

SJUNews *FLASH*

A weekly email to share important information
and to alert you to upcoming events.

Article submission deadline: Thursdays at NOON

www.sjuned.org
[SJU Facebook](#)
[SJU YouTube](#)
SJUColumbia@gmail.com
(best way to contact the office)

DECEMBER 30, 2022

***Reminder: have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion on January 1st.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 AM **LIVESTREAM FROM THE INTERFAITH CENTER**

Use this same link for EVERY SJU worship service!

[SJU Worship Service Livestream](#)

This worship service link is also posted on both our website and our Facebook page.

[SJU Website](#)

[SJU Facebook](#)

Our service also streams live on our Youtube page, beginning at 10:30 am.

[SJU YouTube](#)

We invite all persons back into worship on Sunday mornings at our 10:30 a.m. service in Room 4 of the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. We hope you have been able to receive all COVID vaccinations and boosters, and will assist you in doing so, if you wish. Guests are welcome to participate fully in the worship service prayers and singing. When COVID positivity rates and hospitalizations are increasing, we strongly encourage you to wear a mask and safely distance yourself at your comfort level.

However, we ask that you stay home and worship with us virtually via our livestream broadcast at <https://wildelakecenter.org/streaming-now/> if you or a member of your household:

- have any [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, loss of smell, shortness of breath;
- are awaiting COVID-19 test results;
- have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days; or
- have had [close contact](#) with a person who has tested positive for, or who has symptoms of, COVID-19 within the past 10 days.

We ask that if you have traveled where the COVID positivity rate is 10% or greater, you refrain from in-person worship for 5 days and/or have a negative rapid test result before returning to in-person events, regardless of the Maryland or Howard County COVID positivity rate. We recommend double masking or using the KN95 or N95 masks.

As of 12/28/22, the COVID-19 positivity rate for Howard County is 15.0%.

SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP – 7:00 PM – VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 835 8748 4349

Password: 940379

Join **online**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83587484349?pwd=MmhCampLL0tnMWhOc1hEWTBwQ29BQT09>

Or by **phone**: +1 301 715 8592 US

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

This Week in Your Prayers (your prayers are felt and make a difference!):

- Prayers for **Paul Broady**, recovering at home following a stay in the hospital.
- Lift up in prayer **Frances Nyorkor**, recuperating at home after two weeks in the hospital.
- Continued prayers for **Evelyn Chesnutt**, who is making progress at home in her recovery, and for general health.
- Prayers for **Evann Ridgeway**, continuing her recovery at home following a hospital stay.
- Please pray for **Angelo Farmer**, continuing his recovery at home following a hospital stay.
- Keep **Patsy Nwagbaraocha** and her family in your prayers as she prepares for the memorial service for her sister Marsha Coleman on Dec. 30th.
- Also, please continue your prayers for Mrs. **Jean Gibson, Pamela Love's mother**, for general health and strength.
- Keep in your prayers **Lynn Pakulla**, who is making good progress at Lorien Encore and expecting to go home on December 30th.
- Pray for **Robert Gordon** and family, as his mother, **Patricia Gordon**, was taken to her final resting place alongside her husband and eldest son in New York on December 28th.
- We ask for general prayers of recovery for our member at Charlestown, **Maxine Behling**.
- Our hearts and voices join in prayer for the **people of the Ukraine** and all who are experiencing fear and violence as a result of a conflict with Russia.
- Pray for our **church worldwide, pray for SJU and its leaders and members**, pray for one another, our neighbors, and for yourself and often. Pray for what burdens your heart and mind for the world, our nation and our neighborhood.

Prayer Group Ministry: Anyone in the church may submit a prayer concern to a group prayer chain. Contact Judy Miller (quiltjudy@gmail.com), or Evelyn Chesnutt (lchesnutt@icloud.com). If you would like to be part of the Prayer Group Ministry, also contact Judy or Evelyn and let them know so they can add you to the distribution.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO LEADERSHIP?

