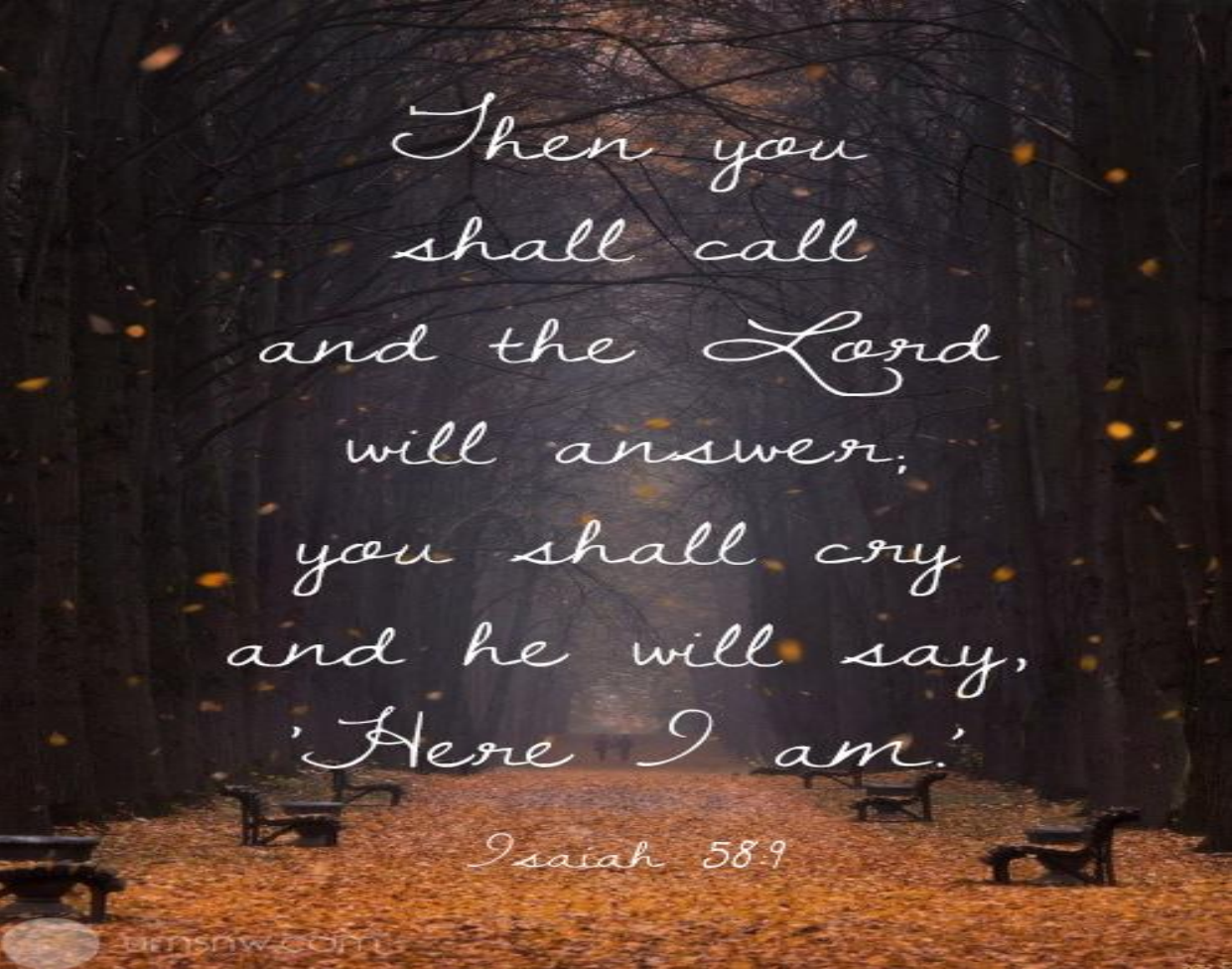


# The Spirit

Volume 95 No. 9 October 2026



Then you  
shall call  
and the Lord  
will answer;  
you shall cry  
and he will say,  
'Here I am.'

Isaiah 58:9

[jimsnw.com](http://jimsnw.com)

A publication of St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

## ***From Pastor Caroline***

The calendar turns to October and we are officially in my favorite season: fall.

