

The Spirit

Volume 85 No. 10 November 2025



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

From Pastor Caroline

My first semester of seminary included several introductory survey classes: Introduction to the Old Testament I, Introduction to Pastoral Care, and History of Early Christian Thought. Having not been a religion major, much of what we covered in the church history class was new to me. Honestly, I've forgotten a lot of it. It isn't necessarily something that I use in my regular routine. It has been a delightful surprise to re-discover this history alongside folks who participate in the Monday afternoon book study. Diana Butler Bass's book "A People's History of Christianity: the Other Side of the Story" is an engaging, accessible read.

In a time when it can feel overwhelming and exhausting, and like we are the first people to be faced with such challenges (and massive upheaval), it is helpful to know that we are not the first Christians to try to navigate such times. We can look to our ancestors in faith, to their example of steadfast love for God and neighbor, and the practical strategies they employed "for such a time as this." We, too, can channel "lovingkindness" and work to "be the light" in dark places. Christianity is, after all, meant to help us to live lives of meaning and purpose, growing closer to the Divine and to one another.

Several of the themes in our Future Together strategic plan echo this sentiment: spiritual deepening (growing closer to God) and congregational care (growing closer to one another). Our efforts at community engagement and energizing participation also matter; they are the engines that drive our outreach within and beyond our property and grounds. And financial sustainability is a reality we have been working hard to address. I encourage you to take a look each month at the Future Together Progress Report. We seek to be transparent as we live into our Strategic Plan, especially as we look toward goals in 2026, 2027, and beyond.

And so, we do our best to find ways to sustain the mission and ministry of our church. Our fall Congregational Meeting is **Sunday, November 9**. We will vote to adopt the budget for 2026. Both a line-item budget and a narrative budget (aka "mission spending plan") are in the Congregational Meeting packet. Please, save November 9 on your calendar; review the materials provided; and help St. John's to thrive, for we are "building the church of the future."

October 2025 was an incredibly busy month at St. John's, culminating with the Habitat for Humanity Book Sale on October 24, 25, and 26. The check presentation to Habitat for Humanity will be held during worship on Sunday, November 9. November will be busy, as we keep dreaming, creating, and showing up for the work of love, especially in Advent.

We will celebrate Totenfest on Sunday, November 23, the last Sunday in the church year. Watch for an e-blast with more information about this special memorial observance. Advent begins on Sunday, November 30. We will be using Illustrated Ministry's *Dare to Dream* curriculum, knowing that there is work in the waiting in this season—"tending to the world, naming injustice, and nurturing seeds of hope that haven't yet bloomed." Hope is embedded in daily work, kindness, and prayer. May we hold both longing and courage in the same breath, waiting and working for the²world to change.

Peace, Pastor Caroline



MUSIC MINISTRY

Nearer, My God, to Thee

This hymn is one of the most enduring and deeply moving hymns ever written--- a personal prayer of longing to be closer to God, even through suffering or sorrow. The text was written by Sarah Flowers Adams, a British actress-turned-poet and devout Christian. She wrote the hymn in 1841 while living in Essex, England, for inclusion in a hymnal compiled by Rev. William Johnson Fox.

Adams drew inspiration from the story of Jacob's dream of Bethel (Genesis 28:10-22), where the patriarch saw a ladder reaching to heaven and received the promise of God's presence. The hymn's progression—rising “still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee” – is a journey from hardship to hope, from earth to heaven.

The mostly commonly sung tune for the hymn in American churches is “Bethany”, composed in 1856 by Lowell Mason, a leading figure in early American sacred music. The union of Adam's poetic depth and Mason's tender melody has made this hymn a powerful expression of faith for over a century and a half.

The hymn is famously associated with solemn moments in history—perhaps most poignant with reports that it was played by the ship's band as the RMS Titanic sank in 1912. Yet its message is not of despair, but of ultimate trust in God's nearness through all circumstances.

