

Joy of ST. JOHN'S

Guest Speaker Mulucha Jay

LGBTQ STORIES FROM UGANDA:
TRAGEDY & TRIUMPH

The United Center for Caring will welcome guest speaker Mulucha Jay here at St. John's on May 22.

Jay is a human rights activist from Uganda. He is a transgender man who founded the Fem Alliance Uganda (FEMA) and currently serves as its Executive Director. FEMA is an organization that brings together LGBT+ persons in Uganda to advocate for respect and protection of their rights, especially from violence. Jay also runs a small shelter which accommodates LGBT+ people who have been disowned by their families, disenfranchised by schools and workplaces, and have no other place to call home. Housing and safety are precarious for LGBT+ people in Uganda; homosexuality is criminalized, and LGBT+ people are attacked, beaten, and sometimes killed because of their sexual orientation or gender.

Jay will be speaking at St. John's on May 22 at 4pm, in person and on Zoom. This event is a collaboration between the United Center for Caring, the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty, and the Jackson Pride Center. To learn more about FEMA, visit femalliance.org.

Family Systems Presentation

SUNDAY, MAY 15

What do Abbott and Costello have to do with church communication? Join us to find out!!

On Sunday, May 15 we welcome Rev. Connie Williams Moodie to lead our discussion about the key principles of Family Systems Theory. We will gather immediately following worship to learn about communication triangles, self-differentiation, family-based dynamics and how family systems theory works in congregations.

Please plan to join us for this fun, illuminating conversation! A light lunch will be provided.



“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life. Rarely do members of one family grow up under the same roof.”

— Richard Bach,

Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah



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HOWDY, PARTNER!

On May 1, 2022, I'm celebrating! One year ago, I joined this family of faith, and I am so proud to be here! The past year brought both joys and challenges. The love and outreach of our church family continues to surprise me!

St. John's has a rich legacy of relationships with people and their organizations. Being in partnership with others requires accountability, generosity and cooperation; good partners form good partnerships.

I recently asked about our partners -- what organizations have partnered with us over the years? The list I received is overwhelming! St. John's is definitely a partnership church, located in Partnership Park!

Here are a few of the groups with whom we have partnered:

MLK Center
Francis Street Primary
Partnership Park
Jackson NAACP
American Red Cross
Jackson Pride Center
Head Start and Early Head Start
Peace Prom
WIC
Civitan Club dances
Nation Outside
Crop Walk - CWS
Be More Kind
Heifer Project
Well Project with Connie McNeil
Michigan State co-op extension office
Seventh Day Adventist music program
Community Action Agency
Jackson County Health Department
Aware Shelter

Interfaith Shelter - and many more!
(The list continues on page 5.)

Thank you all for welcoming me as another partner! May God bless all our adventures!

YeeHaw, Pastor Judy

Round Table Results

MISSION AND VISION

On Sunday, April 24, about 30 members of St. John's met to talk about our mission and vision: why we exist, and what God is calling us to do.

We considered several scripture verses, and we discussed what words best identify our church. The four words we settled on are Love, Welcome, Relationship, and Serve.

The scripture verse that resonated with the greatest number of people was Micah 6:8 (see sidebar).

The following are proposed mission statements received from individuals:

Love God. Love People. Serve Both.

Reach up to love God, reach in to strengthen our faith, reach out to serve others.

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, there's a place for you here - where we reach up, reach in, and reach out.

Possible Vision Statement:
To Love and Serve

Please send your suggestions to Pastor Judy or call the church office. Or, check out the board in the Fellowship Room and add your suggestions!

What does the Lord
require of us
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with our God?

Micah 6:8



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May Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

- 3 - Jeannine Daugherty
- 4 - Gary Allen
- 4 - John Roggenbuk
- 4 - Louis Cubille
- 8 - Miriam Brown Dorsey
- 11 - Diamond Shannon
- 12 - Sherman Smith
- 20 - David Chesney

Zoom Church

APRECIATING EVERYONE'S GIFTS

Thanks to our tech team, we continue to offer high-quality hybrid worship services. Our Zoom attendance remains strong, and 77% of the family units who worship with us on Zoom support our church financially.

Thank you, Zoomers! We appreciate you, and we are grateful that you participate in worship and share your gifts with our faith family and the world!

