

# SJUNews \*FLASH\*

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

**Article submission deadline: Thursdays at NOON**

[www.sjuinted.org](http://www.sjuinted.org)

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

[SJUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

(best way to contact the office)

**DECEMBER 8, 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

## **WHAT DO THE ADVENT CANDLES MEAN?**

“Ask The UMC”, a ministry of United Methodist Communications, explains why Christians do this and what it means.

### **ADVENT CANDLES**



## PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Keep **Roy Ferguson** in your prayers, who recently suffered a medical incident. He is home and is following up with his doctor. Please pray for his care, comfort and recovery.
- Please continue to pray for the **Becker** family on their healing from the death of **Bill Becker** on November 19<sup>th</sup>. His memorial service is scheduled for Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at SJU. The family will receive visitors at 10:30 am, and a light repast immediately follows the service. Pray also for healing from trauma, for Megan Becker, head of the English Department at University of Nevada Las Vegas, which experienced a mass shooting this week, targeting academic staff.
- **Judy Douds** continues her recovery from a stay at St. Agnes Hospital. Keep her and her husband, **Dave**, in your prayers. Both would appreciate cards: 719 Maiden Choice La, BR 231, Catonsville MD 21228.
- Pray for **Andrea Barnes**, whose son, **Eric**, will be undergoing major surgery for a health matter. Please keep Eric Barnes in Michigan, in your prayers for diagnosis and recovery. Cards and calls are welcomed: 6682 Possum Ct, Columbia MD 21045; 301-596-2836.
- Remember **Charles Dyer**, who is unable to get to church easily these days, and is awaiting a transition to an assisted living facility nearby. Cards and phone calls will be appreciated: 9895 Palace Hall Dr, #313, Laurel MD 20723; 301-604-4750; [cadassoc@aol.com](mailto:cadassoc@aol.com)
- Remember **Morris Range**, age 96, living at Riderwood retirement community.
- **Nancy Gabie** asks for prayers for her brother, Terrence Gabie, is experiencing health issues and is seeking costly medical treatment. Your prayers for a way to be made are earnestly requested by Nancy on behalf of her whole family.
- **Debra Snow's** mother, **Mary**, is resting comfortably in hospice care. Debbie would welcome prayers, cards and calls of support: 12100 Little Patuxent Pky #E, Columbia MD 21044; 510-708-1127; [debrasnow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debrasnow@sbcglobal.net)
- **Pamela Love** requests prayers for her **brother Brad Gibson**, living with a serious chronic health condition, and for her **mother**, whose dementia is worsening. Pamela welcomes cards: 6229 Light Point Pl, Columbia MD 21045.
- 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.
- For the **world at large**, please pray earnestly for the ones **suffering in Israel and Palestine** following unprecedented attacks on life. Pray for an end to the violence in Israel, the preservation of innocent lives caught in this war, and a just resolution that brings some peace to the land of our Biblical and spiritual heritage.
- Pray for our **church worldwide, pray for SJU in its pastoral transition, 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.

---

## DAY CENTER MEAL PROGRAM

Meredith Phillips

SJU, in partnership with Kittamaqundi Community Church, will provide the afternoon meal on the **first Wednesday of each month starting in January** to The Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center in Jessup.

The center's meal program is run under the guidance of Grassroots and serves 100 – 150 individuals. Your opportunity to serve is primarily in the preparation of hot meals (recipes and aluminum trays provided) and cold food items that are to be delivered to the center at 1:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

If you are interested in contributing to this endeavor or would like additional information, please contact **Meredith Phillips**, [meredithcp88@gmail.com](mailto:meredithcp88@gmail.com).

---



## Loving. Growing. Giving.

SJU is **Loving. Growing. Giving.** in 2024 and we want everyone to be part of it!

We thank all those who have already made a commitment of generosity for 2024 and celebrate all the ways you have said "Yes!" to a **Loving. Growing. Giving.** SJU with your gifts of financial support, leadership, and service.