Hope you enjoyed hearing our bell choir play this beautiful hymn on October 26 during our church service that day.

Gary Crum

First Fruit Offering

First Fruits for November will go toward supporting Heifer International. Heifer's model includes working in economic development, environmental sustainability, food security and nutrition, risk mitigation and women's empowerment and social capital. Partnering with Children and Youth Ministry, our First Fruits will go toward strengthening communities across the globe, helping to aid Heifer International's efforts to change the fact that 783 million people go to bed hungry every night. Speak with Roxanne Davenport to learn more about Heifer and how you can make a difference.



Focus on Finance – November 2025

What is a narrative budget? How can this be a helpful tool in our stewardship journey?

A “Narrative Budget” or “Mission Spending Plan” describes how a congregation uses its finances for mission and ministry. The numbers are the same as the line-item budget; yet it tells the story of our church’s work in a different way. Stories help to paint the picture of how our funds are actually used to worship, witness, learn, love, welcome, and serve.

Narrative budgets help us to see how our giving fits into our theology, a biblical theology of stewardship. We are encouraged not only to give of our resources (our treasure), but also of our time and talent. Such gifts expand our mission and ministry in real and living ways.

Stewardship is part of the relationship we each have with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. How we use our time, talent, and treasure is part of our call as disciples. Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

A narrative budget is a tool that helps to provide a vision of how we will use our resources to fund God’s plan for our church. Each of the narrative categories have the potential to connect us to Christ in a meaningful way—that is why our church exists. To grow in love of God and neighbor.

Our 2026 Mission Spending Plan is split into six categories: Praising God in Worship and Music; Teaching and Nurturing Discipleship; Connecting to One Another; Connecting to the Community; Reaching Out in Service; and Managing Our Building and Grounds.

Copies of the Mission Spending Plan (aka Narrative Budget) are included as part of the Congregational Meeting Packet alongside the line-item budget. We hope you will find it a helpful resource that tells the story of our church in more than just dollars and cents.

Remember: The church is involved in mission and ministry, and mission and ministry need funding. Thank you for your support of our mission and ministry.

-The Finance Task Force (Pastor Caroline, Lisa Fair, Scot Orndorff, Jerry Thomason)

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 11 AM

We will be voting on our 2026 Budget. Please plan to attend this important meeting in the life of our church.

Meeting packets are available at the Welcome Center and Narthex and by request from the church office.



St. John's Nursery School

Fall is by far our favorite season at the Nursery School. Our Nursery School children are eager to learn about all of the changes that are happening outside. We are reading books, going on nature walks, and appreciating the beauty that God has given us with the arrival of this season of change.

The Nursery School students had quite a busy October. They began the month with school picture week, with many of the children experiencing their very first school picture. Then, they had a visit from the Fayetteville Fire Co. A big thank you to the Fayetteville Fire Co. for teaching our students about fire safety and for letting them tour your fire truck and ambulance! The children ended the month with Fall classroom parties, planned by our Nursery School parents. They had Fall-themed crafts, snacks, and activities, and the children even found a pumpkin in our pumpkin patch!

Our Butcher Shoppe fundraiser is in progress now through November 17th . Members of the Nursery School Ministry will be selling cookie dough tubs (2.5 lbs) for \$17 and Big Oak Café coffee (12 oz) for \$13, before and after church services on November 9th and November 16th . Cookie dough and coffee can be picked up from the Parlor refrigerator starting on Wednesday, December 3rd . We will also be selling tickets for Butcher Shoppe Subs (\$8) and pizza (\$12). These tickets make great stocking stuffers!

Thank you to the Nursery School Ministry for your continued support and to the St. John's Church members for your participation in these events. Your support of our Nursery School does not go unnoticed and your involvement supports our success!

Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving!
Kari Rock, Director



Church Office Hours:

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

**Office will be closed on Tuesday,
November 11 for Veterans' Day and
Thursday November 27 and Friday
November 28, in observance
of Thanksgiving.**

Office Administrator: Tonya Schwartz

**Phone: 717-263-8593
Email: manager@sjucc1811.org**

Future Together Progress Report

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 book study on Monday afternoons at 1:30 pm. The current selection is “A People’s History of Christianity” by Diana Butler Bass. The group meets in the Conference Room 111; each week’s reading assignment is listed in News in the Pews and the e-blast.
- Bible Study on the Book of Acts of the Apostles occurs on Sunday evenings at 8 pm via Zoom. The link is included in the weekly e-blast.
- The Wired Word class meets Sundays at 8:45 am in room 116. Email Harold Collier to join the mailing list to receive the material in advance.
- Diana Kongkeattikul writes a weekly devotional posted on our website. An opt-in email list is available if you’d like to receive her reflection directly in your inbox. Contact the church office to join.
- The Spiritual Life Standing Committee is being organized. Dale Myers, Diana Kongkeattikul, and Lloyd Beers are leading this team. Deacons are being recruited and a list of substitute deacons is being compiled.
- Deacon training will be held after worship on Sunday, November 2.
- Deacons and Elders will be ordained and installed during the worship service on Sunday, November 9.
- Henry Hopper leads a Chi Gong/Zazen silent body energy, and soulful meditation class on Mondays at 10 am in the Parlor Room 104. All are welcome to join.
- Work to maintain our Labyrinth has progressed with the help of a landscaper. We are pleased to offer this beautiful space for meditation, prayer, and/or spiritual growth to our faith family and the wider community.
- A new worship team has started rehearsing this fall. Thank you to Neath Ham, Courtney Robertson, and Swann Kongkeattikul for sharing their talents.

ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION

- Our annual Family Fun Day on September 28 was very successful with great weather. We had a good turnout and a variety of fun (and free) activities.
- The Pickleball court in Fellowship Hall is once again available for play. Check the church calendar to see existing reservations. Contact the church office to reserve.
- We had over 60,000 items donated for our Habitat for Humanity Book Sale! The Sale itself was held October 24, 25 and 26. Many thanks to everyone who helped, in ways big and small—in takes us all!
- Thanks to all who helped with our Halloween Event “No Tricks, Just Treats”!
- On Thursday, November 13, Mike Marotte will have a presentation on the history of Penn Mar Park. This will be held in room 116.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- Totenfest, honoring those we have lost in the last church year, will be November 23. Please contact Pastor Caroline if there is someone you would like to be remembered in this special memorial observance.
- PA State Trooper Angela Laviena gave two wonderful presentations on scam prevention on October 2. Thank you to Jill Miller for organizing these events!
- This year’s Flu and COVID immunization clinic was held after worship on October 12. We give thanks to Chambers’ Apothecary for their partnership!
- Copies of our proposed Behavioral Covenant (aka “Holy Manners” are available in the Narthex and by request from the church office. An article detailing more about this document and what it is intended for is included on page 17. Opportunities to learn more and offer feedback will be held later this fall.
- The prayer chain is a wonderful way to pray with and for one another. To join the prayer chain or to share a prayer request, please contact the church office. Prayer requests can also be emailed or texted to Pastor Caroline.
- Our weekly e-blast is a great way to learn about upcoming events, activities, etc. To join, please contact the church office and they will get you added!
- Grab a snack and/or coffee and meet in the parlor after worship for “Life Talks,” gathering together for conversation and support. This has been a wonderful addition to our Sunday mornings after worship.
- We are making progress on finishing our⁹ new pictorial directory. If you have a photo to submit or contact information to update, please contact the church office.

