

The Spirit

Volume 89 No. 3 March 2026



A publication of St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

From Pastor Caroline

Bishop Deon K. Johnson of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri wrote this for Ash Wednesday in 2024: “Remember you are dust, the substance of the stars, animated with the Breath of Life. Uniquely formed in the image and likeness of Divine Love. Authored in hope, forged in joy, very good of very good, no accident we, this beloved quickened dust, knit to love and be loved. Remember you are dust. Amen.”

The liturgical season of Lent lasts 40 days (+ Sundays) and always begins with this reminder of our mortality: that we are dust. Yet we are not ordinary dust; we are beloved. We are made in the image of God. And God calls us very good.

The Sunday night Bible study recently started reading Esther. The book “inspires readers by giving them hope, making them laugh, and causing them to envision a world where those with very little power triumph over evil officials bent on destroying God’s people” (Matthew Richard Schlimm, CEB Student Bible). This is the work of imagination, the will to dream, and the courage to care. It feels especially appropriate to now be studying Esther.

Retired Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry reminds us, “There’s power in love. There’s power in love to help and heal when nothing else can. There’s power in love to lift up and liberate when nothing else will. There’s power in love to show us the way to live.”

My own devotional practice this Lenten season includes a few different resources, some that I have used before and others which are new: “Rise” by John Pavlovitz; “Outgrow” from the UCC Still Speaking Writers’ Group (new for 2026); and “When Love Gets the Last Word: Daily Readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter” by Rev. Benjamin Cremer. Cremer’s work is available in eBook and audiobook: <https://benjamin-cremer.kit.com/products/when-love-gets-the-last-word-a-lent-devo>. Cremer writes, “No matter how discouraging the world may be around us or how relentless violence and death seem to be, love will not only triumph and prevail but will get the last word over us all. That is the hope I want to invite you to hold onto as you travel this journey called Lent.”

We are using a special Lenten curriculum called “The Work of Imagination” that builds on our Advent theme “The Will to Dream.” In “The Work of Imagination,” we are “encouraged to confront the pain of the world, embody faithful resistance, and participate in the holy labor of communal transformation” with honesty, hope, inspiration, and care. Friends, ancient wisdom speaks to our present moment, and together, we will explore and grow.

And when I find my anxiety and anger rising, I aim to center and ground myself in God, by using a few simple breath prayers, written by the wonderful Sarah Bessey:

Inhale: May we be loving and generous, Exhale: compassionate and courageous.

Inhale: Hope can see in the dark, Exhale: Give us eyes to see what is good.

Inhale: We do not wait for permission, Exhale: we will be faithful and courageous.

Peace,

Pastor Caroline



MUSIC MINISTRY

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

I am writing about a hymn which we will sing on Easter Sunday. This hymn was originally written by Melchior Teschner in 1603. The hymn tune I am writing about was originally "St. Theodulf". It was also harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach as it appears in the New English hymnal. By the way, did you know that the "hymn tune" of each hymn has a name usually different from the title of the hymn. This name is found in the lower right corner of each hymn in our hymnal. The tune of the one I am writing about is now called "Easter Hymn" and the hymn itself is "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today". If you look on page 733 of our hymnal you will find a listing of hymn tunes. It also shows you that many times several hymns that have the same tune. So it is possible to find a familiar tune with different words than the one with which you are familiar.

I hope you find this interesting.

Gary Crum



First Fruit Offering

GOAL: A MULTI-FOCUS FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

We entered the liturgical season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 18. We consider spiritual practices such as prayer, fasting, almsgiving (charitable giving), service and volunteering, reflection, and meditation. We create space in our lives for an expanded spiritual focus. Part of our Lenten practice as a community of faith is collecting funds for our Lenten projects.

