



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
August 2, 2026***

SABBATH: GOD RESTED

*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**

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos.

We gather to worship the One who called it good.

We lift our voices in praise.

We bring our songs, our gifts and our prayers.

We come into this time of worship,

joining together as the children of God.

Let us drink deeply from the source of life,

knowing that we are beloved, knowing that we are enough.

***HYMN #341**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

CALL TO CONFESSION

written by Thom Shuman

We know too well our foolishness, our brokenness, our human ways of doing things. But God knows our hearts, our hopes, our desire to be made new. As we offer our prayers of confession, let us open ourselves to God, who will forgive us and give us new life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, you invite us to return to you, with honesty about what we have done and what we have left undone. We confess our preoccupations with busyness and status, forgetting that you call us beloved and invite us to rest. Help us to embody new patterns of being and belonging, claiming the good gifts you offer us all. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

written by Thom Shuman (adapted)

God has given us the free gift of grace, setting us free to live as disciples. Receive the gift which brings us hope; the gift which brings us joy; the gift which brings us life. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:9-15

RESPONSIVE READING

"The Most Basic Blessing" (a remix of Psalm 67)

A blessing is a small thing, really:

**a gift of relationship, bringing depth and breadth to a communion both
mysterious and self-evident.**

The most basic blessing, really:

**breath, in and out, over and over that gives us life in this world
and welcomes us with love into the next.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Here I Am to Worship"

Tim Hughes

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:1-3

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

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**

written by Thom Shuman

**May the privileged always share with the forgotten, may the powerful learn the
grace of humility, and may our generosity reveal our gratitude for all the blessings
we have been given so we can share them with others. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Hymnal Companion C-76

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

Pre-packaged elements are available on the plates of bread.

***HYMN #376**

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

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: 08/06 N. Erin Hartman; 08/07 Sean Collier, Jean Cook, and Lynann Funk; 08/08 John H. McGinley; 08/09 Sadie Boyer.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Roxanne Davenport, Diana Kongkeattikul, Swann Kongkeattikul, Barb Motichka, Courtney Robertson, Chris Willman-Bunge
Deacon in Charge	Cathy Kinton
Lector	Jayla Wheeler
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 memory of Maurice L. Marotte Jr. by the Marotte 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:

Call to Worship and Prayer for Confession written by Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

"The Most Basic Blessing" by Julia Seymour, included in The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle edited by Martha Spong

Thom Shuman's Lectionary Liturgies blog

For the Beauty of the Earth

341

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4. For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
 5. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 6. For Thy - self, best Gift Di - vine! to our world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 for that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

WORDS: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861

DIX

7.7.7.7 with refrain

Higher key, No. 150

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology

We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to Your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in Your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by Your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
You have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to Yourself.

You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into Your Church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be Your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world

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and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table,
to join Him in His passion and victory.

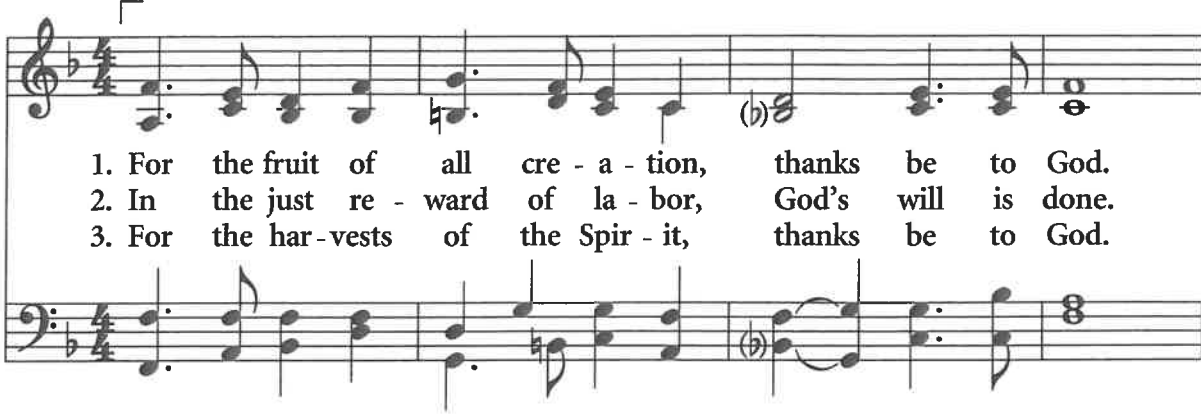
You promise to all who trust You
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
Your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto You. Amen.

