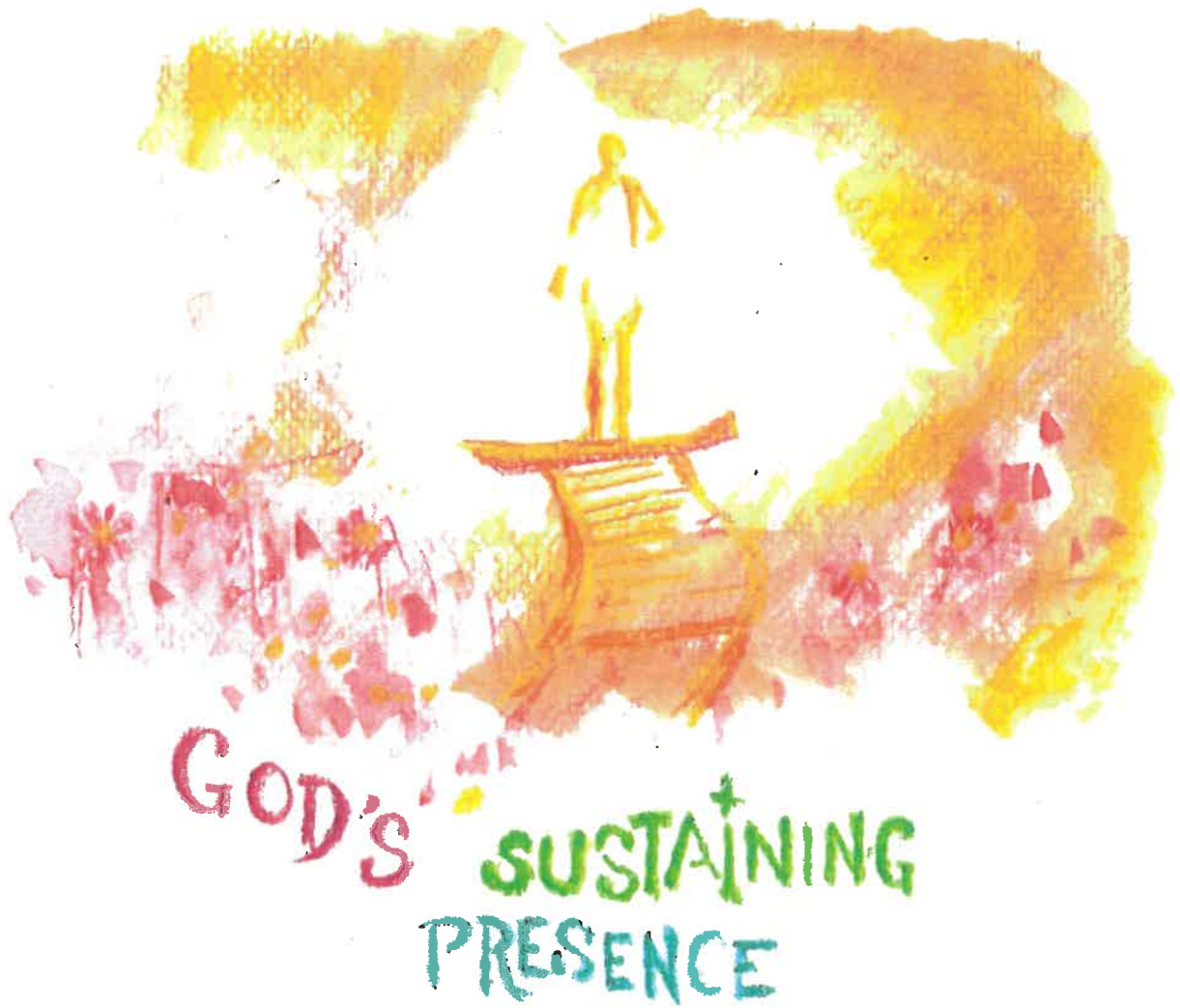




***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
August 23, 2026***

TEN COMMANDMENTS: TUNED INTO GOD

*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 Thom M. Shuman

We are called to love God with our hearts.

We will do so, when we welcome those who are tossed aside by the world.

We are called to love God with our souls.

**We will do so, when the brokenness around us transforms us into more
compassionate people.**

We are called to love God with our minds.

**We will do so, when we think less of our needs, and see each person as our
neighbor, our sister, our brother, our sibling.**

May our worship reflect our love of God and neighbor!

***HYMN #33**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised to receive us
when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought,
word and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our
neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve
you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from the UCC Book of Worship

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all
our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. **We believe the good
news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:34-40

RESPONSIVE READING

"Ordinary and Astounding" (a remix of Psalm 19)

There is something in the sun and stars that makes me believe in you:

**their vastness, yes, but also their steadfastness, their constant presence,
whether I can see the shape of them or not;**

Something in the rising and the setting that shows me the beautiful goodness

of dark and light, of new and old, of welcoming and letting go.