We are introducing a new model this year in utilizing a 3-month span of time in which you can contribute to our Lenten offering, which support the following three recipients:

- 1) The Peru School Project—providing school supplies along with community resource support
- 2) The African Mission Healthcare—special support to pediatric surgeries, including training in this specialty
- 3) United Church of Christ Disaster Emergency Fund—support to individuals with grave loss due to unexpected events

We will have our First Fruits baskets at the back of the sanctuary on the first Sunday of March and April. All funds on those dates, along with donations made in envelopes or checks mailed, presented to the office, or in the special Lenten boxes, will go toward the total collected for these recipients.

St. John's UCC continues to reach out in loving support in acts of compassion and care.

-The Community Engagement Committee

Mission Possible HVAC Campaign Status

Let's go back in time to the June 2021 congregational meeting when we announced the fundraising campaign to pay for our new HVAC system. The following is a recap from the minutes of that meeting.

1. The fundraising campaign will run for 5 years with a goal of \$700K (to pay for the cost of the system plus loan fees and interest costs).
2. We will borrow \$500K from F&M Trust with a 10-year term at 3.75% interest (fixed for first 5 years, then variable in July 2026) and use initial campaign receipts to pay the HVAC system costs.
3. We will use campaign receipts to pay down the debt as quickly as possible with the hope to have it fully paid in 5 years.
4. Consistory approved a "silent kickoff" to jump start the campaign. This resulted in combined pledges and cash payments of \$243K, or 35% of the goal.

What is the current status Mission Possible?

The campaign "goal" was reduced to \$650K as a result of significant early donations that enabled us to pay down the debt by \$260K in 2021, thus reducing the original expected interest cost by \$50K. Due to this early principal paydown, the loan will be paid off in 2029 with normal monthly payments.

Here is a snapshot of the campaign at December 31, 2025:

Campaign Goal	\$650K
Donations received	\$532K
Budgeted donations 2026	\$14K
Shortfall from Goal	\$104K

The budgeted donations are based on known unpaid pledges plus an estimate of donations from the donors that did not make pledges.

Since the interest rate on the loan is expected to increase to over 7% in July 2026, we believe it is fiscally prudent to use existing funds to pay off the remaining debt of approximately \$107K at that time. **We are so close. Won't you help us cross the HVAC finish line?**

-The Finance Task Force:

Scot Orndorff, Jerry Thomason, Lisa Fair, and Pastor Caroline

St. John's Nursery School

Hello, March! We are all looking forward to warmer weather and searching for signs of spring!

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opened for current Nursery School families and Church members on February 17th . Registration will open to the public on March 2nd. If you know someone who is interested in registering a child in one of our Nursery School classes, please contact the nursery school office at 717-264-8224 or nsdirector@sjucc.net. Registration information is also available on our website at www.sjucc1811.org/nursery-school/.

St. John's Nursery School values the importance of supporting the efforts of families in their transition to Kindergarten. Amanda Ryan, Kindergarten teacher at Guilford Hills Elementary, visited us in February and shared a wealth of information about Kindergarten, and what families and children can expect from the registration process. We thank Amanda for sharing her time and knowledge with our Nursery School families.

In March, we celebrate our pets and the joy they bring to our families. We will be collecting items for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter again this year. The youth of St. John's will be helping by making displays and delivering the items to the shelter. Collection boxes are available at the entrances of the Church. Please help our animal friends at CVAS by bringing in donations!

Monday, March 2nd is National Read Across America Day. For the month of March, the Nursery School will be celebrating our love of books and reading. Parents are encouraged to read aloud with their child every day and enjoy this special reading time.

To celebrate our reading success, we will end the month with an ice cream party! The Nursery School's chicken BBQ fundraiser is quickly approaching! We will be selling tickets for Smith's BBQ Chicken to be picked up on Saturday, March 28th at St. John's UCC, Parking Lot A.

Thank you for supporting St. John's Nursery School!
Kari Rock, Director
Nursery School Director





Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00am - 3:00pm



Office Administrator: Tonya Schwartz
Email: manager@sjucc1811.org

Office Assistant: Rochelle Moyer
Email: assistant@sjucc1811.org



OPEN HOUSE

YOU'RE
INVITED!