This is the season where SJU looks to identify, pray for and receive leaders for 2023 and beyond. This year, there are openings on the:

- SJU Church Council - the central decision-making body of the church;
- Staff Parish Relations Committee/team - the team relating to the pastor and staff for goals, accountability, and our shared life with one another in the Interfaith Center; and
- Nominations and Personnel Team/Committee on Lay Leadership - the team that identifies and calls people to leadership and service in support of equipping the church.

If you are being called to serve in any capacity, or want more information about these opportunities, please contact Pastor Mary Ka by January 10th. If you receive a call asking you to serve, please give it your prayerful consideration. This is a challenging and rewarding season for SJU and we are looking to assemble a team of motivated, faith-full, and hopeful persons to lead the church into 2023 and beyond.

Many thanks in advance for your open hearts and minds,
Mary Ka

Dear SJU faith family and friends,

Thank you very much for your kindness, generosity and support of our ministries and gifts. It continues to be a joy to embrace the call from God to serve and lead St. John United and our community. Your generous love offering to us is greatly appreciated and will support our lives and continuing call to be with you in ministry. We are all looking forward to the hopes that come with a new year and continuing this journey of faith and life together, by grace, through faith in Christ and what God can do!

Many thanks for being a blessing to all of us, and deep joy to all,

Patty Hammer, Ingrid Sampson, Yvonne Barner and Mary Ka Kanahan

NEXT CHRISTIAN APPLICATIONS CLASS BEGINS JANUARY 8

The Christian Applications class will begin to discuss The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., on Sunday, January 8. According to one review, this book “takes us on a journey spanning more than five centuries, from the intersection of Christianity and the transatlantic slave trade to today’s political landscape. At road’s end, and after Gates’s distinctive meditation on the churches of his childhood, we emerge with a new understanding of the importance of African American religion to the larger national narrative”. Dr. Gates is a MacArthur Fellow and Harvard professor. He has published many books and even hosted the TV series "Finding Your Roots" on PBS.

The Christian Applications class meets by Zoom at 8:30 am every Sunday morning. To receive the Zoom link and be included, contact Al Holm (AlbertHolm@hotmail.com).

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-RACISM TEAM

Here are a few offerings from the Anti-Racism group:

As we approach MLK's birthday in January, as well as Black History Month in February, please plan to visit a museum in our neighborhood:

Howard County Center of African American Culture

5434 Vantage Point Rd., Columbia, Md 21044
410-715-1921

PBS special: a must see “Let the Little light shine.” Below is an overview.

National Teachers Academy (NTA) is considered a beacon for Black children: a top-ranked, high-performing elementary school in the fastest growing neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. As the neighborhood gentrifies, a wealthy parents’ group seeks to close NTA and replace it with a high school campus. How will NTA's community fight to save their beloved institution?

Debra Snow

GOT JOKES?

Jean Weller

December 29, 2022

“Well, What a Surprise! Paul’s last JOKE was sent out to our group as a response to the wonderful Christmas Greeting from our devoted Sundays at Seven member Roy Ferguson. We decided to make it the final one of this Season and start a new contest in January! We had so many Ties for winners. The joke for this week was “*The more you do them, the more you leave behind! What are they?*” We had only one responder, **Guy Moody**, who guessed almost right by saying “Steps” then “Forward Steps”. The real answer is “Footsteps”!!!! He gets a win for it. We believe The all-time Prize Winner IS (*drum roll please*) **RICH PARKER**. The runners up were: Pastor Mary Ka, CJ Buche, and anyone else who believes they ran-up!!!! We think Rich must know the same Joke Radio station our feeder is getting these from!!! **The Prize will be awarded on Sunday-we hope!!! Congratulations Rich!!!**”

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

The “In The Loop” Ministry group is reprising its Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. contest this January, and broadening the scope to include dance, prose, dramatic presentation, painting, drawing, and sculpture. This year's theme is: *How MLK’s life exhibited the principles of Mathew 25: Dismantling structural racism, Eradicating systemic poverty.*

The performance takes place on January 15th, but anyone wishing to enter should check the rules and submit their material before January 8th. [Visit our website for complete rules and an application.](#)

NEWS FROM HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Hopping to a New Year: The Lunar New Year is a momentous holiday marked by community, family, and beautiful traditions. It is a celebration of shared history and culture, highlighting that diversity is our strength. After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, I’m excited to once again host our annual Lunar New Year celebration in person on **January 21st, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Mall in Columbia**. Join us for a spectacular showcase as we ring in the Year of the Rabbit, featuring special performances and guests.

