

# Joy of ST. JOHN'S

*The doors of St. John's UCC are open!*

**OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Our sanctuary was opened for worship on Sunday, June 27!

We had 27 persons in attendance, with 14 joining us on Zoom. Thanks to Patrick Bymhold and Carl Robinson, our first hybrid service went very smoothly!

We hope you will continue to worship with us either by Zoom or in person, whichever is most comfortable and convenient for you. Plan to join us at 10:15 a.m. for our 10:30 a.m. service, so you will see our announcements and enjoy our prelude music.



reach up,  
reach in,  
reach out

*Welcome, Evelyn!*

**OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

We're so excited to announce that Evelyn Kelly has joined our St. John's family as our new office administrator.

Evelyn moved from Gainesville, Florida, to Jackson in December, 2020, with her two cats. She is studying Anthropology at Arizona State University, and she does not like sauerkraut!

Evelyn's skills with Microsoft Office, Google and all things technological are unsurpassed! She joined us June 15 and is ready to let her creativity and organization skills run wild!

Please stop by the church office Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to say hello and introduce yourself.



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Image by Jeevan Singla from Pixabay

## Find us Online!



ST JOHN'S UCC JACKSON

Keep up with the latest news on our Facebook page, and "check in" on Facebook whenever you're at St. John's. We add new content every day, and Pastor Judy shares live video every Thursday. If you would like a mid-week spiritual check-up, find us on Facebook!

Currently we are updating and revising our website. We're still under construction, but you can access our site at <https://stjohnsuccjackson.org>. Sermons will be available soon on YouTube. The links to Facebook and YouTube will be listed on our website.

If you need help connecting, please contact Evelyn at the church office.



St. John's United Church of Christ Jackson MI  
Facebook Page

## Coffee Hour

HELP NEEDED!

Now that our sanctuary is open, we will be meeting again for coffee hour! Are you available to help? We will be contacting anyone who can supply individually wrapped baked goods or snacks. If you're not able to help in person, you may sponsor a coffee hour by donation, and we will purchase food.



Image by congerdesign from Pixabay

## July Calendar

JULY 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY!

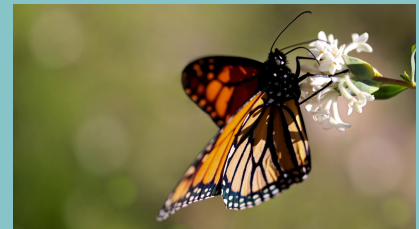
JULY 8 - BABY SHOWER ZOOM MEETING 2 PM

JULY 16 - FOOD BANK

JULY 18 - ELDERS MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP 11:45 AM

JULY 21 - HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS ZOOM MEETING 6 PM

JULY 25 - PASTOR INSTALLATION SERVICE 3 PM



***"Don't be afraid.***

***Just believe."***

***- Jesus***

***Mark 5:36 NIV***



# Samaritan Fund

## BECOMING GOOD SAMARITANS

St. John's is working to help our neighbors! The Samaritan Fund continues to receive calls for help with rent, electricity and water bills, and for help with food.

In June, we received eight calls for rent or eviction assistance, eight calls for utility help, one call for water shut off, three calls for emergency food assistance and one call from a homeless person requesting a hotel. We expect those calls to increase now that we have an office administrator to answer the phone, and as the extra unemployment benefits expire.

The generosity of St. John's UCC congregation has been very beneficial to our neighbors who have struggled this past year. Thank you!

# Food Bank

## COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Our Community Food Bank served 94 persons (representing 190 family members) on June 18.

Under Carl Robinson's leadership, the Food Bank distributed 3200 pounds of food.

The next Food Bank will be Friday, July 16, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

# Annual Baby Shower Update

## SEPTEMBER 25

The 15th annual Community Baby Shower is scheduled for September 25, 2021!

We are meeting on July 8, 2021 at 2pm via Zoom to plan for the shower.

Anyone who would like to participate in the planning should call the church office to ask to be added to the Zoom meeting invitation.

Here's how you can help!

In August we will start meeting at the church and sorting and hanging baby clothes, so let the church office know if you would like to help with that. So far, we have 44 mothers registered.

We need new or gently used baby clothes sizes 0-3 up to size 2T. Strollers, car seats, and highchairs have also been requested by moms. If you find a car seat at a garage sale, check the date of manufacture on the back of the car seat: we only give away seats that are 5 years or less past their manufacture date. Diapers are also needed in sizes 1 through 6.

We look forward to this year's shower since we were unable to do one last year due to COVID. We will need lots of volunteers, so if you want to volunteer the day of the shower - September 25 - or for set up on the 24th, let Evelyn in the church office know.

