

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)

MARCH 15, 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.

Special Service, March 17th

Cameroonian Community

The Cameroonian Community at SJU is thrilled that Pastor Renee has planned a special service this Sunday, March 17, in honor of their home country, Cameroon. The service will include Cameroonian music and prayers for the concerns of their people. Please join in this special service and stay after for a time of fellowship and sharing of Cameroonian snacks in Room 10.

Special Offering for Aurora Foundation

The special offering opportunity for the Aurora Foundation continues **through Friday, March 22.**

1. If you donate through Givelify, use the special envelope available for Aurora Foundation.
2. You can also mail a check to the church, or drop it in the offering basket on Sunday, March 17. Make your check payable to St. John United Church, and designate on the memo line that it is for "LRF" (Liberia Renaissance Foundation, Inc.). Your mailed check must be received by Thursday, March 21.

Your donations benefit projects of the Aurora Foundation in Liberia, which currently supports:

- A home for the physically and mentally challenged
- Rural clinics and nursing schools
- Women's agricultural projects
- Young adults who have graduated from their orphanage and are pursuing college or job training
- Phil Barnes Memorial Scholarships for Collete Women and Men.

The Aurora Foundation deeply appreciates your generosity!

UPCOMING LENTEN SEASON EVENTS

- March 24th PALM SUNDAY service at SJU: 10:30 am**
- March 28th MAUNDY THURSDAY (we have invited Christ UMC to join us): 7:00 pm**
- March 29th Christ UMC has invited SJU to attend their Good Friday Service: 7:00 pm**
- March 31st EASTER service at SJU: 10:30 am**

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Keep **Evelyn Chesnutt** in your prayers, now in the Charlestown Retirement Community Rehab Center. She is doing much better and working to recover her strength in walking and mobility. Lon is thankful for all of your prayers and concerns. 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).
- 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

** In case of inclement weather, please check either of the following for announcements: [SJU Website](#) [SJU Facebook](#)

On **Saturday, March 23rd, 2024**, I'm committing to knit for 12 hours straight to raise money for organizations that help end food insecurity! **100% of the dollars raised will be split equally between Feeding America, No Kid Hungry, World Central Kitchen, and Meals on Wheels.** You can help me raise money for this important cause by donating to the Knit for Food Knit-a-thon, or signing up to knit! Every donation will help get food into the hands of someone who needs it.

Click the link to donate!

<https://givebutter.com/knitforfood24>

Ingrid Sampson



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 8th, 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.

NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

~ *United Methodist Communications, March 8, 2024*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — In honor of **International Women’s Day** today, learn more about one of the “Unsung Heroes of Methodism.” Mary Bosanquet Fletcher was a preacher, author, theologian and a philanthropist. She wrote letters to John Wesley, urging him to recognize the calling of women to preach the Gospel, inspiring future generations of female leaders to embrace their callings. Philip J. Brooks shares her story in a series that lifts up lesser-known figures whose lives and witness have impacted the denomination. [Read story.](#)

NEWS FROM PATH

The Maryland General Assembly session is almost over! Join us this Wednesday on Zoom for an update on the climate and housing bills we are supporting and to prepare our final advocacy before the session ends on April 8th.

Legislative Update Meeting on Climate and Housing
Wednesday, March 20, 5:00 - 6:00 pm – Zoom

[Register Here](#)

BRIDGES TO HOUSING STABILITY

The ChiliFest Returns as Beans & Bags for Bridges!

Details and Ticket Info



Tickets are \$25 per adult and \$10 per child for in person and carry out meals. Still hungry? In person attendees will have the option to purchase an additional portion of chili for \$10 during the event.

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.

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MARCH 17 – MARCH 24

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, 3/17	7:30 am	ASP SHARE SALES (<i>Room 1 lobby until 1:30 pm</i>)
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>liturgist: Britney Kumchu</i>)
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP (<i>Room 10</i>)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Mon, 3/18	7:00 pm	COUNCIL MEETING
Thu, 3/21	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL and SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sun, 3/24	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Scheduled liturgist: Jen McClurg</i>)
PALM SUNDAY	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), 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



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