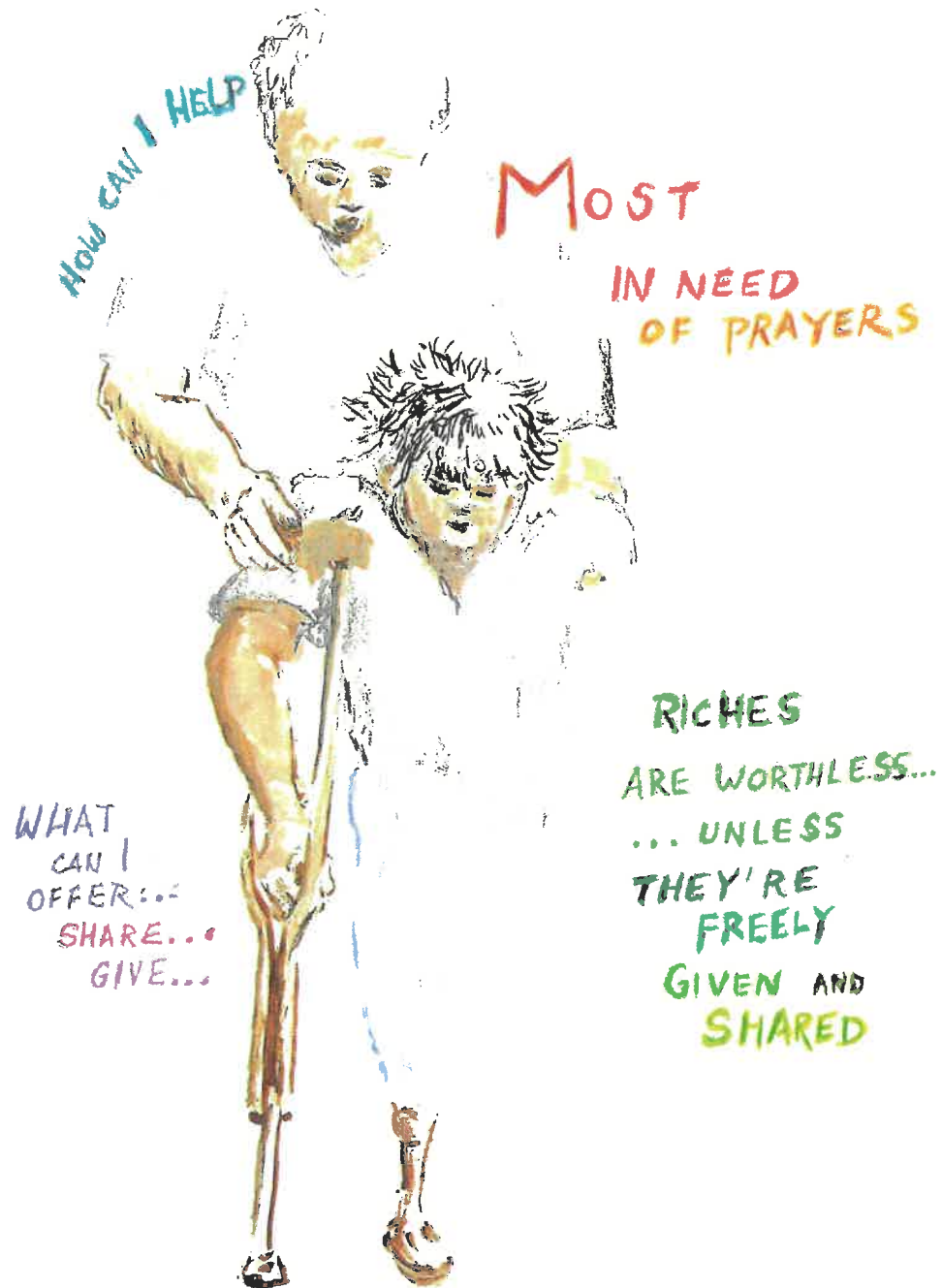




St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
September 6, 2026

TEN COMMANDMENTS: DO NOT COVET

*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**

posted on the Seekers Church website (adapted)

In the days of Noah, God placed a rainbow in the sky as the sign of a covenant of God's love for all the earth.

In the colors of the rainbow, we see the sign of God's grace for all creation.

In the days of Moses, the words of God were written on tablets of stone, as a sign of the covenant between God and all of God's people.

In the tablets of stone, we see the sign of God's hope for each to live in peace with God and neighbor.

In the days of the prophet, God promised to place a new covenant in our hearts.

