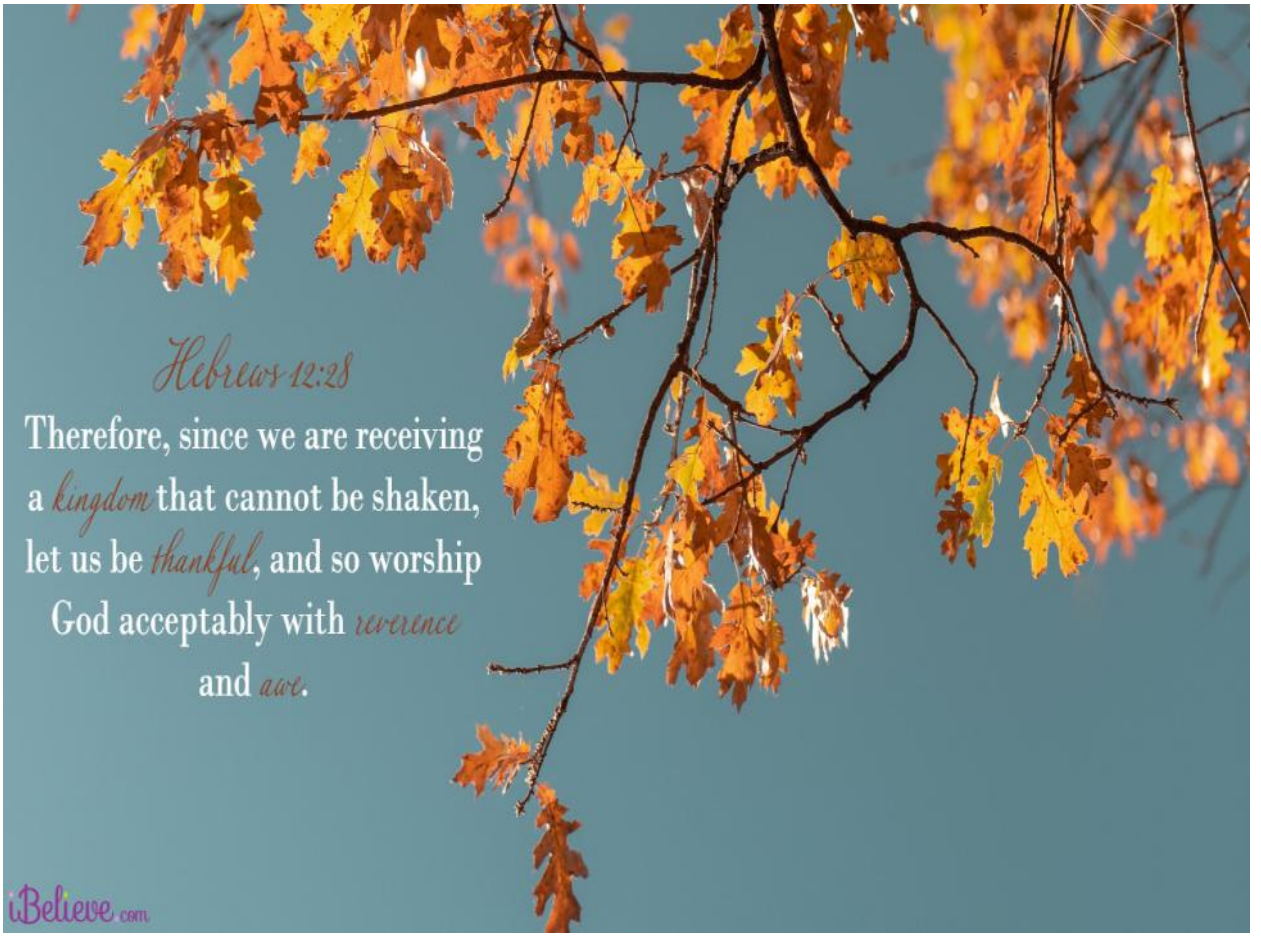
The Spirit

Volume 95 No. 10 November 2026



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

From Pastor Caroline

Recently, a colleague asked a group of UCC clergy to share their favorite hymns. Hymns are like scriptures; there are some we like better than others. If I were to put together a "Top 10 List" it would have to include the following: "How Firm a Foundation"; "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"; "My Life Flows On In Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)"; and "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." I especially think of my parents and grandparents, mentors and friends, who have died when I sing "Blest Be the Tie" with the stanza "when we are called to part, it brings us inward pain, but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again." (#393 in The New Century Hymnal/#267 in Celebrating Grace).

