

# SJU News \*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)

**DECEMBER 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

## **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**

## **CYBER BIBLE CTUDY – 12:15 PM MONDAYS – VIA ZOOM**

**Meeting ID: 820 4208 1882**

**Password: 839873**

**Join online: [Cyber Bible Ctudy Zoom Link](#)**

**Or by phone: +1 301 715 8592 US**

## **NEEDLEWORK GROUP**



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

## PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

December 6, 2024

Eternal God, so draw my heart to you, so guide my mind, so fill my imagination, so control my will, that I may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you and then use me, I pray, as you will, but always to your glory and the uplifting of your people. I pray this in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

This has become my "Go To" prayer over the last few days as I have found myself just freaking out! I realized that we have less than 20 days until Christmas (and our family flying to Colorado on Christmas afternoon), less than 30 days until our son, Matt's wedding to Savannah, and less than 60 days until the archery season begins with the Lancaster, PA Classic! Holy Cats!

As I was getting freaky, I found this prayer in my electronic files as I prepared for worship this week. I did not write it, and I have lost the citation. However, I owe someone a heartfelt thank you for those words. This prayer is just what I need to say and hear, over and over again.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve

*Pastor Steve's hours are normally Tuesdays and before and after worship on Sundays.*

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## PASTOR STEVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CYBER BIBLE CTUDY – NEW TIME – MONDAYS at 12:15 – VIA ZOOM**

[Cyber Bible Study Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 820 4208 1882 Password: 839873

Join online: Cyber Bible Study Zoom Link Or by phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

**FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY, DEC. 8!**

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

**CIRCLE DECEMBER 22 ON YOUR CALENDAR**

Our choir will present the **Christmas Cantata** during our 10:30 Sunday Worship. And plan to attend a special holiday fellowship hour in Room 18 at 11:45 am for an **appreciation lunch for our staff!**



## [ADVENT DEVOTIONAL](#)

This year our Advent Devotion comes from Global Health Ministries. At their request, this four-part series of meditations for Advent was written by Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann. Titled *Preaching Reflection for Advent*, “Dr. Brueggemann leads us into the Old Testament Books of Kings, an inspired place to start as we anticipate the coming of the King of Kings.”

It is a terrific Advent devotional for all of us. It comes from an interesting perspective, and I encourage its use. The First Sunday of Advent is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Here’s the link: [Advent Devotional 2024](#)

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## [ALTAR GUILD NEWS](#)

The Altar Guild is creating a special Advent Altar Cloth to use each Advent season. It is a deep purple velvet cloth and will have on the front nighttime scenes of the story of Jesus’ birth with appliques from the annunciation through the travel to Bethlehem ending with the nativity scene. We have ordered patterns for the appliques and we need sewers who have made appliques to volunteer to do one of the sections. This may not be completed this season, but we pray we can start “The Journey”.

Please call Jean Weller 443-812-5030 or email her at [jweller123@comcast.net](mailto:jweller123@comcast.net) to learn how you can help with this project as soon as possible.

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## [NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM](#)



Our annual **Coat and Mitten Tree** donation event begins soon. Bring your **NEW coats and mittens** to the worship services on **December 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>**.

And we’re again **collecting gift cards** for the BWES staff. Please bring **\$5 gift cards** to the worship services on **December 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation for the gift cards in two ways:

- = **online through [Givelify](#)** (make a note that it is for the [BWES staff cards](#)), or
  - = **write a check** to SJU (make a note on the memo line that it is for the [BWES staff cards](#)).
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## [RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK](#)

### **SAVE THE DATE: LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

If it would be good for your soul, we invite you and your loved ones to a Longest Night Service on Sunday, **December 22, at 7pm ET | 4pm PT**. The service will be live streamed on RMN’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

If a Longest Night Service is a new term to you: it’s a set-apart time that honors the grief and pain we may be carrying in Advent and the holiday season at large. It’s a companion to the joy and fun that many experience on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

For more information on this and other news, read their [RMN December 6 Newsletter](#).



Go to their website for links to their YouTube and Facebook pages: [RMNetwork](#)

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## NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Advent hope illuminates God's intentions. Read more about hope in [a message from Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling](#), episcopal leader of the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Area.

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## COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

**Festive Fridays: Save the date for FREE family fun on [Friday, December 13](#).** Special shout-out to our friends at [the Downtown Columbia Partnership \(DTC\)](#) for helping us light up the Lakefront with festive cheer!

