

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)

JUNE 14, 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](#)

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

Zoom meeting,
audio only

Zoom meeting
with video



THANK YOU, CHANCEL CHOIR MEMBERS!

Thank you to the following people who have sung in the SJU Chancel Choir during the 2023-2024 season:

Ruth Anne Becker

Barbara Day

Paul Huntwork

Bill Larson

Guy Moody

Susan Moody

Debbie Parker

Dean Randall

Jordan Randall

Karen Randall

Alvin Thompson

Carole Thompson

Jean Weller

Rayna Woodford

Patricia Hammer, our accompanist

SUMMER MUSICIANS NEEDED

Singers, instrumentalists, solos, duets, ensembles of any size are sought to provide special music for Sunday worship this summer. Use the link below to sign up! See Ingrid if you have any questions.

[Summer Musicians Signup Sheet](#)

**Weekly deadline for submitting SJU *FLASH* articles is now
WEDNESDAY by 12 NOON. Send via email to SJUColumbia@gmail.com
Please include "FOR THE FLASH" in your subject heading.**

PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

June 14, 2024

When was the last time you got down and played in the dirt?

For some of my friends this is a daily occurrence this time of year with planting, weeding, cultivating and the pure enjoyment of gardening. Other friends haven't played in the dirt for decades. Last week, Kim and I were in the dirt for the first time in a while. We planted iris and redid out flower bed.

You remember when Jesus bent down and played in the dirt in *John 8*? A rabid crowd brings before him "a woman caught in the very act of adultery." (I often wondered where was Mr. Caught in Adultery? But that is a reflection for another time).

The self-righteous make her stand in front of Jesus in some state of undress, screaming at him, "According to the law, we can murder her! What do you think Rabbi?" All talking at once. The crowd is out of control.

Jesus bent down and started playing in the dirt. I say played rather than wrote in the dirt. The Gospel never says what he wrote, and I think it is irrelevant.

What Jesus did was slow everything down.

In tense situations, the worst thing we can do is jump in with both feet. Slow down. Slow yourself down. Slow down what is going on around you.

Jesus slowed things down. Then asked them to look into their own hearts. Then he bent down and played in the dirt again. He gave them space to examine themselves, and like most of us, when they calmed down and did the right thing, they went away.

John 8 is one of my favorite stories, and you don't know how many times I use Jesus' lesson. Just slow things down. Calm yourself. Give others space to calm down, think straight and do the right thing.

So, I guess that figurately, I play in the dirt quite a bit. I urge you to do the same.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve's office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-6pm; before and after worship on Sundays

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.

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

On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger and his troops made their way to Galveston with General Order No. 3 in hand, declaring, “All slaves are free.” Upon reading the order, enslaved Black people celebrated at that very moment, and each year following, on June 19, celebrations continued in remembrance of freedom from slavery. The celebrations became known as Juneteenth. But is that the whole story of Juneteenth?

Find out at the **special event at Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center on Saturday, June 22nd**. Early-bird special rate is available through May 22nd. Link is below for more information and to register.

[Bon Secours Juneteenth Event Registration](#)

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

The **Northeastern College of Bishops**, whose president is Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, has issued a statement on issues coming out of the recent General Conference session. The bishops address disaffiliation, same-gender marriage, regionalization and creating a future with hope. [See the statement.](#)

[NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE](#)

July 22 - 26 - Vacation Bible School at First Presbyterian Church of Howard County: *Seekers in Sneakers*, 9 am - Noon. 3 year old - rising 5th graders (open to members and non-members) \$20 per child/\$50 family max (free for family of volunteers) [Register here](#) / [Facebook Info](#)

[MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT](#)

Dump the Pump: In recognition of **National Dump the Pump Day on June 20th**, Howard County is partnering with the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland (RTA) to offer **free rides on all RTA fixed route buses** on Thursday, June 20th! Residents and visitors can ride RTA buses for free throughout Howard County on this day.



Riding the bus is a great way to reduce emissions, save on fuel, and connect to important destinations in our community. During the last year, we have partnered with the RTA to purchase and rollout nearly two dozen new transit vehicles, modernizing our entire transportation system. To learn more about RTA and your local transit routes, please visit: <https://www.transitrta.com/>.

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Collection Spotlight: Get Ready for Juneteenth

Next Wednesday we'll be observing Juneteenth, the newest federal holiday, also known as Freedom Day. Are you interested in reading about the history of slavery and the events leading up to Juneteenth? Our team has created book lists for children and adults to help you better understand the historical context and significance of this holiday. Explore our suggested titles below and [log into your online library account](#) to place holds on any of these books.

[Kids & Teens](#)

[Adult Nonfiction](#)

[Fiction](#)

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION



Friday, June 14-Sunday, June 16: [Lakefest](#) with the Columbia Festival of the Arts. Don't miss this year's eye-popping Art Center umbrella exhibit, inspired by the theme "Community, Connection and Culture."



Wednesday, June 19: Two words: Block. Party! Along with a number of community partners, we are so excited for a [special day of Juneteenth celebrations](#) to commemorate this important day in our nation's history.