OMI ART EXHIBITION RETURNS

March 4 through June 3, 2023

Calling all Oakland Mills Interfaith artists! It’s been 5 years since The Meeting House Gallery mounted an OMI art exhibition. INTERLUDE will feature works by artists affiliated with the congregations and long-term tenants of Oakland Mills Interfaith Center and Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. This is an opportunity for professional and amateur artists to display and sell their work. All media that can be hung on walls or placed in the display cases are welcome. Submissions will be accepted through **January 31, 2023**.

Download or request an OMI Art Exhibition Submission Packet (see below). Submit it by email to themeetinghousegallery@gmail.com or by mail to:

The Meeting House Gallery, 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

If you have any questions, contact The Meeting House Gallery at themeetinghousegallery@gmail.com.

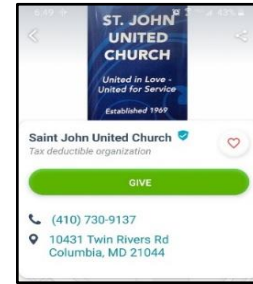
YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!

Please continue helping us meet our need so that all of our ministries and missions can continue and be prepared for the fullness of service in the coming months. Here's how you can help:

Donate through GIVELIFY.

With Givelify, you have two options:

1. Download the GIVELIFY app (iphone or android), search for us by name (Saint John United Church) or phone number (410-730-9137), and follow the steps, or
2. Donate online through this link: [Donate Today](#) and search for us as explained above.



Donate through our Vanco payments processor.

With Vanco, you also have TWO options:

1. donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/SJU-online-donations> or
2. donate by phone at 800-675-7430. Vanco's Client Services team will take your donations over the phone.

Donate by mail. Yvonne checks the mail for contributions, and makes weekly deposits.

Make your check payable to ST. JOHN UNITED, and mail it (with or without including your contribution envelope) to:
St John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd, Columbia MD 21044

Donate through your bank or credit union. Set up St. John United Church as you would any other bill through your bank's bill payment option.

DIRECTED DONATIONS

At this time, the Finance/Investment team asks that you please do not designate or direct your contributions to SJU toward a specific ministry unless asked. When SJU is aware that specialized ministries need funding, that need will be publicized in advance, and solicited for a specific time and use. The elected leaders of the Church Council are in continual discernment to guide all of SJU's human, financial and spiritual resources in responsible and impactful ways, for the transformation of the world.

ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

From Your Congregational Care Committee

With the current steps to re-entry, the Congregational Care Committee no longer sees a need for the Caring/Sharing Help list to appear every week in the SJU News FLASH. Therefore, if anyone wishes to request any of the following services (transportation, errands, or computer help), they should contact: Evann Ridgeway (evann9@comcast.net) or Andrea Barnes (awbarnes00@aol.com)

From Columbia Community Care

SPECIAL NOTE:

Thanks to your generosity and the generosity of residents of Howard County the total number and selection of many non-perishable items has exceeded all expectations especially in areas such as canned goods.

