

Joy of ST. JOHN'S

Welcome!

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Caroline Zangwill joined us in February last year. Caroline is originally from El Paso, Texas, raised Catholic, lived in several states, and went to a variety of churches. She worked in the commercial furniture industry for many years and retired early in 2014. She lived with her son's family for five years until they decided to move to NYC in 2020. She then moved to Jackson. Harry Wilson told her about St. John's in October 2020 and she participated on Zoom the next Sunday. She joined St. John's on February 14. Caroline has been active in our annual Baby Shower and monthly Baby "Sprinkles."



Caroline Zangwill

Connie Williams Moodie joined us in December. Connie is a new resident to Jackson but is no stranger to the area. She and her husband Paul moved back to Michigan last year after his retirement from teaching in Illinois.

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Master your Machine

UNDERSTANDING YOUR COMPUTER

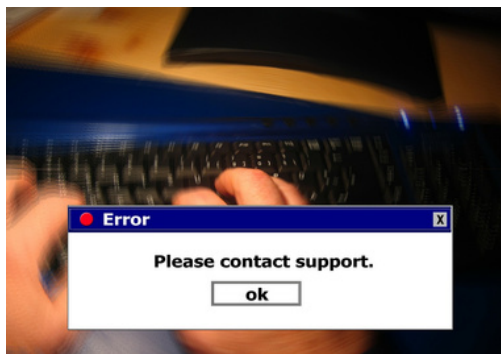
Back by popular demand, Evelyn is launching a new series in February to help you get more familiar with technology. Computers are everywhere, even in your pocket, but as computers become more powerful, users become more baffled! Together, let's Master Your Machine!

Sign up in the church office and join us on the following Wednesdays:

February 2 — Computer Basics 11am in person & on Zoom

February 9 — Smartphone Basics 11am in person & on Zoom

February 16 — Passwords and Security 11am in person & on Zoom



Worship with us at 3 p.m. January 9!

NO MORNING WORSHIP
Pastor Judy's Installation is January 9
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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From the Pastor's Screen

PLANTING FOR HARVEST

Each year I set an intention. As I prayed about and imagined what 2022 might bring, the word “plant” came to mind. I envisioned a time of planting seeds for future harvest.

I believe our call for 2022 is to plant. In his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul said, “I planted, Apollos watered, and God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6). If we want St. John's to be more effective in our community, we begin with planting.

Planting is generally difficult work. We loosen the soil; we pull the weeds. We plant the seeds, and then we wait.

And we wait! We don't have the privilege of watching the seeds sprout and grow; the initial growth is hidden. But eventually we will see the fruit of our labor. It takes faith, and it takes time! Any farmer or gardener will agree.

What shall we plant? What do we want to celebrate this time next year?

Be curious! What would it look like if we had monthly community concerts in our sanctuary? What would it look like if the Francis Street Primary students used our Social Hall? What if we had educational justice-oriented events every month? What if ...?

Imagine! What would you like to see? Then act; plant the seed. Share your ideas. Do the groundwork. We know that the miracle of growth and transformation cannot be rushed. It is a slow process, and knowing this, we stay the course: “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due

season we will reap if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

Think of what we've already planted: vibrant weekly worship, on Zoom and in-person, monthly food pantry and community baby shower, Samaritan Fund, hot showers, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, and gifts of hats, gloves, and mittens. God will bring the increase as our momentum carries us forward!

I can't wait to see what 2022 will bring! And I am so grateful to be here with you. Thank you for sharing your gifts. Let's plant!

Blessings, Pastor Judy

Transforming Hearts class

FEBRUARY ZOOM CLASS

St. John's congregation has been invited to attend an Extravagant Welcome Zoom Class beginning February 10. The class is led and hosted by Pastor Dan Miyake of Liberty Universalist Unitarian church in Clarklake. We will meet each Thursday via Zoom from 7-9PM.

The class curriculum was developed by the Transforming Hearts Collective which resources faith communities and other groups for the work of radical inclusion for LGBTQ+ persons.

The classes are held for six weeks. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office.



“But grow in the
grace and
knowledge of
our Lord and
Savior Jesus
Christ.”

