

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](#)

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SJUColumbia@gmail.com

(best way to contact the office)

JANUARY 26, 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 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.

Required Notice from Presbytery

The Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan and St. John United Church of Columbia, Maryland have agreed to request that the Presbytery of Baltimore acknowledge dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship that exists between them in accordance with the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church action to re-appoint her to another church.

All parties agree to conform to and abide by the Ministerial Guidelines of the Presbytery of Baltimore. It is understood by all parties that the departing Pastor will neither provide ministerial services nor be asked to provide such by either the congregation or its members after the pastoral relationship is dissolved.

In particular, when pastoral relationships with congregations are dissolved, certain ethical behavior is required in order to preserve the peace and unity of the church. When a pastor leaves a congregation:

- a. All pastoral and administrative duties in the congregation are to be terminated;
- b. The pastor is not to return to officiate at any baptism, wedding, or funeral, except at the invitation of the moderator of the session;
- c. The pastor is not to return as a regular worshipper or participant in the congregation without consultation with the General Presbyter or the Commission on Ministry;
- d. Pastors shall exercise great care to have no further influence on the former congregation and its members by conversation, correspondence, or other action;
- e. All belongings are to be removed from church so that the interim and/or new pastor can use the facilities;
- f. All church property, including all church keys, will be returned on the last day of service;
- g. Former pastors may not use the services of the church office or support staff;
- h. Former pastors shall exercise no part in the selection of a Pastor Nominating Committee or in the selection of a successor (pastor, interim, stated supply);
- i. Pastors are to treat successors with courtesy;
- j. Pastors are to refrain from commenting on or voicing judgments about the ministry of a successor, including in social or other gatherings;
- k. Pastors are not to initiate professional contacts with persons in former parishes;
- l. Pastors making social visits with members of former congregations are to take care that professional matters do not intrude;
- m. Pastors shall not agree to the status of "Pastor Emeritus" until at least two years have passed since serving the congregation. This shall be done in consultation with the current minister and Commission on Ministry.
- n. This letter of agreement will be shared throughout the congregation so that others may understand the changes in the pastoral role and responsibilities and can cooperate as the church and pastor move into another phase of their respective lives.

SJU Pastor Transition Update
from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council
1-26-2024

I am excited to report that **Rev. Renee Mackey has agreed to serve as a bridge pastor for SJU** from February 11 through Lent to Easter, March 31! She will work part-time to lead worship, provide crisis pastoral care, and oversee Council and staff.

Rev. Mackey started her career as an elementary school teacher, then answered the call to ministry after teaching for a number of years. She is an ordained Presbyterian (USA) minister and has a doctorate in multi-cultural worship. She retired just before the pandemic. During and post pandemic she served as a pulpit supply minister in a variety of churches which allowed her to experience different ways congregations worship and stay connected. She is excited to pastor SJU during the Lent season.

Council will soon have the opportunity to meet with the interim pastor nominee recommended by Baltimore Presbytery in preparation to approve the appointment.

The Nominations and Personnel Committee on Lay Leadership will be meeting shortly to begin selecting a representative slate of Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) nominees for congregational approval.

Worship for the next 2 weeks will be led by the following individuals:

- January 28 – Rev. Stephen Price-Gibson, PC(USA)
- February 4 – Susan Moody

Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available!

Stephen Price-Gibson is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div) and McCormick Theological Seminary (D.Min.). He has served congregations in Andes, New York, Lake City, Iowa; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; and Kearney, Nebraska. He and his wife, the Rev. Caroline Price-Gibson, served as co-pastors of Lake City Union Church, a PC(USA) and UMC congregation. After 40 years of ministry, they have retired and settled in Odenton, Maryland. They have two sons and one grandchild living in the DMV.

[NAME TAGS ARE BACK!](#)

New magnetic name badges are now located outside of Room 4. If you do not see a name tag for yourself and would like one, please reach out to Meredith Phillips at meredithcp88@gmail.com.

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Please pray for **Greg Phillips and family** on the death of Greg's mother, Donna Budani, age 80 years, after a brief illness. The family will travel out of state for the memorial service. Greg, Meredith, Caitlin, Connor and Ella appreciate your care and prayers.
- 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**, recently underwent 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.

NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM

Upcoming event: Guest Reader Day will be on Thursday, March 21st. The team will provide the information on how you can sign up at a later date.

Donation opportunity: The school needs **tissues, composition books, and skinny dry erase markers** (*that the kids can use for their own projects, not to write on a whiteboard*). If you bring the supplies to the church in the next few weeks, the team will drop them off at the school.

