



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
February 15, 2026***

CAMP 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

MISSION MOMENT

Calvin Frantz

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 The Minor Keys blog

As followers of Christ, we are called to bring a hopeful understanding of our world

declaring that God called the created universe "good."

We are called to bring this hope in God with us wherever we go

declaring that God makes all things new again.

Jesus taught that we should love God and love one another.

So let's join together in our love of God to worship and give thanks.

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG (insert)**

"Come Join the Circle"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's goodness and mercy, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

written by John Birch

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, and our hands to share. May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread, and our footsteps be worthy of following, for they lead to you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God makes a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland; God makes all things new.

God offers us a way home: rejoice in the forgiveness that God gives us and be renewed.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 17:5-8; Job 12:7-10

RESPONSIVE LITANY

"Liturgy of Creation," posted on the Third Space blog

In the beginning, all was darkness and God said, "let there be light,"

and because God had said it, there was light.

In the beginning, all was silence and God sang the song of creation,
and because God sang, all the stars and spheres vibrated to the music of God.
In the beginning, all was still and God laughed,
and because God laughed, the waters took up the roar and the ripple of it;
and ebbed and flowed and seeped and swirled and delighted in the ways of
its being.
In the beginning, all was dull and God painted,
and because God painted, the sky became blue, and purple, and pink, and
rainbows hung there. The grass became green and flowers and butterflies
danced in the drips and settled like jewels on the earth.
In the beginning, all was unconscious and God breathed,
and because God breathed, men and women woke up from their sleeping,
they breathed the very life of God and stood in wonder before the work of
God's hands. They beheld the glory of God in all that God had made and they
saw that it was very good.

ANTHEM

"Softly and Tenderly"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:25-34

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG (insert)**

"All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir"

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 Joanna Harader

God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG (insert)**

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**
POSTLUDE

posted on Third Space blog (adapted)

Join us for 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: 02/19 Casimir Rzomp, Cynthia St. Clair and Marvin Zeger.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Pianist	Barbara Motichka
Music Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Mike Blumberg
Lector	Erin Hartman
Children's Corner	Melinda and Scot Orndorff
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and 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 "Gathering in Hope" posted on The Minor Keys blog*
Prayer of Confession written by John Birch, posted on his Faith and Worship website
Responsive Litany "Liturgy of Creation" posted on the Third Space blog
Prayer of Dedication written by Joanna Harader, posted on the Spacious Faith blog
Commission & Benediction posted on the Third Space blog (adapted)

Come Join the Circle

Gordon Webber



1. Come join the cir - cle for Je - sus is call - ing, as part - ners with
2. Now say "hel - lo" to the per - son be - side you - wel - come them
3. O - pen the cir - cle for oth - ers are call - ing us, call - ing from

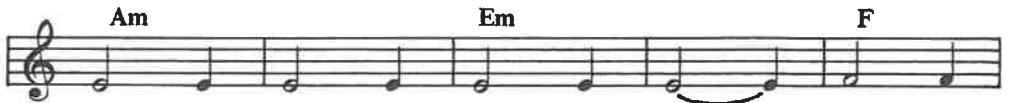


God in cre - a - tion. All join your hands now let
in - to the cir - cle. Each has a gift or a
past and from fu - ture. Chal - len - ging us with their



all be in - clud - ed for this is a great cel - e - bra - tion.
tal - ent worth shar - ing as part of their call - ing to ser - vice.
cry - for jus - tice as part of this glo - bal com - mu - ni - ty.

