

# 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](http://www.sjuned.org)

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

[SJUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

(best way to contact the office)

**MARCH 1, 2024**

**\*Reminder: have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

## **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.

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## PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Keep **Evelyn Chesnutt** in your prayers, hospitalized since last weekend. She is improving, but still undergoing tests. Pray for her husband, Lon Chesnutt, and her family who are supporting her. Cards are welcome and can be sent to 713 Maiden Choice La #2209, Catonsville MD 21228.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **SJU Pastor Transition Update**

from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

March 1, 2024

I am excited to announce that our Church Council has affirmed the Presbytery of Baltimore's recommendation and approved **Rev. Steve Nofel to serve as Interim Pastor for SJU** while we search for a called pastor! Rev. Nofel is a staff interim pastor with Baltimore Presbytery. He will be available in mid-April after completing his current interim pastorship with another church.

Council will work with Presbytery and Rev. Nofel to negotiate the interim pastor contract for Council approval in March.

In the meantime, we will continue to celebrate the gift of Pastor Renee's ministry with us as our Bridge Pastor through Easter.

Stay tuned for more information about Rev. Nofel and the role of the interim pastor over the next few weeks!

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## NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM

Invitation from Bryant Woods Elementary School:

You are cordially invited to **Bryant Woods Elementary School**  
for our annual **Guest Reader Day**  
on Thursday, **March 14, 2024**

We would love for you to come to our school to read to a class of your choice for a 20- to 30-minute time frame between 9am and 2:30pm! Please sign up [here](#) if you can join us!

We appreciate your support!



~ The SJU BWES Team thanks you for any support you can give!

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## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

During this Lenten season, you are invited to use the Lenten devotional, “The Sanctuary for Lent”, by Abigail Browka, which contains brief readings for each day in Lent including a suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer or practice – all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. The booklet is available free on the SJU website under the [Worship/Bulletins tab](#).

There are a few printed devotional booklets available. Please email Yvonne if you’d like a copy. [sjucolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:sjucolumbia@gmail.com)



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## NEWS FROM THE ANTI-RACISM / SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAMS

**One Book, One Presbytery:** Everyone is invited to the first of six online discussions exploring *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein, on **Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 -8:00 pm**.

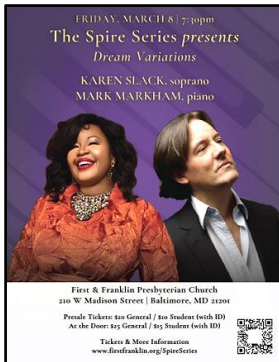
Save the dates for this six-week discussion.

- 6 weekly discussions – on Zoom
- **Mondays, April 8 – May 13, 6:30 – 8:00 pm**
- Special guests to be announced soon provide insight to the major topics
- Facilitated small group discussion

**Registration is Open!** Sponsored by the [Presbytery of Baltimore Dismantling Racism Team](#) and In the Loop Ministry Group.

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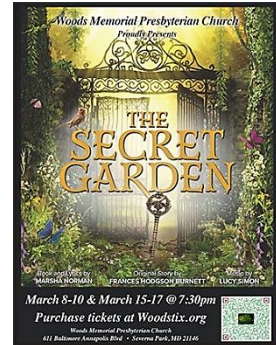
## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE



**Friday, March 8 – The Spire Series at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church** presents a concert featuring Karen Slack, soprano and Mark Markham, piano. Mark is a Baltimore (Mt. Vernon) resident and was the longtime collaborator with the famed soprano Jessye Norman. Mark and Karen have crafted a program which pays tribute to Ms. Norman, but puts a uniquely Karen Slack spin on things. [Tickets and more info](#)

**March 8-10 & March 15-17 - The Secret Garden**  
- Presented by **Woods Memorial Church** at 7:30

pm. This is a truly poignant and uplifting musical about love, hope, and finding one's home. The story follows that of 12-year-old Mary Lennox, and her journey in finding her home - The Secret Garden. There will be incredible vocalists from the surrounding area, professional choreography, and beautiful lighting! [Tickets](#) are \$15.00, doors open at 7 pm. Seats are limited. If you are having problems registering or if registration is full and you would like to be placed on the wait list please call Pam Ward at 443.261.3263 or email [pward@woodschurch.org](mailto:pward@woodschurch.org)



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## “ADOPT-AN-ISLAND” PROJECT

What is this project? St. John Catholic Church is sponsoring a **WLIFC project funded by the WLIFC Board** and invites participation from the St. John United community to “adopt” a parking lot island to plant with native plants.