Every Sunday this month has something special: October 4 is World Communion Sunday. October 11 is Franklin County Pride Festival at Wilson College, where St. John's UCC will have a table as a sponsor. October 18 is an Immunization Clinic with Chambers' Apothecary (see page 15 for more details), as well as CROP Walk (more information can be found on page 20). October 25 is the last day of our Book Sale and features \$5/bag (buy 3, get the 4<sup>th</sup> one free). We'll have our annual "No Tricks, Just Treats" event on Saturday, October 31; candy donations are needed, as we have lots of kids in the neighborhood who stop by. Plus: we have multiple opportunities each week to build community, deepen our spiritual lives, study and pray. If there is something YOU would love to do, and it aligns with our mission, vision and values, please contact me or a Council member for support to make it happen!

In addition to book study and Bible study, I am pleased to be co-teaching confirmation this fall with Roxanne Davenport. We have several young people who have started this journey and it is a joy to walk with them as they undergo this year of study and mentorship.

Council will have a special retreat to focus on developing our strategic plan for 2027 and beyond. We rejoice in all that we have accomplished and we look forward the future with hope, seeking guidance and grace as we continue to grow in love of God and neighbor.

Our fall Congregational Meeting to approve the budget for 2027 will be held on Sunday, November 15. We hope you will join us for the important conversation in our life together.

An update on our finances (especially in light of the HVAC and parking lot projects) from Scot Orndorff, our Treasurer, is included (pg. 8). Please carefully and prayerfully consider how you can support our ongoing efforts toward financial sustainability.

Council continues to have exploratory conversations with Habitat for Humanity regarding the potential development of our property. No decisions have been made at this time. We will schedule additional congregational conversations when we have more definitive data to share with you. Please know that we are being very intentional and taking our time in exploring options for how our building and property can be used.

Especially in this election season, I am trying to limit how much social media I consume, the TV I watch, and even the podcasts I listen to because I want my heart to be open, my mind flexible, and my spirit brave. And if you, too, are feeling overwhelmed, frustrated, and/or anxious (as many of us are these days), don't forget to eat good food, drink enough water, spend time with people you love, and get enough sleep. Exhaustion won't serve any of us well. And as a sign in my office reads, "Life is fragile. Handle with prayer."

May God grant us wisdom and courage for the living of these days. We are in this together.

*Peace,*  
*Pastor Caroline*

## CHURCH MUSIC

Church music differs a great deal from secular music or a concert you may hear. When you go to hear a band concert, a symphony orchestra concert, or a high school choral concert, you go mainly for entertainment. You say seriously study the music that *you* hear, but the main purpose of listening to it is probably to be entertained, and rightly so. This is not true of church music. Church music serves not as entertainment but as a means of communication between man and God, which is really worship.

If music is to be an act of worship, then there must be action, two-way action, between the person and God. It can never be a one-way act. We can show our faith in God in many ways. Some people prefer to always meditate silently, others to pray aloud, but usually meditate silently, others to pray aloud, but usually we prefer some combination of these. One way in which everyone participates is in the singing of hymns. When everyone joins in singing the words of a hymn or a response, they sometimes take on new meaning.

Music lends continuity to the church service. It allows all the people to participate. Did you know that it has been proved that people can remember words better after they have sung them than when they only speak them? When the congregation should be singing to the glory and praise of God and this is the only way it can become a means of worship, because if you simply sing the words, never thinking of their meaning this is not worship.

Sometimes people say, "I can't sing. That's why I never sing in church. Do you really think this is a good excuse?

I said that music could also be an aid to worship. What do you do when the choir gets up to sing an anthem during the service? Too many people spend this time looking at Mary's hair or deciding that the bass singer looks sleepy, or that the altos didn't stand as quickly as they should have. The people who spend this time examining the choir have certainly missed the entire point of the music program in the church. This is a time for meditation also. In all church music the text or the words are more important than the music. This doesn't mean that you may take a text from the Bible and use the music of a Beatles songs because the two must fit together, but the thing you must listen to are the words which are being sung. Many people who have studied church music thoroughly feel that the ideal place to have a choir is in the back of the sanctuary, possibly on a balcony. Here the congregation does not see the choir. They listen and meditate without distractions. This is also why choirs do not face the congregation in most churches.

The people should not be distracted nearly so much when the choir faces the altar of a double choir facing each other as when they look directly at them. When the choir is singing, this is the time for the congregation to listen, yes but this should bring them closer to God if they truly want worship rather than entertainment.

Yes, you might correctly say that in our church the choir is meant to be on the balcony in the back of our sanctuary. Yes, this is true but seems that we have too many choir members who have trouble doing the steps to get to the balcony. This becomes a problem!

# First Fruit Offering

The Community Engagement Committee invites you to support three local initiatives during the months of August, September, and October as we continue to grow in love of God and neighbor.