*"In essentials unity; in nonessentials,
liberty; in all things charity."*

Attributed to Rupertus Meldenius

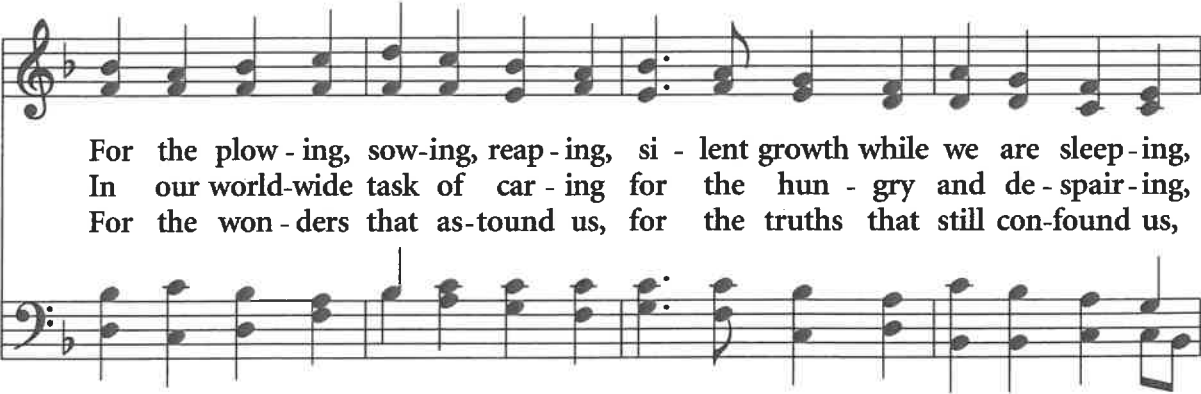
For the Fruit of All Creation



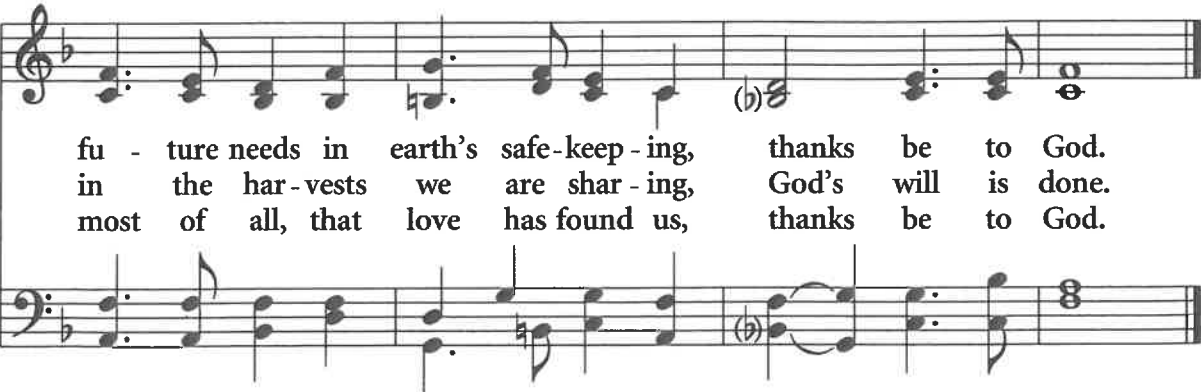
1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1970

MUSIC: Trad. Welsh melody; harm. Luther O. Emerson, 1906

Words © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

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8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4

Higher key, No. 99

NEWS IN THE PEWS August 2, 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:

8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 2 Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, August 3

10:00 am Chi Gong/Zazen silent body energy and soulful meditation – Parlor Room 104

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Introduction) – Conference Room 111

Tuesday, August 4

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

Thursday, August 6

7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Texas Lunch

Sunday, August 9

8:45 am K-12 Faith and Fellowship – Youth 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- Blessing of the Animals- Outside/Church Grounds

Blessing of the Animals will be held outside on Sunday, August 9. Your pets are invited to come in person or via photo as we bless and give thanks for our animal companions.

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!

Share The Harvest One of the many blessings of summer is the abundance of fresh produce from our gardens. If your garden is overflowing with fruits and/or vegetables, we invite you to share your harvest with others in our church family and community. Donations of homegrown produce may be brought to the Welcome Center in the front lobby at church. Your generosity helps provide fresh, healthy food to those who can use it and is a wonderful expression of Christian love and fellowship.

Sweet Treats: Ice Cream Social We are planning an ice cream social for Sunday, August 16 after worship. 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!

Meditation Mondays Join us every Monday at 10 am in the Parlor Room with Henry Hopper. Reach out to Henry at henhopper@gmail.com with any question. Meditation Group we will be doing Chi Gong/ Zazen silent body energy, and soulful meditation.

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 August 17th.

Camp Breakfast and Summer Prayer Gatherings Our final summer prayer gathering will be held at St. John's Camp at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 22. A sign-up sheet is at the welcome center. We hope you'll join us for this opportunity to gather in nature!

Youth Pickle Ball Clinic will be held on Sunday, August 23. Meet in Fellowship Hall for lunch at 11:30 am. The pickle ball clinic will be from 12-1:30 pm. RSVP to Roxanne Davenport at youth@sjucc1811.org or Diana Kongkeattikul at deedee80@gmail.com.

Gratitude Sunday on Sunday, August 30 will be a celebration of "This is Us": who we are and sharing what we love about our church! Please share photos in advance or bring them with you. We will have a pancake breakfast at 8:45 in Fellowship Hall, with worship to follow at 10 am.

An Antietam Battlefield Walking Tour will be held on Tuesday, August 4 2026. Walking tour starts at 9 am. The duration is 3 hours long. Price per person is \$20 (plus park entrance fee unless you have a park pass). Gratuities are accepted in form of cash only and are optional. Tour tips: Wear comfortable shoes for walking. Bring your own bug repellent and water. To sign up, please contact Harold Collier, hcollier@comcast.net.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read the Introduction to Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" for our discussion on Monday, August 3rd, 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 July/August Spirit.

Fall Quarter First Fruits in August, September and October will support Franklin Together-Franklin County Reentry Coalition, Homeless Matters of Franklin County, and the Fayetteville Fire Department. More information about each of these organizations is included in the Spirit. Thank you for your generosity in serving our neighbors and demonstrating God's love in action.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday August 2 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 2 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.