

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

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

(best way to contact the office)

SEPTEMBER 6, 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*

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The St. John United Church Council has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for **Sunday, September 8, 2024**, at the end of 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.

NEEDLEWORK GROUP



Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or enjoy any other needle craft? **Come join the SJU Needlework Group on SEPTEMBER 8TH**, after worship, at one of the café tables. Bring a snack and your current project. Beginners and needlework-curious folks welcome! ~ *Thanks! Ingrid*

VOTE OUR VALUES

Presbytery of Baltimore GOTV Campaign



SJU, we **need your help in writing postcards** to North Carolina marginalized voters who may be discouraged by new voter laws. **On September 22, 2024**, immediately after worship, we will write postcards encouraging these voters to exercise their rights. We will not tell them whom to vote for. Please let us know if you plan to participate as we are planning a lite lunch. See the attached notice.

For more details contact Patsy Nwagbaraocha, Mary Lou Shippe, or Rayna Woodford.

PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

September 6, 2024

Even after all our happy and blessed years together, Kim and I still hold onto two fundamental differences.

She is a night person, and I am morning person.

I must have my workspace clean, uncluttered and organized. All my meeting notes, sermon and work notes are in one spiral notebook. She has papers, jots, and Post-it notes on just about every flat space in her work area. Every day I close all my computer windows and file my emails. I joke she still has windows open from 1997 and thousands of emails in her in-box.

We are just different.

And, you know what, I am so glad we are different.

How boring would this good world be if we all thought alike, acted alike and did everything the same? There would be no room for conversation or growth or anything that wasn't humdrum.

We have all been made in the image and likeness of God. Thanks be to God. Yet, all of us reflect different aspects of God. Each of us have different God given outlooks, skills, and talents. God, Jesus, the Bible, the universal church and St. John United encourage us to put all our manifold gifts into practice.

The Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Confession of Faith begins by asking, what is the chief goal of humanity? Then answers, "To glorify God and enjoy God forever." Ephesians 4 tells us we are all given different gifts and talents to "equip the saints for ministry."

We are all differently and wonderfully made to enjoy and give God glory and serve humanity.

I am so glad we are all so different.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve's office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-6pm; before and after worship on Sundays

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.

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.



NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM

In her “Welcome Back” letter to parents, Principal Dannielle Shanks included this message about school supplies:

“Don't worry if your child needs school supplies: Being a Title I school means we have many resources for staff and students. Thanks to the generosity of our school partners (St. John United Church, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Zeta Alpha Sigma Alumni Chapter, LindaBen Foundation), we also have filled backpacks.”

Supplies for the staff need to be replenished during the year. Bryant Woods plans to have a **special donation bin at the Interfaith Center on September 8th and 9th**, and these are the items requested:

BRYANT WOODS ES PTA
STOCK THE SCHOOL
Supplies Drive
Help ensure BWES staff has everything needed for the school year.
Please bring donations to The Wilkes Lake Interfaith Center.

What to Donate

- Tissues
- Dry Erase Markers
- Hand Sanitizer
- Pens
- Permanent Markers

Look for the BWES Bin to Drop Donations
Sept. 8 & 9, 2024
3431 Twin Rivers Rd., Columbia, MD 21044

MEMBER NEWS

Jean Weller

This is a thought-provoking article I received from an organization I belong to: *Hearts on Fire* (formerly known as FUMSDRL (Fellowship of United Methodist Spiritual Directors and Retreat Leaders)).

HOPE OR DESPAIR: CHOOSE HOPE!

The last several years certainly have been challenging. We had a pandemic which took tens of thousands of lives. There was an attack on our Capitol. Russia invaded Ukraine. Hamas attacked Israel. Civil war raged in Sudan. Starvation and illness, especially in war-torn areas, skyrocketed. The earth got warmer resulting in glaciers melting and more hurricanes. There was a rise in hate speech and hate crime. Our country became more and more polarized. In addition, some experienced personal challenges such as the loss of a loved one, illness, loss of a job, or an end to a relationship. The list is endless. Many of these challenges are on-going and seem overwhelming. In times such as these, hope can feel elusive. . .

[CLICK HERE](#) to continue reading.

NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

- We welcome back and give thanks to God for **Bishop LaTrelle Easterling**, who officially begins this quadrennium's assignment leading the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Area this week. We ask God's blessing on her, her family and the churches and people of this Area. To God be the glory!
- The Baltimore-Washington Conference's Advocacy and Action Ministries invites you to join them for the [Building Beloved Relationships Training Webinar Series](#) led by K Scarry of the [People's Supper](#).

This series of four webinars will provide a pathway to leading amidst change and having brave conversations, along with time for further discussion so that you can best understand how to build beloved relationships within your congregations and wider communities. Each class begins at 7 p.m. and will have a unique Zoom login.

- September 12 | [Let's Talk About It](#)
How to have a conversation across political lines in your congregation
- September 26 | [Let's Talk About It](#)
How to have a conversation about gender/sexuality in your congregation
- October 10 | [Let's Talk About It](#)
How to have a conversation about race in your congregation

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE

Summer Series: The Presbytery, the Strategic Plan and You

From the General Presbyter

The "E" words in this vision statement represent a state of being as well as action steps. The "ing" at the end of the words promotes an ongoing commitment to keeping our values and mission in front of us as we serve God in our congregations and community.