Future Together Progress Report

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

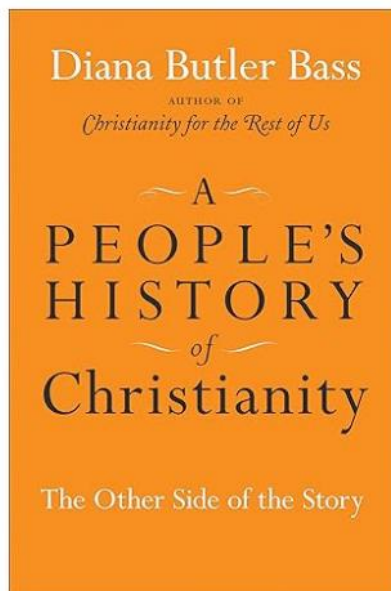
- The Wired Word Church School class prepares and provides a meal for NETwork Ministries once a month this fall, typically on the 4th Thursday of the month. The second date is October 30. The date for November is TBD. We will cook the food in the church kitchen and deliver it to NETwork. Our first meal on September 25 was well received. Thank you for donating food and funds to feed kids in our community.
- The Chili Cook-Off on October 5 was well attended and a great success. We had 7 kinds of chili, two kinds of rice, cornbread muffins, and a variety of desserts. This event raised \$282 to support SCCAP. Fantastic!
- St. John's was well-represented at the Franklin County Pride Festival on October 12. Many thanks to Heidi Ramos, Neath Ham, Chani Wolfe, Erin Hartman, and Jerry Thomason for staffing our booth!
- The annual CROP Walk on October 19 had 11 walkers (7 adults, 4 youth) and raised \$581. Thank you to all who participated and represented SJUCC!
- The Cookie Walk has a new name: "Cookies for Kids." Same great cookies with the proceeds going to help children in our area. Plan your baking to help December 6!
- Our Bellfest bell choir concert returns on Sunday, December 14. Save the date!
- The Community Engagement Committee will be piloting a new approach to First Fruits and Budgeted Benevolences. More information will be shared soon.
- January 24 will be our first (and hopefully annual) Winterfest Dance.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- A Special Congregational Meeting was held on September 21 to move forward with repairing our parking lots and funding the project by borrowing from our Trust Fund. The work will be scheduled to be done in Spring 2026.
- Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, November 9. In addition to the line-item budget, please check out the narrative budget that helps to tell the story of our mission and ministry beyond dollars and cents.
- Jessica and Friends welcomed clients into their day program in Suite 121. Their growth has been wonderful to see. They're likely to expand into additional rooms for meetings.
- Use of our space by community groups continues to increase. Spread the word!
- Ghostwriter, LLC continues to help us apply for grants.
- 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.

Join fellow sojourners in faith for a group discussion of “A People’s History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story” by Diana Butler Bass. 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.



Sunday Night Bible Study

Join us on Sunday nights
at 8 pm on Zoom for Bible Study
Bible Study on the book of Acts!

Check out News in the Pews & E-blast
for each week’s reading assignment.

We encourage looking at a variety of translations;
Pastor Caroline is using the Common English Bible (CEB).

The link to join is included in the e-blast
and News in the Pews.



CONOCOCHEAGUE MISSION
COOPERATIVE

Thanks Giving

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 23

3:00 pm Calvary United Methodist Church
150 Norlo Drive, Fayetteville, PA 17222

The poster has a dark blue background. At the top, there are pine branches and a string of warm white lights. The text is centered and reads: "THE CONOCOCHIEAGUE MISSION COOPERATIVE PRESENTS:" in a white, sans-serif font. Below this is the title "Blue Christmas" in a large, white, cursive font. Underneath the title is the subtitle "EXPERIENCING HOPE AND HEALING IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS" in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the event details are listed in a white, sans-serif font: "SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 @ 3 PM ST. JOHN'S UCC 1811 LWE CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202".

