

St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
November 15, 2026

MICAH

*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** *from enfleshed*

Listen! Listen for the voice of God, naming us all: Holy. Beloved. Cherished. Valued.

We believe you delight in us!

Make us people who recognize and proclaim your beauty and goodness in unexpected places.

Surprise us. Challenge us. Transform us.

We trust in you, Holy One, to reveal to us the sacredness of every life, of every way of being, of every physical manifestation of your Spirit.

May it be so!

***HYMN #687** *"Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"*

CALL TO CONFESSION *written by Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Fearing*

With hearts broken open to receive the grace of God, let us confess the ways our sin has hurt our relationships with each other and with God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *adapted from Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Fearing*

Gracious and Merciful God, you call us to bear fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We've spent much time wondering if these things still matter. We confess that we've been quick to ask these fruits of others but have not cultivated them for ourselves. Forgive our shortcomings and help us reflect the fruits that will heal this world. Help us to live by the Spirit and be guided by Her wisdom. This we pray in the holy name of your Beloved, Christ Jesus. Amen.

KYRIE Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE *adapted from Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Fearing*

Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord! God's mercies are from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

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

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 9:9-13

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 15 (The Inclusive Bible)

Who has the right to enter your tent, YHWH, or to live on your holy mountain?

Those who conduct themselves with integrity and work for justice, who speak the truth from their heart

and do not use their tongues for slander, who do not wrong their neighbors and cast no discredit on their friends,

who look with contempt on the corrupt but honor those who revere YHWH, who always keep their promises even when it hurts,

who don't demand interest on loans and cannot be bribed to exploit the innocent.

If people do these things, nothing can ever shake them.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"* Chris Tomlin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Roxanne Davenport

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

SCRIPTURE READING Micah 1:3-5; 5:2-5a; 6:6-8

SERMON Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

REAFFIRMATION OF COVENANT OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION (on screen)

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*

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.

***HYMN #389** *"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"*

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us after worship for the Fall Congregational Meeting!

Birthdays this week: 11/18 Judy Hodges and Beth Rensch.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Roxanne Davenport, Diana Kongkeattikul, Swann Kongkeattikul, Barb Motichka, Courtney Robertson, Chris Willman-Bunge
Deacon in Charge	Cathy Kinton
Lector	Erin Hartman
Children's Corner	Roxanne Davenport
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living" [Mother Jones] icon of Mother Jones © Kelly Latimore, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