Volunteers will be provided with all the plants and instructions for getting the native plants the best start in the islands. By adopting the islands, participants will be asked to water the islands throughout the summer and weed the space when necessary. A team may be as large or small as you want it. One excellent resource for understanding a pollinator garden is [How to build a pollinator garden | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#).

More information on the project is coming soon. There will be a table event in the facility lobby with more details the first two weekends in April. For more information, contact Kathleen Valdivia, SJERC Green Team: [kavaldivia09@gmail.com](mailto:kavaldivia09@gmail.com)

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## NEWS FROM HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING AND INDEPENDENCE

**LaBlast – Fitness Powered by Dance**

**Ellicott City 50+ Center | March 23, 8:30 a.m. | [Register](#)**



Join us for a morning of rumba, salsa, tango, waltz, samba, foxtrot, and more with a twist of fitness power, led by LaBlast creator and dance star, Louis Van Amstel. Proceeds from the event benefit the [Helping Up Mission](#) of Baltimore. Your \$5-10 suggested donation will help provide shelter, meals, clothing, personal items, and counseling sessions to those in need. [Contact Sherri Lively](#), EC 50+ Fitness Coordinator for more information.

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## HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

### **Change Inspired, Courage Ignited**

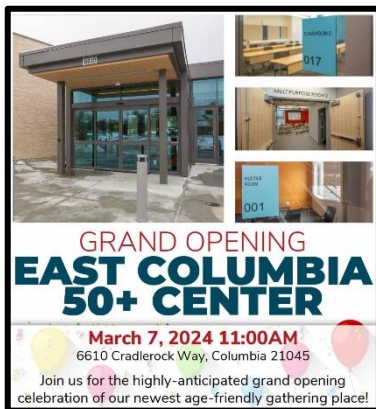
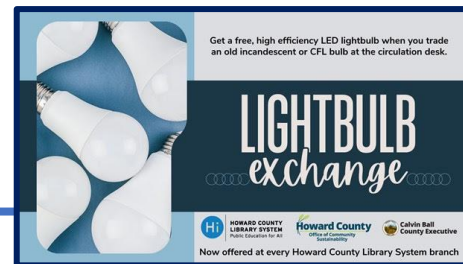
**Tuesday, March 5 | 3:30 - 7 pm**

Horowitz Center at Howard Community College  
5020 Campus Drive Columbia, MD 21044

*(co-hosted by Columbia Association (CA), Howard Community College and Howard County Library System)*

Change Inspired, Courage Ignited is all about connecting with others doing important work across Columbia and Howard County and tapping into all of the ways you can get involved and make a difference. You'll receive valuable tools, information and motivation to take back to your business, organization and community. Be inspired by work in community building, youth engagement and racial and social justice. Leave ignited with purpose and equipped with tools for your own contributions to our community. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

**Lightbulb Exchange Program Expansion:** Howard County residents can now visit any HCLS branch to exchange used incandescent and compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs for new, energy efficient LED bulbs.



### NEWS FROM PATH

Join us to celebrate the long-awaited ribbon cutting for the East Columbia 50+ Center on **March 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.**

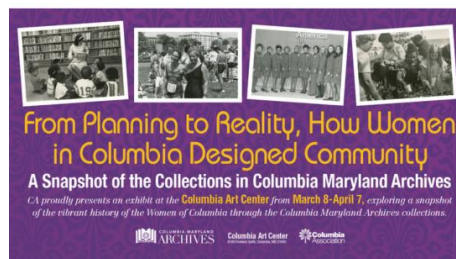
PATH played a key role in winning the final funding (after years of delay) in the budget, addressing long-term inequity for the seniors of East Columbia.

[Event Details Here](#)

## COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

**When: Friday, March 8 - Sunday, Apr 7**

**Where: Columbia Art Center**



Celebrate Women's History Month with the latest exhibit from the Columbia MD Archives!

Join us for an inspiring journey through time as we pay tribute to the extraordinary women who have shaped Columbia, Maryland. Our Women's History Month exhibit is a celebration of resilience, courage, and achievement.



## 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.

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### ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

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#### 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](#)

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### 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.

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## IT'S 2024's TURN!



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### **CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MARCH 3 - MARCH 10**

**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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 3/3	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Robin Dietzway</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Thu, 3/7	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL and SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Sun, 3/10	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: Gayelle Sama</i> )
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP ( <i>Room 10</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](mailto:quiltjudy@gmail.com)), or Evelyn Chesnutt ([lchesnutt@icloud.com](mailto: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.

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**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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

[SJUPastor@gmail.com](mailto:SJUPastor@gmail.com)



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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](#)