



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
October 11, 2026***

ACCESS SUNDAY

*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 Pastor Greg Tre Harris

The Divine is our Shepherd. We want not. Not missing anything. Nothing holy, forgotten, or left out.

Created in love, We are one!

The world names us by what it believes we lack. The Divine always calls us whole. Our bodies, our minds, our spirits, created without hesitation, held without condition, beloved without exception.

Created differently, We are one!

One Band. One Body. Many members. One Sound. One Song. Many voices. One Truth. One Spirit. Many stories. No life stands alone. No gift exists apart from another.

Created creatively, We are one!

We are seen through the eyes of our neighbors. We are strengthened by one another's veracity. We are healed through interconnected compassion. What the world calls weakness, The Divine transforms into common union.

Our reality does not diminish. It binds us together, reveals Christ among us, and becomes the very place where grace is made known. Our collective vulnerability saves us all! Created in oneness, We are one!

***HYMN #562 (insert)**

"Take My Gifts"

***OPENING PRAYER**

written by Pastor Greg Tre Harris

Holy Divine, everything we need, at birth we have. Each gift. Each story. Each body. Each way of moving through the world. Nothing lost. Nothing missing. Nothing wrong. Nothing without purpose. Designed with divinity in mind. When the world teaches us otherwise, remind us that You have always called us whole. Our aches and pains are not evidence that Love abandoned us. They are reminders that we live, that we love and are loved, that Ruach is precious, and that the Divine has

remained by our side through it all. Our pain is our proof. As we gather in worship, help us recognize one another's abilities and disabilities, honor one another's truths and identities, and discover Your presence within our shared humanity. May we remember that what the world often overlooks, You have always called beloved. May our worship reveal Christ among us, Your grace be made known through us, and our collective vulnerability become a testimony to Your abiding love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:1-14

ANTHEM

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

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

TIME OF TESTIMONY

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**

written by Rev. Jacob Nault

God who loves us exactly as we are, thank you for this opportunity to celebrate the gifts of our disabled siblings. With these gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer, help us work with you to create a world where all your people can belong, and find peace in your presence. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who offers hope and liberation for all. Amen.

***HYMN #495 (insert)**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

written by Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Friends, as we leave this place, we leave to do THE work. The work of welcome, the work of inclusion; the work of journeying alongside each other; the work of meeting needs when and where we can; the work of resting; the work restoring those cast aside back to community; the work of setting tables and making sure that spaces at those tables are accessible to ALL; the work of making the road ahead a little easier to travel; the work of resting. Accompanied by grace and mercy, we have been called to and equipped for this work. May we do it with joy. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

Birthdays this week: 10/12 Scot Orndorff; 10/14 H. Mark Bard, Peggy Bryner, Rhonda Neff, and Wayne Scubelek; 10/16 Barbara Aveni, Mike Hoffeditz, Tena Keeney, and Rev. Bob Macfarlane; 10/18 Sarah Myers.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Susan Collier
Lector	Holli Burton
Children's Corner	MaryLee Yaukey
Media Coordinators	Chris Willman-Bunge and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in loving memory of my husband Karl Pound and our parents Claire and "Os" Pound and Rachel and Jacob Hoffeditz by Lynda Pound.



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

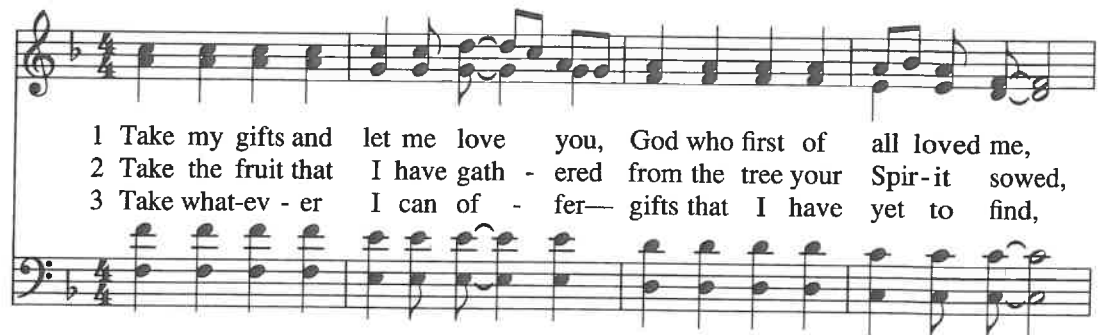
To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources: UCC Disabilities Ministry, Access Sunday 2026

