

Joy of *ST. JOHN'S*



Lenten Study continues

"GOOD ENOUGH" DAILY DEVOTIONS

On April 3 and 10, we will continue our book study discussion of "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. We meet at noon following Sunday worship. This Lenten series is all about finding joy and connecting to God wherever we are -- even if things aren't perfect!

All are invited to join in our meaningful conversations! We meet in the Prayer Room, or you can connect via Zoom.



Easter Breakfast

CELEBRATING WITH FOOD!

Our Easter celebration will begin with breakfast from 9-10 a.m. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite breakfast casserole, fruit, bacon or other breakfast dish to share! If you don't cook, please come anyway! The church will provide coffee, juice and donuts.

We will have one Easter Worship service beginning at 10:30 a.m., with Zoom and worship music beginning at 10:15 a.m.

Please plan to join us for breakfast and worship!

Introducing Zoom Audio!

CONNECT TO WORSHIP BY PHONE!

In March we began using the Zoom Audio subscription, which allows our members who do not use smartphones or computers to connect to our worship. Each Sunday morning Zoom automatically calls subscribed phone numbers. When the phone call is answered, the person is invited to connect to St. John's worship! If you would like to participate in this service, please contact the church office!

reach up,
reach in,
reach out

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RESURRECTION

Easter is nearly here, and with it we have the opportunity for a new beginning! Easter is more important than ever, catching us with renewed hope following two years of pandemic, the loss of intimacy with friends and family, and the tragic loss of life so many have experienced. God, we need resurrection!

Many have shared with me their memories of "when the church was full." Four decades ago, St. John's was like a cruise ship, a weighty and majestic vehicle that glued our families together. Today, perhaps we are more like a yacht. We have downsized considerably, but we are still seaworthy and dependable. We can turn much quicker, and we can travel light. We no longer need to accommodate everyone's luggage and maintain a full-time staff. We are smaller in number, but we are still sailing!

St. John's has experienced its own resurrection of sorts, and this new manifestation calls for adaptation. This begins with a fresh look at the constitution, including new mission and vision statements, logos and marketing slogans. We will be looking forward to new partnerships and fewer committees. Our smaller vessel can maneuver easily, and we can renavigate as needs surface. Best of all, we continue to lead people to Christ, one person at a time. We may look different, but we are still devoted to God and to one another!

Ahoy! Pastor Judy

Round Table Conversation April 24

MISSION AND VISION

Why does St. John's exist? What is our mission? On Sunday, April 24, let's talk about it!

Our church's mission should describe why we are here in brief, memorable, and contemporary language. Consider these examples:

"To connect the unconnected to Christ and together pursue full devotion to God."

"Helping people take their next step toward Christ...together."

"Equipping people to reach up in worship to God, reach in to nourish our spirit, and reach out in service to others."

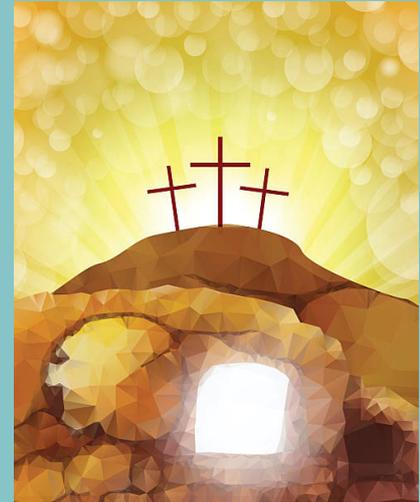
Once we have developed our mission statement, we can begin to work on our vision statement. While the mission statement is less flexible, the vision statement is fluid and can change from time to time. It can be a slogan which indicates a direction. Our vision statement should invite people to join and participate by creating a picture of where we want to go.

An example might be, "Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, there's a place for you here."

Our church council and constitution committee would love your input, so plan to participate in person and on Zoom following worship on April 24!

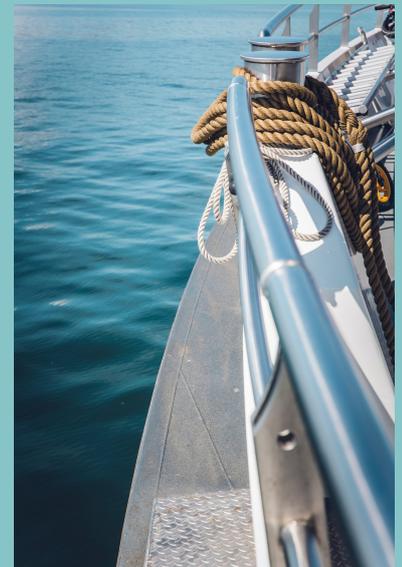
"Be of good cheer:
I have overcome
the world."

John 13:63



"We cannot direct the wind,
but we can adjust the sails."