For those who have not yet made a financial commitment for the coming year, we invite you to add your pledge in the coming week to the 42 that have already been received to help us take the next faithful steps together.

To make your financial pledge, you can print out and use the pledge card included in this FLASH, or complete one online at the SJU website: <https://sjunited.org/pledge/>

The options for completing and submitting your pledge card are (in order of preference):

1. Open the pdf with free Adobe Acrobat Reader (or other Adobe Acrobat product). Click on the first line and begin filling out your pledge card. Please fill in starred (\*) lines, and the box for the payment method you wish to use. Save it as a new file which includes your name (for example, *SMITH Pledge 2024*). Email the saved document to [sjucolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:sjucolumbia@gmail.com) and [sjufinanceteam@gmail.com](mailto:sjufinanceteam@gmail.com)
2. Print the pdf and complete it by hand. Email a scan or photo of it to [sjucolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:sjucolumbia@gmail.com) and [sjufinanceteam@gmail.com](mailto:sjufinanceteam@gmail.com)
3. Print the pdf and complete it by hand, and either
  - Mail it to: St. John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia MD 21044, or
  - Drop it off at the church office or put it in the offering basket during a worship service.

Your commitment will help SJU continue to be "United in Love – United for Service" to one another and all we are called to serve!

With deep appreciation,

*Mary Ka Kanahan*  
Pastor

*Debbie Parker*  
Church Council Chair

*Alvin Thompson*  
Stewardship Team



Loving. Growing. Giving.



St. John United Church  
10431 Twin Rivers Rd  
Columbia MD 21044

**GENEROSITY PLEDGE CARD 2024**

*(please fill in ALL starred \* sections)*

\* NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

\* ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\* PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Home ☐ Mobile

**My/Our TOTAL 2024 pledge for St. John United Church is:**

\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(please choose payment method, amount and frequency)*

**If you are making an  
ADVANCE PLEDGE PAYMENT**

\* I/we pledge to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in advance  
**(by December 27, 2023)**

and the remaining balance of \* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ at:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per quarter      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

**If you are making  
all of your PLEDGE PAYMENTS in 2024**

\* I/we pledge to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ at:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per quarter      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

There are many ways to pay your pledge to support the ministries of SJU. Please indicate how you plan to pay it.

***You may choose more than one payment method:***

\_\_\_\_\_ Full or partial lump sum advance pledge payment **(by December 27, 2023)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Automatic recurring payments set up with my/our bank

\_\_\_\_\_ Automatic recurring payments online (through Givelify)

\_\_\_\_\_ Payments through the mail and/or offering plate

### NEEDLEWORK GROUP



Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or enjoy any other needle craft? **Come join the SJU Needlework Group on December 10<sup>th</sup>**, after worship, at one of the cafe tables. Bring a snack and your current project. Beginners and needlework-curious folks welcome! ~ *Thanks! Ingrid*

---

### NEWS UPDATE FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM

- The **Hat and Mitten Tree** collection continues - bring your NEW hats and mittens to the services on December 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, or drop them off at the office in the grey collection bin across from the pastor's office.
- The school is looking for **volunteers** to help – for example, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, the school needs people to run the coding, arts/crafts and reading stations. If you'd like to help on this day or possibly other times, please email [G Cornwall@hcpss.org](mailto:G Cornwall@hcpss.org) and [Karenrandall@gmail.com](mailto:Karenrandall@gmail.com)
- Finally, we're **collecting gift cards through December 17<sup>th</sup>** for the BWES staff. Please bring **\$5 gift cards** to the church (or write a check to SJU and note that it is for the BWES staff cards).



Thanks!

