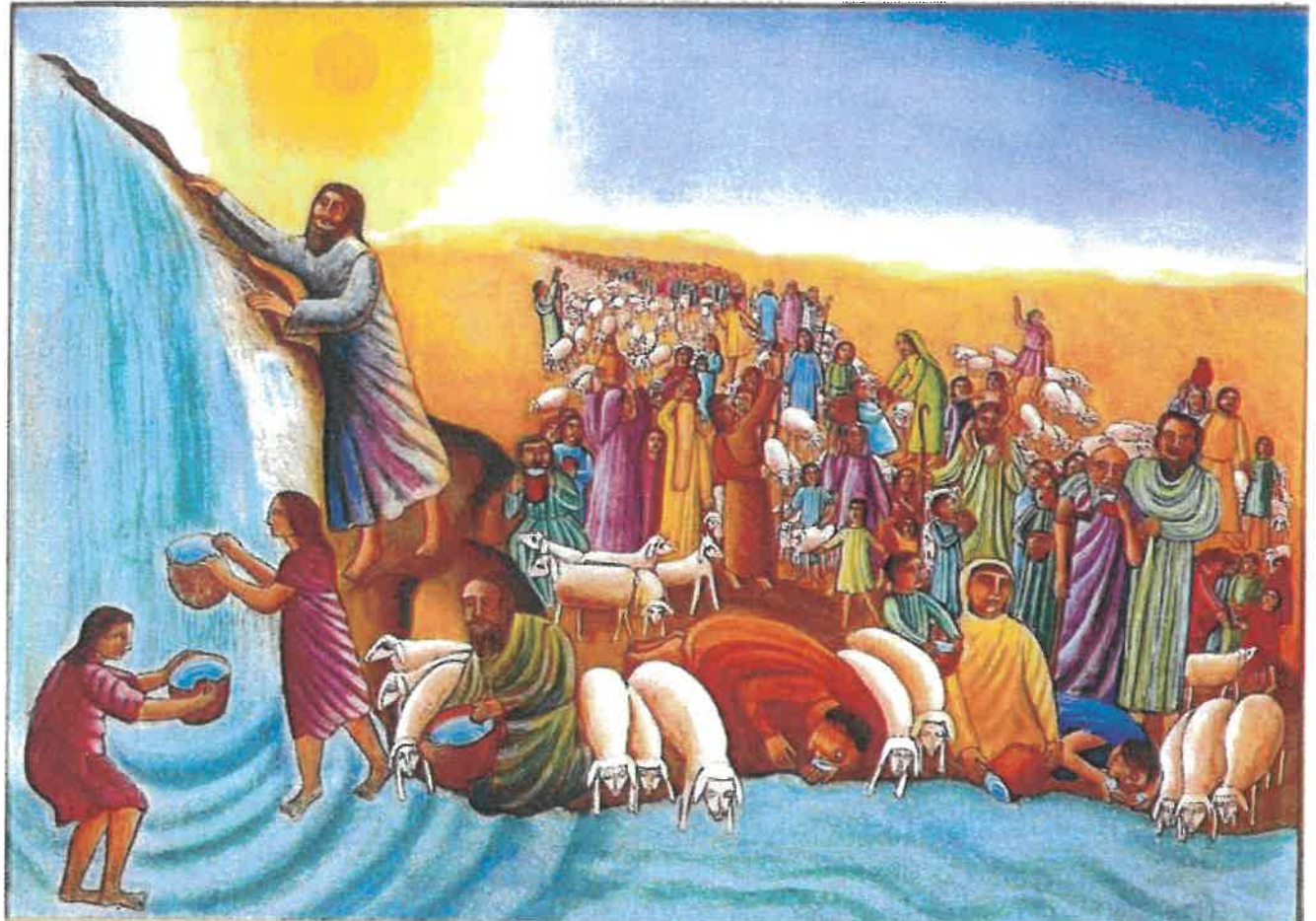




***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
October 4, 2026***

RESCUE AT THE SEA
WORLD COMMUNION 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"

CONNECTIONS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE SONG

"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

written by Thom Shuman (adapted)

In sacred times of word, worship and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:

in every moment, God is with us.

Whether we are pulled toward the waves or standing strong on faith's shoreline:

in every place, God is with us.

In those who teach us and those who trouble us;

in those who surprise us, and those who forgive us:

in every person, God is with us.

