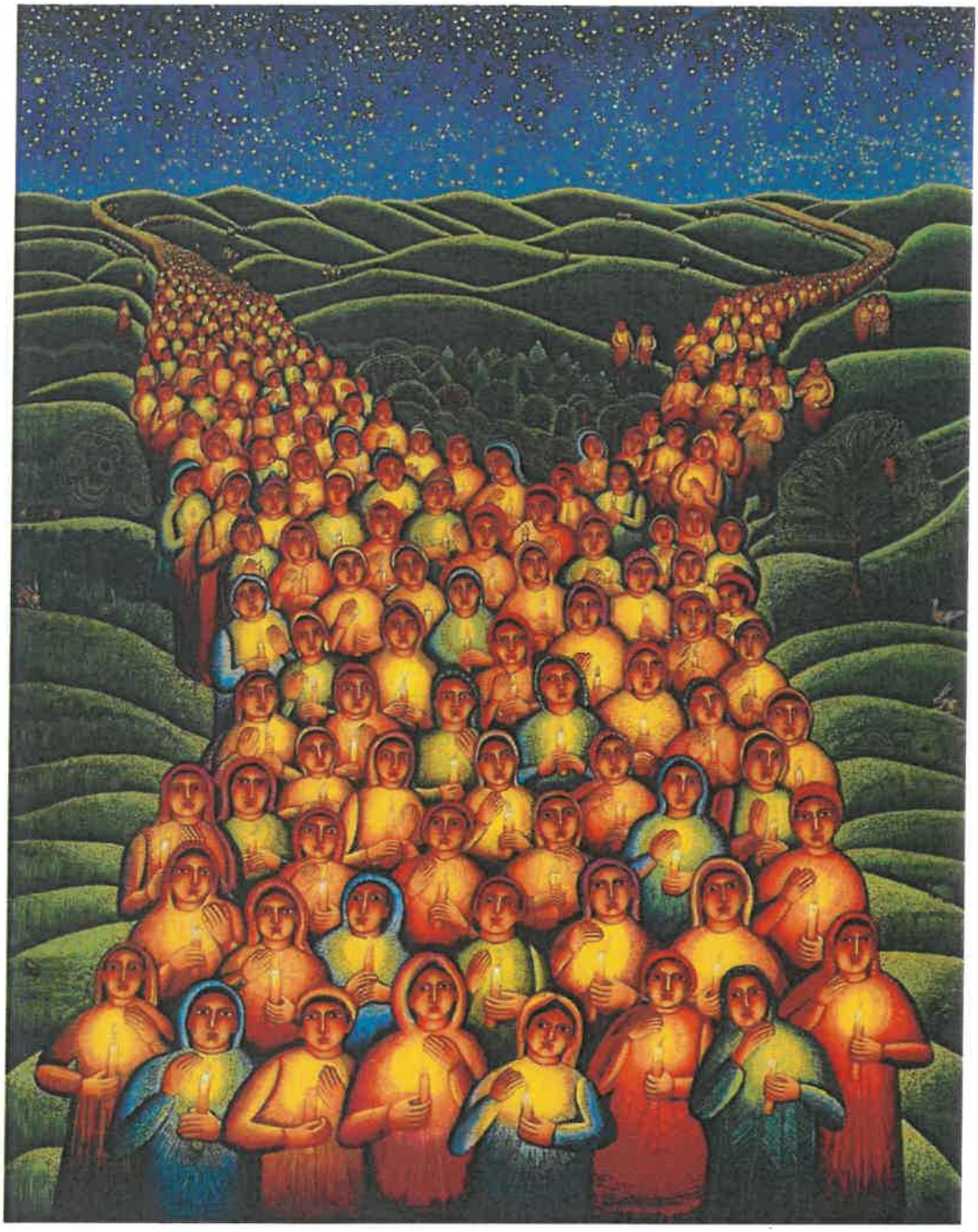


St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
November 22, 2026

SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES
REIGN OF CHRIST | TOTENFEST

*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** *adapted from the National Council of Churches USA*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.