1) **Franklin Together—Franklin County Reentry Coalition**

**Website:** [franklintogether.org](http://franklintogether.org)

**Mission:** Develop collaborative community professional partnerships to empower formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, reduce recidivism, and encourage community contribution.

**Services:** Education on collateral consequences of convictions, stigma reductions, community engagement, advocacy for policy change, and programs like Gears for Change, which provides job-related clothing and footwear to support employment.

**Franklin Together** is a program of South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) and is a reminder that we are called to visit those who are in prison and to work for the liberation of the oppressed.

2) **Homeless Matters of Franklin County** aims to reduce the burdens faced by individuals and families who are homeless in the area by creating opportunities for success and stability, even during difficult circumstances. A key focus is establishing the **Homeless Matters of Franklin County Day House** in Chambersburg, which will serve as a daytime resource center offering food, medical care, and a safe, supported space. Their work takes seriously Jesus' command to love our neighbors.

3) **Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department** is a 100% volunteer department that responds to ~600-900 calls each year. Its fleet includes two Pierce fire wagons, a Seagrave heavy rescue squad, a Ford brush truck, a Dodge utility truck, and a Polaris UTV. They also provide professional EMS services to our community and several surrounding counties through a team of ~50 paid paramedics and EMTs, operating 24/7 with five ambulances, a medic unit, and five medical transport vans.

Whether you contribute via First Fruits Offerings, an envelope that you designate for First Fruits, a gift made through Vanco, or a check you mail to church, thank you for your support of these programs that serve our neighbors and demonstrate God's love in action!

# Upcoming Fellowship and Community Events

Mark your calendars and save the date for the following events!

**October 5 Craft Night** will offer a relaxed opportunity to gather, create & enjoy fellowship together. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Learn more on page 12.

**On October 10** the three congregations who worship at St. John's will come together for a potluck meal, music, and fellowship. Bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening of community and connection. See page 13 for more details.

**October 11** will include our presence and visible welcome at Franklin County Pride, providing an opportunity for us to share our vision and values of welcome, support, inclusion and affirmation for all God's people.

**CROP Walk** will take place on Sunday, October 18, at leaving from Falling Spring Presbyterian Church. Registration opens at 1:30 pm and the walk starts at 2 pm. Contact Roxanne Davenport or Pastor Caroline with questions.

Also on **October 18**, immunizations with Chambers Apothecary will be available in the parlor after worship. It is helpful to sign up in advance; a sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center. See also the flyer with more information on page 15.

Watch for additional information about SCCAP's Empty Bowls event that offers us a tangible way to support the Gleaning Project and SCCAP's mission to help those in our community experiencing food insecurity.

The **Habitat for Humanity Used Book** preparations are in full swing. The sale will be held here at St. John's UCC on October 23, 24 and 25. If you would like to volunteer to help with the sale, please contact Harold Collier.

Our annual **No Tricks, Just Treats** event will be held on Saturday, October 31. Donations of individually-wrapped candies may be dropped off in the church office. We look forward to welcoming our friends and neighbors in costume!

Thank you to everyone helping to plan, host, volunteer, support, and participate in these upcoming events. Your presence and support help strengthen our shared ministry and community life.

# Future Together Progress Report

*A revised version of the Future Together Strategic Plan for 2026-2027 was endorsed at our Congregational Annual meeting in February. Copies are available from the church office and on our website. Council will be holding a special strategic planning retreat to help share our future in 2027 and beyond.*

## SPIRITUAL DEEPENING

- Pastor Caroline leads a weekly book study on Monday afternoons at 1:30 pm. We are currently reading “Learning to Walk in the Dark” by Barbara Brown Taylor. Each week’s reading assignment is listed in News in the Pews and the e-blast.
- The Sunday Night Bible Study is held at 8 pm via Zoom. We are currently studying the book of Ecclesiastes. Each week’s reading assignment is listed in News in the Pews.
- Fall church school classes will resume for all ages on Sunday, September 13. We are pleased to have three classes for adults: **The Wired Word** meets in Room 116, **The Upper Room** meets in Conference Room 111 and **Sunday Morning Caffeine** meets in the Parlor Room 104. Classes for young people include: **Godly Play** in Room 119, **Spark! Elementary** in Room 115, and **Scripture/Contemporary Issues Discussion** for teens in the Youth Room 206.
- Diana Kongkeattikul writes a weekly devotional for our website. An opt-in email list is available via the office if you’d like to receive her reflection directly in your inbox.
- Yoga classes are held on Tuesday nights at 5:30 pm in Room 202. \$5/class.
- Our praise group shares their talents ~2x/month as part of a blended service.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- We have selected another this fall to gather with the Dominican and Mexican congregations who worship at St. John’s. It is good to sing, eat and pray together! Join us on October 10 for another “dinner church” opportunity!
- A listing of small groups and contact persons is listed on page 17, helping to connect people with opportunities and activities here at St. John’s.
- New acoustic panels are being installed in the Sanctuary to help enhance the hearing of those who come to SJUCC for worship. It is our hope that this change will help you to hear all that is being said and sung during worship.
- Access Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 18 during worship. We give thanks for the many ways that we practice “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”<sup>b</sup>

## ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION

- Livestreaming equipment has been installed in the Fellowship Hall. We were able to livestreaming our Gratitude Sunday celebration of “This is Us” on August 30. We are also making improvements to the sound quality for future services in Fellowship Hall. Grant monies (including from the Mercersburg Association) paid for these upgrades.
- Our **No Tricks, Just Treats** Halloween event will be held Halloween night, Saturday, October 31. You may donate bags of individually wrapped candy in the office.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- We will be cooking at meal for the kids at NETwork Ministry once a month on the 4th Thursday of the month in the church kitchen.
- Collection boxes for Franklin Together (the Franklin County Re-Entry Coalition) are in the front lobby. Our First Fruits offering for this quarter helps to support those who are coming back into the community after being incarcerated, as well as those who are experiencing homelessness (Homeless Matters) emergency services (Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department).
- Collection of books, DVDs, CD, puzzles and games for the **Habitat for Humanity Book Sale** is well underway! Sorting of items will be done on Mondays at 9 am at the Mobile Works building located at 2116 LWE. Contact Harold Collier to volunteer.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Council and the Finance Task Force continue to explore options for our building and property to generate revenue. Additional grant writing services are being considered as we seek to address maintenance needs beyond the annual budget.
- **Grant monies** have helped to install livestreaming equipment in the Fellowship Hall, expanding our options for fellowship, fun, and worship as a whole church.
- We are finalizing sponsors for the annual Book Sale, helping St. John’s to generate income to offset expenses for this very popular community event. Contact Harold Collier if you’d like to become a sponsor.
- Conversations with Habitat for Humanity are ongoing as we explore the viability and suitability of a portion of our land to be developed for housing. Guilford Township’s Board of Supervisors recently reviewed updated plans and a small group of Council members consulted with an attorney. Council is also exploring other possibilities for use of our property and building.

## Major Project Financial Status Report

***The HVAC communication below was updated to correct the omission of a final bequest receipt in May 2026 in the amount of \$31,701, which Council approved be used for the HVAC Project. The original communication only included donations.***

GOOD NEWS! The HVAC loan was officially paid off in July. It took us just over 5 years to fully pay off the \$500,000 loan, which was the objective when borrowed in 2021. Below is a summary of the project costs and funds raised to date (July 31, 2026) to cover them.

|                                                      |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| HVAC system 2021                                     | \$ 575,012                             |
| Interest expense and bank fees (2021 – 2026)         | <u>39,463</u>                          |
| Total Costs                                          | \$ 614,475                             |
| Receipts at 7/31/26 ( <b>corrected for bequest</b> ) | <b><u>591,172</u></b>                  |
| <b>Amount needed to fully fund HVAC project</b>      | <b>(as corrected) <u>\$ 23,303</u></b> |

Our goal remains to fully fund this project with donations. Since we were going to move from a 3.75% fixed interest rate to a 7.25% variable rate in August 2026, Council decided to use existing cash to pay off the loan now (5 years early). Consequently, we are leaving the “Mission Possible” Campaign open to accepting donations going forward until we receive the **\$23,303** needed to make that happen. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated!

The other project just completed is the parking lot, which has been in discussions for at least 30 years. And it does look great! This project cost a total of \$ 293,541 and was paid from the following sources:

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Borrowing from our Trust Fund | \$ 227,771               |
| Penn Central Conference Grant | 10,000                   |
| Allocated donations           | 1,565                    |
| Operating cash                | <u>54,205</u>            |
|                               | <b><u>\$ 293,541</u></b> |

This results in \$281,976 of donations needed to reimburse the Trust Fund and operating bank account. While there is no official “fundraising campaign” for this project, Council is requesting your ongoing financial support over the next several years to get us back to the financial status we had before the project. Annual donations of \$47,000 would take 6 years to make this happen. Your commitment to our financial sustainability is greatly appreciated.

We will continue to periodically keep you informed of how we are doing with respect to the donations needed for both projects. Thank you for your generosity!