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## ASP WREATHS



The St. John Home Repair Ministry/ASP is pleased to again offer Christmas Wreaths for sale!!! Proceeds are used for ministry expenses such as building supplies and trip costs. Wreaths cost \$30 and will be available for pick up at WLIFC from 8:30AM – 1:30PM on Sunday, December 1, December 8 and December 15. **Please use the link or QR code below to place orders.**

Questions can be sent to Mary Beth at [mamalast3@gmail.com](mailto:mamalast3@gmail.com)

<https://forms.gle/XeaLAvx3xefyFKRm7>



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## HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Doodle HATCH:** This gem is an Interactive Art Museum located at the Long Reach Village Center. This museum hosts various exhibits, displays, and craft workshops, offering an imaginative and otherworldly experience. Doodle HATCH offers an experience that's perfect for children and toddlers and owner Lee Andersen is launching the Doodle HATCH TV show to educate and entertain children in grades one-to-five. It teaches Math, Reading, Phonics, Emotional Health, Physical Health, Dance, Music, and Arts & Crafts. Check it out: [DOODLEHatch](#)

**Light it Up!** As the holiday season approaches, we are excited to launch our 2024 HoCo Holiday Lights Map, a tradition that brings joy and togetherness to Howard County. This interactive map showcases the most festive holiday displays, from Columbia to Elkridge, Savage to Woodstock, and beyond. Whether you're planning a magical family outing to enjoy the lights or sharing your own decorations with the community, the HoCo Holiday Lights Map is your guide to holiday cheer. Each listing includes photos, display hours, and special details, making it easy to plan your route. We encourage all residents and businesses to register their displays early to spread the joy.

Explore the map at [data.howardcountymd.gov/HolidayLightsFinder\\_View/](https://data.howardcountymd.gov/HolidayLightsFinder_View/) or register your display at [data.howardcountymd.gov/HolidayLightsFinder/](https://data.howardcountymd.gov/HolidayLightsFinder/). We wish you all a de-LIGHT-ful holiday season!

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**Weekly deadline for submitting SJU \*FLASH\* articles is  
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!):**

- Prayers for the family of **David Palasits**, ASP co-leader, for the death of his father.
- A speedy recovery from illness for **Pastor Angela Wells** of Christ United Methodist Church.
- Continued prayers for **Lynn Pakulla**.
- Prayers for **Morris Range**.
- **Paul & Jean Weller** and all who are working for justice and needed benefits with the Developmental Disabilities Administration.
- 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)).
- Prayers for all those affected by the multiple hurricanes.
- Prayers for the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and throughout the world.
- We pray for our neighborhood, county, region, and our nation. We pray for peace, healing, justice, and people working together.
- Prayers for the Pastor Nominating Committee and for all the pastor candidates.
- 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 periodically for updated contact information.

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### HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING AND INDEPENDENCE

*Good news!* The [Office on Aging & Independence \(OAI\)](#) has extended hours at the Bain, Elkridge and East Columbia 50+ Centers. To provide more opportunities for older adults to stay active and connected, these centers are open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. - noon.

Starting January 6, the Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center will be open during these extended hours as well, for older adults who are still working but want to take advantage of the fitness room.

