



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
February 8, 2026***

SCOUT 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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

written by Thom Shuman

Here, those who wander find a home,
those who wonder discover words of hope.

We gather because we have heard God's whispers of grace.

Here, we discover promises are kept,
that shattered hearts are made whole.

We gather because we are invited by Jesus to come and receive a welcome.

Here, those who are afraid to step into living waters
are filled with the courage to jump in feet first.

We gather because the Spirit pulls us to our feet, meeting us in words, at the table, in community.

***INTRODUCTION OF CUB AND BOY SCOUTS**

Presentation of Flags

Flag Presenters: Braylen Davis, Nate Chisholm, Mick Barra

Pledge of Allegiance: Rylan Brookens

Scout Oath: Rylan Brookens

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

"This Land is Your Land"

Please join in singing – words are on the screen

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

adapted from Gathered by Love

God of love and peace, whose healing Word is offered to every person and group and nation, we long to hear and see and feel your presence with us. Send your Holy Spirit to overcome our excuses, lend new perspective to our troubled thoughts, and equip us to walk into the future with courage. Reign among us that we may proclaim good news to all who need it. Amen.

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

May we hear and heed your voice, O God, as we listen to the reading of your Word. May it inform our living as we seek and strive to love as you love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 40:1-5 Colton Cordell

RESPONSIVE READING *Based on Boy Scout Law*
Chip Stoehr, Scout Master and James Barra, Cub Master
Please follow along on the screen

SHARING OF TROOP ACTIVITIES Chip Stoehr, Scout Master

RECOGNITION OF SCOUTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Roxanne Davenport
Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message

SCOUT MESSAGE Tommy Barra and Bryce Buhrman

SCRIPTURE READING John 5:1-9

MEDITATION 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** *adapted from Gathered by Love*
Receive our joy, O God, along with our gifts. We reach out with this offering to do good in and through our church, as well as our scouting program. Let us share with the whole world the blessings we receive from your hand. Fill our days with purpose and our lives with thanksgiving. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #698** *"For the Healing of the Nations"*

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be held in Room 116 after worship

Please join us for this meeting; lunch will be served

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. See the deacon for assistance.

Birthdays this week: 2/9 Alex Bishop; 2/10 Greg St. Clair; 2/11 Colleen Woy;
2/12 Chris Willman-Bunge; 2/13 Richard Collier.

| Worship Participants: | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Caroline E. Saxton |
| Musician | Barbara Motichka |
| Choir Director | Gary Crum |
| Deacon in Charge | Chris Willman-Bunge |
| Lector | Henry Hopper |
| Children's Corner | Susan Collier |
| Greeters | Cub Scout Pack 136 |
| Ushers | Cub Scout Pack 136 |
| Media Coordinators | Calvin Frantz and Muneath Ham |
| Bulletin cover | Scouting America |

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of our parents by Clyde and Sarah Shiraki.



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 by Thom Shuman, posted on Lectionary Liturgies

Prayer of the Day and Prayer of Dedication from Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C by Lavon Bayler (adapted)

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway;
I saw below me that golden valley;
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.

I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts;
And all around me a voice was sounding;
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.

Well, the sun came shining, and I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,
The fog was lifting, a voice was chanting:
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.

Please join in the Responsive Reading based on the Scout Law:

(Congregation in bold; Scouts in italics)

A true and worthy person recognizes his obligations and does them without being watched or compelled.

A Scout is trustworthy.

We owe much to many—to home, school, community, nation, and to God.

A Scout is loyal.

The Good Samaritan showed the spirit of doing a Good Turn.

A Scout is helpful.

A real friend is one who remains loyal in victory and in defeat.

A Scout is friendly.

Courtesy is the mark of a true gentleman. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

A Scout is courteous.

Kindness is the way people show respect for others.

A Scout is kind.

Life is filled with things that we must do whether we like them or not. One of the marks of growing up is to willingly accept responsibilities.

A Scout is obedient.

Our moods make our days. If we are grouchy, our day is gloomy. If we are happy, the day is always happier.

A Scout is cheerful.

The world offers many gifts. A wise man uses them with care.

A Scout is thrifty.

To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks, and temptations. When faced with a choice between courage and cowardice, we must be brave.

A Scout is brave.

Cleanliness is next to godliness. To have a clean body, a clean mind and a clean record is a rewarding achievement.

A Scout is clean.

Character is determined by the things we worship. If we respect ourselves and our fellowmen, and see them as gifts of goodness from God, we live on a high plane.

A Scout is reverent.

For the Healing of the Nations

698

1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair Your
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4. You, Cre - a - tor, God, have writ - ten Your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in Your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness
 dog - mas that ob - scure Your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice

help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.
 fear will die and hope in - crease, fear will die and hope in - crease.
 may we hal - low life's brief span, may we hal - low life's brief span.
 earth its des - ti - ny may find, earth its des - ti - ny may find.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1965

MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

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CWM RHONDDA

8.7.8.7.8.7

Higher key, No. 161

NEWS IN THE PEWS February 8, 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: Scout Sunday

Congregational Annual Meeting with lunch after worship – Room 116/Zoom

Monday, February 9

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 (Chapter 2)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 10

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 11

11:30 am Ladies Luncheon – Hoss' Steakhouse (20 Falling Spring Road, Chambersburg, 17202)

Thursday, February 12

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117

6:15 pm Girl Scouts – Room 116

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Sunday, February 15– Camp Sunday

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 Travel Talk with Pastor Caroline on her trip to Europe – Room 116

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!

Ash Wednesday Worship will be held Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read chapter 2 of Norman Wirzba's book "Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis" for our discussion on Monday, February 9, 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 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.