

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)

MARCH 17, 2023

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 3/16/23, the COVID-19 positivity rate for Howard County is 5.3%.

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!):

- Continue to pray for **Judy Miller**, still recuperating from her bout with pneumonia. Visits are still not the best form of support for now, but cards, email, phone/texts are welcome. 719 Maiden Choice La BR341, Catonsville MD 21228; quiltjudy@gmail.com; 443-833-3687.
- Please continue to pray for **Angelo Farmer**, living with late-stage pancreatic cancer. His wife, Sheryl, is very appreciative of the care, cards, and prayers of support they have received. Cards may be sent to: Angelo Farmer, 5861 Harpers Farm Road, Columbia, MD 21044. You can send text messages to: 443-832-8378.
- Keep former founding member **Trudy Snope** in your prayers, whose husband, **Andy**, died on Jan 21. The memorial service on **Saturday, March 25**, begins with a viewing period at 10:30 am and the service at 11:00 am in Room 4. A reception in the foyer café area immediately follows the service. Trudy's address: 11022 Thistle Brook Ct Columbia, MD 21044.
[Andrew Snope Obituary \(1939 - 2023\) - Ellicott City, MD - Baltimore Sun \(legacy.com\)](#)
- Also, please continue your prayers for Mrs. **Jean Gibson, Pamela Love's mother**, for general health and strength. She is at home now.
- Our hearts and voices continue to 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, and all around the world who are **affected by recent natural disasters**.
- 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.

A SEASON OF SPECIAL GIVING

During Lent, we are asking you to make a special gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

OGHS: For many years our Palm Sunday special offering has supported “One Great Hour of Sharing” (OGHS). This is a great way to help both Presbyterian and Methodist agencies aid Ukrainians, other refugees and victims of disasters. We will welcome your additional gifts for that purpose **from Sunday, April 2 through Thursday, April 13.**

In addition to your checks, **with OGHS on the memo line**, we will add an option to support these ministries through Givelify during these weeks.

UMCOR SUNDAY (UM)



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

PC(USA)

“LIKE” SJU’S FACEBOOK POSTS



As your Communications Team works to “ramp up” SJU’s presence on various social media outlets, we’re asking you to help in one small way, if you can: go to the **SJU Facebook** page and “like” our weekly worship service posts there. Your “likes” help improve our position on search engines. Thank you! [SJU Facebook](#)

NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM

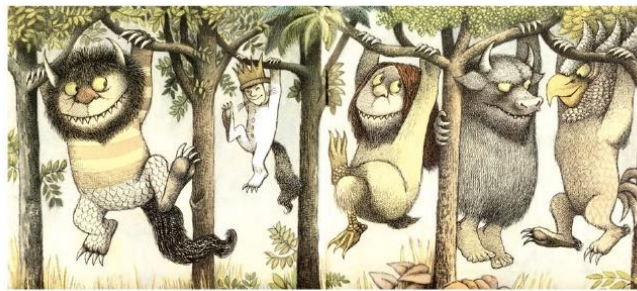
**Readers are still needed for Guest Reader Day.
Please sign up at the link in the description. Thanks.**

You are cordially invited to
Bryant Woods Elementary School
for our annual
Guest Reader Day
on
Wednesday March 29, 2023

We would love for you to come to our school to read to a class of your choice for a 20-30-minute time frame between 9 and 2:30! Please sign up [here](#) if you can join us!

📖❤️ The BWES Reading Team 📖❤️

"Inside all of us is a Wild Thing"



"And Max, the king of all wild things, was lonely and wanted to be where someone loved him best of all."

Maurice Sendak

Bryant Woods Elementary School
5450 Blue Heron Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

KNIT FOR FOOD KNIT-A-THON

Ingrid Sampson

I'm excited to share that I am participating in the 3rd annual Knit for Food Knit-a-thon on March 26, 2023! I'll be knitting for 12 hours straight to raise money for four organizations that work to combat food scarcity and hunger. 100% of the dollars raised will be split equally between Feeding America, No Kid Hungry, World Central Kitchen, and Meals on Wheels. Will you support me in this effort, by making a one-time donation to the campaign? Here's a link to donate! Thank you so much!