Who publish peace, who bring good tidings,
who publish salvation, and proclaim, "Your God reigns!"

God will judge among many peoples,

And they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and nation shall not lift up sword against nation:
neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us lift up our voices and praise the God of peace and justice.

We lift our voices in prayer and song!

***HYMN #71** *"Be Thou My Vision"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised to receive us when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from the UCC Book of Worship*

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. **We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:13-16

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 100 (The Inclusive Bible)

Acclaim YHWH with joy, all the earth!

Serve YHWH with gladness! Enter into God's presence with a joyful song!

Know that YHWH is God! YHWH made us and we belong to the Creator; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise!

Give thanks to God! Bless God's name!

For YHWH is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

ANTHEM *"Open My Eyes, That I May See"* arr. Kurt Kaiser

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4

SERMON Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SERVICE OF TOTENFEST (insert)

HYMN #C-37 *"Jesus, I Live to Thee"*

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*

Holy God, you call us from every tribe, language, people, and nation to share in your everlasting kingdom. Bless these gifts that we offer that we may extend your blessing to others, in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #567** *"For All the Saints"*

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship after worship!

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available.

Birthdays this week: 11/27 Eileen Shaffer; 11/29 Ann Aldrich, Aydrion Barbour, and John Widmann Jr.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Susan Collier
Lector	Clyde Shiraki
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Mike Blumberg and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Festival of Lights" © Estate of John August Swanson, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of Harold and Dolores St. Clair from the St. Clair family.

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 adapted from the National Council of Churches USA
UCC Book of Worship
The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my true word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and Thou my high tower,
Thou and Thou on - ly first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
raise Thou me heaven-ward, O Power of my power.
High King of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Trad. Irish, tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905, vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912
MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. David Allen, 1986

SLANE
Irregular

Harm. © 1986 Word Music, LLC.

A Litany for Totenfest

Pastor: Blessed God, in the holy silence of these moments of Totenfest, our hearts and minds and souls are filled with gratitude for all your love and mercy shown to us in the course of our lifetimes.

People: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: We thank you for claiming us as your own in the waters of baptism.

People: Thanks be to God the Father!

Pastor: We thank you for nourishing us at your holy table.

People: Thanks be to God the Son!

Pastor: We thank you for moving us to affirm our faith in you as our Creator, in Christ as our redeemer, and in the Holy Spirit as our sustainer.

People: Thanks be to God the Spirit!

Pastor: We thank you for calling us into the church. We thank you for each other and for all our sisters and brothers and siblings everywhere who share with us in the Christian faith.

People: For together we are the Body of Christ and individually members of it.

Psalm 23 (unison)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Pastor: We thank you for those of this family of faith, friends and loved ones, who in the past year have traveled through the valley of the shadow of death to live with you in the realm of eternal life;

Carroll Glen Wright	*Emily Weatherholtz*	*Sandra Stamp*
Laura Trischel	*Norman "Jerry" Miller*	*Braylen Pawlus*
Earl Nitterhouse	*Joanne Shew*	*Michael Knepper*
Joyce Carolyn Gothe Gingrich	*Harold St. Clair*	*Dolores St. Clair*
Andrew Kisamore	*Margaretta Louise Kennedy*	*Holli Burton*
Dr. Ann Showan-Slade	*Kenneth Horn*	*Nina Widmann*

People: Thanks be to God for their lives among us!

Pastor: We thank you for all the men, women, and children who shared in the life of St. John's in the past, who helped shape our congregation, and who now cheer us on from the heavenly realms. (silence)

Pastor: We thank you for all the others who have touched our lives with the things of faith and hope and love, and who are also at home with you, whom we now remember in our hearts. (silence)

Pastor: We thank you for all those whose lives have been lost to violence and suicide, honoring their memory and renewing our commitment to building a church and world where all are welcome. (silence)

Pastor: We thank you for all those, unknown to us but known to you, who have brightened and enriched our world in which we live. (silence)

All: Gracious God, may the assurance of your love and the memory of those who have gone home to you brighten our days, energize our work and witness, and bring us at the last to the time and place where all your people shout together: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God reigns. Let us exult and rejoice and give God the glory!"