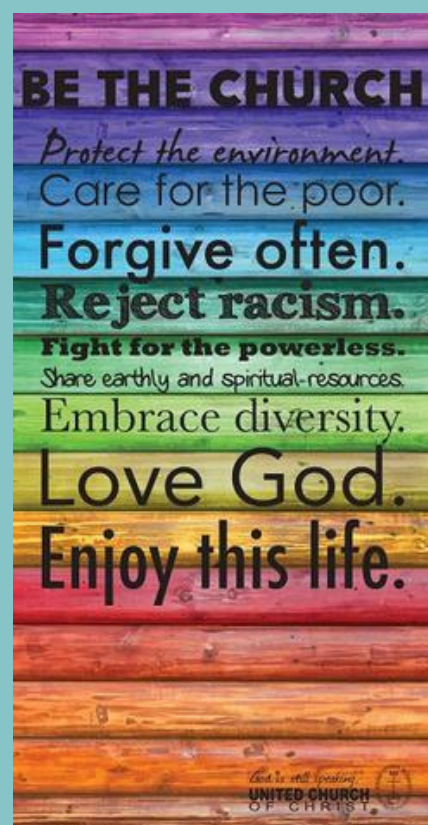
Submitted by Donna Benedict

## 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.
- 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.
- Donate time or money for the Samaritan Fund.
- Donate new birthday cards to the church office.
- Pull weeds! All our landscaping needs refreshing, on all sides of the building and across the street.
- Volunteer for Coffee Hour.
- Call a friend to say hello, and let them know you care about them!



# Technology Fund Drive

## FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Over the past two months St. John's has been involved in fundraising for technology upgrades so that we can continue to offer an amazing church experience for those who attend our church on a regular basis and to offer a virtual church experience for those who attend by computer or phone.

A \$22,000 dollar goal was supported in a congregational meeting in May. That day, we received \$7100 dollars in pledges toward the project. In June, we raised another \$7800 in pledges, and, along with funds we had on account, we are just **\$1,432 short of our goal.**

We are an amazing church. Just in the past couple months, we have come together to support members who were facing homelessness, helped strangers through the Samaritan Fund, drywalled and painted the fellowship room, raised money for new carpet, conducted food drives, checked in with every member of the church, sponsored blood drives, held a clean-up day, and prepared the orchard for summer – Pretty good for not being open!

For all those who pledged, thank you again. If you would like to donate to the AV Technology campaign, please send donations to the church (write "AV FUND" on the check) or use the "Givelify App" which will accept on-line contributions.

*Submitted by Harry Wilson*



## Healthy Congregations

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Our Healthy Congregations group met on June 16 and discussed marketing and how we can share the good work of St. John's. The group determined that St. John's is passionate about:

- 1- Extravagant welcome
- 2- Missions/outreach/serving
- 3- Heritage
- 4- Music and the Arts

A team has been formed to plan "Heritage Day," when we will gather together to celebrate the long history of our church and collect stories from our long-term members.

Banners and interior and exterior signage were also discussed as a way of expanding our extravagant welcome.

If you would like to join in on the planning for Heritage Day, or help design signs and banners for our building, please contact Evelyn at the church office.

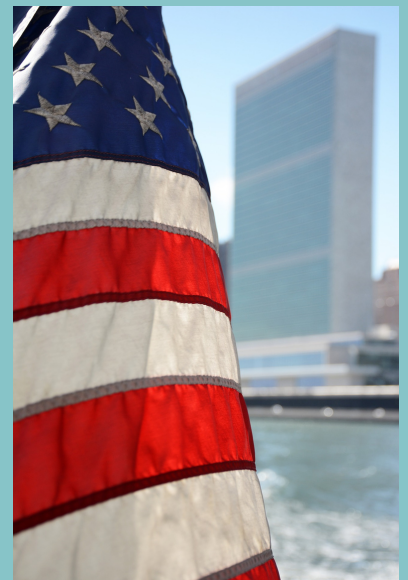
If you have an idea, God is still listening... and so are we!

*Pastor Judy*

## Council Update

The Church Council met on Wednesday, June 9. The following items were discussed:

- The financial reports were approved
- \$975 was received in May through Givelify
- Average weekly worship attendance is 39
- The AV System will be ordered and the fund drive is underway
- The Covid-19 team continues to discuss safety issues for in-person worship
- Quotes have been obtained for new carpeting
- The custodian position hours and pay was increased
- Council will meet again in September



Rev. Judy Goodrow

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*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