

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 8, 2024

SPRING AHEAD: Daylight Saving Time begins March 10!

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 10th

Dawn Cooper Barnes

The Liberian Community at St. John United is excited that Pastor Renee is planning a special service this Sunday, March 10, 2024 **in honor of our home country, Liberia**. We will be featuring Liberian music and offering prayers for the particular concerns of our people. Please join us after church for some tasty Liberian snacks in Room 10.

As always, Aurora Foundation of Liberia appreciates your generosity. Currently we support

- a home for the physically and mentally challenged
- rural clinics and nursing schools
- women's agricultural projects
- young adults who have graduated from our orphanage and are pursuing college or job training
- Phil Barnes Memorial Scholarships for College Women and Men

Checks should be made payable to Liberia Renaissance Foundation, Inc. (LRF, Inc.). Donations can also be made directly to SJU and designated for LRF. All funds will benefit projects of Aurora Foundation in Liberia.

Thank you, and, hope to see you on Sunday!

NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM

Invitation from Bryant Woods Elementary School. The SJU BWES Team thanks you for any support you can give!

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 BWES Reading Team



NEEDLEWORK GROUP



Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or enjoy any other needle craft? **Come join the SJU Needlework Group on MARCH 10th**, after worship, at one of the café tables. Bring a snack and your current project. Beginners and needlework-curious folks welcome!

~ Thanks! Ingrid

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).
- 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: debrasnow@sbcglobal.net; 510-708-1127; 12100 Little Patuxent Pky #E, Columbia MD 21044
- **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 PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

Midweek Message From the General Presbyter: February 6, 2024

"Author Don Miguel Ruiz, Jr defines the Toltec word "mitote" as "the chaos of 1,000 voices all trying to talk at once in the mind." Many of these voices are famous for their negative back chat. "You'll never grow the church," or "You're a poor excuse for a (fill in the blank), or one straight out of the protestant playbook: "You're not working hard enough." The dictionary defines mitote as an Aztec Dance. Makes perfect sense, as these thoughts go around and around."

To read the rest of the message, go here: [Midweek Message 2/6/24](#)

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

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

NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Action Alert from GBCS: Tell the U.S. Senate to Act to Reduce Child Poverty: If passed by the Senate, this bill will lift as many as 400,000 children out of poverty in the first year, rising to 500,000 in 2025. We must advocate that this bill is passed in the Senate. [Learn More & Take Action](#).

NEWS FROM PATH

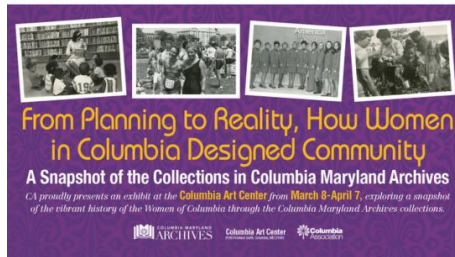
Join us for another opportunity to advocate for climate justice and affordable housing in Annapolis! We will be meeting with legislators and staff and attending an EmPOWER rally with our allies. You're welcome to come for all or part of the day.

Statewide Advocacy Day & EmPOWER Rally
Wednesday, March 13, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
Maryland State House, 100 State Cir, Annapolis, MD

Event Details & RSVP

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.

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.

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!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MARCH 10 - MARCH 17

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, 3/10	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Liturgist: Gayelle Sama</i>)
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP (<i>Room 10</i>) NEEDLEWORK GROUP (<i>café area</i>)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Tue, 3/12	7:00 pm	COMMUNICATIONS & TECH TEAM
Wed, 3/13	1:00 pm	COMMUNICATIONS/MISSIO MONTHLY MEETING
Thu, 3/14	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL and SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sun, 3/17	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Scheduled liturgist: Britney Kumchu</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), 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.sjuned.org
Facebook: [SJU Facebook](#) YouTube: [SJU YouTube](#)