



***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
February 1, 2026***

## **WOMAN AT THE WELL**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

### **GATHERING SONG**

*"This is the Day"*

### **UNISON WELCOME**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **MISSION MOMENT**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*"The peace of Christ be with you"*

*"And also with you"*

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **PRELUDE**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*posted on Life in Liturgy*

We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

**Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.**

God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.

**That we may share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing  
Spirit of the living Christ.**

The living Christ is with us.

**Praise the Lord!**

### **\*HYMN #457**

*"Come and Feast, for All Are Welcomed"*

### **RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*written by Rev. Gord*

God of Living Water, you call us to come and drink.

**So why do we sit here and complain that there is not enough water?**

You call us to strike the rocks of our world and let your Living Water flow.

**But we do not trust enough that the spring is there.**

**We want to find the water on our own, using our own wisdom.**

You call us to share the Water of Life with the world around us.

**But we believe that the water is limited,**

**not abundant and so we are tempted to save it for ourselves.**

For all the times we turn away from your Water,

for all the times we sully the Water by misusing it,

for all the times we let others go thirsty instead of offering a drink,

**Forgive us, we pray.**

(time of silent prayer)

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE***written by Rev. Gord*

The Water of Life flows with abundance to fill us with hope, to cleanse us of our guilt, to float us to a new life. Washed in the Living Water, we are forgiven and set free to live abundant life. **Thanks and praise to God. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Exodus 17:1-7

**RESPONSIVE READING***"Thirsting" (a remix of Psalm 66) by Julia Seymour*

Does the deer let itself get as thirsty as I get for God?

**Does a grazing wild animal, alert for predators, forget to drink? Does this sister in nature become so parched that she cannot think, cannot work, cannot be?**

The parching of my soul comes from my own failure to drink from the fountain of all blessings.

**I wander down my own path with just a few things to finish before...and then something else comes up...and after dinner, I will...tend to other things crowding my mind.**

As I brush my teeth, I stare at my reflection with regret of what is undone.

**My cervine sister lays down in pine boughs, quenched. My soul rests on memory foam, desperate for a drink of the water of life.**

**ANTHEM***"Softly and Tenderly"***CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

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

John 4:1-42

**SERMON**

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)****INVITATION TO GIVING****OFFERTORY****\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706***"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"***\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION***from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace.

Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

(please follow along on the screen)

*We celebrate communion this day using pre-packaged elements***\*HYMN #577***"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*

**\*COMMISSION & BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE (seated)**

*Join us for a time of fellowship after worship!*

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

**Birthdays this week:** 02/02 Tom Harrison; 02/03 Gary Crum; 02/03 Dr. Donald Hendrickson; 02/04 G. Michael Bitner; 02/04 Jolene H. McGinley and Kurt Widmann

<b>Worship Participants:</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Mike Blumberg
Lector	Lloyd Beers
Children's Corner	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz, Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

**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:**

*Call to Worship posted on Life in Liturgy*

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Grace by Rev. Gord, posted on Worship Offerings*  
*"Thirsting" by Julia Seymour, included in The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle, edited by Martha Spong*  
*Prayer of Dedication from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship (ed. Duck and Tirabassi)*  
*Communion Liturgy from "Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living" edited by Mary Luti*

## Come and Feast, for All Are Welcomed 457

1. Come and feast, for all are wel - comed at God's ta - ble  
 2. Here we nur - ture and en-cour - age as we share this  
 3. See the chal - ice lift - ed up - ward; smell the fra - grant,  
 4. With the Spir - it - blessed com-mis - sion, "Go and serve this

spread with love. Come pro - claim God's grace and good - ness  
 com - mon meal, while we fos - ter deep com-mun - ion  
 bro - ken bread; taste the gifts from field and vine - yard;  
 meal to all," take its love and peace - ful vi - sion

in, a - round us, and a - bove. Come and feast, for  
 and our in - ner - selves re - veal. Here we nur - ture  
 hear the words that Je - sus said: "Eat and drink, and  
 in - to ev - ery ban - quet hall. Go and serve as

all are wel - comed at God's ta - ble spread with love.  
 and en - cour - age as we share this com - mon meal.  
 in re - mem-brance touch your souls with wine and bread."  
 nour - ished peo - ple, glad - ly feed - ing one and all!

