

***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
May 10, 2026***

PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

*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**

adapted from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2

God is here to meet us: glorify God's name.

God welcomes us and calls us by name.

Called by Christ to reconcile and rejoice, we come into God's house.

The Spirit is present to strengthen and sustain.

Let us enter this time of worship with thanksgiving.

Let us offer God our praise.

***HYMN #310**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Let us give up boasting and dishonesty, turning to the Lord with our confessions, because the one who knows us through and through has promised to renew us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

O God, who makes known to us all truth, we confess that we are weighed down by our failings: envy distances us from other people; greed alerts us only to our own desires. Where we might bring reconciliation, we create conflicts. Where you call us to give, we take. Where your presence beckons, we resist. Deal with us not as we deserve, O God, but forgive us, cleanse us, and teach us your way. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

The God who loves and sustains you hears your plea. The Lord desires for you a welcome into the blessed community of freedom and light. You are forgiven. Remember the poor and the outcast, welcome the child, and you will know, as well, your own welcome, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of all things, now and forever.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:46-50

RESPONSIVE READING

"Worthy" by Bobby Jo Valentine

If I die tonight I will see you in the morning.

If I die tonight There will be another day

On the grass outside Drops of morning dew will gather

And the sun will come As if nothing had gone away

And all the trees will clap their hands And the rocks will understand

Worthy is the lamb

If I die tonight There will be another summer

And there will be a fall And there will be a winter snow

And as the darkness fades Ice will wander down the rivers

And then when spring is here Rain will make the flowers grow

And I'm a broken soul And futile words are on my tongue

And I can't sing to you What someone greater has not sung

And all the trees will clap their hands And the rocks will understand

Worthy is the lamb, worthy is the lamb

ANTHEM

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

arr. Robert P. Manookin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:1-18

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

RESPONSIVE LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

(insert & on screen)

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

God, who gives us everything we have, we return with joy a portion of our bounty, giving to the work of your church and your world what is already yours: ourselves, our lives, and our means. Make good come from these gifts. Teach us to use what we have with wisdom and compassion. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #281**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us 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.

Birthdays this week: 05/11 Christina Eslinger and Larry Wadel; 5/12 Courtney Robertson; 05/14 Heather Myers and Neilan Rensch Jr.; 05/15 Naomi Mull; 05/16 James Boyer, Colton Wadel, and Jeff Young; 05/17 Denise Skipper.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Peg Bryner
Lector	Chani Wolfe
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz
Bulletin cover	"Harvest of Righteousness" by Lauren Wright Pittman

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in loving memory of Ken Tosten from Bernie and family.



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

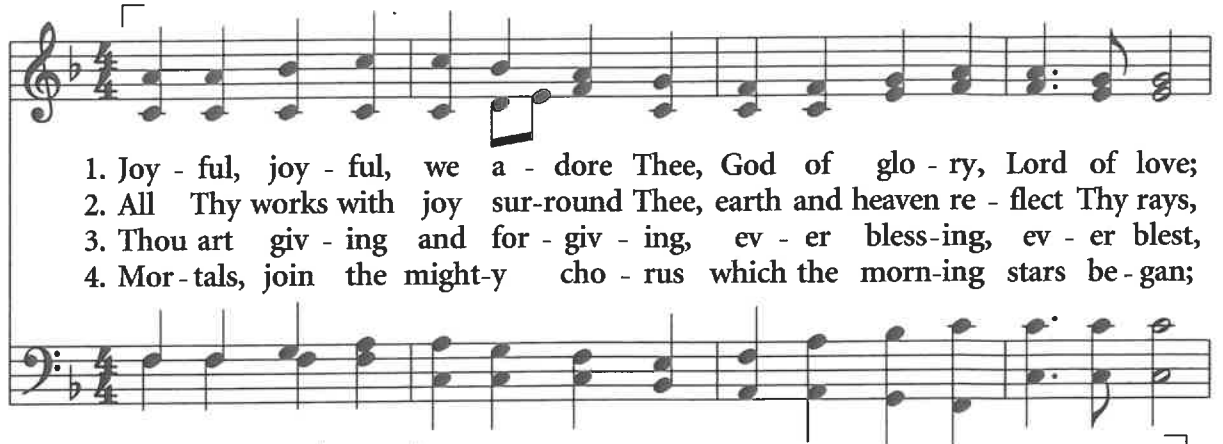
To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources:

