



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
May 3, 2026***

PAUL'S SERMON AT ATHENS

*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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY & PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Bless the Lord, O people, sing!

Let the sound of praise ring out.

Come and hear what the Lord has done,

the Lord who has made everything!

Let us sing and pray, as we praise and worship God together!

***HYMN #19**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Siblings in Christ, God not only asks us to repent, but also assures us of forgiveness.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to the one who is steadfast love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution

Almighty God, you have set before us the path but we have wandered on our own to try to find our way. Sometimes we are like toddlers and we hear Your call and come back. Other times, we are children testing boundaries, ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back. And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion, demanding to be cut loose and set free, not knowing how much we still need to seek Your wisdom and guidance. But most of all, too often we think we are adults and have figured it all out and know our own way, only to stumble and stray so far. Remind us, parental God, that we are always Your children, that we are never fully grown up in Your sight, that we always have much to learn. Help us to seek You every day, to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance, and help us to return to the path and walk with You. In the name of Christ, who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion
God forgives, restores, and strengthens us through the risen Christ. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:15-21; Acts 17:16-31

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 66:8-20 (The Inclusive Bible)

Bless YHWH, all you peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard!

God has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

For you have tested us, O God – you have refined us as silver is refined.

You put us in prisons and laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water – and you brought us to a place of abundance and space.

I will come to your house with burnt offerings; I will pay my vows to you, the ones my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will present you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of burning rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah.*

Come and hear, all who revere God, and I will tell what the Holy One has done for me.

I cried aloud to God, and praise was on my tongue.

If I had nursed evil in my heart, God would not have listened.

But God did listen, and heeded the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or stopped loving me!

ANTHEM

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

STEP SHOW PRESENTATION

NETWork Ministries Step Teams

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

Hymnal Companion C-12

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

Loving God, we give you thanks that you have given us the gift of generosity and the desire to keep your commands. Bless these gifts and use them for your purposes.

May they reveal your love for us and for the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***HYMN #575 (insert)**

"O for a World"

***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: 05/05 Margaretta "Louise" Kennedy and Sabrina Sollenberger; 05/06 Trinity Burns; 05/07 Keiran Dereef and Pamela Reichelderfer; 05/09 Doreen Horn.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Peg Bryner
Lector	Connie Kaiser
Children's Corner	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in loving remembrance of Sue Zimmerman Powell's family; parents Merrill and Louise with sisters Joan and Becky by Lee Powell.



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:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Prayer of Confession written by Rev. Mindi and posted on her Rev-o-lution blog

The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

19 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1. I sing the might-y power of God, that made the moun-tains
 2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with
 3. There's not a plant or flower be-low, but makes Thy glo-ries

rise, that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad, and
 food; He formed the crea-tures with His Word, and
 known; and clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by

built the loft-y skies. I sing the wis-dom
 then pro-nounced them good. Lord, how Thy won-ders
 or-der from Thy throne; while all that bor-rows

that or-dained the sun to rule the day; the
 are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye, if
 life from Thee is ev-er in Thy care, and

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715
 MUSIC: Trad. English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

FOREST GREEN
 CMD
 Higher key, No. 176

moon shines full at His com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
ev - ery-where that we can be, Thou, God, art pres - ent there.

Creation Sings (the Father's Song) 20

Unison

Hal - le - lu - jah! Let all cre - a - tion stand and

sing. "Hal - le - lu - jah!" Fill the

earth with songs of wor - ship; tell the won-ders of cre - a - tion's King.

WORDS: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend, Kristyn Getty, 2008
MUSIC: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend, Kristyn Getty, 2008
Words and Music © 2008 ThankYou Music (Admin. by EMI CMG Publishing)

CREATION SINGS
Irregular

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.

Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

Join us for a hymn sing May 17!

We are planning a “hymn sing” featuring our favorite sacred songs on Sunday, May 17. To help us prepare for this special Sunday, we need your help!

Please, use the space below to share up to three of the hymns you’d most like to sing. Please include both the title and number. These should be hymns found in our green Celebrating Grace hymnal or the Hymnal Companion. We’ll sing as many of the songs chosen as possible (2 verses each). We might even have time to include a few day-of suggestions! Please place this form in the offering plate on May 3 or 10.

Questions? Contact Pastor Caroline. Thank you!

1.

2.

3.

NEWS IN THE PEWS May 3, 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: New Members/Inquirers Class Pastor Caroline will hold a class after worship on Sunday, May 3 for those who have recently joined as members or who are exploring membership at St. John's UCC. Grab a snack and join the conversation in Conference Room 111!
Mercersburg Association Spring Meeting @ Grace UCC in Greencastle, 3-5 pm
Bible Study on the Letter of James, chapter 2, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 5

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)

Thursday, May 7

7:00 am Men's Breakfast – Texas Lunch
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, May 8

6:30 pm Mother's Day Dance – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 10

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 Letter of James – chapter 3 (link in Friday e-blast)

Blueberry Bliss Tea Thank you so much for all the wonderful help with the St. John's Blueberry Tea! We appreciate all who advertised, invited friends and attended the event. We also thank 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! Save the date for St. John's Pumpkin Patch Tea October 3, 2026 – Sue, Connie S. & Renee.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at **8 pm via Zoom** for a Bible study on the Letter of James. Our session on May 3 will focus on Chapter 2. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

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 May 18.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read the introduction to Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" for our discussion on Monday, May 4, 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. Contact the Church Office if you'd like to use one of our sponsor codes.

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.

Camp Cooks (kitchen helpers) are needed for June 22 – 26. Please, sign-up to help in the kitchen at camp. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome center counter in the front lobby. Volunteers will be helping under the direction of the camp cook, Kirk Johnson. Thank you for supporting St. John's Camp!

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.

Summer Quarter First Fruits in May, June, and July will support the Race Against Poverty (RAP), Maranatha Ministry, and United Way's Stuff the Bus. Thank you for your generosity.

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.