

# 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)

**MARCH 7, 2025**

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 AM** **LIVESTREAM FROM THE INTERFAITH CENTER**

*Use this same link for EVERY SJU livestream worship service!*

**\* SPRING AHEAD: Daylight Saving Time begins March 9<sup>th</sup> ! \***

[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 – 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

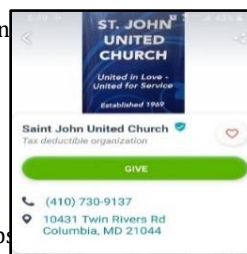
## **YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!**

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.

## PASTOR STEVE'S PONDERINGS

March 7, 2025

I can't believe we are a quarter of the way through the 21<sup>st</sup> century – can you?

The reason this disbelief came to mind is because I looked down at my key chain.

No, that isn't as random as it sounds.

Back at the turn of the century, Kim and I gave our church members medallions to hang on their keychains. I attached it, and it has been a part of me this whole century.

One side of the medallion says, "God So Love the World; God Gave the Only Begotten Son."

The other side reads:

Lent is to Watch  
Lent is to Listen  
Lent is to Pray  
Lent is to Follow

I am reminded of this year-round. I hope to center on these during the current Lenten season, and so will these ponderings.

Next week John 3:16.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve Nofel

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

## PASTOR STEVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Lent at SIU

- **Lenten Devotion, Pausing on the Road to Jerusalem:** A Lenten Study by Michael L. Lindvall and Christy Lang. You can find the six devotion sessions in the FLASH section of the website. A limited number of printed copies will be available for pick up at Sunday worship. You can also email Yvonne for an electronic copy of each session.
- **Zoom Bible Study\*** on Mondays at 1:15 pm **starting on March 10**. See details below.
- **Sundays of Lent Worship Services** centering on the **Common Lectionary**. We will be studying and praying through the same Scripture texts as our Christians siblings around the world.
- **Palm Sunday, April 13** at our 10:30 worship, the **Easter Cantata!** Ingrid has a very special program planned!
- **Maundy Thursday, April 17**, at 7pm at Owen Brown Center with Christ UMC leading a special Taize service.
- **Good Friday, April 18** at noon in Room 4 of the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in partnership with Baltimore Presbytery's Dismantling Racism Team.
- **The Glory of Easter Sunday** Worship, **April 20!**

\* **Zoom Bible Study** on Mondays at 1:15 – 2:15 pm starting on March 10. Each week we will study the following Sunday's worship scriptures.

March 10: Psalm 27 and Luke 9:28-43

March 24: Psalm 32 and Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 7: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 and Luke 19:28-40

March 17: Psalm 63:1-8 and Luke 13:1-9

March 31: Psalm 126 and John 12:1-8

April 14: John 20:1-18 and Luke 24:1-12

**Topic: Lent Bible Study**  
**Time: Mar 10, 2025 01:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**  
**Every week on Mon, until Apr 14, 2025, 6 occurrence(s)**

**Join Zoom Meeting Online: [LENT BIBLE STUDY](#)**

**Meeting ID: 840 8865 1149**

**Passcode: 328055**

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### [NEWS FROM THE ANTI-RACISM / SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAMS](#)



Each year, as a part of our Matthew 25/Anti-Racism initiatives, SJU observes Black History Month to celebrate the contributions of Black Americans or discuss issues impacting the lives of marginalized communities. Some of our efforts have included book groups, movies, voter registration campaigns, and community outreach.

Our 2025 Black History Month theme is African Americans and Labor. This theme was inspired by a comment during the last political presidential campaign referring to “the colored sorority.”

During our worship service on Sunday, **March 16**, at 10:30 am, we will celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of the **Divine 9**, the work of the nine (9) NPHC organizations. We have invited representatives from the local organizations to attend, dressed in their organization’s colors. Micah 6:8 is our scripture focus. **Dr. Edwin Johnson**, Special Assistant to the President, Morgan State University, will deliver the sermon.

Please invite family and friends to join us on this day.

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### [NEEDLEWORK GROUP IS BACK!](#)

Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or enjoy any other needle craft? **Come join the SJU Needlework Group on March 9<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*



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

**March 13, 20 & 27 - "On Repentance and Repair"** by Danya Ruttenberg, a book discussion. Join the Racial Justice Ministry of **Govans Presbyterian Church** and **Knox Presbyterian church** as they read and discuss. The meetings will be hosted by Govans Presbyterian Church, and live-streamed. A limited amount of books are available for \$20. Please email [wilson@govanspres.org](mailto:wilson@govanspres.org) to arrange purchase.

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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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## [NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE](#)

- Click the link to read the [Bishop's Lenten Message](#)
  - **United Methodists Support Diversity, Equity, Inclusion:** Throughout the nation, DEI programs and initiatives are under attack. The Baltimore-Washington Conference has long been committed to upholding the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. These core principles are not only grounded in our lived experience as the Body of Christ, but they are also deeply embedded in the theological teachings of Scripture, our United Methodist traditions and the broader Christian call to justice. The pursuit of equity, diversity, and inclusion is integral to living out the Gospel's radical message of love, unity, and justice for all people, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, ability, or social status. [See our Call to Prayer and Action.](#)
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### [HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT](#)

Howard County has created an email address for county residents who are **impacted federal employees** to reach out to the County with questions on local support programs and assistance. Impacted federal employees and contractors can email [hocohelp@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hocohelp@howardcountymd.gov) for guidance and assistance.

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### [HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM](#)

March is [Women's History Month](#), and HCLS is offering a set of upcoming events that reminds us that "Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History."

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

### [PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE](#)

#### **This Week in Your Prayers (your prayers are felt and make a difference!):**

- **Dave Douds** is now home and asks for prayers for his continuing recovery. Cards and notes are still appreciated at this time: 719 Maiden Choice Lane BR231, Catonsville MD 21228.
- Prayers for **Jean Weller's sister**, Barbara Paulson, soon to start radiation treatments.
- Continued prayers for **Lynn Pakulla**.
- Prayers for **Morris Range**.
- 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 wildfires and the New Orleans terror attack.
- Prayers for the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and throughout the world.
- Prayers for the families and friends of the three victims killed by gunfire recently in Columbia. We pray for Columbia, and for an end to gun violence.
- 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)

**Regular 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.**

**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/.../1FAIpQLSfI1fNWZeX.../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!**

So I just got my electricity bill and I believe I got charged for the sunlight, the moonlight, the street light, the light of my life, the speed of light, the light of the holy spirit and the light at the end of the tunnel

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## CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MAR 9 – MAR 16

**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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 3/9	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person and livestream</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Karen Hopkins</i> )
	11:30 am	NEEDLEWORK GROUP ( <i>café area</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Mon, 3/10	1:15 pm	<b>LENT BIBLE STUDY</b>
	4:00 pm	FINANCE TEAM
Tue, 3/11	7:30 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Thu, 3/13	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL ( <i>Room 4</i> )
	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL ( <i>Room 4</i> )
Sun, 3/16	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>)</b> <b>– BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME / LOCAL DIVINE 9</b> ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green</i> )
	11:30 am	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b> ( <i>Room 10</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

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**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 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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

[snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org](mailto:snofel@baltimorepresbytery.org)

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