-Scot Orndorff, Treasurer

# October

**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 3:00pm**

**Office Administrator: Tonya Schwartz  
Email: [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto:manager@sjucc1811.org)**

**Office Assistant: Kristen Vannoy  
Email: [assistant@sjucc1811.org](mailto:assistant@sjucc1811.org)**

**Phone: 717-263-8593**





The Nursery School year is off to great start. What a blessing it is to see all of the happy faces coming through our doors each morning! The children are adjusting well and they are making so many new friends. The students are learning the rules and routines, and about what it means to be a part of the classroom community.

October is a busy month at the Nursery School. Students will begin the month by having their school pictures taken. Next, they will have a special visit from the Fayetteville Fire Department, where they will get to tour a fire truck and ambulance. They will end the month celebrating Fall with a party filled with themed crafts, snacks, and games.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who purchased a beautiful mum during our fall fundraiser. It was a great success!

Happy Fall!

Kari Rock, Director

## Sunday Night Bible Study

Join us on Sunday nights  
at 8 pm on Zoom for Bible Study!  
We are currently studying the book of Ecclesiastes.

Check out News in the Pews & E-blast  
for each week's reading assignment.

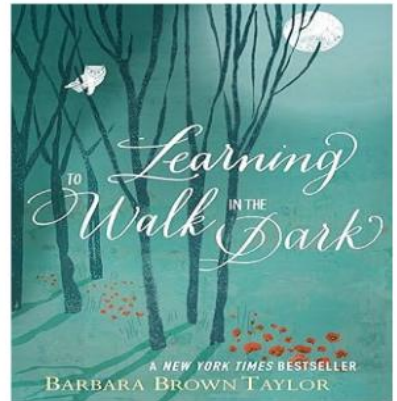
We encourage looking at a variety of translations;  
Pastor Caroline is using the Common English Bible (CEB).

The link to join is included in the e-blast.

## Monday Afternoon Book Study

Our current selection is "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor.

We read one chapter a week and have  
a robust discussion of the material.  
Check out News in the Pews for each  
week's reading assignment.  
Everyone is welcome!



# Kinusaiga Craft Night



**Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**

**Room: 116**

**Cost: \$15**

**(Payable on October 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Deadline is October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Signup in Lobby at Welcome Center**

**Contact Chani Wolfe at [wolfechani@gmail.com](mailto:wolfechani@gmail.com)  
for any questions.**

## LITTLE FREE PANTRY

**Located in Parking Lot B.**

**1811 Lincoln Way East Chambersburg, Pa**



*St. John's "Little Free Pantry"*

FREE canned goods and non-perishable items  
available to those who have food insecurities.

**Give if you can, but take what you need!**

We appreciate the generous support of our congregation,

Boy Scout Troop 136, Cub Scout Pack 136,  
and Girl Scouts to ensure this pantry stays stocked.



# **An Evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship**

**Join us for joyful music,  
food, and community  
with our other congregations!**

**All are welcome to share in a  
time of celebration!**

**Please bring a dish to share.  
Sign up at the Welcome Center.**

**Saturday, October 10**

**5 pm - 6:30 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Parking Lot B**

**St. John's UCC  
1811 LWE Chambersburg  
17202**



**20  
26**

# **USED BOOK SALE**

HELD AT

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
1811 LWE, CHAMBERSBURG, PA**

**Friday Oct 23 2-8**  
**Saturday Oct 24 9-5**  
**Sunday Oct 25 Noon-4**

BENEFITING



**CASH  
AND  
CHECKS  
ONLY**

We welcome new and used books on all subjects, including paperbacks. We also welcome DVDs, audiobooks (on CDs), puzzles, and board games. We respectfully decline textbooks, encyclopedias, musty books, music, and cassette & VHS tapes.



**DONATIONS ACCEPTED  
AUG 31 - OCT 10**

**DROP OFF  
LOCATIONS**

1. Patriot Federal Credit Union lobby locations in Franklin County
2. St. John's Church, Chambersburg, Monday-Friday 9-3
3. Habitat ReStore donation center, Wednesday-Saturday, normal hours
4. Bulk donations call 717-263-8593 or email [assistant@sjucc1811.org](mailto:assistant@sjucc1811.org)
5. Colony House Furniture

SPONSORED BY:  
[www.bcmpayroll.com](http://www.bcmpayroll.com)

**BCM**  
payroll services



# Stay Healthy This Season

## CHAMBERS' APOTHECARY

### Come & Get Your Flu Shot!

Protect yourself, your family, and your community by getting your annual flu shot. It's quick, safe, and the best defense against the flu.

