

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

[SJU Facebook](#)

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SJUColumbia@gmail.com

(best way to contact the office)

JANUARY 12, 2024

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: [Sundays at 7pm Zoom link](#)

Or by phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Stay Well and Keep Others Well This Holiday Season!

We ask that you stay home and worship with us virtually via our [SJU Worship Service Livestream](#) if you or a member of your household:

- have any symptoms of flu, RSV, pneumonia, or COVID-19, such as fever, chills, headache, cough, gastric distress, loss of smell, and shortness of breath;
- have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 5 days; or
- have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for, or who has symptoms of, COVID-19 within the past 5 days.

For those who wish to worship in person, masking is at your discretion, and we recommend congregants seat at a comfortable distance from one another for worship. Everyone is invited to sing.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the door to the sanctuary as needed. Tithes and offerings will be collected upon exit of worship in a basket near the door.

SJU Pastor Transition Update
from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

Pastor Mary Ka's last day in the pulpit was January 7. The service was attended by 109 people in person and at least 10 households via our livestream! A reception followed with food, tributes, many thanks and well-wishes, laughter, tears, and a slide show recalling many Mary Ka moments.

Pastor Mary Ka's last official duty with SJU will be as moderator of the SJU Annual Congregation Meeting on January 21. Her new call begins February 1.

Presbytery and Church Council have approved my offer to continue to serve as Council Chair for one more year to see us through the pastor transition.

The Church Council is arranging to meet with an interim pastor candidate who is highly recommended by the Presbytery of Baltimore. The candidate is currently serving at another church and should be available in 3 months. In the meantime, the following people will serve in the pulpit through the end of January:

- January 14 – Guy Moody, Chair of SPRC and SJU representative to Baltimore Presbytery
- January 21 – Jackie Taylor, General Presbyter
- January 28 – Rev. Stephen Price-Gibson, PC(USA)

We are currently working to secure one or more pastors to bridge the gap from February through April.

We will have more information to share throughout January as the process moves forward, so stay tuned!

1-12-2024

Required notice from BWCUMC

¶4015. Returning to a Previous Appointment.

1. As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to affect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members.

2. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals; or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former pastor. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor.

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Please celebrate the birth of Juliette Louise Karnov, born Thursday, December 28th; weighing 8 lbs, 5 oz and 20 inches long. She is the **great-granddaughter of Judy (George) Miller** and **granddaughter of Karen (Miller) and John Long**, born to their daughter, Sarah. We extend our congratulations to the proud grandparents and great-grandmom and rejoice at this gift of new life and the blessing Juliette will be in the family!
- Please keep **Roy Ferguson** in your prayers, as he faces some medical issues. Please pray for his care, comfort and recovery. He welcomes phone calls (410-730-0484) and emails (royaferguson@yahoo.com).
- **Judy Douds** is back at home. 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.
- Keep in your prayers **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
- 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
- **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.

SAVE THE DATE!

**SJU's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 21, 2024
(11:30 am // immediately following worship)**

All members and interested persons should attend in person in the room outside our worship space (Room 10) or via Zoom. (A Zoom link will be shared in a special Annual Meeting FLASH email.)



SLATE OF OFFICERS – 2024-2027

Approved by Council 1-8-2024

2023 Nominations and Personnel/Committee on Lay Leadership (led by Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan)
NPC/CLL members in 2023 were: Mary Lou Shippe, Trena Perez Powell, Lisa Cooper Green, Evann Ridgeway, Andrew Love and Karen Hopkins, and Mary Ka Kanahan, Chair.

NPC/CLL in 2023 identified five vacancies on Church Council, and three more in leadership on SPRC and two on Nominations and Personnel for 2024-2027.