2 Peter 3:18



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January Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

1 - Ann Middlebrook
1 - Jean Shuberg
2 - Carmen Thompson
3 - Sue Schroeder 20 - Jean Allen
5 - Marilyn Allen 20 - Marleigh Hayes
6 - Mary Dubois 20 - Justin Shuberg
7 - Tenesha Canter 20 - Sean Wozniak
9 - Ronni Nelson 26 - Madelyn Miller
9 - Tammy Thrun 26 - Gary Reasoner Jr.
10 - Duane Leece 27 - Dan Hoffman
13 - Grant Miller 28 - Randy Vowler Jr.
17 - Alan Richmond 28 - Emily Trantum
18 - Betty Allen 29 - Mark N. Richmond

Pastor Installation

JANUARY 9 AT 3:00 PM

Pastor Judy will be installed as our minister on January 9! Michigan Conference ministers, including Rev. Jay Cummings, will be participating in our service. There will be **no morning worship**. We will gather in person and on Zoom for the installation. Please plan to join us!

Giving Envelopes

Please note that the 2022 Giving Envelopes will not be available until mid-Jan 2022. Our envelope supplier reports delivery backlogs due to supply chain issues. We apologize for this inconvenience. If you prefer to donate in advance of receiving your box of 2022 envelopes, please just use a blank envelope and be sure to indicate your "giver number" on the outside. Again, we apologize for this inconvenience.

Albert N. Steck, Financial Secretary

Annual Meeting

JANUARY 30 11:30 AM

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for the last Sunday in January following worship. So much has been accomplished in 2021! --And we have so much more to look forward to in 2022!

Our 2022 budget will be presented and discussed, and our new council nominees will appear on the ballot. All ministry and committee reports must be received at the church office by January 16. Please plan to be present in person or on Zoom!

Welcome!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Connie is a UCC Intentional Interim Pastor, contentedly "between assignments" at the moment. She and Paul have two grown children who live out of state. Connie was born and raised near Waldron in Hillsdale County and is a graduate of Adrian College and Chicago Theological Seminary. Paul and Connie met at Adrian College, but he finished his studies at Michigan State University. They enjoy helping with the monthly food pantry.

On December 26 we welcomed Jonah Thomas Trantum into the church through baptism! Jonah and parents, Emily and John, worship with us weekly from their home in Vermont via Zoom.

We are so excited to welcome Caroline, Connie and Jonah into our faith family!

January Calendar

JANUARY 9 - PASTOR'S INSTALLATION AT 3 PM (NO MORNING WORSHIP)

JANUARY 11 - BABY SHOWER MEETING 11AM ON ZOOM

JANUARY 12 - COUNCIL MEETING 3 PM (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME!)

JANUARY 16 - ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE

JANUARY 19 - HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS 6 PM

JANUARY 21 - FOOD PANTRY 10 AM-12 PM

JANUARY 30 - SJUCC ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP



For we were all
baptized by one Spirit
so as to form
one body

1 Corinthians 12:13a

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.

For December 2021 we had 8 requests for help with Consumer's shut offs; 2 checks were requested. There were 12 requests for help with rent/eviction; 3 checks were requested. There were 3 water shutoff requests with 2 completed. 10 requests were for emergency food and there were 5 requests for assistance with motel stays.

Thanks to another generous donation from a community member, we were able to contribute an extra \$150 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 was held on December 17 and continues to serve families in need. Complete data for 2021 will be available at our annual meeting. Many thanks to our faithful team of volunteers! The next Food Pantry will be Friday, January 21, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Hats, Mittens and Scarves

COLD WEATHER IS HERE!

We will be providing the community with hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves during the winter months. Please bring your donations to the church office and Carl will hang them outside for those in need! Thank you for your generosity.



Baby "Sprinkles"

EXPANDED BABY SHOWER NEEDS

Each month our Baby Shower team is participating in the Food Pantry, offering baby items, clothing, diapers and more to moms in need. The goal is to journey with the moms and babies who participated in the annual Baby Shower. Last month 41 families received items! In January we will receive a grant from our Covenant Association for \$1290 to purchase 10 convertible car seats!

We are currently in need of diapers of all sizes. Please contact Donna Benedict at the church office to find out how you can join in this unique ministry!

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 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!



