

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

July 27, 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE

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Liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME

CENTERING HYMN

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”

UM #328

(Sing twice)

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings;
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus taught us to pray,
and to live the words we pray.
“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done—on earth as it is in heaven.”
Let that prayer begin in us today.
Come, let us worship the God who invites us into holy work.
We come with open hearts, ready to be transformed.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,
You invite us to pray with trust and persistence—to ask, to seek, to knock—believing that You hear and respond in love. Teach us to pray as Jesus taught, with open hearts and hopeful spirits. Feed us with Your grace, forgive us with Your mercy, and draw us closer to You during this time of worship. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

OPENING SONG

“God Is Here Today”

GTG #411

God is here today; as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises,
as certain when I sing you’ll hear my song.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

We admit that we often say your words without allowing them to change our lives. We pray for your kingdom to come; however, we ignore the needs around us.

We ask for daily bread but forget to share what we have.

We ask for forgiveness but hold grudges in our hearts.

Forgive us, Lord. Shape us into people who live out the prayer we say, so your will may be done in us and through us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

THE RESPONSE

“Glory Be to the Father”

GTG #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 18:20 – 32

ANTHEM

“Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door”
(Raymond Wise)

(video)
(Voices of Unity Youth Choir)

GOSPEL READING

Luke 11:1 – 13

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“**Bring It Down**”

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

MESSAGE

“**THY KINGDOM COME... THROUGH US**”

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Seek Ye First”

GTG #175

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

GTG #469

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of abundance, bless these gifts we offer today. Use them—and us—to bring your kingdom closer: to feed the hungry, to comfort the lonely, to do justice and love mercy. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord’s Prayer

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

GTG #465

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JULY 27 – AUG 3

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, 7/27	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) (<i>Liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green</i>)
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP (<i>Room 10</i>)
Thu, 7/31	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Fri, 8/1	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sun, 8/3	10:30 am	JUDY BROWN MEMORIAL SERVICE & REPAST (<i>Rooms 4 & 10</i>)
	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) (<i>Scheduled liturgist: Guy Moody</i>)
	11:30 am	YVONNE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION (<i>Room 10</i>)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Genesis 18:20 – 32

Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord.

Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Luke 11:1 – 13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

NEWS FROM THE BWES PARTNERSHIP TEAM

BWES SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION!

The new school year is approaching and it's time to start collecting material for Bryant Woods! All these items are on sale now at local stores like Staples, Walmart and Target.

Supplies list: 8-pack markers (thin & wide; Crayola preferred), crayons (box of 24; Crayola preferred), #2 pencils, 12-pack colored pencils, pocket folders, large pink erasers, glue sticks, pencil cases, blunt scissors, regular scissors, highlighters, marble composition books (including some K-2 composition books), wide-rule spiral notebooks and notebook paper, 12" clear plastic or wooden rulers, and Ziploc snack/sandwich/gallon size bags.

Donation deadline is Monday, August 18th! You can bring your donations to worship before then; if you want to drop off material during the week, we'll have a collection bin outside of the church administrator's office through the 18th.

Thank you from your BWES Partnership Team!

Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week (August 10-16, 2025): During this week, school supplies are among the items exempt from the state sales tax. This exemption applies regardless of the number of items purchased in the same transaction, as long as each qualifying item individually is \$100 or less.

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CARE FOOD DRIVE

D. Scott Miller, SJERC Director of Communications

We will have a **food drive on August 3rd** and another in the Thanksgiving season / World Day of the Poor November 16th. This supports Columbia Community Care.

You can **contribute food items**, such as Canned Proteins: Tuna, Chicken, Ham, Vienna Sausages, Spam; Canned Goods: Beans, Tomatoes, Corn, And Fruits; Canned Soups: Chili, Stews, Ready-To-Eat Meals; Rice, Dried Beans; Pasta And Pasta Sauces; Ramen, Cup-A-Noodles, Mac & Cheese; Tuna ; Peanut Butter And Jelly; Cold And Hot Cereals; Granola Bars, Individually Wrapped Cookies And Snacks; and Juice Boxes And Shelf-Stable Milk.

You can **contribute personal items** such as: Diapers (Sizes 3-6), Pull-Ups (All Sizes) And Baby Wipes; Toothpaste, Bar Soap; Shampoo; Deodorant; Disposable Razors, and Feminine Hygiene.

Please know that **we do not accept**: Expired items; | Medications | Clothing | Toys | Books | Home furnishing | Paper grocery bags

