 26th - 9am to 5pm  
Sunday Oct. 27th - noon to 4pm**

Proceeds go to  **Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
of Franklin County



## **Conversations on Governance Structure and Ministry**

At our June 2024 Congregational Meeting, information was shared about a potential new Governance structure for St. John's. The revised structure places more energy and responsibility for ministry onto "missional committees" with special foci on spiritual life, congregational care, and community engagement. These groups include the work that our ministry teams already do, as well as offering more opportunities for shorter term commitments that align with our vision, mission, and covenant of welcome and affirmation.

Facilitated conversations to assist us with the work of living into such a new structure will be held as hybrid meetings (in-person in Room 116 and also on Zoom) with both morning and afternoon options. We hope you will join us! –The Governance Task Force

Spiritual Life Morning Session, Wednesday, August 7, 10 am

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82687420810?  
pwd=W7z4E8AQqyLahaQsWHyjhyp6s58Azn.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82687420810?pwd=W7z4E8AQqyLahaQsWHyjhyp6s58Azn.1)

Meeting ID: 826 8742 0810 Passcode: 283721

Spiritual Life Evening Session, Thursday, August 8, 7 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89434196526?pwd=8f699HrvFKiBbdgxK7DFHiS0cIYZX6.1>

Meeting ID: 894 3419 6526 Passcode: 149608

Community Engagement Morning Session, Thursday, August 8, 10 am

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82687420810?  
pwd=W7z4E8AQqyLahaQsWHyjhyp6s58Azn.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82687420810?pwd=W7z4E8AQqyLahaQsWHyjhyp6s58Azn.1)

Meeting ID: 826 8742 0810 Passcode: 283721

Community Engagement Evening Session, Wednesday, August 7, 7 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89434196526?pwd=8f699HrvFKiBbdgxK7DFHiS0cIYZX6.1>

Meeting ID: 894 3419 6526 Passcode: 149608

Congregational Care Morning Session, Tuesday, August 13, 10 am

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82687420810?  
pwd=W7z4E8AQqyLahaQsWHyjhyp6s58Azn.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82687420810?pwd=W7z4E8AQqyLahaQsWHyjhyp6s58Azn.1)

Meeting ID: 826 8742 0810 Passcode: 283721

Congregational Care Evening Session, Wednesday, August 14, 7 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89434196526?pwd=8f699HrvFKiBbdgxK7DFHiS0cIYZX6.1>

Meeting ID: 894 3419 6526 Passcode: 149608

# Future Together Progress Report

August 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**

- ◆ The Labyrinth located outside the Sanctuary is always available for meditation, centering, and as a quiet space to commune with God. It is a truly beautiful space.
- ◆ Henry Hopper is hosting a meditation class weekly, Mondays at 10 am, Room 116.
- ◆ The Wired Word class continues over the summer months. Join us at 8:45 am in room 116! Email Harold Collier to join the mailing list to receive material in advance.
- ◆ Watch for a new prayer jar ministry coming soon. A designated prayer center is being prepared for the lobby. Remember the 3 basis prayers: Help, Thanks, Wow.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Pastor Caroline is planning a book study for the fall. Stay tuned for more details!

## **ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION**

- ◆ The poverty simulation workshop with SCCAP will be scheduled for later 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. Facilitated conversations will be held to garner feedback and generate additional ideas. See page 5 for dates.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ “Blessing of the Backpacks” will be held on August 11th. Start the year off right!

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

- ◆ “Camp Firelight” VBS was held July 28th through August 1st, 6:00-8:15 pm. Thanks to all who made this such a great experience
- ◆ The Elders are working to reach our members and help connect and support our journey together.
- ◆ Diana Kongkeattikul is planning a Ladies’ Retreat to be held at St. John’s Camp Friday, September 6 thru Saturday, September 7.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- ◆ Thank you for your support of “Stuff the Bus” with United Way, providing needed school supplies for children across 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. Items for donation will begin to be accepted beginning Tuesday, September 3.
- ◆ We are hosting a concert on Friday, August 16th at 6 pm with Bobby Jo Valentine. Outdoor fun and food for all ages before the concert on the lawn (4:30-5:45 pm).
- ◆ Many thanks to the Summer Singers for their ministry among us!
- ◆ St. John’s will be a sponsor of Franklin County Pride Festival in October.
- ◆ Family Fun Day returns on Sunday, September 29.

