



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
March 16, 2025***

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: BREAD FOR GROWTH

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONGS

"Sanctuary at St. John's" and "This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

"Here I Am to Worship"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Bread of Life

Calling all who are hungry for the goodness of life!

The bread of life satisfies our hunger and thirst.

Come with empty pockets and open hands!

The bread of life loves us and knows our needs.

Let us gather from all walks of life, celebrating in unity our common needs and singular purpose.

The bread of life has come to sustain us.

Believing this promise, let us worship together!

***PRAISE SONG**

"How Great is Our God"

***OPENING PRAYER**

from Bread of Life

God, our mother hen, we gather beneath your ever-expanding wings to see how you will meet us today. Though we grow and mature, we cannot outgrow your love. Though our belief grows more complex, your mysteries always outpace our imaginations. Help us grow and mature today as we worship, delighting in new understanding and greater depth of meditation. Cause our hearts, empowered by your Spirit, to expand like dough becoming bread. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Beneath the mantle of peace, Jesus, the bread of life, provides a bounty of fellowship, care, and connection. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Take a moment to greet others with the peace of Christ, which inspires us to care for the needs of our community.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

from Bread of Life

Loving God, today and every day we remember those who live on the margins of care and compassion, where the yeast of love and justice have yet to spread. We pray for those whose voices are silenced, whose needs are ignored, and whose hopes are dimmed by the weight of oppression and neglect. May your Spirit stir within us, guiding us to listen, act, and love boldly.

Grant courage to those who face injustice, strength to those who work to bring change, and comfort to those who suffer. Teach us to embody the compassion of Christ, our bread of life, who sought out the lost, fed the hungry, and welcomed the outcast. Help us live as bearers of your kin(g)dom, spreading the leaven of your grace until all are filled with your abundance. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to love without boundaries and to work for a world made new. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 4:5-18

RESPONSIVE READING

"Color Mine" by Bobby Jo Valentine

You can keep life black and white

I'm going to color mine.

You can hold your reins in tight

I'm going to jump the lines.

You can keep your shore in sight

My ship has waves to climb.

You can monochrome your life

I'm going to color mine.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"My Sweet Lord"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:18-21

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERING SONG

"All We Need"

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" v. 4

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from Bread of Life

Generous and gracious God, help us steward these gifts with imagination and a spirit of abundance. May a little go a long way as you inspire us to share what we have with those in need. Teach us how to use the resources we have to thrive in this world of scarcity. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

"When We All Get to Heaven"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from Bread of Life (on screen)

***CHARGE & BENEDECTION**

from Bread of Life

SENDING SONG

"Victory in Jesus"

Please join us for coffee hour after worship!

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: 3/17 Charles "Ed" Foltz, Jr.; 3/19 Belinda Johnson; 3/21 John Bryner and Aubrei McSwiggan; 3/23 Donna Harrison and Emily Stull

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Amistad Praise Band	Guz Mora, Roxanne Davenport, Kathleen Mooshian
Deacon in Charge	Allen Frantz
Lector	N. Aaron Hartman
Children's Corner	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Ginny Cairns
Bulletin cover	"A Parable - The Mustard Seed" © Cara Hochhalter from Art in the Christian Tradition , a project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given to the Glory of God.



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: *"Bread of Life" Lenten liturgy & commentary* © 2025 *Illustrated Ministry*; *"Color Mine" from Your True Name: Poems, Songs, and Stories to find your way to you* by Bobby Jo Valentine

NEWS IN THE PEWS March 16, 2025

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

TONIGHT: Bible Study on the Book of Daniel, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, March 17

10:00 am Meditation Class – Parlor Room 104

1:30 pm “Jesus is the Question” Book Study – Conference Room 111

Tuesday, March 18

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study – Zoom

6:00 pm Scout Crossover Ceremony – Sanctuary

6:45 pm Amistad Praise Band Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 19

7:00 pm Shared Mid-Week Lenten Worship hosted by Quincy UMC -Pastor Caroline preaching

Thursday, March 20

6:00 pm Dance Classes – Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm Bell Choir – Choir Room 103

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Sunday, March 23

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

11:30 am Film Screening of “Join or Die” – Room 116

Outreach Opportunity: NETwork Ministries While St. John's UCC has supported NETwork Ministries financially for several years, we desire to learn more about their program. Ben Raber will join the Wired Word class on **Sunday, March 16, 8:45 am in Room 116** to share more about the various aspects of this highly valued youth ministry program. We hope you'll join us!

Spring Tea in Paris Tickets go on sale April 1 for our next tea on Saturday, May 3.

Camp Sticky Bun Sale Camp volunteers will be making and selling cinnamon sticky buns for \$12/dozen and \$7/half dozen! Orders and payment will be taken before and after church on Sundays, March 16 and 23. 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. Help support St. John's Camp and enjoy a tasty treat! All proceeds support the Camp Fund.

Film Screening: "Join or Die" ONA Ministry invites you to a special group screening of the documentary "Join or Die" on **Sunday, March 23, 11:30 am** in **Room 116**. "Join or Die" is a film about the importance of community connections, especially for American democracy. Lunch will be provided; please RSVP to assistant@sjucc1811.org to confirm your attendance and any dietary restrictions. More information is available in the March Spirit. We hope you will join us!

Birthday Balloons All are invited to share in a special coffee hour the last Sunday of the month to honor all who celebrated a birthday that month. We will start on March 30. Come and enjoy!

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at **8 pm via Zoom** for a Bible study on the book of Daniel. Our session on **March 16** will focus on Daniel Chapter 2. Participants are encouraged to read from a variety of translations; Pastor Caroline will be using the Common English Bible. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink for this opportunity will be included in the weekly e-blast.

March/April Upper Room devotionals are available at the Welcome Center. We suggest a donation of \$1 for small print/\$2 for large print copies. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Want to Stay in Touch? Contact the Church Office to be added to our email list! You can sign up to receive our regular weekly emails, Diana's Devotionals, and/or be part of the Prayer Chain.

Lenten Projects Throughout the months of March and April, we will be collecting funds for the organizations designated for Lenten Projects. Please see the Spirit for more details.

Join us for Life Talk What's on your mind? Something that concerns or worries you? Do you need to vent? Just want to talk with other adults for a bit? Don't want to share in front of the entire congregation? Or you don't think it really needs to be a prayer request? Grab your snack and coffee, and meet in the parlor after services on Sunday mornings for about 15 to 20 minutes. Anyone and everyone is welcome.

Shared Lenten Midweek Worship We will join with other churches in the Conococheague Mission Cooperative (CMC) for Wednesday night worship services during Lent. Check the Spirit for the full listing of dates/locations.

Bible and a Beer is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be March 17.