

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)

JULY 26, 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

IS ON HIATUS FOR THE
SUMMER.

ROOM 4 PROJECT UPDATE

It is our great hope that by the time you read this on Friday (7/26), the new door which leads directly outside will be installed and Room 4 scrubbed and clean.

It is our great hope that we will begin a ceiling replacement project in Room 4 soon. 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.

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.

As I know, you will know,
Pastor Steve Nofel

PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

July 26, 2024

The other day I was filling out a survey for my health insurance company. One of the statements was: "I Am in Charge of the Direction of My Life." My options for answering were Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Agree or Strongly Agree.

I looked at Kim and said, "How do I answer it? They don't have the options I want. Do I answer it as a professional person with pretty good ego strength or do I answer it theologically as a firm believer?"

As I answer as a professional person, I feel free to determine my career choices, housing, the car I drive, and my family life. No prob with checking the box Strongly Agree.

As a firm believer in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit I am just not sure how to answer. One of my favorite coffee cups declares Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Also, I truly believe several other things. God has called me to the "calling to which I have been called" Ephesians 4:1. Jesus brought me to SJU "for a time such as this" Esther 4:14. The Holy Spirit has gifted me with Kim, "husbands love your wives" Colossians 3:19. And my sons! "Don't you see that children are God's best gift? Oh, how blessed are you as parents, with your quivers full of children!" Psalm 127:4-5

I have no great way of ending these ponderings. For they are true ponderings.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

More from Pastor Steve:

Remember, **Sundays at Seven** is taking a break during these "dog days of summer".

Summer with the Gospel of John Zoom Bible Study Continues.

Our next study (7/30) will be on John 6:22-35: The Bread from Heaven. Contact Pastor Steve for the Zoom link:

snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org

Special Meeting of the Congregation. The St. John United Church Council has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for **Sunday, August 4, 2024, directly following worship in Room 4.** The purpose of the meeting is to elect one new member of the Pastor Nominating Committee.



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

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.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN HAS BEGUN

Pastor Steve Nofel

As a golden opportunity for us to get together through Zoom and study the upcoming Sunday Scripture passages, I am leading weekly discussions 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.

I am not joking when I say each week we will be mapping out the themes of the upcoming Sunday's sermon together. We have already discussed John 6:1 – 21.

- 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 **STILL** invited to join us. Email Pastor Steve for the zoom link. snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org

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

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.

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

GA226 Highlights: Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly discerned God's will in numerous ways. **Here are 10 of the most significant things they did** at the Salt Palace Convention Center and in neighboring churches between June 29 and July 4.

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

• **Serve It Up.** Attention Howard County high school students looking for a way to serve your community. Howard County has several student openings on various boards and commissions that need your ideas and your thoughts. Specifically, we are seeking candidates for the LGBTQIA+ Commission and the Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities. Terms are for one year from the time of official appointment. Candidates should be county residents and be able to participate in regular meetings and programs with these groups. You can learn more about these opportunities online.

Apply by visiting www.howardcountymd.gov/applybc and selecting the board or commission of interest on the form. Potential appointments are submitted to the County Executive for consideration and forwarded to the County Council for confirmation. Your voice on issues that impact these groups can and will make a difference!

• **Racial Equity Community Survey.** As part of Howard County's Office of Human Rights & Equity's ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive and equitable community, they have launched a Racial Equity Perception Survey to gather valuable insights from community members like you. Building on their previous survey, "A Racial Equity Framework for Howard County: Launching a Comprehensive Approach," this initiative aims to better understand racial equity within Howard County and inform our strategies to address it. The survey is available here: [Racial Equity Survey](#)

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](#)

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE!

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

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.
- **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).
- **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 Juliette 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

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/lz/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!

I JUST WITNESSED A LADY THROW AWAY THE CENTER OF A CINNAMON ROLL.

THE CENTER OF A CINNAMON ROLL.

THE GREATEST BITE OF THE CINNAMON ROLL.

THE REASON YOU GET THE CINNAMON ROLL.

This world is full of monsters.

MONSTERS.

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JULY 28 - AUG 4

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, 7/28	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Liturgist: Jordan Randall</i>)
Tue, 7/30	7:00 pm	BIBLE STUDY
Thur, 8/1	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sun, 8/4	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Scheduled liturgist: Debbie Parker</i>)

The SJU office is closed until Wednesday, 7/31/24, as Yvonne is on vacation.

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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