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL

1811 LINCOLN WAY EAST CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202

MONDAY MARCH 2ND 2026
5:30-7:30PM

WE WARMLY INVITE FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY AND SURROUNDING AREA SEEKING A NURTURING AND ENRICHING PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR THEIR 2-5 YEAR OLD CHILDREN. PLEASE, JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE AT ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL ON MONDAY, MARCH 2ND 5:30-7:30PM. OUR DIRECTOR AND DEDICATED TEACHERS, WILL BE ON HAND TO WELCOME YOU, OFFER GUIDED TOURS, SHARE ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS HAPPENING IN EACH CLASSROOM, SEE BEAUTIFUL STUDENT ARTWORK, AND EXPERIENCE THE JOYFUL ATMOSPHERE OF OUR SCHOOL. YOU'LL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PICK UP A REGISTRATION PACKET FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR. REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN THAT EVENING TO THE PUBLIC. WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET YOUR FAMILY AND SHOW YOU THE LOVING, PLAYFUL, AND ENGAGING ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN LEARN, GROW, AND THRIVE.



@ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL



SJICC1811.ORG/NURSERY-SCHOOL



(717)264-8224



NSDIRECTOR@SJUCC.NET





Dear Church Family,

Dan Wolfe visited John and me recently. It was a very enjoyable visit in which we learned more about him and his family. We look forward to seeing him again.

- Nina Widmann

A handwritten-style graphic of the words "Thank you" in a black, cursive script. A large, stylized heart is drawn to the right of the text, with its top loop extending over the word "you". The entire graphic is set against a light gray, textured background.

Future Together Progress Report

*Thank you **so much** for your feedback, ideas, and suggestions in response to the Congregational Questionnaire! Council is reviewing what we received in December and will continue to solicit feedback throughout 2026. A revised version of the Future Together Strategic Plan for 2026-2027 was endorsed at our Congregational Annual meeting. Copies are available from the church office and on our website.*

SPIRITUAL DEEPENING

- Pastor Caroline leads a weekly book study on Monday afternoons at 1:30 pm. Our current selection is “Love’s Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis” by Norman Wirzba. The group reads one chapter a week and enjoys a robust discussion. Each week’s reading assignment is listed in News in the Pews and the e-blast.
- The Sunday Night Bible Study is held at 8 pm via Zoom. We are currently studying the Book of Esther. The link is in the e-blast.
- The Wired Word class meets Sundays at 8:45 am in Room 116. Email Lloyd Beers to join the mailing list to receive the material in advance.
- The Upper Room class meets on Sundays at 8:45 am in Conference Room 111.
- A third adult church school class “Sunday Morning Caffeine” will begin on Sunday, March 8 at 8:45 am in the Parlor Room 104.
- Diana Kongkeattikul writes a weekly devotional for our website. An opt-in email list is available via the office if you’d like to receive her reflection directly in your inbox.
- Henry Hopper leads a Chi Gong/Zazen silent body energy, and soulful meditation class on Mondays at 10 am in the Parlor Room 104. All are welcome to join.
- Yoga classes are held on Tuesday nights at 5:30 pm in Room 202. \$5/class.
- Lenten Wednesday night services will focus on the Parables of Jesus in Holy Week. See page 14 for details about the stories we will study and the locations where we will gather.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- An opportunity to gather together for a meal at the new Neighbors Food Hall is planned for Tuesday, March 10. See page 21 for details.

ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION

- The Pickleball court in Fellowship Hall has been well-received. Please contact the church office to reserve the court or consult the calendar for scheduled play times.
- A craft night is scheduled for Monday, March 30. See page 20 for details.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- We now have a Little Free Pantry (aka blessing box) located by the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Many thanks to our Scouts and church members who ensure the LFP stays stocked. To learn more, please read the article found on page 14.
- The adult church school class provides a meal for NETwork Ministries once a month, typically on the 4th Thursday. The next date will be March 26, 2026.
- St. John's will be a Bronze Sponsor of the 16th Annual Race Against Poverty. This year's race will be Saturday, June 6. Check out the details on page 28.
- Lenten Project recipients for 2026 are: Peru School, African Mission Healthcare, and the UCC Disaster Emergency Relief Fund. Donations will be collected throughout the months on March and April.
- A Pancake Breakfast and Community Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 4, \$8 for adults, \$2 for children up to age 12. We're seeking a sponsor for this event, too.
- Spring dance classes begin on Thursday, April 9 and run for 6 weeks.
- The Blueberry Bliss Spring Tea will be Saturday, April 25.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Additional opportunities to collaborate with Habitat for Humanity to serve both their mission and ours are being discussed by Council. Stay tuned!
- Learn more about the current status of our HVAC loan in the update on page 5. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed!
- Work on the parking lot project will resume after Memorial Day.
- We have transitioned to a project-based model to work with Ghostwriter to pursue grants and sponsorship opportunities, rather than a monthly retainer. Grants have become more competitive over the last year and we want to be good stewards of the resources that the congregation has entrusted to us.
- End of year giving statements are available by request from the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Spring is near...we have faith. The thermometer does not indicate that Winter is almost over. Spring will officially be here on March 20. We are all looking forward to what God will surprise us with once the snow melts and the green begins to appear. God is GREAT.

Lenten services continue as we prepare for Easter. Keep watching in April to enjoy the Easter festivities which are being planned for young and older. We had a very successful Pork and Sauerkraut Supper.

A special thanks to all those volunteers who share their time and smiles with our members unable to attend church in person. Your time and talents are so much appreciated. Cards and calls continue to bring warmth to those need a friendly touch.

Also, if you like to visit members in the hospital or their home, send cards or make calls to those we have not seen in church recently, please consider becoming a member of our Congregational Care Visitation Team. There is always room for more folks to visit those who are unable to be in church. Please contact Eileen Shaffer, (717-655-8888).

MARCH 16, 2026 | 6:30 PM

BIBLE & A BEER

Theological conversations
Rich discussion
Powerful testimony

Join us at 6:30 pm at
The Trojan Diner & Sports Bar!
1121 Lincoln Way E
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Bring your questions,
Invite your friends!



LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Located in Parking Lot B.
1811 Lincoln Way East Chambersburg, Pa



Located in
Parking Lot B
near rear entrance.
1811 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa

Here's the Scoop on the
"Little Free Pantry"

In November 2025, Pastor Caroline and Tom Kinton met to discuss ways that we at St. John's UCC can help our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. We wanted to explore ways that people who are already coming to St. John's might gain access to non-perishable food items. Tom built a "Little Free Pantry" and installed it by Parking Lot B, near the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

We also **need YOUR help** to support and sustain this initiative.

Due to the winter weather, we are seeking donations of dry non-perishable items (such as pasta, rice, cereal, etc.).

Thank you so much for your care and concern for our neighbors and community.

Church Activity Cancellations for Monday-Friday



- If CASD classes are cancelled all day, all church activities are also cancelled.
- If school is delayed, only morning church activities are cancelled.
- An early dismissal from school means all evening activities are cancelled.



SNOW! Is Sunday Worship cancelled?



- Check your email for a special E-Blast.
- Call the church office. Select Option 1 to hear a message.

See News-in-the-Pews

Conococheague Mission Cooperative Midweek Lenten Worship Services

"THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN HOLY WEEK"

ALL SERVICES HELD AT 7 PM

- Wednesday, February 25, Calvary UMC
"Parable of the Two Sons in the Vineyard"
CLM Susan Snyder preaching
- Wednesday, March 4, St. John's UCC
"Parable of the Tenants"
Pastor Caroline Saxton preaching
- Wednesday, March 11, Fayetteville
Otterbein Church
"Parable of the Wedding Banquet"
Pastor Bill Smith preaching
- Wednesday, March 18, Quincy UMC
"Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids"
CLM Loretta McClure preaching
- Wednesday, March 25, Calvary UMC
"Parable of the Talents"
Pastor Nancy Hale preaching

ST. JOHNS CHURCH -
1811 LINCOLN WAY EAST
CHAMBERSBURG, PA

JOIN US FOR THE UPPER ROOM

Adult Church School: Sunday School Restart

**SUNDAYS
8:45AM**

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
CONFERENCE ROOM 111**

Conversation will include the Bible verse, the authors' messages, the Thought for the Day, the prayer focuses, and your personal thoughts of the content.