We will honor those who we have loved and lost in the last year with our annual observance of Totenfest on Sunday, November 22, the last Sunday in the church year. To contribute the name of someone you would like to be remembered, please email me by Monday, November 16.

As we grow in love of God and neighbor, we strive to live lives of meaning and purpose. The Habitat for Humanity Book Sale held on October 23, 24 and 25 would not have been possible without the contributions of time, talent and treasure from across our community. The check presentation to Habitat will be held during worship on Sunday, November 8.

Council has been looking ahead toward 2027 and beyond. We recently held a retreat focusing on our Future Together Strategic Plan, setting goals toward where we want to go and grow. Our themes and commitments have remained the same: spiritual deepening; energize participation; congregational care; community engagement; and financial sustainability. Each one of us has a role to play and a contribution to make. As members of the Body of Christ, may we discern how we can further the mission and ministry of our beloved St. John's United Church of Christ.

Our fall Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on **Sunday, November 15**. We will vote to adopt the budget for 2027. Both a line-item and a narrative budget ("mission spending plan") are in the Congregational Meeting packet. Please, save November 15 on your calendar; review the materials provided; and help us to thrive, building the church of the future.

We will enter into a new liturgical season on Sunday, November 29: Advent. We will be using Illustrated Ministry's *A Thrill of Hope* curriculum, knowing that we live in a weary world, and "we watch for God's saving work all around us: healing where there is hurt, courage where there is fear, hope where there is despair. The miracle of Immanuel did not end in Bethlehem. The thrill of hope persists." This year, we will offer an Advent devotional that complements this theme, connecting our communal worship life with our personal devotional practices. Materials will be available on November 22, helping us to prepare for the Advent season. May we hold both longing and courage in the same breath, waiting and working for the world to change.

Thank you for the lovely leaves, as well as notes, cards and gifts, that you filled with words of appreciation and encouragement as part of Pastor Appreciation month. I am truly blessed to be your pastor, to walk with you to love and learn, worship and witness, welcome and serve. With praise and thanksgiving, we are in this together.

Peace, Pastor Caroline



MUSIC MINISTRY

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD
WITH HEART AND HANDS AND VOICES,
WHO WONDROUS THINGS HATH DONE,
IN WHOM HIS WORLD REJOICES;
WHO, FROM OUR MOTHER'S ARMS,
HATH BLEST US ON OUR WAY
WITH COUNTLESS GIFTS OF LOVE,
AND STILL IS OURS TO DAY.

Martin Rinkart was born in 1636 in Eilenberg, Germany and he became a Lutheran Pastor who was a Bishop in Eilenberg, Germany, which was a walled town refuge during the 30 years' war. He was the son of a poor coppersmith in Eilenberg. He wrote the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" as a grace for his children. He was also a clergyman in the Lutheran church in Eilenberg during the 30 years' war amidst severe famine, military pressure and devastating 1637 plague epidemic where Rinkart served as a solo surviving Pastor conducting over five thousand funerals including his own wife.

The melody was composed and published by Johann Cruger in 1647 with later harmonization by Felix Mendelssohn in 1840. This hymn can be found on page 371 in our church hymnal.

-Gary Crum, music director



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

1- Salvation Army's Angel Tree
The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for children in our community, helping to make the holidays brighter for kids and families. The Angel Tree will be located in the church lobby in mid-November. St. John's has requested 40 tags this year. Please, consider taking a tag (or two) from the tree. All gifts should be delivered unwrapped in gift bags by **Thursday, December 3.** These gifts will be blessed in worship on Sunday, December 6. Monetary contributions are also welcome if you would prefer to have someone else shop for the gifts. Please indicate "Angel Tree" on your check or envelope.

