

SJUNews *FLASH*

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

Article submission deadline: Thursdays at NOON

www.sjunedited.org

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

(best way to contact the office)

JANUARY 5, 2024

***Reminder: have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion on January 7th.**

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.



The January 7th worship service is the final SJU service Pastor Mary Ka Kanahan will lead before she moves on to her next pastoral assignment.

Join us in the foyer immediately after the service for a catered reception to celebrate her ministry!

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



INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

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

[SJU Website](#)

[SJU Facebook](#)

SJU Pastor Transition Update

from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

“What is happening to secure a new pastor after Pastor Mary Ka leaves SJU at the end of January?” Council and SPRC are hearing this question from around the congregation – and understandably so! In response, here is where we are:

- Rev. Tanya Wade has been named SJU’s liaison with the Baltimore Presbytery Commission on Ministry (COM) for our transition to a called pastor to replace Pastor Mary Ka. Rev. Wade is the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Baltimore City, and previously served as Christian Education Director at SJU.
- Rev. Wade is collaborating with Council and SPRC to provide information on, and assistance with, the Presbyterian pastor transition process.
- Council voted at its December 18 meeting to secure an interim pastor during the search for a called pastor, as the search for a called pastor may take as much as one year. Interim pastors are trained to help congregations transition from one pastor to another, as well as serve as pastor to the church until a pastor is called to serve on an ongoing basis.
- COM is currently working to identify interim pastor candidates for consideration by SJU.
- Rev. Lon Chesnutt, SJU Pastor Emeritus, will replace Pastor Mary Ka as the pastor investment trustee for SJU’s building fund investment account. Debbie Parker, Lisa Cooper Green, and Andrew Love will continue as the other three investment trustees.
- Pastor Mary Ka’s last day in the pulpit will be January 7. A reception will follow in the lobby.
- Pastor Mary Ka will moderate the SJU Annual Congregation Meeting on January 21. It will be her last official duty with SJU.
- After January 7, 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 will have more information to share throughout January as the process moves forward, so stay tuned!

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.

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-RACISM / SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAMS

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](#)

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

Read Bishop Easterling's New Year Message here: [Bishop's New Year Message](#)

MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Know Before You Throw: Do you know what is recyclable? For everything you can and can't put in your blue bin, make sure you check out Howard County's recycling [guidelines](#). Please remember, due to the New Years Holiday, Howard County is operating on a slide schedule for trash and recycling pick-up.



Merry Mulch: Help us keep holiday trees out of the landfill this holiday season by recycling your tree through the County's Bureau of Environmental Services' annual "Merry Mulch" program. Since 1993, our Merry Mulch program has kept thousands of trees out of the landfill, helping to save money and the environment. All collected live trees will be delivered to the Bureau's Composting Facility and recycled into compost and mulch. To learn more about this program and how you can participate, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/merrymulch

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



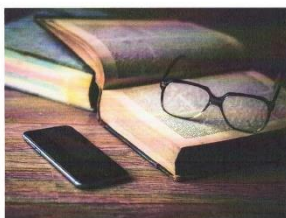
Save the date for A Flower-full Evening in the Stacks
Sat, Feb 24, 2024 | 7 – 11 pm | [HCLS East Columbia Branch](#)

Ticket Sales begin January 10:
\$100 per person through Jan 31
\$125 per person starting Feb 1 or two for \$225

More information: [2024 Evening in the Stacks](#)

Evening in the Stacks is Howard County Library System's signature annual fundraiser. One of Howard County's most anticipated events, the East Columbia Branch transforms into a dance party for one night, with music, food stations, bars, and fun.

WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER LIBRARY



HAPPY NEW YEAR from the
Wilde Lake Interfaith Center Library.

There are a multitude of resources in the library that can be used for personal growth, to obtain homily ideas, or to enrich the spirituality of congregations. WLIFC and OMI Clergy and staff members are welcome to come in on **Wednesday mornings from 10-11:45** to browse or borrow materials or on **Sunday mornings from 9-10:30 or 11:15-1:30**. Special times can also be arranged by contacting us at interfaithlibrary.wildelake@gmail.com. We would **welcome** recommendations for books you want for your congregation. This is a wonderful resource. Please plan to take advantage of it and to recommend it to your congregation. We would love to be of service to you.

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

Cookbooks and Recipes in Columbia Maryland's Archive Collection:

When: Now available

Where: [Online](#)

Dive into the heartwarming tradition of recipe sharing and the celebration of cultural diversity in the vibrant community of Columbia! The latest online exhibit offers a fascinating glimpse into the role of cooking as a unifying force, fostering bonds among families, friends, coworkers, and neighbors throughout Columbia's 56-year history. Visit the online exhibit today and discover a new recipe!

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.

ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Columbia Community Care *(updated 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.

IT's 2024's TURN!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 7 – JANUARY 14

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:

Pastor Mary Ka's last Sunday preaching and celebration of ministry

Sun, 1/7	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (in-person & streaming) (Liturgist: Trena Perez)
	11:30 am	CELEBRATION (Café/foyer, Room 10)
Mon, 1/8	7:00 pm	COUNCIL MEETING
Tue, 1/9	7:00 pm	COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY TEAM
Thu, 1/11	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (Room 4)
Sun, 1/14	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (in-person & streaming) (Led by Guy Moody; Scheduled liturgist: Edna Quoie)

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](#)