Feel Good Yoga

at St. John's with Sue Collier
Tuesdays, 5:30 PM
Room 202
\$5.00

Come and enjoy the
benefits of Feel Good Yoga



St. John's United Church of Christ, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg. Use Parking Lot B.

KEYSTONE CONFERENCE OPEN AND AFFIRMING WINTER GATHERING

A day of education for all our churches who are part of the ONA ministry and those who are considering! Hybrid (both in-person and Zoom)

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

Immanuel United Church of Christ

99 South Waverly Street

Shillington (Reading), PA 19607

Easy access from PA routes 10 and 222

8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

"God is doing a new thing" and "Nothing will separate us from the love of God"

Isaiah 43:19-21 and Romans 8:38-39.

There will be a speaker presentation with the same three workshops scheduled in the morning and afternoon. Breakfast and lunch provided. Please look for hotel suggestions, speaker, workshop, and reservation information soon.

18

Questions may be directed to Steve Roush at: scroush2@gmail.com

Sunday Night Bible Study

Join us on Sunday nights
at 8 pm on Zoom for Bible Study!
We are currently studying the Book of Esther.

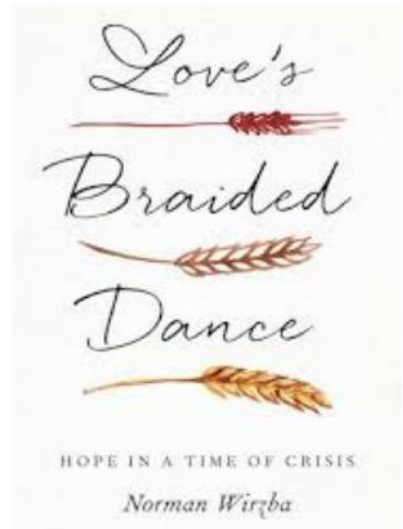
Check out News in the Pews & E-blast
for each week's reading assignment.

We encourage looking at a variety of translations;
Pastor Caroline is using the Common English Bible (CEB).

The link to join is included in the e-blast.