2- Hoffman Homes Holiday Gift Program
St. John's UCC is a long-standing supporter of Hoffman Homes, located outside of Littlestown, PA. Hoffman Homes is a non-profit organization that provides both in-patient and outpatient behavioral health treatment, educational services, and other residential-based services to youth, young adults, and their families across the Commonwealth. St. John's will again help with the Holiday Gift Program, spreading holiday cheer to the youth and young adults in care and making some of their holiday wishes come true. We have agreed to take 30 tags, a mix of gifts for individuals and the communal residences in which they live. Gifts/gift cards are accepted, noting the following guidelines:
-Do not wrap the gifts. Simply place each youth's gift(s) in one bag and attach the gift tag provided for each youth/residence.
-Do not provide items that could potentially be dangerous (i.e. spiral bound journals and/or sketchbooks, glass, mirrors, pencil sharpeners, etc.). Art sets are ok to purchase. Staff will remove potentially dangerous items for safety. Please reach out to Hoffman Homes at 717-359-7148 ext. 4501 if you are uncertain about an item.

These gifts will be dedicated in worship on **Sunday, November 29**, as they need to be delivered to Hoffman Homes by Friday, December 4.

3- Learn more about our third First Fruits recipient, the mission project **Operation Christmas Joy,** on page 29. We are very excited to be able to share some cheer with the residents of Laurel Lakes Rehabilitation and Wellness Center (f/k/a Franklin County Nursing Home).

Leftover funds will be used to support other mission projects and needs in the community as we are made aware.

November News: A Season of Giving

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

November 9 DIY Christmas Ornament Bar hosted by Rachel Chapman provides an opportunity to use your skills and creativity to make some Christmas ornaments and enjoy some holiday cheer. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Learn more on page 25.

Totenfest will be observed on the last Sunday of the church year, **November 22**. We will remember those in our congregation and lives who have died in the last year. To contribute a name of someone to be remembered, please contact Pastor Caroline.

Advent begins on Sunday, **November 29**. We plan to provide an Advent devotional book this year to correspond with our worship theme, "A Thrill of Hope."

December 5 Christmas Cookies & Crafts will be held in Fellowship Hall, 9 am to Noon. More information is available on page 24. By expanding the offerings and welcoming more attendees, we hope to help more youth in the community. Together, these projects and events offer meaningful ways to share the joy of the season. See Roxanne Davenport (cookies) or Susan Collier (crafts) with questions.

Bell Fest bell choir concert will be Sunday, **December 13**, 7 pm. Join us for this special night featuring several local bell choirs.

Blue Christmas is a special service providing support to those who might feel "blue" during the holiday season. St. John's UCC will host this service on Sunday, **December 20** at 3 pm.

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 held 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 "Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand" by Jeff Chu. 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 letters of 1 and 2 Peter. Each week's reading assignment is listed in News in the Pews.
- Fall church school classes for all ages are in full swing. Adults can choose from The Wired Word (Room 116) or The Upper Room (Conference Room 111). Classes for young people include: Godly Play (Room 119), Spark! Elementary (Room 115), and Scripture/Contemporary Issues Discussion (Youth Room 206). Pastor Caroline and Roxanne are also co-teaching confirmation this year.
- Diana Kongkeattikul writes a weekly devotional for our website. An opt-in email list is available 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.
- Be on the lookout for "A Thrill of Hope" Advent devotional to help guide your spiritual life during this special season of preparation.
- Our praise group shares their talents ~2x/month as part of a blended service.

ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION

- We will be reaffirming our Covenant of Welcome and Affirmation during worship on Sunday, November 15, the 6th anniversary of our formally voting to become an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation.
- 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. If there is something you are interested in leading that you don't see listed, please get in touch with Pastor Caroline or a member of the Council.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- We had a wonderful "dinner church" gathering on Saturday, October 10 with all three congregations who worship at St. John's. We hope to have another time of fellowship and connection in the new year.
- Additional acoustic panels will be installed in the Sanctuary to continue our goal of enhancing the sound quality for all those who come to SJUCC for worship. We give thanks for the difference the panels have already made.
- Totenfest will be observed on Sunday, November 22.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- We will be cooking a meal for the kids at NETwork Ministry once a month on the 4th Thursday of the month in the church kitchen.
- "Operation Christmas Joy" is an opportunity to share holiday cheer with the residents of Laurel Lakes on Franklin Farm Lane. A list of desired items is found on page 29. Monetary donations are also very welcome. Please note "Operation Christmas Joy" in the memo line of your check or on your envelope.
- Angel Tree and Hoffman Homes Holiday Gift Program tags will be available in the lobby in mid-November. Thank you for your support of these programs!
- Our Habitat for Humanity Book Sale was HUGELY successful. Final numbers are still being tallied, but it looks like we have had our most successful sale yet!

