

The Spirit

Volume 78 No. 3 March 2025



LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST
rule in your hearts

COLOSSIANS 3:15

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

From Pastor Caroline

Among my favorite Lenten “cartoons” is one of an older couple reflecting on Lent: The man offers, “The Bible says thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return” and the woman retorts “That’s why I don’t dust; it could be someone I know.” While a comic way of reflecting on our mortality, I find it appropriate as we prepare for Ash Wednesday on March 5 (though I confess I haven’t yet gathered up either the energy or courage needed to dust my house).

Lent is a season of repentance and renewal. I feel the need for renewal a lot these days. I’m trying to fill my own cup with joy and laughter and love; to build resilience and resistance so as to “not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Maybe you are in need of these things, too. Thankfully, we’re not in this alone; we have each other and we have Jesus.

As I try to “pray more and worry less,” I’m working to channel my anxiety into action, my fear into fortitude, and balance the need to be pastoral with the call to be prophetic. I’ll be honest: I would rather be a prophet of the resistance than a chaplain of the empire. I know the church is at its best when we are speaking truth to power, rather than allied with it. And no matter how bad it might get, God in Christ shows us that love gets the last word.

Rev. Benjamin Cremer is one of the pastors I turn to when I need inspiration. He writes, “No matter how discouraging the world may be around us or how relentless violence and death seem to be, love will not only triumph and prevail but will get the last word over us all. That is the hope I want to invite you to hold onto as you travel this journey called Lent.” If you’re interested in Cremer’s work, I recommend his Lenten devotional, available as an e-book for \$20, “When Love Gets the Last Word: Daily Readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter”: <https://benjamin-cremer.kit.com/products/when-love-gets-the-last-word-a-lent-devotional>

The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:13 “Now faith, hope, and love remain – these three things – and the greatest of these is love” (CEB).

We are called to be salt and light; we are called to love our neighbors and our enemies; we are called to be the children of God—generous, forgiving, patient, wise, and kind. I pray that we are able to embody these qualities not only in our worship, but as we live in the world.

Using a special Lenten curriculum called “Bread of Life,” we recognize “how Jesus fed people—not just their bodies but their souls—with good news, redemption, and stories of God’s kin(g)dom.” We will gather together to break bread, savor the divine generosity of God, and rise to share with the world out of the abundance we have received from the bread of life—nourished in body and in spirit. We begin our Lenten journey with worship on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30 pm and will end it together with Easter on April 20 at 10 am.

We don’t always know what the future will hold—but we trust in the One who holds it.

Let us trust in God’s power for life, in the love of Jesus Christ, and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit, being the body of Christ and being the church.



MUSIC MINISTRY

English Hymnody

It was a daring move when, in 1707, Isaac Watts published his first book of hymns. At that time it was the practice of almost every congregation of the Church of England to sing only Old Testament psalms in public worship. However, Watts had grown to dislike this because it restricted the Christian from being able to explicitly celebrate in song all those aspects of the gospel that are fulfilled and illuminated in the New Testament.

In the preface of *Hymns and Spiritual songs*, Watts addresses the worship situation of his time and offers a defense for writing and publishing new music. Watts is credited with writing something like 750 hymns. But what makes this hymn unique is the particular beauty of its language and imagery, and the power with which it highlights the most significant event in human and personal history – the cross of Jesus Christ our God.

Watts' giftedness for writing hymns, combined with his courage in publishing them, would eventually turn the tide against singing only psalms and set a new standard for Christian worship in the English language. Today Watts is widely recognized as the "Father of English Hymnody"

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" is his greatest hymn.

When I Survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

St. John's choir will sing an anthem based on this hymn in our worship service on Sunday April 6. Hope you are there to hear us.

Gary Crum



Outreach Ministry 2025 Lenten projects

Each year the Outreach Ministry designates three or four recipients of our Lenten First Fruits. This year there are four groups that we have decided to support.

NETwork Ministries NETwork Ministries is committed to sharing the love of Christ with those who are most vulnerable in our community. They especially seek to equip children and young adults with the skills necessary for these four areas of focus: spiritual growth, academic achievement, life management, and Christian leadership.