Continue reading the [General Presbyter's Midweek Message](#)

NEWS FROM THE WLIFC LIBRARY

Interfaith Center Library Meet the Author Event!

Pamela Love, a member of St. John United, will be reading her children's books of legends of the saints. (These are intended for ages 4-10.) She will also discuss how she became an author and wrote these books in particular. Refreshments will be served outside the library before and after the event. There's a sign-up sheet on the desk in the library for up to ten children. Adults may attend with their kids.

Sunday, September 15, 2024, at 1:15:

Staircase for the Sisters: A Story of Prayer and Saint Joseph
A Prayer and a Pickaxe: A Legend About Saint Clement of Rome

Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 1:15:

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

HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING AND INDEPENDENCE

The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program \(OAHMP\)](#) has awarded OAI \$1.1 million to support our [Community Living Program \(CLP\)](#). **The funds will be used to provide functional home modifications and limited repairs to eligible older adults in Howard County who want to safely age in place.** "This grant will significantly enhance our ability to serve our older adults," said OAI's administrator, Ofelia Ross Ott. "HUD's commitment to supporting aging populations recognizes the importance of enabling older adults to maintain independence and quality of life in their later years."

Launching this fall, the program aims to serve 200 households over a three-year period. To qualify, residents must be age 62 or older, rent or own a primary residence in Howard County, and have a household income less than 80% of the local area median income. For more information, contact [Maryland Access Point of Howard County](#) at 410-313-1234 (voice/relay).

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

Walk Through History: From Wilde Lake to Lake Kittamaquondi:

When: Wednesday, Sept 18 @ 10am-12pm

Where: Old Stone Sheep Barn

Join award-winning author Ned Tillman and CA Watershed Manager John McCoy for a series of **FREE** guided walks through CA Open Space!

The upcoming walk offers a unique opportunity to explore the area's rich history. Don't miss this chance to connect with nature and history!

Participants will meet at the Old Stone Sheep Barn, located near the lake off Hyla Brook Drive.

EXPLORE WITH US

NEWS FROM ASP

The kick-off meeting for our **2025 ASP trip** is Sunday, **September 22nd**, 6:30 pm, in Room 14/16 of the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. All are invited!

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.

Check the website "**Member Resources**" page occasionally for updated member contact information.

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**. His recent surgery went well.
- The celebration of life service for former pastor **Whitty Bass**, who passed away recently, is scheduled for **Saturday, November 2nd**, 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.
- Pray for **Lynn Pakulla**, recovering from surgery.
- **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.
- Continue to pray for **Roy Ferguson’s** care, comfort and recovery. He welcomes phone calls (410-730-0484) and emails (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.
- 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



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.

Don't miss the opportunity to meet the *Summer Sojourn* artists and learn about their work. The **Meet the Artists reception on Sunday, September 8 from 2:00-4:00pm** will include an art marketplace, live sax music and light refreshments. Mark your calendar!

Preview some of the art here: [Art Preview](#)

Columbia Community Care

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

9-3-24:

~ April Lee, Facebook public group page admin

BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who volunteered this past month as shopper/deliverers and translators!! We finally got through the backlog of waiting orders and can once again accept new orders. Whew! We ALWAYS need more help with pantry deliveries and translating/dispatch. Please sign up if you are able to help! Thank you as always! We could not do anything without your support! ❤️

(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.)

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/.../1FAIpQLSfIs98A.../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.

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

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



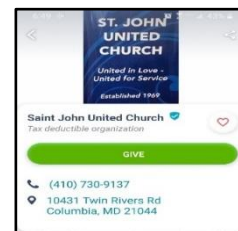
YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!

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.



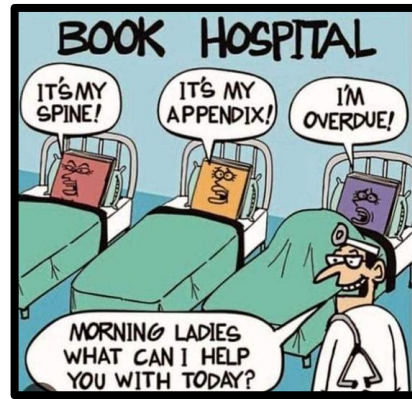
Donate by mail. Yvonne checks the mail for contributions, and makes weekly deposits.

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.

IT'S 2024'S TURN!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF SEP 8 – SEP 15

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, 9/8	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE <i>(in-person & streaming)</i> <i>(Liturgist: Robin Dietzway)</i>
	11:30 am	SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING <i>(at end of worship)</i> SECOND SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP <i>(Room 10)</i>
Mon, 9/9	4:00 pm	FINANCE TEAM
Tue, 9/10	7:00 pm	COMMUNICATIONS TEAM INVESTMENT TRUSTEE MEETING
Thur, 9/12	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM <i>(Room 4)</i>
	7:00 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL <i>(Room 4)</i>
Sun, 9/15	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE <i>(in-person & streaming)</i> <i>(Scheduled liturgist: Joy Buckingham)</i>

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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