

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)

JANUARY 3, 2025

Reminder: have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion on January 5th.

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

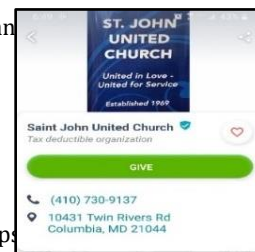
YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!

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.
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.

Room 4 Ceiling Replacement Project Update

Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

The project to replace the ceiling and lights in Room 4 starts on Monday, January 6 and is scheduled to be completed by Friday, March 7th. The worship team is working with the building facilities team to ensure minimal disruption to, and a safe environment for, Sunday worship; however there will be impact to our livestream and sound capabilities, and the room will be closed for at least one Sunday.

This is the plan for SJU worship in January as of now:

- January 5 - Normal in-person and livestream worship
- January 12 - In-person worship with sound, but no projection screens plus livestream with camera views only - no slides or videos
- January 19 - Room 4 closed. All worship via Zoom. No choir, but videos possible. *More detail to come.*
- January 26 - *To be determined*

The worship bulletin will continue to be available in the room for all in-person worship, and on our website.

Watch future editions of the Flash and listen to the announcements in worship for more information as it becomes available.

We are SJU! We can do this!

NEWS FROM ASP

Hello! Happy New Year! We hope you had a Joyful, Peaceful Christmas Celebration and Season. We look forward to a 2025 full of community-spirit and caring.

We are pleased to share the Appalachia Service Project 2025 Theme! Next year, we will explore what it means to "Be the Light" with Matthew 5:16,

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." ☀️

This verse reminds us that our light is a reflection of Christ's love through service and kindness. This message couldn't be more important as we stand with our neighbors still recovering after Hurricane Helene.

We hope that you had a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Be the Light,

David and Lynda

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.

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Why Join Age-Friendly Howard County? Age-friendly initiatives aren't just for older adults—they benefit everyone in the community. By creating environments that promote safety, health, and engagement, we're preparing for the future while addressing the needs of today.

[RSVP HERE](#)



Free Tax Filing: We have good news for Howard County and all state residents. Maryland has joined the IRS's Direct File program, making it easier for up to 700,000 Maryland residents to file their federal taxes for free next year. This new tool is aimed at middle-income taxpayers with, helping to save both time and money. Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman has estimated that many people could benefit from this new option, eliminating the need to pay for tax preparation or software.

The Direct File program, launched as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, aims to simplify tax filing for working and middle-class Americans. During a successful pilot in 12 states this year, over 140,000 people filed using Direct File, saving an estimated \$5.6 million in fees. This initiative is set to ease the stress of tax season, offering a straightforward alternative for taxpayers while continuing to support those with more complex tax needs through other options. Stay tuned for more details on eligibility and prepare to make tax season easier! You can read more at [IRS's Direct File program](#).



HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Discover practical tips and creative ideas to make healthier choices this holiday season. Join Howard County SNAP-Ed educator Razan Sahuri for a 30-minute kitchen lesson packed with expert advice on navigating the grocery store, selecting nutritious ingredients, and planning festive, wholesome meals. [WATCH HERE](#) now and learn how to make your new year shopping and cooking both healthier and more enjoyable!

**Regular weekly deadline for submitting SJU *FLASH* articles is WEDNESDAY by 12 NOON. Send via email to SJUColumbia@gmail.com
Please include "FOR THE FLASH" in your subject heading.**

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.
- **Rev. Angela Wells** is doing much better and has returned to work after several weeks of sick leave.
- 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).
- 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*

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

ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Columbia Community Care

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...>



Howdy, 2025!

Proper grammar. Thank you, Target!



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JAN 5 – JAN 12

All meetings are via Zoom (unless otherwise noted).

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, 1/5	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green</i>)
Tue, 1/7	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
	7:30 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Wed, 1/8	2:00 pm	CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE (<i>Room 18</i>)
Sun, 1/12	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Liturgist: TBA</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), 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 normally Tuesdays 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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