



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
September 20, 2026***

CALL OF ABRAHAM

*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**

written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall

We are met in the presence of God.

And we do not meet alone.

With the angels in the highest heaven

We gather to worship the Lord.

With Abraham and Sarah

We gather to worship the Lord.

With the saints of every age

We gather to worship the Lord.

We embark on our own journey of faith

God's Holy name be praised.

God makes of us a great people.

God's Holy name be praised.

In the desert and the den, in barrio and basilica

God's Holy name be praised.

We journey in the presence of God.

And we do not journey alone.

***HYMN #45**

"The God of Abraham Praise"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall

Generous God, you gave us our voices, no two the same. As you did with Abraham and Sarah, you take and touch our lives and they can become extraordinary. And in your Church you have gathered us, in your community of common folk and complainers, prophets and puzzled people, you have called us and made a place for us. So let what we say and do here, what we ponder and decide here, be real for us and honest to you, as you prepare us for the life of the world in which you are praised. Amen.

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

O Lord, send now your Spirit into our midst to entice us and overpower us with the strength of your word. We beg for the strength to hear your call and live according to your will. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 33:1-5, 13-15, 21-22 (The Inclusive Bible)

Sing out your joy to YHWH, you who love justice – praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Praise YHWH with the harp, and play music with a ten-stringed lyre!

Sing to God a new song, play with all your skill, and with shouts of joy!

For the word of YHWH is true and everything God does can be trusted.

YHWH loves justice and right and fills the earth with love.

From the heavens you look forth, YHWH, and see all of humankind.

From your dwelling place you watch over all the peoples of the earth.

You shape the hearts of them all and consider all their deeds.

In you our hearts find joy; we trust in your holy Name.

May your love be upon us, YHWH, as we place all our hope in you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 12:1-9

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

APOSTLES' 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

Ancient of Days, you call us not just to give us the blessing of being called your people, but also to be a blessing for all people on this earth. Give us the wisdom and the courage to be a blessing to this community and to this world. Through these offerings may we be channels of your compassion and healing to others, for the sake of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #251**

"I Will Be Your God"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

Birthdays this week: 09/22 Hannah Herbert, Kyra Sollenberger, Matthew Strunk, and Jim Wood.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Roxanne Davenport, Barb Motichka, Courtney Robertson, Chris Willman-Bunge
Deacon in Charge	Mike Blumberg
Lector	Erin Hartman
Children's Corner	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Snowstorm of Stars" from Art in the Christian Tradition

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in honor of Connie and Bob Strunk's wedding anniversary by Lisa and Ray Fair.



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 and Opening Prayer written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall and posted on UCC
Worship Ways

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

The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

The God of Abraham Praise

1. The God of A-braham praise, all praise be to His name,
 2. His Spir - it flow - ing free, high surg - es where it will:
 3. He has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

who was, and is, and is to be, for - e'er the same!
 in proph-et's word He spoke of old, His voice speaks still.
 His love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.

The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;
 Es - tab - lished is His law, and change-less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All praise be to His name,

the First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!
 it lives up - on the hu - man heart, on sea or land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for - e'er the same!

WORDS: Daniel ben Judah Dayyan, ca. 1400; tr. Newton Mann;
 vers. William Channing Gannett, ca. 1900, alt.