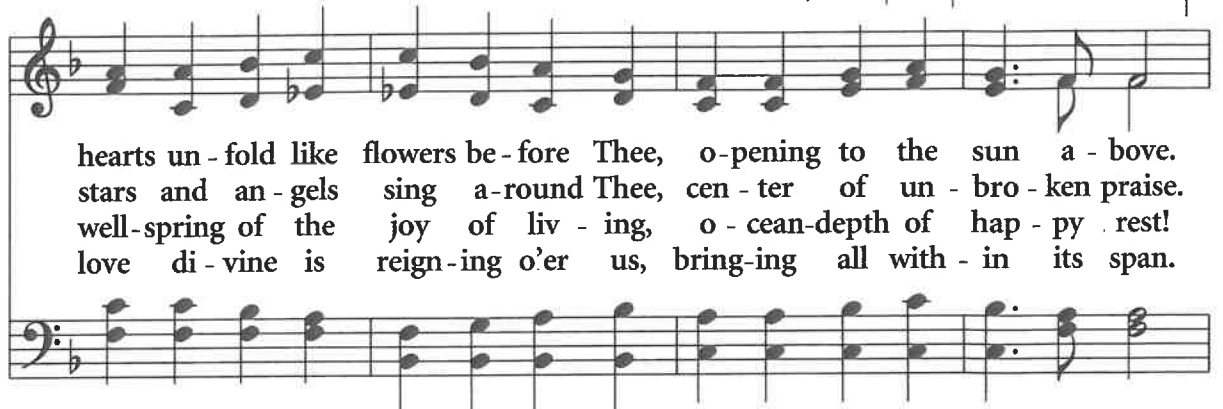
Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2: Liturgical Resources for Year A by Lavon Bayler
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long
"Worthy" included in Your True Name by Bobby Jo Valentine

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

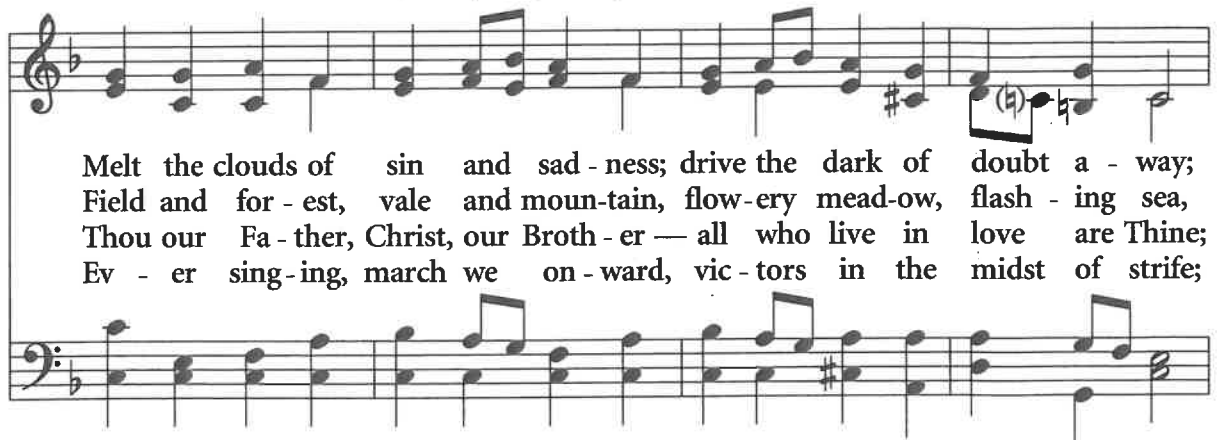
310



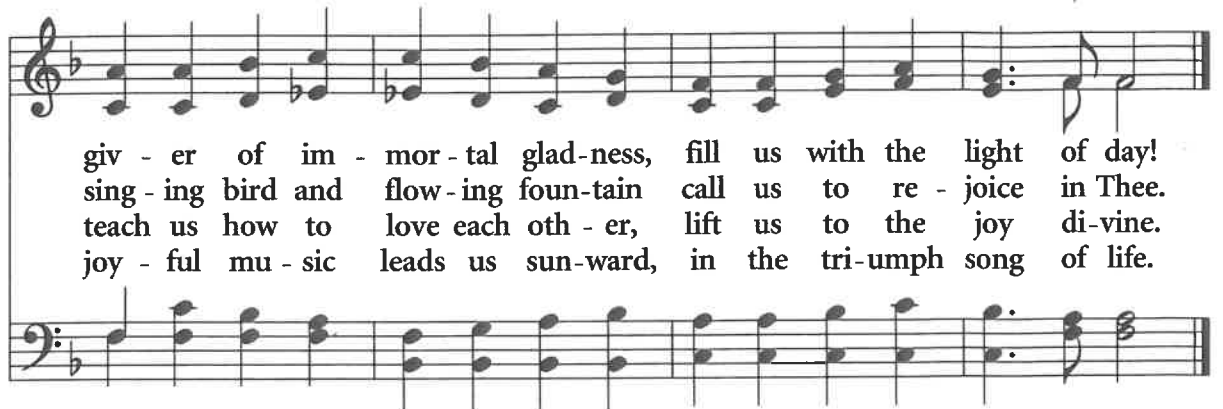
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
 4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!
 love di - vine is reign-ing o'er us, bring-ing all with - in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ, our Broth - er — all who live in love are Thine;
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!
 sing - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in Thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward, in the tri-umph song of life.

