



*St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
June 7, 2026*

RUTH: LOSS AND LOYALTY

*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

Craig Newcomer, Maranatha Ministry

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 #72**

"Day by Day"

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Let us confess our sins to God, from whom our help comes.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

O God, you have been faithful, yet we have not loved you with our whole hearts.

You showed us how to love our fellow human beings, yet we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. You have modeled welcome and acceptance, and we do not always follow in your ways. Turn us back to you, O God, that we may follow your commandments; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Beloved, the Lord is loving, merciful, and just. Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another, that we might walk in peace and love.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:3-9

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 146 (The Inclusive Bible)

Alleluia! Praise YHWH, my soul!

I will praise you all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live!

Do not trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no salvation.

When their spirits depart, they return to the earth, and on that day their plans perish.

Happy are those who help is the God of Israel, whose hope is in YHWH, their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in it!

YHWH, you keep faith forever: you secure justice for the oppressed; you give food to the hungry; you set captives free;

you give sight to the blind; you raise up those who were bowed down; you love those who do justice; you protect strangers; you sustain orphans and the bereaved – but you thwart the way of the corrupt.

YHWH will reign forever – your God, Zion! – through all generations.

Alleluia!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“How Great Is Our God”

Chris Tomlin

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 1:1-22

SERMON

Rev. Peter Emig

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 Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship

O Gracious God, bless our offering that it may reach and touch those who hunger, who hurt, who mourn, who seek new hope. As part of the global village, we care about all of our sisters and brothers and siblings. We pray for peace and justice, for liberty to those oppressed, for joy to those who are weary. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Hymnal Companion C-72

We celebrate communion today by intinction, coming forward to the altar.

***HYMN #267**

“Blest Be the Tie”

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

All are welcome at Christ’s table. To let the church office know that you communed today, please sign the black attendance pad found in each row. If you are communing from home, please contact the church office to let us know.

Birthdays this week: 06/09 Constance Reichelderfer; 06/10 Matthew Hoover and 06/14 John Campbell.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Guest Pastor	Rev. Peter Emig
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Roxanne Davenport, Neath Ham, Diana Kongkeattikul, Swann Kongkeattikul, Barb Motichka, Courtney Robertson, Chris Willman-Bunge
Deacon in Charge	Diana Kongkeattikul
Lector	Lloyd Beers
Children’s Corner	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Icon of Ruth and Naomi made in Mount Athos

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in loving memory of our brothers Franklin Worthington and William Moyer by Jim and Mary Moyer.



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*
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long
The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation
Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi

Day by Day

1. Day by day and with each pass - ing mo - ment, strength I
 2. Ev - ery day the Lord Him - self is near me with a
 3. Help me then in ev - ery trib - u - la - tion so to

find to meet my tri - als here; trust - ing in my Fa - ther's wise be -
 spe - cial mer - cy for each hour; all my cares He glad - ly bears and
 trust Your prom - is - es, O Lord, that I lose not faith's sweet con - so -

stow - ment, I've no cause for wor - ry or for fear.
 cheers me, He whose name is Coun - sel - or and Power.
 la - tion of - fered me with - in Your ho - ly Word.

He whose heart is kind be - yond all mea - sure gives un -
 The pro - tec - tion of His child and trea - sure is a
 Help me, Lord, when toil and trou - ble meet - ing, e'er to

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Blest Be the Tie

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear;
4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us in - ward pain;

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782

MUSIC: Johann G. Nägeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS

SM

NEWS IN THE PEWS June 7, 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: NO Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes – (chapter 1) (will begin on 6/21)

Monday, June 8

1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – (Chapter 3) Conference Room 111

Tuesday, June 9

10:00 am Summer Singers Practice – Fellowship Hall

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

Wednesday, June 10

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

Thursday, June 11

8:45 am Pipe Organ Tuning – Sanctuary

Saturday, June 13

4:00 pm Potluck – Food, Fun, and Fellowship (Sharing with our Congregations) – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 14

8:45 am K-12 Faith and Fellowship – Youth Room 206

8:45 am Combined Adult & Youth Sunday School Gathering at Labyrinth – Church Grounds

10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

8:00 pm **NO Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes – (chapter 1) (will begin on 6/21)**

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 Kirk Johnson. Thank you for supporting St. John's Camp!

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.

Progress on our Parking Lots As the work on our parking lots progresses, we ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate the many moving parts. Special e-blasts will be sent out as needed, especially with directions on where to park during the week and on Sundays.

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.

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 June 15.

Summer Prayer Gatherings Join us at 8:45 on Sunday, June 14 at the Labyrinth and 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!

An Evening of Food, Fun, and Fellowship with all three congregations worshipping at St. John's will be held on Saturday, June 13, 4-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share. The sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

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.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes. Our session on **June 21** will focus on Chapter 1. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read Chapter 3 of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" for our discussion on Monday, June 8, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

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.

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.