## **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILTY**

- ◆ Camp Ministry has developed a new rental fee structure and did a mailing to churches located close to camp to make them aware of its rental availability.
- ◆ With help from Berkstresser Realty, we have welcomed the organization Jessica & Friends and the Church of Jesus Christ in the Americas as tenants in our building.
- ◆ 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 the Church of Jesus Christ in the Americas to St. John's UCC!**

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 second new tenant: The Church of Jesus Christ in the Americas (note: this is the English translation of the church's Spanish name).

The Church of Jesus Christ in the Americas is a Spanish-speaking congregation that has been worshipping in the Chambersburg area for several years. They have been hosted in a number of locations in that time and have recently been seeking a permanent home for their worship and prayer services.

Upon being connected with St. John's, Pastor Caroline and Loretta Zimmerman (our office manager) gave them a tour of our building and various spaces they might consider renting for their church. We ultimately agreed that Room 112 would be an ideal location for their activities, with parking lot B providing plenty of space for their evening and weekend services.

St. John's UCC will provide space for worship and prayer services held by the Church of Jesus Christ in the Americas. Chairs have been provided for their use; all other programming needs will be provided for by their congregation. They will be holding services (worship and prayer) on Thursday evenings, Saturday evenings, and Sunday mornings. We anticipate there may be some growing pains as we occupy the building together, particularly on those Saturdays when our once/month Saturday Night Worship services are held and on Sunday mornings. We are committed to relationship building, finding ways to effectively and joyfully share our space.

This partnership is a win-win, providing a safe and secure environment for another congregation while also generating income from a room that was otherwise not being used (~\$850/month).

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  
-ROOM 116  
-NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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

AUGUST 19, 2024 | 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.*



**August 10, 2024**

**5:00 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

St. John's UCC

1811 LWE Chambersburg, PA 17202





Thank you for all the flowers, cards and prayers.  
They are very much appreciated.—Naomi Mull

## 2024 THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT ST. JOHN'S

Bring pets or their photos to the 10 AM  
Outdoor Sunday Worship on **August 25**

For the virtual video, please send photos of your pets  
to Pastor Caroline by Tuesday, August 13.



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



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



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  
Spirit-Filled Songs and Stories**

St. John's UCC

1811 LWE

Chambersburg, PA 17202

**August 16, 2024 | 6 pm**

**Outside on the Lawn**

**(weather permitting)**

*Activities for children offered*

*from 4:30-5:45 pm*

*Refreshments provided*

*Bring your own lawn chair*

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

**Stephen Schwartz, Creator of  
Wicked and Godspell**



# First Fruits

August First Fruits is NETwork Ministries.

Network Ministries is an Urban Youth Ministry in Chambersburg. Their mission is to share the Love of Jesus with those who are most vulnerable. They strive to equip children and young adults with the skills necessary for spiritual growth, academic achievement, life management and Christian leadership.

Currently they serve 100 children and are supported by 40 churches.

Visit their website for more information

[www.network-ministries.org](http://www.network-ministries.org)



St. John's QR Code  
for Giving Online



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

# The Caring Corner



## Why Card Showers for Some Folks and Not for Others?????

Good question! Based on feedback received from the congregation last year, we requested our office staff to initiate a birthday card shower at age 90, 95 and every year after age 95 **UNLESS** requests are received from the congregation (including but not limited to folks on Called to Care). Sometimes card showers are requested at age 92 or 86 or other ages because personal interaction indicates the person would really appreciate hearing from folks at St. Johns.

We want to make sure you are aware this doesn't mean those are the only card showers that can be requested. If you would like to suggest a card shower for a friend, loved one, someone who is sick or to show we care, please contact the church office at least one week in advance of the desired date and provide the details.