As members of the living Body of Christ, we see the sign of God's promise among us.

May our worship reflect our desire to love God and neighbor!

***HYMN #458**

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

LITANY FOR DELIVERANCE

written by Bruce Prewer

Save your people, God of truth and mercy, from the chaos of divided loyalties and the worship of many gods;

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From making God in our own likeness and the slavery of self-centeredness;

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From using God's name trivially and claiming God for our prejudices;

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From neglecting sabbatical quiet times and being obsessed with busyness;

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From ignoring or despising the elderly and over-indulging the new generation;

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From glorifying armaments and war and wishing our enemies dead;

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From watering-down love and marriage and the exploitation of sex,

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From the legal robberies of the stock exchange and the cunning thefts of tax evasion;

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From TV programmes that twist the facts, and cruel gossip in supermarkets,

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

From those who preach greed as a virtue and possession-lust which is never satisfied;

Save us, God of truth and mercy.

O Jesus Christ, Saviour of all who lose their way. O Healing Spirit, Power who renews the world;

We need you, God of truth and mercy! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:34-40

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Open My Eyes, Illumine Me"

Rosemary Elder

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:17

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION: ROXANNE DAVENPORT

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

(communion liturgy on the screen)

*We celebrate communion this day by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup);
pre-packaged elements are also available*

***HYMN (insert)**

"I Have Brought You Out of Egypt"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

Birthdays this week: 09/07 Michael Herbert and James Moyer; 09/09 Connie Morrill-Hair; 09/10 Helen Bernecker; 09/11 Kara Alt, Lisa Hess and Harold Wissinger; 09/12 Alexandra Dennis; 09/13 Ferree LeFevre and Diana Macfarlane.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Chris Willman-Bunge
Lector	Lloyd Beers
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 John Gaal by his wife Nancy.



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 posted on the Seekers Church website (adapted)
Litany for Deliverance written by Bruce Prewer and included in Prayers for the Twenty-First Century © Bruce Prewer and Open Book Publishers
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long

458 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Unison

1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2. Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble He
 3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

shout of joy; bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 set the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where.

earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1975

MUSIC: Jamaican folk song; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

Words and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

 LNSTEAD
 LM with refrain

I Have Brought You Out of Egypt

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

"I have brought you out of Egypt," Moses heard the Lord God say.
"I have saved you! I have freed you! people, listen and obey.
Have no other gods before me; don't make idols for yourselves.
I will judge those who reject me; worship me and no one else."

"Do not use the Lord's name wrongly, use God's name for what is good.
Keep the Sabbath; keep it holy; rest and worship as you should.
Honor father, honor mother; do not murder! Honor life!
Do not wander to another from your husband or your wife."

God continued these commandments: "Do not steal another's things;
And you shall not bear false witness — see the anguish that it brings.
Do not seek with bitter longing what you see across the street.
Keep these laws and find within them where my love and justice meet."

God of grace, we see your promise in the covenant you give.
For your law is wise and wondrous as it shows us how to live.
Loving God and loving neighbor, may we follow where you call.
Saved by grace, may we together seek to live your gracious law.

Biblical Reference: Exodus 20:1-17

Tune: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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

NEWS IN THE PEWS September 6, 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:

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

NO Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 8 will resume on 9/13

Monday, September 7

Church off Closed – In observance of Labor Day

NO Book Study (Chapter 5) We'll resume on 9/14

Tuesday, September 8

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, September 9

11:30 am Ladies Luncheon – Hoss's Restaurant

Thursday, September 10

6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall

7:15 pm Choir Practice – Room 103

Sunday, September 13

8:45 am Godly Play Church School Class (Ages 3-K) – Room 119

8:45 am SPARK! Church School Class (Grades 1-5) – Room 115

8:45 am Scripture/Contemporary Issues (Grades 6-12) – Room 206

8:45 am Wired Word Adult Church School Class – Room 116

8:45 am Upper Room Adult Church School Class – Conference Room 111

10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

11:15 am Family Fun Day – Church Grounds (Weather Permitting)

8:00 pm Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 8 – Zoom (Link in E-Blast)

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 5 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" for our discussion on Monday, September 14, 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.

Cooking for Crowds Food Safety Class Join us on Tuesday, September 22, 5-8 pm in Fellowship Hall for a FREE class on safely cooking for crowds. Our partners at Penn State Extension will walk us through topics such as preventing cross contamination, controlling time and temperature, maintaining good personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, and planning a successful food event. Sign up at the Welcome Center or by contacting the church office.

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, September 13 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 8 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, we are 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.