The BWES team

---

### NEWS FROM THE ANTI-RACISM / SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAMS

- “You’ve probably heard the adage ‘There’s unity in diversity.’ The truth of this is apparent when looking at the diverse contemplative practices embraced by people of varied traditions as they nurture and deepen their spiritual lives. In honor of African American History month, during this retreat we will look back at the history of the Black Church to learn about—and embrace—the myriad of African American contemplative practices that lead to the same place as other traditions: the Ground of all Being (The Divine).” For details on this February 2<sup>nd</sup> event at Bon Secours, go here:

#### Unity in Diverse Contemplative Practices

- Jean Weller encourages you to read this NY Times article “... as it is truly a message of HOPE and people Standing Together to work for Peace in the Middle East. Thanks for your willingness to find out how we all might celebrate these Peacemakers.”

#### This is the Moment to Stand Together

---

## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

**Tuesday, December 12, 11 am - Called Meeting of Presbytery** - At the request of the Nominating Committee, Moderator Andrew Connors has called a meeting of the Presbytery, via Zoom, for the purpose of electing a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 226th General Assembly in 2024. [More info and registration on our website](#)

## NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The BWC's Quality of Life Committee, which educates, supports and empowers people living with HIV/AIDS, is offering **Christmas cards for sale** to support this life-giving ministry. [Learn more.](#)

**Strawbridge Shrine** will hold its annual **Candlelight Worship Service** in its historic Log Meeting House at 2650 Strawbridge Lane in New Windsor on Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. Experience worship as it was in the 1760s in a replica of the first Wesleyan Methodist Meeting House.

## MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE CALVIN BELL

**Holiday Lights:** For many of our residents, it's a beloved holiday tradition to walk or drive around our neighborhoods and view the festive holiday lights. Howard County is full of holiday spirit, and we want to share that joy with everyone. Our "HoCo Holiday Lights," - an interactive map helps our community find homes, businesses, and other lights throughout our county. It also provides an opportunity for our neighbors to flaunt their joyful decorations, and our residents to support local businesses who have also joined in on the holiday spirit. Let's do what we can to help spread holiday cheer. Visit the map and/or register your home or business at [howardcountymd.gov/lights](https://howardcountymd.gov/lights)

**Dreaming of HOME:** In Howard County, we are empowering our residents, workforce and future neighbors to realize their vision of homeownership through our expansive Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP). The SDLP program offers low-interest loans to cover the downpayment and closing costs of purchasing a home in Howard County. Applications are accepted year-round by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Your dreams of homeownership are within reach, and Howard County can help bring that vision to reality. To learn more about the program and how to apply, please visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/DHCD-SDLP](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DHCD-SDLP).

**Toys for Tots:** *Please* donate a new, unwrapped toy at one of our many Toys for Tots drop off locations set up throughout the county. Donations are being accepted now through noon on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Howard County Executive Cheri Dahn's


**ANNUAL**

**TOYS FOR TOTS**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**IT'S THAT**  
**TIME OF YEAR!**


Donate a new and unwrapped toy and drop it off at one of the following locations through  
**December 15<sup>th</sup> by 12PM.**





Families, if needed should contact their School's PPS Personnel Worker (PPW) or drop-off by register.


Interested in volunteering or have questions? Call Patrick Thompson at (410) 313-3395 or email [patrick.thompson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:patrick.thompson@howardcountymd.gov)


**LOCATIONS**


 **HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
County Executive's Office  
10000 Greenleaf Road  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Phone: 410-313-3395  
Fax: 410-313-3396  
Email: [executive@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:executive@howardcountymd.gov)

 **HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Police Headquarters  
10000 Greenleaf Road  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Phone: 410-313-3395  
Fax: 410-313-3396  
Email: [communications@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:communications@howardcountymd.gov)

 **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
Community Services Center  
10000 Greenleaf Road  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Phone: 410-313-3395  
Fax: 410-313-3396  
Email: [communityservices@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:communityservices@howardcountymd.gov)

 **DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS**  
P&L Center  
10000 Greenleaf Road  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Phone: 410-313-3395  
Fax: 410-313-3396  
Email: [recreation@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:recreation@howardcountymd.gov)

 **HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Administration  
10000 Greenleaf Road  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Phone: 410-313-3395  
Fax: 410-313-3396  
Email: [communications@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:communications@howardcountymd.gov)

