

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)

MARCH 22, 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.

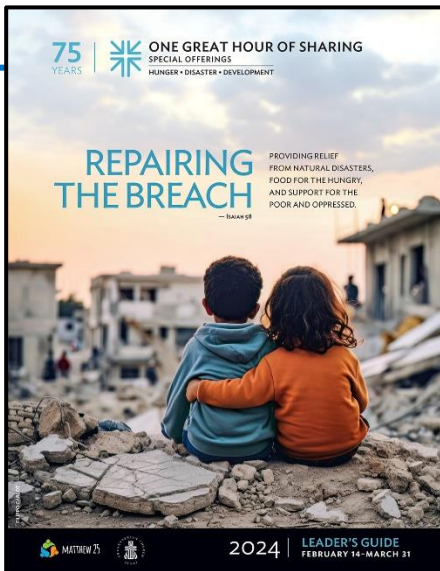
Special Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

Special offerings can be made to One Great Hour of Sharing of Sharing **now through April 5**. If you donate through Givelify, use the special envelope available on the site for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).

You can also mail a check to the church, or drop it in the offering basket on Sunday, March 24 and March 31. Make your check payable to St. John United Church and designate on the memo line that it is for “OGHS”.

Funds collected will be distributed equally between PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Your generosity will be deeply appreciated!



Dear Friends at St. John United Church,

Thank you! Thank you! for your 2023 gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. I am a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team, and I have seen your gift at work. Whenever you hear about a disaster in this country, whether natural or human-caused, you can know that your gift is being put to good use.

As I write this email, I see that there is a destructive wildfire burning in west Texas. Years ago, when there was a similar fire in that same area, I was deployed by PDA to give comfort and recovery help on behalf of the PCUSA...on your behalf.

When tornadoes, hurricanes, volcanoes, or wildfires strike or when there are mass shootings or other human-caused disasters, you are present with the survivors through your OGHS offering. You help make it possible for trained members of the National Response Team to share God's love and comfort in a meaningful way, and for the denomination to provide financial resources to help churches and communities recover.

*THANK YOU again.
In God's service, I am,
Liz Branch
Volunteer member of the
PDA National Response Team
March 4, 2024*

SJU Pastor Transition Update

from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

March 22, 2024

I am happy to announce that our Interim Pastor, Rev. Steve Nofel, will officially begin his tenure with us on April 1 – no joke! Rev. Nofel is a staff interim pastor with Baltimore Presbytery. You may begin to see him the week of April 8th as he prepares for his first day in our pulpit on April 14.

In the meantime, we will continue to celebrate the gift of Pastor Renee's ministry with us as our Bridge Pastor through Easter Sunday. Then Rev. John Schmidt will lead us in worship and communion on April 7.

Stay tuned for more information about Rev. John Schmidt, Rev. Nofel, and the role of the interim pastor!



HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

- 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
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PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- The surgery for **Eric Barnes, son of Andrea Barnes**, was successful and his recovery is expected to last 5 to 6 weeks. Andrea thanks everyone for their prayers and good wishes as they are deeply appreciated.
 - 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).
 - 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.
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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



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

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

Explore the rich history of Methodism in Baltimore. The BWC will lead a pilgrimage in Baltimore on April 21. We will begin with worship and a tour of Old Otterbein UMC and travel to Lovely Lane UMC to see the church and museum. Full historical interpretation will be provided. Please note that there is no availability for May Confirmation Tours this year. Contact bonniemccubbin@bwcumc.org or archives-history@bwcumc.org for more details.

[NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE](#)

Please join the Office of Public Witness, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, and the World Mission Middle East Office for a webinar!

The Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

April 3rd at noon EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Please join our webinar to learn more about the situation in Gaza and opportunities for action to help alleviate this horrific humanitarian crisis. We will hear from Christian partners on the ground involved in the humanitarian response, UNRWA officials who are working to get aid into Gaza, and ecumenical partners who are leading the NGO community in Washington in its work for humanitarian aid and a ceasefire.

[HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM](#)

Upcoming closings: All HCLS will be closed on Friday, March 29, and Sunday, March 31, in observation of the Easter holiday.

[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.

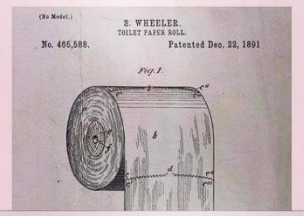
Make your check payable to **ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**, and mail it (with or without including your contribution envelope) to:

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!

The original patent from 1891 for a toilet paper roll shows the correct rolling direction, in case you ever doubted.



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MARCH 24 – MARCH 31

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, 3/24	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (in-person & streaming)
<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>		<i>(Liturgist: Jen McClurg)</i>
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP (Room 10)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Tue, 3/26	7:00 pm	BWES TEAM
Wed, 3/27	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (Room 4)
Thu, 3/28	7:00 pm	<u>MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE (Christ UMC will join us)</u>
	8:00 pm	SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (Room 18)
Fri, 3/29	7:00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE (at Christ UMC)
Sat, 3/30	9:00 am	MEN'S GROUP
Sun, 3/31	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (in-person & streaming)
<u>EASTER SUNDAY</u>		<i>(Scheduled liturgist: Edna Quoie)</i>
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP (Room 10)
	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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