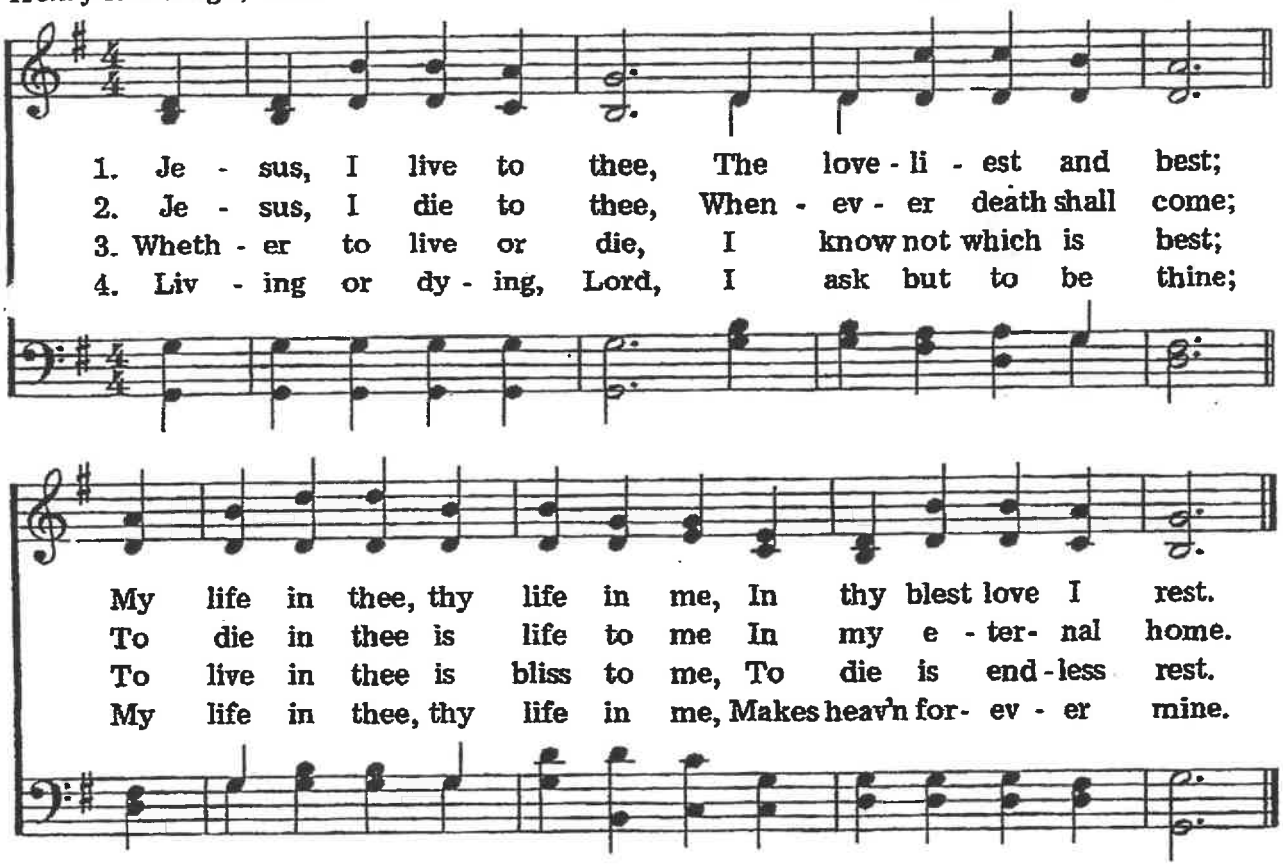
Carroll Glen Wright (December 27, 2025)	*Emily Weatherholtz (January 1, 2026)*
Sandra Stamp (January 12, 2026)	*Laura Trischel (January 23, 2026)*
Norman "Jerry" Miller (February 5, 2026)	*Braylen Pawlus (March 17, 2026)*
Earl Nitterhouse (March 19, 2026)	*Joanne Shew (March 24, 2026)*
Michael Knepper (April 16, 2026)	*Joyce Carolyn Gothe Gingrich (May 24, 2026)*
Harold St. Clair (May 21, 2026)	*Dolores St. Clair (July 31, 2026)*
Andrew Kisamore (August 31, 2026)	*Margaretta Louise Kennedy (September 6, 2026)*
Holli Burton (October 27, 2026)	*Dr. Ann Showan-Slade (October 30, 2026)*
Kenneth Horn (November 5, 2026)	*Nina Widmann (November 8, 2026)*

