

# Joy of *ST. JOHN'S*

## *Introducing our new website: stjohnsjx.com*

VISIT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED SITE!

Thanks to our outstanding Office Administrator, Evelyn Kelly, we have a new website!

Due to a number of issues with our other site, we decided to start fresh. Evelyn obtained our new domain name and also procured ownership of two existing domain names, with some assistance from Lindsey Parrot Rampton. Soon, all of our web names will direct you to stjohnsjx.com.

We are continuing to add content, so check back often!

reach up,  
reach in,  
reach out

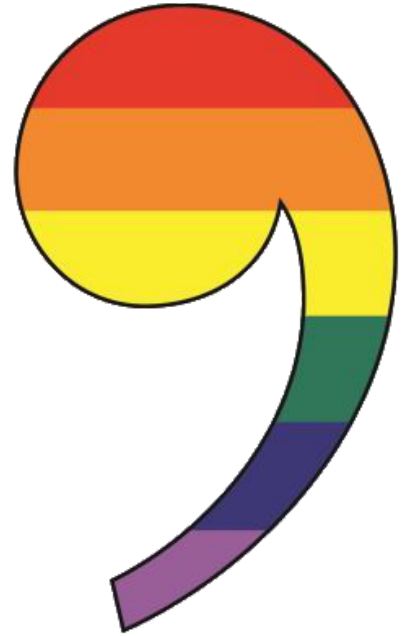
## *Visit St. John's UCC YouTube channel!*

PAST SERMONS AVAILABLE HERE

If you missed a worship service, you can now view Pastor Judy's sermon online.

Soon St. John's will obtain licensing so our entire worship service can be shared on YouTube. You can reach our YouTube channel from the website stjohnsjx.com. Just click on the Worship tab and then choose Past Sermons.

Evelyn has begun sending Weekly Digest emails. If you are not receiving an email from us, please call the church office or visit the website to subscribe. We don't want you to miss any important news!



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# St. John's UCC

an open & affirming church

# From the Pastor's Screen

## IN APPRECIATION

I am overwhelmed with thankfulness for our faith family here at St. John's United Church of Christ!

Because of the love, patience and compassion shown by this congregation, I was able to spend time with my father during his last days. My incredible church family allowed me to participate on July 18 via Zoom. I preached a sermon standing in the upstairs hallway of my parents' home in Paw Paw, Michigan! I was blessed by each of you, whether on Zoom or in person, who joined together to worship. It was a unique experience, which allowed me to worship with you and remain close to my dad.

When he passed away during the early hours of July 21, I was there. Thanks to the Pastoral Relations Team, St. John's had a plan in place. While I grieved with my family, St. John's enjoyed uninterrupted spiritual care.

I learned so much during my dad's transition to eternal life! I learned that I am stronger than I thought.

## Pastor's Installation

FUTURE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Due to the death of Pastor Judy's father, the installation scheduled for July 25 was postponed. A new date will be determined soon. Watch for updates!

I learned how it feels to be completely supported and surrounded by loving friends, family and neighbors. I learned that the stories of our lives are priceless, and when we share our stories, our love for one another grows.

I gained new understanding of the women who went to the tomb of Jesus when dawn was breaking that first Easter morn. I learned how meaningful it is to wash the body of the one you have loved, to choose the clothes and hold his hand one more time. I know now why the women went at first light, with spices and cloths to care for the body of the One they loved.

When we find ourselves faced with the difficult moments of life, I have found it best to ask, "What have you come to teach me?" My father's final days, his final moments, have enriched me in ways I could not have foreseen.

Thank you all for allowing me time to spend with Dad and time to grieve. Thank you for floral arrangements, a tree planted in California where the wildfires burned, a delivery of soup, many cards, calls, text messages and visits, and of course your thoughts and prayers for me and my family.

Much Love, Pastor Judy

WHEN THE SABBATH  
WAS OVER,  
MARY MAGDALENE,  
AND MARY THE MOTHER OF  
JAMES, AND SALOME  
BOUGHT SPICES, SO THAT  
THEY MIGHT GO AND ANOINT  
HIM. AND VERY EARLY  
ON THE FIRST DAY  
OF THE WEEK,  
WHEN THE SUN HAD RISEN,  
THEY WENT TO THE TOMB.

MARK 16:1-2 NRSV



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

stjohnsuccjackson  
@gmail.com

517-784-7580



Image by Jeevan Singla from Pixabay

# Technology Fund Drive Success!

## FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

We are excited to announce that we have met our goal of \$22,000 for the purchase of a projection system for the sanctuary! We are continuing to receive funds, and will soon surpass the goal!

Our dream began with the need to connect our Zoom attendees with our in-person worship. The projectors in the sanctuary are the first step. We also envision hiring a part-time music and tech person, improving the sound quality inside the sanctuary, and funding ongoing equipment maintenance.

I am overflowing with thankfulness for all who supported this endeavor financially and in prayer. We have much to share with the world, and your gifts to support technology will enable St. John's to not only survive, but to thrive.