<https://givebutter.com/knitforfood23/ingridsampson>

[A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!](#)

Yvonne Barner

My husband Felton and I want to thank everyone who sent cards and spoke to us directly to express your condolences on the death of his sister Celestine. It was deeply appreciated and comforting. Thank you, SJU family!

[MEMBER NEWS](#)

From Jean Weller

Jean Weller shares the information below provided by the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. For details, click on the highlighted links:

Support SB129 - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense: [SB129](#) is one of the bills on our [2023 Agenda](#) and has passed out of the [Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee](#)! The bill now moves for the full Senate for a vote. **We need you to contact YOUR STATE SENATOR TODAY and urge that they support SB129.** To look up who represents you in the Maryland Senate, [click here](#).

[FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE](#)

[Read the E-Connection](#) to learn what's happening in, around and beyond the Baltimore-Washington Conference. And, if you have not already done so, [subscribe to receive](#) the weekly e-newsletter.

[HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM PRESENTS:](#)

March 27: Author Works: Nyani Nkrumah – Wade in the Water (Miller Branch)

Resonant with the emotional urgency of Alice Walker's classic Meridian and the poignant charm of Sue Monk Kidd's The Secret Life of Bees, a gripping debut novel of female power and vulnerability, race, and class that explores the unlikely friendship between a precocious black girl and a mysterious white woman in a small Mississippi town in the early 1980s. Register here: [Wade in the Water](#)

[NEWS FROM HOWARD COUNTY](#)

A Treasured Piece of History: In 1949, The Harriet Tubman School opened as the only all-black high school in Howard County and was utilized by the Public School system for over 50 years. Over the last four years, the school has seen record investment and now serves as a historic, educational and cultural space. Our investments reflect our commitment to learning from our past and creating an even brighter future, full of more opportunity for all. As we honor the legacy left behind by Harriet Tubman, go here for a virtual tour inside the facility that continues to stand as a beacon of unity in our community:

[Harriet Tubman Center](#)

Highest in 11 Years: One of Howard County's greatest assets is our exceptional school system. Our HCPSS Class of 2022 achieved a 94.6% graduation rate – which is the highest in 11 years. Read more [here](#).

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

Make your check payable to **ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**, 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.

Starting now through April 13th, AARP and the IRS will be offering FREE personal Federal and Maryland income tax preparation at 50+ Centers throughout the county.

Appointments will be available on the following days, times and 50+ Center locations:

- Bain 50+ Center – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9AM to 2PM
- East Columbia 50+ Center – Tuesday, 2 to 6PM and Thursday, 1 to 6PM
- Elridge 50+ Center – Wednesday, 10AM to 4PM
- Ellicott City 50+ Center – Monday and Friday, 9AM to 3PM
- Glenwood 50+ Center – Monday and Thursday, 9AM to 2PM
- North Laurel 50+ Center – Tuesday and Thursday, 11AM to 4PM

To schedule a tax prep appointment, please call 443-741-2373; do NOT call the 50+ Center directly.

All preparers and volunteers have received IRS-approved training and are certified in tax preparation.

AARP Income Tax Preparation Appointments Now Available at a 50+ Center Near You

Now through April 13th, AARP and the IRS are offering FREE personal Federal and Maryland income tax preparation at our 50+ centers across the county. Offered by appointment only, this service is available to middle- and low-income taxpayers with special emphasis on those 60 and older. Self-employment returns with more than \$5,000 in expenses and complex returns are not eligible for this service. Also, please keep in mind, each appointment is for one single or joint return. Go here:

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.



HEY! IT'S 2023!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MARCH 19 – MARCH 26

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, 3/19	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (Liturgist: Gayelle Sama)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Mon, 3/20	7:00 pm	COUNCIL MEETING
Thu, 3/23	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM & CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sat, 3/25	9:00 am	SJU MEN'S GROUP
	11:00 am	MEMORIAL SERVICE: ANDY SNOPE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>)
Sun, 3/26	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (Scheduled liturgist: Edna Quoie)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

Palm Sunday: April 2
Maundy Thursday: April 6
Easter: April 9

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.

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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Facebook: [SJU Facebook](#)

YouTube: [SJU YouTube](#)

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