***HYMN (insert)**

"O God, by Your Mercy, We Come to This Place"

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

written by Katherine Hawker

The Pharaoh decrees death to the foreigner. The power of fear and hate surround us.

In the face of evil, forgive us our complacency.

The burning bush flickers beside us. The presence of God invites us.

In the presence of evil, forgive us our lack of notice.

The Red Sea waters stand at attention. The threshold of grace is breath-taking.

In the company of grace, forgive us our reticence to embrace.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

written by Thom Shuman

God's hand of mercy is stretched out to us, making a way through all that threatens us, to touch us with grace and hope.

**We stand before our God, singing praise to the One who turns our despair
into joy, our fears into faith. Amen.**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-15

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 114 (The Inclusive Bible)

Alleluia! When Israel came out of Egypt, from a people who spoke an alien tongue,

Judah became God's Temple, Israel became God's domain.

The sea fled at the sight: the Jordan turned back on its course, the mountains leapt like rams, and the hills like yearling sheep.

Why was it, sea, that you fled – that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?

Mountains, why did you leap like rams – you hills, like yearling sheep?

Earth, tremble before your Maker, before the God of Israel, who turned the rock into a pool of water and flint into a bubbling fountain!

ANTHEM

"My Song is Love Unknown"

setting by Carl Schalk

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

Hymnal Companion C-12

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**

written by Thom Shuman

We are all different, yet the gifts you give us are all the same – grace, hope, love, kindness, and so much more. May we not hoard them, but be as generous with sharing them as you are in offering them to us in the first place. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 #574 (insert)**

"In Egypt under Pharaoh"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

All are welcome at Christ's table. To let the church office know that you communed today, please sign the black attendance pad found in each row. If you are communing from home, please contact the church office to let us know.

Birthdays this week: 10/05 Katrina Dietrich; 10/07 Ken Dilling; 10/08 Camden Wadel; 10/10 Judy Cook, and Sandra Lewis; 10/11 Logan Parson.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Roxanne Davenport, Barbara Motichka, Courtney Robertson, Chris Willman-Bunge
Deacon in Charge	Pete A'Zary
Lector	Chani Wolfe
Children's Corner	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Moses" © Estate of John August Swanson, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in special thank you to everyone that helped make the Fall Tea such a success from Renee Byers, Connie Strunk 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 Thom Shuman and posted on Lectionary Liturgies (adapted)

Responsive Prayer of Confession written by Katherine Hawker

Assurance of Grace written by Thom Shuman and posted on Lectionary Liturgies

The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation

Prayer of Dedication written by Thom Shuman and posted on Lectionary Liturgies

O God, by Your Mercy, We Come to This Place

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

St. Denio

arr. Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839

1. O God, by your mer - cy we come to this place.
2. O Christ, we're not stran - gers or en - e - mies here.
3. Lord. we look a - round and see hate ev - ery - where.
4.
5. O Spi - rit, we pray that you'll move through the church,

We feast at your ta - ble on gifts of your grace.
For we're at your ta - ble, and you've made it clear:
Yet, you've shown us grace! It's a gift we're to share.

till peace, love and u - ni - ty cov - er the earth.

We taste your for - give - ness, then learn what to do:
We all are God's chil - dren, and blessed from a - bove,
May we share this grace till your bless - ings in - crease

O God, bless these gifts with your grace from a - bove,

"Do jus - tice, love kind - ness, walk hum - bly" with you.
we're glo - bal, con - nect - ed, and shaped by your love.
through jus - tice and di - a - logue, kind - ness and peace.

till oth - ers find joy in the feast of your love.

Copyright © 2026 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

In Egypt under Pharaoh

574

Dosia Carlson, 1989

Exod. 1:1-14; 7:8-11:10; 14:21-31

1. In E-gypt un-der Pha-raoh the Is-rael-ites were bound,
from plagues and trib-u-la-tions no re-spite could be found.
Praise God who in sur-pris-ing ways gave pas-sage through the waves.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor saves.
2. From Af-ri-ca to gang-planks, a-cross a friend-less sea,
black cap-tives harsh-ly treat-ed all strug-gled to be free.
Praise God who strength-ened ad-vo-cates with power that does and dares.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor cares.
3. Wher-ev-er hurt-ing hu-mans un-just-ly live in pain,
the hun-gry, home-less, hope-less, cry out for growth and gain.
Praise God whose great re-deem-ing love each ser-vant free-ly gives.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor lives!