In these most ordinary, everyday realities of your creation, made also astounding,

I am reminded that you are at work in all things – and in me. Even in me.

Let me be a witness like the sun and stars,

an ordinary and astounding testament to Grace.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Debbie Dilling and Gary Crum

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:3-11

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

NICENE 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
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 #405**

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

***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: 08/24 Connie Kaiser and Wayne Statler; 08/26 Zayla Stull; 08/27 Jennifer Hudzinski; 08/28 Eric Hoover.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Susan Collier
Lector	Chani Wolfe
Children's Corner	Roxanne Davenport
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 Rev. John E. Saxton by his children David and Caroline.



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 Thom M. Shuman, posted on *Lectionary Liturgies* (adapted)

Assurance of Pardon from the *UCC Book of Worship*

"Ordinary and Astounding" by Layton E. Williams, included in *The Words of Her Mouth:*

Psalms for the Struggle edited by Martha Spong

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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

33

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side: bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent,

hold me with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 be Thou still my strength and shield, be Thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. st. 1, Peter Williams, 1771
 (Ex. 13:21-22; 16:11-17; 17:1-7)

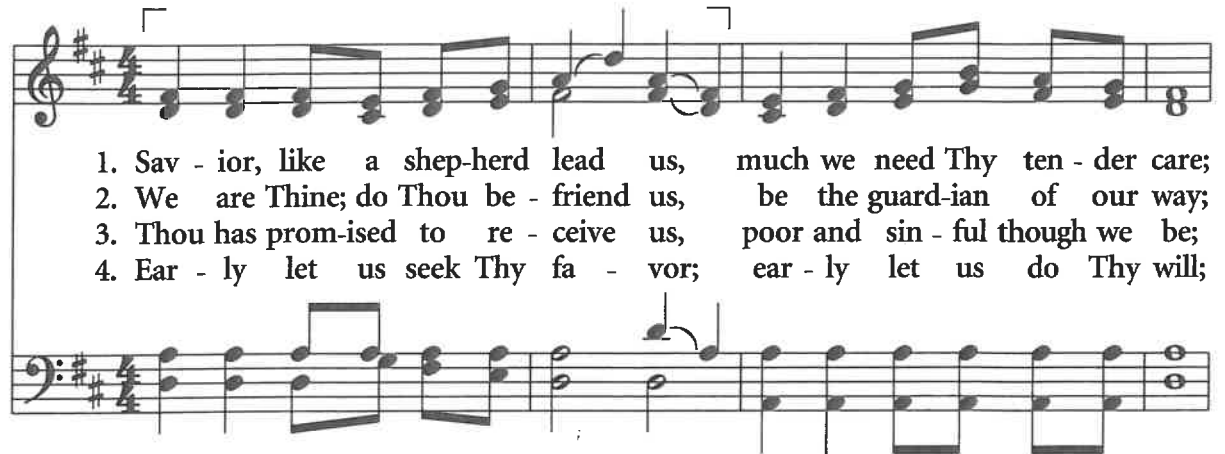
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
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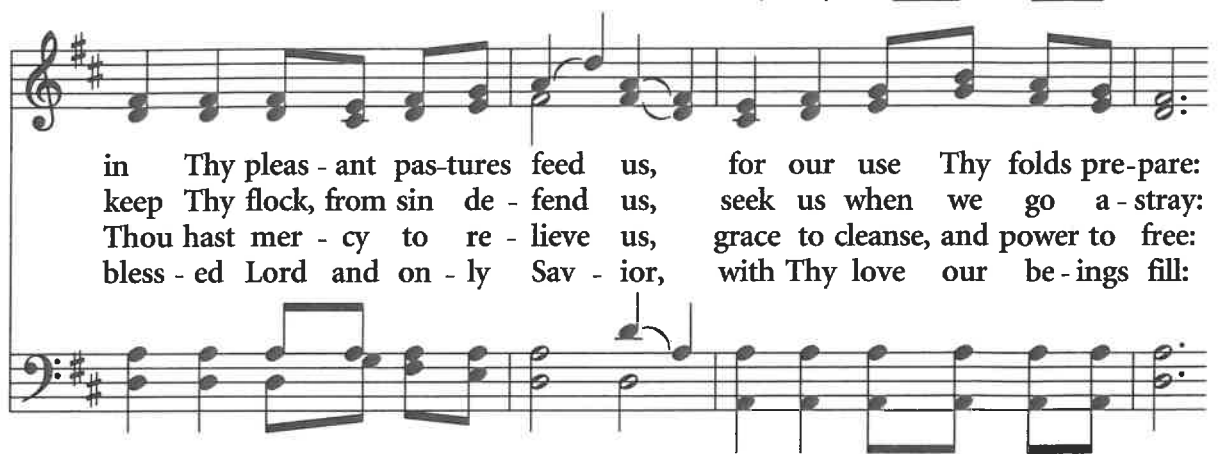
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Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