Peru Adopt a school program. St John's association with this program began in 2008 when the Crum's and Powell's visited the school on their trip to Peru. All donations go to the purchase of school supplies for an elementary school in Yamamoto. We continue to receive communications in appreciation of our support. (Check out the three "books" of original artwork made by kids in these schools available at the Welcome Center.)

African Mission Healthcare. This mission is in support of compassionate medical access and treatment in Kenya and Malawi. It is the Mission with which the Jon and Amanda Fielder family have served.

The Women Healthcare Initiative Foundation. This organization's mission: To work with local governments, religious institutions, NGO's and local, national and international stakeholders to empower women and children in Burkina Faso to break the cycle of poverty through healthcare teaching, formal education with basic technical skills, and offer solutions to improve the quality and delivery of healthcare. The vision is a nation where women come together to overcome health disparities in Burkina Faso.

The proceeds of these offerings by the congregation will be evenly divided between these four programs. Our collection will be during [Lent](#) and will end on **April 13th, Palm Sunday**. Lenten boxes will be available beginning Sunday, March 2. Checks may be made out to St. John's with Lenten Project in the memo line. We are very happy to offer this opportunity for local and global outreach in the life of St John's UCC.

Reflection on giving selected by Jerry Thomason and the finance task force

From Howard Thurman's book ***Meditations of the Heart***

Life, an Offering to God

MANY, many years ago, a Hindu poet wrote:

Love not the world not yet forsake
Its gifts in fear and hate.
Thy life to God an offering make,
And to Him dedicate.

We are all involved in life in its varied aspects and responsibilities. The daily routine carries its own toll of energies and processes. The struggle for bread and shelter continues to the very end to beat at our lives and our very spirits with an insistence that cannot be ignored. For many there are additional cares that go beyond the demands of our own personal survival and encompass the tender threads of the lives of others to whom we are bound by ties of blood and birth. Beyond all this, there are areas of the common life in which we must do our part in order that the very fabric of society may be maintained against collapse and disintegration. There are dreams, hopes and yearnings which possess our lives, calling us away from the usual round and the common tasks. Amid all these pressures and many more, life for us becomes entangled or again and again bogs down. There comes a moment when we are in utter revolt—something deep within us becomes tired, weary, exhausted, and finally, outraged. What we long for in deep anxiety is some haven, some place of retreat, some time of quiet where our bruised and shredded spirits may find healing and restoration. One form that this anxiety takes is to hate life and to fear tomorrow. For such the ancient poet speaks a timely word. All such experiences are a part of our experience and must be regarded as life's gifts. Whatever may be the uniqueness of man's experience, we must remember that nothing that is happening to us is separated from that which is common to us. The answer to all of this reaction of deep anxiety and anguish is, says the poet: "Thy life to God an offering make, and to Him dedicate." And the meaning of this? If I make of my life and offering and a dedication to God, then this dedication will include all my entanglements and involvements. There follows, then, a radical change over my entire landscape and miraculously I am free at my center. It is for this reason that it is well, again and again, to re-establish my dedication, to make repeatedly an offering of my life. I must keep my dedication up to date with my experiencing.

St. John's Nursery School

Hello, March! We are all looking forward to warmer weather and searching for signs of spring!

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year has begun! Current Nursery School families and Church members began registering their children on February 18th, and registration will open to the public on March 3rd. If you know someone who is interested in registering a child in one of our Nursery School classes, please contact the nursery school office at 717-264-8224 or nsdirector@sjucc.net. Registration information is also available on our website at www.sjucc1811.org/nursery-school/

St. John's Nursery School values the importance of supporting the efforts of families in their transition to Kindergarten. Amanda Ryan, Kindergarten teacher at Guilford Hills Elementary, visited us in February and shared a wealth of information about Kindergarten, and what families and children can expect from the registration process. We thank Amanda for sharing her time and knowledge with our Nursery School families.

In March, we celebrate our pets and the joy they bring to our families. We will be collecting items for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter again this year. The youth of St. John's will be helping by making displays and delivering the items to the shelter. Collection boxes are available at the entrances of the Church. Please help our animal friends at CVAS by bringing in donations!

Sunday, March 2nd is National Read Across America Day. For the month of March, the Nursery School will be celebrating our love of books and reading. Parents are encouraged to read aloud with their child every day and enjoy this special reading time. To celebrate our reading success, we will end the month with an ice cream party!