Unsure of whether to request a card shower or not, ask the office or anyone on Called to Care. We love card showers! And we think the recipients do too!

Your Friends on Called to Care!

### **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.

# 2024 LADIES RETREAT at ST. JOHN'S CAMP

near Cowan's Gap



Friday Sept. 6 thru Saturday Sept. 7

SIGN UP IN CHURCH LOBBY  
\$30

Meaningful spiritual discussion & reflection,  
Crafts, Light Yoga, Meditation, Games,  
Food & Fellowship!

Questions: Call Diana Kongkeattikul

by St. John's United Church of Christ, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg PA 17202

# St. John's and Planned Giving



Chrystal K. Miracle  
Director of Finance and Administration  
Shippensburg University

“In God we trust... All others pay cash...”

Everything we have is a gift from God, so how do we become better stewards of our gifts? Chrystal Miracle, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Financial Administration for Shippensburg University Foundation, would like to share “An Introduction to Planned Giving” with you on Tuesday, **September 10, 2024 at 1:30 pm or 6:30 pm**. Through charitable and estate planning, she will focus on ways of giving and present information on qualified charitable distributions (QCD’s), bequests and charitable gift annuities. A question and answer session as well as handouts will be available.

Please plan to join us at one of these informative sessions and discover the power of giving from your heart to make a positive impact and create a legacy of generosity for our church family.

# MERCERSBURG ASSOCIATION PICNIC

Mercersburg Association congregations are joining together  
for food, fellowship, and fun at a covered dish picnic!

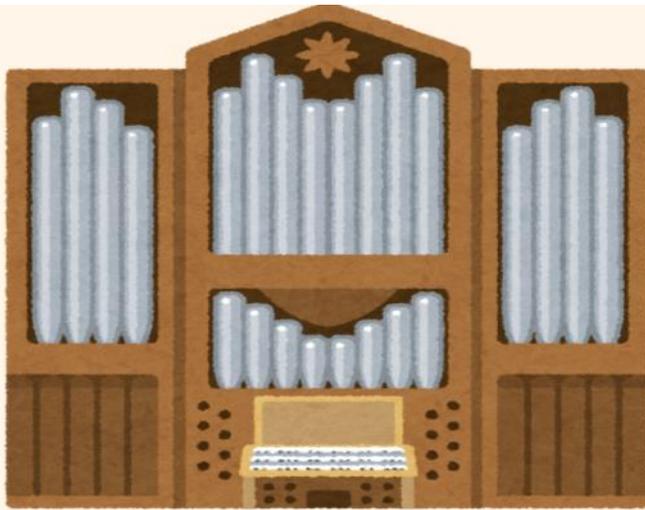
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024,  
4:00 PM**

St. Matthews United Church 3240 Spring Rd. Carlisle, PA 17013

Grilled chicken, hotdogs,  
and beverages will be  
provided. Please bring  
along a potluck dish to  
share! Vegetarian and  
gluten-free options will  
be available (vegan  
options available upon  
request).



All are invited and RSVPs are appreciated!  
Please RSVP to Linda Ritchey at [lindasritchey@gmail.com](mailto:lindasritchey@gmail.com)