THE CONOCOCHIEAGUE MISSION
COOPERATIVE PRESENTS:

Blue Christmas

EXPERIENCING HOPE AND HEALING
IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
@ 3 PM
ST. JOHN'S UCC
1811 LWE
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202



CONOCOCHIEAGUE MISSION COOPERATIVE

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 3, Mont Alto UMC

10 S Main Street, Mont Alto, PA 17237

Wednesday, December 10, St. Luke Lutheran

2695 Luther Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17202

Wednesday, December 17, Scotland Fellowship Church

4040 Main Street, Scotland, PA 17254

All services will be held at 7 pm

Salvation Army Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is our “First Fruits” for December 2025. The tree will soon be up in the front lobby, probably in mid-November. Salvation Army is working hard to make sure as many children (and families) have a happy holiday season.

St. John’s will receive 40 tags this year. Please, consider how you can help make the holidays a bit brighter for kids in our community this year. All gifts should be delivered unwrapped in gift bags by **Thursday, December 4**. These gifts will be blessed in worship on Sunday, December 7.

Hoffman Homes Holiday Gift Program

St. John’s UCC has long been a supporter of Hoffman Homes, located outside of Littlestown, PA. Hoffman Homes is a non-profit organization that provides both in-patient and outpatient behavioral health treatment, educational services and other county-funded residential-based services to youth, young adults, and their families across the commonwealth. Several St. John’s folks have served on the Board in the past, including Rev. Glenn Schultz, Mary Moyer, and Lee Powell. Pastor Caroline is a current Board member. This year, St. John’s will help with the Holiday Gift Program, spreading holiday cheer to the youth and young adults in care and make some of their holiday wishes come true. We have agreed to take 20 tags representing twenty young people. Gifts/gift cards are both accepted, with the following guidelines.

-Do not wrap the gifts. Simply place each youth’s gift(s) in one bag and attach the gift tag provided for each youth.

-Do not provide items that could potentially be dangerous to these youth (i.e. spiral bound journals and/or sketchbooks, glass, mirrors, pencil sharpeners, etc.). Art sets are okay. Staff will remove potentially dangerous items for safety. If you are uncertain about an item, please reach out to Hoffman Homes at 717-359-7148.

These gifts/gift cards are due back to St. John’s by **Monday, December 1**. Pastor Caroline will arrange transportation of these items to Hoffman Homes by December 3.

THANK YOU for your support of these programs!

St. John's Camp News

Save the date for St. John's Camp 2026

Camp Kum Ba Yah for grades 3, 4, & 5 will be a day camp June 22-26, 2026 at a cost of \$125 with an *optional* sleepover night for an additional \$10.

Camp Noah for grades K, 1, & 2 will be a day camp June 22-26, 2026 at a cost of \$125.

Pay in full by May 31 and get a \$25 discount!

Camp received two grants for our 2026 camp season to make improvements to our camp and make our camp more attractive and fun. A portable Gag Ball Pit, that may also be used for events happening at church, has been purchased. Consider renting camp for a day or weekend or a week because St. John's camp is a great place to be!

The Camp Ministry team is already busy planning for the summer and helpers are always needed. Please, mark your calendars and consider volunteering to help as a counselor or Life's Learning presenter or kitchen helper. Talk to your family and friends and ask them to save the date so their youngsters can attend our beautiful camp.

"Nature is a tool to get children to experience not just the wider world, but themselves."
– *Stephen Moss.*

Monday Meditation



Join us for Chi Gong/Zazen silent body energy,
and soulful meditation

Mondays, 10 am in the Parlor
Room 104

Contact Henry Hopper
with any questions

“Holy Manners for Our St. John’s United Church of Christ Faith Community”

First introduced to SJUCC during a workshop on Healthy Congregations, the idea of a Behavioral Covenant has been part of our Future Together Strategic Plan since Fall 2023. Under the stewardship of Lloyd Beers and Connie Morrill-Hair, a draft of “Holy Manners for Our St. John’s United Church of Christ Faith Community” (a Behavioral Covenant) has been developed. This summer, members of the Wired Word class helped to shape this document—and now it comes to the congregation. Copies of the drafted document are available in the Narthex and by request from the church office.