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Council and the Finance Task Force continue to explore options for our building and property to generate revenue. With the departure of Jessica and Friends, we are keenly aware of the need to secure additional tenants.
- 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 have also applied for a grant through the Keystone Conference to help offset expenses at St. John's Camp.
- Thank you so much to everyone who was a sponsor for the Habitat for Humanity Book Sale! Monies helped to offset expenses here at St. John's.
- An update on the conversations we have been having with Habitat regarding the use of our property will be provided as part of the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 15.

Focus on Finance – November 2026

What is a narrative budget? How can this be a helpful tool in our stewardship journey?

A "Narrative Budget" or "Mission Spending Plan" describes how a congregation uses its finances for mission and ministry. The numbers are the same as the line-item budget; yet it tells the story of our church's work in a different way. Stories help to paint the picture of how our funds are actually used to worship, witness, learn, love, welcome, and serve.

Narrative budgets help us to see how our giving fits into our theology, a biblical theology of stewardship. We are encouraged not only to give of our resources (our treasure), but also of our time and talent. Such gifts expand our mission & ministry in real and living ways.

Stewardship is part of the relationship we each have with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. How we use our time, talent, and treasure is part of our call as disciples. Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

A narrative budget is a tool that helps to provide a vision of how we will use our resources to fund God's plan for our church. Each of the narrative categories have the potential to connect us to Christ in a meaningful way—that is why our church exists. To grow in love of God and neighbor.

Our 2027 Mission Spending Plan is split into six categories: Praising God in Worship and Music; Teaching and Nurturing Discipleship; Connecting to One Another; Connecting to the Community; Reaching Out in Service; and Managing Our Building and Grounds.

Copies of the Mission Spending Plan (aka Narrative Budget) are included as part of the Congregational Meeting Packet alongside the line-item budget. We hope you will find it a helpful resource that tells the story of our church in more than just dollars and cents.

Remember: The church is involved in mission and ministry, and mission and ministry need funding. Thank you for your support of our mission and ministry.

-The Finance Task Force (Pastor Caroline, Lisa Fair, Scot

Orndorff, Jerry Thomason)



Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00am - 3:00pm

Office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 for Veterans' Day and Thursday November 26 and Friday November 27, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Office Administrator: Tonya Schwartz
Email: manager@sjucc1811.org

Office Assistant: Kristen Vannoy
Email: assistant@sjucc1811.org

Phone: 717-263-8593



Happy fall! It is such a beautiful time of year! Our Nursery School children are eager to learn about all of the changes that are happening outside. We are reading books, going on nature walks, and appreciating the beauty that God has given us with the arrival of the season of fall.

The Nursery School students had quite a busy October. They began the month with school picture week, with many of the children experiencing their very first school picture. Next, thanks to the generosity of the Fayetteville Fire Co., our students were able to tour a fire truck and ambulance and even got to experience all of the lights and sirens! The children ended the month with fall classroom parties, planned by our Nursery School families. They had a great time with themed crafts, snacks, games, and picking a pumpkin from our pumpkin patch!

We begin our next fundraiser this month, where you can stock up on Butcher Shoppe cookie dough and Big Oak Café coffee for the holidays. Members of the Nursery School Ministry will be taking orders for tubs of cookie dough (2.5 lbs) for $17 and bags of coffee (12 oz) for $13, before and after church services on November 8th and November 15th. Cookie dough and coffee can be picked up from the Parlor refrigerator/freezer starting Wed, December 2nd at Noon. We will also be selling tickets for Butcher Shoppe Subs ($8) and take-and-bake pizza ($12). These tickets make great stocking stuffers!

Thank you to the Nursery School Ministry for your continued support and to the St. John's Church members for your participation in these events. Your support of our Nursery School does not go unnoticed and your involvement supports our success!

As we prepare for the upcoming Holidays, we are thankful for the gifts God has given us. We appreciate those family, friends, co-workers, students, parents, and community members who bless our lives each and every day.

Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving!
Kari Rock, Director

THE BUTCHER SHOPPE FUNDRAISER





Available for pre-order through Monday, November 16th:

2.5 lb. Cookie Dough Buckets - $17

12 oz. Coffee Bags - $13

Cookie dough & coffee can be picked up from the Parlor refrigerator/freezer starting Wednesday, December 2nd at Noon.

