

# SJUNews \*FLASH\*

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

**Article submission deadline: Wednesdays 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)

**SEPTEMBER 27, 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](#)

## **FELLOWSHIP ON SECOND SUNDAYS!**

Join us every second Sunday for  
fellowship right after church in **Room  
10**. Everyone is welcome to have a  
simple snack and a lot of good  
visiting!

~ Pastor Steve Nofel

## **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

## **NEW! CYBER BIBLE CTUDY (yes, that's the correct spelling)**

Beginning on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at noon, Pastor Steve Nofel will lead a Zoom study of the Scripture passages that will be read in the next Sunday's worship service. The study will begin at Noon with prayer and end at 12:45.

On September 30 we will discuss Ephesians 4:1-7 and Ephesians 4:11-16. Also, since the following Sunday is World Communion Sunday, we talk about the Sacrament of the Lord's Table.

All are welcome, please email me for the Zoom link.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve Nofel

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## **"COUNT ME IN" SPECIAL OFFERING**

We are taking up a special offering and asking you to prayerfully consider making a contribution that is beyond your normal giving. We're calling it "Count Me In" because it takes all of us to support the work of Jesus Christ. The campaign ends on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. [GO HERE](#) to read the letter.

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## PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

September 27, 2024

One of the most intriguing book titles on my shelf is Pastor Eugene Peterson's *The Unnecessary Pastor*. You know Eugene Peterson; he was also the author of *The Message* translation of the Bible.

When I first saw the book at a conference resource table, I whined to Kim, "We're necessary. At Sunday worship they can start without me but can't get too far."

Ha. Ha.

What Eugene Peterson meant by the title is illustrated by a story from his early days in his ministry as a solo pastor. He was doing all the committee meetings, administrative chores, personnel tasks, and more meetings.

He was tired, out of sorts and struggling. He realized he did not go into ministry to become a businessperson. At the next Session (Church Board) meeting, he turned in his resignation.

Thinking that everything was going great, the board members were shocked. Peterson explained that the business model of church leadership was not for him.

Then they shocked him. They asked, "What is it you want to do?" Once he explained, they said, "We'll do the business of the church, you do what you are called to do." He withdrew his resignation and became the Christian he hoped to be. Peterson wanted to be a person who **Prays, Listens, and Studies**.

I urge you to pray over this for yourselves and think about the expectations we might have for our next pastor.

Peterson wanted time and space to talk to God and hear God. He wanted the mental energy to give the person or people in front of him all his attention and not worry about getting to the next thing on his "to do" list. And he wanted to study the Bible and share that study with the people of God. Hence, *The Message Bible*. Then use all the fruit gained through prayer, listening and studying to do the work of ministering to people.

Think about and pray over for you and for SJU what it means for all of us to be people who Pray – Listen – Study.

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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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SJU, in partnership with Kittamaqundi Community Church, provides the afternoon meal on the first Wednesday of each month to The Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center in Jessup. The center's meal program is run under the guidance of Grassroots and serves 100 – 150 individuals at each meal.

Volunteers are needed in the preparation of hot meals (recipes and aluminum trays provided) and cold food items (fruit, desserts, beverages) that are to be delivered to the center at 1:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.



If you are interested in contributing to this endeavor or would like additional information, please contact Meredith Phillips, [meredithcp88@gmail.com](mailto:meredithcp88@gmail.com)

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## ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA ANNUAL COAT DAY

Trena Perez Powell



*“As you know, this is an event that my sorority sponsors every year. Although it is not sponsored by SJU, we hold this event at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center to help our local family members in need of a coat. I am the Chairperson for this committee and wanted to reach out to the congregation to see if anyone wanted to donate a NEW coat to support our Coat Day.”*

*Now through October 11<sup>th</sup>, members of our congregation can give me the coats after church service or drop them off in the bin located in the reception area of the administrative office.”*

The event takes place on October 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am in the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center.

**Presbyterians Vote our Values**  
**VOTING IS A MATTER OF FAITH**  
*Political, Not Partisan*

People of faith are ideally suited to encourage voting because all our faiths agree that each person matters, and all people are connected. Voting is a way of loving our neighbor. It is also a way of expressing the belief that we are all children of God.


In the 2022 general election, only 69.1% of Americans who were eligible registered to vote. Of those, only 52.2% of eligible voters actually cast a ballot.

Encouraging our members and neighbors to vote is a very concrete way to show them that we want to be in community with them. Most of the people who did not vote were registered and could have voted — but something came between them and their ballot and left them feeling a little less connected to the community.