What is a behavioral covenant?

A behavioral covenant is a written compact between an organization and its members that serves as a formal, binding agreement regarding personal, interpersonal and organizational conduct. In other settings, similar agreements take the form of policy documents. Examples include; Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, Workplace Behavior or Community Guidelines, Principles of Integrity, just to name a few. In organizational settings, these published behavioral expectations presume civil and professional behavior on the part of individuals and the organization.

What is a behavioral covenant designed to do?

The St. John’s UCC behavioral covenant entitled “Holy Manners for Our St. John’s United Church of Christ Faith Community” is designed to promote a positive, caring environment by offering a framework for civil behavior and holy manners in all personal and group interactions. The covenant also serves as a reminder of our responsibilities where instances of disagreement arise. In a time in which divisions are increasing, we at St. John’s UCC seek to come together in unity (not uniformity) as a church community, and walk and work with one another in love.

How it will a behavioral covenant encourage us to be our best selves?

As a document grounded in scripture, “Holy Manners” calls us to reflect the teachings of Jesus and his disciples, and to commit to the greatest commandments. By agreeing to the ten items contained in the covenant, we, as a congregation, are called to love one another, unite as a family, welcome everyone, practice and promote truth, respect, and understanding in communication, and be personally responsible in avoiding conflict. Finally, we are called to act with peace and love for the wellbeing of the congregation. “Holy Manners for Our St. John’s United Church of Christ Faith Community” is a solemn covenant that acknowledges our belief in God, our bond in Christ, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and strength of our family united in faith.

News from the Mercersburg Association

First UCC in Carlisle will host the fall meeting of the Mercersburg Association of the Penn Central Conference (Keystone Conference as of January 1, 2026) on **Sunday, November 2**. This will be a hybrid gathering with a Zoom option for attendees to use. As our Association is geographically spread out, we are excited to offer multiple options for participation.

Each church has two delegates, in addition to their pastor. If you are interested in serving as a delegate to this meeting, please let Pastor Caroline know.

We give thanks for those churches and pastors who serve alongside us and we look forward to this time of relationship building and decision making.

The Keystone Conference Has a New Logo!

Earlier this year, even before the vote in July by the 35th General Synod to recognize the merger of the four Pennsylvania Conferences to create the Keystone Conference, the Keystone Working Group decided that we needed a logo that everyone would easily recognize. The four Conference Ministers narrowed down the 24 designs that were submitted to four that were presented to the Transitional Board of Directors at their first meeting on August 1. They chose a design divided into fourths with different colors representing the four existing Conferences that were coming together to form the new Conference. The Cross and Orb of the United Church of Christ is overlaid on the design. Some changes were suggested for the font, and the final logo was approved by the Board at its September meeting. The colorful keystone design was submitted by George Mamas. George is originally from Philadelphia, the son of Greek immigrant parents. He graduated from the Art Institute of Philadelphia (1993) and has since worked in various advertising and marketing agencies in the area. He is the proud father of Caroline, Phoenix, and Persephone, and devoted husband of Rev. Leslie Mamas (pastor, Olivet-Schwenkfelder UCC, Norristown). Besides the letterhead shown here, there will be several variations: horizontal or vertical, with or without "United Church of Christ." There will be guidance on how each version is to be used. Also look for Keystone "swag" as we get closer to January 1st and the official launch of the Keystone Conference.



NOVEMBER 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!





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia, please complete the form and return it to the church office by **Monday, December 1, 2025. Cost - \$15.00 each**

Donor's name: _____

(as it will appear in the bulletin insert)

I would like to order _____ poinsettias 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, December 1, 2025. Make checks payable to St. John's UCC.

