

The Spirit

Volume 91 No. 5 May 2026



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

From Pastor Caroline

The adage says “April showers bring May flowers” but they never talk about the pollen! We celebrate the signs of growth and new life all around us (and effective allergy meds).

In this season of Eastertide, we encounter the stories of the risen Christ and the early church. We learn from their example of faithfulness in difficult and uncertain times. We lean on God and we lean on each other. We are reminded of the sustaining presence and power of the Spirit, which enables us to “run with perseverance the race” (Hebrews 12:1).

God is found all around us: in the beauty of creation, in the vastness of the universe, in the stories of scripture, and in the gift of each one of us. This is why I say that I read and study the Bible, but I worship God. The phrase “God is still speaking” reminds us that God did not stop engaging with humanity when we closed the canon. God is still present and active in our world; listen, pause and pay attention to what God is saying and where God is leading.

My calling as a pastor is to comfort the afflicted and challenge the comfortable. This means that I am called to preach the gospel, even when it might be hard for us to hear. Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah in his first sermon in Luke 4:18-19, *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”* And this is what I try to do each week, when I stand in the pulpit and preach: to proclaim the good news. I speak about love and justice, grace and mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation because Jesus did, too. We are called to live out the commandments to love God and love our neighbors, no exceptions.

We are to let our light shine and to remind ourselves that it is always darkest before dawn. Our Bible study on the letter of James encourages us to put our faith into action. Our book study of Adam Hamilton’s *“The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life”* will explore our spiritual practices as Jesus’ disciples. I will facilitate a new members/inquirers class after worship on May 3, as well as a “What is Pentecost” combined adult church school class on May 17 at 8:45 am. Our annual Pentecost Picnic will be after worship on Sunday, May 24. Rain or shine, we’ll have a good time!

Make sure to put the opportunities for praying in nature in summer on your calendar. We will focus on the labyrinth, the peace pole (soon to be installed outside), and St. John’s Camp as places and spaces where we encounter the divine. See page 21 for more details.

There is a lot happening in our church. We rejoice at the signs of life and vitality. We give thanks for the generosity of our congregation, celebrating the many ways that you serve and support our mission and ministry. None of what we do is possible without you.

May we love and learn, worship and witness, welcome and serve, as we grow in love of God and neighbor. Jesus offers us peace; he invites us to be peacemakers; he brings us together in love. As our St. John’s UCC peace pole says, “May peace prevail on earth.” Let it be so.

Peace, Pastor Caroline



MUSIC MINISTRY

History of Hymns

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

If you read my articles very often, you must know that I find the history of old hymns very interesting. This month it is about the following first hymn:

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of his grace!

Though John Wesley is called the father of Methodism, his brother Charles Wesley (1707-1788), may be called the father of Methodist congregational singing. Charles gave modern hymnody many hymn texts. He wrote this hymn on his conversion on Pentecost Sunday, or Whitsunday as it was known then. The hymn was written for use on the May 21, 1739 service. It had 18 stanzas originally. Today in our hymnals, the original seventh stanza is now the first stanza. The tune for this hymn was written by Lowell Mason (1792-1872) Our choir will sing this hymn on Sunday May 31 for our anthem.

Gary Crum

Discipleship Ministries

First Fruit Offering

MINISTRY MATTERS: SUMMER QUARTERLY FOCUS

The Community Engagement Committee invites you to support three local initiatives during the months of May, June, and July as we continue to grow in love of God and neighbor.

- 1) **Race Against Poverty (RAP)** is an annual event that supports the Circles program that is part of South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP). For the past sixteen years, this program has helped individuals and families who are working their way out of poverty. With a curriculum and mentorship, participants become agents of change in their own lives, helping them to build a better and brighter future. St. John's UCC has been a sponsor of the Race for the last 5 years and will have a team walking together on Saturday, June 6. More information about participating in the race is on page 11.
- 2) **Maranatha Ministry** runs both the Chambersburg Cold Weather Drop In Shelter (CCWDIS) helping our unhoused neighbors during the coldest months of the year and a food pantry that distributes groceries to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. This ministry, located in downtown Chambersburg, provides access to essentials for those who may lack transportation to access other sources of support.
- 3) **United Way Stuff the Bus** is an annual campaign to collect school supplies for students in the five school districts in Franklin County: Chambersburg Area, Fannett-Metal, Greencastle-Antrim, Tuscarora, and Waynesboro Area. We know that children learn best when they have what they need; from pencils and notebooks to water bottles and headphones, Stuff the Bus helps students, families and teachers to start the school year off right. Boxes for physical donations of supplies (and a list of desired items) will be available in both lobbies in July.