The Nursery School's chicken BBQ fundraiser is quickly approaching! We will be selling tickets for Smith's BBQ Chicken before and after services on March 2nd and 9th. Chicken meals can be picked up on Saturday, March 22nd, at Lowe's on Lincoln Way East.

Thank you for supporting St. John's Nursery School!

Kari Rock

Nursery School Director

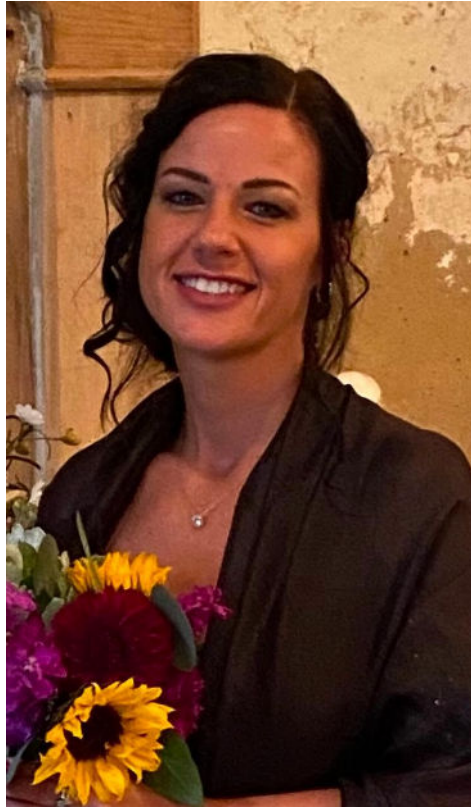


Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9:00am - 3:00pm

Office Administrator: Tonya Schwartz





Introducing St. John's New Office Administrator

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that our new Office Administrator Tonya Schwartz started her employment with us on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

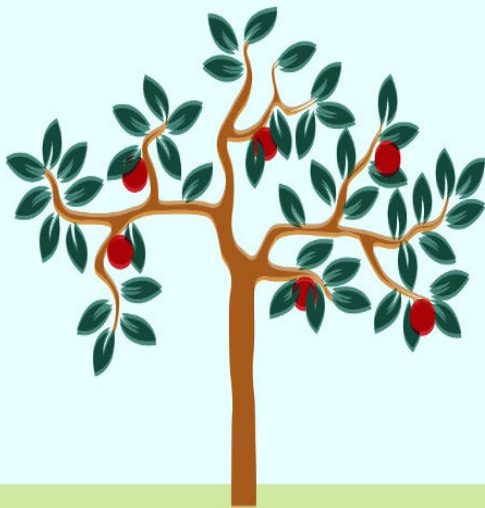
Tonya spent her whole career working in an office environment. We expect her diverse work experience will be very beneficial to St. John's UCC.

Tonya enjoys the outdoors, camping, hiking, boating, and riding her motorcycle. She says that "family is EVERYTHING to me."

When you have time, please consider stopping by and welcoming her to St. John's. We are glad to have her on board!

INTERESTED IN JOINING ST. JOHN'S UCC?

PLEASE SPEAK WITH OR CONTACT
PASTOR CAROLINE IF INTERESTED



NO MATTER WHO YOU
ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME
HERE

NEW MEMBERS' CLASSES WILL BE
SCHEDULED TO SUIT THE GROUP

A MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY DATE WILL BE
SELECTED FOR SPRING 2025

Installation of New Dishwasher

Feb.3, 2025



Installing the new dishwasher



Thank you to everyone who made this possible,
and to the photographer, Tom Harrison.



**New Doors for St. John's
Sanctuary NW Exit door
& Kitchen SW Exit door**
Grant Money!



The Sanctuary NW Exit Door



The Kitchen SW Exit Door



Future Together Progress Report

As we wait for spring to arrive, we continue 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

- Pastor Caroline is leading a weekly study on Martin B. Copenhaver’s “Jesus is the Question: The 307 Question Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered” on Mondays at 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. The study continues throughout March.
- A new Bible Study is being planned for Sunday evenings at 8 pm via Zoom.
- Worship opportunities with our Conococheague Mission Cooperative (CMC) partners will continue with shared midweek Lenten services in March (each church will host their own Ash Wednesday worship). Our service will be held at 6:30 pm. For more information, including locations and preachers, please see page 15.
- A World Day of Prayer service will be held on March 7. For details, see page 19.
- The Wired Word class meets Sundays at 8:45 am in room 116. Email Harold Collier to join the mailing list to receive material in advance.
- Our prayer jar ministry has a designated prayer center in the lobby. There are three jars: one for joys, one for concerns, and one for gratitude. Won’t you pray with us?
- Diana Kongkeattikul writes a weekly devotional for our website. An opt-in email list is available via the office if you’d like to receive her reflection directly in your inbox.

ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION

- St. John’s elected the members of our Council at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 9. We thank all those who have faithfully served on Consistory, those who are continuing to serve on the Council, and those who are newly joining Council.
- The Susquehanna University Choir is in concert at St. John’s on Sunday, March 2, at 3 pm. The choir will also sing at our morning worship at 10 am.
- Amistad Praise Band received a warm welcome on February 16 from the residents at Providence Place. Their ministry in the community is growing.
- Check out page 14 for details on our Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on March 4.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- The prayer chain is a wonderful way that we can be involved in praying with and for one another. Prayer requests can be emailed or texted to Pastor Caroline. To join the prayer chain, please contact the church office.
- Thank you for your patience with the process of putting together the new pictorial directory. If you have not yet submitted a photo, or would like to have one taken professionally, please contact the church office.
- A new opportunity called “Life Talks” is offered after worship in the parlor. Many thanks to Judy Hodges for suggesting this informal opportunity to gather together.
- Volunteers are needed to help with Children’s Corner. Special curriculum aligning with the “Bread of Life” theme will be provided in Lent. Contact Roxanne to sign up.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Our “Springtime in Paris” Tea will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Join our tea email list for early access to tickets. Tickets will go on sale to the public on April 1.
- The Wired Word Church School class is exploring other ways that SJUCC can be involved in the wider community. We build community as we serve the community.
- Ben Raber of NETwork Ministries will be speaking to the Wired Word Adult Church School class on March 16. Everyone is invited to attend this special session to learn more about NETwork and how we might support their ministry.
- ONA Ministry is hosting a film screening of the documentary “Join or Die” on March 23. The film focuses on the importance of community. Lunch will be provided for those who RSVP. Check out page 22 for more information.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- A community art class is now renting space at St. John’s on Mondays (room 116).
- Check out our new doors on page 11! Grant monies made these needed upgrades possible. Plus: 40 chairs with arms are located throughout the building (primarily in the Sanctuary and choir room). Ghostwriter, LLC continues to help us with grants.
- Our new dishwasher has been installed (page 10). It will debut on Tuesday, March 4 with the Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner.
- Online giving and other giving opportunities¹³ are regularly advertised. A QR code is placed in our publications. Finance-related articles are included in every Spirit.

ST. JOHN'S SHROVE TUESDAY PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

March 4, 2025

5:30 pm

Dine-in or Carry-out

Includes:

Mashed potatoes

Cooked Carrots

Rolls

Applesauce

Dessert

\$15 Adults

\$5 kids (6-12)

Free for kids under 6

1811 Lincoln Way East

Use Parking Lot B



We look forward to our annual Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner on Tuesday, March 4. We need YOUR help to make this a successful event. To volunteer, please contact Harold or Susan Collier.

{YOU ARE DUST}

Ash Wednesday

{AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN}



reflect & renew

WORSHIP SERVICE

6:30 PM

SANCTUARY &
LIVESTREAMED

MARCH 5
20
25

**Conococheague Mission
Cooperative Midweek Lenten
Worship Services**

LENTEN WORSHIP THROUGH THE SENSES

ALL SERVICES HELD AT 7 PM

- Wednesday, March 12, St. John's UCC, Pastor Bill Smith preaching
- Wednesday, March 19, Quincy UMC, Pastor Caroline Saxton preaching
- Wednesday, March 26, Calvary UMC, CLM Loretta McClure preaching
- Wednesday, April 2, Scotland Fellowship Church, Pastor Christopher Frye preaching
- Wednesday, April 9, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Pastor Robin Baer preaching

SIGHT, HEARING, SCENT, TOUCH, TASTE

MARCH 17, 2025 | 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.*

March 8, 2025

5:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

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





Dear Friends:

This letter is to thank you for your donation of \$2,000 to Franklin County Legal Services for the use of the book room which we received on December 23 2024. Thank you so much for this critical support which helps meet basic needs through the provision of civil legal services. We are happy that we can work together in Book Sale fundraising to meet needs in our community!

