



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
August 30, 2026***

TEN COMMANDMENTS: TUNED TOWARD THE NEIGHBOR
"THIS IS US" GRATITUDE SUNDAY

*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 Iona Abbey Worship Book

God above us.

God beneath us.

God around us.

God within us.

We gather to remember and give thanks

that you made us, you love us, and you call us to work and rest with you.

***HYMN (insert)**

"O God, May We Aspire to Be"

LITANY OF CONFESSION

written by Amy Loving

God of all Good Gifts, you call us to be generous people; but instead we covet what others have.

Forgive our selfish ways, and teach us to give.

God of Perfection, you call us to be honest in all we say and do; but instead we tell lies that hurt our neighbors.

Forgive our deceitful ways, and teach us to speak the truth in love.

God of Benevolence, you call us provide for those in need; but instead we swindle and steal.

Forgive our double-dealing ways, and teach us to share.

God of the Covenant, you call us to be faithful in our relationships with others; but instead, we are disloyal

Forgive our adulterous ways, and teach us to honor our commitments.

God of Creation, you call us to value the lives of others; but instead we work to destroy those who are different and annihilate those with whom we disagree.

Forgive our murderous ways, and teach us to seek reconciliation and peace.

God of our Ancestors, you call us to respect those who have gone before us; but instead we dismiss the wisdom of our elders.

Forgive our impertinent ways, and teach us to be humble.

God of Time and Space, you call us to recognize creation's dependence on you; but instead we work without pausing to reflect or give thanks.

Forgive our ungrateful ways, and teach us to both receive and provide times of holy rest.

God of the Sacred Name, you call us to hold your name in reverence; but instead we vainly attach your name to every personal, political, and religious agenda we promote.

Forgive our arrogant ways, and teach us to submit to your authority.

God of Limitless Possibilities, you call us to celebrate your Unbounded Spirit; but instead, we try to define who you are and make you to be something we can manage.

Forgive our small-mindedness and idol-making ways, and teach us to imagine.

God of Deliverance and Might, you call us to devote ourselves to you; but instead, we abandon you for lesser gods.

Forgive our wandering ways, and teach us to love and follow you alone.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:34-40

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Blessed Assurance"

N. Erin Hartman, violin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:12-16

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

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 worshiping 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 #541** (insert)

"They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

Birthdays this week: 08/31 Kenneth Horn and Elizabeth Widmann; 09/03 Michele Wadel;
09/04 Melissa Reichelderfer and Margaret Schollaert; 09/06 Evan Blumberg.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Peg Bryner
Lector	Barbara Wissinger
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	The Peace Pole @ St. John's UCC

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in loving memory of Milo E. McMurtray,
(May 15, 1934 - October 11, 2024) by 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 from the Iona Abbey Worship Book (adapted)

Litany of Confession written by Amy Loving and originally posted on The Worship Closet:

The Place for Creative Worship Ideas

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

O God, May We Aspire To Be

TALLIS' CANON 8.8.8.8 ("All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night")

O God, may we aspire to be
a land that values dignity,
that knows the blessing and the worth
of every person on this earth.

You teach that killing is a sin.
You say to welcome strangers in.
You lift the outcast and the poor,
You bless the ones outside our door.

God, we confess we often stray
and think we know a better way.
We value comfort and control
instead of what makes others whole.

You call for systems that reflect
the basic values of respect.
You call for peace and mercy, too,
for all these good things come from you.

Isaiah says our praise and prayers
demand a faith that also dares.
May we see every person's worth
and work for justice on the earth.

Biblical References: Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:13; Isaiah 58; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:9; Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Hebrews 13:2 and many others

Tune: Thomas Tallis, 1561

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

541

Jan Wesson, 1981; alt.

Luke 10:29-37

Unison

F Dm Am Gm

1 They asked, "Who's my neigh - bor and whom should I love; for
 2 There once was a trav - el - er set on by thieves who
 3 A cer - tain Sa - mar - i - tan then came a - long to
 4 I know who's my neigh - bor and whom I should love, for

F/C Dm C C7 F C

whom should I do a good deed?" Then Je - sus re - lat - ed a
 beat him and left him to die; A priest and a Le - vite each
 bind up his wounds and give aid; He took him to stay at an
 whom I should do a good deed; For Je - sus made clear in the

F Am Gm/Bb F/C C7

sto - ry and said, "It's an - y - one who has a
 saw him in pain; but they turned a - way and walked
 inn un - til well, and for all the ser - vice he
 sto - ry he told, it's an - y - one who has a

Dm Bb F/C C7 F

need, yes, an - y - one who has a need."
 by, yes, they turned a - way and walked by.
 paid, yes, for all the ser - vice he paid.
 need, yes, an - y - one who has a need.

Ruth Janelle (Jan) Wesson wrote this hymn for the dedication of her church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was encouraged to submit it to a Hymn Society competition. It was published at the society's national conference in 1982.

Tune: NEIGHBOR 11.8.11.8.8.
 Jan Wesson, 1981

NEWS IN THE PEWS August 30, 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:

8:45 am Gratitude Sunday and Pancake Breakfast – Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Sunday Worship – Fellowship Hall

8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapters 6 & 7 Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, August 31

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 4) – Conference Room 111

Tuesday, September 1

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, September 3

7:00 am Men's Breakfast – Texas Lunch

Sunday, September 6

8:45 am Wired Word – Room 116

8:45 am Upper Room – Room 111

10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

11:00 am Travel Talk with Pastor Caroline – Room 116

8:00 pm **NO Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes – We'll resume on 9/13**

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.

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 September 21.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read Chapter 4 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" for our discussion on Monday, August 31, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

Family Fun Day will be held after worship on Sunday, September 13. Get ready to enjoy fun, games, music, food and more! We'll have a bounce house, DJ, petting zoo, and face painting. Everyone is welcome – invite your friends and neighbors! See Roxanne Davenport to volunteer.

Chili Cook Off Our annual Chili Cook-Off will be held on Sunday, September 27. Sign up at the Welcome Center to bring chili, cornbread, rice, and/or desserts. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Power Packs program, ensuring children in our community have enough food to eat.

Travel Talk Pastor Caroline will be giving a presentation on her trip to Ireland after worship on Sunday, September 6 in Room 116. Light refreshments will be provided.

Help Us Celebrate Roxanne Join us on Sunday, September 6 as we celebrate and thank Roxanne Davenport for 10 years of employment as our Director of Children and Youth. St. John's and its families have forever been changed for the better thanks to Roxanne's tireless dedication and efforts. Thank you and congratulation cards can be sent to or dropped off in the church office. Cards will be presented to Roxanne during a special worship service recognition moment. Please consider sharing your appreciation and filling her day with love and joy.

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 e-blast. 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 30 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 6 & 7 Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

Beginners Pickleball On September 20 from 3pm-5pm the pickleball court welcomes new players who want to learn to play. Contact Harold Collier if interested at hcollier@comcast.net.

New Pinochle Group Forming On September 21 and September 28 from 3pm-5pm in the church library. Bring a friend and join the fun! Come play, learn and enjoy fellowship with others. All skill levels are welcome. New players are encouraged to join, happy to teach you how to play. Contact Harold Collier if interested at hcollier@comcast.net.

September/October 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.