Available to purchase now through December 16th:

Sub Ticket - $8
Redeemable for one 12” sub of choice
Extra meat or cheese on sub will be an extra charge applied at time of pickup

Pizza Ticket - $12
Redeemable for one 16” (Lg) one-topping take-and-bake pizza
Any additional toppings will be an extra charge applied at time of pickup



Thank you for supporting St. John’s Nursery School!



Clean-up of St. John's grounds is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9:00 AM (rain date of November 28). Bring your favorite rake or choose a rake from the church's inventory. Coffee, Hot Chocolate, and donuts will be provided. Cub Pack 136, the adult leaders, and family members will be supporting this clean-up effort.

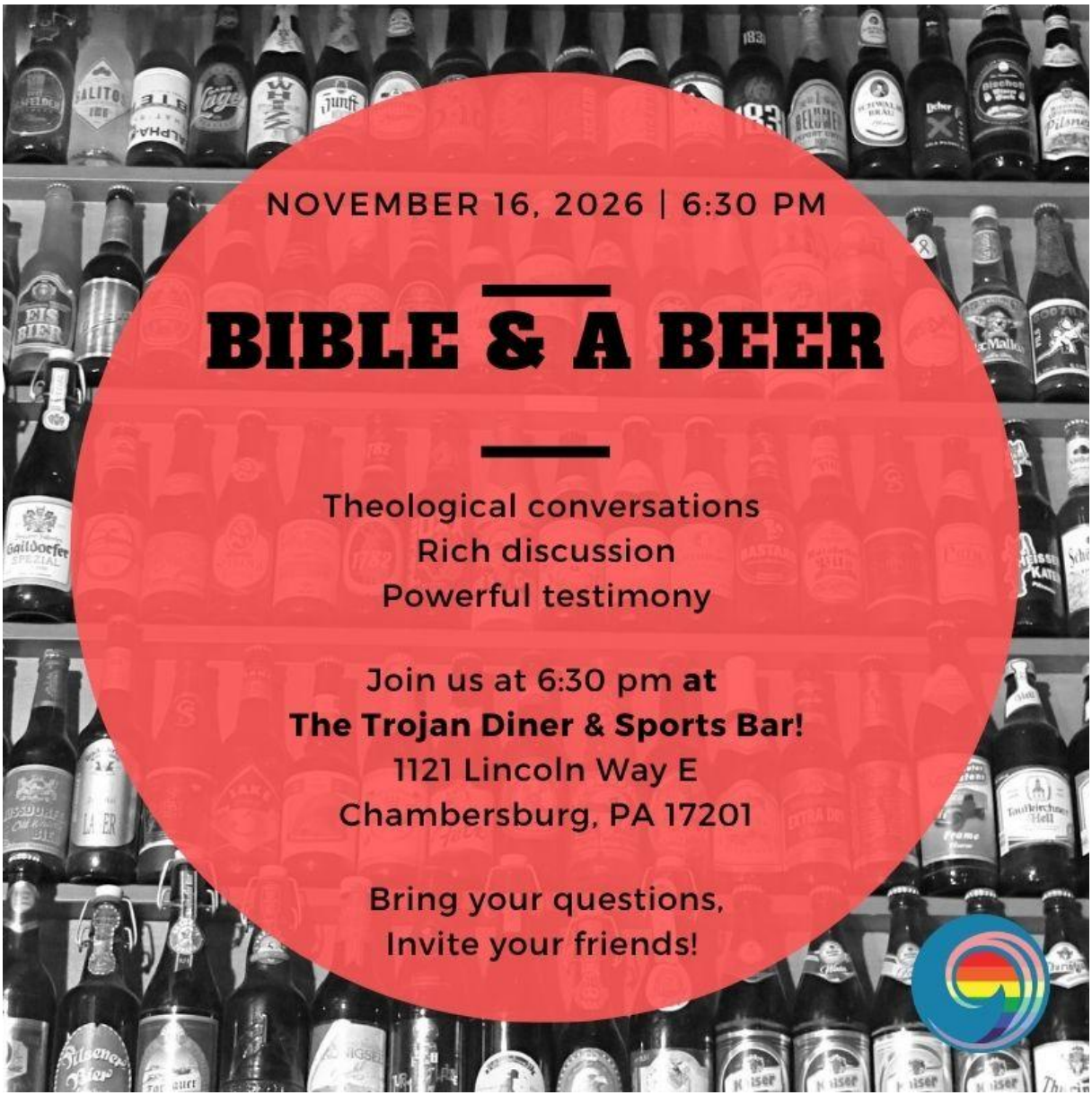
You are cordially invited to join-in for a fun-filled morning!

