

***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
September 8, 2024***

SIXTEENTH 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

MISSION MOMENT

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

Here at the feast of God's holy word and holy meal,

eyes and ears are opened so that all may be glad and filled with hope.

God's goodness brings us to this place,

and we cannot help but praise.

***HYMN #395**

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Many people brought their greatest needs to Jesus, certain that he would help them. With that same confidence, let us confess our failings and seek forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Almighty and compassionate God, every day, in our desire to attain our wants, avoid discomfort, and shun those we do not know or love, we show ourselves to be unworthy of your gifts of life. Of this we are sorely aware, and we ask your power to renew us in body and spirit that we will be able, through your help, to walk in the way you intend for us. Forgive us and lead us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Our merciful God lifts our burdens from us, removes the failures of our past, and turns us to new life. You are forgiven. Walk in peace.

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

ANTHEM

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 7:24-37

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 146, The Inclusive Bible

Alleluia! Praise YHWH, my soul!

I will praise you all my life; I will sing praise to God while I live!

Do not trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no salvation.

When their spirits depart, they return to the earth, and on that day their plans perish.Happy are those whose help is the God of Israel, whose hope is in YHWH, their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in it!

YHWH, you keep faith forever: you secure justice for the oppressed; you give food to the hungry; you set captives free;

you give sight to the blind; you raise up those who are bowed down; you love those who do justice;

you protect strangers; you sustain orphans and the bereaved—but you thwart the way of the corrupt.

YHWH will reign forever—your God, Zion!—through all generations.**Alleluia!****CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Roxanne Davenport

*Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message***SCRIPTURE READING**

James 2:1-10, 14-17

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

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****Gracious God, for hope and healing, and a sharing of all that enables us to thrive, we give you thanks. Bless these gifts that they may be signs of our intention to live simply, love generously, serve faithfully, and speak truthfully, for the good of your kingdom and your people. Let love be our guide and our way in the world. Amen.****HOLY COMMUNION**

(communion liturgy on the screen)

*We celebrate communion this day by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup);
pre-packaged elements are also available****CLOSING HYMN #520***"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"*

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us following the service for coffee hour!

All are welcome at Christ's table. To let the church office know that you communed today, please sign the black attendance pad found in each row. If you are communing from home, please contact the church office to let us know.

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: 09/09 Connie Morrill-Hair; 09/11 Lisa Hess and Harold Wissinger; 09/12 Alexandra Dennis; 09/13 Ferree Le Fevre and Diana Macfarlane; 09/14 Lisa Singleton and Aiden James Van Why; 09/15 John Tucker and Larry Stenger

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Sarah Myers
Lector	Dale Myers
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in celebration of the anniversary of Connie and Bob Strunk by Lisa Fair.



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; The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation; Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*

NEWS IN THE PEWS September 8, 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, September 9

10:00 am Meditation Class – Room 116

5:30 pm Cooking Class – Kitchen

Tuesday, September 10

1:00 pm Nursery School Ministry Meeting – Conference Room 111

1:30 pm Introduction to Planned Giving – Room 116

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

6:30 pm Introduction to Planned Giving – Room 116

7:00 pm Amistad Praise Band Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 11

11:30 am Ladies Luncheon – Falafel Shack

2:00 pm Church Book Study – Conference Room 111

Thursday, September 12

6:00 pm Bell Choir – Choir Room 103

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Friday, September 13

6:00 pm Fall Dance class – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 14

3:00 pm Amistad Praise Band Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

5:00 pm Saturday Night Worship – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 15

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

4:00 pm Mercersburg Association Picnic – St. Matthew Untied Church Carlisle

Introduction to Planned Giving sessions with Chrystal Miracle will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 1:30 & 6:30 pm in Room 116. Please plan to join us at one of these information 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.

The Nursery School is selling mums from Backroads Greenhouse! These gorgeous mums in 9-inch pots are available in Red, Orange, Yellow, Purple, or White for \$10 each. Orders and money are due no later than Tuesday, September 10. Please make checks payable to St. John's Nursery School. Mums will be available to pick up Wednesday, September 18, 11:30am – 3:30pm, at St. John's Nursery School, Parking Lot B.

Autumn Afternoon Tea is Saturday, September 21. Tickets are now available! Make sure to reserve your ticket(s)/table soon—spaces are limited!

Knock on Wood Marimba Band will perform here at St. John's on Sunday, September 22, at 3:00 pm. Please join us for a unique celebration of rhythm and melody featuring the talents of Jay Brown, Jill Work, Roger Myers, Christina Roncin, and Marlin Barnes. There will certainly be something for everyone to enjoy!

Tie Die Craft Night Join us on Monday, September 23, 6 pm in room 202. Cost is \$15; indicate your t-shirt size when you sign up at the Welcome Center or you can bring your own shirt with you (100% cotton and prewashed). Contact Chani Wolfe with any questions you may have.

Family Fun Day will be on Sunday, September 29, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. To volunteer to help, contact Roxanne or the office.

Organ Recital Join us on Sunday, September 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.

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 to help.

Meditation Group Henry Hopper is holding a Meditation Group every Monday at 10 am in room 116. 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!

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." Books can be purchased via your favorite retailer. We will be focusing our first session on Wednesday, September 11 on creating a learning covenant and discussion of the forward and introduction.

375 Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth Thou
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth Thou
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth
 4. O - pen my mind, that I may read more of Thy love in

WORDS: Clara H. Scott, 1895
 MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

SCOTT
 8.8.9.8.8.8.8.4

hast for me; place in my hands the won - der - ful key
 send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,
 ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare
 word and deed. What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead?

that shall un - clasp and set me free. Si - lent - ly now I
 ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I
 love with Thy chil - dren, thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I
 On - ly for light from Thee I plead. Si - lent - ly now I

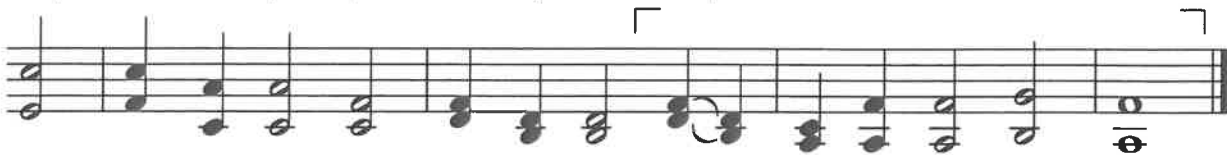
wait for Thee, read - y, my God, Thy will to see;
 wait for Thee, read - y, my God, Thy will to see;
 wait for Thee, read - y, my God, Thy will to see;
 wait for Thee, read - y, my God, Thy will to see;

o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 o - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 o - pen my mouth, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 o - pen my mind, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



The Spir-it sends us forth to serve; we go in Je - sus' name
We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the bur - dened free;
We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat-ter joy like seed
Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos-pel to pro - claim.



bring glad tid - ings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.
and, all our days, to cher-ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
God's Spir - it has em - pow-ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.



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Carl G. Gläser; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

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