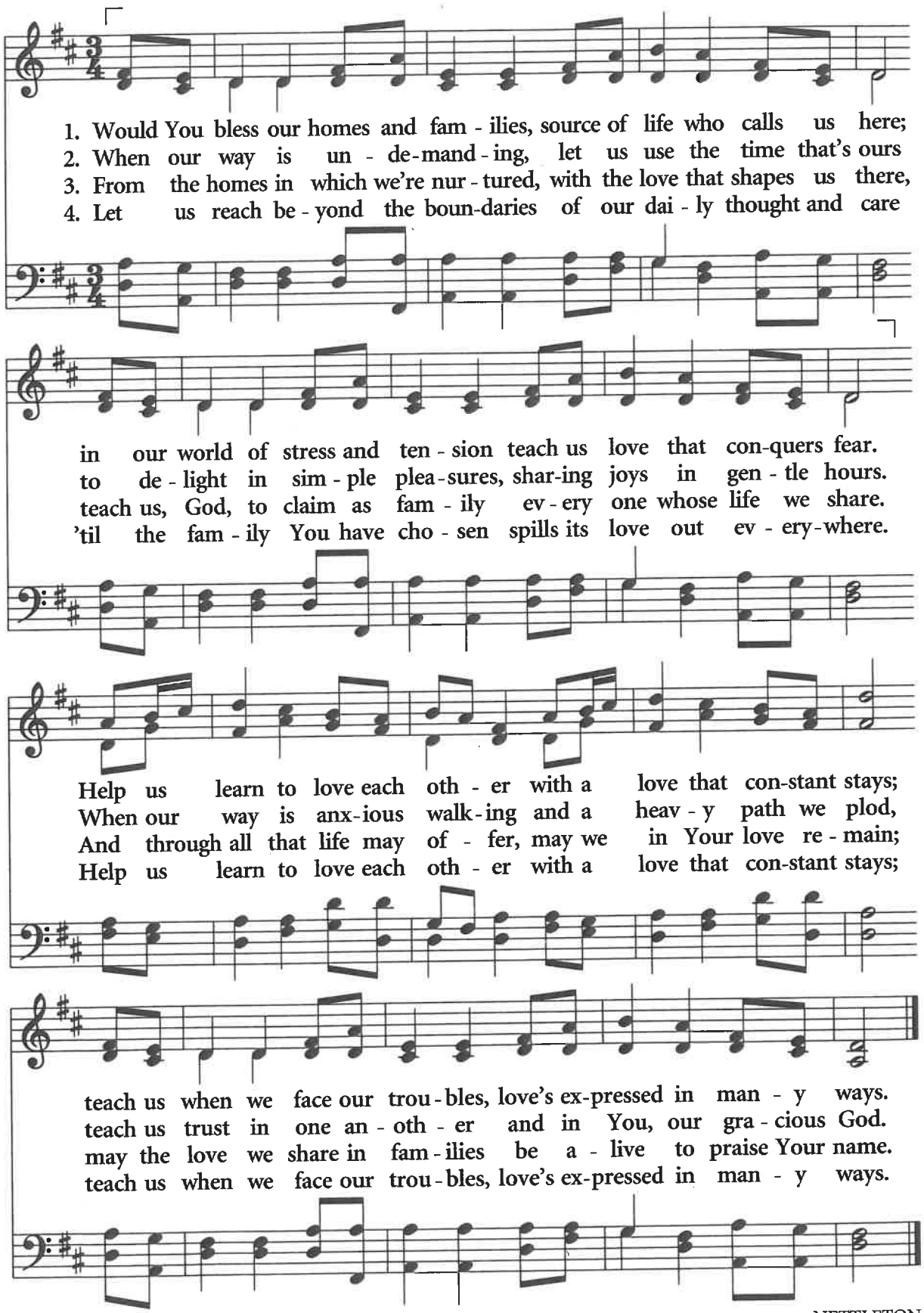
The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in loving memory of Albert and Evelyn Sites by their family.

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:
enfleshed: spiritual nourishment for collective liberation
Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Fearing
The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

687 Would You Bless Our Homes and Families



WORDS: Walter H. Farquharson, 1974
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second,* 1813

Words © 1974 Walter Farquharson

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Higher key, No. 295

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 389



WORDS: Ken Medema, 1973
MUSIC: Ken Medema, 1973

Words and Music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company

CHILDREN PRAYING
Irregular

NEWS IN THE PEWS November 15, 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 Nursery School Butcher Shoppe Fundraiser Sale after Worship
11:15 am Fall Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary
1:00 pm PEO Auction - Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm Mercersburg Association Fall Meeting held at St. Paul's UCC in Mechanicsburg
NO Bible Study on 1 Peter; will resume on 11/22

Monday, November 16
1:30 pm Book Study on "Good Soil" pages 55-82 - Conference Room 111
6:30 pm Bible and a Beer - Trojan Diner & Sports Bar
7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 17
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

Wednesday, November 18
6:30 pm Council Meeting - Conference Room 111

Thursday, November 19
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice - Room 117
6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Room 203
7:15 pm Choir Practice - Room 103

Saturday, November 21
9:00 am Fall Clean Up - Church Grounds

Sunday, November 22
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 (Totenfest)
8:00 pm Bible Study on 1 Peter Chapter 4 - Zoom via link from Friday's e-blast

Monday Afternoon Book Study We'll discuss pp. 55-82 of Jeff Chu's "Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand" on Monday, November 16, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on **Sunday, November 22** (we'll not meet on November 15) 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.

Totenfest will be Sunday, November 22, the last Sunday of the church year. We will remember with love and thanksgiving those members of our faith community who have died during the past year. We also wish to include the people in your lives who have transitioned to be with God since our last observance of Totenfest on November 23, 2025. Please contact Pastor Caroline by Monday, November 16, with the name of the person you wish to be remembered, along with their date of death, so that we can honor them during the service and in the bulletin.

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.

Fall Clean-Up of St. John's grounds is scheduled for Saturday, November 21 at 9:00 am (rain date is Saturday, November 28). Bring your favorite rake or use one from church's inventory!

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 November 16.

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.