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 11 AM

We will be voting on our 2027 Budget. Please plan to attend this important meeting in the life of our church.

Meeting packets are available at the Welcome Center and Narthex and by request from the church office.


NOVEMBER 16, 2026 | 6:30 PM
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!


THE CONOCOCHEAGUE MISSION
COOPERATIVE PRESENTS:
Blue
Christmas
EXPERIENCING HOPE AND HEALING
IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
@ 3 PM
ST. JOHN'S UCC
1811 LWE
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia, please complete the form and return it to the church office by **Monday, November 30, 2026.** **Cost - $15.00 each**

Donor's name: _____

(as it will appear in the bulletin insert)

I would like to order _____poinsettias to be placed:

_____ In memory of: _____

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ To the Glory of God

**** Thank you for your support. Please arrange for your flowers to be picked up.**

Please include your payment with this form and return it to the church office by **Monday, November 30, 2026. Make checks payable to St. John's UCC.**

Sunday Night Bible Study

Join us on Sunday nights
at 8 pm on Zoom for Bible Study!
We are currently studying the letters of 1 and 2 Peter.

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 "Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand" by Jeff Chu.

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!



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 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
- Flower Delivery—Connie Morrill-Hair
- 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



Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,
We thank you greatly for your monetary donation toward the Backpack Program Power Pack food supply.
Diane Pensinger
Grace Brethren Church, Power Pack Team

Thank you all for my flowers, my birthday and get well cards.
Delivered by Lynda Pound.
Thank you to Connie Morrill-Hair for driving me to my doctor appointments and lab appointments. I am forever grateful.
Thank you so much,
Ginni Parker

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our second annual chili cook-off a success! From those who put their time and effort into preparing delicious chili, to those who helped organize and run the event, and everyone who attended and generously supported our chosen charity, I am incredibly grateful for you all!

Thanks to the enthusiasm, generosity, and participation of our church community, we were able to raise even more money for our chosen charity than we did last year! That accomplishment would not have been possible without each and every person who contributed in their own way.

Events like this remind us of the wonderful things we can accomplish when we come together as a church family. Thank you all for your time, generosity, fellowship, and support. We look forward to continuing this tradition and seeing what we can accomplish together next year! Thank you all so much, God bless, and never stop being awesome!

Best,
Chris Willman-Bunge



Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful help with the *St. John's Pumpkin Patch Tea!* From planning to implementing a delightful "Tea", numerous church members and friends were busy behind the scenes. We appreciate all who advertised, invited friends and attended the event. Thank you to 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 ever-changing table chart!



Sincerely,

Sue, Connie S., & Renee

Please, plan to join us for our spring

"Vintage Tea"

Saturday, April 24, 2027



Dear Friends of St. John's:
My sincere thank you for the beautiful arrangement of fall flowers that Jolene delivered to me on that rainy rainy Sunday. It certainly brightened my day! The hard cast was removed last week from my right hand and I now have a soft cast so I don't have quite as many challenges. I have definitely learned if I cannot reach a golf ball in the water with regular long-handled retriever it will remain in the water! Lesson learned!!
Fondly– Cookie Miller

Check Out These Food Safety Tips and Tricks from Penn State Extension!



We give thanks for ALL our volunteers
who help prepare meals and keep us safe!





LET'S TALK ABOUT FLOWERS!

Where do the flowers at the foot of the cross come from?

The flowers come from YOU the congregation! Folks like to donate flowers in honor of a loved one, a special event, or just because they love to have the flowers in the sanctuary!

The bulletin board outside the church office has Flower Chart that lists Sunday dates, noted with donor's name when flowers have been requested for that date. **If you have an interest, pick an open date**, stop in or call the office and ask them to assign that week to you. They will explain the cost and the options available to you!

What happens to those flowers after the service?

The office contacts the donors the week of their sign-up date and you let them know if you want all of the flowers, some of them or you prefer to donate them to be used for other folks. Volunteers receive suggestions for recipients, create bouquets and then deliver them. This can include folks who are hospitalized, in rehab, have a significant birthday, or just need a happy visit.

How can YOU HELP?