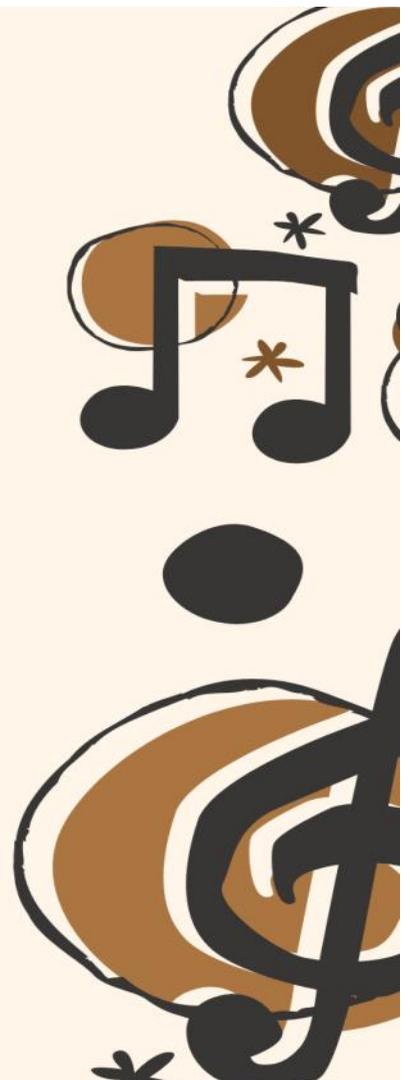
# *Organ Recital*

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

The table in the alcove of Olive Garden was a perfect spot for nine St. John's ladies to enjoy lunch on Wednesday, July 10, at 11:30. Beverly offered a prayer in Pastor Caroline's absence.

A version of "Antique Roadshow" was the discussion topic. Each lady was asked to bring what she considered a "treasure." Since it was July, it was suggested the object be red, white or blue. Two items of jewelry, a father's high school year book, a very special dated Longaberger basket, a plaque for a gardener and a hand painted piece of porcelain were shown and stories shared.

Menno Haven "Grille" in the Life Center will be the location for our meeting Wednesday, August 14 at 11:30 am. Our activity will be a surprise.

## MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 7am at Texas Lunch (108 LWW, Chambersburg, PA)

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

# August BIRTHDAYS

08/02 Arlene McFate

08/06 Aaron Hartman

08/07 Jean Cook

08/07 Lynann Funk

08/07 Sean Collier

08/08 John H. McGinley

08/09 Sadie Boyer

08/10 Carol Foltz

08/12 Emily Hoger

08/13 Joel Munday

08/14 Rodney Rotz

08/15 Christine Pensinger

08/15 Kirk Zeger

08/17 Joyce Patterson

08/17 Eric Wadel

08/18 Erin Wadel

08/19 Jerry Thomason

08/21 Ann Osterman

08/21 Susan McNew

08/21 Dwight Sollenberger

08/23 Dolores St. Clair

08/ 23 Sarah Young

08/23 Cooper Miller

08/24 Connie Kaiser

08/24 Wayne Statler

08/26 Zayla Stull

08/28 Eric Hoover

08/28 Aleeya Leister

08/29 Joann Brechbill

08/31 Kenneth Horn

08/31 Elizabeth Widmann





## Youth Calendar of Events

### August

- 4 VBS Sunday Fellowship Hall
- 9 Swim Party at Chambersburg Aquatic Center 4-8pm
- 11 Blessing of the Backpacks  
Children's corner
- 25 Blessing of the Animals  
Children's corner

### September

- 8th Church School begins 8:45
- 29th Family Fun Day 11:30-??



A huge Thank You to everyone who made our Camp Firelight a success. It is your support of Children's Ministry that allows us to touch so many families.

 **Youth Swim Party**

End summer with a splash at the Chambersburg Aquatic Center. Tentatively set for August 9th, weather pending. We will have food and fun, and service hours can be used. If you do not have service hours to apply, the cost is \$9.00 Borough resident, \$9.00 Fr. and Shipp. County residents, and \$16.00 for other residents. Mark your calendars and contact Roxanne for the count. We will meet at the entrance at 4:00. If you will need to arrive later, let Roxanne know and you will be met. Adults are welcome to join in the fun!

**New Ways to have Fun in Worship.....**

Make sure you get your new Children's bulletin each week from a greeter when you enter the Sanctuary! It will be filled with fun activities based on the scriptures for that week. Should help as a boredom buster until the Children's message!

Also look for the possibility of having Children's corner weekly starting in September. Adults with clearances who are willing help with this on the 1st or 3rd Sunday of a month from time to time, please contact Roxanne.

# 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:

Saturday, August 10, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 11, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Sunday, September 8, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, September 14, 5 pm, Outside on the Lawn or 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](http://www.sjucc1811.org)*

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

