

Joy of ST. JOHN'S



Stewardship 2022

A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF GIVING

St. John's UCC is small but mighty! Over the years, St. John's has been a beacon of light where all are welcome. Here's how we shine:

- We worship, study, and sing together
- We feed the hungry
- We supply financial help to those in need
- We journey with mothers and families
- We provide office space to social service agencies
- We care for and pray for one another
- We welcome all!

Why do we give to St. John's UCC? Here's what some of our members shared:

"Simply, I share because of my strong generational roots and now the sprouting 'green shoots' at SJUCC!"

"It's another way I can be a part of something bigger than I can be alone."

November 14 is a special day for our congregation -- it has traditionally been called Loyalty Sunday. On this day, financial and service pledges for the coming year are collected and celebrated.

As we look ahead, we envision:

- Creating a dynamic and welcoming children's ministry
- Adult and Children's choirs, space for music lessons and recording
- A community space for spiritual practice and mindfulness
- Concerts by and for the wider Jackson community

We are also prayerfully watching for God to send us faithful people:

- Music/Tech Administrator
- Affirming Coordinator
- Social Worker to assist with the diverse needs of our community

Here are recent accomplishments we can celebrate!

- We welcomed Rev. Judy Goodrow as our settled pastor & Evelyn Kelly as our Office Administrator
- Our Fellowship Room was updated and refreshed, and carpet was installed in our sanctuary
- The projectors will be installed in the sanctuary in December
- We continue to worship in person and by Zoom!

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From the Pastor's Screen

WHY CHURCH?

The wonderful thing about Zoom is that we don't have to leave home to go to worship. We can relax with our coffee and breakfast! Now, we can attend in person or Zoom in. But why bother?

Rev. Ann Russ of Argenta Presbyterian Church in Louisiana created a list of the top ten reasons for attending church. Here's my adaptation of it:

10. Coming to church doesn't mean you have no doubts about God or faith or religion. But it gives you a place to share with people who have their own doubts.

9. Bad stuff is going to happen in your life. It just is. When that happens, it's great to have a community to lift you back up and help you hold it together.

8. Bad stuff part two. The time to build a relationship with God is not when life turns ugly. Attending worship regularly builds relationships with God and others that give you a solid foundation when storms come.

7. Not all churches are anti-something. Most of us are for people, for acceptance, for hospitality. We just don't get the good press.

6. Any church worth its salt has really good food on a regular basis. Or at least donuts.

5. Churches give us opportunities to serve: help the poor, feed the hungry, make a difference. Church offers us ways to plug in to help others.

4. You've got a gift. Maybe two or ten. Becoming involved in a church helps you discover and use your gifts.

3. Not all churches are after your money. We want you to have a good relationship with money.

2. Taking a break from our hectic lives allows us to accept the gift of Sabbath. We don't come to worship because we have time; we come because we need time. Time to stop, rest, and reflect so we don't burn out.

1. Jesus is cool. We often do a lousy job of following him, but come to church anyway to get to know him. Then you'll understand why people call his way The Way.

Let's stay connected in whatever format works best for you!

Blessings, Pastor Judy

Stewardship

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

It might be looking more and more like winter outside, but here at St. John's we are planting seeds. Even now, they are springing to life! We have deep roots -- and we're sending up new shoots!

We invite everyone to join in God's work here at St. John's, whether financially, prayerfully, or through service, and by worshiping with us! Carry in, email or mail your 2022 pledge cards by November 14.

Let's see what new things God will do! We are St. John's United Church of Christ -- small but mighty!

--Your Stewardship Team

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19



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*Happy
Birthday!*

November Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

3 Zackireed Abdellatif
5 Reis Baker
6 Alexis Almodovar
7 Tanya Handloser
7 Kerri Hensil
15 Irene Hawley
18 Denise Cole
18 Sandra Harkness
19 Chad Schroeder
20 Noah Bush
21 Ann Richmond
22 Brian Handloser
26 Matt Bumpus
27 Laura Smith
27 Abigail Stone
28 R'yanna Shannon
29 Timothy Johnson
29 Zachary Ivie
30 Laura Hayes

Poinsettias

ORDER BY DECEMBER 2

Advent is nearly here! Honor and remember your loved ones with a poinsettia. We will be pre-ordering poinsettias by December 2. Please watch your email and bulletin announcements for the order form. This year poinsettias cost \$10.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

DISTRIBUTION NOVEMBER 22-24

Our church is already receiving calls for help with Thanksgiving meals! We are currently collecting monetary donations and canned/boxed goods for at least ten Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

