Joy of ST. JOHN'S

The doors of St. Welcome, John's UCC are Evelyn! 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

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.





IN THIS ISSUE

St. John's is Open!

Welcome our New Office Administrator

From the Pastor's Screen

Pastor's Installation

July Calendar

Mission Updates

Council Update

Healthy Congregations

Technology Fund Drive

From the Pastor's Screen

INTENTIONAL GRATITUDE

Each Saturday I attend "Yoga in the Park," a free hour-long outdoor yoga practice that is relaxing and refreshing. Each week the instructor asks us to choose an intention. An intention is a thought or attitude on which we will focus throughout the practice and throughout our day. I often choose gratitude. Researchers have found that people who practice gratitude and give thanks daily are happier people.

I invite you to choose the intention of gratitude for our church for the month of July. I know that we usually dedicate the month of November to thankfulness and Thanksgiving, but let's be unusual! Let's practice gratitude now. I use a gratitude journal. Each morning I write down one or two reasons to be grateful. I number my list, and now, after many journals and several years, I'm on number 1989.

My list is filled with simple things and moments. Here are a few examples from my journal:

267. Hot coffee on a cold morning
541. Ideas popping up like raindrops in
reverse

1688. Red cardinal singing from green pine branches

If you don't have a journal, keep a list on your refrigerator. Every time you open the refrigerator, you'll see your list, and you can add to it or just give thanks for what you've written.

Being aware of our blessings reminds us to give thanks and praise to God, from whom all blessings flow!

Noticing our blessings keeps us focused on God's goodness and the beauty of this world. Writing our blessings strengthens our focus and serves as a written testimony to the love of God.

Practicing gratitude is easy, simple, and fulfilling. Your list can be private or you can share it with others. Take care to keep it positive and fun, and by the end of the month you'll be amazed at how rich and full life is, and how much the Source of Life provides for us!

My latest entry: 1989. My new church family at St. John's UCC Jackson!

Blessings, Pastor Judy

"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

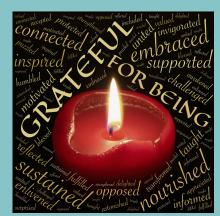


Image by John Hain from Pixabay

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

stjohnsuccjackson @gmail.com

517-784-7580

Pastor's Installation

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE AT 3 PM ON SUNDAY, JULY 25

Pastor Judy will be officially installed as our minister on July 25. We will have only one worship service on that day at 3 PM. This will allow other UCC ministers to attend. There will be NO MORNING SERVICE. The service will be both in-person and on Zoom. The Michigan UCC Association will be participating via Zoom. Plan to ioin us!



Image by Jeevan Singla from Pixabay

July Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

07/02 - Tim Schroeder

07/03 - Katie Anderson

07/04 - Amanda Canter Penny Poor

07/05 - Rashiem Dentmond

07/07 - Ruby Canter

07/08 - Katie Reynolds

07/09 - Deborah Benedict

07/13 - Rebecca Havens

07/14 - Kain Elliott

07/15 - Allen Schroeder

07/17 - Susan Canter Rachael Hubbard

07/19 - Erwin Handloser

07/21 - Conrad Ludwig

07/25 - Christopher Evans Samantha Haven Walter Shuberg

07/26 - Michele Wilson

07/27 - Caroline Kinstle

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.

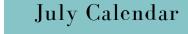


St. John's United Church of Christ Jackson MI

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.



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**



Image by congerdesign from Pixabay

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 online 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 inperson 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
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