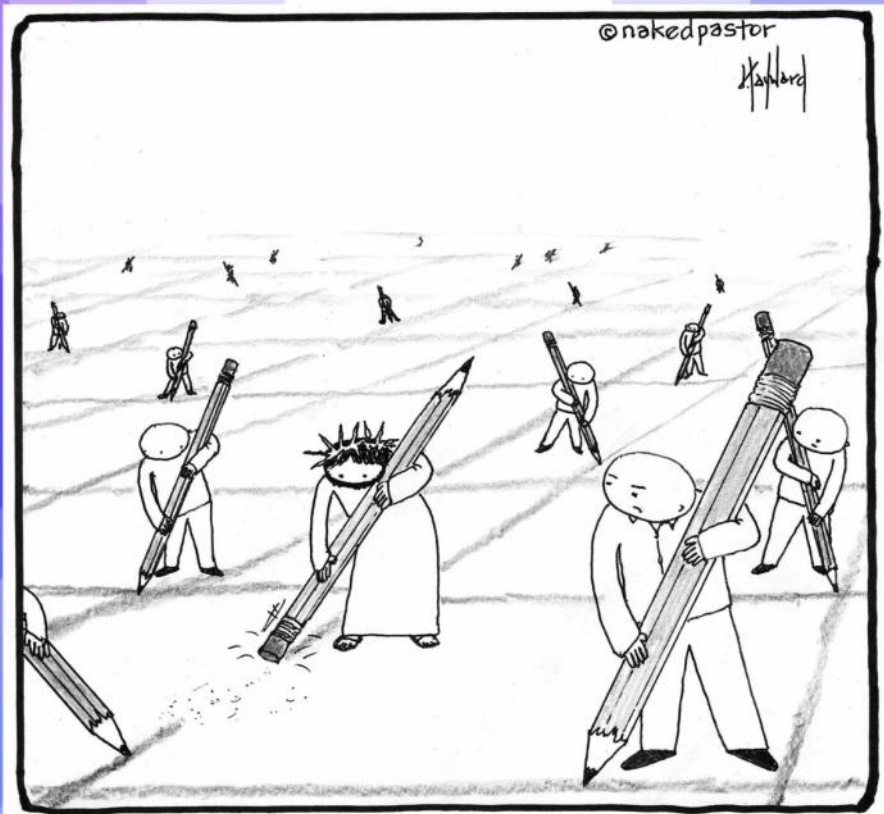
Monday Afternoon Book Study

Our current selection is "Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis" by Norman Wirzba. We read one chapter a week and have a robust discussion of the material. Check out News in the Pews for each week's reading assignment. Everyone is welcome!



New Church School Offering:
“Sunday Morning Caffeine”

*transforming from the
ordinary to the extraordinary*



Sunday, March 1 8:45-9:45 in Fellowship Hall
Join us for a continental breakfast and discussion

“When Jesus erases the lines we draw”

SJUCC GATHERING @ **Neighbors Food Hall**

Join us for a delicious
evening of food, fun,
and community spirit!

**TUESDAY
MARCH 10**

**AT NEIGHBORS FOOD HALL
102 S. MAIN STREET
CHAMBERSBURG PA 17201
5-7 PM**

*Come for the food,
stay for the camaraderie!
(each person pays
individually)*



Come & Enjoy!



**RSVP to the Church Office by
Monday, March 9**

**Call +717-263-8593
to let us know
you're coming!**

ST. JOHN'S PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

MEMBER PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN - IF NEEDED!

If you needed a photo taken
OR need to update current photo
Contact the office to schedule a time slot
717-263-8593

SUNDAY MARCH 8TH & SUNDAY MARCH 22ND

11:30AM-1:30PM
(ROOM 116 - 15 MINUTE INTERVALS)

If you have a picture that you'd like to use
Please email or drop it off at our Church Office by March 31st
Email: assistant@sjucc.org / 1811 LWE Chbg, Pa



St. John's Craft Night

Get ready for spring and encourage new life by painting/decorating your own gourd birdhouse.

Open to all ages, younger children may need some adult assistance.

Sign up in the lobby by 3/23/26.

Cost: \$15.00

Monday, March 30th 2026

6:00pm | Room 202

1811 Lincoln Way East Chambersburg, Pa



Easter Tulips

We are now taking orders for Easter tulips to decorate the Sanctuary for the Easter Sunday Service.

If you would like to donate a tulip, please complete the form and return it to the church office by **Monday, March 23rd 2026.** **Cost - \$15.00 each**

Donor's name: _____

(as it will appear in the bulletin insert)

I would like to order _____ Tulips to be placed:

_____ In memory of: _____

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ To the Glory of God

**** Thank you for your support. Please arrange for your flowers to be picked up.**

Please include your payment with this form and return it to the church office by **Monday, March 23rd, 2026. Make checks payable to St. John's UCC.**

St. John's Recycling Area



Cardboard ONLY
Please break down ALL Cardboard

CLEAN Plastic Bottles ONLY

NO Trash/ Waste





Camp Ministry Report



Camp Sticky Bun Sale
Sunday, March 22

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. Please, email Mary Lee Yaukey (mlyaukey@comcast.net) if you want to join the fun of making the delicious buns on Saturday morning, March 21st.

Help support St. John's Camp and enjoy a tasty treat! All proceeds support the Camp Fund.



Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt (10 am)

April 4, 2026
Fellowship Hall 9 am-11 am
Adults \$8

Children up to 12 yrs. \$2

A portion of the proceeds will go to SCCAP

Use Parking Lot B
St. John's UCC, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg PA





ST JOHNS SPRING 2026

Starts Thursday April 9



- **Beginners Class- 6-7 PM** *(Swing/Foxtrot/Cha Cha/Tango/Line Dances)*
- **Beyond Beginners 7-8 PM** *(MORE-Swing/Tango/Cha Cha/Foxtrot/Bachata/Line Dances AND Rumba)*
- **At St Johns Church 1811 Lincoln Way E, Chambersburg, PA 17202**
- *Learn how to dance – enjoy it the rest of your life ☺*
- **Dates: Thursdays- April 9, 16, 23, 30; May 7, 14.**
- **6 Lessons for a total of \$35.00 per person. Pay first night cash or check.**
- *** Partner NOT required**
- *** To sign up contact Frank Hancock at fhancock@comcast.net OR Harold Collier- hcollier@comcast.net**
- **or call 717-241-4483 or text 717-448-7839**

GREAT DANCERS

- **George Washington** **John Wayne** **Jim Thorpe** **George Patton**



Blueberry Bliss Tea

Saturday
April 25
1:30 PM



***To purchase tickets or a table,
please call (717) 263-8593***

Tickets are \$35, cash or check
VIP Tickets available starting March 18, 2026



***St. John's UCC
Fellowship Hall
Parking Lot B
1811 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, PA 17202***

Tea includes: salad, soup, scones,
savories, sweets, and pots of tea

RUN OR WALK TO FIGHT POVERTY!

Sweet
16

16TH ANNUAL

RACE AGAINST POVERTY

DOWNTOWN CHAMBERSBURG 3-7:30 PM

ALL AGES | CASH PRIZES | TROPHIES | DOOR PRIZES



NEW DAY!

SATURDAY
JUNE 6, 2026



3-7:30PM Food vendors, music, info booths, & more!

3PM Same Day Registration / Packet Pickup opens

- 3:45PM Raber Runs Reg & Pickup closes
- 4:30PM 5K Walk/Run Reg & Pickup closes

4PM Raber Kids 1 Mile begins

4:30PM Raber Kids Dash begins

5PM 5K Runners begin

5PM 5K Walkers begin behind the Runners

6:30PM Door Prizes & Runners Award Ceremony



GO THE EXTRA MILE FUNDRAISE FOR A CAUSE

Create and share your personal and/or team fundraising page to raise money and EARN PRIZES! 100% of the proceeds benefit Support Circles, a local initiative that empowers families to write their own future story and overcome poverty.



TITLE SPONSOR



Support Circles is a program of South Central Community Action Programs.

REGISTER



RACEAGAINSTPOVERTY.ORG

Ladies Luncheon

The group will continue to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Our February gathering will be Wednesday, March 11th
at 11:30 am at Hoss's Steak & Sea House.
(20 Falling Spring Road, Chambersburg, 17202).

No need to RSVP; just come and enjoy!

Mens Breakfast



We will be meeting **Thursday, March 5th**
at 7 am at Texas Lunch.
(108 LWW, Chambersburg, PA).

We look forward to seeing any and all for
March's Breakfast.

MARCH

Birthdays



03/02 Mackenzie Miller
03/03 Skip Elliott
03/05 Rebecca Pound
03/10 Carol Rockwell
03/12 Holli Burton
03/12 Deborah Dilling
03/14 Margaret (Peg) Marotte
03/14 Lee Powell
03/17 Charles 'Ed' Foltz Jr.
03/19 Belinda Johnson
03/21 John Bryner
03/21 Aubrei McSwiggan
03/23 Donna Harrison
03/23 Emily Stull
03/24 Lloyd Beers Jr
03/24 Lavonna Wadel
03/24 Nina Widmann
03/28 Richard Foerster
03/30 Muneath Ham
03/31 Carolyn (Cookie) Miller



Youth News

Youth Calendar of Events

March

1 Church School 8:45

8 Church School 8:45

11 Children and Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30 Parlor

15 Church School 8:45

Beginning of the Artistic Showcase and Silent Auction

22 Church School 8:45

29 Church School 8:45

Youth sponsor Coffee hour

End of the Artistic Showcase and Silent Auction

Children's Corner is offered weekly during Worship

Coffee Hour

The Staff in Church School have taken on sponsoring the after-worship coffee hour each month. Some help this month from our families would be greatly appreciated.