Whether you contribute via First Fruits Offerings, an envelope that you designate for First Fruits, a gift made through Vanco, a check you mail to church, or by physical donation boxes in the lobbies, we thank you for supporting our neighbors working their way out of poverty, our unhoused and food insecure siblings, and children seeking to learn, grow, and thrive. THANK YOU for your support of these programs!



St. John's Craft Night

Help sustain our bird friends by creating a
gourd bird feeder!

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

Sign up in the lobby by May 25

Cost: \$15.00

Monday, June 1st, 2026

6:00pm | Room 202

1811 Lincoln Way East Chambersburg, Pa





St. John's Nursery School

It has been an amazing year here at St. John's Nursery School! The 2025-2026 school year has been filled with many blessings and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such talented staff, dedicated ministry members, and supportive families.

The toddlers have grown so much and have mastered so many important developmental skills. They have grown in confidence and are ready to move on to our 3-year-old program next school year. The 3 year olds are an amazingly fun group. They have learned to be productive and confident members of our classroom communities and I am so proud of how much they have learned this year. The 4 year olds are ready for Kindergarten! Through the curriculums of Eureka, Heggerty, and Foundations, our teachers have laid the groundwork for our students to be successful Kindergarten learners. I wish them the best in their next schooling adventure!

We will end our year with many fun activities:

- Teacher Appreciation week, May 4th-8th, is a fun week to show our hard-working teachers how much we love and appreciate them!
- Our Family Carnival will be held Friday, May 15th, 10am-1pm here at the church. The carnival is a time to celebrate our students and all of the accomplishments that they have achieved this year.
- Graduation ceremonies for our 4/5 year olds will take place on Wednesday, May 20th and Thursday, May 21st at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join as we celebrate those children who will be progressing to Kindergarten in the fall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nursery School Ministry, Teachers and Assistants, Nursery School parents and children, Office Staff, Pastor, and SJUCC church members for your support, prayers, and dedication to our Nursery School mission.

Wishing all of you a fun, adventurous, and safe summer!
Kari Rock, Director



Church Office Hours:

**Monday - Friday
9:00am - 3:00pm**

**Church Office will be CLOSED
on Monday May 25 in observance of Memorial Day**



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

Phone: 717-263-8593



Future Together Progress Report

Council 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. We will begin our next book, “The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life” by Adam Hamilton on May 4. The group enjoys a robust and lively 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 finished our study of Esther and will begin studying the letter of James. The link is in the e-blast.
- Three adult church school classes are offered on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am: The Wired Word meets in Room 116; The Upper Room meets in Conference Room 111; and Sunday Morning Caffeine meets in the Parlor Room 104. Check them out!
- 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.
- Yoga classes are held on Tuesday nights at 5:30 pm in Room 202. \$5/class.
- Our praise group made their debut on March 29. They will share their talents in worship ~2x/month as part of a blended service.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- We are exploring what is involved in “dinner church” and a small group has been invited to help move this idea forward.

ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION

- Pickleball classes are held several times a week. We are exploring offering a class for kids who wish to learn how to play.
- Pastor Caroline will facilitate a combined church school class on Pentecost on May 17. See page 22 for more details.
- A new members/inquirers class will be held after worship on May 3. See page 18.
- Registration is open for St. John’s Camp in 2026. Dates and details are available on our website. See also pages 16-17, especially if you can help this summer!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- A **craft night** is being planned for June 1 at 6 pm, offering a relaxing evening of creativity and fellowship. Check out page 5 for more details.
- St. John's will host a **Mother's Day dance** on Friday, May 8.
- Preparations are underway for the **May 24 Pentecost Picnic** after worship. Rain or shine, we'll have a good time!
- The **Race Against Poverty** returns on June 6 and St. John's has five sponsored team spots available. A special eblast with registration information will be sent out. Please register by April 30 if you'd like to join the team.
- A new idea for early summer is an **Ice Cream Social** featuring homemade ice cream and cookies. Planning is in progress, with a possible date in June. Stay tuned!
- We will again support United Way's **Stuff the Bus** initiative in July. This year, the effort will be highlighted during Mission Moments.
- Our partnership with **NETwork Ministries** continues through the **Summer Snacks Program**. The congregation will be invited to contribute donations (food and funds) to help sustain this important ministry serving young people.
- Council has asked the Community Engagement team to explore another major event similar to the Book Sale. John Bryner will be reaching out to **Maranatha Ministries** as a potential partner for a project. If you have other ideas, please contact Harold Collier.
- New ideas are being shared and expanded, such as the Chili Cook Off on September 27 and a possible Bingo and Silent Auction event. Stay tuned for details!
- We collected more than \$6200 in donations via the Lenten Projects for Peru Sponsor a School; African Mission Healthcare; and UCC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund. Our Second Quarter focus will support the Race Against Poverty, Maranatha Ministries, and Stuff the Bus.
- Support our friends at Franklin County Legal Services' Book Sale on May 8, 9 and 10. The sale will be held at Laird Hall, Wilson College (1015 Philadelphia Avenue).