When legal services are the necessary key to family unity, housing preservation, personal safety, income security, the protection of human rights, and the meeting of other basic needs, Franklin County Legal Services is here to help for those who cannot afford to pay for the service. Free civil legal aid is provided to hundreds of people in our community each year. Thank you so much for your important part in meeting basic needs for our low-income neighbors through your donation.

These much-appreciated funds will help the neediest and the most vulnerable in our community again this year. From the immigrant in need of defense to the parent facing a custody hearing, Franklin County Legal Services is a critical safety net for low-income individuals in need of civil legal help for issues that seriously affect their everyday lives. Saint John's United Church of Christ is a significant part in making our much-needed work happen!

We applaud you for your involvement in our community and look forward to continuing to work together in the future!

Sincerely,
Brittany Henderson, Executive Director
Gloria Keener, Deputy Director



LET'S COME TOGETHER

World Day of Prayer Service

Worship Service @
Scotland Fellowship Church
4040 Main Street, Scotland, PA 17254
Friday, March 7, 6 pm

St. John's Camp News

Camp Ministry members have been working on the camp website, camp-based activities, events and the summer camp program. Our beautiful camp is the perfect place to gather, learn about nature, relax and get closer to God. Have you considered renting the camp for a day, a weekend or a week? Camp is the perfect place to gather with friends, team build with a group, enjoy a family reunion, walk the labyrinth in the woods, or hold a meaningful retreat. Please, take a look at the Camp Rental tab on the church website for information and prices and then share with your family and friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS :

Sticky Bun Sale will be in March. *Orders and payment* will be taken for cinnamon sticky buns for **\$12/dozen and \$7/half dozen** before and after church on Sundays, March 16 and 23. Then pick up your “ready to bake” sticky buns on Sunday morning, **March 30**. Freshly baked sticky buns will also be on sale, after church, on **March 30** for **\$2 each**.

Email Mary Lee Yaukey (mlyaukey@comcast.net) if you want to join the fun of making the delicious buns on Saturday morning, **March 29**.

Camp Clean Up – Help is always needed to get the camp cleaned and ready for the summer camping season. There will be a Saturday group cleaning date with the Boy Scouts where the focus is on the grounds and mainly with leaf removal. Throughout the spring, on weekdays and weekends, help is needed to clean cabins, the dining hall, kitchen, etc. More details to come.

2025 Summer Camps – This summer there will be a Weekend Adventure for grades 6,7,& 8+ June 20-22. Camp Kum-Ba-Yah, a day camp, with one overnight option for grades 3,4,& 5 and **Camp Noah, also a day camp**, for grades K,1,& 2 will both run June 23-27. “Life’s Learning” presenters, counselors, and lunch time helpers will be needed to operate the camp program. Mark your calendar, spread the word and please consider volunteering!

**St John's Church
Ballroom Dancing
Starts Thursday March 20**
"Learn to Dance and use it forever"



- **Beginners Class 6:00-7:00.** (Swing, Tango, Cha Cha, Foxtrot.)
- **Second Timers Class 7:00-8:00** (Swing Triple Step, Bachata, Waltz, Rumba, Enhanced Cha Cha, Two Step)
- **Dates:** Thursdays March 20, Mar. 27, Ap. 3, Friday Ap. 11, Thursdays April 24, and May 1.
- **Contact:** Frank Hancock at fhancock@comcast.net (717-241-4483) or Harold Collier hcollier@comcast.net to sign up.