-Bertha Calloway



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April Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!



- 4 - Marilyn Tittler
- 15 - Janice Hoffman
- 19 - Janet Middlebrook
- 21 - Anthony Thomas
- 28 - Jeannine Havens

Song Leader position

PART-TIME SONG LEADER NEEDED

We are looking for a song leader!

Job requirements include:

- Responsible for working with Worship Chairperson to choose music
- Lead singing for our 10:30 AM worship
- Time commitment is flexible and includes two Sunday services per month, 10AM-12PM and preparation time of one-two hours during the week
- Additional hours possible
- Pianist/keyboard skills preferred but not necessary
- This could be an opportunity for a college or seminary student internship!

If you are interested or if you know someone who might be, send a resume or inquiry to stjohnsuccjobs@gmail.com.



Holy Week Devotions

OBSERVE HOLY WEEK AT HOME

Holy Week has traditionally been observed in Christian churches by special services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This year St. John's UCC will offer at-home meditations. These meditations include prayer, scripture, and action. Instead of foot-washing, you may be asked to bless "six people who rub you the wrong way" for Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday, you'll be invited to light a candle ... and then blow it out. These days can be as meaningful as we choose to make them!

Maundy Thursday is April 14, and Good Friday is April 15. The devotions will be emailed, mailed, and available for pickup this month at the information table in the Fellowship Room.

Dungytreei

POTENTIAL PARTNER

The Dungytreei Heritage Foundation is a Michigan nonprofit organization that exists to empower people and to help end hunger, poverty, and homelessness in Jackson County through educational programs, community outreach

projects, and other supportive services. The United Center for Caring is exploring ways to partner with Chief Executive Dena Morgan, potentially providing space for children's and community programs in our building.

Dungytreei distributes food to the community, assists with tutoring, and advocates for those in need. If you would like to learn more, please contact Harry Wilson or a UC4C board member.

April Calendar

APRIL 4 - AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

APRIL 6 - HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS 6 PM ON ZOOM

APRIL 10 - PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13 - BABY SHOWER MEETING 11 AM ON ZOOM

APRIL 13 - UNITED CENTER FOR CARING MEETING AT NOON

APRIL 13 - COUNCIL MEETING 3 PM

APRIL 14 - NAACP MEETING 6 PM

APRIL 15 - FOOD PANTRY 10 AM-12 PM

APRIL 17 - EASTER BREAKFAST 9-10 AM EASTER WORSHIP 10:30

APRIL 24 - ROUND TABLE CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS FOLLOWING WORSHIP

APRIL 27 - HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS 6 PM ON ZOOM



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 March 2022 we had 14 requests for help with Consumer's shut offs; 5 checks were requested. There was 1 request for assistance with water bills; 1 check was requested. There were 4 requests for help with rent; 2 checks were requested. There were 6 requests for emergency food. There were 3 requests for gas cards, which were referred to Jackson Giving Back to the Community and Love in the Name of Christ.

Please remember the Samaritan Fund in your giving this Easter season!

Baby "Sprinkles"

EXPANDED BABY SHOWER

The Baby Sprinkles will soon occupy a room downstairs to offer 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 35 families received items!

As our ministry grows, we need donations of diapers size 1-6, baby wipes, and infant clothing size 0-3 months, up to size 10-12 in older children's clothing. We appreciate any new or used clothing in good condition for all seasons. Bring your donations to the church office. Thank you!

Canned Food Drive in April

READY-TO-EAT FOODS NEEDED

Our emergency food pantry is running low! Throughout the week St. John's provides food for the hungry -- but our stock needs to be replenished.

You can help by providing canned goods like soup, tuna, and meat and ready-to-eat meals. We currently have enough canned fruits and vegetables.

Drop off your donations on Sunday or between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays. Thank you for reaching in ... and reaching out!



Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on March 18 and continues to serve families in need. We provided 2700 pounds of food and served 121 individuals, representing 249 family members. Many thanks to our faithful team of volunteers! The next Food Pantry will be Friday, April 15, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

All Hands on Deck!

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Want to help?
Here's what you can do!

- Come to Easter Breakfast!
- Join the History Team and decorate the original entrance.
- 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.
- Bring diapers and donations for the Baby Shower.
- Donate canned foods for our emergency food pantry.
- 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!



Easter Lily orders are due!
Please contact Evelyn at the church office to place an order.