We are scheduled for March 29th.

Please see Roxanne if you can offer to send in something that day.

VBS Dates for 2026

Mark your calendars for July 19th -23rd
Work Days are scheduled for June 28 and July 12
We are going to the Snowball Mountain Challenge Games!
See Roxanne to help!



Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

The Youth will be once again helping the Nursery School in their collection of items for the CVAS by creating wonderful animal displays and signs for the collection sites in the church.
We will embark on a delivery of these items on April 11th.

REFLECTIONS....A Spiritual Journey

That is the theme for our first St. John's Art Show and Silent Auction to benefit the SCAPP Food Pantry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fayetteville. Due to the enormous talent, we have seen in our youth, congregation, and family members of St. John's, we are planning a showcase of this talent beginning March 15 th and on display in our lobby, until March 29 th . Entries by anyone at St. John's and their families must be submitted by the end of February, with a statement of how their entry fits the theme.

Any form of expression is welcome, poetry, artistry, musical.....

Only those designated will be offered for bids in the silent auction, others will be just for admiration. See Roxanne Davenport or Diana Kongkeattikul for more information.

R Y E Regional Youth Event

I am sorry to say that the Mid Atlantic Regional Youth Event that was scheduled for this July has been postponed due to lack of time to properly organize and procure volunteers. Having been on the planning of one of these, I know it took more than two years to bring to fruition, so although it is disappointing, it is understood.

We will continue to watch for information about the next one scheduled as we had some teens interested. This will also give us time to talk about fundraising for the next event.

Committee & Ministry Chairs 2026

Camp—*MaryLee Yaukey*

Children & Youth Ministry—*Roxanne Davenport*

Community Engagement—*Harold Collier*

Congregational Care—*Eileen Shaffer*

Facilities Ministry—*Tom Harrison*

Fellowship—*Sue McMurtray*

Finance—*Scot Orndorff*

Library—*MaryLee Yaukey*

Music Ministry—*Gary Crum*

Nursery School—*Linda Zeger*

Personnel—*Lisa Fair*

Pastoral Relations—*Tom (Mt. Union Rd) Harrison*

Prayer Shawl Ministry — *N. Erin Hartman*

Safe Church Compliance—Safe Church Compliance Steward, *Sarah Herbert*

Safe Church Response—Safe Church Compliance Steward, *Sarah Herbert*

Safety and Security—*Tom Kinton*

Spiritual Life—*Lloyd Beers*

Technology and Media Ministry— *Calvin Frantz*

Want to serve
on a Ministry or Standing
Committee?

These groups would
welcome you and
your talents!

Speak to these leaders or
Pastor Caroline today to
learn more and join them!

2026 COUNCIL

Moderator Team

Harold Collier, **Past Moderator**

Diana Kongkeattikul, **Moderator**

Harold Wissinger, **Moderator Elect**

At Large Members

Lloyd Beers Jr.

Tom Harrison

Eileen Shaffer, **Secretary**

Connie Strunk

Additional Non-Council Positions

Scot Orndorff, **Treasurer**

Jerry Thomason, **Assistant Treasurer**

Dick Rebok, **Authorized Check Signatory**

Susan Collier, **Head Deacon**

Dwight Sollenberger, **Head Elder**

Sarah Herbert, **Safe Church Compliance Steward**

Pastor

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

Sunday Worship will be at 10 am
(Offered In-Person and on YouTube)

Communion Dates:

Sunday, March 1, 10 am (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6:30 pm (Fellowship Hall)
Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:00 am (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)



“To grow in love of God and neighbor”



St. John's United Church of Christ

**1811 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, PA 17202**

Phone: 717-263-8593 Fax: 717-263-9010

Website: www.sjucc1811.org

Office Hours: Mon -Fri from 9 AM -3 PM