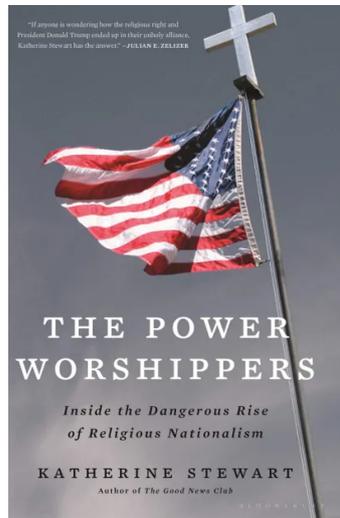
Summer Study

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Our summer book study will feature the book ***The Power Worshipers*** by Katherine Stewart. This book explains the differences between our Christian faith and Christian Nationalism, which is a political ideology. Christian Nationalism is a well-funded, rising concern to our democracy.

This study will be self-guided, so read at your own pace. We will meet for discussion on June 5, July 10 and August 7 following worship.

We have ordered several copies of the book already, so if you would like to participate, please contact the church office to receive your book.

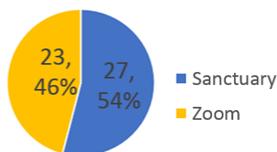


May Calendar

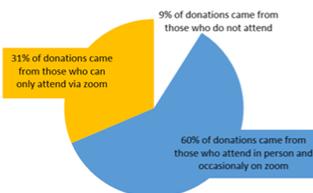
- 3 - ELECTION DAY
- 8 - MOTHER'S DAY
- 11 - COUNCIL MEETING 3PM
- 15 - FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY CLASS
- 20 - FOOD PANTRY 10AM-12PM
- 22 - GUEST SPEAKER MULUCHA JAY (FEM ALLIANCE UGANDA)
- 25 - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER
- 30 - MEMORIAL DAY
- 31 - AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
- JUNE 1 - HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS 6 PM ON ZOOM
- JUNE 5 - WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10AM; BOOK GROUP 11:15 AM
- JUNE 12 - CHARLIE JANKE MEMORIAL
- JUNE 26 - ERV HANDLOSER MEMORIAL

Zoom Information – June 27, 2021 - March 27, 2022

Average Attendance



Total Donation Amount



Zoomer Financial Support



77% (24/31) of the "family units" that have attended via Zoom five (5) or more times since 6/27/2021 support the church financially.



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 April 2022 we had 6 requests for help with Consumer's shut offs, 4 request for assistance with water bills, 6 requests for help with rent, and 3 requests for emergency food. There was 1 request for gas cards and 2 requests for motel stays, 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 as we continue to "reach out" to those in need in our neighborhood.

Baby "Sprinkles"

EXPANDED BABY SHOWER

The Baby Sprinkles room has moved! Our baby items now occupy a room downstairs next to Head Start. We hope this move will eliminate staging items each month during the food pantry while supplying families with the items they need throughout the month! The goal is to journey with the moms and babies who participated in the annual Baby Shower. Last month 70 families received items!

As our ministry grows, we need donations! We appreciate any new or used clothing in good condition for all seasons. Bring your donations to the church office. Thank you!

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner!

COMMUNITY DINNER MAY 25

Thank you to our many wonderful volunteers! We would like to thank you with a meal on Wednesday, May 25.

Everyone is invited to attend to show appreciation to our food pantry, baby shower, church council, United Center, building and grounds, musicians and ushers and all volunteers that help St. John's fulfill our mission! Watch for upcoming announcements and mark your calendar today!



Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on April 15 and continues to serve families in need. We provided 2000 pounds of food and served 129 individuals, representing 285 family members. Many thanks to our faithful team of volunteers! The next Food Pantry will be Friday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

All Hands on Deck!

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

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

- 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!



Rev. Judy Goodrow

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Partnerships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
 Family Services and Children's Aid
 Integro
 Meridian Health Plan
 Blue Cross Complete
 Central Michigan 211
 Center for Women
 Birthline
 Great Start Families
 Born Free
 Henry Ford Allegiance Stork Club and Lactation
 Together We Can Make a Difference

