

# SJU News \*FLASH\*

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

**Article submission deadline: Thursdays at NOON**

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

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

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

(best way to contact the office)

**JULY 19, 2024**

**The July 21<sup>st</sup> service is on automatic broadcast. Therefore, there are no slides or videos. Please refer to the bulletin for the order of service, prayers, scriptures, and song lyrics.**

## **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**

IS SUSPENDED FOR THE  
SUMMER.

## **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 19, 2024

Since I was a little kid, I have been kind of lucky. I have never won the lottery (you need to buy a ticket first), a new car or a pot of money. However, church raffles, door prizes and other things have just come my way.

When I was five, I won the raffle at my older brother's little league banquet. I was presented with a brand-new men's steel Timex. Well, my dad got a brand-new watch.

Once at an archery tournament, I won a hat. Well, one of Matt's sponsors is a competitor of the company whose name was inscribed across the front. A friend who isn't sponsored by another company got a new hat.

At an archery banquet I won a quiver for compound bow. I own and use a recurve bow. Oh well.

My name was picked out of a hat for a door prize at a church event. Kim and I had donated that particular door prize. It went back in the hopper.

Just last week at a minor league baseball game we attended, they were shooting team logo t-shirts into the crowd with an air cannon between innings. I kid you not, people were jumping up and down, diving and trying to snag one. I kept my seat, drank my Coke and had a t-shirt fly right into my lap. Cool shirt, but alas it is a size small. It is going to our great nephew.

I seem to win quite often, and almost as often, it isn't anything I can use or treasure.

EXCEPT the ultimate win!

Through the cross and empty tomb Jesus won for me, for us, redemption, forgiveness, love and life everlasting.

I don't need to buy a ticket. I don't need to be lucky. One size fits all. I am already a part of Jesus. Jesus is a part of me. I am a winner simply because he first loved each of us, became human, suffered his passion, rose from the dead, and promises forever and ever life with him.

You, my friends, are winners of the greatest prize imaginable, life everlasting with our Holy God!

### **More from Pastor Steve:**

**Sundays At Seven is Taking a Sabbatical.** Sundays at Seven is taking a break during these "dog days of summer". Beginning this Sunday, July 21, there will be no Sundays at Seven.

**Zoom Bible Study.** Don't miss our Zoom Bible Study on Tuesday, July 23 at 7pm. All you need to bring is your Bible. The study will be on The Gospel of John 6:1-21: Jesus Feeds the 5,000 and Walks on Water. Contact Pastor Steve for the Zoom link: [snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org](mailto:snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org)



## 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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### 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>.**

Mid-year giving statements were mailed recently and include your operating budget giving ONLY.

## NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

“Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling danced. With a spirit of professed and profound gratitude, joy, and hope, Bishop Easterling danced as she met with the delegations of the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences after learning she would be reassigned to serve these two conferences for four more years.” Read the full article: [Bishop Easterling Assignment](#)

## 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](#)

**July is National Recreation & Parks Month**  
Enjoy free events all month long

Howard County Recreation & Parks | Calvin Ball County Executive

<b>Shakespeare Beyond</b> at Rockburn Branch Park Tuesday, July 16 from 7:30 - 9 PM	<b>Summer Concert Series</b> at Centennial Park South Wednesday, July 24 from 7-8:30 PM
<b>Zumba</b> at Blandair Park Tuesday, July 16 from 6-7 PM	<b>Art in the Park with Pinot's Palette</b> at NLCC Thursday, July 25 from 6-8 PM
<b>Summer Concert Series</b> at Centennial Park South Wednesday, July 17 from 7-8:30 PM	<b>Drive in Movie</b> at RCCC Saturday, July 27 from 6-8:30 PM
<b>Belmont Blockbusters</b> at Belmont Manor Thursday, July 18 from 6-8 PM	<b>Zumba</b> at Blandair Park Tuesday, July 30 from 6-7 PM
<b>Belmont Manor Open House</b> at Belmont Sunday, July 21 from 6-8 PM	<b>Summer Concert Series</b> at Rockburn Branch Park Wednesday, July 31 from 7-8:30 PM
<b>Bocce Ball</b> at Cedar Lane Park Monday, July 22 from 6-8 PM	

## MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE CALVIN BALL

**Let's Recreate!** - For nearly 40 years, July has been celebrated as National Recreation & Parks Month. This July, we are celebrating with **FREE events all month long**. From glow-in-the-dark pickleball to summer concerts to fishing, our Department of Recreation and Parks has something for everyone. For more information, please visit:

[www.howardcountymd.gov/recandparksmonth](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/recandparksmonth).

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## COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

**Change in Columbia: *When: Tuesday, Aug 6 @ 6-8pm / Where: Hawthorn Center***

The Change in Columbia Speaker Series is back! We're excited to welcome a panel of first- and second-generation immigrants who now call Columbia home for a candid conversation about what makes this area a choice location for people of so many backgrounds and what we can all do to better support our neighbors who bring their culture and experience to our community.

**Childcare will be covered, preregister here! [Make A Change](#)**

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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**, recovering from surgery.
- **Joel Nwagbaraocha** is home from the hospital.
- **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)

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## **CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE!**

**ANDREA BARNES**, Friendship Village - Apt 342, 1400 N Drake Rd, Kalamazoo MI 49006

## 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.**

*(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!

Most-needed items (pic): 

Link to our Amazon wish list: [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.

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

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



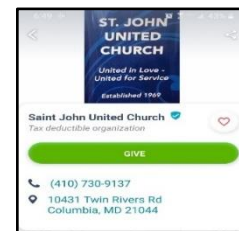
### **YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!**

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.



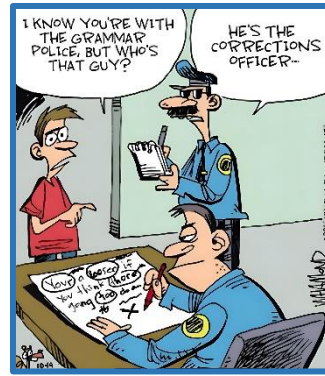
**Donate by mail.** Yvonne checks the mail for contributions, and makes weekly deposits.

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.

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## IT's 2024's TURN!



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### **CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JULY 21 – JULY 28**

**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, 7/21	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming; automatic/unstaffed broadcast</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Ruth Anne Becker</i> )
Mon, 7/22	7:00 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE TRAINING
Tue, 7/23	7:00 pm	BIBLE STUDY
Wed, 7/24	7:00 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE TRAINING
Thur, 7/25	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Sat, 7/27	9:00 am	SJU MEN'S GROUP
Sun, 7/28	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming; automatic/unstaffed broadcast</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: Jordan Randall</i> )

**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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[SJUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) • 410-730-9137 • [www.sjuned.org](http://www.sjuned.org)  
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