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Council and the Finance Task Force continue to explore options for our building and property to generate revenue. Additional grant writing services are being considered as we seek to address maintenance needs beyond the annual budget.
- We are exploring sponsorship options for the annual Book Sale, helping St. John's to generate income to offset expenses for this very popular community event.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY

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



St. John's "Little Free Pantry"

FREE canned goods and non-perishable items available to those who have food insecurities.

Give if you can, but take what you need!

We appreciate the generous support of our congregation,
Boy Scout Troop 136, Cub Scout Pack 136,
and Girl Scouts to ensure this pantry stays stocked.

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

Adult Church School Class:
“Sunday Morning Caffeine”

*transforming from the
ordinary to the extraordinary*



Sundays at 8:45 am

Parlor Room 104

each week we will discuss a different image,
scripture, and questions

Sunday Night Bible Study

Join us on Sunday nights
at 8 pm on Zoom for Bible Study!
We are currently studying the Letter of James.
Note: we will NOT meet on May 24.

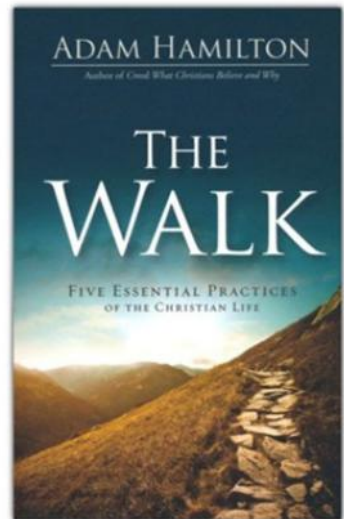
Check out News in the Pews & E-blast
for each week's reading assignment.

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

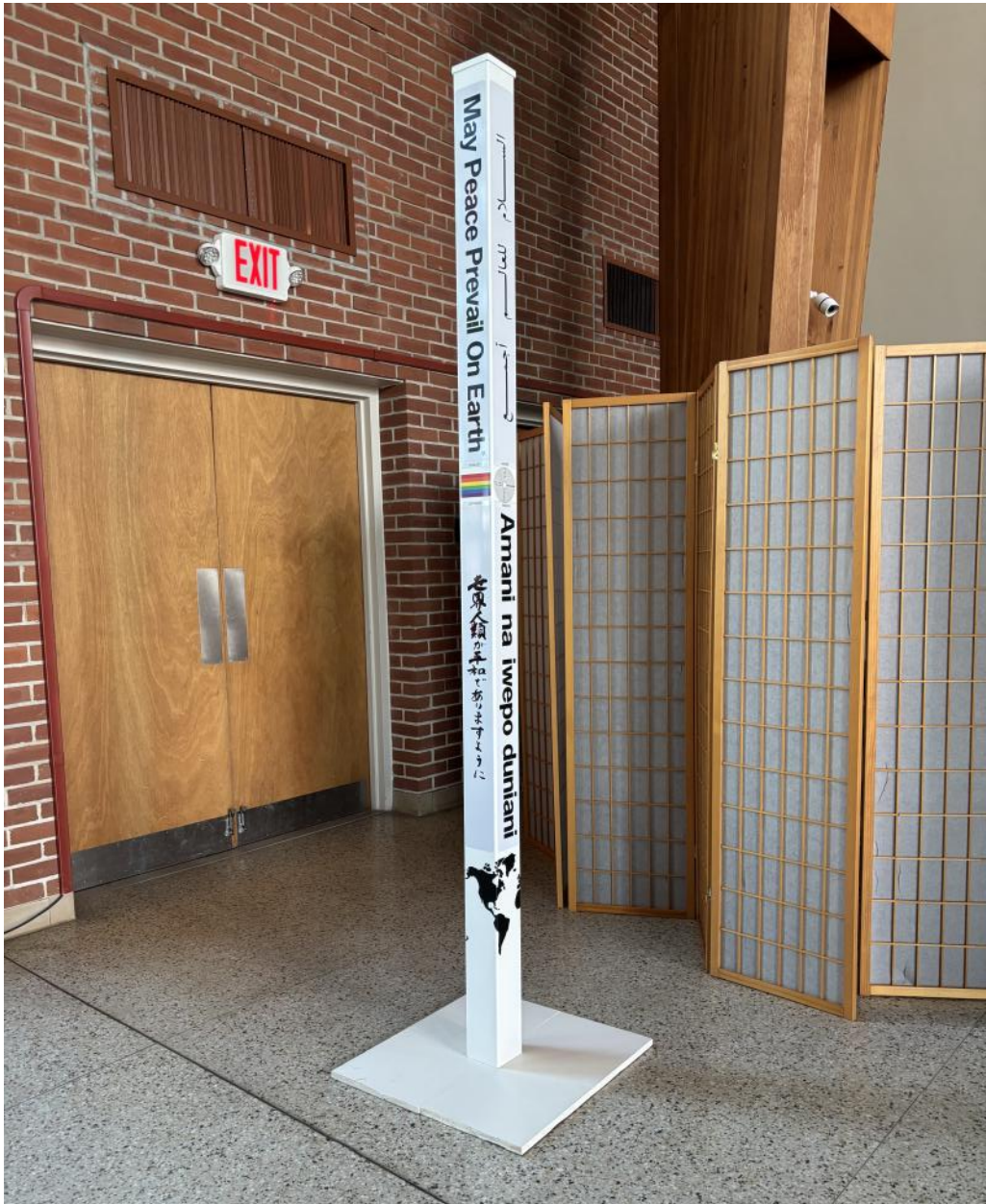
The link to join is included in the e-blast.