For more information, see photo. →

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CARE

(as of May 2022)

Currently there is an excess of items such as:

- Canned soups (all types)
- Canned green beans
- Canned potatoes
- Mac and cheese
- Ramen noodles

When making donations at the WLIFC it is requested that donors consider the following items which are in high demand:

- personal care items such as:
 - toothpaste
 - shampoo
 - bars of bath soap
 - baby diapers
 - baby wipes
 - sanitary napkins (rather than tampons)
- canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste (rather than jars and cans of spaghetti sauce)
- pasta, spaghetti (not macaroni and cheese products)
- canned meats including tuna, chicken, corned beef, ham, Spam, Vienna Sausages, canned salmon
- sugar, flour, masa, rice, cooking oil
- household items such as paper towels and toilet paper

Please Note:
At WLIFC we are only collecting non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items for Columbia Community Care. We do not collect clothing, bedding, kitchen appliances, toys, medical supplies, books, magazines, mail, or other printed materials (cards and stationery). We also cannot collect food items that require refrigeration as there is no refrigeration available. These items may remain outside for a day or more creating problems with spoilage and contamination of other items placed in the totes.

Please do not leave home-made food items in the collection totes. Food items that are not properly packaged and placed in the closed totes may be consumed by animals.

Financial contributions are welcome by CCC and may be made directly through the CCC Facebook site or at <http://columbiacare.live>

The Columbia Community Care always needs volunteers to assist in distributing materials at the three pantries. Volunteers can assist in setting up the sites, sorting and working at distribution tables, or breaking down the site. See the CCC Facebook site for more information on how to volunteer.

Thanks to all for your generosity! Regards, Brad and Margaret Hunt

For current information on Columbia Community Care go to: [Columbia Community Care on Facebook](#) or <http://columbiacare.live>

How YOU Can Find the Daily COVID-19 Positivity Rate for Howard County

Here is the link to the website:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19#cases-dashboard>

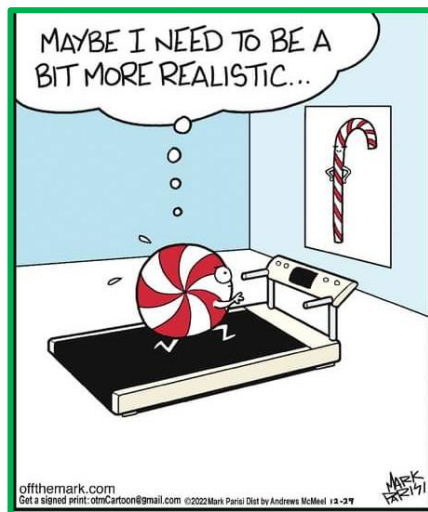
You can get the date for the latest shown positivity rate on the screen by hovering the mouse over the end of the line in the Positivity Rate graph to see the "as of" date.



IT'S GOODBYE, 2022!



AND HEY, IT'S 2023!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 8

All meetings are via Zoom unless otherwise noted;

links to any open meetings are in this issue

All meetings are open to the members and affiliates of SJU unless otherwise noted. Members are encouraged to connect, be engaged and invested in the life and leadership of this Body of Christ, the church! Contact SJUColumbia@gmail.com if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 1/1	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (Scheduled liturgist: Andrew Love)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Wed, 1/4	10:00 am	WEBSITE TEAM
	2:00 pm	CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE
Thu, 1/5	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sun, 1/8	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (Scheduled liturgist: TBA)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

SJU OFFICE IS CLOSED ON MONDAY, 1/2.

Pastoral Care: Self-Care in the Pandemic: Pastoral Care, Coaching and Spiritual Direction for Individuals or Households. Rev. Kanahan, a trained IFC Coach and Spiritual Director, is here to offer Pastoral Care, Coaching and Spiritual direction during this time. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 am or 6-8 pm. All 50-minute appointments and interactions are confidential and customized for your needs. She is willing to listen, encourage, pray or offer resources according to your request. Schedule your self-care consult by contacting her at: pastorkanahansju@gmail.com or 410-428-8090.

ADMIN OFFICE AND PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS: Yvonne is in the office for a few hours ONCE A WEEK, normally on Thursdays, and Pastor Mary Ka is in as needed each week. Because it might be several days before they can retrieve phone messages, please send them an email with any questions you have, for help you may need, or to make an in-office appointment.

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

PastorKanahanSJU@gmail.com

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