- **Other Vaccines Available**
  - RSV
  - Pneumonia
  - COVID-19 (PENDING AVAILABILITY)



**Sunday,  
October 18th**

**Time:** Directly after Church  
Service (11: 30 AM)

**Location:** Parlor



**Stop it  
before it  
starts!**

***Don't wait for the  
flu to find you!***

- **USE THE QR CODE TO  
SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**
- **CALL OUR STORE TO  
SCHEDULE AN APPT FOR "ST  
JOHN'S CLINIC"**

**SCAN HERE**



**CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION: 717-263-0747**



# St Johns FALL 2026

## Starts Thursday September 10



**Beginners Class: 6-7 pm (Swing/Foxtrot/ChaCha/Tango/Line Dances)**

**BeyondBeginners: 7-8 pm (MORE: Swing/Foxtrot/Cha Cha/Tango/ Bachata/Line Dances and Rumba)**

- At St. Johns Church 1811 Lincoln Way E, Chambersburg, PA 17202
- Learn how to dance- enjoy it the rest of your life 😊
- Dates: Thursdays- September 10, 17, 24 : October 1, 9, 15.
- 6 Lessons for a total of \$35.00 per person. Pay first night cash or check.

\*Partner NOT required

\* To sign up contact Frank Hancock at [fhancock@comcast.net](mailto:fhancock@comcast.net) OR Harold Collier at [hcollier@comcast.net](mailto:hcollier@comcast.net) or call 717-241-4483 or text 717-448-7839

PRIDE FESTIVAL

Sunday  
**OCT 11th**  
12 to 5pm  
WILSON COLLEGE  
CHAMBERSBURG, PA

PRIDEFRANKLINCOUNTY.ORG

PRIDE FEST 26 OUR PROMISE FRANKLIN CO.

# Ways to Get Involved: Small Groups & Contacts!

With lots of opportunities, it can hard to know what all we do and who to contact if you are interested in becoming involved! We hope this list of activities and leaders will be helpful as we resume the full fall schedule here at St. John's UCC!

- ◆ Wired Room Sunday school class—Lloyd Beers
- ◆ Upper Room Sunday school class—Connie Strunk
- ◆ Sunday Morning Caffeine Sunday school class— Mark Shoap
- ◆ Sunday Night Bible Study and Monday afternoon Book Study—Pastor Caroline
- ◆ Ladies' Bible Study on Tuesday nights—Nancy Gaal
- ◆ Ladies' Luncheon—Linda Zeger
- ◆ Men's Breakfast—Jerry Thomason
- ◆ Godly Play children's church school class—Roxanne Davenport
- ◆ Spark! Elementary children's church school class— Chani Wolfe & Melinda Orndorff
- ◆ Scripture/Contemporary Issues Discussion class for teens—Diana Kongkeattikul
- ◆ Choir and Bell Choir— Gary Crum
- ◆ Livestream and Media—Calvin Frantz
- ◆ Worship Praise Team—Diana Kongkeattikul
- ◆ Children's Corner—Roxanne Davenport
- ◆ Greeters—Don Hendrickson and Cathy Kinton
- ◆ Lectors—Judy Hodges
- ◆ Coffee Hour—Harold Collier
- ◆ Network Ministry Meal Prep (4th Thursday of the month)—Harold Collier
- ◆ Facilities Maintenance—Tom (Echo) Harrison
- ◆ Dance Lessons and Seasonal Dances—Harold Collier
- ◆ Pickleball, Pinochle, and/or American Mahjong—Harold Collier
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity Book Sale—Harold Collier
- ◆ Family Fun Day— Roxanne Davenport
- ◆ Chili Cook Off—Susan Collier
- ◆ Afternoon Teas—Sue McMurtray

thank you

To our St. John's Family,  
The family of Dolores St. Clair would like to express our appreciation for all the prayers, cards and visits we received following her death. Thank you for helping to ease our sorrows at this difficult time.  
In appreciation,  
Greg and Cindy St. Clair

Friends at St. John's,  
Thank you so much for the vase of flowers for my birthday that were from Pastor Caroline's beautiful arrangement in memory of her father. They were delivered by Connie Morrill-Hair and she took the time to have a nice visit with me. It really brightened my day.  
Blessings,  
Ann Osterman

Dear Church Family,  
We want to thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to us on Sunday. We appreciate our church family more than you know. Thanks for thinking about us.  
Love in Christ,  
Sam, Denise and Perry Skipper

thank you

Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful celebration and the outpouring of love and well wishes on the 10th anniversary of my employment as your Children and Youth Ministries Director. I was truly touched by all the cards and gifts. As I have always said, "It takes a village..." and you are all part of this journey. Thank you so much for your support!