C-37

Jesus, I Live to Thee
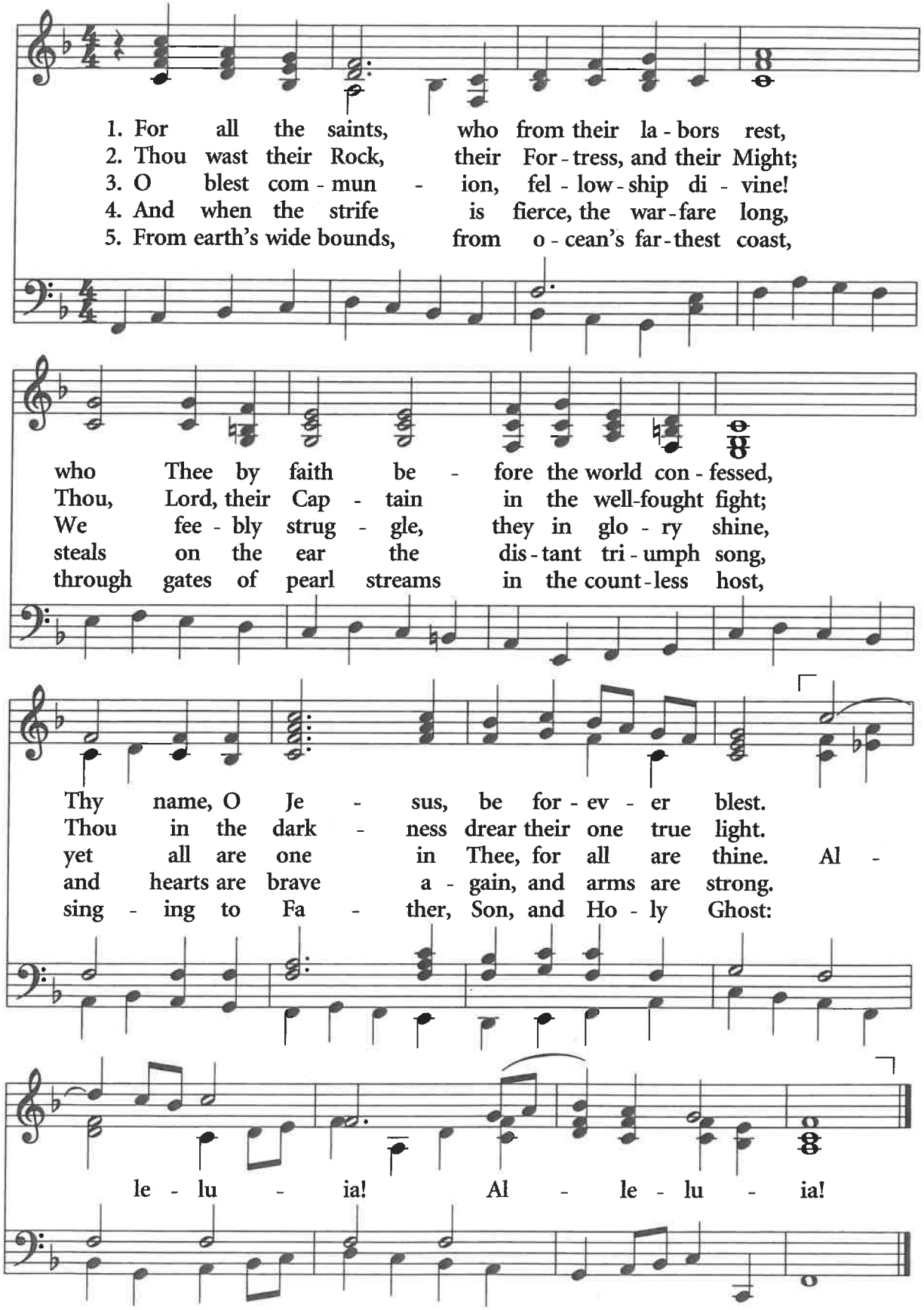
Rom. 14:8
Henry Harbaugh, 1850

