



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
October 18, 2026***

JOSHUA RENEWS THE COVENANT

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

CONNECTIONS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

written by Nancy C. Townley

We are pulled in many directions.

Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.

This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.

Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. Amen.

***HYMN #349**

"To God Be the Glory"

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Because God is near to the brokenhearted, let us consider how we have lived, confessing our sins and trusting in God's mercy to save.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

God of our redemption, we confess that we have not been faithful servants. We have not served you with sincere hearts nor trusted in your salvation. We have forsaken you, the living God, and have chosen to follow the lifeless idols of worldly power and wealth. Forgive us our sin, O God. Lead us to heartfelt repentance that we may honor you with our lips and serve you with our lives; through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Hear the good news: Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Believe the gospel! We are forgiven.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:1-11

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 34:15-22

The eyes of GOD are on the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.

The face of GOD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

When the righteous cry for help, GOD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

GOD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but GOD rescues them from them all.

GOD keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

GOD redeems the life of God's servants; none of those who take refuge in GOD will be condemned.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Paul Baloche

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 24:1-26

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 Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Gracious God, receive our gifts, tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings, signs of trust in your coming reign of justice, peace, and love; in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN #619**

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

Birthdays this week: 10/20 Jonathan Miller; 10/25 Roxanne Davenport.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Roxanne Davenport, Diana Kongkeattikul, Swann Kongkeattikul, Barbara Motichka, Courtney Robertson, Chris Willman-Bunge
Deacon in Charge	Greg St. Clair
Lector	Sarah Shiraki
Children's Corner	Melinda Orndorff
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in blessing for family Cauzzort by Rick Aguilar.



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 Nancy C. Townley and posted on the *Worship Connection* page of *Ministry Matters*

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

To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done; so loved He the
 2. O per - fect re - demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, to ev - ery be-
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our re-

world that He gave us His Son, who yield - ed His life an a -
 liev - er the prom-ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who
 joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er, and

tone-ment for sin, and o-pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be-lieves, that mo-ment from Je - sus a par-don re-ceives.
 great - er will be our won-der, our trans-port, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord,
 praise the Lord, let the peo-ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther, through

349 Continued

PRAISE AND ADORATION

Je - sus the Son, and give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

C-10

Creeds and Affirmations of Faith

Apostles' Creed: An Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate;
He was crucified, died and was buried.
He went to the dead.
On the third day He rose again,
entered into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life eternal. Amen.

Nicene Creed: An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

619

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight: an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest: watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of His Spir - it, washed in His blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with His good - ness, lost in His love.

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873
 MUSIC: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873

ASSURANCE
 9.10.9.9 with refrain

NEWS IN THE PEWS October 18, 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:

**** PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY ****

11:15 am Chambers' Apothecary Immunization Clinic – Parlor Room 104
2:00 pm CROP Hunger Walk held at Falling Spring Presbyterian Church (registration at 1:30)
8:00 pm Bible Study on 1 Peter Chapter 1 – Zoom via link from Friday's e-blast

Monday, October 19

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 10) – Conference Room 111
6:30 pm Bible and a Beer – Trojan's Sport Bar

Tuesday, October 20

5:30pm Yoga – Room 202
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall/then break into smaller groups

Wednesday, October 21

6:30 PM Council Retreat – Conference Room 111

Thursday, October 22

11:00 am NETwork Ministries Meal Prep - Kitchen
4:00 pm Finance Meeting – Conference Room 111
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Room 117
7:15 pm Choir Practice – Room 103

Friday, October 23

2:00 pm Book Sale – Fellowship and Room 116

Saturday, October 24

9:00 am Book Sale – Fellowship Hall and Room 116

Sunday, October 25

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) – Room 206
8:45 am Wired Word Adult Church School Class – Library Room 106
8:45 am Upper Room Adult Church School Class – Conference Room 111
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary
12:00pm Book Sale – Fellowship Hall and Room 116
8:00 pm Bible Study on 1 Peter Chapter 2 – Zoom via link from Friday's 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 October 19.

Habitat for Humanity Book Sale will be October 23, 24 and 25. Set up for the sale continues starting Monday, October 19. A sign-up sheet to help with the set up and the actual sale is located at the Welcome Center and on both bulletin boards. We plan to make this the most successful book sale yet!

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will discuss the epilogue in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" on Monday, October 19, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111.

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.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday, October 18 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the letter of 1 Peter Chapter 1 Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

DIY Christmas Ornament Bar Craft Night Come have some early holiday cheer by painting your own Christmas ornament! Please sign up by October 25th. The sign up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. 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 December 5.

Fall Quarter First Fruits in August, September and October 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.

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. We are asking for your support with essential household, cleaning, and hygiene items. Consult the e-blast for a list of items needed; there is a donation box at the Welcome Center.

Mercersburg Association Fall Meeting will be held at St. Paul's UCC in Mechanicsburg on Sunday, November 15, 3-5 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with a Zoom option to attend. Please contact Pastor Caroline if you would like to attend as one of two lay delegates.

Keystone Conference Fall Budget Meeting will be held on Zoom via Saturday, November 14. If you are interested in participating as a lay delegate, please contact Pastor Caroline.

November/December 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.