St. John's United Church of Christ—1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, PA 17202.
Use Parking Lot B for Fellowship Hall

Feel Good Yoga

at St. John's with Sue Collier
Tuesdays, 5:30 PM
Room 202
\$5.00

Come and enjoy the
benefits of Feel Good Yoga



St. John's United Church of Christ, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg. Use Parking Lot B.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A FILM SCREENING OF

“JOIN OR DIE”



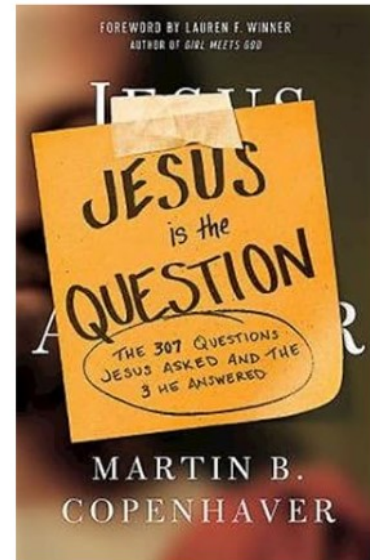
We will gather in **Room 116** for a special group screening of “Join or Die” on **Sunday, March 23, 2025, at 11:30 am.** Lunch will be provided; RSVP to assistant@sjucc1811.org to confirm your attendance and any dietary restrictions.

Join or Die is a film about why you should join a club - and why the fate of America depends on it. In this feature documentary, follow the half-century story of America’s civic unraveling through the journey of legendary social scientist Robert Putnam, whose groundbreaking “Bowling Alone” research into America’s decades-long decline in community connections could hold the answers to our democracy’s present crisis. Flanked by influential fans and scholars as well as inspiring groups building community in neighborhoods across the country, join Bob as he explores three urgent civic questions: *What makes democracy work? Why is American democracy in crisis? And, most importantly... What can we do about it?*

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 11:30 AM, ROOM 116

Join Pastor Caroline for a group discussion of “Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered” by Martin B. Copenhaver. We meet on Mondays at 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111.

Check out News in the Pews for each week’s reading assignment. Everyone is welcome. Don’t forget to bring your questions!



From Outreach:

You have heard "community engagement" as one of our strategic goals in revisioning. For several years, we have supported NETwork Ministries through financial support. However, the Adult Education Class on Sunday mornings has requested the leader of NETwork Ministries to meet with us on Sunday, March 16. In this session we will be able to hear much more about the various programming aspects of this highly valued after-school opportunity for many of the youth in Chambersburg. Along with the information provided, Ben Raber will engage in a discussion with attendees how we at St. John's might find ways to further support this program.

We invite you to join us on Sunday, March 16, at 8:45 am in Room 116 for this conversation. Listed below is just a brief statement about NETwork Ministries:

What is NETwork?

We are an urban youth ministry for children and teens in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Since 1993, we've been committed to sharing in the love of Christ with those who are most vulnerable in our community.

Our desire is to minister to the whole person with the gospel of Jesus. With this in mind, we especially seek to equip children and young adults with the skills necessary for these four areas of focus: spiritual growth, academic achievement, life management, and Christian leadership. We accomplish this through a variety of after school and summer opportunities for youth in our neighborhood.

NEATH'S AND HEIDI'S JOURNEY UPDATE



Hello everyone! We wanted to share a quick update on the house—progress has been moving along swiftly, and we couldn't be happier with how everything is coming together.

Last time we spoke, we were waiting for the drywall installation, and we're thrilled to share that it has been finished, with the rooms now beautifully painted! To say that the house is progressing would be an understatement; it feels like we blinked, and the walls transformed! After the painting, our kitchen cabinets were installed, ceiling fans were added in every room, and finally, the flooring has been laid!

It's been a joy to see the rooms come to life, truly making the house feel like a home! The next steps involve installing the doors, window trim, & floor trim. Following that, we will be putting in our kitchen appliances. While we still have some way to go before moving in, we know it will happen quickly.

Once again, none of this would have been possible without your encouragement and prayers. We are deeply thankful for each and every one of you!

Recently, some of you have inquired about contributing to our home through gifts or gift cards. We've created registries at Target and Amazon. You can find Heidi's name on their websites or simply scan the QR codes below!

Thank you once more for being a part of this journey with us!

-Neath & Heidi



Amazon
Registry



Target
Registry

We have been excited to see the progress of the Hope House which is a collaborative effort between Menno Haven and Habitat for Humanity, and for the support being extended by St. John's to our members -- Heidi Ramos and Muneath Ham -- future owners. As the days draw near for house completion and dedication, we have an opportunity to further support Heidi and Neath in some home furnishings. Please review the flyer to see if you have some things on the list which you may have been considering to move out of your abode. Contact information is included below.