2023 Nominations and Personnel/Committee on Lay Leadership Report

St. John United Church, Inc. (SJU) Corporate Officers

President	Susan Moody
Secretary	Pamela Love confirmed at annual mtg 2022
Treasurer	Roy Ferguson
Resident Agent	Kirk Halpin, Halpin and Associates

Wilde Lake Interfaith Religious Corp. (WLIRC) Board Representatives (2)

Gregory Phillips (began WLIRC Pres, 6/2022) Susan Moody (began service 7/2022)

St. John United Church, Inc. Investment Trustees

Debbie Parker	Andrew Love
Lon Chesnutt	Lisa Cooper

Proposed Leadership of SJU, Inc. for Jan. 2024- Jan. 2027

*(New leadership proposed by N&P for congregational vote listed in **BOLD**)*

SJU Church Council (a body of 12 members + pastor) Debbie Parker, Chair

Class of 2025: Guy Moody, Non-voting member

Class of 2025: **Eric Schoch**, Patsy Nwagbaraocha, Meredith Phillips, Alvin Thompson

Class of 2026: Lisa Cooper Green, Jen McClurg, Debbie Parker, **Noella Sama**

Class of 2027: Pamela Love, Caroline Evans, Trena Perez, SPRC Chair-Pamila Brown

Nominations and Personnel/Committee on Lay Leadership: Current Pastor, Chair

Class of 2025: Lisa Cooper Green, Evann Ridgeway

Class of 2026: Andrew Love, Karen Hopkins

Class of 2027: Andrea Barnes, Guy Moody

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Pamila Brown, Chair

Class of 2025: Dawn Cooper Barnes, Rayna Woodford

Class of 2026: Nancy Gabie, Pamila Brown

Class of 2027: Mary Lou Shippe, Nigel Green

The NPC/CLL thanks the following members for their Council service:

Class of 2024 (service concludes at annual meeting January 21, 2024): Tony Powell, Bruce Worley

The NPC/CLL thanks the following members for their N&PC service:

Class of 2024 (service concludes at annual meeting January 21, 2024): Mary Lou Shippe, Trena Perez

The NPC/CLL thanks the following members for their SPRC service:

Class of 2024 (service concludes at annual meeting January 21, 2024): Guy Moody, Pamela Love

The NPC/CLL thanks the following member for their Investment Trustee service: Mary Ka Kanahan

THANK YOU!

from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

*Many thanks to Trena Perez for coordinating the **January 7 reception** for Pastor Mary Ka!!! Thanks also to Dawn Barnes and Rayna Woodford who worked with Trena to put together a wonderful celebration and farewell for our beloved pastor in a very short time which included the Christmas and New Year holidays!*

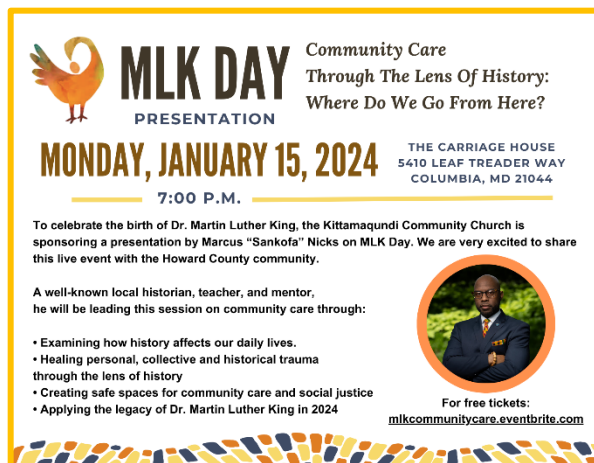
We also thank Chris Robinson for putting together the slide show of Mary Ka moments which was projected during the reception, and all the folks who helped set up, serve, and clean up, including members of the Congregational Care Team and our Young Adult Group.

And thank you to all who participated in person, behind the scenes, and in spirit!

*Even though Pastor Mary Ka will be serving a different church, we are truly - and will continue to be - **United in Love – United for Service!***

Amen? AMEN!

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-RACISM / SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAMS



The flyer is for an MLK Day presentation. It features a stylized orange bird logo on the left. The text reads: **MLK DAY PRESENTATION**, **MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024**, **7:00 P.M.**. The location is **THE CARRIAGE HOUSE, 5410 LEAF TREATER WAY, COLUMBIA, MD 21044**. The title of the presentation is **Community Care Through The Lens Of History: Where Do We Go From Here?**. A circular portrait of a man in a suit is shown. The text states: "To celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, the Kittamaqundi Community Church is sponsoring a presentation by Marcus 'Sankofa' Nicks on MLK Day. We are very excited to share this live event with the Howard County community." It also mentions: "A well-known local historian, teacher, and mentor, he will be leading this session on community care through:" followed by a bulleted list: "• Examining how history affects our daily lives. • Healing personal, collective and historical trauma through the lens of history • Creating safe spaces for community care and social justice • Applying the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King in 2024". At the bottom, it says "For free tickets: mlkcommunitycare.eventbrite.com". The bottom of the flyer has a decorative border of colorful geometric shapes.