REFRAIN



Look a - round and see who's here, look at



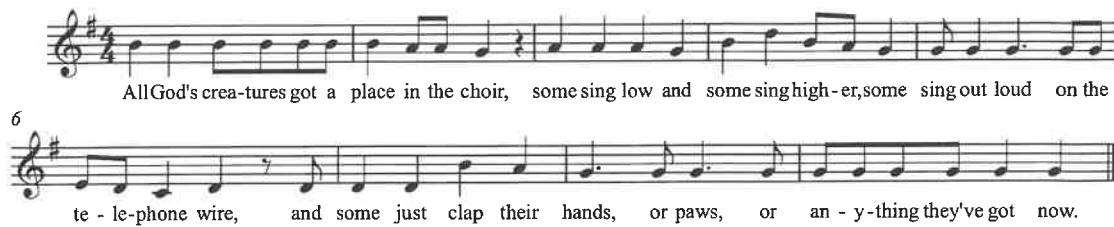
all the fac - es. This is the cir - cle of



vi - sions and dreams of peo - ple from all times and plac - es.

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A Place in the Choir (Bill Staines)



Chorus:

All God's creatures got a place in the choir,
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got. (repeat)

Listen to the bass, it's one on the bottom,
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-do,
And the old cow just goes moo.

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles
And the donkey brays and the pony neighs,
And the old grey badger sighs.

Chorus

Listen to the top with the little bird singing
On the melodies and the high notes ringing
And the hoot owl cries over everything,
And the blackbird disagrees.

Singing in the night-time, singing in the day,
The little duck quacks and he's on his way
And the otter hasn't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself.

Chorus

It's a simple song, a living song everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above,
The sly old weasel and the turtledove.

Chorus

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*Unison, brightly**James K. Manley, 1978; alt.**Refrain*

The musical score is written for a unison voice part and organ accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The organ part consists of chords and single notes, with some reduced-size notes indicated by an asterisk (*). The lyrics are written below the unison part.

Chords: D, G, A, Dsus4, D, Bm, E7, Asus7, A7, D, G, A, Dsus4, D, Bm, G, A7, D, G, D, G, A, G.

Lyrics:

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the
 wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,
 Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from
 plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.
 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

*Reduced-size notes may be played with organ pedals in lieu of or in combination with the other notes.

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

bers and rise on your wings."
 ets to o - pen their eyes.
 ple on the rush of the wind.
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

to Refrain

This popular hymn by songwriter James K. Manley grew out of a sabbatical leave at the School of Theology at Claremont, California. It was first sung at Waikeola Congregational Church in Honolulu, after which Manley added the fourth stanza at the suggestion of a church member.

Tune: SPIRIT Irr.
 James K. Manley, 1978
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

NEWS IN THE PEWS February 15, 2026

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: Camp Sunday

11:15 am Travel Talk with Pastor Caroline on her trip to Europe – Room 116
Bible Study on the Book of Esther, Chapter 1, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, February 16 – Presidents Day - Church Office Closed

All Day Pork & Sauerkraut Prep Meal – Kitchen
10:00 am Chi Gong/Zazen silent body energy and soulful meditation – Parlor Room 104
1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – **No book study will resume on 03/02- Chapter 3**
6:30 pm Bible & Beer – Trojan Diner
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 17

5:30 pm Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner – Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm Yoga – **No yoga will resume on 02/24**
6:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study– Zoom

Wednesday, February 18

6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship – Sanctuary

Thursday, February 19

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Sunday, February 22

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
No Bible Study with Pastor Caroline – **will resume on 3/1 – Chapter 2**

Ash Wednesday Worship will be held Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.
We will share in communion and the imposition of ashes.

Sponsor-a-Camper A special collection for our "Sponsor-a-Camper" program will be held as part of the Camp Sunday worship service on February 15. These funds help make it possible for all children to experience the joy, wonder, and beauty of St. John's Camp. Check out the Camp page on our website for more information about our treasure in the woods!

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.

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 3 of Norman Wirzba's book "Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis" for our discussion on Monday, March 2nd, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

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 3rd 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.

"Sunday Morning Caffeine" An additional church school class will be offered this spring. All three adult classes will meet together on Sunday, March 1, 8:45-9:45 am in Fellowship Hall for a continental breakfast and discussion on "when Jesus erases the lines we draw." Subsequent classes will meet in the Parlor (Room 104) on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am. Questions? Please contact Pastor Caroline, Harold Collier, or Mark Shoap.

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.