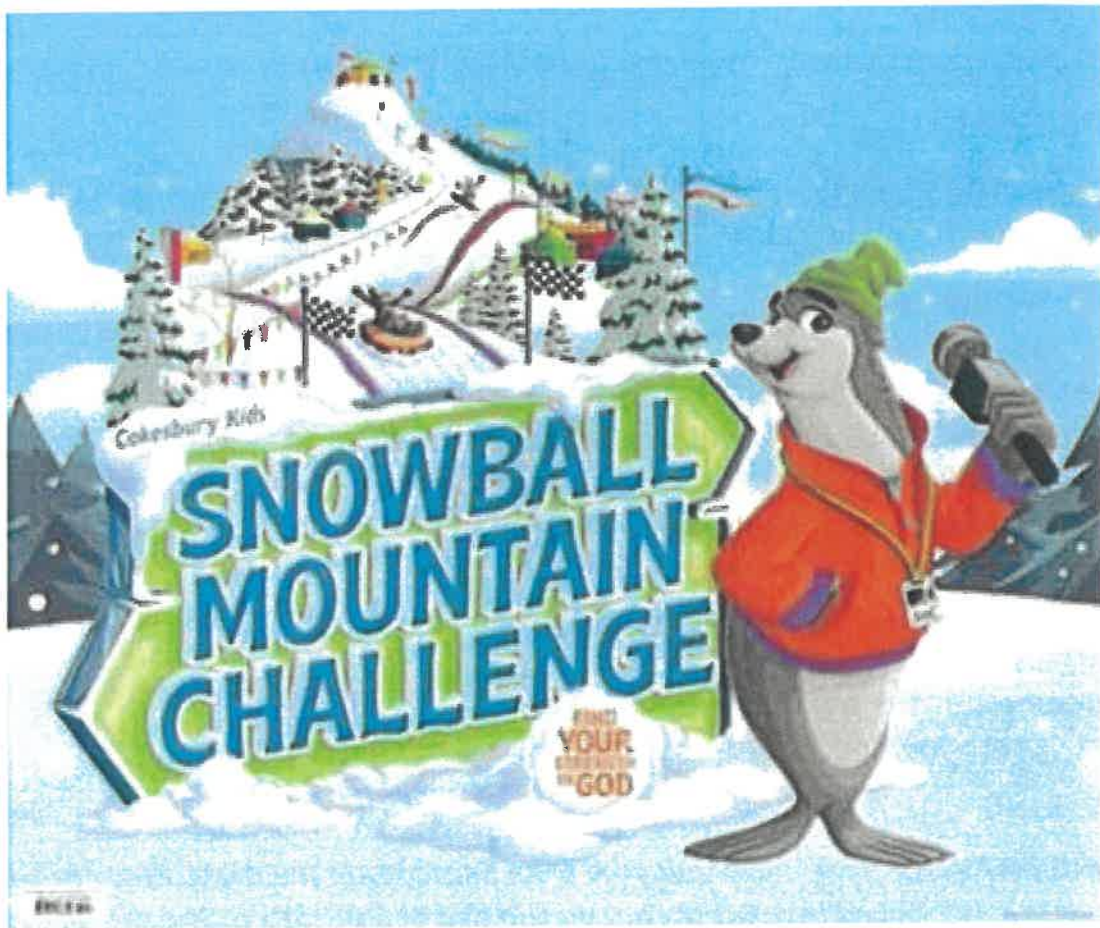




***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
July 26, 2026***

**SABBATH REST FOR ALL
CELEBRATION OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

*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"

***OPENING SONG**

"Snowball Mountain Day"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Come, all who are weary. Come, all who are burdened.

We gather together for rest and renewal.

May we honor the Sabbath with our bodies, minds, and hearts.

May we observe the Sabbath with all creatures, great and small,

and with our neighbors, those who we know well and those we do not.

Let us sing joyful songs to God, our Savior.

Remember the Lord, who set us free.

Blow the trumpet; sound the tambourine!

Remember the Lord, who set us free.

Come, let us worship God, offering both our praise and our rest!

***PRAISE SONG**

"The Journey"

***OPENING PRAYER**

adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Gracious God, we thank you for giving us the gift of Sabbath in the midst of a busy and weary world. Help us to practice the Sabbath rhythm of life...work and rest, work and rest, work and rest. We rest because you rested. We rest because you commanded it. We rest in order to remember that the world and our worth do not depend on our effort and accomplishments. We rest in such a way that others may also rest – not only all other human beings, but also creatures and creation itself. You made the Sabbath for us because you know all things are good and necessary for us. We thank you; we praise you; we rest in you. Gather us in your mighty hand and outstretched arm. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Activities Director "Miss Frosty"

VERSE FOR THE WEEK ("MOUNTAIN MOTTO")	Philippians 4:13
SCRIPTURE READING	Genesis 41:25-30, 33, 37-40; Esther 7:1-4
DRAMATIZATION	
SCRIPTURE READING	Matthew 26:36-46; Acts 3:1-10
RECREATION DEMONSTRATION	
SCRIPTURE READING	Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 11:28-30
MEDITATION	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
HYMN #577	<i>"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"</i>
SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS	
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)	
MISSION MOMENT	Roxanne Davenport
INVITATION TO GIVING	
OFFERTORY	
*OFFERTORY RESPONSE	<i>"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION	<i>from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion</i>
For Sabbath rest, and finest wheat, and honey from the rock, and all other gifts that sustain us in life, we thank you, O God. Accept, we pray, the gifts we offer in return; our small hands reaching toward your mighty hand, in gratitude and simple trust. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.	
RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION	Roxanne Davenport
*CLOSING SONG	<i>"I've Got a Gift"</i>
*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
*SENDING SONG	<i>"Anything But You"</i>

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

Birthdays this week: 07/28 Jill Bard; 07/30 Jessica Hoffeditz, Stacey Johnson and Deanna Statler; 08/02 Arlene McFate.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Pianist	Barb Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Diana Kongkeattikul
Media Coordinators	Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	© 2026 Cokesbury

The Flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of our granddaughter Mary Kate Norcross and Rex Rappaport on August 1, 2026 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:

Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS © Cokesbury

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;
 2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's Light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on My breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live."
 look un - to Me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, wea - ry, and worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;

I found in Him a rest - ing - place, and He has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in Him.
 and in that Light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

WORDS: Horatius Bonar, 1846

MUSIC: Trad. English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

KINGSFOLD

CMD

Higher key, No. 115

NEWS IN THE PEWS July 26, 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:

11:15 am Confirmation Conversation – Room 116
3:00 pm Summer Singers Concert - Sanctuary
8:00 pm Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes – Chapter 1 via Zoom

Monday, July 27

1:30 pm Afternoon Book Study (Chapter 6 & Postscript) – Conference Room 111
6:00 pm Community Engagement Meeting – Conference Room 111

Tuesday, July 28

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

Wednesday, July 29

6:30 pm Council Meeting – Conference Room 111

Sunday, August 2

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 – Sanctuary

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.

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

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.

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!

Stuff the Bus The collection of physical items for United Way's "Stuff the Bus" school supply drive will run **July 6-31**. Please look for the boxes in the vestibules and consider contributing through the First Fruits offerings.

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.

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 **Chapter 6** and the **Postscript** of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" for our discussion on Monday, **July 27**, 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.

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 Chapter 1 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.