

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

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

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

(best way to contact the office)

**JULY 5, 2024**

**Reminder: have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion on July 7<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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 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](#)

**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.**

### PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

July 5, 2024

A couple of weeks ago, I dropped Kim off for a haircut. While I waited for her my plan was to walk around the stores in the strip mall to get in my daily steps. As she was getting out of the car, she asked me to return an item to Kohl's. Her parting words were, "Nothing could be easier."

Score! I was only third in line at the return counter at the front of the store. 20 minutes later, I was still third in line. Suddenly a shopping cart cracked into my legs from behind. A harried looking shopper had pulled in line behind me and whacked me. She didn't apologize, but immediately started praying!

She wasn't really praying. She was periodically muttering our Savior's name in frustration. 15 minutes later I put my item on the return counter, showed the clerk the receipt on my phone. With a sweet apologetic smile she said, "I am so sorry, you are in the wrong place."

I needed the Amazon shopping return line in the back of the store. She was very sorry and gave me directions to the right place.

I laughed, "Oh I'll find it, nothing could be easier."

Of course, I got lost. But hey, I was getting my steps in. I finally found the right counter and was only second in line. You know who pulled in behind me don't you? She wasn't praying but was doing some excellent muttering. I smiled and gave her a "what are you going to do" shrug.

Only a few minutes later it was my turn. This return clerk seemed to be having a bad day. I smiled, chatted and told a silly joke Paul Weller would have enjoyed. Her lips turned up just a little. Even the muttering customer behind me almost smiled.

When I picked Kim up later, she asked if it went ok. I said, "Nothing could be easier." And we enjoyed the story as I recounted it for her.

*Job 9:27:* I will forget my complaint; I will put off my sad countenance and be of good cheer.

*Proverbs 12:25:* Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up.

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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## 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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## 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](#)

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## MORE LIGHT PRESBYTERIANS

On May 29, 2024, the More Light Presbyterians Board of Directors and Staff released an official statement regarding on the ongoing genocide in Palestine and call for a permanent ceasefire.

We invite and encourage you to read the statement [HERE](#)

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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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## [MESSAGE FROM HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE CALVIN BALL](#)



**Grateful for Getty:** We celebrated a beacon in our community – **Reverend Paige Getty**, as she was honored during her last day as Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia (UUCC).

For 21 years, she has wholeheartedly, with fortitude and conviction, led UUCC's congregation to love in action, nurture spirits, build community and act for justice. Throughout her service, as co-chair of People Acting Together of Howard County and of our Interfaith Commission, she has helped guide our community through conflict, struggle, grief, celebration, and joy.

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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](#)

## 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.
- **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)

## 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/.../1FAIpQLSf1fNWZeX.../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!



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### **CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JULY 7 - JULY 14**

**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, 7/7	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Guy Moody</i> )
	<b>11:45 am</b>	<b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (Room 10)</b>
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Tue, 7/9	7:00 pm	COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY TEAM
Thu, 7/11	6:00pm	A/V TECH TEAM ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Sun, 7/14	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: Susan Moody</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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