

# SJUNews \*FLASH\*

A weekly email to share important information and to alert you to upcoming events.

**Article submission deadline: Thursdays at NOON**

**JUNE 28, 2024**

[www.sjuned.org](http://www.sjuned.org)

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

[SJUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

(best way to contact the office)

## **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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) Please include "FOR THE FLASH" in your subject heading.**

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

### PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

June 28, 2024

I can't believe that chronologically I am over 60 years old.

In my mind's eye I am 12 years old. My sense of humor, 9pm bedtime and my food preferences prove it. I love Kraft macaroni & cheese. I prefer Little Debbie snack cakes over homemade desserts. And my all-time favorite drink is ginger ale.

Also don't forget my passion for Godzilla, King Kong, corny 1930s-1960s horror movies and super-heroes.

This week my 12-year oldness was affirmed as my family, and I celebrated my birthday.

We ate pizza and a big ole dessert. Matt chauffeured to and from church and worshipped with us at St. John United. Chuck gifted me with a fun Lego rhino for my desk. Kim gave me a 50-pack of mini-Play-dohs, to keep my hands busy for years during meetings.

It all affirmed I am 12 years old: My family is driving me and I received kiddie toys as gifts. I refuse to grow up.

One other way, I hope I am childlike (I know you see this one coming).

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. *Matthew 18:1-5*.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve

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

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### 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.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO PAMILA BROWN!

**From Howard County Executive Calvin Ball, June 25:**

*We are proud to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments and illustrious career of my dear friend, the Honorable Judge Pamela J. Brown.*

*Judge Brown, president of both the Howard County Bar Association and the Maryland State Bar Association, has dedicated her life to making a difference. Her exemplary service as a District Court Judge and District Ten Administrative Judge, along with her tireless efforts to promote diversity in the legal profession, has left a profound impact on our community.*

*Her unwavering commitment to justice, mentorship, and education has inspired many, and her legacy will continue to shape the future of Howard County.*

*Join me in congratulating Judge Brown on her remarkable career and wishing her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.*



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## 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**

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## NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

[West River Camp](#) in Churchton is setting records for the number of young people attending camp this summer. However, their success has led to a need for volunteers to serve as camp counselors for a week at a time. Pastors are reminded that serving at the camp does not count against their vacation time. Guidance will be provided for anyone who is interested. For more information, contact the [Rev. Jenna Johnson](#), assistant director at West River Center.

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## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

- From – Rev. McKenna Lewellen, Pastor of Maryland Presbyterian Church

Well, beloved, it is **Pride Month**, and in Maryland the parades are behind us. Maryland Presbyterian Church partnered with some of our Lutheran friends at St. Mark's, Dreams and Visions, and Divinity to put on a Quiet Pride event for introverts and people who don't like glitter and walking around in the heat. Over 300 people came into the little church on St. Paul Street, and we had a (quiet) blast!

To learn more, go here: [Pride is Alive in Maryland](#)

- 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](#)



- **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](#)

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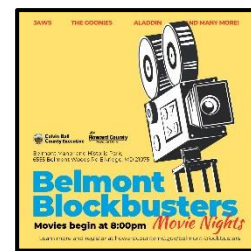
## MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT



**A Taste of Caribbean American Heritage:** Join us at Color Burst Park this **Sunday, June 30th from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.** for a day filled with Caribbean music, food, and culture. Get ready to experience the vibrant colors, flavors, and rhythms of the Caribbean right here in Howard County. This family-friendly event, sponsored by our Office of Human Rights and Equity, Howard Hughes, the African American Community Roundtable and myself, will

showcase traditional dances, live music performances, vendors, and delicious Caribbean cuisine. Don't miss out on this opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich heritage of the Caribbean and experience a taste of the islands! Register for your FREE ticket at <https://tinyurl.com/HoCoCAHMCelebration>.