Monday Afternoon Book Study

Our current selection is "The Walk:
Five Essential Practices of the
Christian Life" by Adam Hamilton.
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!



St. John's UCC Peace Pole



From Jim Wood:

I first became acquainted with the Peace Pole Project in 2010, during a study of a series on DVD's called "Living The Question" in my Sunday School Class at my Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO. I googled peace poles.com on the internet and was amazed at what I found. As a visible reminder that all people desire peace, I ordered an 8' peace pole for my church and a 4' pole for my home that is now displayed in my front yard on Mentzer Avenue.

The Peace Pole Project came about in Japan by Mr. Masahisa Goi (1916-1980), who was deeply affected by the destruction caused by World War II and the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Goi's desire to assist in the creation for world peace came to him in 1955, when a small gathering of peace workers joined him to listen to his philosophy and visions for a better world. With deep meditation and prayer, Goi was inspired with the words, "May Peace Prevail On Earth".

The Peace Pole Project is an internationally recognized symbol and monument to the hopes and dreams of the entire human family, standing vigil in silent prayer for peace on earth. There are well over 300,000 peace poles in countries all around the world with more than 150 different languages to choose from. The International Day of Prayer for Peace is observed on September 21st. The World Council of Churches (WCC) and other churches observe the day in conjunction with The United Nations.

The peace pole that I ordered for St John's United Church of Christ came from The World Peace Sanctuary in Wassaic, NY. It is an 8' white resin pole with the words, May Peace Prevail On Earth in eight different languages. They are English, Japanese, Arabic, Lakota, Swahili, Hebrew, Spanish and Ukrainian. A Rainbow symbol is placed in the center to reflect openness to all the LGBTQIA+ community as well as a labyrinth decal symbolizing a pathway to walk a spiritual journey. There is a labyrinth outside on our church grounds that I hope you have walked or will contemplate walking. I recently received the world map decal to place around the bottom signifying that all people no matter where they live desire peace.

With the turmoil that has been happening the past year and especially the last few months in this country and around the world, Pastor Caroline and I had a conversation about having a peace pole for our church.

The peace pole is a gift from Mary Lynn Cate and myself to the congregation of St John's UCC and to all people who might stop and ponder the words; "May Peace Prevail On Earth".

When the weather permits the peace pole will be planted in the ground between the two sidewalks at the South entrance to the church. The pole will be set with decorative gravel and landscaping bricks surrounding it as protection from the mowing of grass.

It is difficult to continually maintain an attitude of peace, but until we can develop a love for all of creation, we may not be in complete peace with ourselves.