MUSIC: Trad. Hebrew melody; tr. Meyer Lyon, 1770

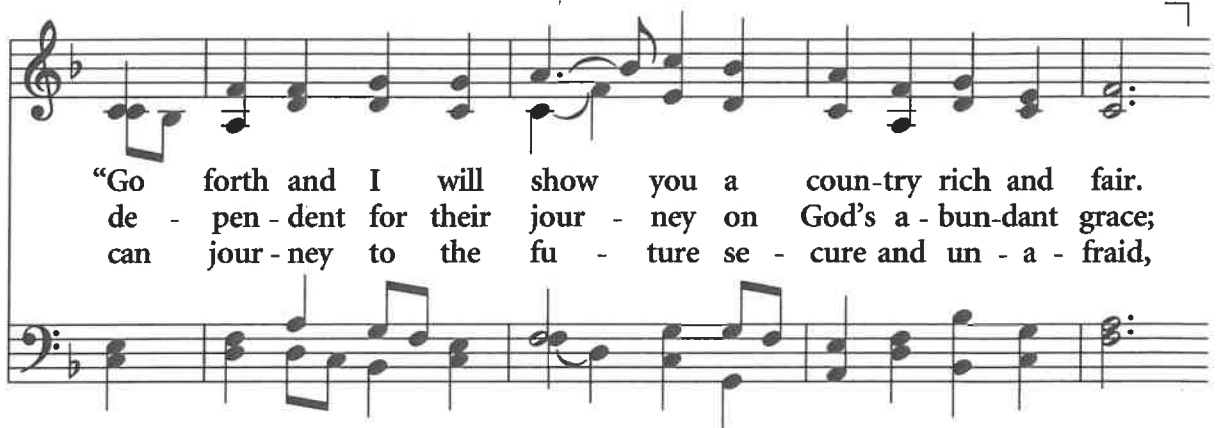
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I Will Be Your God

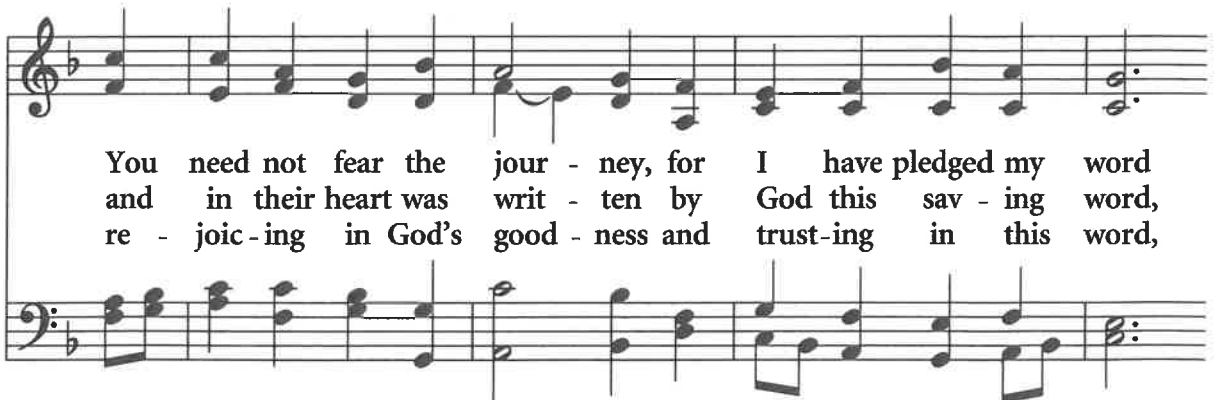
251



1. To A - bra-ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:
 2. From A - bra-ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil-grim race,
 3. We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid



"Go forth and I will show you a coun-try rich and fair.
 de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun-dant grace;
 can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,



You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word
 and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,
 re - joic-ing in God's good - ness and trust-ing in this word,



that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
 "That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
 "That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."

WORDS: Judith A. Fetter, 1984 (Gen. 12:1-3)

MUSIC: Trad. Welsh melody

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Words (also known as *To Abraham and Sarah*) © 1984 Judith A. Fetter

NEWS IN THE PEWS September 20, 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 Pickup Mums in the Welcome Center after service
3:00 pm Beginners Pickleball in Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 9 Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, September 21

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 6) – Conference Room 111
3:00 pm Pinochle (Come Play and Learn) – Library Room 106
6:00 pm Bible and a Beer – Trojan Diner

Tuesday, September 22

NO YOGA – Will resume on 9/29

5:00 pm Safely Cook For Crowds Food Preparation Training with Penn State Extension – Room 116
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, September 24

11:00 am NETwork Ministries Meal Prep - Kitchen
6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall
7:15 pm Choir Practice – Room 103

Sunday, September 27

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 10 (link in Friday e-blast)

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.

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.

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.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday, September 20 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 9 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 6 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" on Monday, September 21, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111.

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.

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.

Evening of Fellowship Join us on 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 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!

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.