



***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
June 21, 2026***

## **RUTH: DARING TO ACT**

\*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 The Abingdon Worship Annual*

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,  
**for all are welcome in God's house.**

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,  
**for love is the language of faith.**

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,  
**for God dwells in each of us.**

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

#### **\*HYMN #625**

*"Standing on the Promises"*

### **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**

*Matthew 7:7-12*

**RESPONSIVE READING**

*"Reclaiming My Time" (a remix of Psalm 127)*

In the words of Auntie Maxine, I'm reclaiming my time:

**the time I didn't feel the need to do it all,**  
the time I laughed when I made mistakes,  
**the time I wasn't afraid to ask for help,**  
the time I knew what I didn't know,  
**the time I wasn't crushed by criticism,**  
the time I didn't fight to stay awake,  
**the time I fully trusted God.**

Yes, I'm reclaiming my time!

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

(please follow along on the screen)

Kevin and Rachel Chapman; Jennifer Long; Rhonda Neff; Robert Wolff

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"*

Chris Tomlin

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

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

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Ruth 3:1-18

**SERMON**

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**NICENE 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**

*from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

**O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people...  
open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom, open-hearted in healing a broken  
world, open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love. With thanks  
for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN #520**

*"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"*

**\*COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

## 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:** 06/22 Thomas Sheele.

<b>Worship Participants:</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Diana Kongkeattikul, Swann Kongkeattikul, Neath Ham, Barbara Motichka, Courtney Robertson, Roxanne Davenport, Chris Willman-Bunge
Deacon in Charge	Tena Keeney
Lector	Jayla Wheeler
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Story of Ruth" © Estate of John August Swanson, from <b>Art in the Christian Tradition</b> , a project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

**The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross** are given in memory of our grandparents Pawel and Anna (Chomiczewski) Scubelek, Ernest and Hilda Chapman, and Homer and Fanny Bailey by Wayne Scubelek and Sue McMurtray.



### **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 adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*

*UCC Book of Worship*

*"Her Masterpieces" by Kentina Washington-Leapheart, included in "The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle" edited by Martha Spong*

*Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi*

# 625

# Standing on the Promises

1. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my King,  
 2. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,  
 3. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,  
 4. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,

through e - ter - nal a - ges let His prais - es ring;  
 when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail;  
 bound to Him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,  
 lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,

glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,  
 by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,  
 o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword, stand - ing on the prom - is - es of  
 rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

God. Stand - ing, stand - ing,  
 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God, my Sav - ior; stand - ing,  
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

625.  
continued

TESTIMONY

stand - ing, I'm stand-ing on the prom - is-es of God.  
stand - ing on the prom - is-es,

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a vocal melody with lyrics: "stand - ing, I'm stand-ing on the prom - is-es of God." The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains a piano accompaniment consisting of chords and eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

# C-4

# Kyrie

## Lord, Have Mercy on Us

KYRIE

*Traditional: 6th century*

*John Ylvisaker, 1971*

Em D B7 Em  
Lord, have mer-cy on us. . . Lord, have mer-cy on us. . .

Em D B7 Em  
Christ, have mer-cy on us. . . Christ, have mer-cy on us. . .

Em D B7 Em  
Lord, have mer-cy on us. . . Lord, have mer-cy on us. . .

This Kyrie may be sung responsively.

Used by permission; c 1985 John Ylvisaker, Box 321, Waverly Iowa 50677; (319) 352-4396.

## Lord, Have Mercy

*Unison* D Bm F#m Bm A G G/B  
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

D G Bsus Bm Asus A D  
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

CCLI Song #7065; c 1985 Birdwing Music (a division of EMI Christian Music Publishing); for use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. www.ccli.com; CCLI License #2603973.

## Creeds and Affirmations of Faith

### **Apostles' Creed: An Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate;  
He was crucified, died and was buried.  
He went to the dead.  
On the third day He rose again,  
entered into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life eternal. Amen.

