

Praise & Worship

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

The excitement is building! During our recent Congregational Meeting, we voted to improve our technology to offer both online and in-person worship!

In preparation for on-site worship, the fellowship room is receiving a new coat of paint. We're gathering quotes for new carpeting for the sanctuary and the fellowship room. Most importantly, our tech team has cast a vision for us: a hybrid worship service that is both in-person and Zoom capable.

This is a complex issue, requiring new equipment and advice from technology experts. We began a fund drive to pay for this system update (see page 5) which will include two projectors. Because we must rely on online music and video for our worship services, we need a way to share music inside the sanctuary as well as online -- at the same time.

Pastor's Installation

3 PM SUNDAY, JULY 25

Pastor Judy will be officially installed as our minister on July 25. The service will be both in-person and on Zoom at 3 PM. The Michigan UCC Association will be participating via Zoom. Plan to join us!

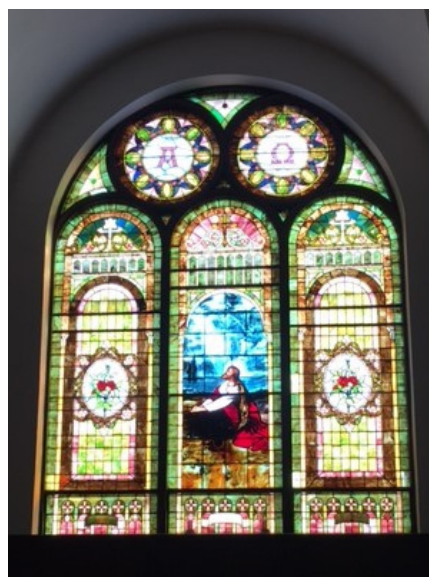
This update will protect the beauty of our sanctuary; no visible TVs or screens will be needed! We will simply project onto the white walls on either side of the chancel.

Enhanced worship will unite our online family with our in-person family. Audio and video technology will allow us to use the sanctuary for conferences, concerts, and speakers, opening our doors to people and organizations in the broader Jackson community and beyond.

This project has been planned for almost a decade -- and it's finally becoming a reality!

How can you help? Please give generously. The initial expense for this system is about \$22K. Once installed, we will explore a new part time position called "Music/Tech." This person will craft our online presence and create a beautiful musical experience in our worship.

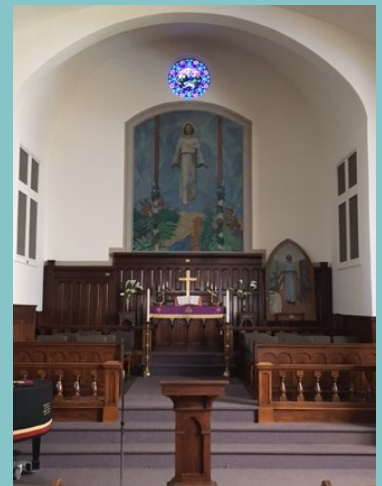
Call Pastor Judy with your comments, questions and concerns at 260-668-9173, or email her directly at kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com.



"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing"

PSALM 100:1

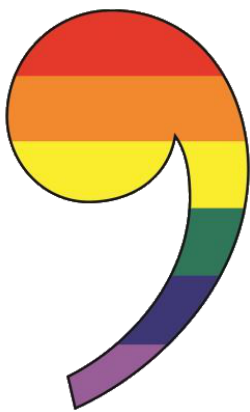


St. John's UCC
801 S. Mechanic
Jackson Michigan
49203

stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com

517-784-7580

Joy of ST. JOHN'S



*Reach up,
Reach in,
Reach out*



From the Pastor's Screen

Invitation to a Journey

Imagine receiving a beautiful card in the mail. It's from God, and it's an invitation. You have been invited to participate in an incredible journey through space and time. You will be living a life on Planet Earth. You will have the freedom to choose your experiences, to create loving relationships, to create a life of excitement and friendship and joy. Sunrises will greet your mornings, and starlight will light your nights. The journey will seem long -- at first -- and then it will seem much too short!

Each day will bring a new surprise. Some you'll enjoy, others will cause pain ... but God will be with you, loving you, every step of the way.

Do you accept this invitation?
Yes! You did! If you have breath, you accepted God's invitation.

Now what? Life probably didn't turn out exactly as you hoped. There were a few twists and turns you weren't prepared for -- but here you are. What matters most about this journey?

Ask yourself: What did I create? How fully did I love? That's what matters, and it's not too late to create something new, and to love more!

Blessings, Pastor Judy

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SAFETY UPDATE

We're so excited to announce our sanctuary will be open for Sunday worship on June 27, 2021! It has been a very long pandemic road, but we have learned so much about keeping one another -- and ourselves -- safe. The following guidelines are meant to promote safety in worship:

- Please email or call the church office to RSVP for worship.
- Please arrive by 10:15 a.m. to be seated by 10:20 a.m.
- Please wear a mask at all times.
- Enter the building at the parking lot (South) entrance.
- Please use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.
- Please continue to be seated at the same place for future services.
- We are not permitted to sing at this time, and live instruments will not be used.
- Please do not shake hands when sharing the Passing of Peace.
- Offering plates will not be passed; a collection area will be provided.
- Families may sit together. All others will be expected to social-distance. The pews will be marked in appropriate places.
- Bulletins will be placed on the pews where seating is allowed.
- Please exit the building at the ramp beside the restrooms.



Weather permitting, we are planning to have coffee hour immediately following worship. We will gather outdoors for snacks and conversation! Individually wrapped baked goods will be available, and chairs will be placed in the parking area near the building.

