

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 21, 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



NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The St. John United Church Council has called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, July 7, 2024, directly following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the report of the Church Nominating Committee and elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

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.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:
For the July 7th FLASH, all articles must be submitted by
4:00 pm on MONDAY, JULY 1ST.**

PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

June 21, 2024

Sometimes I just feel so blessed!

I spent an enjoyable morning reading Scripture and planning sermons themes for the summer. It is so nice to immerse myself in the Word.

I usually do most of my Biblical research on biblegateway.com. However, when I am planning sermons, I MUST use my good ole study Bible. I love my old Bible for a lot of reasons.

I love my Bible cover. I never had a Bible cover until several years ago when a lovely couple Faye Schulter and Mike Tully in Algona, Iowa, presented me with an awesome cover.

I love it because it reminds me of partners in ministry Mike and Faye and the saints in Algona, Iowa.

I am blessed by the words of the Bible, and I am blessed by the memories my Bible invokes.

I think of originally purchasing it for wife, Kim. The scribbles on the title page remind me of my then toddler son, Matt, sitting on my lap imitating me "writing" in the Bible.

I think of the Bible study in Irvington, Iowa, starting with Genesis and reading through chapter by chapter and verse by verse.

So many good memories.

Then there is my parents Bible, which I inherited. Mom wrote in some our family history including items that technically don't belong in a Bible but make me smile.

I invite you to grab your Bible not to read it this time. Simply feel it. Run your hands over it. Flip through it. What notes did you make? What did you underline at some point? What memory does a coffee stain or a dogear evoke? To whom or what is your mind wandering?

You will come away feeling blessed!

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](#)

[African American History in Howard County: A Journey of Resilience and Triumph](#) ***NEW!***

Ages 12+. Explore the rich tapestry of African American history in Howard County, Maryland, through this immersive and enlightening course. Uncover the inspiring stories of individuals and communities who have contributed to the region's social, cultural, and political landscape. Engage in hands-on research and documentation of local African American history, learning the methods and tools used by historians to uncover hidden stories and forgotten voices. Come be a part of this remarkable journey through history!

Mon–Fri, Jul 8–19

1–4:30 p.m.

Tuition: \$349 (includes \$90 in fees)

Course XK-342

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

Foundry UMC in Washington D.C. invites United Methodists to participate in the **Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly & Moral March on Washington, D.C., & to the Polls** on June 29 at 10 a.m. at 3rd St. and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. [Learn more.](#)

[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](#)

From the General Presbyter – June 18, 2024

Summer Series: The Presbytery, the Strategic Plan and You

The Cabinet started devising this plan in 2022 which starts with identifying our core values. The first value is **“Promoting Justice.”**

Merriam Webster defines “just” as *acting or being in conformity with what is morally upright or good.*

[Read the rest of her message here](#)



[MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT](#)

Nine New Homes: In 2023, the Howard County Moderate-Income Housing Unit, or MIHU Homeownership Program settled 23 New Construction properties and 13 resales for a total of 36 sales. So far in 2024, we have settled nine new construction properties and seven resale homes.

June is Homeownership Month, and we will now be awarding nine new construction townhomes! Get ready for Open Enrollment July 1, 2024, so you can join the MIHU family where opportunities can open doors to homeownership! Learn more at www.howardcountymd.gov/DHCD-MIHU-Open-Enrollment.



COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

July 4th at the Lakefront!
When: Thursday, July 4 @ 3pm
Where: Downtown Columbia Lakefront



July 4th is around the corner and we have a day full of activities that you will love! In partnership with [Howard County Rec & Parks](#) and the [Merriweather Arts and Culture Center](#), we are proud to present free festivities to celebrate July 4th at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront!

Don't miss out on food trucks, fireworks and music performances produced by the Merriweather Arts and Culture Center!

RSVP and check the full July 4th schedule and guide here!

[See Full Schedule and Guide](#)

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. Jan's mother and grandson died recently. 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 to or removed from 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!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JUNE 23 - JUNE 30

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, 6/23	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Liturgist: Karen Randall</i>)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Tue, 6/25	7:00pm	BWES TEAM
Thu, 6/27	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sat, 6/29	9:00 am	SJU MEN'S GROUP
Sun, 6/30	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Scheduled liturgist: Dean Randall</i>)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

The SJU office will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 4th and 5th.

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



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Facebook: [SJU Facebook](#) YouTube: [SJU YouTube](#)