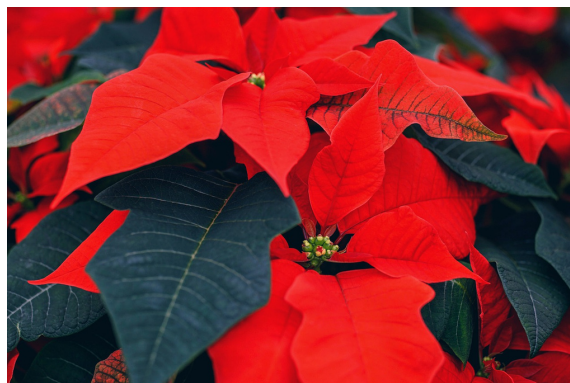
We will assemble the baskets on November 21 for families in our neighborhood and our church family. Items needed include potatoes, gravy mix, cranberry sauce, biscuit mix, canned vegetables, cake mixes and frosting ... anything that you enjoy at your holiday dinners! Bring your checks and donations to the church office.

Questions? Please contact Carl.

Advent Prayers

DAILY EMAILS DECEMBER 1-24

To help prepare for Christmas, daily prayers will be sent to all who subscribe. Pastor Judy and Elder Jan Janke will be compiling brief prayers that will help us create room for the holy in our hearts during this Advent season. If you would like to receive a daily prayer during December, please visit stjohnsjx.com to subscribe, or contact Evelyn at the church office.



November Calendar

NOVEMBER 3 - BEVERLY VOWLER FUNERAL 11AM

NOVEMBER 10 - COUNCIL MEETING 6PM

NOVEMBER 10 - UNITED CENTER FOR CARING MEETING 1PM

NOVEMBER 10 - PASTORAL RELATIONS MEETING 3PM

NOVEMBER 10 - DND GAME NIGHT 6PM

NOVEMBER 17 - HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS 6PM

NOVEMBER 19 - FOOD PANTRY 10AM-12PM

NOVEMBER 24 - DND GAME NIGHT 6PM

NOVEMBER 25 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

NOVEMBER 28 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Make your ways known to me,
Lord; teach me your paths.*

Lead me in your truth

—teach it to me—

*because you are the God who
saves me. I put my hope in you
all day long.*

- Psalm 25: 4-5 (CEB)

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 October, we received 7 requests for help with eviction, 10 requests for Consumers shut-offs, 7 requests for water shut-offs, 8 requests for gas cards (all referred to Love INC and Jackson Giving Back to the Community), and 4 requests for motel stays (all referred to United Way).

Checks were requested and sent out for 3 evictions, 5 Consumers shut-offs, and 5 water shut-offs.

Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to contribute an extra \$138 toward eviction assistance this month.

"Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever."

—Margaret Cho

Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry served 95 persons on October 15. Under Carl Robinson's leadership, the Food Pantry distributed 2600 pounds of food. Many thanks to our faithful team of volunteers! The next Food Pantry will be Friday, November 19, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



The Inn

ADVENT SERIES TO BEGIN

"The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something." Worship designer Dr. Marcia McFee has developed an Advent series entitled "The Inn." Each week our church will participate in this series which begins November 28.

November 28: "Making Room"
December 5: "A Place at the Table"
December 12: "How Much is Enough?"
December 19: "A Room with a View"
Christmas Eve: "The Inn"
December 26: "Dwelling"

Join with us as we explore the idea of making room at the inn -- and creating a space in ourselves, our families and our church for the holy this Advent season.

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 Pantry on the third Friday of each month.
- Donate time or money to the Samaritan Fund.
- Volunteer for Coffee Hour.
- Volunteer to be an Usher.
- Offer your musical gifts.
- Notice who's missing from worship ... and reach out with love.
- Call a friend to say hello, and let them know you care about them!



Diamond and Cassidy share their musical gifts!