As a symbol, the peace pole is a reminder, representing a human desire for world peace. Hopefully it will kindle in one's being that peace is possible as we remember the lives of the people that are represented by the languages on the peace pole. Please, let it begin with us.

Peace. Peace, God's Peace, Free from all cares and love to share. Peace, Peace, God's Peace, Peace and love for all of creation.

Amen and Amen.



St. John's Camp 2026

Come and join us at camp!

Camp Kum Ba Yah for grades 3-5 is **June 22-26**

Camp Noah for grades K-2 is **June 22-26**

Note: Kum Ba Yah and Camp Noah will basically be run as two separate camps.

Camp information and the registration form are available
on the Church's website and at the welcome center.

sjucc1811.org/camp/

Campers and staff are needed.

Support this fun and important community outreach program by registering a camper, sharing information with family and friends, volunteering to help, and donating to the "Sponsor a Camper" fund. (If you would like to help, contact MaryLee Yaukey or Renee Byers.)

Kitchen Helpers are needed each day. Sign-up to help!

(Sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center.)



SUMMER CAMP

ST. JOHN'S
UCC
CAMP

JUNE 22-JUNE 26 2026

COST: \$125.00 (\$25 DISCOUNT IF PAID IN FULL BY JUNE 1, 2026)

Bus transportation is provided each day from St. John's U.C.C., 1811 Lincoln Way East or Weis Market, 49 Warm Spring Rd (West Route 30) or Milky Way Restaurant in Fort Loudon.



Camp Noah

(Completed Grades K-2)

Camp Kum Ba Yah

(Completed Grades 3-5)

Optional Wednesday Night Sleepover for additional \$10

Campers will enjoy the day outdoors learning about birds of PA, caring for the environment, exploring nature, participating in arts & crafts, and swimming at Cowan's Gap.

- ✓ **WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES**
- ✓ **DIVERSITY**
- ✓ **FANTASTIC STAFF**



For more information & Registration details visit www.sjucc1811.org/camp

New Member and Inquirer Class

“Deeper Dive into SJUCC”

learn more about our church & denomination



Sunday, May 3, after worship
Conference Room 111

“That they may all be one”

Growing & Sharing Together

With the days growing longer and the sunshine warms the soil, many of us are already digging into one of spring/summer's greatest joys: **gardening**. Whether you tend a backyard plot, a raised bed, nurture a few pots on the patio, or simply enjoy watching flowers bloom, we invite YOU to join us in celebrating the beauty and creativity of our community's gardens.

We will be **highlighting photos** showcasing favorite plants, latest garden projects, and proud harvest moments. Big or small, every garden has a story and we'd love to see yours!

There will also be a section to **share helpful gardening tips** - from what to plant each month to how to trim, prune, and keep your garden thriving. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just getting started, these insights will help you make the most of the growing season.

As the summer progresses, we hope to create a **sharing table** in the lobby where you can offer extra vegetables, herbs, seeds, or flowers.

Let's grow, learn, and share together this season. Happy gardening! We are indeed growing and sharing together.

When a flashlight grows dim you don't throw it away, you change the batteries.

When a person messes up and finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside, of course not, you help them change their batteries.

Some need **AA** batteries: **A**ttention and **A**ffection

Some need **AAA** batteries: **A**ttention, **A**ffection, **A**cceptance

Some need **C** batteries: **C**ompassion

Some need **D** batteries: **D**irection



If they still don't seem to shine, simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

MAY 18, 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!



ST. JOHN'S UCC

PRAYER *Gatherings*

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PRAYING IN NATURE!



SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 8:45 AM @ THE LABYRINTH
SUNDAY, JULY 12, 8:45 AM @ THE PEACE POLE (OUTSIDE)
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 9:30 AM @ ST. JOHN'S CAMP

GATHER IN THE BEAUTY OF CREATION
TO NUTURE YOUR PRAYER LIFE!

1811 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg 17202

Combined Church School Class:

“What is Pentecost?”

more than just the birthday of the church



Sunday, May 17 8:45-9:45 in Fellowship Hall
Join us for a continental breakfast and discussion

“The Spirit on the Move”

SAVE THE DATE!

PENTECOST PICNIC!



HOT DOGS, CHIPS, DRINKS AND DESSERT

**SUNDAY, MAY 24
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**



Dear St. John's family,

Just a note to say thank you for your prayers, cards, notes of encouragement, and thoughts during my hospitalization and recovery from successful open-heart surgery in March. They were all very much appreciated and I hope to see you all soon.