FROM YOUR HOME TO OURS

ARE YOU DOWNSIZING?

We're moving into our first home and are looking for furniture! If you're downsizing, moving, or just need to get rid of some pieces, we'd love to give them a new home.



WE'RE UPSIZING!

Here's how you can help: Send us a picture of the furniture you're looking to part with, along with any details (size, condition, etc.). You can reach us at our number and email below. From there, we'll coordinate with you to see what works for our space and arrange pickup.



WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Dressers
- Lamps
- Dining table
- Chairs
- Couch
- Side tables
- Bench
- Lawn equipment and tools
- Filing Cabinet
- Patio Furniture
- Coffee Table
- Bar Stool
- Dining room Chairs
- Bookshelves
- Mirrors



+1 717 860 1144



Heidiramos43@gmail.com



Our future home

**THANK YOU FOR
HELPING US TURN OUR
HOUSE TO A HOME!**
—HEIDI & NEATH

THE CARING CORNER---

WHAT HAPPENED TO CARING COOKS?

People who Care and Cook are still around! What is **missing** is the volunteer who used to coordinate meals for us. Our Caring Cook coordinator had to 'retire' from this position for a variety of reasons. We observed that over the past several years, there were several instances where a variety of members and friends of the congregation would put together a 'meal train.' These people knew of a need and then reached out to others who might know the person or be interested in cooking, and they created a schedule for the meals and it worked—it worked well! We de-



cided this was a good approach for us to take for the future.

If you are aware of someone who could use **some temporary** help with a few meals because of recent surgery, living alone, loss of a loved one, or other circumstances, we encourage to call that person and make sure they are interested and check on any dietary issues. Then ask folks you know who might help and put the schedule together. And the beautiful thing is, no one has to do this very often, there are no meetings--just emails and phone calls. Typically support is for a few weeks. If it is longer term, other options such as Meals on Wheels might work better.

Recently I had the opportunity to try this for Mindy Orndorff after her knee replacement surgery. I asked some of the Sunday School leaders and some of the Called to Care folks if they would have an interest in helping. Mindy indicated that support for two meals a week for three weeks would be very helpful. Chani, Roxanne, Mary Moyer, and I provided the support.

And of course, there is always the option of sharing something you made with someone you think would benefit without organizing a meal train. This is really a wonderful way to show you care.

If you have questions about this approach, please reach out to me. I'll do my best to answer your questions and get you started.

Thank you!
Connie Morrill-Hair

Prayer Shawl Ministry

For close to 20 years, various members of St. John's Church have been creating prayer shawls (either by knitting or crocheting). The completed shawls are blessed at services throughout the year, and they are given to homebound members, those facing health issues in the hospital or at home, and those who are grieving a loss. Although we don't have a formal meeting, new shawls are always welcome. Please contact Aaron Hartman at (717) 966-9132 if you are interested in creating a shawl or know someone who can benefit from this ministry.

About the prayer shawl dimensions and colors: Colors are up to the donor. Shawls have been made in a wide variety of colors and patterns and each one is beautiful. In order that the shawl will be used by the recipient comfortably, shawls should be 18 to 22 inches wide and at least 54 inches long. A sample with suggested pattern can be found in the prayer shawl drawer outside of the church office.

Thank you for your support of the prayer shawl ministry!



Happy Anniversary Harold and Dolores St. Clair!

On Sunday January 26 the congregation learned that Harold and Dolores had just celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. There were enough flowers available to include them in the Sunday delivery of a bouquet. What a wonderful visit with this wonderful couple!

When asked what was the key to their successful marriage, the first answer was “*Yes Ma’am*”—after a really good laugh-- they said compromise, thinking positive, and working at staying healthy (includes walking every day). Congratulations Harold and Dolores!

Ladies **LUNCHEON**

With the snowy, icy winter weather we have been having, the ladies did not meet as scheduled on Wednesday, March 12.

China House, on Gateway Avenue, across from BJ's, will be our destination on Wednesday, March 12.

Please RSVP to Bev Peters to indicate if you will be joining the group.