Prior to our opening Sunday, we will be holding a clean-up day. The sanctuary needs dusting and polishing, and our outdoor areas need some loving care! Please watch for future announcements about this special preparation day!

Please ... be patient and understanding as we explore this unique hybrid worship experience. We will be "Zooming" and meeting together in person ... at the same time! Whenever we try something new, we discover glitches and hiccups we didn't anticipate. Let's keep focused on Philippians 4:8-9:

"... Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things .. and the God of Peace will be with you."

See you in June!

June Calendar

JUNE 9 - COUNCIL ZOOM
MEETING 6 PM

JUNE 10 - BABY SHOWER
ZOOM MEETING 2 PM

JUNE 13 2 PM AND JUNE
23 6 PM - SACRED
PATHWAYS ZOOM
DISCUSSION WITH
PASTOR JUDY

JUNE 16 - HEALTHY
CONGREGATIONS ZOOM
MEETING 6 PM

JUNE 18 - FOOD BANK

JUNE 27 - SANCTUARY
OPEN

JUNE 28 - AMERICAN
RED CROSS BLOOD
DRIVE



See, I am doing a new thing!

*Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?*

Isaiah 43:19

What is a Healthy Congregation?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

St. John's is working to be a Healthy Congregation which focuses on their strengths and mission. "Healthy Congregations" began as a two-day, eight-hour workshop conducted by our interim pastor, Reverend Mike Mulberry. Seventeen of us attended this terrific training on Zoom in January, 2021. We used the book *Fishing Tips* by Dr. John Pentland as a resource that opened our eyes to possibilities.

Healthy Congregations:

- accept change as essential
- expect conflict and know it is normal
- maintain respectful honesty as they work collaboratively for the good of all.

We realized that we do many things well, and we should celebrate every small win! We learned that we can honor St. John's rich history and tradition without romanticizing it.

The Healthy Congregations group recommended the Givelify online giving app and the technology update to the church council. With our new technology, we're casting fresh vision for music and concert opportunities called "Music at the John."

We are letting go of those things that are not life-giving. We are celebrating

our love of God, our openness to change, and our dedication to those in need in the Jackson Community and beyond.

It is energizing to see the future of our church – beyond the walls of the church and beyond our Sunday worship. Our goal is to keep having conversations about what God has in store for the important work of our church family.

You are welcome to join us and volunteer on one of our projects. If you have an idea, God is still listening... and so are we.

Healthy Congregations Zoom meetings take place on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 pm.

To join the conversation, call 517.784.7580 or email us at stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com.

Submitted by Jan Janke

Council Update

The Church Council met on Wednesday, May 12. The following items were discussed:

- The financial reports were approved with the note that fund balances must be brought up-to-date
- \$780 was received in April through Givelify
- The Covid-19 team met to discuss in-person worship
- Work continues on the Fellowship Room as the church prepares for in-person worship
- The Office Administrator position has been advertised on Indeed
- Healthy Congregations will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month
- The Church Constitution team will review sample UCC constitutions and bylaws provided by Pastor Judy
- The UCC General Synod will be July 11-18. Pastor Judy would like to attend.





Technology Fund Drive

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

During the recent Congregational Meeting the church overwhelmingly offered their support for the new technology upgrades. The original fund for technology was started by the Schroeder's more than 10 years ago. An additional pledge brought the total to \$6,647.

At the end of the congregational meeting we launched the fundraising effort by members pledging over \$7,000 more to the campaign. We are just over \$8,000 away from fully funding this effort! If you would like to join this outreach you can donate directly to the church with the word "technology" in the notation, you can give through Givelify, or you might help with installation of the equipment and the production of the services.

Thanks to all who have stepped up (or plan to step up) to help build a future for St. John's.

Submitted by Harry Wilson

Sacred Pathways

JUNE 13 @2PM OR JUNE 23 @6PM

How do you connect to the Divine? There are many spiritual pathways, so everyone's answer might be a little different. Some of us feel closer to God when we pray; some when we sing; some when we are outside in nature. Some of us are traditionalists and enjoy rituals. Some like sensory experience like candles and incense. One of my favorite ways to connect is through walking outdoors; the silence is only broken by birdsong and the sounds of my own footsteps.

This month I'll be offering a Zoom class two different dates and times that explores nine pathways to the Divine. (If you don't "zoom" we can offer this class in person later this year.) I hope this teaching will help us understand how each of us connects to God -- and to one another.

Watch your email for the Zoom invitation. Everyone is welcome to attend -- feel free to invite friends!

Pastor Judy

All Hands on Deck!

SOMETHING
FOR
EVERYONE

Want to help? Here's what you can do!

- Pray for St. John's congregation every day: pray for wisdom as we move forward, compassion for one another, and success for our outreach and missions.
- Spread the word that we're looking for a part-time office administrator.
- Assist with the Food Bank on the third Friday of each month.
- Join in the Baby Shower planning meeting on Zoom on June 10 at 2PM.
- Pull weeds! All our landscaping needs refreshing, on all sides of the building and across the street.
- Call a friend to say hello, and let them know you care about them!



Rev. Judy Goodrow

260-668-9173

kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com

St. John's UCC
801 S. Mechanic Street
Jackson Michigan 49203

Postage

stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com

517-784-7580

*Reach up,
Reach in,
Reach out!*



Affix Address
Label Here

*Whoever you are, and wherever
you are on life's journey ...*

*There's a place
for you here!*

St. John's

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

reach up, reach in, reach out