**Blockbusters at Belmont:** We are excited to invite you to the Belmont Blockbuster Series at Belmont Manor and Historic Park! Join us and our Office of Recreation and Parks for family-friendly **outdoor movie nights** this summer in the beautiful formal gardens behind the manor house. The movie lineup includes classics like *Jaws* and *The Goonies*, with more to be announced. Movies start at 8 PM, and parking is limited, so please register in advance. We encourage you to take advantage, enjoy free entertainment for all ages, and make summer memories with your community. For more details and to register, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/belmont-blockbusters](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/belmont-blockbusters).



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## HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HCPD's Youth Engagement Section will kick off this summer's Community Athletic Program next Monday in the Talbot Springs Pool parking lot! This program consists of a traveling trailer filled with sports gear, games and video game equipment staffed by school resource officers. Events designed for school-age children are planned in neighborhoods where youth gather – usually unsupervised – and offers productive activities with an aim to deter crime and gang involvement. As an added benefit, the program

fosters positive relationships between youth and police. Activities include basketball, baseball, flag football, floor hockey, tennis, board games, and video games.

Next week's schedule:

July 1st, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Talbot Spring Pool (\*FREE swim from 12-2 p.m. in partnership with [Columbia Association](#))

July 2nd, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Glenwood Middle School

July 3rd, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Howard County Library System East Columbia Branch

July 5th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., North Laurel Skate Park

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## 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](#)

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## PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

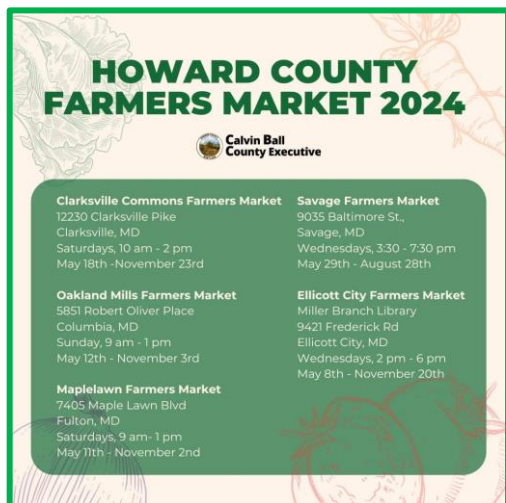
### **This Week in Your Prayers (your prayers are felt and make a difference!):**

- Keep **Susan and Guy Moody** in your prayers as they travel. Susan sent this message to the church family: *We are thankful for all the words of support from our church family at this time of sorrow and celebration for a life well lived. -The Moodys [Obit - Marie Kellenberger](#)*
- **Dave Douds** is gradually getting better, but “the last couple of weeks have been a bit trying”.
- **Paul Weller** is recuperating at home. It is a long rehab, so keep Jean and Paul in your prayers.
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

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## 2024 FARMERS MARKETS



\*\*\*\*\* ALSO \*\*\*\*\*

### Owen Brown – East Columbia Branch Library

6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD

Thursdays, now through November (TBD)

noon – 6:00 PM

(single vendor)

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## 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.



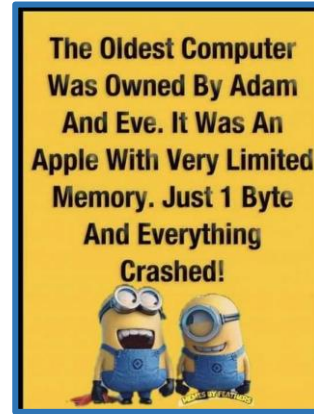
Donate by mail. Yvonne checks the mail for contributions, and makes weekly deposits.

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 30 – JULY 7

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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 6/30	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Dean Randall</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Tue, 7/2	6:00pm	A/V TECH TEAM ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Wed, 7/3	2:00 pm	CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE
Thu, 7/4		<b>SJU &amp; WLIFC OFFICES CLOSED</b>
Fri, 7/5		<b>SJU OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Sun, 7/7	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: Guy Moody</i> )
	11:45 am	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ( <i>Room 10</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

**The SJU office will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Prayer Group Ministry:** Anyone in the church may submit a prayer concern to a group prayer chain. Contact Judy Miller ([quiltnjudy@gmail.com](mailto:quiltnjudy@gmail.com)), or Evelyn Chesnutt ([lchesnutt@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

[snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org](mailto:snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org)



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