MENS BREAKFAST



We will be meeting Thursday, March 6 at 7am at Texas Lunch (108 LWW, Chambersburg, PA).

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/02 Mackenzie Miller

03/03 Skip Elliott

03/05 Rebecca Pound

03/10 Carol Rockwell

03/12 Deborah Dilling

03/14 Margaret "Peg" Marotte

03/14 Lee Powell

03/17 Charles "Ed" Foltz, Jr.

03/19 Belinda Johnson

03/21 John Bryner

03/21 Aubrei McSwiggan

03/23 Donna Harrison

03/23 Emily Stull

03/24 Lavonna Wadel

03/24 Nina Widmann

03/28 Richard Foerster

03/30 Muneath Ham

03/31 Carolyn "Cookie" Miller



St. John's has merch!

Help spread our message of love
with a t-shirt or hoodie!

St. John's U.C.C Shirts!!

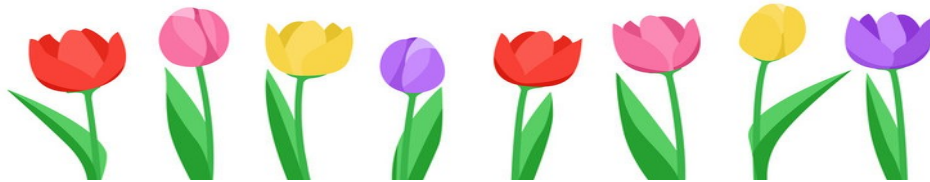
**T-Shirts - \$12 each
Hoodies - \$25 Each**

Sizes: Small - 2 XL



**Visit the office to
get yours today!**

**1811 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, PA 17202
(717) 263 - 8593**



Easter Tulips

We are now taking orders for Easter tulips to decorate the Sanctuary for the Easter Sunday Service.

If you would like to donate a tulip, please complete the form and return it to the church office by **Monday, April 7, 2025.** **Cost - \$15.00 each**

Donor's name: _____

(as it will appear in the bulletin insert)

I would like to order _____ Tulips to be placed:

_____ In memory of: _____

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ To the Glory of God

**** Thank you for your support. Please arrange for your flowers to be picked up.**

Please include your payment with this form and return it to the church office by **Monday, April 7, 2025. Make checks payable to St. John's UCC.**



March Youth News

2 Church School 8:45

4 Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner 5-7 PM

9 Church School 8:45

10 Children and Youth Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 Parlor

16 Church School 8:45

23 Church School 8:45

30 Church School 8:45

Children's Corner is offered every Sunday during Worship

VBS Dates for 2025

Mark your calendars for July 20 - 24. See Roxanne to help.

We're Going on a "Road trip"



Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

The Youth will be once again helping the Nursery School in their collection of items for the CVAS by creating wonderful animal displays and signs for the collection sites in the church. We will embark on a delivery of these items in April.

Service Hours



Whenever the youth have a fun activity scheduled you will see the comment that service hours may be applied. For our newer families an explanation is offered, as many of your students may have already earned some that you are not aware of.

Youth have a fundraiser account which students can draw from. An hour of service is awarded \$5 to be used on these scheduled activities. Service is earned by helping with things like VBS workdays, helping with camp, dinners like Pork and Sauerkraut, mission projects like Heifer International, Grooming kits for CWS and CVAS donations set up. Often these are done during Children's Corner. A spreadsheet of service hours is kept and may be viewed at any time.

Thank you to all who helped teach our youth about giving and sharing our wealth.

-Roxanne Davenport



Ministry Chairs

2024-2025

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—*Linda Zeger*

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.

2025 COUNCIL
Moderator Team
Tom Harrison, Past Moderator
Harold Collier, Moderator
Diana Kongkeattikul, Moderator Elect
At Large Members
N. Aaron Hartman, Secretary
Dale Myers
Heidi Ramos
Eileen Shaffer
Additional Non-Council Positions
Scot Orndorff, Treasurer
Jerry Thomason, Assistant Treasurer
Dick Rebok, Authorized Check Signatory
Sarah Myers, Head Deacon
Dwight Sollenberger, Head Elder
Sarah Herbert, Safe Church Compliance Steward
Pastor
The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

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

Communion Dates:

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, March 8, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 9, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Saturday, April 12, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday, April 20, 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

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