WORDS: Larry E. Schultz, 2004

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

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REGENT SQUARE

8.7.8.7.8.7

Higher key, No. 126

## 577 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1. I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un-to Me and rest;  
 2. I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be-hold, I free-ly give  
 3. I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "I am this dark world's Light;

lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on My breast."  
 the liv-ing wa-ter; thirst-y one, stoop down and drink, and live."  
 look un-to Me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je-sus as I was, wea-ry, and worn, and sad;  
 I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream;  
 I looked to Je-sus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;

I found in Him a rest-ing-place, and He has made me glad.  
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I live in Him.  
 and in that Light of life I'll walk till trav-el-ing days are done.

WORDS: Horatius Bonar, 1846

MUSIC: Trad. English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

KINGSFOLD

CMD

Higher key, No. 115

## **NEWS IN THE PEWS February 1, 2026**

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, [pastor@sjucc1811.org](mailto:pastor@sjucc1811.org) (641) 260-1868 (cell)  
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto: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:** Bible Study on the Book of Acts, Chapter 28, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

**Monday, February 2**

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, February 3**

4:00 pm Spiritual Life Committee Meeting - Conference Room 111  
5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202  
6:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study– Zoom  
6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall/then break into smaller groups

**Wednesday, February 4**

6:00 pm Answering the Alarm w/ Mike Marotte – Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, February 5**

7:00 am Men's Breakfast – Texas Lunch  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

**Friday, February 6**

6:00 pm Cub Scout Set Up for Pinewood Derby – Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, February 7**

9:00 am Cub Scout Pinewood Derby – Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, February 8th**

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 Upper Room Church School Class – Conference Room 111  
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116  
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15 am Congregational Annual Meeting – Room 116 (lunch provided)

**Congregational Annual Meeting** will be held after worship on February 8, Room 116/Zoom. A light lunch will be served. Meeting packets are available at the Welcome Center, Narthex, and via email from the office. Join us for the important meeting in the life of our church!

**February First Fruits** will support organizations designated as part of the Lenten Projects. This year's recipients are African Mission Healthcare, the Peru School Project, and the United Church of Christ Disaster Emergency Fund. Via these offerings, we will support medical care in Africa, education in Peru, and support in situations where individuals have suffered great loss in multiple locations via flooding, fire, earthquake, etc.

**2025 year End Giving Statements** are now available by request. Please call the church office if you would like to receive yours and indicate if you would prefer this to be mailed or emailed.

**"Answering the Alarm in Chambersburg"** Mike Marotte will give a presentation on the early days of the Chambersburg Fire Department on Wednesday, February 4th, 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. We hope you'll join us to learn more of our local history!

**Mark Your Calendars for Pork & Sauerkraut** Our annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner will be Tuesday, February 17, 5-7 pm, with both dine-in and carry-out options. \$15/adults, \$5 kids (6 to 12), kids under 6 eat free. If you would like to help, please contact Harold/Susan Collier (youth volunteers should reach out to Roxanne Davenport). Come and get ready for the season of Lent!

**Monday Afternoon Book Study** We will read chapter 1 of Norman Wirzba's book "Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis" for our discussion on Monday, February 2, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

**THANK YOU!** We want to especially say "thank you" to those who offered feedback in response to our Congregational Questionnaire in December. Council is reviewing the responses and will be incorporating them into our life together (and our Future Together Strategic Plan).

**Winter Weather** If worship is canceled due to winter weather; a special e-blast will be sent out. M-F activities follow the CASD school district. Safety first!

**Bible and a Beer** is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be February 16th.

**Little Free Pantry** Donations of nonperishable food items can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the grocery cart in the back lobby. Thank you for your support of this project!

**January/February 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.

**Upper Room Church School Class** meets on Sundays at 8:45 am in Conference Room 111. For more information, please contact Harold Collier or Connie Strunk.