Check the full schedule here! [RSVP and See Full Schedule](#)

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Keep **Susan and Guy Moody** in your prayers, after the recent memorial service for Susan's mother.
- Continue to keep **Jan and Mike Shaw** in your prayers. Her mother's funeral mass was last week. Their grandson's service has just been (or will soon be) held. Jan is SJERC's parish secretary and Mike is the IFC building manager.
- **Paul Weller** is recuperating at home, with therapies starting soon.
- **Evelyn Chesnutt** is again attending worship service, and without the aid of her walker.
- **Roy Ferguson** may need rides to doctor appointments. Continue to pray for his care, comfort and recovery. He welcomes phone calls (410-730-0484) and emails (royaferguson@yahoo.com).
- **Charles Dyer**, who is homebound, appreciates your cards: 9895 Palace Hall Dr, #313, Laurel MD 20723.
- **Bob Lynch** is recovering nicely at home.
- **Debra Snow**'s mother is out of hospice, but is still at Encore.
- Continue to hold in your hearts and your prayers those who are impacted by the **collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key bridge**, and for all who are working tirelessly on the rebuilding efforts.
- Our hearts and voices continue to join in prayer for the **people of the Ukraine** and all who are experiencing fear and violence because of the now two-year conflict with Russia.
- Please pray earnestly for a ceasefire and end to all violence in **Gaza and Palestine** and for efforts to **alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza**. Pray for 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.

If you would like to be added or returned to the prayer list, please email the office: SJUColumbia@gmail.com

2024 FARMERS MARKETS

Maple Lawn Farmers' Market

7405 Maple Lawn Blvd, Fulton, MD
Saturdays, May 11 – November 2
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Clarksville Commons Farmers' Market

12250 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, MD
Saturdays, starting early May through early November
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Ellicott City Farmers Market- Miller Branch Library

9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD
Wednesdays, May 10 – November 8
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Oakland Mills Farmers Market

5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD
Sundays, May 12 – November 3
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Savage Farmers Market

9035 Baltimore St., Savage, MD 20763
Wednesdays, May 29- August 28
3:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Oakland Mills Farmers Market

5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD
Sundays, May 12 – November 3
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Savage Farmers Market

9035 Baltimore St., Savage, MD 20763
Wednesdays, May 29- August 28
3:30 PM – 7:30 PM

***** **ALSO** *****

Owen Brown – East Columbia Branch Library

6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD
Thursdays, now through November (TBD)
noon – 6:00 PM
(single vendor)

ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Columbia Community Care

The following information is gathered from CCC Facebook posts (organization and public group pages):

6-10-24: CALLING FOR FOOD DONATIONS PLEASE!

~ April Lee, Facebook public group page admin, 6-10-24

It's been a whirlwind month with graduations, weddings, kids returning from college, vacations gearing up, etc. Everyone is so busy this time of year, so we've seen a huge decline in food donations. We have collection bins at Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, BA Auto Care, and outside of our pantry. **All bin drop-offs as well as in-person donations at the pantry have decreased significantly.**

We would greatly appreciate it if you are able to please pick up a few extra items the next time you go shopping and drop off the non-perishable items at your convenience to one of the above collection bins or to the pantry (10750 Little Patuxent Pkwy). **If you prefer to let your fingers do the shopping, the link to the Amazon wish list is below.**

The need for food assistance keeps growing. I can tell you that I have seen a change in demographics, and we are getting a lot of **new requests for help, especially among senior citizens and other people who have never needed help before.** And sadly, the cost of food also continues to rise.

Thank you ALL in advance for caring about our hungry neighbors. Every donation, no matter the size, is appreciated. 🙏

(EDITOR'S NOTE: As a reminder, they do NOT accept expired foods. Cans of food, mostly tuna, that were in their donation bins expired 2 or more years ago. They appreciate donations, but also want to make sure the food they distribute is safe.)

[CCC Amazon Wish List](#)

(Editor's note: I used the wish list option to donate, and it was painless!)

HELP NEEDED PLEASE (pantry deliveries)! If you can spare some time to help us get these orders to the waiting families, please sign up on the links below. We need both volunteer shoppers as well as translators.

VOLUNTEER TRANSLATOR DISPATCH SIGN-UP: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfls98A.../viewform>

VOLUNTEER SHOPPER SIGN-UP: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfl1fNWZeX.../viewform...>

[Columbia Community Care website](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/columbia.community.care>
(Columbia Community Care-CCC - organization page)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/807588256400584/>
(Columbia Community Care - public group)

Donations can be dropped off at the pantry (10750 Little Patuxent Pkwy) Wednesdays and Fridays from 10AM to 2:30PM or Saturdays from 9:30AM to 12:30PM. There is a collection bin outside for after-hours drop-offs. Collection bins are also available at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center as well as Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church.

Thank you all so much, in advance! I know we can do this together!

Monetary donations link: <https://columbiacommunitycare-bloom.kindful.com/...>

Amazon wishlist for our Amazon Angels: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2GZ09AG7QWLME...>



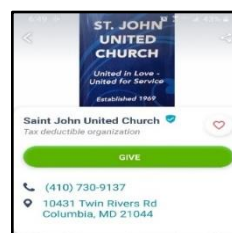
[YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!](#)

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!



Dad Jokes
@Dadsaysjokes

My dad told me his password is:
MickeyMinnieGoofyDonaldPlutoHuey
LouieDeweyDublin.

Because he was told his password
had to contain 8 characters and at
least one Capital.

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JUNE 16 - JUNE 23

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 to, engage, and invest 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, 6/16	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE <i>(in-person & streaming)</i> <i>(Liturgist: Robin Dietzway)</i>
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Mon, 6/17	7:00pm	COUNCIL
Thu, 6/20	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM <i>(Room 4)</i>
Sun, 6/23	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE <i>(in-person & streaming)</i> <i>(Scheduled liturgist: Karen Randall)</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 as necessary during the week, but mainly on Thursdays. Pastor Steve's hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-6pm, and before and after worship on Sundays. **It might take a day or two 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

snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org



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](#)