

# SJU News \*FLASH\*

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

**Article submission deadline: Thursdays at NOON**

**JULY 12, 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



## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

In the next few weeks, we will begin a ceiling replacement project in Room 4. It will include asbestos abatement, replacing the light fixtures, replacing all the ceiling tiles, and adding a sprinkler system.

The asbestos is intact. We are doing the project because the lights need to be replaced. We do not have an asbestos issue.

We are also going to add a door to Room 4 that will lead directly outside.

As you can imagine, this is a big undertaking. It is scheduled to be a six-week project. We anticipate continuing to worship in Room 4 throughout that time. However, safe air quality will be a top priority before allowing people back in the room each week.

More information will be available soon.

Pastor Steve Nofel

## PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

July 12, 2024

One day when I was haunting the stacks in the library a book cover caught my eye because it featured one of the best-looking people I ever saw.

Turns out it was actor Denzel Washington. It was a book he authored called *A Hand to Guide Me: Legends and Leaders Celebrate the People Who Shaped Their Lives*. Turning to the fly leaf I read: "Everyone needs a hand from time to time, a gentle nudge to get on track. And you never know when the help you provide will lift someone toward a life of greatness."

*A Hand to Guide Me* showcased how mentors shaped the lives of people you know and respect. From Hank Aaron to journalist Bob Woodward to Olympic champion Jackie Joyner Kersey. There were Seventy-four stories about how important any one of us can be to the youth around us.

Standing right there in the stacks, I read Denzel's first chapter. His first words were from Scripture: Let's start with a verse from Proverbs 22:6, "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray."

Denzel went on to write no matter who we are, he is betting there was someone who cheered us on and showed us the way. As I read this, I broke the silence rule in the library and proclaimed, "Amen brother!" As I was reading, I had flashes of faces and names of people who have shaped and guided my life, most especially my spiritual life.

We have the opportunity to guide the young people at SJU!

We will begin a **One-Room Church School for All Ages in September**. We need you to mentor and guide our SJU young disciples. No one person will need to volunteer for more than a once-a-month commitment, doing something you enjoy. Everything from storytelling, singing, crafts, and even some simple cooking projects. In the next week, I will be actively recruiting. Don't be surprised to hear from me. And I beg YOU to discern being a part of Church School.

We have a lot to consider and decide in a short time. What is the best day? Time? How often? When should we begin? Where shall we meet?

Once more I ask you to consider the call to mentor, guide, and help shape the lives of young people.

*Proverbs 22:6*, "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray."

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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## SUMMER MUSICIANS STILL 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](#)

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## NEEDLEWORK GROUP

Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or enjoy any other needle craft? **Come join the SJU Needlework Group on JULY 14<sup>th</sup>**, after worship, at one of the café tables. Bring a snack and your current project. Beginners and needlework-curious folks welcome! ~ *Thanks! Ingrid*



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## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Pastor Steve Nofel



I would like to begin **Church School Classes** in the fall. I need your help in planning and execution. Right after Independence Day, I will begin recruiting help.

If you have any interest in helping or ideas, please see me or email me. I will be happy to give anyone my phone number. You can also Facebook Messenger me. My FB page is simply Steve Nofel.

Thanks.

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## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>

Pastor Steve Nofel

The last week of July through August our Sunday worship will focus on Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. I think this is a golden opportunity for us to get together through Zoom and study the upcoming Sunday Scripture passages.

Beginning **Tuesday, July 23, at 7:00 pm** for 60 minutes a session, I will lead a discussion on the Gospel passage for the upcoming Sunday.

All you need to do in preparation is to read through the passage, bring your Bible, your insights you might have and your questions.

At the July 23 gathering we will decide on the time that works best for everyone. In the meantime, let me know your preferences. [snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org](mailto:snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org)

I am not joking when I say we will be mapping out the themes of the next Sunday's sermon together.

- Tuesday, July 23: John 6;1-21: Jesus Feeds the 5,000 and Walks on Water
- Tuesday, July 30: John 6:22-35: The Bread from Heaven
- Tuesday, August 6: John 6:35-51: I Am the Bread of Life
- Tuesday, August 13: John 6:51-58: Whosoever Eats of This Bread Will Live
- Tuesday, August 20: John 6:56-71: The Words of Eternal Life

You are invited to join us. Email Pastor Steve for the zoom link. [snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org](mailto:snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org)

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**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 26<sup>th</sup> FLASH, all articles must be submitted by 4:00 pm on MONDAY, JULY 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

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## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

### Peaceful Change? Let's Have a Dialogue

- Rev. Dr. Melissa Lopez

*Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air, and DPC Associate Trainer*

*"Dialogue for Peaceful Change has changed my life. Now, I know that sounds a little extra. And while I wholeheartedly want every person on the planet to have access to this training, this isn't a sales pitch. I'm not going to give you 10 reasons why you should take part, or the top three ways it has helped me in ministry. Because unlike all of the other dozens of trainings I've taken part in that promise these kinds of outcomes, this is the only one that truly changed me."*

This four-day training in conflict transformation and change management is scheduled for September 16-19, 2024, in McLean VA. For more information, go to [Dialogue for Peaceful Change](#)

If you are considering attending, see Pastor Steve. He is a past participant and recommends it to anyone interested.