Bell Fest



Bell Choir Concert



Sunday, December 14
7:00 pm
St. John's UCC



Staff Christmas Gift

It is the tradition at St. John's United Church of Christ to have a special offering envelope designated for Christmas Gifts for Church Staff. Our staff are a true blessing to our church and if you want to take part in this please submit this to the church office and in the MEMO line of your check be sure to say "STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT". We need this by **Sunday, December 7, 2025** in order for our staff to receive this by Christmas. Thank you!



Thank You

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the crew who upgraded the lighting in our parlor! Under the direction of Tom (Mt. Union) Harrison, Tom Kinton, Ken Dilling, Tom (Echo) Harrison, and Pete A'Zary added 24 "can lights" to the parlor ceiling. These lights give a variety of brightness options, as they have a dimmer switch that is adjustable. Now, regardless of the time of day or the weather, people using the parlor can have light! This is especially helpful for meetings, group gatherings, and fellowship. This project was done with in-house labor, significantly reducing the cost, and funded with grant funding. Stop by the parlor the next time you're in the building and see the difference better lighting can make! Thank you, again, to these talented men! -Pastor Caroline



Hey St. John's Family!!



I just wanted to say THANK YOU so much for helping me make this first ever chili cook-off for the church a success!! Whether it was the cooking you did, setting stuff up or cleaning up after the event, or for attending and helping out with donations for SCCAP. Our total for donations from the cook-off was \$282!! Thank you all!! It means a lot to me and the folks over at SCCAP!! Couldn't have done it without you!! Can't wait to do this again! Until then, stay loved and blessed always, and never stop being awesome!!

Thank you,
Chris Willman-Bunge

The photos above are from the Cook-off on October 5

COOKIES FOR KIDS

Saturday, December 6

9 am - 12 pm

Fellowship Hall

Holiday treats to be sold by weight

Cookies \$10/lb | Candy \$12/lb

***All proceeds to benefit children
in our community!***

Bake your favorite holiday cookies,
make your signature holiday candy & share the
recipe to benefit a good cause.

Bring your cookies to the kitchen

on Dec. 5 from 6-8 pm

Sign up in the lobby!



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



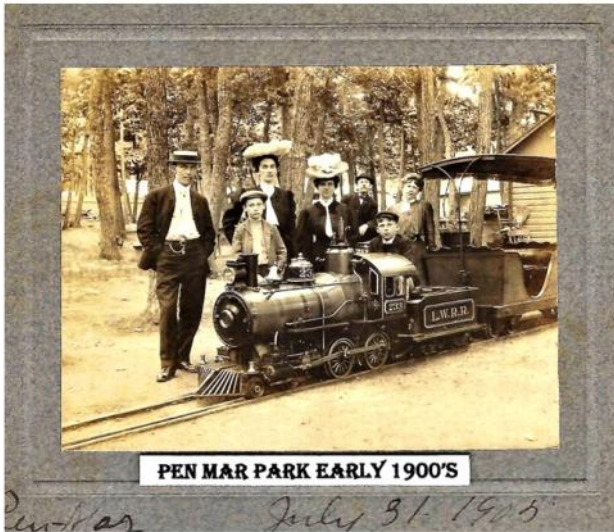
St. John's United Church of Christ, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg. Use Parking Lot B.



Clean-up of St. John's grounds is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22 at 9:00 AM (rain date of December 6). Bring your favorite rake or choose a rake from the church's inventory. Coffee, Hot Chocolate, and donuts will be provided. Cub Pack 136, the adult leaders, and family members will be supporting this clean-up effort.

You are cordially invited to join-in for a fun-filled morning!

The Penn Mar Experience



a presentation by
Mike Marotte
Thursday, 6PM
November 13, 2025

Fellowship Hall
St. John's UCC

The Penn Mar Experience



Pen-Mar Park Pavilion, Blue Ridge Mountains, Pa.

a presentation by
Mike Marotte
Thursday, 6PM
November 13, 2025

This picture shows
the Pen-Mar
Dancing Pavilion.