Rev. Judy Goodrow

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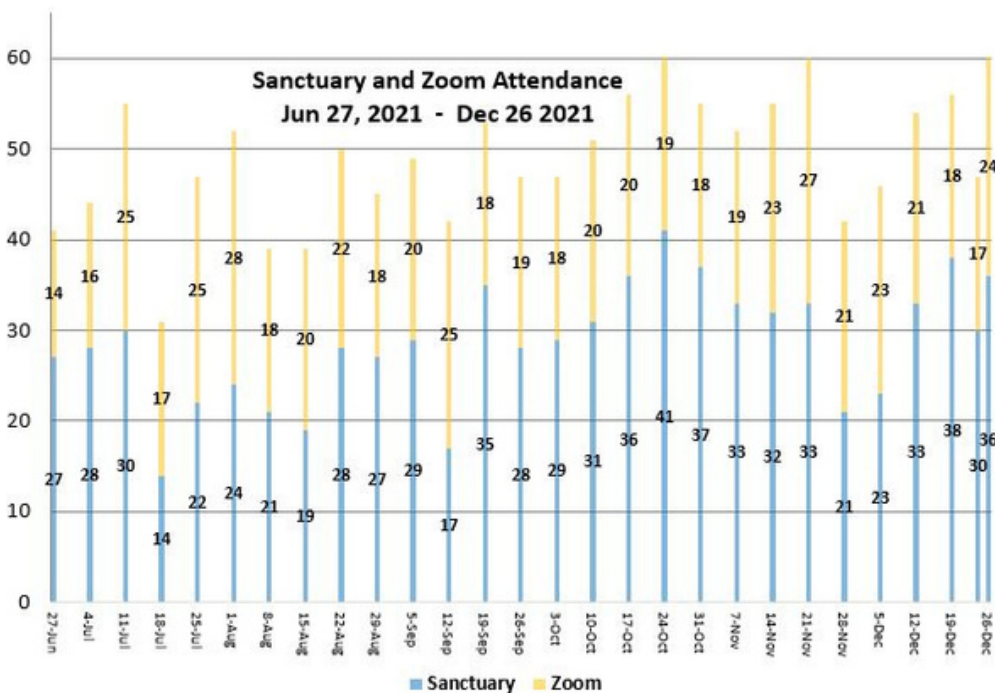
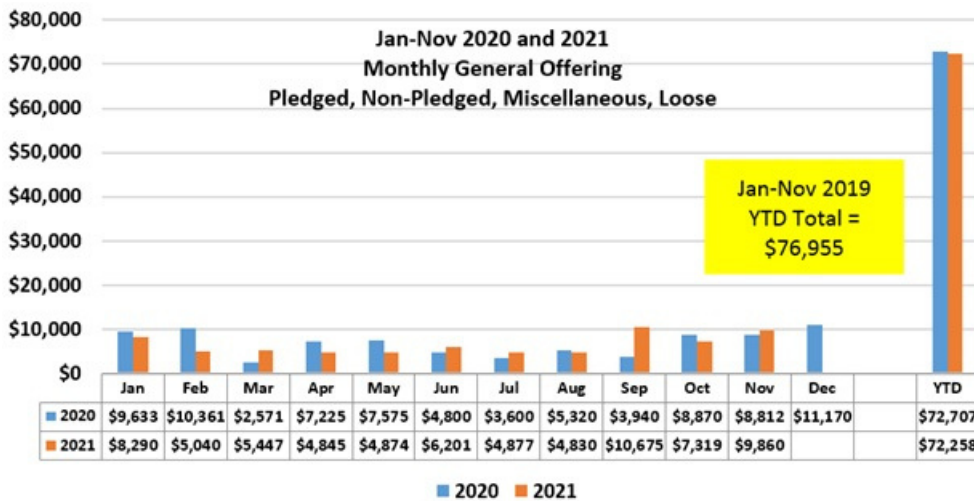
Healthy Congregations

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

In December our Healthy Congregations group sponsored an evening of song and cookies! We enjoyed traditional carols accompanied by Penny Smeltzer, organist, and our guest Joan Fitzpatrick, pianist. Many thanks to Vickie Steck for organizing this unique and beautiful night! In January we will be looking ahead at 2022 and answering this question: What goals will we set for 2022? When we arrive at December 31, 2022, what do we want to have accomplished?

Bring your goals, visions and dreams! Everyone is invited to participate in our Healthy Congregations group. We'll continue our conversation on January 19. I would love to see you there!

—Pastor Judy



Council Update

The Church Council met on December 8 and the following business was discussed:

- We have received 23 pledges for a total of \$61,260, which is a significant increase;
- Gene Johnson and Vickie Steck continue to reconcile financial statements;
- Judy Goodrow will write a grant request for Zoom subscription to better connect members by phone;
- Bank signature cards will be updated.

The slate of officers for 2022 are:

- Gary Reasoner, president
- Linda Miller, past president
- David Chesney, vice president
- Bert Steck - financial secretary
- Miriam Dorsey - secretary
- Gene Johnson - treasurer
- Michele Wilson - worship
- Carl Robinson - ministry support

These positions are still open:

- Pastoral relations (Harry Wilson)
- Stewardship Chair (Jim Benedict)
- Ministry Support Team (You?)
- Delegate - 1 (You?)
- Christian Community and Care Team (Maybe ... you?)

Full minutes are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be January 12 at 3 PM in person and via Zoom.



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*Reach up,
Reach in,
Reach out!*



Affix Address
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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

stjohnsjx.com