Thank you all for your previous generosity – the school has let us know how much they appreciate your help. ~ *The BWES Team*

[NEWS FROM THE ANTI-RACISM / SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAMS](#)

Susan Moody shares this Action Alert from PCUSA Office of Public Witness:

Take Action for a Ceasefire and Humanitarian Aid for Gaza: The devastating loss of life in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories since October 7 has overshadowed what had already been one of the deadliest years for both peoples in recent memory. The US must intensify its efforts to halt the bloodshed, appeal to all parties to respect international humanitarian law, and promote long-term diplomatic efforts. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza must be addressed immediately, and all hostages still held in captivity must be released. Urge elected officials to call for a ceasefire, press parties to abide by international law, release hostages and protect civilians, and support humanitarian aid and access to Gaza!

For more information, click the link and scroll down to the blue “Click Here to Take Action” button:

[Take Action for a Ceasefire and Humanitarian Aid for Gaza](#)

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](#)

[NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE](#)

Annual BWC Scholarship application process is open: Once again, the BWC will award scholarships to qualified college students and high school seniors who plan to attend college in the fall of 2024. The process closes on March 13. [Learn more and apply.](#)

[NEWS FROM PATH](#)

The Legislative Session in Annapolis is off to a strong start! We will be working with our Maryland state senators and delegates to support key pieces of legislation on **housing equity, tenants’ rights, and climate justice**. To keep up to date with all we’re doing statewide in Annapolis, more details on the bills we are supporting, or sign up for meetings and trainings, **check out our [Statewide Campaign Webpage!](#)**

[MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT](#)

January 22nd was the first day of [Howard County’s Winter Restaurant and Craft Beverages Weeks!](#) Running through February 4th, there are more than 40 restaurants participating in the most delicious time of the year. Find all participating restaurants at [Howard County Restaurant Weeks](#)

THANK YOU FROM BRIDGES TO HOUSING STABILITY



January 12, 2024

St. John United Church
10431 Twin Rivers Rd
Columbia, MD 21044-2331

Dear St. John United Church,

Thank you for choosing to make Bridges part of your charitable giving. Your recent contribution of \$200.00 on December 28, 2023 will make a significant difference in the lives of the people who are part of Bridges. We could not do this work without support from you and the many others who believe in our mission to **provide a path to self-sufficiency to prevent and end homelessness through affordable housing solutions and advocacy in Howard County, Maryland.**

Bridges to Housing Stability believes that every individual deserves a safe and stable place to call home. Our staff works diligently to help people find affordable housing and gain job interview and financial management skills. **In the last fiscal year, we helped 514 individuals who were at risk or experiencing homelessness, including 222 children.** We are grateful to everyone who has helped us accomplish this important work. We send our thanks and appreciation.

Your year-end contribution is truly appreciated. I hope you will follow our work through the **Welcome Home** e-newsletter and on social media @bridges2hs. If you want to learn more about how you can get involved with Bridges or have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 410-312-5760 or jennifer@bridges2hs.org.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Broderick
Jennifer Broderick, LCSW
Executive Director

Thank you all for your ongoing support of Bridges.

P.S. You can read about our work on a regular basis by following us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bridges2hs/>.

FOR YOUR TAX PURPOSES

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. We acknowledge no goods or services were provided to you in return for your contribution. Please provide your own valuation of the in-kind service donated. Bridges to Housing Stability is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and a copy of the current financial statement is available by writing 9520 Berger Road, Suite 311, Columbia, MD 21046 or by calling (410) 312-5760. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534. Please save this letter for your tax records as confirmation of your donation. **Bridges' Tax ID: 52-1723716.**

Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.
9520 Berger Road, Suite 311, Columbia, MD 21046
Phone 410-312-5760 Fax 410-312-5765
www.Bridges2HS.org

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.

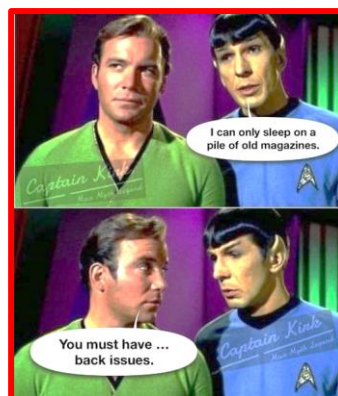
Make your check payable to **ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**, and mail it (with or without including your contribution envelope) to:
St John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd, Columbia MD 21044

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 28 – FEBRUARY 4

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, 1/28	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (led by Rev. Stephen Price-Gibson; Liturgist: Tony Powell)
Thu, 2/1	6:00 pm	SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL and A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (Room 4)
Sun, 2/4	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (led by Susan Moody; Scheduled liturgist: Karen Hopkins)

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.

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

PastorKanahanSJU@gmail.com

St. John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., Columbia MD 21044
SJUColumbia@gmail.com • 410-730-9137 • www.sjuned.org
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](#)