



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
April 19, 2026***

PAUL'S CONVERSION

*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**

"You Break In" by Roddy Hamilton (adapted)

You break in, O God, on the road. You break in, O God, exactly the way we don't believe.

Your break in, O God, and change everything.

You break in, O God, with a call. You break in, O God, with an invitation.

You break in, O God, with the truth.

You break in, O God, with a new realm. You break in, O God, with a new world.

You break in, O God, with your intent for the future.

God, break in again and call us to be your workers.

God, break in again and use the gifts we are to build your realm.

God, break in again and change our world once more.

***HYMN #205**

"Christ Is Alive"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised to receive us when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from the UCC Book of Worship

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. **We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 30 (The Inclusive Bible)

I praise you, O God, because you raised me up and kept my enemies from gloating over me. I cried to you for help, YHWH my God, and you healed me.

You brought me back from the realm of the dead, YHWH; you spared me from going down to the Pit.

Sing to YHWH, you who love God! Praise God's holy Name!

YHWH's anger is fleeting, but God's favor endures forever. There may be tears during the night, but joy comes in the morning.

When I presumed I was secure, I boasted, "I will never be defeated!"

When I stood firm in your favor, YHWH, I stood as firm as a mountain. But then you hid yourself from me, and I was filled with terror.

So I called to you, YHWH, I pleaded for your help:

"What goodwill come from my destruction, from my going to the grave? Does dust praise you, YHWH? Can the dead proclaim your unfailing goodness? Hear me, YHWH, and be merciful! Help me, YHWH!"

Then you changed my despair into a dance – you stripped me of my death shroud and clothed me with joy.

That's why my heart sings to you, that's why I can't keep silent – YHWH, you are my God, and I will thank you forever!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:1-20

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

APOSTLES' CREED: AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hymnal Companion C-10

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 Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Gracious God, receive these gifts of thanksgiving and praise and use them for your glory and the good of your people; in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

***HYMN #57**

"Be Still, My Soul"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship after worship!

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: 04/20 Nancy Gaal; 4/23 Elijah Herbert and 04/26 Harold Collier.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Mary Lee Yaukey
Lector	Henry Hopper
Children's Corner	Melinda Orndorff
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of Harry and Ida Funk by Lynann Funk and Ken and Doreen Horn.



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 "You Break In" by Roddy Hamilton, posted on Mucky Paws (adapted)

UCC Book of Worship

The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

Prayer of Dedication from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Year C, Volume 1, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long (adapted)

Christ Is Alive

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4. Wo - men and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1968

MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

Words © 1975, Rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO

LM

Higher key, No. 173

Be Still, My Soul

57

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
 2. Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your
 to guide the fu - ture as in a - ges past. Your hope, your
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap -

God to or - der and pro - vide; in ev - ery change God
 con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious
 point - ment, grief, and fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's

faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: your best, your heaven - ly
 shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
 pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

friend through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 know the Christ who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
 past, all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

WORDS: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Arr. © 1933, Ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Education (admin. by Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA

10.10.10.10.10

Higher key, No. 680

NEWS IN THE PEWS April 19, 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, chapters 9 & 10, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, April 20

1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – Conference Room 111 (Chapter 8)
6:30 pm Bible and Beer – Trojan Diner
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 21

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, April 22

1:00 pm Camp Meeting – Conference Room
6:30 pm Council Meeting – Conference Room

Thursday, April 23

4:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting – Conference Room
6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117
6:15 pm Girl Scouts – Room 116
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Friday, April 24

All Day – Blueberry Bliss Spring Tea Prep – Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

Saturday, April 25

1:30 pm Blueberry Bliss Spring Tea – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 26

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 James – chapter 1 (link in Friday e-blast)

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at **8 pm via Zoom** for a Bible study on the book of Esther. Our session on April 19 will focus on Esther Chapters 9 & 10. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A link for this opportunity is included in the weekly e-blast. We will begin studying the letter of James on Sunday, April 26.

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.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read chapter 8 of Norman Wirzba's book "Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis" for our discussion on Monday, April 20, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

Combined Church School Class Join us for a continental breakfast and conversation on "what is Pentecost" led by Pastor Caroline on Sunday, May 17, 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall.

Pentecost Picnic will be held on Sunday, May 24 after worship. The menu includes hot dogs, chips, drinks, and dessert. We hope the weather will allow us to gather outside!

Race Against Poverty St. John's is a sponsor of the 16th Annual Race Against Poverty held the first weekend in June. This year, the race will be held on Saturday, June 6. We would be delighted to have you join our official St. John's team. Contact Pastor Caroline to learn more.

Mercersburg Association Spring Meeting will be held at Grace UCC in Greencastle on Sunday, May 3, 3-5 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with a Zoom option to attend. Please contact Pastor Caroline if you would like to attend as one of two lay delegates.

Keystone Conference Annual Meeting will be held June 5-7, 2026 at Millersville University. The theme is "Joy at the Table Together!" If you would like to serve as one of our two lay delegates for this important and historic meeting, please contact Pastor Caroline.

Join us for Life Talk What's on your mind? Something that concerns or worries you? Do you need to vent? Just want to talk with other adults for a bit? Don't want to share in front of the entire congregation? Or you don't think it really needs to be a prayer request? Grab your snack and coffee, and meet in the parlor after services on Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome.

Support our Scouts! Members of Boy Scout Troop 136 will be selling discount camp cards after worship next Sunday, April 26. Cards are \$5 and help to support the scouting program.

April 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.

May/June 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.