### Message From the General Presbyter

#### **Practicing Inclusivity: Summer Series: The Presbytery, the Strategic Plan and You**

"The 226th PC(USA) General Assembly was steeped in inclusivity, and it was wonderful to see and experience. Though most members of the PC(USA) are of European descent and over 50 years of age, other races and cultures were represented, as commissioners and delegates, attendees, musicians, speakers, officers and staff." Read the rest of her message here: [Midweek Message 7-9-2024](#)

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## MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE CALVIN BALL

**The OEC Summer Bucks program** offers \$10 vouchers to shoppers to spend along Main Street in Historic Ellicott City. Available on a first-come, first-served basis, now through Labor Day and while supplies last, these vouchers can be picked up at the Howard County Welcome Center located at 8267 Main Street in Ellicott City.

The Local HoCo campaign strives to raise awareness and increase exposure for Howard County's small and local businesses through marketing and promotion. As part of the campaign, Visit Howard County has launched a new [Local HoCo website](#), where visitors can search a local business directory and where vendors can access branding and marketing resources.

**A Splash-tastic Connection:** We've made significant strides in expanding Wi-Fi access across our community. Through an innovative partnership with the Columbia Association, we've now introduced free public Wi-Fi at all 23 CA pools, previously unavailable. These efforts are crucial as we continue our commitment to digital equity and fostering a more connected and inclusive community.

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## NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The BWC Creation Care and Peace with Justice Advocacy and Action Ministries will hold a special worship service to acknowledge the increasing threat to humanity of nuclear war and advocate the negotiated, phased and verifiable abolition of nuclear weapons. Join us at the UMC Mission Center in Fulton, MD at 11am on **August 6, 2024**, for our first Hiroshima-Nagasaki Memorial Service.

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## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING AND INDEPENDENCE

**Beginning July 23**, income eligible, age 60+ community members can **register for the 2024 Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program** at one of three Howard County 50+ Centers. The \$50 voucher can be used at any of Howard County's five farmers' markets to purchase fresh, locally-grown vegetables, fruits, honey, and cut herbs. Voucher pick up is July 25, 2 p.m. at the center where you registered.

[View the flier](#) for full details and eligibility guidelines.

Find a farmers' market near you at <https://bit.ly/HoComarkets>.

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## BRIDGES TO HOUSING STABILITY

Jennifer Broderick, Executive Director

**Summer Highs and Lows:** On June 21st, the summer solstice, our Coalition to End Homelessness held a housing celebration to highlight all clients that have been housed and exited homelessness during the past year. A week after our celebration we learned about the Supreme Court's decision on City of Grants Pass, Oregon versus Johnson, which allows jurisdictions to arrest, fine and ticket unhoused people for sleeping outside, even when adequate shelter or housing is not available. This decision is a setback and an additional barrier for unhoused people and communities nationwide working to solve homelessness, and allows for the expensive and counterproductive punishment of people who are trying to survive a crisis. As an organization we will be advocating for local and state protections for Maryland households experiencing homelessness. With limited shelter beds and affordable housing, we should not punish those that have nowhere to go.

[Help Us Provide Homes and Hope](#)

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## COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION



**Free fun at the rink.** Did you know [the Columbia Ice Rink](#) is part of the CA family? Check it out (without the ice) at a [FREE open house](#) on Sunday, July 21. Everyone is invited for games, a bouncy house and more

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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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## PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

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

- Pray for **Lynn Pakulla**, scheduled for surgery in August.
- **Susan and Guy Moody** are grateful for your prayers for their recent safe travel.
- **Dave Douds** is gradually getting better, but “the last couple of weeks have been a bit trying”.
- Keep **Paul and Jean Weller** in your prayers, as Paul continues his recuperation at home. He would appreciate cards: 10869 Hilltop La, Columbia MD 21044.
- **Bob Lynch** would appreciate cards: 2808 Union Dr, Ellicott City MD 21043
- **Roy Ferguson** received 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.
- **Debra Snow**'s mother is out of hospice but is still at Encore. She would appreciate cards. Send them to Debra who will pass them along: Debra Snow, 12100 Little Patuxent Pky #E, Columbia MD 21044
- 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.
- Please keep our **Pastor Nominating Committee** in your prayers. They are Julliette Dixon, Nancy Gabie, Andy Love, Patsy Nwagbaraocha, Tony Powell, Gayelle Sama, Carole Thompson, and Bruce Worley.
- And **pray for one another**.

*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)

## ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Columbia Community Care

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

#### **7-3-24: PLEASE HELP US RESTOCK OUR SHELVES!**

~ Meg Feroli, Facebook public group page admin

We've finished the big move out of the old Flier building, and we are pretty much set up to start taking donations again. **Donations can be brought to our NEW location at Long Reach Village center Suite 107** this Friday, 7/5 or Monday 7/8 from 9:00am -1:00pm.

*(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.)*

**To make deliveries**, please come to the back parking lot. When you turn onto Cloudleap Ct, stay straight, go past the main lot entrance. Right before the apartment complex entrance, take the left turn. Follow around to the back, around the wooden fence and the CCC door is on the left!

The list of most-needed items and the link to our Amazon wish list are here.

[CCC Amazon Wish List](#)



**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)

Collection bins are 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 wish list for our Amazon Angels: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2GZ09AG7QWLME...>

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### **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.

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## IT'S 2024'S TURN!

My phone has this cool app  
that shows me what I would  
look like as an old person.  
It's called Camera.

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### **CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JULY 14 – JULY 21**

**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, 7/14	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Susan Moody</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Mon, 7/15	4:00 pm	FINANCE COMMITTEE
	7:00 pm	COUNCIL
Thu, 7/18	6:00pm	A/V TECH TEAM ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Sun, 7/21	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming;</i> <i>automatic/unstaffed broadcast</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: Ruth Anne Becker</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](mailto:quiltjudy@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.

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**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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