

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)

AUGUST 18, 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.

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

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.

**Weekly deadline for submitting SJUNews *FLASH* articles
is Thursday by 12 NOON.**

**Send via email to SJUColumbia@gmail.com
Please include "FOR THE FLASH" in your subject heading.**

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Please pray for **Izetta Cooper** who had a fall and was hospitalized. She is recuperating at home.
 - And keep **Dave Douds** in our prayers, who also fell and was hospitalized. Dave is recuperating at the Rehab Center on the campus of Charlestown Retirement Community.
 - 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.
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NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM

Thank you for your **generous donations of school supplies** to Bryant Woods Elementary: the church donated over a hundred composition books, almost a thousand pencils, dozens of rulers, hundreds of glue sticks, dozens of spiral notebooks, and lots of other supplies as well (rulers, erasers, sandwich bags, gallon bags, markers and more).



In addition, on August 11th the church had its **annual gardening day** at the school. Here are some pictures of the work as it happened, starting with the donated supplies being picked up at Frank's Produce and Greenhouses.

Picking up from Frank's.



Alvin Thompson & Principal Danielle Shanks are hard at work!

*TA-DA!!
Nicely done!*



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Every one of **YOU** helped to make **Hero Hotline VBS** an **INCREDIBLE** week of fun and learning!! According to the kids, it was "TOO SHORT!"

18 kids from 11 families and more than **17 volunteers** had an **AWESOME** time at Hero Hotline VBS! In addition to the 18 kids, we had two "Pre-VBS" youngsters who sang and danced with us in the Super Hero Cave. We look forward to them joining their older siblings for future VBS events!

We enjoyed **Bible Stories** about God's Wonder Women and the Magnificent Magi; **Experimented** with soda cans, bubbles, and ice; **Crafted** Air Clay Super Heroes, Picture Frames, and Mosaics; **Played games** with turkey basters and parachutes; and **Munched** on "Fig trees," "Power lifters," and "Campfires!" We learned about **Everyday Heroes** including Governor Wes Moore, Erika Chavarria, Vice President Kamala Harris, Dr. Lisa Cooper, and James Rouse. Our Mission Project demonstrated how we can be Heroes by assembling "Blessing Boxes" for kids arriving at [Hope Works](#).

Click [2023 VBS](#) to see pictures of how much fun we had!

Everyone who helped plan, led a VBS station, shepherded a small group, made copies, checked kids in/out, donated items, drove to pick up decorations, loaned items, printed materials, took photos and videos, extended an invitation to participate or to volunteer (we had **THREE** new families and **SEVEN** new volunteers), posted on the website (at least one family found us online), or prayed for us had a part in making this **AMAZING** week happen.

We are truly thankful for the way that **God blessed the kids, their families, and all of SJU** through VBS! We look forward to even more adventures in 2024!



With full and grateful hearts,

The VBS Team



SAVE THE DATE

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Mark Your Calendar for
St. John United Church
Fall Brunch and Summit

Saturday, September 9, 2023
9:30 am – 11:30 am
Room 4

- Join SJU Leadership for:
- Review of Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Results
 - Connection and Conversation
 - Commitment to Action

Mark your calendars for
Sunday, August 27, 2023
and join

St. John United Church

<https://sjunited.org/>

for our special back-to-school service for
Blessing of the Backpacks!



All students, teachers, administrators and even those going to the office, bring your backpacks, briefcases, computer bags, etc. to be blessed.

Let's come out and encourage everyone to have a great year!

August 27th 10:30 am

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center

10431 Twin Rivers Rd

Columbia, Maryland

DENOMINATION NEWS

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Aug. 26-27—60th Celebration Anniversary of the March on Washington

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington, the Caucus of African American Leaders (CAAL) is planning a two-day event Saturday, August 26, and Sunday, August 27. Events include a March Reenactment, Youth Program, and Mural Presentation on Saturday, and an Activation Sunday and Worship Service on Sunday. [Learn More Here](#).

Mission Center & District Office: The BWC Mission Center is closed every Friday through September 1.

[Read current and back issues of the e-Connection](#) to learn what's happening across the Baltimore-Washington Conference or [subscribe](#) to the weekly e-newsletter

Presbytery of Baltimore

[Saturday September 16, 2023](#) – 900th Meeting of Presbytery! – In-person at Mt. Paran Presbyterian, 10 am – 2 pm

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM PRESENTS:

Browse the HCLS Youtube Channel to explore a wide range of engaging on-demand classes, tutorials, book recommendations and more!

HCLS Youtube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/howardcountylibrary>

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 dep

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.

ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Music The popular concert series, Amped in the Park, features jam rock group [Better Off Dead](#) on Aug. 31 and Go-Go band [Rare Essence](#) on Sept. 6. The music starts at 7 p.m. at Color Burst Park, Merriweather District, Downtown Columbia. Register [here](#).

More Music The [Columbia Association](#) continues its free [Lakefront Live](#) Headliner events with [Ramona](#) on Thursday, Aug. 23, 7-9:30 p.m. The band called its offering "romantic psychedelic rock." Offshore will provide curated food and beverages for sale to attendees.

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 (updated on 5/8/23), go here: <https://sjunited.org/new-to-sju/>

HEY! IT'S 2023!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 20 – AUGUST 27

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, 8/20	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (Liturgist: Carole Thompson)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Mon, 8/21	7:00 pm	COUNCIL
Tue, 8/22	7:00 pm	BWES TEAM
Thu, 8/24	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sat, 8/26	9:00 am	MEN'S GROUP
Sun, 8/27	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (Scheduled liturgist: Alvin Thompson)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

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.

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