

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](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

(best way to contact the office)

FEBRUARY 9, 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.

SJU Pastor Transition Update

from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

February 9, 2024

Please be sure to come to the **February 11 worship service**, in person or online, to welcome and hear **Rev. Dr. Renee Mackey as she starts her 8-week tenure with us as bridge pastor** while we arrange for an interim pastor. She is excited to be with us part-time through Easter, March 31 to lead worship, provide crisis pastoral care, oversee staff, and be a resource to Council. By way of introduction, she provides this brief bio:

“I was born and raised in the Midwest and taught school in Denver, Colorado where I earned a Master’s Degree in Library Science. God then called me into ministry first as a Ruling Elder and then as a Teaching Elder. I served three churches, one in Iowa and two in Maryland. I received my Doctor of Ministry Degree from Austin Theological Presbyterian Seminary and served Baltimore Presbytery as Moderator. I was honored to represent the Presbytery at the 221st General Assembly as commissioner and am now helping churches with pastoral leadership as needed.”

As you hear and read about our pastor transition, it may help to clarify the difference between a bridge pastor, an interim pastor, and a called pastor. Let’s work backward:

- A called pastor is the pastor that is called by the congregation to serve as its official pastor. When a Presbyterian minister is to be called, the Nominations and Personnel Committee of the church proposes, and the congregation approves, a Pastor Nominating Committee comprised of several members of the church to conduct the pastor search with assistance by Baltimore Presbytery.
- An interim pastor serves the church during the time between the departure of the outgoing pastor and the beginning of the called pastor’s term. Council is currently working with Baltimore Presbytery to secure an interim pastor in the next few months.
- A bridge pastor may be called by Council to serve a short time until an interim pastor can be found or is available. In our case, Rev. Mackey has agreed to serve as bridge pastor from February 5 through Easter, March 31 to help bridge the expected gap until an interim pastor is in place at SJU.

NOTE: Rev. Tanya Wade is SJU’s Commission on Ministry Liaison with Baltimore Presbytery. She is the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. She is not our bridge, interim, or called pastor.

Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available!

JOINT ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

with Christ United Methodist Church

Wednesday, February 14, 2023 • 7:00 pm • In person and via Zoom

Christ United Methodist Church

Owen Brown Interfaith Center, Sanctuary A, 7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia MD

Join us for a meaningful start to your Lenten journey in 2024, with relevant preaching and the ritual imposition of ashes as a sign of our humanity and need for God’s grace. Rev. Angela Wells, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, will preach and Debbie Parker will support as liturgist.

To join by ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/54431655pwdOVVBRDk5cklxOFozUkg0M1RITGFUUT09>

Meeting ID: 154 431 655. Password: 856698

To call: +1 301-715-8592

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.

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or enjoy any other needle craft? **Come join the SJU Needlework Group on February 11th**, after worship, at one of the café tables. Bring a snack and your current project. Beginners and needlework-curious folks welcome! ~ *Thanks! Ingrid*



INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

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

[SJU Website](#)

[SJU Facebook](#)

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

Visit the PBS website at this link for the list of programs they have scheduled for Black History Month:

[PBS Black Culture Connection](#)

[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 **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](#)

Click below for the General Presbyter's Midweek Message of February 6, 2024:

[Midweek Message 2-6-24](#)



Unpacking the Matthew 25 Summit: Baltimore's Presbytery was among the best represented at the first-ever Matthew 25 Summit in Atlanta, GA on January 16th-18th. Ten members from across the Presbytery of Baltimore attended, making up one of the three largest groups there. Upon returning, participants were eager to share their enthusiasm and experiences.

[Read more and hear what others had to say.](#)

[A listing of Upcoming Matthew 25 Events](#) is available here

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

Feb. 25 (6:30pm)—Young People's Ministry Virtual Listening Session

As the saying goes, ask and you shall receive! After much feedback regarding the YPM Listening Session, the event has been **rescheduled to Sunday, Feb 25th at 6:30pm** and it will be a virtual Listening Session. Bishop Easterling really wants to meet the young people where they are, so she will hold it virtually so that youth and young adults can participate with their groups or individually from the comfort of their churches, couches, fellowship halls or wherever their hearts desire. The YPM Listening Session will be structured in a way so that our young people can share their hopes, dreams and what they see as the biggest needs in their communities. Youth will not be expected to have read and processed the [Survey Data Report](#) (which is asked of folks attending the other Listening Sessions), but instead will be invited into a conversation that empowers them to think big, share without hesitation, and brainstorm the best way to achieve their hopes for their communities. Zoom information coming soon!

MESSAGES FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Roslyn Rise: The redevelopment of Roslyn Rise, next to the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, is nearing a remarkable completion, unveiling its new identity as “Legacy at Twin Rivers” in the heart of Wilde Lake. This 153-unit project, brimming with amenities, ushers in a new era of mixed-income community living. With options ranging from one to four bedrooms, Legacy at Twin Rivers is designed to welcome a diverse tapestry of residents. Supported with a County PILOT agreement, this redevelopment is the first of five nonprofit projects being led by Enterprise Community Development. Together, these projects will expand access to affordable housing and modernize older neighborhoods.

Howard County's Community Ambassador Program: This initiative embodies our commitment to community engagement and safety. On **Saturday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m.**, we invite you to join us at the [Harriet Tubman Cultural Center](#) in Columbia. This is your opportunity to become part of a brand-new cohort dedicated to making a difference in our neighborhoods. Register now at communityambassador.eventbrite.com

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Black History Month is a special time to commemorate and honor the contributions of the Black community. We encourage everyone to participate in opportunities throughout the month to pay tribute - here are some of the ways CA and our community partners are celebrating!



Howard County Library System Black History Month series: From book club discussions to recipe exchanges, HCLS is hosting activities **all month long** to share and celebrate the stories of countless African-Americans who made a difference in our world.



Beyond the Blues Visual Arts Exhibit: From **February 8 to March 2**, [Columbia Art Center](#) will feature the work of 65 local artists inspired by African-American culture.



2nd Annual Black History Fest: On **Saturday, February 24** The Harriet Tubman Cultural Center is hosting a free celebratory community event with fun activities, performances and exhibits.

Save the date for A Flower-full Evening in the Stacks

Sat, Feb 24, 2024 | 7 – 11 pm | [HCLS East Columbia Branch](#)

\$125 per person or two for \$225

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



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's not much
that makes you feel
older than trying to
use "tap to pay" at
the store

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11 – FEBRUARY 18

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, 2/11 | 10:30 am | WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) REV. RENEE MACKEY begins tenure as bridge pastor (<i>Liturgist: Evann Ridgeway</i>) |
| | 11:30 am | WELCOME RECEPTION FOR PASTOR RENEE (<i>Room 10 & café</i>) NEEDLEWORK GROUP (<i>café area</i>) |
| Mon, 2/12 | 4:00 pm | FINANCE TEAM |
| Tue, 2/13 | 7:00 pm | COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY TEAM |
| Wed, 2/14 | 7:00 pm | ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (CUMC, Owen Brown Interfaith Ctr) |
| Thu, 2/15 | 6:00 pm | SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL and A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>) |
| Sun, 2/18 | 10:30 am | WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Scheduled liturgist: Andrea Barnes</i>) |

The SJU office is closed on Monday, February 19th, in observance of Presidents' Day.

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](#)