In God's Service,

Roxanne Davenport

# Feel Good Yoga

at St. John's with Sue Collier

Tuesdays, 5:30 PM

Room 202

\$5.00

Come and enjoy the  
benefits of Feel Good Yoga



St. John's United Church of Christ, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg. Use Parking Lot B.

**CROP Walk: October 18** CROP, the "Christian Rural Overseas Program" of Church World Service was established in 1947 in response to massive starvation in post-WWII Europe. The mission was simple: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and heal the sick. Soon afterward, Church World Service Friendship ships filled with grain from Midwestern farmers were crossing the Atlantic Ocean to those in need. The challenge today is even greater, so please help! Checks can be made possible to CWS/CROP; this year's CROP Walk will be **Sunday, October 18**, meeting at Falling Spring Presbyterian Church, 221 N. Main Street, Chambersburg, with registration starting at 1:30 pm and the walk beginning at 2 pm. We hope to have good representation from St. John's UCC! Contact Pastor Caroline or Roxanne Davenport with any questions.



OCTOBER 19, 2026 | 6:30 PM

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# BIBLE & A BEER

---

Theological conversations  
Rich discussion  
Powerful testimony

Join us at 6:30 pm at  
**The Trojan Diner & Sports Bar!**  
1121 Lincoln Way E  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Bring your questions,  
Invite your friends!



# Ladies Luncheon

The group will continue to meet on the  
2nd Wednesday of each month.

Our next gathering will be **Wednesday, October 14th**  
**at 11:30 am** at Hoss's Steak & Sea House.  
(20 Falling Spring Road, Chambersburg, 17202)

No need to RSVP; just come and enjoy!

# Mens Breakfast



We will be meeting **Thursday, October 1st**  
**at 7 am** at Texas Lunch.  
(108 LWW, Chambersburg, PA)

We look forward to seeing any and all for  
our next breakfast.

# October Birthdays



10/01 Lynne McGough

10/02 Dariawn Barbour

10/02 Susan Collier

10/05 Katrina Dietrich

10/07 Ken Dilling

10/08 Camden Wadel

10/10 Judy Cook

10/10 Sandra Lewis

10/11 Logan Parson

10/12 Scot Orndorff

10/14 H. Mark Bard

10/14 Peggy Bryner

10/14 Rhonda Neff

10/14 Wayne Scubelek

10/16 Barbara Aveni

10/16 Michael Hoffeditz

10/16 Tena Keeney

10/16 Rev. Robert Macfarlane

10/18 Sarah Myers

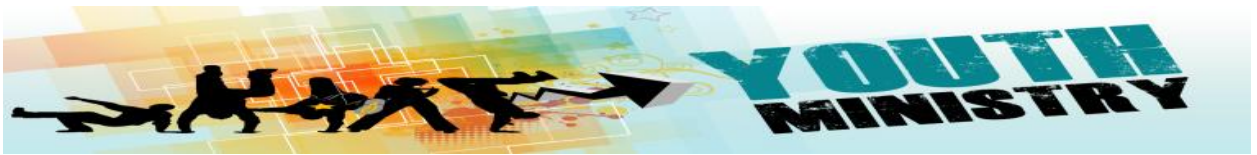
10/20 Jonathan Miller

10/25 Roxanne Davenport

10/26 Lisa Fair

10/27 Nancy Rebok

10/30 David Collier



## **Youth Calendar of Events October**

- 4** Church School 8:45 am  
Confirmation Class 11:30
- 11** Church School 8:45 am
- 18** Church School 8:45 am  
CROP Walk 2 pm
- 25** Church School 8:45 am  
Confirmation Class 11:30
- 31** Treats no Tricks 6-8 pm

## **Church School**

Church School begins at 8:45. Three youth classes are offered:

Godly Play for ages 3-K in rm. 119

Spark for Grades 1-5 in rm. 115

Contemporary Issues Discussion Class for Grades 6-12 in rm. 206

Although Church Membership is not required for any Youth function, current permissions and medical forms are needed. Please turn these in ASAP to Roxanne.

## **Ways to have Fun in Worship.....**

Should help as a boredom buster until the Children's message. The message is for all of us so there is no age specific. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary. The larger bags are for younger friends and the smaller bags for older friends. Should help as a boredom buster until the Children's message. The message is for all of us so there is no age specific. Again, see a greeter for help if needed.

