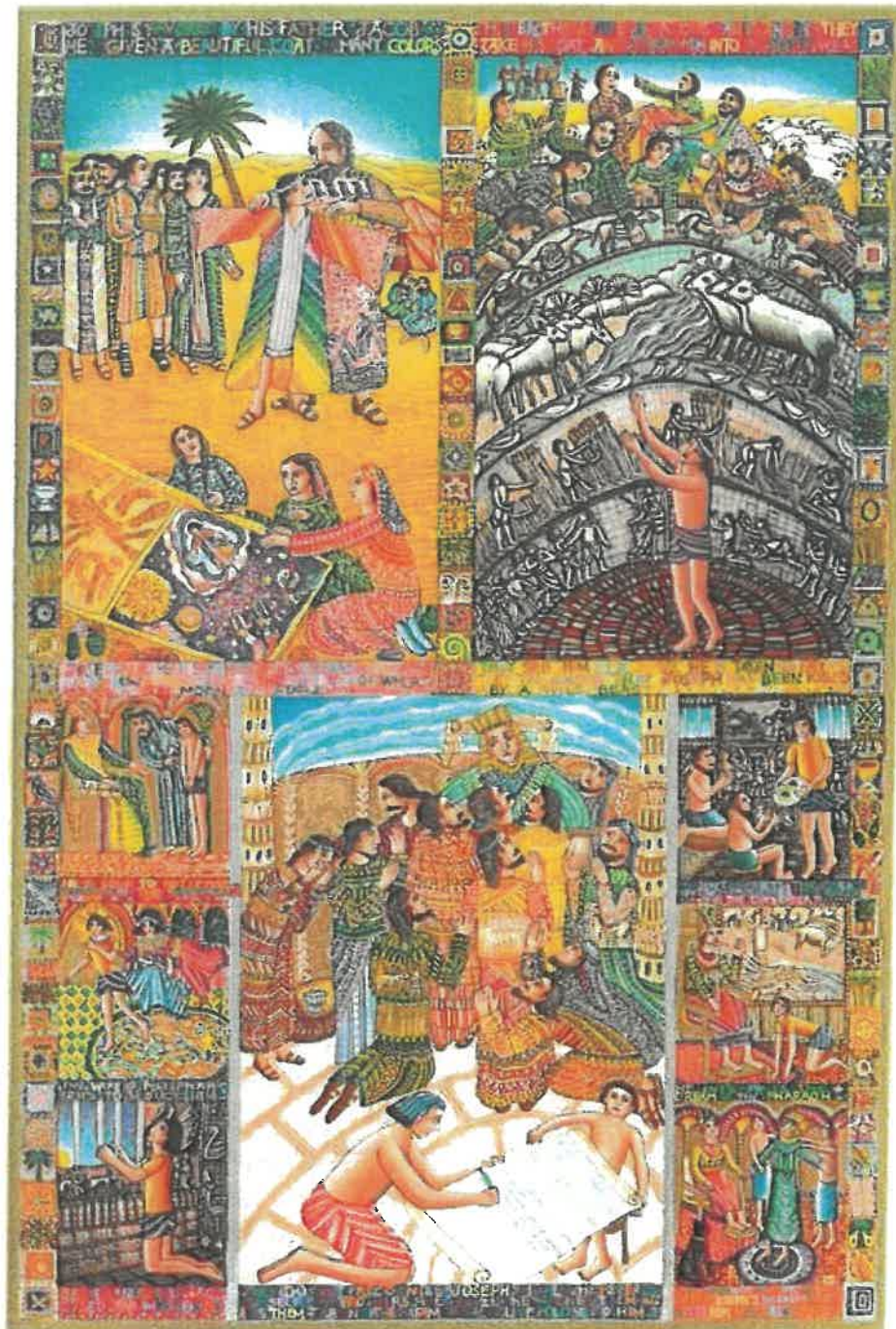




***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
September 27, 2026***

## **JOSEPH IN PRISON**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

*"This is the Day"*

### **GATHERING SONG**

### **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**

*written by Katherine Hawker*

Happy are we

**when our treasures cannot be quantified.**

Happy are we

**when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.**

Happy are we

**when our pain is held in the balm of love.**

Happy are we

**when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.**

### **\*HYMN #332**

*"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

### **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 5:1-12

## RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 1 (The Inclusive Bible)

Happiness comes to those who reject the path of violence, who refuse to associate with criminals or even to sit with people who belittle others.

**Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of YHWH and meditate on it day and night.**

They're like trees planted by flowing water – they bear fruit in every season, and their leaves never wither: everything they do will prosper.

**But not wrongdoers! They're like chaff that the wind blows away.**

They won't have a taproot to anchor them when judgment comes, nor will corrupt individuals be given a place at the Gathering of the Just.

**YHWH watches over the steps of those who do justice; but those on a path of violence and injustice will find themselves irretrievably lost.**

## ANTHEM

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

## SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 39:1-23

## 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 Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world.  
Amen.

### \*HYMN #590

*"The Solid Rock"*

### \*COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE (seated)

*Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Chili Cook Off!*

**Birthdays this week:** 09/29 Jack Mull and Dr. James Strite Jr.; 10/01 Lynne McGough;  
10/02 Dariawn Barbour and Susan Collier.

| <b>Worship Participants:</b> |                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor                       | Rev. Caroline E. Saxton                                                                                                                               |
| Organist                     | Barbara Motichka                                                                                                                                      |
| Choir Director               | Gary Crum                                                                                                                                             |
| Deacon in Charge             | Mike Blumberg                                                                                                                                         |
| Lector                       | Henry Hopper                                                                                                                                          |
| Children's Corner            | MaryLee Yaukey                                                                                                                                        |
| Media Coordinators           | Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham                                                                                                                           |
| Bulletin cover               | "Story of Joseph" © Estate of John August Swanson, from<br>Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt<br>University Divinity Library |

**The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross** are given in memory of Leonard and Esther Zeger and Robert and Elva Dilling by Marvin and Linda Zeger.



**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 Katherine Hawker and posted on *Liturgies Outside  
UCC Book of Worship*

*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*

*Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi

# 332 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
 3. Je - sus, the name that calms my fears, that bids my sor - rows cease;  
 4. He breaks the power of can - celled sin, He sets the pris - oner free;  
 5. He speaks, and lis - tening to His voice, new life the dead re - ceive;  
 6. To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be ev - er, ev - er given

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of His grace.  
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon - ors of Thy name.  
 'tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears; 'tis life and health and peace.  
 His blood can make the foul-est clean, His blood a - vailed for me.  
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.  
 by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739 (Ps. 100)

MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

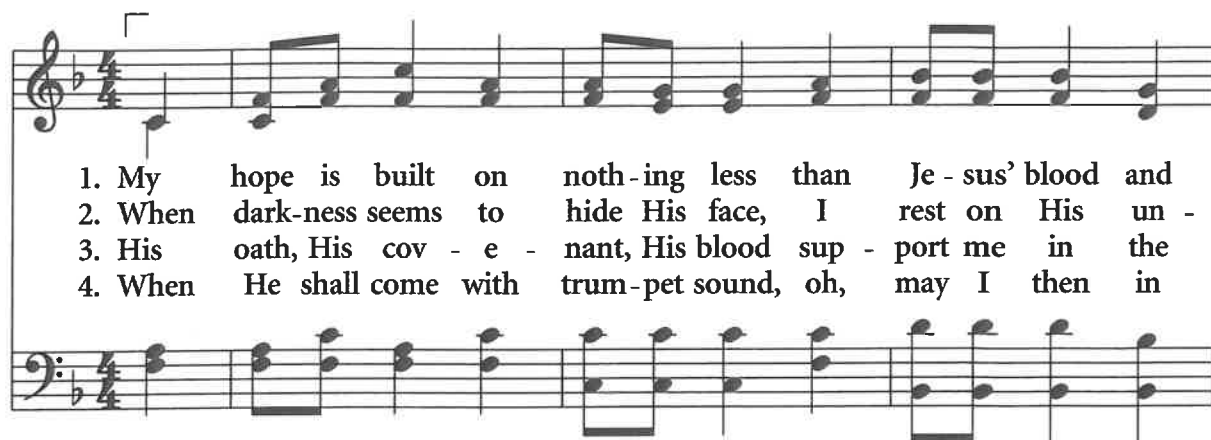
AZMON

CM

*Higher key, No. 209; lower key, No. 520*

## The Solid Rock

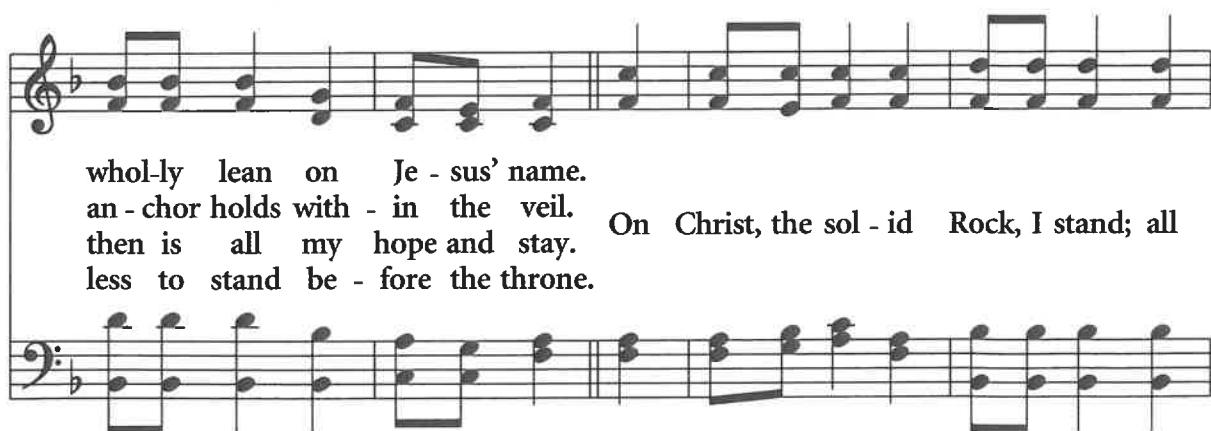
590



1. My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and  
 2. When dark-ness seems to hide His face, I rest on His un -  
 3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the  
 4. When He shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in



righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but  
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, He  
 Him be found, dressed in His righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all  
 then is all my hope and stay.  
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

WORDS: Edward Mote, 1834  
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1863

SOLID ROCK  
 LM with refrain  
 Alternate tune, MELITA

## **NEWS IN THE PEWS September 27, 2026**

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, [pastor@sjucc1811.org](mailto:pastor@sjucc1811.org) (641) 260-1868 (cell)  
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto: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 Chili Cook-off after worship – Fellowship Hall  
8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 10, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

### **Monday, September 28**

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 7) – Conference Room 111  
3:00 pm Pinochle (Come Play and Learn) – Library Room 106  
6:30 pm Community Engagement Meeting – Conference Room 111

### **Tuesday, September 29**

5:30pm Yoga – Room 202  
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

### **Wednesday, September 30**

11:30 am Camp Board Meeting – Conference Room 111  
6:30 pm Council Meeting – Conference Room 111

### **Thursday, October 1**

7:00 am Men's Breakfast – Texas Lunch  
6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall  
7:15 pm Choir Practice – Room 103

### **Saturday, October 3**

1:30 pm Pumpkin Patch Fall Tea – Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, October 4**

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  
8:00 pm Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 11 (link in Friday e-blast)

**Bible and a Beer** is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be October 19.

**Sunday Night Bible Study** Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday, September 27 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 10 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 7 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" on Monday, September 28, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111.

**Kinusaiga Craft Night** Join us on Monday, October 5 at 5:30 pm in room 116. All supplies are included. However, if you have an exacto knife or seam ripper, please bring it along. Cost is \$15. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Lobby. Deadline to sign up is by Sunday, October 4. Any questions, please contact Chani Wolfe at wolfechani@gmail.com.

**An Evening of Fellowship** Join us Saturday, October 10, 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall to enjoy music, food and community with our other 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 "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](mailto: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.

**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.

**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 consult the e-blast.

**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.

**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.



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.



**\$21**

**Five chickens for a family in Tanzania**



**\$25**

**A month of groceries for a refugee in Egypt**



**\$43**

**A biosand water filter for a family in Myanmar**



**\$40**

**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

