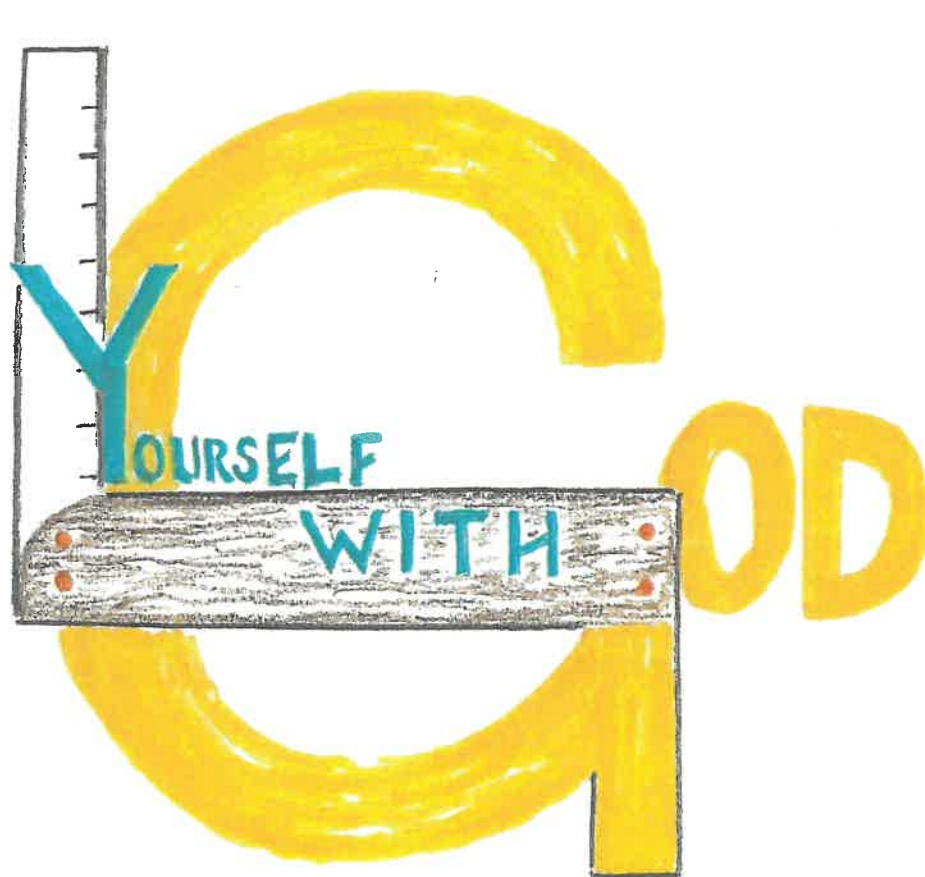




***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
August 16, 2026***

TEN COMMANDMENTS: NINETEEN COMES BEFORE TWENTY

**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 Nancy C. Townley

All heaven and earth proclaim the majesty of God's creative power!

Praise God for the amazing and awesome beauty.

God has given us codes by which to live together in harmony and peace.

In these commandments, God has summed up the ways we must respect each other.

Rejoice in the goodness of God.

Praise God for God's complete and steadfast love for us.

May our worship reflect our love of God and neighbor!

***HYMN #27 (insert)**

"From All That Dwell below the Skies"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another, trusting in God's power to forgive.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

written by Rev. Dr. Emily K. Bisset

God gave us the covenant of the law to guide us and help us live with our neighbors in love. When we break God's law, we leave our neighbors hurt and bruised. God's law is a gift to us, showing us how to keep our part of the covenant. Even through old pain and wounds, may we embrace the new life that Christ can bring.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

written by Rev. Dr. Emily K. Bisset

May the God of the law guide us in living lives that keep the covenant of love.

May Christ's forgiveness grant us new life, even when we break God's law.

May the Holy Spirit of conviction lead us to confession and renewal.

May we respond in love to the God of covenant and change.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:34-40

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 100 (The Inclusive Bible)

Acclaim YHWH with joy, all the earth!

Serve YHWH with gladness! Enter into God's presence with a joyful song!

Know that YHWH is God! YHWH made us, and we belong to the Creator, we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise! Give thanks to God! Bless God's Name!

For YHWH is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"If You Say Go"

Diane Thiel

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Chani Wolfe

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 19:1-6, 20:1-12

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

APOSTLES' 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 Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments – to love only you, not worshipping the things of this world; to love our neighbor freely, not desiring for ourselves something they possess. Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.

***HYMN #68**

"He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

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: 08/17 Joyce Patterson and Eric Wadel; 08/18 Erin Wadel;
08/19 Jerry Thomason; 08/21 Sue McNew, Ann Osterman and Dwight Sollenberger;
08/23 Cooper Miller and Sarah Young.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Diana Kongkeattikul, Swann Kongkeattikul, Barb Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Cathy Kinton
Lector	Judy Hodges
Children’s Corner	Rebecca Pound
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 our father Anthony “Mickey” Scubelek 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 written by Nancy C. Townley, posted on *Ministry Matters* (adapted)

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance written by Rev. Dr. Emily K. Bisset for the
Presbyterian World Service & Development

The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long

From All That Dwell below the Skies

27

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 117

Unison

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, God; your truth stands ev - er high and

(Harmony) *(Unison)*

rise; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's name be
broad: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your praise shall sound from shore to