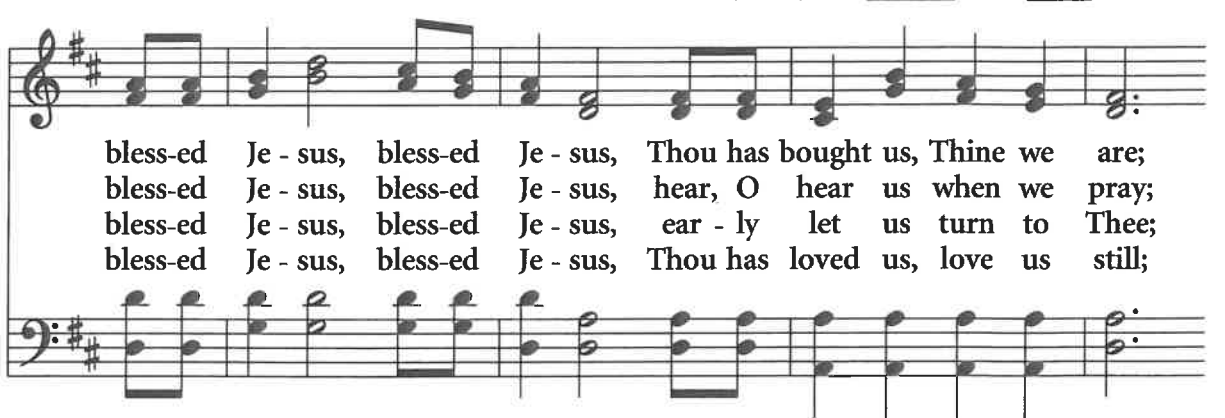
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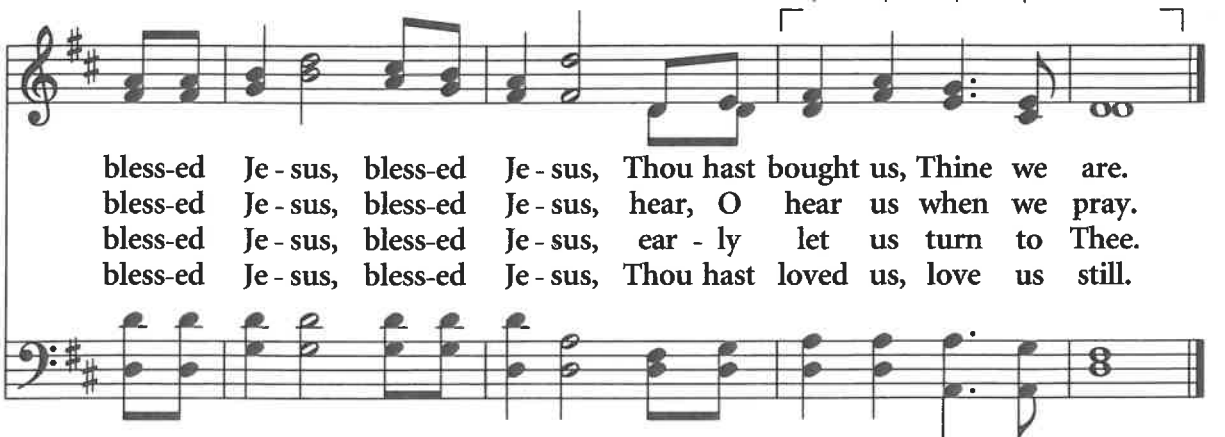
1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need Thy ten - der care;
 2. We are Thine; do Thou be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3. Thou has prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do Thy will;



in Thy pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use Thy folds pre-pare:
 keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray:
 Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with Thy love our be-ings fill:



bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou has bought us, Thine we are;
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to Thee;
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou has loved us, love us still;



bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
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 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

NEWS IN THE PEWS August 23, 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:

11:30 am Youth Pickleball Clinic – Fellowship Hall (Lunch Provided)
8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 5 Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, August 24

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 3) – Conference Room 111

Tuesday, August 25

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

Wednesday, August 26

6:30 pm Council Meeting – Conference Room 111

Sunday, August 30

8:45 am Pancake Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
10:00 am Gratitude Sunday Worship – Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm Bible Study on Ecclesiastes Chapter 6 – 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.

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.

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 3 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" for our discussion on Monday, August 24, 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 23 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 5 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.

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.