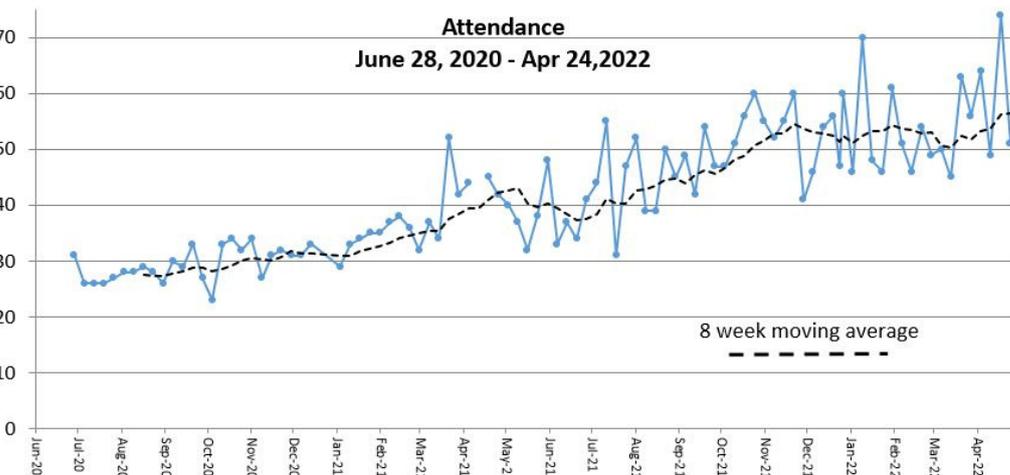
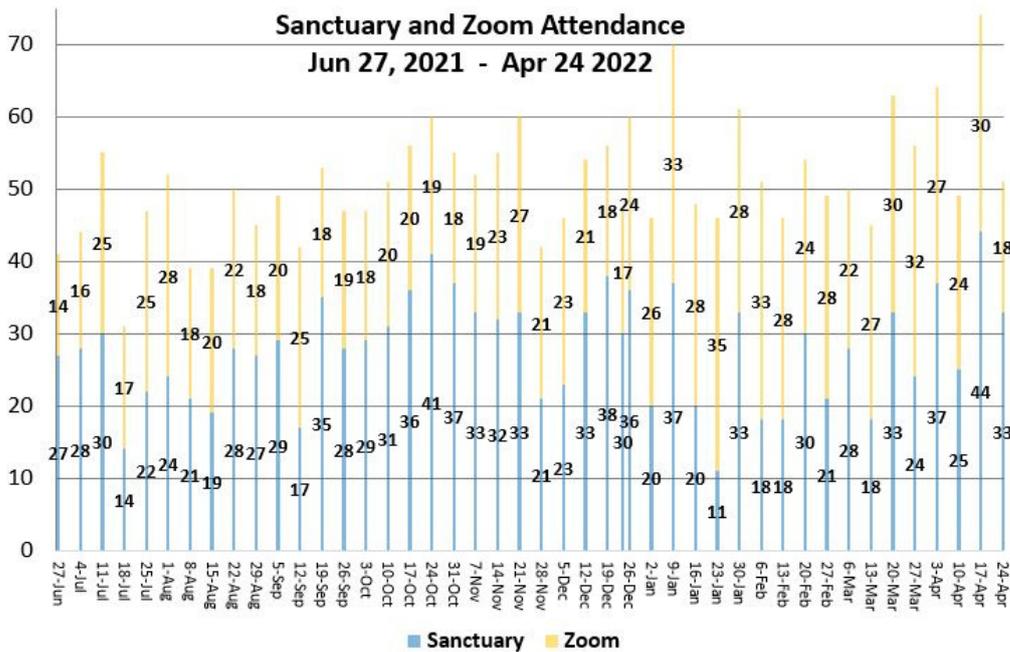
Center for Family Health
 Brookside Methodist Church
 Jackson County Breastfeeding Coalition
 Jackson Kiwanis Club
 Jackson Community Foundation
 Food Pantry and Food Bank
 Samaritan Fund
 Community Baby Shower
 United Center for Caring
 Hot Showers
 Emergency Food Pantry
 Baby Sprinkles
 Community Orchard



Council Update

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

- SJUCC collected and donated \$1148 to Church World Service for Ukrainian relief;
- \$1000 gift was received for the Samaritan Fund and \$500 was received for AV Fund;
- Patrick Bymhold will be reimbursed \$1924 for his tech equipment purchases;
- Volunteer appreciation dinner is planned for May 25;
- Head Start three-year contract will be renewed;
- Signatories for church financial accounts are council members Gary Reasoner, Miriam Brown Dorsey and Eugene Johnson;
- Church office hours will be changed to Monday through Friday 12-5PM beginning April 18;
- The History Room team includes Miriam Brown Dorsey, Sandra Harkness and Richard Poor.



Full minutes are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be May 11 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,
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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