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**REVISED**

## December 2024

# SJU Meetings and Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 1 <b>8:30 am</b> Christian Application (Zoom) <b>9 am</b> ASP Wreath sale (lobby) <b>10:30 am</b> Communion Worship (Rm 4) Hat/Mitten tree donations <b>7 pm</b> Sundays at Seven (PM!) Fellowship (Zoom)	2 <b>12 noon</b> Cyber Bible Ctdy	3 <b>7 pm</b> Worship: "Giving Tuesday" (Zoom) <b>7:30 pm</b> Pastor Nominating Committee (Zoom)	4 <b>2 pm</b> Congregational Care Committee	5 <b>6 pm</b> Worship Rehearsal (Rm 4) <b>7:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 4)	6 <b>6:30 pm</b> Fellowship Gathering of SJU and SJERC leadership (lobby)	7
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 8 <b>8:30 am</b> Christian Application (Zoom) <b>9 am</b> ASP Wreath sale (lobby) <b>10:30 am</b> Worship (Rm 4) Hat/Mitten tree donations & gift card donations (BWES) <b>11:30 am</b> Needlework Group (lobby) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fellowship (Rm 10) <b>7 pm</b> Sundays at Seven (PM!) Fellowship (Zoom)	9 <b>12:15 pm</b> Cyber Bible Ctdy <b>4:00 pm</b> Finance Team	10 <b>7 pm</b> Communications Team (Zoom) <b>7:30 pm</b> Pastor Nominating Committee (Zoom)	11	12 <b>6 pm</b> Worship Rehearsal (Rm 4) <b>7:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 4)	12	14
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 15 <b>8:30 am</b> Christian Application (Zoom) <b>9 am</b> ASP Wreath sale (lobby) <b>10:30 am</b> Worship (Rm 4) Hat/Mitten tree donations & gift card donations (BWES) <b>7 pm</b> Sundays at Seven (PM!) Fellowship (Zoom)	16 <b>12:15 pm</b> Cyber Bible Ctdy <b>7 pm</b> Council Meeting (Zoom)	17 <b>7:30 pm</b> Pastor Nominating Committee (Zoom)	18 <b>7 pm</b> Longest Night Service	19 <b>6 pm</b> Worship Rehearsal for Dec 22 and Dec 24 (Rm 4) <b>7 pm</b> WLIC Board Meeting <b>7:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 4)	20	21
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 22 <b>8:30 am</b> Christian Application (Zoom) <b>10:30 am</b> Cantata Worship (Rm 4) <b>11:45 am</b> Holiday Fellowship & Staff Appreciation (Rm 18) <b>7 pm</b> Sundays at Seven (PM!) Fellowship (Zoom)	23	24 <b>7 pm</b> Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (Rm 4)  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	25 CHRISTMAS DAY  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27 <b>LAST DAY FOR OFFICE TO RECEIVE MAILED OR DROP-OFF DONATIONS TO BE CREDITED IN 2024.</b>	28 <b>9 am</b> Men's Group (Zoom)
29 <b>8:30 am</b> Christian Application (Zoom) <b>10:30 am</b> Worship (Rm 4) <b>7 pm</b> Sundays at Seven (PM!) Fellowship (Zoom)	30	31	December 25 – January 3 Pastor Steve is away for his son's wedding on January 1.			

# ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

## Local Interest

[Glen Mar UMC](#) in Ellicott City will hold its Journey to Bethlehem, a free outdoor theatrical experience on **December 6, 7, and 8, from 5 to 8 p.m.** The experience on Friday and Saturday will be walking experiences, and Sunday, December 8, will be a drive-through experience. [Reservations are required.](#) (A daytime sensory-friendly walk will be offered Dec. 7. To register, contact Lynne in advance at [jtb@glenmarumc.org](mailto:jtb@glenmarumc.org).)

[Glen Mar UMC](#) in Ellicott City will hold a **Longest Night Service on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.** This peaceful, contemplative service of candlelight, music and hope is for anyone who is having a hard time singing "Joy to the World" this year. All are welcome.

## Columbia Community Care

VISIT THE WEBSITE for donation and volunteer information.

[Columbia Community Care](#)

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

### 11-21-24

I am still processing the amazingness of Wednesday night [Dec 4<sup>th</sup>]. Words cannot express how incredible it was to see SO MANY people from all walks of life come to celebrate our local nonprofits, awardees, and Columbia Community Care. There are so many people to thank for making [The JCC 1st Annual BonBon Holiday Bash & Toy Drive Benefiting Columbia Community Care](#) a HUGE SUCCESS. ~ Erika Strauss Chavarria

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/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 direct link: [Donate Today](#).



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!

IKEA just dropped  
off our snowman!



## CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF DEC 8 - DEC 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 [SIUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SIUColumbia@gmail.com) if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 12/8	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Robin Dietzway</i> )
	11:30 am	NEEDLEWORK GROUP ( <i>lobby</i> ) FELLOWSHIP ( <i>Room 10</i> )
Mon, 12/9	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
	12:15 pm	CYBER BIBLE CTUDY
	4:00 pm	FINANCE TEAM



Tue, 12/10	7:00 pm	COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
	7:30 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Wed, 12/11	1:00 pm	COMM TEAM MEETING WITH MISSIO
Thu, 12/12	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM ( <i>Room 4</i> )
	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Sun, 12/15	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: John Telis</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.

**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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