MLK Presentation by Historian Marcus Sankofa Nicks at Kittamaqundi Church Monday evening (January 15th) at 7:00 p.m. (in person only).

Folks do not need a ticket to attend. The presentation is entitled: **Community Care Through the Lens of History: Where Do We Go From Here?**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – SAVE THE DATE!

“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).”

**Unity in Diverse Contemplative Practices
FEBRUARY 2 @ 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

Go here for information and to register:

[Unity in Diverse Contemplative Practices | Retreats & Events | Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center](#)

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or enjoy any other needle craft? **Come join the SJU Needlework Group on January 14th**, after worship, at one of the cafe tables. Bring a snack and your current project. Beginners and needlework-curious folks welcome! ~ *Thanks! Ingrid*



MEMBER NEWS

Jean Weller is sharing from this Op-ed from Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut. He describes the Spiritual breakdown of America and his idea about creating a new political alignment of both parties joining together on issues they have agreement that would focus on the common good.

[The Spiritual Unspooling of America](#)

NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Jan. 18 thru Feb. 7 —BWC Restructuring Listening Sessions (Multiple Dates/Times/Locations)

As the Restructuring Task Force continues its work within the Baltimore-Washington Conference, you are invited to attend one of the Listening Sessions that will be held over the next several weeks. This is the second phase of a collaborative process that was introduced in September. [Read the full story and find a date and location that works best for you.](#)

Jan. 27 (Save the Date)—YPM Listening Session with Bishop Easterling

Bishop Easterling wants to spend time with our young people and give them an opportunity to ask questions about redistricting. The time and location will be shared as more information is available. Please save the date.

MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DO YOU HAVE DREAMS OF OWNING YOUR OWN HOME IN HOWARD COUNTY BUT CAN'T COVER THE DOWN PAYMENT?

SDLP You may be eligible to participate in our Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP)!

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: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/DHCD-SDLP>

Purchasing a home is one of the best opportunities to build home equity and grow intergenerational wealth for your family. In Howard County, we are supporting our neighbors on their journey to homeownership through our innovative and expansive Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP). Through this initiative, the SDLP program offers low-interest loans to cover the down payment and closing costs of purchasing a home in Howard County. To learn more about the program and how to apply, please visit www.howardcountymd.gov/DHCD-SDLP.

ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Columbia Community Care (updated 1-5-24)

The contributions of **non-perishable items** from Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church and St John United Church congregations at the WLIFC are greatly appreciated! For calendar year 2023, an estimated total of 13,728 items were contributed to Columbia Community Care from the WLIFC congregations through the office totes and WLIFC lobby. This compares to 17,297 items in CY2022 and 34,306 items in CY2021. CCC and other groups find that in the months after the holiday season there is an increasing need for basic groceries and personal care items.

The CCC pop-up pantries serve an average of 300 families during their two-hour operation on Saturday mornings. These **non-perishable** food items are essential for the hundreds of families who have come to rely on the CCC pantries for weekly support. The season of need is always with us!

Thanks for your generosity.

For more information (updated on 1-5-2024), 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.

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.

IT'S 2024's TURN!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 14 - JANUARY 21

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, 1/14	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Led by Guy Moody; Scheduled liturgist: Edna Quoie</i>)
Mon, 1/15		OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Thu, 1/18	6:00 pm	SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL and A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sun, 1/21	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>)
	11:30 am	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (<i>Room 10 & via Zoom</i>)

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.

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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Facebook: [SJU Facebook](#) YouTube: [SJU YouTube](#)



INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

**** In case of inclement weather, please check either of the following for announcements:**

[SJU Website](#)

[SJU Facebook](#)