### **Nicene Creed: An Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God.

# 520 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

The musical score is written in 3/2 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains four verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the song. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1. The Spir-it sends us forth to serve; we go in Je - sus' name  
2. We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the bur - dened free;  
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter joy like seed  
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel to pro - claim.

to bring glad tid - ings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.  
and, all our days, to cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
God's Spir - it has em - pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

WORDS: Delores Dufner, 1993

MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON

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### **NEWS IN THE PEWS June 21, 2026**

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, [pastor@sjucc1811.org](mailto:pastor@sjucc1811.org) (641) 260-1868 (cell)  
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto: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: NO Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes – (will begin on Sunday, July 26)**

#### **Monday, June 22**

1:30 pm Afternoon Book Study - (Chapter 4) -Conference Room 111

#### **Tuesday, June 23**

10:00 am Summer Singers Practice – Fellowship Hall  
5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

#### **Wednesday, June 24**

6:30 PM Council Meeting- Conference Room 111

#### **Sunday, June 28**

8:45 am K-12 Faith and Fellowship – Youth Room 206  
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class  
8:45 am Upper Room Church School Class  
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15 am VBS Workday – Fellowship Hall

**Summer Special Music** A sign up is posted on the choir room door for those who would like to help provide special music in worship this summer. This can be singing or playing a musical instrument. Contact Gary Crum to learn more. Thank you for sharing your talents!

**Summer Church School Classes** Both the Wired Word and Upper Room adult church school classes will meet throughout the summer. Additionally, we will offer a K-12 Faith and Fellowship opportunity in the youth room for our young people to continue their Christian Education. Please see Diana Kongkeattikul or Roxanne Davenport if you have questions re: Faith and Fellowship

**Summer Prayer Gatherings** Join us at 8:45 on Sunday, July 12 at the Peace Pole. Please bring your own chair. We will also gather at St. John's Camp at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 22. Come and enjoy a time of praying together in nature!

**Monday Afternoon Book Study** We will read Chapter 4 of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" for our discussion on Monday, June 22, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

**Summer Snacks for NETWORK Ministry** Collection boxes for non-perishable snacks to share with the kids at NETWORK Ministry are located in the front lobby. A list of suggested items to donate is posted on the bulletin boards and is listed in the June Spirit.

**Vacation Bible School** Our VBS wish list for Snowball Mountain challenge includes: snow sports equipment; white poly-fill stuffing/batting; Styrofoam balls 3" diameter and larger; white sheets; Styrofoam medication coolers; and a snowflake projector (commonly used outside on houses). A grocery cart to collect these items is in the lobby. Contact Roxanne with questions. VBS Work Days are scheduled after worship on Sunday, June 28 and Sunday, July 12.

**American Revolution Talk** Join Col. (Ret.) Frank Hancock for an engaging presentation on the American Revolution on Wednesday, July 1, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Using historical artifacts, he will explore how the Revolution unfolded and highlight the patriots who shaped its course. He will also share the important role Cumberland County played, including Col. William Thompson, Washingtonburg, and the 1775 attack on Quebec. Free to attend; donations are accepted.

**A Civil War Ball** will be held Friday, July 10, 7-9 pm in Fellowship Hall featuring period dances. No experience? No problem! All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Summer Singers in Concert** Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 27, 3 pm as the Summer Singers perform here at St. John's UCC.

**Sweet Treats: Ice Cream Social** We are planning an ice cream social for Sunday, August 16. If you would like to bring homemade ice cream or baked goods, please sign up at the Welcome Center. We'll beat the summer heat by enjoying the A/C and a sweet treat!

**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. More information about these organizations is included in the Spirit. Thank you for your generosity.

**Stuff the Bus** The collection of physical items for United Way's "Stuff the Bus" school supply drive will run July 15-31. Please look for the boxes in the vestibules and consider contributing through the First Fruits offerings.

**Sunday Night Bible Study** Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes. Due to Pastor Caroline's schedule, we will be taking a break for a few weeks and will begin studying Ecclesiastes on **July 26**. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

**July/August 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.

**Want to Stay in Touch?** Contact the Church Office to be added to our email list! You can sign up to receive our regular weekly emails, Diana's Devotionals, and/or be part of the Prayer Chain.