In thanks,
David Frantz

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful bouquet of altar flowers. It helped make my birthday special. I also appreciate all the cards from the churchfamily - You are special!

Fondly,
Nina Widmann

Dear Friends at St. John's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful yellow potted tulips delivered to me by Jolene McGinley. It brightened my home and my heart this Easter season.

Blessings,
Ann Osterman

Thank you for the many birthday cards—some were beautiful, some were funny, some had great messages, ALL were greatly appreciated.

Bev Peters

Thank you

Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful help with the *St. John's Blueberry Tea!* From planning to implementing a delightful "Tea", numerous church members and friends were busy behind the scenes. We appreciate all who advertised, invited friends and attended the event. Thank you to the set-up team (men & ladies), the prep workers, the kitchen help, the charming waiters, the busy dishwashers, the clean-up/tear down volunteers, and tablecloth washing ladies! Thanks to Pastor Caroline for her support and assistance. A special thanks goes to Tonya who once again expertly and kindly handled the ticket sales and table chart!

Sincerely,

Sue, Connie S., & Renee



Please, plan to join us for our fall

"Pumpkin Patch Tea"

Saturday, October 3, 2026



Thank you

Ladies Luncheon

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

Our next gathering will be Wednesday, May 13th
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, May 7th**
at 7 am at Texas Lunch.
(108 LWW, Chambersburg, PA).

We look forward to seeing any and all for
our next breakfast.



May Birthdays



05/01 Daryl Nutter

05/05 Louise Kennedy

05/05 Sabrina Sollenberger

05/06 Trinity Burns

05/07 Keiran Dereef

05/07 Pamela Reichelderfer

05/09 Doreen Horn

05/11 Christina Eslinger

05/11 Larry Wadel

05/12 Courtney Robertson

05/14 Heather Myers

05/14 Neilan Rensch Jr.

05/15 Naomi Mull

05/16 James Boyer

05/16 Colton Wadel

05/16 Jeffrey Young

05/17 Denise Skipper

05/18 Zoe Dereef

05/20 Rafael Cuesta

05/20 Jared Reichelderfer

05/23 James Patterson II

05/23 Vera Reber

05/24 Reed Zeger

05/25 Rev. Stephen Hoffman

05/25 Brenna Rosenberry

05/26 Luke Herbert

05/29 Sutton Collier

05/29 Nathaniel Widmann

05/30 Hayden Johnson

05/30 Dick Rebok

05/31 Dale Myers

05/31 Melinda Orndorff

05/31 Amanda Stepler





Youth Calendar of Events

May

- 3 Church School 8:45
- 10 Church School 8:45
- 17 Church School 8:45

Children and Youth sponsor coffee hour (Please help)

- 24 **NO** Church School 8:45
- 31 **NO** Church School 8:45

Children's Corner is available every week throughout the year during Worship.

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!

Art Showcase

The first, youth inspired Art Showcase is history and raised \$1296.00 for the SCCAP Food Pantry in Fayetteville. Many thanks to all who donated a glimpse of their talents and to those who bid on the items. The response was wonderful and to answer the question I have been dogged with, Yes, we will do it again!



Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter/Laser Tag



Four Youth spent a morning delivering the Nursery School donations to the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and enjoying the furry residents there. Many thanks to all who helped with the collection sites, donations, and delivery. Pizza was enjoyed by all before the youth embarked on their next adventure.

Six youth had a blast (no pun intended) that afternoon at Cluggy's, playing laser tag with their advisors. It was decided this should be an annual event!! Everyone was exhausted but had a great time!

Most of the youth that attended went free due to having earned service hours. See Roxanne anytime for your totals or how you can earn those for future events.

Church School Summer Programming

In the past, Youth Church School classes have taken the summer off. Due to request, we will be having modified classes in the Youth room for school-age students only, much of the summer. Beginning June 7th, and offered every Sunday except July 5th, through August 30th, two brief classes will be offered along with fellowship and munchies, during the church school hour. Staffing will be provided by volunteers, to allow parents to continue to enjoy their class time. Please see Diane Kongkeattikul if you can help.

Regular classes for 3 yr. olds through high school will resume on September 13th in their classrooms.

**Annual splash party July 24th 5-8 pm
Chambersburg Aquatic Center!!!**

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., **Secretary**

Tom Harrison

Eileen Shaffer

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:

Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 10:00 am, (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
Sunday, June 7, 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