LAKE ENON S.M.
Isaac B. Woodbury, 1856



567 For All the Saints

Unison



WORDS: William Walsham How, 1864 (Heb. 12:1)
MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

SINE NOMINE
10.10.10 with alleluias
Higher key, No. 481

NEWS IN THE PEWS November 22, 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:
8:00 pm Bible Study on 1 Peter Chapter 4

Monday, November 23
1:30 pm Book Study on "Good Soil" pages 85-100 - Conference Room 111
7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 24
5:30 pm Yoga - Room 202
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall/then break into smaller groups

Thursday, November 26
Church office is closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27
Church office is closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 29
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
NO Bible Study - will resume on December 6 with 1 Peter Chapter 5

Monday Afternoon Book Study We'll discuss p. 85-100 of Jeff Chu's "Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand" on Monday, November 23, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on **Sunday, November 22** at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the letter of 1 Peter Chapter 4. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

Bell Fest is Sunday, December 13, 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Join us for beautiful music featuring the hand bell choirs of SJUCC, First Lutheran, Park Avenue UMC, and Messiah UMC (Ship).

"A Thrill of Hope" Advent devotional booklets are now available to help enrich your spiritual life during this special season of preparation. A donation of $3 per booklet is suggested. Copies are at the Welcome Center, in the Narthex, and by request from the Church Office.

Staff Christmas Gift It is the tradition at St. John's United Church of Christ to have a special offering envelope designated for Christmas Gifts for Church Staff. Our staff are a true blessing to our church and if you want take part in this please submit this to the church office and in the MEMO line of your check be sure to say "Staff Christmas Gift". We need this by **Sunday, December 6, 2026** in order for our staff to receive this by Christmas. Thank you!

Winter Quarter First Fruits in November, December and January will go to support the Salvation Army Angel Tree, Hoffman Homes Holiday Gift Program, and "Operation Christmas Joy," an opportunity to make the holiday season brighter for the residents of Laurel Lakes Rehabilitation and Wellness Center. More information about each of these organizations and opportunities is included in the November Spirit. Thank you for your generosity in serving our neighbors and demonstrating God's love in action.

Christmas Cookies and Crafts on Saturday, December 5 from 9 am to 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. Buy homemade crafts and artwork to brighten your heart and home! Holiday treats to be sold by weight: Cookies $10/lb. and Candy $12/lb. Proceeds will benefit kinds in our community. Bring your baked goods to kitchen on December 4th from 6pm-8pm. Your crafts and artwork for sale should be priced and placed in Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center.

Mahjong Fridays come join us on Friday, December 4 and Friday, December 18 from 12pm-2pm in the Church Library. All you need is to have basic knowledge of Mahjong. If you would like to learn Mahjong, please call into the church office 717-263-8593 or email Kristen - assistant@sjucc1811.org to sign up for classes.

Blue Christmas This service aims to provide a space for quiet, contemplative worship for us to bring our sorrow, pain, or loneliness to a place where we can recognize that this holiday season can bring grief as well as joy, despair as well as hope. At Blue Christmas, we come where we can share our burdens, sadness, and fears, and gather courage to move onward and forward. The service aims to help us experience hope and healing in the midst of darkness. This year's Conococheague Mission Cooperative (CMC) Blue Christmas service will be Sunday, December 20, 3:00 pm here at St. John's UCC.

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 December 21.

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.

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.