



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
October 26, 2025***

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE & REFORMATION SUNDAY

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

"Nearer, My God, to Thee"
The Bells of St. John's

arr. Susan E. Geschke

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009

Holy One of mystery and power,

there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below,

keeping covenant and steadfast love

with all who walk before you with pure and upright hearts.

Fill our lives with your glory, as you filled the temple with cloud when Solomon first brought the ark into your holy dwelling place.

Give us the strength and the power to withstand the forces of evil at work in our lives and in our world.

We come together to worship you, Holy One,

let our hearts and lips give you praise, today and always. Amen.

***HYMN #371**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

posted on the Presbyterian Church (USA) website

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you have built for us an eternal house, a temple of righteousness, a place of gracious plenty for the hungry and abundant life for the poor in spirit. Fill us with zeal for the body of Christ. Overturn the tables of corruption and greed and upset the imbalance of injustice, so that we may worship you in spirit and truth; through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed. Amen.

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

written by Rev. Dr. Letty Russell (adapted)

Gather us together, O God, that we may celebrate the witness and courage that gave birth to the Reformation. Teach us how to honor the saints in ages past as well as in our present days. Inspire us in the continuing reformation of the church and be present to us through your word and sacrament. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 2:13-22

RESPONSIVE READING

"Forever Home" (a remix of Psalm 84) by Layton E. Williams

Yours was the first home I knew,

**the first place I felt fully safe, fully stable, amidst a flurry of different houses
and custody hand-offs and family configurations in my earliest years.**

I knew my childhood church like I knew the constellation of freckles across my own face
in summer, like it was part of me.

**Every secret hallway shortcut, and where my name was signed in red
marker on the concrete under the carpet of the new Sunday School wing.**

I knew that the stained-glass window in the back of the sanctuary was the perfect width
and curve to climb from the balcony, and rest and hide and pray.

**I knew the church didn't belong to me, but I belonged to it, and both of us, to
you. I have never been able to unlearn that truth though many have tried to
teach me that the church is no place for queer kids like me.**

I know better.

**I learned the truth too early, too fully, to ever truly buy their lie. You're still
the love I come home to.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(please follow along on the screen)

Denise Skipper and Perry Skipper

ANTHEM

"I Sing th' Almighty Power of God"

arr. Austin Lovelace

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

LITANTY FOR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

(please join on the screen)

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**

written by Katherine Hawker

**Gather the gifts of our hands and hearts, living Spirit. Use these gifts to build not
monuments to your distant glory, but testaments to your intimate love. Amen.**

***HYMN #418**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us a time of fellowship 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.

Birthdays this week: 10/27 Nancy Rebok; 10/30 David Collier; 11/01 Marlin Douglas and Julia Marker; 11/02 Frederick Leister and Dan Wolfe.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Diana Kongkeattikul
Lector	Barbara Wissinger
Children's Corner	Roxanne Davenport
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz, Neath Ham, Heidi Ramos
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of John Long, Guy and Jane Long and Mae Mosel by Christine Long.



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:

Call to Worship adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009

Prayer of the Day from the Presbyterian Church (USA) website

Prayer for Illumination by Rev. Dr. Letty Russell, posted on the Presbyterian Promise website (adapted)

"Forever Home" (a remix of Psalm 84) by Layton E. Williams, included in The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle, edited by Martha Spong

Litany of Unity and Reconciliation © 2003, Covenantal Ministries, United Church of Christ

Prayer of Dedication by Katherine Hawker, posted on Liturgies Outside

Now Thank We All Our God

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1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,




who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,




who, from our mother's arms, hath blest us on our way
 and keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,




with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.



418 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los - ing,
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat-en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;

our help-er He, a - mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing.
 we will not fear, for God has willed His truth to tri-umph through us.
 the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sab - ba - oth, His
 The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for him; his rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor-tal life al - so; the bod - y they may

great, and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 name, from age to age the same, and He must win the bat - tle.
 dure, for lo, his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 kill: God's truth a - bid-eth still, His king-dom is for - ev - er.

WORDS: Martin Luther, ca. 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853 (Ps. 46)

MUSIC: Martin Luther, ca. 1529

EIN' FESTE BURG

8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7

NEWS IN THE PEWS October 26, 2025

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, manager@sjucc1811.org (717) 263-8593 (office)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

TODAY: October Birthday Celebration

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Used Book Sale \$5 bags – Fellowship Hall
Bible Study on the Book of Acts, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, October 27

10:00 am Chi Gong/Zazen silent body energy and soulful meditation – Parlor Room 104
1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – Conference Room 111
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 28

6:00 pm Ladies' Bible - Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall/then break into smaller groups

Thursday, October 30

11:00 am NETwork Ministries Meal Prep – Kitchen
6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Friday, October 31

6:00 pm No Tricks Just Treats – Outside in the labyrinth area

Sunday, November 2

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119
8:45 am SPARK! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115
8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Room 206
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

Mercersburg Association Fall Meeting will be Sunday, November 2, 3 pm at First UCC in Carlisle. This will be a hybrid meeting. Contact Pastor Caroline if you would like to be a delegate.

Fall Congregational Meeting will be held directly after worship on Sunday, November 9. Meeting packets are available at the Welcome Center and by request from the church office.

Talk on Penn Mar Park Join Mike Marotte on Thursday, November 13, 6 pm in Fellowship Hall for a presentation on the historic Penn Mar Park.

Totenfest will be Sunday, November 23, the last Sunday of the church year. We will remember with love and thanksgiving those members of our faith community who have died during the past year. We also wish to include the people in your lives who have transitioned to be with God since our last observance of Totenfest on November 24, 2024. Please contact Pastor Caroline by Monday, November 17, with the name of the person you wish to be remembered, along with their date of death, so that we can honor them during the service and in the bulletin.

November First Fruits 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.

No Tricks Just Treats Will be held October 31 6-8 pm at St. John's in the labyrinth area. We are still accepting candy donations. If you would like to donate, please drop all candy donations off at the church office. If you would like to help with the event, please contact Susan Collier.

November/December Upper Room devotionals are currently 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.

Holy Manners Copies of our draft Behavioral Covenant or "Holy Manners for St. John's United Church of Christ" are available in the Narthex or by request from the Church Office.

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 November 17.

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. November birthdays will be honored on **Sunday, November 30**. We hope you'll join us!

Monday Afternoon Book Study meets at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room. We are reading "A People's History of Christianity" by Diana Butler Bass. Read Ch. 6 for the session on 10/27.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at **8 pm via Zoom** for a Bible study on the book of Acts. Our session on **October 26** will focus on Acts Chapter 18. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink for this opportunity is included in the weekly e-blast. We encourage you to read from a variety of translations.

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? Grab your snack and coffee, and meet in the parlor after services on Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome.

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.