



Mark 12:13-17 • illustratedministry.com

***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
March 22, 2026***

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT: TRUE ALLEGIANCE

*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 embrace, you who bear the divine image, you who are in this world but not of it, you who feel tested or tried.

In Christ, we gather and we belong.

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 #285**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

***OPENING PRAYER**

from The Work of Imagination

God of discernment, you send your Spirit to guide us when the questions seem too difficult or the possibilities seem too limited. Bless us with curiosity and creativity. Show us pathways beyond the binaries of "either/or" and "yes/no." Give us the strength to live your will, and dedicate our lives to your holy callings of love, mercy, humility, and grace. We do this following the way of Jesus Christ, our leader and our guide. Amen.

***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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

from The Work of Imagination

God who breathes meaning and inspiration into our sacred scriptures, who crafts stories of redemption, liberation, and love, may these words help us imagine the world you intended. May we receive the challenge to join you in this holy work, bringing heaven to earth as we follow Jesus in love and justice. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Titus 3:1-8

RESPONSIVE READING

"St. John the Baptist: 2 Baptism" by Malcolm Guite

Love's hidden thread has drawn us to the font,
A wide womb floating on the breath of God,
Feathered with seraph wings, lift with the swift
Lightning of praise, with thunder over-spread,
And under-girded with an unheard song,
Calling through water, fire, darkness, pain,
Calling us to the life for which we long,
Yearning to bring us to our birth again.
Again the breath of God is on the waters
In whose reflecting face our candles shine,
Again he draws from death the sons and daughters
For whom he bid the elements combine.
As living stones around a font today,
Rejoice with those who roll the stone away.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(please follow along on the insert/screen)

Makayla Grace Sheele and Thomas Joseph Sheele III
Sabrina Sollenberger and Thomas J. Sheele II, parents
Dwight and Cheryl Sollenberger, sponsors

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:13-17

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.

***HYMN #671**

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

adapted from The Work of Imagination

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination. **We believe there is no other object of our allegiance or devotion that compares to the Way of Jesus. This devotion supremely outmatches any allegiance to country, team, or people group. We believe that when we divide our allegiances among other powers, our faith is diluted by lesser ambitions. We lose sight of our calling, and we compromise our values. We believe our allegiance to Christ's way of love and justice informs all other promises, contracts, covenants, and relationships. When forced to choose between Caesar's way and Christ's way, we choose Christ because Christ chose us. Amen.**

***CHARGE & BLESSING**

from The Work of Imagination

POSTLUDE (seated)

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: 03/23 Donna Harrison and Emily Stull; 03/24 Lloyd Beers Jr., Lavonna Wadel, and Nina Widmann; 03/28 Richard Foerster.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Peter A'Zary
Lector	Chris Willman-Bunge
Children's Corner	Roxanne Davenport
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz & Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Coin Bearer" © 2026 Illustrated Ministry

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of our parents and in honor of our 5 grandchildren by Ray and MaryLee Yaukey.

285 God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on Thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn Thy Christ, as -
 3. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils
 4. Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that

pour Thy power; crown Thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry,
 sail His ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us,
 we de - plore; let the search for Thy sal - va - tion
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es

bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set all free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 serv - ing Thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing Thee whom we a - dore.
 that we fail not man nor Thee! That we fail not man nor Thee!

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7
 Lower key, No. 33

671 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

1. God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from Your
 2. Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the
 3. Trea - sure, too, You have en - trust - ed, gain through

rich and end - less store: na - ture's won - der, Je - sus'
 goals of Christ, Your Son: all at peace in health and
 powers Your grace con - ferred; ours to use for home and

wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door, gift - ed
 free - dom, ra - ces joined, the church made one. Now di -
 kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel Word. O - pen

by You, we turn to You, of - fering up our - selves in praise;
 rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
 wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,

WORDS: Robert L. Edwards, 1961

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Benjamin Briggs, 2009

Words © 1961, Ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company).

Harm. © 2010 Celebrating Grace, Inc.

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7 D

Lower key, No. 278

Baptism of Makayla Sheele and Thomas J. Sheele III
St. John's United Church of Christ
March 22, 2026

Welcome

Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Address

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and fellowship.

This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

We invite Sabrina Sollenberger and Thomas J. Sheele II to bring their children Makayla Sheele and Thomas J. Sheele III forward to be baptized, with sponsors Dwight and Cheryl Sollenberger, family and loved ones, in the presence of this community of faith.

Questions of the Parents and Sponsors

Do you desire to have these children baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?
We do.

Will you encourage these children to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ? **We will, with the help of God.**

Will you teach these children that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? **We will, with the help of God.**

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? **We do, with the help of God.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with these children in the Christian faith, to help these children to be faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that they may affirm their baptism? **We do, with the help of God.**

Congregational Assent

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Prayer of Baptism

Christ be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Act of Baptism

By what name shall this child be called? **Makayla Grace Sheele.** Makayla, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

By what name shall this child be called? **Thomas Joseph Sheele III.** Thomas, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Baptized

Presentation of the Child

Benediction

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

NEWS IN THE PEWS March 22, 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 Sticky Bun orders and freshly baked sticky buns (\$2.00 each) will be available for pick up and purchase after service.

St. John's Artistic Showcase & Silent Auction continues until March 29 in the lobby.
Bible Study on the Book of Esther, Chapter 5, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, March 23

1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – Conference Room 111 (Chapter 5)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 24

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202
6:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study– Zoom
6:00 pm Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall (then break into smaller groups)

Wednesday, March 25

7:00 pm – CMC Lenten Service – Calvary United Methodist Church (150 Norlo Drive Fayetteville)

Thursday, March 26

11:00 am NETwork Ministries Meal Prep – Kitchen
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117
6:15 pm Girl Scouts – Room 116
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Saturday, March 28

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Nursery School - Smith's Chicken BBQ Fundraiser
(Enter on St. John's Drive - Pick Up and Exit through Lot A)

Sunday, March 29

8:45 am Sunday Morning Caffeine Church School Class – Parlor Room 104
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 Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116
8:45 am Upper Room Church School Class – Conference Room 111
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary
8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Esther – Zoom

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read chapter 5 of Norman Wirzba's book "Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis" for our discussion on Monday, March 22, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

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 April 20th.

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. VIP Tickets are currently on sale. Tickets are \$35, cash or check.

CVAS Collection The Youth are once again helping St. John's 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 11.

Photo Directory and Contact Information Just a reminder we are in the final steps for completing our church directory. **All Photos must be submitted by March 31 in order to be included in the updated directory.** Drop off photos to the church office or email photos: assistant@sjucc1811.org or manager@sjucc1811.org

Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 4 from 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall (the Egg Hunt is at 10 am). \$8 for adults, \$2 for children under 12. The egg hunt is free. A portion of the proceeds will go to support SCCAP.

Holy Week at St. John's Our Maundy Thursday worship will be held on Thursday, April 2, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to attend the UCCA Community Good Friday Service on Friday April 3, 12 pm at Central Presbyterian Church. Our Easter Sunday worship is Sunday, April 5, at 10:00 am. An egg hunt planned by Children and Youth will be at 9:15 am. We hope you will join us for these special services as we remember Christ's death and celebrate his resurrection!

2025 SJUCC Year End Financial Report is available upon request from the Church Office. This report is similar to what was shared at past mid-year Congregational Meetings.

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.

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 where individuals have been affected by natural disasters.