

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](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

(best way to contact the office)

FEBRUARY 16, 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.

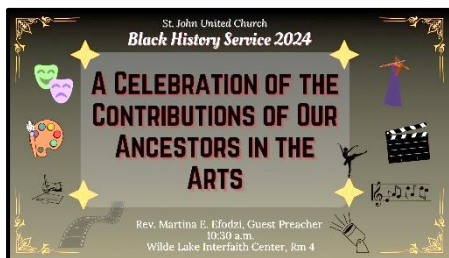
Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the door to the sanctuary as needed. Tithes and offerings will be collected upon exit of worship in a basket near the door.

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Please pray for **Susan Moody** and her family who are mourning the recent death of her oldest and last living sister, Jean Leek. Please also pray for Jean's daughters, their husbands, and her five grandchildren.
- Please continue to pray for **Greg Phillips and family** on the death of Greg's mother, Donna Budani, age 80 years, after a brief illness. 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).
- 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.
- Send good thoughts to **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



SJU will celebrate **Black History Month on Sunday, February 25th, 10:30 am**. The 2024 theme is “African Americans in the Arts.” Please join us as we make a joyful celebration. Our guest preacher is Rev. Martina E. Efodzi. There will be special treats for our young people. Any questions, please contact Debra Snow or Patsy Nwagbaraocha.

**** Please join us immediately after the February 18th service in Room 10 for a walk through of the dance for next Sunday. All are welcome: young and young at heart. ****

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

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

[SJU Website](#)

[SJU Facebook](#)

[NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM](#)

LAST CALL! 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 **by February 18th**, 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 PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE](#)

Faith Presbyterian Church is generously hosting next month's **Stated Meeting of Presbytery**, on **Thursday, March 14th**! The 902nd meeting will be a hybrid event, enabling participants to **meet in person or tune-in online**. It begins at 10 am, and will be followed by lunch together around noon. [Registration is open](#), so please save the date. The docket, document papers, and more information will be added to our [meeting webpage](#) in the weeks ahead.

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

- The newest article from Ask The UMC casts a spotlight on **The Rev. Roy C. Nichols**, who spent his ministerial career working to overcome the effects of racism and bring people together, first in congregations and, ultimately, across the worldwide United Methodist Church. He was the first African American elected to the episcopacy in The United Methodist Church. [Learn More About Nichols](#)
- Click this link to read the Lenten message from Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling:

[Lenten Message from Bishop Easterling](#)

[COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION](#)

The latest gallery on display at Columbia Art Center. The [Beyond the Blues](#) exhibit features the incredible work of 65 local artists inspired by African-American culture, open now through March 8.

MESSAGES FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Home Initiative: As part of our Housing Opportunities Meant for Everyone (HOME) initiative, Howard County, in collaboration with Bridges to Housing Stability, is now offering a helping hand to families and students within the Howard County Public School System who face the challenges of homelessness. For more information and to apply for this crucial assistance, I encourage you to visit [Family Home Start](#).



Now Hiring, Election Judges: Are you ready to make a difference in our democratic process? Howard County is looking for Election Judges, and this could be your chance to contribute! As an Election Judge, you get the unique opportunity to be directly involved in the election process, and get paid for your efforts. If you're 16 or older and a registered voter in Maryland, you're eligible to become an Election Judge. We're looking for people who are ready for a rewarding 15-hour day, can work outside their home precinct, are able to sit and stand for extended periods, and have proficiency in English. Some positions may require lifting items weighing between 10 to 25 lbs. Sign up today and be a part of this crucial democratic process! Learn more at [ElectionJudge24](#).

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Equity Resource Center Book Chats and Introduction: Learn about the Equity Resource Center (ERC), a special collection of the Howard County Library System. The ERC is part of the library's broader work in race, equity and inclusion. Check out this video: [Howard County Library ERC](#)

NEWS FROM PATH

RIBBON CUTTING FOR EAST COLUMBIA 50+ CENTER

Thursday March 7, 11:00 am
6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia MD

Special Guest: Olivia Buckley will be attending!

Join us to celebrate the long-awaited ribbon cutting for the East Columbia 50+ Center. PATH played a key role in winning the final funding (after years of delay) in the budget, addressing long-term inequity for the seniors of East Columbia. We hope you will join us--we can't promise soul line dancing or Tai Chi like we had at the 2021 action, but we know it will be a fun event, and we will get to see the beautiful new center, and we will get to celebrate inside! Congratulations to everyone who organized to help make this possible!

[Event Details Here](#)

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 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.

IT'S 2024'S TURN!

There is always,
always, always
something to be
grateful for.

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18 – FEBRUARY 25

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, 2/18 | 10:30 am | WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Liturgist: Andrea Barnes</i>) |
| | 11:30 am | DANCE REHEARSAL FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH (<i>Room 10</i>) |
| | 7:00 pm | SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP |
| Mon, 2/19 | | OFFICE AND IFC CLOSED (Presidents' Day) |
| Thu, 2/22 | 6:00 pm | A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL and SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>) |
| Sat. 2/24 | 9:00 am | SJU MEN'S GROUP |
| Sun, 2/25 | 10:30 am | WORSHIP SERVICE: BLACK HISTORY MONTH (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Guest preacher: Rev. Martina E. Efodzi;</i> <i>scheduled liturgist: Patsy Nwagbaraocha</i>) |
| | 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.

ADMIN OFFICE AND PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS: Yvonne is in the office for a few hours once a week, normally on Thursdays, and Pastor Renee will determine her time each week. It might be several days before they can retrieve phone messages, so please **send an email instead to both email addresses below** with any questions you have, for help you may need, or to make an in-office appointment.

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

SJUPastor@gmail.com



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