The Nook in the Narthex is for our active toddlers, and the gated space in the Parlor for our babies and their parents.

Please keep these spaces free for those above who need them.

Children's corner continues **weekly**. Adults with clearances who are willing to help with this on any Sunday of the month from time to time, please contact Roxanne. Help to supervise babies or toddlers for parents who need a quiet time to worship, is always appreciated and is on a request basis. Again, see Roxanne to be put on the list for greeters to come get if a request is made.

## **Tricks No Treats**

We will be handing out candy again this year for Halloween on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Please send bags of wrapped candy to the office. Help to set up at 4:30 pm is much needed. Help to hand out candy is needed as well and Youth who help will earn service time.

You don't HAVE TO dress up, but it is a lot of fun to do so!

## **Service Hour Program**

The service of Youth at St. John's is a vital component in the ministry of this church. Many fun activities are planned and balanced with teaching youth to serve others. To help families defray the cost of fun activities like snow tubing, laser tag, escape room adventures, splash party ....we offer service hour credits. For each service activity they help work, they receive a \$5/hour credit towards any fun activities with a price tag.

We are fortunate to have not needed to have any fundraisers for this account for the past 4 years. At some point we will need to, but for now any youth serving the church may draw upon their accumulated hours.

See Roxanne Davenport for any further information and watch when an advertised activity says "service hours may be applied". Your youth may already have some! Lists of upcoming service opportunities are listed outside the Youth room and on both Youth bulletin boards.

## **Operation Christmas Joy**

As we open our eyes to the needs of others let's not forget those who often are forgotten in our nursing homes. This year the Youth will collect money and shoe boxes in November to shop for Christmas Joy boxes to be assembled and given to the residents at Laurel Lakes Rehabilitation and Wellness Center located on Franklin Farm Lane in Chambersburg.

In addition to giving money for the youth to shop and assemble, we are encouraging those who would like to fill their own shoe boxes, to wrap a box and fill it with items from the list that will be available later this month and a Christmas Card. These boxes must be wrapped with the lid, able to be opened to allow for inspection, so they can be distributed appropriately.

Monetary donations will be accepted until November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Youth will shop on the 29<sup>th</sup> after worship.

# Committee & Ministry Chairs 2026

**Camp**—*MaryLee Yaukey*

**Children & Youth Ministry**—*Roxanne Davenport*

**Community Engagement**—*Harold Collier*

**Congregational Care**—*TBD*

**Facilities Ministry**—*Tom Harrison*

**Fellowship**—*Sue McMurtray*

**Finance**—*Scot Orndorff*

**Library**—*MaryLee Yaukey*

**Music Ministry**—*Gary Crum*

**Nursery School**—*Linda Zeger*

**Personnel**—*Lisa Fair*

**Pastoral Relations**—*Tom (Mt. Union Rd) Harrison*

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** —*N. Erin Hartman*

**Safe Church Compliance**—Safe Church Compliance Steward, *Sarah Herbert*

**Safe Church Response**—Safe Church Compliance Steward, *Sarah Herbert*

**Safety and Security**—*Tom Kinton*

**Spiritual Life**—*Lloyd Beers*

**Technology and Media Ministry**—*Calvin Frantz*

Want to serve  
on a Ministry or Standing  
Committee?

These groups would  
welcome you and  
your talents!

Speak to these leaders or  
Pastor Caroline today to  
learn more and join them!

# 2026 COUNCIL

## Moderator Team

Harold Collier, **Past Moderator**

Diana Kongkeattikul, **Moderator**

Harold Wissinger, **Moderator Elect**

## At Large Members

Kara Alt

Lloyd Beers Jr., **Secretary**

Tom Harrison

Connie Strunk

## Additional Non-Council Positions

Scot Orndorff, **Treasurer**

Jerry Thomason, **Assistant Treasurer**

Dick Rebok, **Authorized Check Signatory**

Susan Collier, **Head Deacon**

Dwight Sollenberger, **Head Elder**

Sarah Herbert, **Safe Church Compliance Steward**

## Pastor

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**Sunday Worship will be at 10 am**  
**(Offered In-Person and on YouTube)**

**Upcoming Communion Dates:**

World Communion Sunday, October 4, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed  
All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed



*“To grow in love of God and neighbor”*



**St. John's United Church of Christ**

**1811 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, PA 17202**

**Phone: 717-263-8593      Fax: 717-263-9010**

*Website: [www.sjucc1811.org](http://www.sjucc1811.org)*

***Office Hours: Mon -Fri from 9 AM -3 PM***

