



Luke 6:17-36 • illustratedministry.com

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT: DISRUPTIVE BLESSINGS

*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

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from The Work of Imagination

Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

Come into God's fellowship, you who are broken and blessed, you who show mercy, as God has first been merciful to you.

In Christ, we gather in blessing.

Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

***HYMN #495 (insert)**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

CALL TO CONFESSION

from The Work of Imagination

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows our weaknesses and our choices, and yet imagines for us a life of wholeness and peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from The Work of Imagination

God, who delivers people from their suffering, you sent Jesus to show us that our ways are not your ways. **You told us to bless the poor, to make peace with our neighbors, to share what we have with others, and to live our faith through quiet actions. Yet we often fail this calling. Forgive us, God, where and when we have slipped into the world's ways of hate, greed, and violence. Guide us into faithfulness once again, for your ways are loving, just, and compassionate. Amen.**

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from The Work of Imagination

Beloved, God knows our tendency to prioritize ourselves and our groups, but God calls us to think bigger, to see all of humanity as our neighborhood. God will help us grow and

mature into loving followers of Jesus who treat our neighbors with love. Receive God's free gift of grace and be at peace. Amen.

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

As we walk through the wild wilderness of Lent, we imagine a world where all creation is at peace. We imagine a world without war, where creation flourishes and children are safe. Let these dreams of peace begin here as we share the peace of Christ with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE READING

James 1:19-27

ANTHEM

"My Song is Love Unknown"

setting by Carl Schalk

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:17-36

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**

"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 The Work of Imagination

Generous God, we bring our gifts before you and your church like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing both our faith community and our neighbors. May each gift of every size bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

(liturgy on the screen)

We celebrate communion today via intinction, coming forward to the altar.

***HYMN #249**

"The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from The Work of Imagination

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

We believe in the ways of Jesus. We believe in sharing food, water, shelter, and healing care with everyone. We believe in freedom for captives, justice for victims, and deliverance for all who are enslaved. We believe peace comes from justice, not violence. We believe everyone is our neighbor, without exception. We believe children are precious and worthy of care. We believe, as Jesus did, that we find God among the poor, the marginalized, the weak, the imprisoned, and the rejected. We believe Jesus came, not merely to point to heaven, but to teach us how to bring heaven to earth. We believe and pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

from The Work of Imagination

POSTLUDE *"God Be With You 'til We Meet Again"* arr. Cathy Moglebust Bells of St. John's
 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.

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: 03/02 Mackenzie Miller; 03/03 Skip Elliott and 03/05 Rebecca Pound.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Susan Collier
Lector	Diana Kongkeattikul
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Muneath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Disciple" © 2026 Illustrated Ministry

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given by Dick and Nancy Rebok in honor of our 70th wedding anniversary on March 2nd.



St. John's Mission
 To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources: *"The Work of Imagination" Lenten liturgy & commentary* © 2026 Illustrated Ministry

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368

THE CHURCH AS COMMUNITY

249 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The music is in 3/2 time and the key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1. The church of Christ can - not be bound by walls of wood or stone.
2. True faith will o - pen up the door and step in - to the street.
3. True love will not sit i - dly by when jus - tice is de - nied.
4. If what we have, we free - ly share to meet our neigh - bor's need,

Where char - i - ty and love are found, there can the church be known.
True ser - vice will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
True mer - cy hears the home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
then we ex - tend the Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.

WORDS: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005

MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser, 1820; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

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AZMON

CM

Lower keys, No. 332 and No. 520

NEWS IN THE PEWS March 1, 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: Bible Study on the Book of Esther, Chapter 2, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, March 02

10:00 am Chi Gong/Zazen silent body energy and soulful meditation – Parlor 104
1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – Conference Room 111 (Chapter 3)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 03

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, March 04

7:00 pm – CMC Lenten Service – St. John's

Thursday, March 05

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

Sunday, March 08

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
8:45 am Sunday Morning Caffeine Church Class– Parlor 104
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner such a success!

Neighbors Food Hall Join us for a delicious evening of food, fun and community spirit on Tuesday, March 10 from 5pm-7pm (each person pays individually). Located at 102 S. Main Street Chambersburg. Please RSVP to the church office at 717-263-8593 by Monday, March 9.

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!

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 8 and 15. Pick up your "ready to bake" sticky buns on Sunday morning, March 22. Freshly baked sticky buns will also be on sale, after church, on March 22 for \$2 each. Help support St. John's Camp and enjoy a tasty treat! All proceeds support the Camp Fund.

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 16th.

Nursery School Smith's Chicken Sale is Saturday, March 28, here at SJUCC. Save the date and look for more information and tickets soon!

St. John's Craft Night Monday, March 30, 6 pm, room 202, \$15. Get ready for spring and encourage new life by painting/decorating your own gourd birdhouse! Sign up by 3/23.

Blueberry Bliss Spring Tea Tickets will be held on Saturday, April 25, 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Make sure you're on the VIP list to secure your ticket(s) when they go on sale on March 18! Tickets are \$35, cash or check.

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!

March/April 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.

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.

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!

March 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.