Rev. Judy Goodrow
260-668-9173
pastor@stjohnsjx.com
kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com

Healthy Congregations

FEELING OUT OF THE LOOP? JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

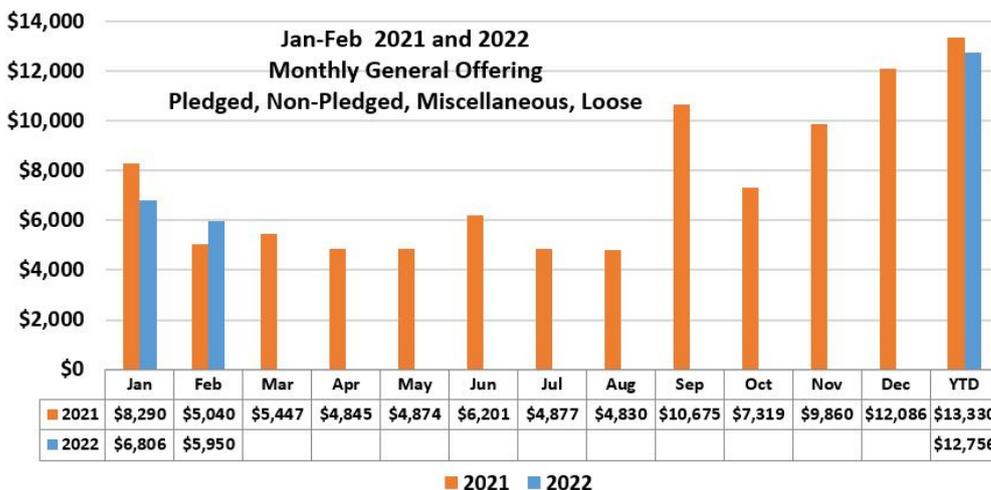
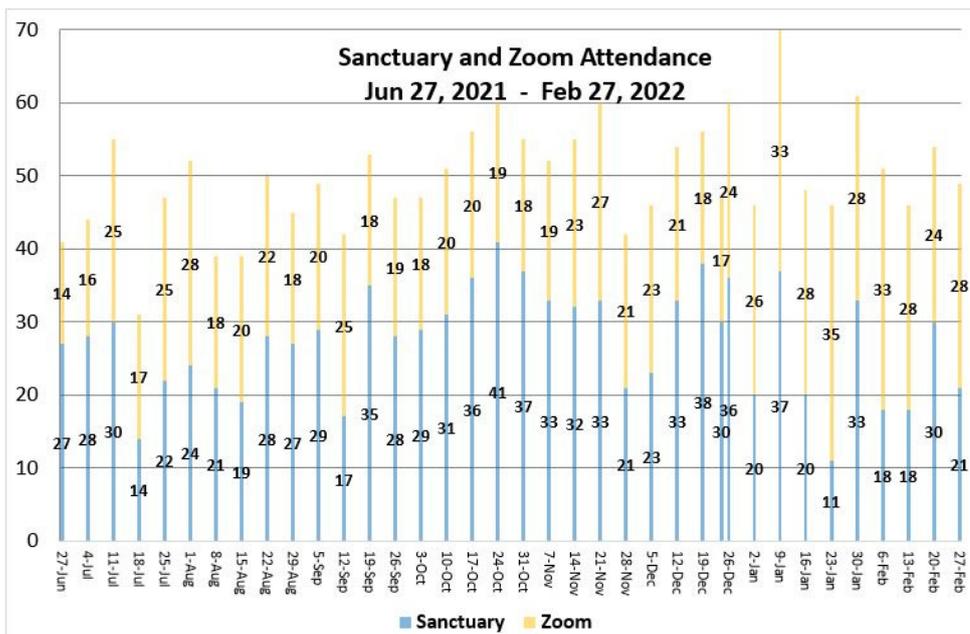
If you want to know what's happening at St. John's, join our next Healthy Congregations conversation! In March we discussed marketing slogans and our mission. The group worked together to develop an invitation: "Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, there's a place for you here!"

We defined our audience as anyone who aligns with our values and wants to make the world a better place. Our values include spirituality, acceptance, justice and service.

We also determined what differentiates us from other churches: 1) Robust Zoom hybrid worship; 2) Legacy of missions; 3) Leadership; 4) Accepting and welcoming of all; 5) Deep roots in our community; and 6) Demonstrated commitment to St. John's.

We'll continue our conversation on April 6 and 27... stay "in the know" and join us!

—Pastor Judy



Council Update

The Church Council met on March 9 and the following business was discussed:

- Property insurance bids are being obtained;
- The new pride flag will be hung on the southwest side of the building;
- Children's activity area will be provided in the northwest corner of the Fellowship Room;
- Evelyn is scanning old church photos into digital format;
- Donations for humanitarian relief in Ukraine will be disbursed through Church World Service;
- A leaking water heater needs to be replaced at an approximate cost of \$1300;
- The Michigan Conference awarded our Courage Grant of \$2000 which will be utilized for the Zoom audio subscription;
- The Timothy Fund will provide a donation of \$1000 plus an additional \$525 from contributions to Nation Outside.

Full minutes are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be April 13 at 3 PM in person and via Zoom.



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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

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