Fellowship Hall, Parking lot B
St. John's UCC, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg PA

Ladies LUNCHEON

Ten ladies had lunch at the “family table” in the alcove at Olive Garden on Wednesday, October 8. A card was written for Eileen Shaffer since she was home caring for her new knee.

This October thought was shared with the group. A woman was asked by a co-worker, “What is it like to be a Christian?”

The co-worker replied, “It is like being a pumpkin. God pulls you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. and then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.”

Wednesday, November 12 we will meet at the Italian Village on Route 11 North on the left beyond the traffic light in Green Village. Time to give thanks.



MENS BREAKFAST

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

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

November BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Marlin Douglas

11/01 Julia Marker

11/02 Frederick Leister

11/02 Dan Wolfe

11/03 Shirley Fenstermacher

11/03 Bonnie Hoffman

11/03 Pastor Caroline

11/07 Karie Leister

11/07 John McCright

11/07 Bob Strunk

11/09 Sarah Herbert

11/10 Joanne Slothower

11/11 Nancy Harrison

11/13 William Hughes

11/13 Angela Miller

11/17 Mason Leister

11/18 Judy Hodges

11/18 Beth Rensch

11/27 Eileen Shaffer

11/29 Ann Aldrich

11/29 Adrion Barbour

11/29 John Widmann, Jr.





Youth News for November



November 2 Church School 8:45
9 Church School 8:45
16 Church School 8:45
23 Church School 8:45
30 Church School 8:45

Last Day for Heifer Project Gifts/ donations

Reverse Advent Calendar begins

Children's Corner is offered every Sunday during Worship

CROP Walk

Though it was a blustery day, eleven walkers, 4 of them youth, from St. John's set out to raise awareness about and money for hunger issues around the world. The youth, advisors and fellow good-natured walkers lent a hand at carrying a 5 gal. bucket filled with about 3 gals. of water on the walk to demonstrate how many around the world have to walk great distances daily for water. Teamwork was an added component but at the end of the approximately 3-mile walk, though legs were tired and hands sore, very little water was spilled and \$581.00 was raised for hunger.

Steel Escape Room Adventure

Three youths and three advisors set out to save the world from a deadly neuro virus found in an abandoned bunker left from the Cold War. Did we succeed? At the time of this publishing, it hadn't happened yet, so ask a youth!

Heifer Project International Animal Gift Table



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

A great idea for those people that are hard to shop for.

Heifer Project International Gift Animals is one of Our Service Projects again this year. It is a gift giving opportunity to show our youth how Heifer Project International gives a hand up to families in third world countries around the world by providing them with an animal to supply the family with much needed food, wool.... The family is then expected to share the next generation of that animal with another family. Other opportunities to help families are also available but we will be targeting the giving of a gift animal. This will be open for "shopping" during the weeks of November.

Recipient cards are available to let that special someone know you've donated in their name.

Older Youth are needed to man the table after worship each Sunday in November.

Upcoming Events in December

**All month, Reverse Advent Calendar to benefit SCCAP Food Bank
More info to follow**

7 Caroling to Shut ins and Nursing Homes 1:30-4:30 Potluck to follow

20 Christmas Pageants rehearsals

21 Church School Christmas Party

24 Christmas Pageants

Ever feel the Youth program is too busy or always asking for something? Yep we are! We offer many opportunities for fun and fellowship and to serve others. Isn't that what we want our youth to be learning? And we as adults are a role model in what Christ asked us to do. "Feed his sheep"

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. Erin Hartman/Mark and Emily Hoger*

Outreach—*TBD*

Prayer Shawl Ministry — *N. Erin 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

Jill Miller

Dale Myers

Eileen Shaffer, **Secretary**

Harold Wissinger

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:

All Saints Sunday, November 2, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Sunday, December 7, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed



“To grow in love of God and neighbor”

St. John’s United Church of Christ

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Chambersburg, PA 17202**

Phone: 717-263-8593 Fax: 717-263-9010

Website: www.sjucc1811.org

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