*Dosia Carlson wrote this text in 1989 for the United Church of
Christ celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Amistad event.*

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

NEWS IN THE PEWS October 4, 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 Quick Intro to Spanish – Room 116

8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapters 11 & 12, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, October 5

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 8) – Conference Room 111

5:30 pm Kinusaiga Craft Night – Room 116

7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 6

5:30pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall/then break into smaller groups

Thursday, October 8

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Room 117

7:15 pm Choir Practice – Room 103

Friday, October 9

6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 10

5:00 pm Potluck Food, Fun, and Fellowship (Sharing with our Congregations) – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 11

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) – Library Room 106

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

No Bible Study, We'll resume on 10/18/2026

Quick Intro to Spanish Join us after worship today for a "quick intro" to Spanish in Room 116. We'll learn some greetings/introductions, a few useful everyday phrases, and practice together.

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 October 19.

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, October 4 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 11 Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will discuss Chapter 8 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" on Monday, October 5, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111.

An Evening of Fellowship Join us Saturday, October 10, 5 pm in Fellowship Hall to enjoy music, food and community with our other two congregations. Please bring a dish to share. There is a sign up at the Welcome Center in the Lobby. We'll hope you'll join us for "Potluck dinner church!"

Franklin County Pride Festival will be held at Wilson College on Sunday, October 11. Contact Pastor Caroline if you are available to represent St. John's at this community event.

Immunization Clinic On Sunday October 18 after worship in the Parlor, Chambers Apothecary will be hosting a Clinic for Flu Shots. A signup sheet is in the Lobby Welcome Center. Please sign up by October 16. Please contact Harold Collier at hcollier@comcast.net with questions.

CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 18, starting at Falling Spring Presbyterian Church (221 N. Main Street). Registration opens at 1:30 pm; the walk begins at 2. Monetary donations are welcome, as well donations of non-perishable food items. Join us for this special walk!

No Tricks, Just Treats will be Saturday, October 31, 6-8 pm. Candy donations can be dropped off at the church office to help support this special event.

St. John's Pumpkin Patch Tea Thank you so much for all the wonderful help with the St. John's Pumpkin Patch Tea! We appreciate all who advertised, invited friends and attended the event. We also thank the set-up team (men & ladies), the prep workers, the kitchen help, the charming waiters, the dishwashers, the clean-up/tear down volunteers, and tablecloth washing ladies! Thanks to Pastor Caroline for her support and assistance. A special thanks goes to Tonya who once again expertly and kindly handled the ticket sales and table chart! Plan to join us for our spring "Vintage Tea" Saturday, April 24, 2027.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month Help us recognize Pastor Caroline's ministry during the month of October by creating notes of encouragement and appreciation, then pinning them to the Tree of Appreciation located in the welcome center. Pre-cut Leaves will be provided at the welcome center, on which you may write your message. In addition, private cards and gifts may be mailed to or dropped off at the church office and will be presented to Caroline during a special Pastor Appreciation Sunday celebration during the worship service on Sunday, October 18, 2026.



2026 Chambersburg Crop Hunger
Walk

Team: St. John's UCC Youth



888-CWS-CROP • CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG





WALK, GIVE, CHANGE THE *world...*

Do you long for connection? Do you feel that lately, even with all our technology, it's become more difficult to relate, to belong, and to connect with each other?

CROP Hunger Walks give you an opportunity not only to put your body in motion; but to connect with your community in a meaningful way and do something for our most vulnerable neighbors (both in our town and far away). As a community, it allows us to collectively embrace our caring human nature. Walking side by side, people from all walks of life—all ages, all faiths, all points of view—join efforts to make this world a more caring and safer place for everyone.

Walking encourages us to think about our neighbors who must walk for water, food, medical care or refugees who must walk to safety. Walking is an act of solidarity.

When you walk, give, and raise funds through CROP Hunger Walk, you are saving lives.



Five chickens for a family in Tanzania



A month of groceries for a refugee in Egypt



A biosand water filter for a family in Myanmar



A year of school supplies for a Roma child in Eastern Europe

These are just a few examples of sustainable ways to END POVERTY, all thanks to YOU.

The Jewish sages have taught us that when you save one life, you save the entire world. Join us—step up alongside our neighbors—here and across the globe—who are ready to save lives through thoughtful, long-lasting solutions to hunger. Join us for the CROP Hunger Walk.



888-CWS-CROP • CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