Consider **joining the team** and volunteering to help make bouquets and/or make deliveries. Our volunteers receive a list of the Sunday's that have flowers scheduled. They **choose which Sunday** they can cover. Our current volunteers include: McGinley's, Moyer's, St. Clair's, Connie Kaiser, Lynda Pound, and Connie M-Hair. We would love to have more folks help with this! Please consider volunteering to help—spread some joy around and meet new people!

Just call the office and tell them you are interested in helping! It's a great way to **VOLUNTEER**—we think you will love it!


DON'T FORGET TO
FALL BACK
Sunday, November 1


Bell Fest
Bell Choir Concert
Sunday, December 13
7:00 pm
St. John's UCC

CHRISTMAS COOKIES & CRAFTS

Saturday, December 5
9 am - 12 pm
Fellowship Hall

Holiday treats to be sold by weight
Cookies $10/lb | Candy $12/lb

Buy handmade Crafts and Artwork to brighten your heart and home!

Bake your favorite holiday cookies, make your signature holiday candy & share the recipe to benefit a good cause: kids in our community. Bring your cookies to the kitchen on Dec. 4 from 6-8 pm. Your crafts and artwork should be priced and placed in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the lobby!







DIY Christmas Ornament Bar
Monday, November 9th at 6pm in room 116.

Offered By: Rachel Chapman







Come have some early holiday cheer by painting your own Christmas ornament!

Please sign up by October 25th.
Indicate which ornament(s) you wish to purchase.
Ornaments are $5 each. All Materials will be provided. A free ornament will be available to each person.

(Additional ornaments will be available, if you would like to purchase and donate to our Christmas Cookies and Crafts event on Dec. 5, 2026.)

Ladies Luncheon

The group will continue to meet on the
2nd Wednesday of each month.
Our next gathering will be **Wednesday, November 11**
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, November 5**
at 7 am at Texas Lunch.
(108 LWW, Chambersburg, PA)

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

November Birthday



11/01 Marlin Douglas
11/01 Julia Marker
11/02 Dan Wolfe
11/03 Shirley Fenstermacher
11/03 Rev. Bonnie Hoffman
11/03 Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
11/07 John McCright
11/07 Bob Strunk
11/09 Sarah Herbert
11/10 Joanne Slothower
11/11 Nancy Harrison
11/13 Angela Miller
11/18 Judy Hodges
11/18 Beth Rensch
11/27 Eileen Shaffer
11/29 Ann Aldrich
11/29 Aydrion Barbour
11/29 John Widmann, Jr.

Youth Calendar of Events November

1 Church School 8:45 am
Beginning of Operation Christmas Joy
8 Church School 8:45 am
Confirmation Class 11:30
15 Church School 8:45 am
Youth have Coffee Hour after Worship
22 Church School 8:45 am
29 Church School 8:45 am

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

DID YOU KNOW?????

We had 9 walkers on the St John's team in the CROP Walk on October 18th.
The St. John's team walked 2.5 miles.
Our team raised $617 for hunger that day.
We have 4 Youth in the Confirmation Class this year. Evan Blumberg, Alahna Hodges, Jamie White, and Key White.

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 $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". You 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 22nd and Youth will shop on the 29th after worship.

Suggested items for boxes are as follows:

Lip balm
No Aerosol– Body wash
Lotions
Slip on costume jewelry
Sugar free mints
Large print word searches or Easy Sudoku
Soft Snacks: Crackers, Cheese Puffs, ETC.
Christmas Cards
Body Sprays
Nonslip socks
Men's combs
Soft bristle brushes

Upcoming Events in December

All month, Reverse Advent Calendar to benefit SCCAP Food Bank more info to follow.

5 Christmas Cookies and Crafts 9-12pm
6 Caroling to Shut ins and Nursing Homes 1:30-4:30 Potluck to follow
19 Christmas Dramatization rehearsal 10:00
20 Church School Christmas Party
24 Christmas Dramatization
30 Possible delivery of Reverse Advent Calendar Food items

Does the youth program sometimes seem too busy or always in need of something? It is—because we provide many opportunities for fun, fellowship, and service. Isn't that what we want our youth to learn? As adults, we can model Christ's call to "feed his sheep."

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:

All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed

Sunday, December 6, 10 am, Sanctuary & Livestreamed



"To grow in love of God and neighbor"



St. John's United Church of Christ

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Chambersburg, PA 17202

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

Website: www.sjucc1811.org

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

Give online! (scan the QR code)