



## St. John United Church

United Methodist/Presbyterian Church (USA)

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center • 10431 Twin Rivers Road • Columbia MD 21044  
410-730-9137 • 410-730-9253 (FAX) • SJUColumbia@gmail.com • www.sjunited.org

---

August 11, 2022

Greetings of grace and peace,

We just sang and heard in worship on August 7, “We’ve come this far by faith leaning on the Lord, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in the Holy Word, He’s never failed me yet.” Yes!

St. John United has come far and through a great deal in the past 2 1/2 years, marked by the Coronavirus pandemic. Even while we were separated from one another physically, we found ways to connect spiritually. We learned new skills to bring worship, small groups and Vacation Bible School through the realm of technology. We found ways to care for and support one another with phone calls, emails, porch visits, supply runs and meals when we needed help. We discovered how to grieve collectively and globally, when we could not hold one another’s hands or hug our loved ones at the end of life. We prayed, we cried, we worshiped, we studied and connected, and we still served each other and our neighbors in ways we did not imagine 30 months ago.

We HAVE come this far by faith, and the reality of that faith is grace! Grace that comes before, carries us through, and abides with us on a lifegiving path, even in the most challenging times of our lives. It is with this understanding that I embrace, as a Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr: “Grace fills in the gaps.”

[Grace Fills in the Gaps — Center for Action and Contemplation \(cac.org\)](https://cac.org)

I believe every one of us may feel as if we have “come through something” or are even in the midst of something, where God’s grace is real. The joy, appreciation and future hope we feel also grants us a new perspective, perhaps one of gratitude to God. As Richard Rohr continues, “We are all – from pope, to president, to princess, to peasant – carried across an uncreated and unearned grace.” No exceptions.

[Grace Fills in the Gaps — Center for Action and Contemplation \(cac.org\)](https://cac.org)

I acknowledge that “grace filled the gap” as a team of SJU servant leaders stepped forward to learn new technology and work with audiovisual multimedia to continue and expand worship. In 2021, God’s “grace filled the gap” in an anxious time to bring the blessing of a healthy grandbaby boy and a new generation into my family, where, by grace, everyone has continued well this year. Further, I could also say that “grace filled the gap” when I had COVID at the very beginning of this year, and your cards, prayers, phone calls and home deliveries of soup, bread, and cookies blessed me immensely. All of these experiences and more, evidence of God’s grace, because of St. John United Church. I will choose to express God’s gift of grace, by making a special “Grace Fills In the Gaps” gift to the church.

If you, like me, have experienced anytime where grace has filled a gap for you, and wish to acknowledge it with gratitude, we invite you to tell the story. Complete the form on the next page - you can fill it in online - and return it to the church (by email or USPS mail) by August 28<sup>th</sup>. We further invite (but do not require) you to accompany your story with a “Grace Fills In the Gaps” financial blessing to the church. Your story will be one that glorifies God and edifies the Body of Christ. Any financial gift will be an additional expression of a life touched by grace, and a statement to continue the lifegiving message of Jesus Christ made known through St John United Church.

With your permission, we would like to celebrate and publish your expressions of Grace. Please complete and return the information below by August 28<sup>th</sup> to share how “Grace Fills In the Gaps” in your life! *“For grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”*

— Ephesians 2:8.

All thanks be to God I, and the whole of SJU, will be blessed by grace with your stories.

Many thanks, much peace,  
Mary Ka

**“GRACE FILLS IN THE GAPS”**

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY AUGUST 28, 2022.

EMAIL IT to [PASTORKANAHANSJU@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PASTORKANAHANSJU@GMAIL.COM) OR

SEND BY USPS MAIL to: St. John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Road Columbia, MD 21044

---

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*My name may be used:*      Yes      No

My Grace-Filled Moment / Story:

*My story may be shared:*      Yes      No

Is there a Person/Group you wish to honor or remember, related to your story?

If so, provide their name: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to offer a ‘Grace fills the Gap’ gift to the church in recognition of your experience or in honor/memory of someone?      Yes      No

If YES, how will you make your gift? *Indicate one:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ through the Givelify website
- \_\_\_\_\_ using the “Donate Now” button on the [www.sjuned.org](http://www.sjuned.org) site
- \_\_\_\_\_ in person at a Sunday worship service
- \_\_\_\_\_ via check through my bank/financial institution, or
- \_\_\_\_\_ sending a check by mail to SJU

Thank you for sharing yourself and your story, in any way you can! It is all a blessing.