 **HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Administration  
10000 Greenleaf Road  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Phone: 410-313-3395  
Fax: 410-313-3396  
Email: [communications@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:communications@howardcountymd.gov)

## 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.

---

## NEWS FROM HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING AND INDEPENDENCE

### **Nostalgic toys: Elkridge 50+ Center**

**December 13, 11 a.m. / [Register](#)**

Join Phil Lord for a nostalgic look at the toys of your childhood. Reminisce with pictures from old catalogs and collector sites, and see some of the special toys Phil has collected. Bring a vintage toy to show, or share an old photo or memories about a favorite toy you loved. Free; register on ActiveNet.

There are holiday events happening at other 50+ centers, so go here to find details:

[Howard County 50+ Centers](#)

---

## NAVIGATING HOLIDAY LOSS AND FINDING COMFORT

From the National Family Resiliency Center: *We recognize that this time of year can be especially challenging for many of you. It's important to acknowledge that holidays can be a reminder of the losses we've experienced. Whether you've lost a loved one, are navigating family transitions, or are dealing with other forms of loss, we're here to support you.*

[Navigating Holiday Loss](#)

---

## **ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST**

### **Columbia Association:**

**Holiday crafting.** Columbia Art Center Director Liz Henzey shared [family-friendly art activities](#) that all ages can enjoy. Also, mark your calendar for the [Art Center's annual holiday show](#) December 6-16 (perfect for affordable and creative gifts).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Columbia Community Care** (update, 11-12-23)

Did you know that:

- The CCC pop-up pantries serve an average of 300 families during their two-hour operation at the WLIFC on Saturday mornings?
- Many of the recipients of these non-perishable items are individuals who are employed but are unable to purchase sufficient food to support their families. They turn to CCC and other pantries to support their families with adequate food?



- The contributions from the WLIFC congregations represent 40% to 60% of the materials distributed by Columbia Community Care?
- The average weekly contribution of 162 items (May - Oct 2023) has been falling since 2021 when we had an average weekly contribution of 672 items?

We hope you will consider increasing your contributions to the WLIFC totes. During the Thanksgiving season, totes and boxes will be available in the lobby and outside the WLIFC office during services on Thanksgiving Day.

Thanks for your generosity.

For more information (updated on 11/12/23), go here: [FLASH & Announcements](#)

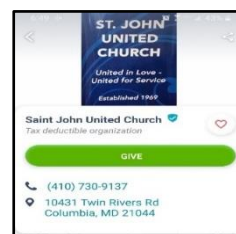
### **YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!**

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.

**HEY! IT's ALMOST 2024!**





## **CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 17**

**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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 12/10	8:00 am	FINAL DAY: ASP WREATH SALES ( <i>Room 1 foyer</i> )
<b>ADVENT II</b>	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) (Liturgist: Debra Snow; Candle Lighters: Debra Snow & Barbara Memory)
	11:30 am	NEEDLEWORK GROUP ( <i>café kiosk</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Tue, 12/12	7:00 pm	COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY TEAM
Thu, 12/14	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM & CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Fri, 12/15	10:30 am	FAMILY VISITATION: BILL BECKER MEMORIAL SERVICE ( <i>Rm 4</i> )
	11:00 am	MEMORIAL SERVICE: BILL BECKER ( <i>Rooms 4, 10, foyer</i> )
Sun, 12/17	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) (Scheduled liturgist: John Telis; Candle Lighters: Jen McClurg/George Telis family)
<b>ADVENT III</b>	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](mailto:quiltjudy@gmail.com)), or Evelyn Chesnutt ([lchesnutt@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

[PastorKanahanSJU@gmail.com](mailto:PastorKanahanSJU@gmail.com)

St. John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., Columbia MD 21044  
[SJUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) • 410-730-9137 • [www.sjuinted.org](http://www.sjuinted.org)  
Facebook: [SJU Facebook](#) YouTube: [SJU YouTube](#)