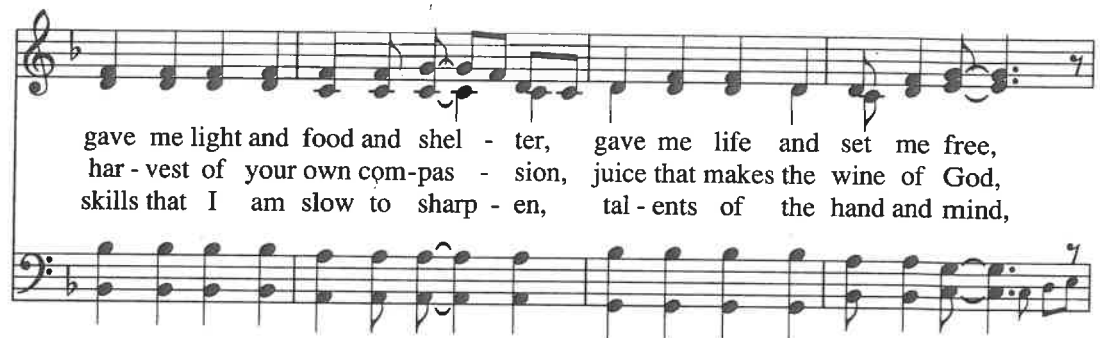
Take My Gifts

562

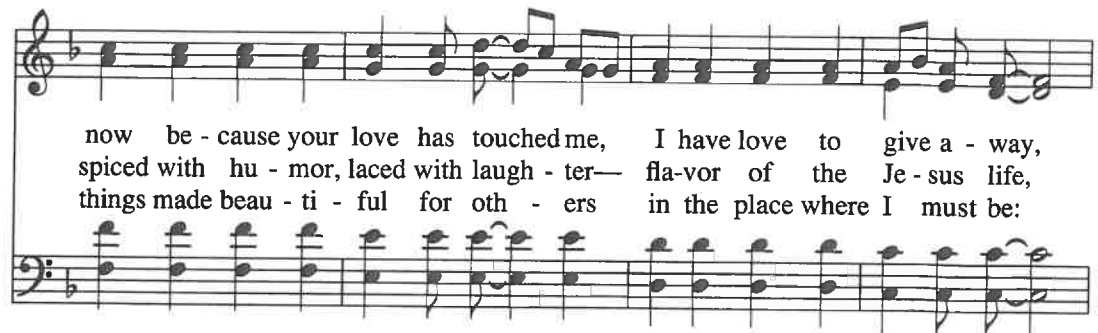
Shirley Erena Murray, 1991



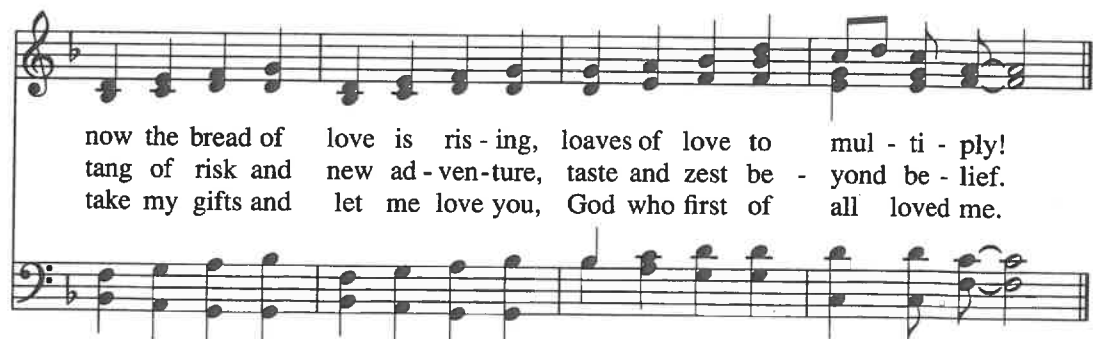
1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
 3 Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
 har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously." Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in nearby Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.