(Harmony)

sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

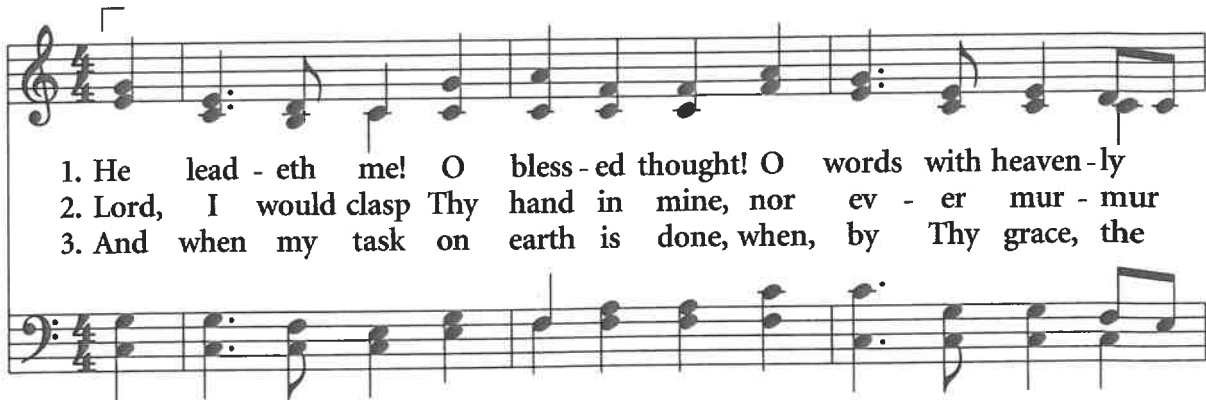
(Unison)

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

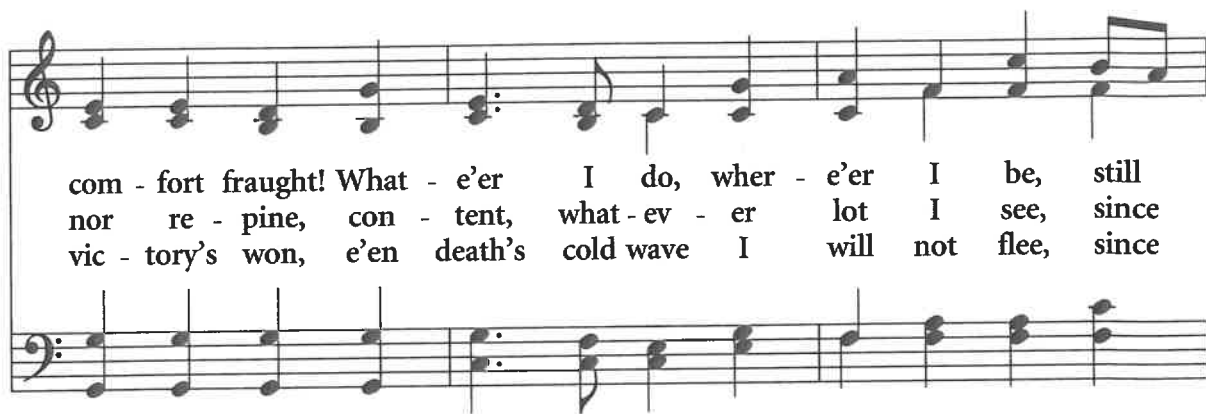
Isaac Watts, author of more than 600 hymns, paraphrased the two verses of Psalm 117 into this two-stanza hymn, which was included in his *Psalms of David*, 1719. The tune originated in a German Catholic hymnal.

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN
8.8.4.4.8.8. with alleluias
Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

68 He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought



1. He lead - eth me! O bless - ed thought! O words with heaven - ly
 2. Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur
 3. And when my task on earth is done, when, by Thy grace, the



com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, still
 nor re - pine, con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since
 vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since



'tis God's hand that lead - eth me!
 'tis Thy hand that lead - eth me! He lead - eth me, He
 God through Jor - dan lead - eth me!



lead - eth me, by His own hand He lead - eth me: His

Continued for #68

SUSTAINER

Handwritten musical notation for a sustainer part. The notation consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff contains a melody line with notes and rests, and the bass staff contains a bass line with notes and rests. The lyrics are written below the treble staff: "faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by His hand He lead - eth me." The notation is handwritten and appears to be a musical score for a song.

NEWS IN THE PEWS August 16, 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 Ice Cream Social in Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 4 Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, August 17

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 2) – Conference Room 111
6:30 pm Bible and a Beer – Trojan Diner

Tuesday, August 18

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

Friday, August 21

6:00 pm End of Summer Dance – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 22

9:30am Brunch and Prayer Gathering – St. John's Camp

Sunday, August 23

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
11:30 am Youth Pickle Ball Clinic (Lunch Provided) – Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm Bible Study on Ecclesiastes Chapter 5 – Zoom

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.

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.

Wolf Sanctuary The Children's Message today references the Wolf Sanctuary of PA, which reminds us that [extinct is forever]. The Wolf Sanctuary is located in Lititz, PA. You can learn more about their work at www.wolfsanctuary.org. If you have any follow-up questions, please reach out to Chani Wolfe at 717-372-4792.

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.

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!

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read Chapter 2 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" for our discussion on Monday, August 17th, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation.

Franklin Together-Franklin County Reentry Coalition Many of the people we serve are securing safe housing, reconnecting with loved ones, and taking meaningful steps toward stability. To help them feel truly at home, we are asking for your support with essential household, cleaning, and hygiene items. At the welcome center there is a box for donations. Stop by to see the full list of items needed or see the eblast. Monetary gifts toward supplies may also be made at <http://franklintogether.org/donate>.

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 16th at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 4 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.