



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
September 29, 2024***

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"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"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

If it had not been for God, who was by our side, we would have fallen prey to those who want to harm us; we would have been spent away by sadness and fear.

Blessed be the Lord, our protector!

God has broken the snare that took away our freedom. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God's holy name!

Let us worship our good and gracious God together!

***HYMN #315**

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

CALL TO CONFESSION

by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

With hearts broken open to receive the grace of God, let us confess the ways our sin has hurt our relationships with each other and with God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

God of unity, we live in a world where our lives move between inclusivity and exclusivity. We often move toward the latter, trying to oust from our circles those who do not think like us, act like us, or look like us. Forgive our need to reject and to always be on the lookout for those things that make us different. Give us the eyes of our Teacher, who knows unconditional love and compassion and sees us all as one, for it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Though we wander from the truth, God brings us back and saves our souls from death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

ANTHEM

"God is Love (Let Heaven Adore Him)"

Tom Fettke

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:38-50

RESPONSIVE READING

"We Would Not Have Made It" (a remix of Psalm 124)

If it had not been the Lord, I would not have made it.

Through accidents that help first responders in awe as I walked away without a scratch;

Illness and virus that suddenly, inexplicably arrested my breath and threatened my life;

Interaction with trigger-happy police aggressively approaching me in stopped vehicles with hands on guns;

Running through MTA cars and up subway stops to avoid predation from those trying to assault me;

Hot spots where bullets fly from d-boys' Glocks a block over from my bedroom;

Drives with no cell or GPS signal through landscapes flooded with confederate flags and white nationalist symbols;

Seasons of poverty marked by potato chip dinners and staying in my house because I couldn't afford roundtrip travel on the bus;

Threats of bodily harm from men wanting to roll on me because my unapologetic way of being was an irritant to their souls.

Shoutout to God the deliverer! Blessed be their holy name.

If it had not been the Lord who was on my side, on our side, we would not have made it.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message

SCRIPTURE READING

James 5:13-20

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION: GARY CRUM & LORETTA ZIMMERMAN

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Blessed be the Lord, for God is good, and God's love endures forever. Our Creator, help us to mirror your goodness through this offering, in the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #272**

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us following the service for coffee hour!

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available. See the deacon for assistance.

Birthdays this week: 10/01 Lynne McGough; 10/02 Susan Collier and Dariawn Barbour; 10/05 Katrina Dietrich

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Sarah Myers
Lector	Diana Kongkeattikul
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz & Heidi Ramos
Bulletin cover	"Looking for Peace" mural by Eduardo Kobra https://www.flickr.com/photos/wallyg/14890407643

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in celebration of our wedding anniversary by Harold and Susan Collier.



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; Rev. Stephen M. Fearing (Call to Confession); "We Would Not Have Made It" by Alicia T. Crosby, included in The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle, edited by Martha Spong

NEWS IN THE PEWS September 29, 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

Today: Family Fun Day @ 11:30 am and Organ Recital @ 3 pm

Monday, September 30

10:00 am Meditation Class – Parlor Room 104

Tuesday, October 1

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 2

2:00 pm Church Book Study – Conference Room 111

Thursday, October 3

7:00 am Men's Breakfast – Texas Lunch

6:00 pm Bell Choir – Choir Room 103

6:00 pm Fall Dance Class – Fellowship Hall

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Sunday, October 6

8:00 Amistad Praise Band Rehearsal – Sanctuary

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 (ft. Disciples of Christ Mime Ministry)

Family Fun Day will be today 9/29, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, outside on the church lawn. We will have food, games, music, and a petting zoo! This FREE event is open to all—please invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

Organ Recital Join us this afternoon 9/29, 3:00 pm for an organ recital in the St. John's Sanctuary given by Ferree LeFevre. A freewill offering will be taken; light refreshments to follow. This should be a delightful afternoon of beautiful pipe organ music.

Fall Book Study Join Pastor Caroline in Conference Room 111 on Wednesdays at 2 pm for a weekly book study and discussion on Jim Wallis's book "The False White Gospel." At our next session on Wednesday, October 2, we will discuss chapter 3, "Made in God's Image--Or Not?" and chapter 4 "Lies That Demand Our Loyalty," pages 79-115. Come prepared to join the conversation!

Habitat Book Sale the Habitat for Humanity book sale is fast approaching. Sale dates will be October 25, 2 pm - 8 pm, October 26, 9 am - 5 pm and October 27, 12 pm - 4 pm. Donations will be accepted here at St. John's through October 12. Contact Harold Collier to help with sorting donations. We have already received ~10,000 items.

Boxes Needed! Sturdy small and medium boxes are needed as we sort book donations in preparation for the Habitat for Humanity Book Sale in October.

Immunization Event We are planning another flu/COVID immunization clinic with Chambers' Apothecary after worship on Sunday, October 13. Be on the lookout for more information.

Meditation Group Henry Hopper is holding a Meditation Group every Monday at 10 am in the parlor room 104. New members are welcome; no experience needed! Questions? Contact Henry.

Diana's Devotional Corner Every week Diana Kongkeattikul writes a reflection that is posted to our website. We are now offering a special Eblast weekly with these reflections/devotionals. If you would like to receive these directly, please let the office know so we can put you on the list!

Please join in Public Witness at the 2024 Pride Fest on Sunday, October 13 from 12-5 p.m. at Wilson College. In addition to St. Johns UCC being a sponsor of this event, it also provides opportunity to be a public witness in gathering with others lending support to our LGBTQ+ neighbors. As we come together as allies, we celebrate diversity, acceptance, and belonging in Franklin County. There are activities for children and pets on leash are welcome. Please consider attending as we continue to 'build bridges' with our neighbors and community agencies. Building bridges sometimes involves taking a risk in being a public witness.

A unique worship experience will be part of St. John's worship service on Sunday, October 6. Often spiritual deepening happens in unexpected ways. Our visual senses will be engaged as we experience for several minutes God speaking to us via this 'art' form. Disciples of Christ "Mime Ministry" is an experience of gestures and storytelling - "hearing" via one's visual sense - seeing the Word of God.

New Photo Directory We are very excited to plan our new photo directory this fall! We will be working with local photographer Amanda Hann. Two in-person options will be available for those wishing to have professional photos taken: Tuesday, September 29th at her studio in Shippensburg and after worship on Sunday, October 13, in Room 116. Please call the church office to book your sessions. More information is in the October Spirit.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above 315

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2. What God's al - might - y power has made in mer - cy He is
 3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis -
 4. Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud His
 5. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God all praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade His eye is nev -
 tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, our peace and joy
 prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song my voice un - wea -
 glo - ry; let all who know His power pro - claim a - loud the won -

sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul He fills, and
 er sleep - ing; with - in the king - dom of His might, lo!
 and bless - ing; as with a moth - er's ten - der hand He
 ried rais - es; be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart! Both
 drous sto - ry. Cast each false i - dol from its throne, for

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills:
 all is just and all is right:
 leads His own, His cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 soul and bod - y bear your part:
 Christ is Lord, and Christ a - lone:

WORDS: Johann Jakob Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesänge*, 1566; harm. Heinrich Reimann, 1895

MIT FREUDEN ZART

8.7.8.7.8.8.7

Higher key, No. 13

272 They'll Know We Are Christians

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - store'
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
 And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

WORDS: Peter Scholtes, 1966

MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

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ST. BRENDAN'S
 Irregular with refrain

UNITY

love. Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.