Colin Gibson, 1991

Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

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,

Continue

Creeds and Affirmations of Faith

Continued from]

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.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



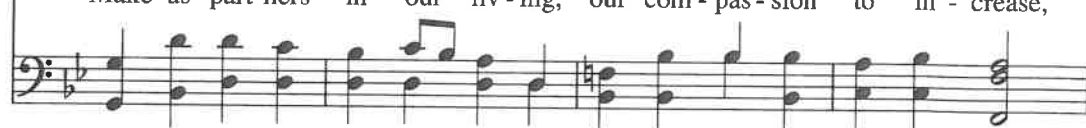
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



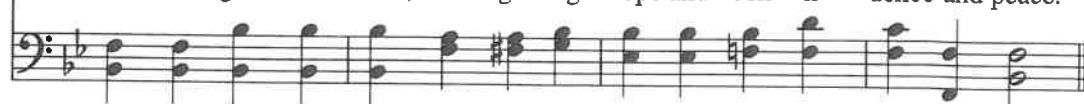

We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.




May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,




E - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368

NEWS IN THE PEWS October 11, 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:

12:00 pm Franklin County Pride Festival Held at Wilson College

No Bible Study; will resume on October 18

Monday, October 12

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 9) – Conference Room 111

7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 13

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 14

11:30 am Ladies Luncheon – Hoss's Steak and Sea House

Thursday, October 15

6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm Girl Scouts – Room 203

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Room 117

7:15 pm Choir Practice – Room 103

Sunday, October 18

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

11:15 am Chambers' Apothecary Immunizations – Parlor Room 104

2:00 pm CROP Hunger Walk held at Falling Spring Presbyterian Church

8:00 pm Bible Study on 1 Peter Chapter 1 – 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 begins on Monday, October 19. A sign-up sheet to help with the sale is at the Welcome Center.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will discuss Chapter 9 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" on Monday, October 12, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111.

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!

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.

