

# 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)

**AUGUST 2, 2024**

**Reminder: have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion on August 4<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**

IS ON HIATUS FOR THE SUMMER.

## **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. It will be part of the service livestream. The purpose of the meeting is to elect one new member of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

## **PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS**

August 2, 2024

As we make our way through John, chapter 6, this summer, there are a lot of things I find fascinating, even if they don't make their way into a sermon.

One such thing is the young boy who came forward to offer the five loaves and two fish. Think about him 70 or so years in the future.

All the adults who were there that day were probably gone, and he was around, still telling the story!

Fascinating!

I have a friend named Jay who was 10 years old on December 7, 1941. He lived in Honolulu, Hawaii. That Sunday morning, he was playing in his front yard when the Japanese Zeros flew over his head. He witnessed the Pearl Harbor attack! 83 years later Jay vividly remembers and tells the story to individuals, groups, and anyone who is interested.

On June 17, 1775, Abigail Adams and her 9-year-old son, John Quincy, stood on a hill on their farm and watched the Battle of Bunker Hill. 70 years later the former president remembered that day and spoke of it on the floor of congress. Interestingly enough, Adams never participated in any memorial of the battle. He found it too painful.

The reason the boy telling the story of the loaves and fishes didn't make it into the sermon last week, is that I just don't know how to apply it to our Gospel message. It is great to ponder, but hmm . . . What do you think?

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve

### More from Pastor Steve:

#### **August 11 – Fellowship!**

We will have Fellowship Time after worship on Sunday, August 11, in Room 10 directly following worship. We will have very simple snacks and drinks. Our goal is to visit and enjoy one another. Please make plans to join in!

#### **Youth Church School Begins in September**

Pastor Steve Nofel plans to organize and lead One-Room Youth Church School. Next Sunday, before and after worship, and during Fellowship, he will be talking to and recruiting a planning team. Some of the questions to consider will be what day and time to meet. Please prayerfully consider helping in the planning.

#### **Please Read this Message from Steve Nofel!**

I beg everyone NOT to respond to any emails, text or written communications that say they are coming from me asking for money, gift cards or anything having to do with financial matters.

- I will NEVER ask for anything financial through a written communication. NEVER!
- Anything that says it is from me asking you to spend anything is a fraud. Call the police.
- If you receive a written communication from me saying I am busy and asking you to do anything, call that number right away. If there is no answer or obviously not me, call the police.
- I hesitate to give my cell phone number here because of the scammers; please know that the last four digits of my cell phone number is 2381. Any text saying it is coming from me and is not from that number, call the police.
- The ONLY email address I use for church is through baltimorepresbytery.
- Once again, if you receive any email or text request asking for anything financial that says it is coming from me. Call the police.

Thank you for reading this.

### SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION FOR BRYANT WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The new school year is approaching and it's time to start collecting material for Bryant Woods! All these items are on sale now at local stores like Staples, Walmart and Target. (*Maryland tax-free weekend is Sun, Aug 11, 2024 – Sat, Aug 17, 2024.*)

**Donation deadline is Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>!** You can bring your donations to worship on the next three Sundays (August 4, 11 and 18). For weekday drop-offs, we'll have a collection bin outside of Yvonne's office through August 19<sup>th</sup>.

If you wish, you may also donate money through GIVELIFY, starting Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, which we will use to purchase supplies.

*Thank you from your BWES Partnership Team: Lisa Cooper Green, Andrew Love, Jen McClurg, Trena Perez-Powell, Karen Randall, Mary Lou Shippe, and Alvin Thompson.*

**Supplies list: 8-pack markers (thin & wide; Crayola preferred), crayons (box of 24; Crayola preferred), #2 pencils, 12-pack colored pencils, pocket folders, large pink erasers, glue sticks, pencil cases, blunt scissors, regular scissors, highlighters, marble composition books (including some K-2 composition books), wide-rule spiral notebooks and notebook paper, 12" clear plastic or wooden rulers, and Ziploc snack/sandwich/gallon size bags.**

**ANNUAL CLAP-IN:** The first day of school is Monday August 26<sup>th</sup> and we need volunteers for the annual "clap-in", beginning at 8:30 am. Contact Lisa Cooper to volunteer (lisa.cooper@jhmi.edu).



## 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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## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

**Leaning in on the Strategic Plan.** As the [Presbytery's Strategic Plan](#) challenges and guides the work of our commissions, General Presbyter Jacqueline Taylor has reflected on each of our three core values in a summer series of Midweek Messages.

[1st Core Value](#) – Promoting Justice

[2nd Core Value](#) – Practicing Inclusivity

[3rd Core Value](#) – Prioritizing Churches and Leaders to Thrive

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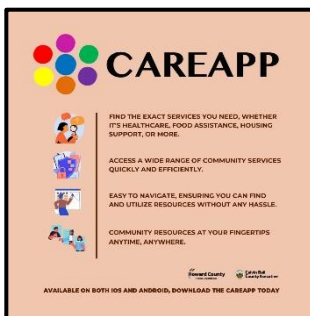
## HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

**HiTech STEAM Carnival - Saturday, August 3, 10am-2pm, East Columbia Branch.**

Come one, come all! Bring your family to play games and interactives, like Pinball and Skee-ball, built by HiTech students. Participate in Paint-and-Sip or Build-and-Sip, ride a miniature train, and watch the car race, robotics challenges, and win prizes. Stop by booths from local businesses and vendors, and don't miss the petting zoo! Food and beverages are available to purchase from local food trucks.

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## HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT



**Access Care at Your Fingertips:** What can your Howard County CareApp do for you?

- Find the exact services you need, whether it's healthcare, food assistance, housing support, or more.
- Access a wide range of community services quickly and efficiently.
- It is easy to navigate, ensuring you can find and utilize resources without any hassle.
- Download it on your preferred platform and have community resources at your fingertips anytime, anywhere.

Explore these features and more by downloading CareApp today. Empower yourself with the tools to connect with essential services in Howard County. Learn more about the CareApp at <https://tinyurl.com/HoCoCareApp>

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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.**

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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 our former pastor **Whitty Bass**, in home hospice care, and wife **Gretta Ferrell**. Gretta is receiving calls: 410-262-8725.
- 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](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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## 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!



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**CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF AUG 4 – AUG 11**

**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, 8/4	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Debbie Parker</i> )
	11:30 am	SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Wed, 8/7	2:00 pm	CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE
Thur, 8/8	2:00 pm	ANTI-RACISM MEETING
	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Sun, 8/11	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: Jean Weller</i> )
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP ( <i>Room 10</i> )

**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.

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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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