WORDS: Henry van Dyke, 1907

MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; harm. Edward Hodges, 1864

HYMN TO JOY

8.7.8.7 D

Higher key, No. 32

281 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell-ing, joy of heaven to earth come down,
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all Thy grace re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;

fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Let us all in Thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see Thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee:

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
 Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747

MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER

8.7.8.7 D

*Lower keys, No. 534 and No. 653**Alternate tune, HYFRYDOL*

A Litany for Mother's Day

© Rev. Patty Lawrence

We remember Sarai who was taunted by others in the household because of her inability to have children. **All-encompassing God, we pray for those who feel excluded when we emphasize one kind of family as normal.**

We remember Esther, who was adopted and raised by her cousin. **God who embraces us all, we pray for those who cannot be raised by their parents, for a short time or permanently.**

We remember Jochebed, the mother of Moses, who placed him in a raft on the river. **Saving God, we pray for parents who struggle to raise their children in oppressive circumstances.**

We remember Hannah, who loved her child so much she handed him over to another to raise. **Loving God, we pray for parents who have placed their child in another family.**

We remember Naomi, who grieved the death of her sons. **God, who grieves with us, we pray for parents who mourn the death of a child.**

We remember Ruth, who gave up her family to be family to another. **Inclusive God, we pray for those who choose to be family to those isolated by culture or language or distance.**

We remember Elizabeth, who had a child in old age and we remember Mary, who had a child as a teenager. **Ageless God, we pray that as a community we accept people of varying life stages and responsibilities and relationships.**

We remember Rachel, crying out for her children. **God of justice and hope, we pray for those whose children are killed, and look to a time when children can live safely in their communities.**

We remember Lois and Eunice, who taught Timothy faith by example. **Faithful God, we pray for those who teach us faith by their lives, may we remember that we also teach about you in the way we live.**

We remember other people, not named in the Scriptures, like the mother of the prodigal son. **Companion God, we pray for those who wait for a phone call or a visit, cut off from family and friends by distance and disagreement.**

**Nurturing God, we give thanks for those
who enrich our lives by their presence
who teach us about your abundant love
who encourage us in the journey of faith.
Amen.**

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 10, 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 Letter of James, chapter 3, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, May 11

1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – Conference Room 111 (**WILL RESUME ON 5/18**)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 12

10:00 am Summer Singers Practice – Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm Yoga – **NO YOGA will resume on May 26**
6:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study– Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall (then break into smaller groups)

Wednesday, May 13

11:30 am Ladies Luncheon – Hoss's Steak & Sea House (20 Falling Spring Rd Chambersburg)

Thursday, May 14

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Sunday, May 17

8:45 Combined Church School Class – Fellowship Hall
8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119
8:45 am SPARK! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary (Hymn Sing)
11:15 am Q&A Session on Habitat Proposal – Room 116
8:00 pm Bible Study on the Letter of James – chapter 4 (link in Friday e-blast)

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.

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!

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!

Exploring an Expanded Partnership with Habitat for Humanity Join us in Room 116 after worship for a congregational conversation/Q&A session regarding the possibility of developing a portion of our land for housing through Habitat. A letter from Pastor Caroline and Council was sent out via e-blast and is available in hard copy at the Welcome Center and in the Narthex. A special congregational meeting will be held Sunday, May 31, to formally vote on this proposal.

Check out the Peace Pole! Our peace pole is now installed outside! Thanks to Jim Wood and Mary Lynn Cate for their generosity in providing the pole and Tom Kinton and Tom Harrison for their installation expertise. A special prayer gathering at the peace pole will be held on Sunday, June 14, 8:45 am. You can learn more about the global peace pole initiative in the May Spirit.

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 10 will focus on Chapter 3. 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 Chapter 1 of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" for our discussion on Monday, May 18, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

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.

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.

Strengthen the Church Offering This special offering supports the expansion and growth of UCC local congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults. St. John's will receive this offering on May 24 & 31.