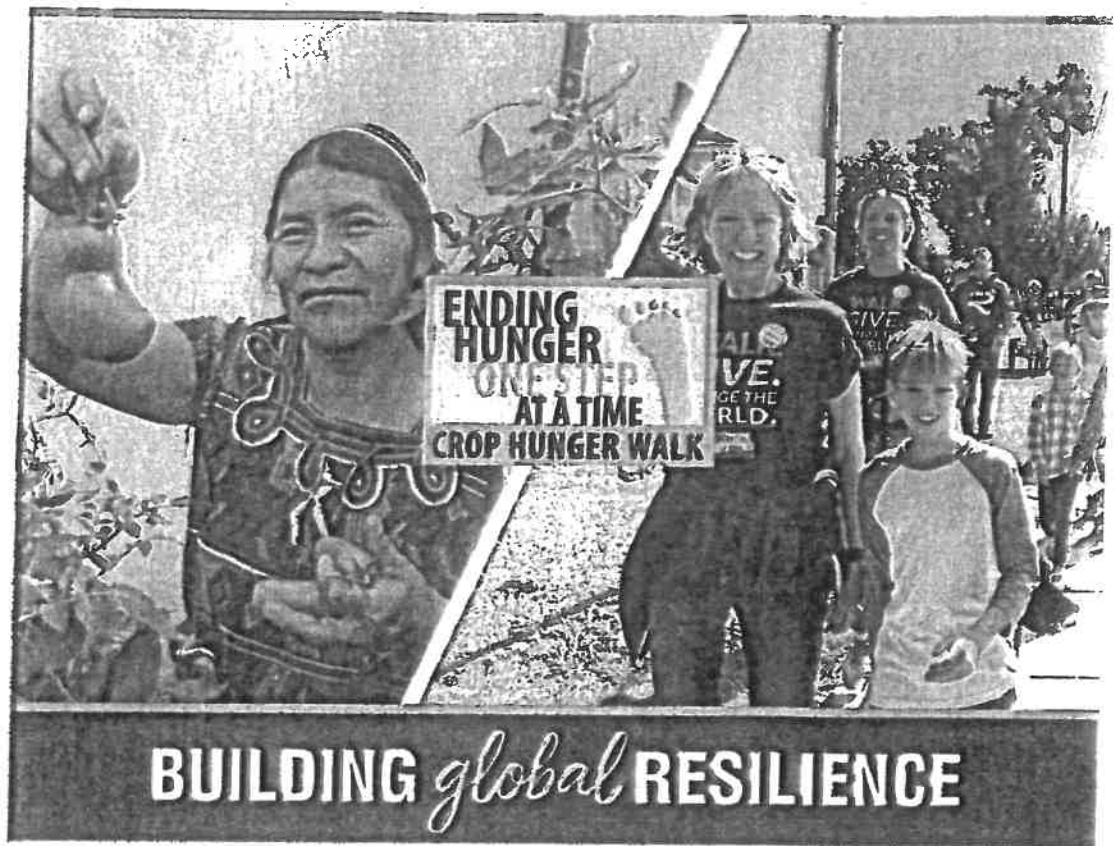
St. John's Pumpkin Patch Tea Thank you so much for all the wonderful help with the St. John's Pumpkin Patch Tea! We appreciate all who advertised, invited friends and attended the event. We also thank the set-up team (men & ladies), the prep workers, the kitchen help, the charming waiters, the dishwashers, 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 table chart! Plan to join us for our spring "Vintage Tea" Saturday, April 24, 2027.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month Help us recognize Pastor Caroline's ministry during the month of October by creating notes of encouragement and appreciation, then pinning them to the Tree of Appreciation located in the welcome center. Pre-cut Leaves will be provided at the welcome center, on which you may write your message. In addition, private cards and gifts may be mailed to or dropped off at the church office and will be presented to Caroline during a special Pastor Appreciation Sunday celebration during the worship service on Sunday, October 18, 2026.

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.

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.



2026 Chambersburg Crop Hunger Walk

Team: St. John's UCC Youth



888-CWS-CROP • CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG



WALK, GIVE, CHANGE THE world...

Do you long for connection? Do you feel that lately, even with all our technology, it's become more difficult to relate, to belong, and to connect with each other?

CROP Hunger Walks give you an opportunity not only to put your body in motion; but to connect with your community in a meaningful way and do something for our most vulnerable neighbors (both in our town and far away). As a community, it allows us to collectively embrace our caring human nature. Walking side by side, people from all walks of life—all ages, all faiths, all points of view—join efforts to make this world a more caring and safer place for everyone.

Walking encourages us to think about our neighbors who must walk for water, food, medical care or refugees who must walk to safety. Walking is an act of solidarity.

When you walk, give, and raise funds through CROP Hunger Walk, you are saving lives.



Five chickens for a family in Tanzania



A month of groceries for a refugee in Egypt



A biosand water filter for a family in Myanmar



A year of school supplies for a Roma child in Eastern Europe

These are just a few examples of sustainable ways to END POVERTY, all thanks to YOU.

The Jewish sages have taught us that when you save one life, you save the entire world. Join us—step up alongside our neighbors—here and across the globe—who are ready to save lives through thoughtful, long-lasting solutions to hunger. Join us for the CROP Hunger Walk.



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