Let's do better. Let's make sure every member of the community understands that they are loved and valued... and that they know when, where, and how to vote.

**Presbyterian Church USA Election Center**  
<https://www.voterveice.net/PCUSA/ElectionCenter>

This page serves as a one-stop place for you to update your voter registration, get to know your current policymakers, and learn about candidates running for upcoming elections in the United States.



[www.voterveice.net/PCUSA/ElectionCenter](https://www.voterveice.net/PCUSA/ElectionCenter)

**VOTE OUR VALUES**

GET OUT THE VOTE  
PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

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SEPTEMBER 22, 2024  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP  
ROOM 10

A SCRIPT, STAMPS, AND  
INK PENS WILL BE  
PROVIDED

ST. JOHN UNITED,  
WE NEED YOU TO  
WRITE  
POSTCARDS TO  
RESIDENTS OF  
NORTH CAROLINA

Point of Contact: Patsy Nwagharacha  
443-676-3379  
p.nwagharacha@gmail.com

**VOTE**



## NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

- If you are working or want to work in the area of wealth/health equity or affordable housing, you're invited to connect with the BWC's Wealth and Health Equity Team as they seek to expand their team. One of our focus areas is affordable housing. For more information, please contact [Kathleen King](#).
- Members from throughout the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Area will gather **Sunday, Oct. 13, at 4 p.m.** to welcome Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling back to the Area and celebrate her historic assignment as our episcopal leader for the next quadrennium. The Service of Celebration will be held at Severna Park UMC at 731 Benfield Road in Severna Park, Maryland.
- Comics X Theology will begin at Fantom Comics in Washington, D.C. on **Oct. 6** at 4 p.m. It is the brainchild of the **Rev. Jonathan Brown**, a pastor at Foundry UMC, who created this unique expression of faith as part of the BWC's New Fresh Expressions. [Read the story.](#)



## [NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE](#)

**The Matthew 25 Mid-Atlantic Summit.** The Dismantling Racism Teams of the Presbytery of Baltimore and National Capital Presbytery are partnering to host the [Matthew 25 Mid-Atlantic Summit at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia.](#) Sponsored by the Presbytery of Baltimore with additional support from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, this Summit will be a transformative gathering that merges inspiration with action! [Register and find more information](#)



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## [WLIFC LIBRARY MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT UPDATE](#)

**Pamela Love's** reading of three of her picture books has been **rescheduled**. There's a sign-up sheet on the desk in the library for up to ten children. Children aged four and up are welcome, as are their families. Refreshments will be served around 1:15 p.m.

**Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 1:30:**

“Brigid and the Butter: A Legend About Saint Brigid of Ireland”

“The Sword and the Cape: A Tale About Saint Martin of Tours”

“A Miracle in the Kitchen: A Legend About Saint Zita”

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## [MEMORIAL PAGE FOR WHITTY BASS](#)

Melika Bass, Whitty's daughter

“We have established a memorial page for Richard Whitfield Bass. This is a place for us to share memories, photos and tributes about Whit. It is a way for us to share all the different ways he impacted our lives. We look forward to seeing your contributions.”

Here is the link: <https://www.forevermissed.com/richard-whitfield-bass>

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## [REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE SJU](#)

Pastor Steve Nofel

The purpose of the video series, the “SJU Questions - SJU Answers” emails, my future Pastor's Ponderings in the FLASH, the Minute for Mission at the beginning of our worship, and the sermons into the New Year is to remember and celebrate our past and present and help prepare our church for the exciting next season of our SJU life.

The videos are uploaded to our [SJU YouTube](#) page. The emails and the FLASH are in the [SJU News](#) section of the website.

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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.**

## Tuesday, November 5, 2024 – Maryland General Election

### Voter Registration Deadline

- **Postmarked by**  
Tue Oct 15, 2024
- **Submitted by**  
Tue Oct 15, 2024 – 5:00PM
- **Online by**  
Tue Oct 15, 2024 – 11:59PM
- **Election Day Registration & Voting**  
Tue Nov 5, 2024

### Absentee Ballot Request Deadline

- **Request for Fax Ballot by**  
Tue Oct 29, 2024
- **Request for Postal Ballot by**  
Tue Oct 29, 2024
- **Request for Email or Online Ballot by**  
Fri Nov 1, 2024
- **In-Person Request by**  
Tue Nov 5, 2024