Rev. Judy Goodrow

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Healthy Congregations

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

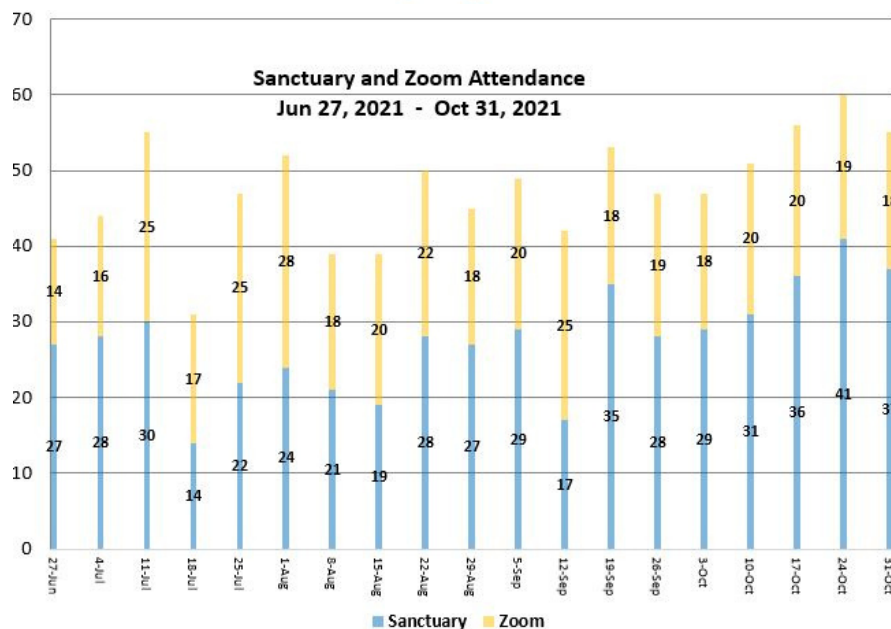
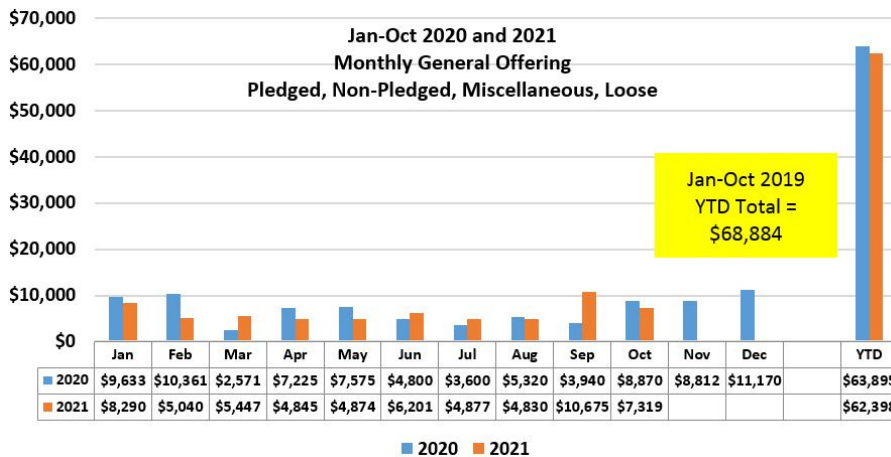


Our Healthy Congregations group met in October to discuss this idea: "pay for what you want, not what you have." Here are the ideas and dreams we generated:

- 1) Kidspace - Children's ministry, possibly utilizing Ministry Architects.
- 2) Marketing – Billboards, signs and banners for the building.
- 3) Music Tech Position – Updated the job description; it will be posted online.
- 4) Affirming Coordinator – Providing education and support for who are struggling to understand LGBTQIA+ needs and language, as well as education and support for the LGBTQIA+ community.
- 5) Spirituality – Creating a community space in our building for mindfulness practice.
- 6) Spiritual Retreat – Offering a retreat for anyone who needs to be refreshed, centered and energized.
- 7) Social Worker – On-site person to help us with the many and diverse needs presented in our neighborhood
- 8) "Music in the John" – Hosting concerts, open-mics or other sources of music from Jackson, here in our sanctuary.

Everyone is invited to participate in our Healthy Congregations group. This month we'll continue our conversation on November 17. I would love to see you there!

—Pastor Judy



Council Update

The Church Council met on October 13 and the following business was discussed:

- Samaritan Fund received a \$1000 donation from a Jackson couple for eviction relief;
- SJUCC and UC4C may partner to place an advertisement in the Jackson Blazer;
- Worship Design Studios Advent subscription was approved at a cost of \$99;
- Council nominations were discussed and will be presented to the Elders on October 31;
- Balance due for the new carpet will be paid out of the Property Maintenance Fund;
- Sauerkraut supper is cancelled this year due to lack of volunteers.

Full minutes are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be November 10 at 6PM in person and via Zoom.

Below: Our Lady of the Conception Church in Brazil



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*Reach up,
Reach in,
Reach out!*



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*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

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