Pastor Judy

## Coffee Hour

### HUNGRY?

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.

## August Calendar

AUGUST 5 - BABY SHOWER ZOOM MEETING 2 PM

AUGUST 18 - HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS ZOOM MEETING 6 PM

AUGUST 20 - FOOD BANK

AUGUST 21 - LARRY CHASE FUNERAL 11 AM VISITATION 10 AM



***"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst"***

***- Jesus***

***John 6:35 ESV***

## August Birthdays

### TIME TO CELEBRATE!

- 2 - Cheryl DeGroot
- 2 - Logan Hetherington
- 3 - Kevin Sisk
- 3 - Mike Young
- 6 - Cynthia Wheeler
- 8 - Larry Martin
- 9 - Amelia Osborn
- 9 - Todd Schuler
- 10 - Kyra Scahill
- 12 - Howard Wheeler
- 13 - Erin Knapp
- 13 - Vickie Steck
- 14 - Darrin Johnson
- 15 - Tyesha Hunt
- 16 - Rylee Paige Knapp
- 17 - Scott Elliott
- 18 - Sheila Simpson
- 19 - Dorothea Henry
- 19 - Ava Rose
- 20 - Harold Linder, Jr.
- 20 - Sandra Lee Bramble
- 20 - Pastor Judy Goodrow
- 21 - Ann Church
- 24 - Nicole Daugherty
- 25 - Thomas Bumpus
- 25 - Evelyn Kelly
- 26 - Kylee VanSlambrouck
- 29 - Charyl Wozniak
- 29 - Robert Patefield
- 30 - Mackenzie Miller
- 30 - Marisa Miller
- 31 - Daniel Canter



# Samaritan Fund

## BECOMING GOOD SAMARITANS

St. John's is working to help our neighbors! We continue to receive calls for help with rent, electricity and water bills, and food.

In July, we received six calls for rent or eviction assistance, nine calls for utility help, and three calls for emergency food assistance. Five persons completed the process and received assistance for rent and utilities. All were given a list of additional resources.

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 78 persons (representing 163 family members) on July 16. Under Carl Robinson's leadership, the Food Bank distributed 3200 pounds of food.

The Food Bank received a \$4,920 donation from the Meijer Simply Give Campaign.

The next Food Bank will be Friday, August 20, 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 have 63 moms registered, including four sets of twins! We are meeting on August 5, 2021 at 2pm via Zoom to plan for the shower.

We will soon start meeting at the church to sort and hang baby clothes, so let the church office know if you can help!

The items most requested are highchairs and car seats. Mothers have also requested bouncy seats/activity centers and walkers. Diapers in sizes 1,2 & 6 and baby clothes sizes 0-3 months and 12-18 months are still needed.

Please pray that the shower will be open to all as planned, but we do have a plan if COVID restrictions increase.

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.

Information 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 August 5 at 2PM.
- Donate time or money for the Samaritan Fund.
- Pull weeds! We have an abundance of weeds on all sides of the building and across the street.
- Volunteer for Coffee Hour.
- Volunteer for Usher.
- Call a friend to say hello, and let them know you care about them!



# Healthy Congregations

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Our Healthy Congregations group did not meet in July, but we're beginning to plan a unique event!

St. John's has an endearing history. Many families have attended for generations, and those families have provided countless resources to ensure that our family of faith will continue. We want to honor that history!

This fall we will celebrate Heritage Day: a time to come together (in-person!) for food, music and fellowship. We'll display the photographs, bibles, and hymnals from the past, and we'll share the stories that made our congregation strong.

We are forming a team to plan this unique event! Contact the folk below if you want to join in:

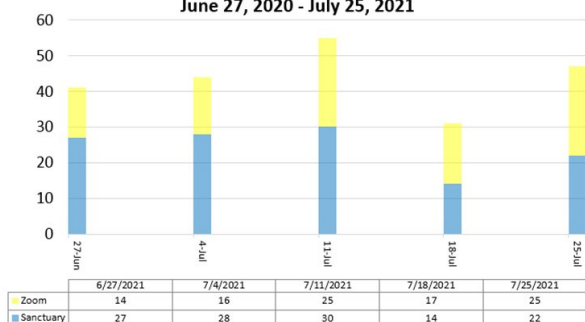
Jan Janke    janjanke@comcast.net    517-937-5229

Vickie Steck    vickiesteck@hotmail.com    517-990-7414

**Monthly General Offering - 2020 vs 2021**  
Pledged, Non-Pledged, Miscellaneous, Loose



**Sanctuary and Zoom Attendance**  
June 27, 2020 - July 25, 2021



These charts reflect attendance and giving data, courtesy of Bert Steck, Financial Secretary.

## Council Update

The Church Council will resume meeting in September.



Rev. Judy Goodrow

260-668-9173

kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com

Above: *Man with a Hoe*, Depression-era painting of Jesus at St. John's UCC in Jackson, Michigan  
Below: Jesus and Mary in the traditional Chinese style at the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth



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