### Absentee Ballot Return Deadline

- **Received in Dropbox by**  
Tue Nov 5, 2024
- **In-Person, Received by**  
Tue Nov 5, 2024 – 8:00PM
- **Postmarked On or Before Election Day and Received by**  
Fri Nov 15, 2024

### Early Voting Available

From Thu Oct 24, 2024 to Thu Oct 31, 2024



Patsy Nwagbaraocha suggested this website, which offers 10 prayers for a peaceful election season:

[10-prayers-for-a-peaceful-election-season-in-america](#)

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### HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Get Ready to Vote, Howard County!** The 2024 General Election is just around the corner. Mark your calendars—Election Day is November 5th! Don't miss your chance to make your mark. Whether you plan to vote in-person, by mail, or drop box, every vote counts.

Visit <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineMailinRequest/InstructionsStep1> for details on early voting locations and times. Let's make sure Howard County's voice is strong!

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### HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

**Speed Date the Board of Education Candidates.** Meet the Board of Education candidates at this speed-dating-style event. Following brief introductions by the candidates, visit each candidate and ask your questions. At the end of five minutes, we will ring a bell, and you will switch tables to visit another candidate. The League of Women Voters will be on hand to help people register to vote and answer questions about the voting process and the election ballot.

**Sat, Sep 28:**

- District 4 candidates: Central Branch from 1 to 3 pm
- District 5 candidates: Glenwood Branch from 1 to 3 pm

**Sat, Oct 5:**

- Districts 1 and 5 candidates: Miller Branch from 11 am to 1 pm
  - Districts 1 and 2 candidates: Elkridge Branch from 3 to 5 pm
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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!):**

- Prayers for the speedy recovery of **Greg Phillips** whose recent surgery went well.
- Pray for **Lynn Pakulla**, recovering from surgery.
- **Dave Douds** is gradually getting better, but “the last couple of weeks have been a bit trying”.
- **Paul and Jean Weller** would like to thank the congregation for their encouraging cards and well wishes during his hospitalization and recuperation at home: 10869 Hilltop La, Columbia MD 21044.
- Continue to pray for **Roy Ferguson's** care, comfort and recovery. He welcomes phone calls (410-730-0484) and emails ([royaferguson@yahoo.com](mailto:royaferguson@yahoo.com)).
- **Charles Dyer** appreciates your cards at this address: Brightline Assisted Living, 4722 Old Court Rd., Pikesville MD 21208. Call Charles at 443-657-7148 and ask for his nurse Ms. Marjorie.
- The celebration of life service for former pastor **Whitty Bass** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at 2pm at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. Please continue to pray for his family and his wife, former member **Gretta Ferrell**. Gretta is receiving calls: 410-262-8725. See the FLASH for his memorial page information.
- 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, Andy Love, Patsy Nwagbaraocha, Meredith Phillips, Tony Powell, Gayelle Sama, Success Shu, 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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Check the website “**Member Resources**” page occasionally for updated member contact information.

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## ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

**The Meeting House Gallery.** Slip into the gallery's cool embrace where the shimmer of Summer is no mirage. *Summer Sojourn, through October 19, 2024*, showcases summer's vibrant colors and spirit without the sweat or the burn.

### Columbia Community Care

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

9-26-24:

~ April Lee, Facebook public group page admin

Beginning next week, October 2nd, the CCC pantry will change its *Wednesday operating hours for volunteers to 11:30AM to 4:00PM.* (Friday and Saturday hours will remain the same.) We hope that changing the hours on Wednesdays will encourage more high school students to sign up as volunteer shoppers. It's a great way to earn community service hours necessary for graduating! Link for volunteering: [Volunteer Shopper/Delivery Signup](#)

VISIT THE WEBSITE for donation and volunteer information.

[Columbia Community Care](#)

Most-needed items (pic):



Link to our Amazon wish list: [CCC Amazon Wish List](#)

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/l/2GZ09AG7QWLME...>



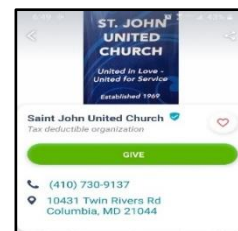
### YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!

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 SEP 29 – OCT 6**

**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, 9/29	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Patsy Nwagbaraocha</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Tue, 10/1	7:00 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Wed, 10/2	2:00 pm	CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE
Thu, 10/3	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM ( <i>Room 4</i> )
	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Sun, 10/6	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: TBD</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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