

# Joy of *ST. JOHN'S*



Orchard Blueberry blossoms!

## *Congratulations, Graduates!*

OPEN HOUSE ON JUNE 11 AT 2 PM

Congratulations to Diamond Shannon and R'yanna Shannon! They both graduated from High School this year -- early!

There will be an Open House celebration here at St. John's Social Hall beginning at 2 PM on Saturday, June 11. Please RSVP to Kristi Shannon if you will be attending (517.240.2288).

Come help us celebrate our St. John's grads!



## *MyPlace Guest Speaker*

SUNDAY JUNE 5

On Sunday, June 5, we welcome Tammy Dindoffer, the Executive Director of MyPlace, an organization which offers rental housing for youth ages 16-21 who are aging out of foster care or can be placed in independent living.

Their mission is to reduce the vulnerability for exploitation by offering safe housing and holistic support services to youth and young adults in the Greater Jackson area with a preference to those in vulnerable circumstances.

The MyPlace house is near St. John's, and we will be exploring ways to collaborate and support this good work. Tammy will share briefly during our worship service and will share more information following worship.

Please plan to join us in person and on Zoom as we explore new ways to care for the youth of our community!

## *NEW TIME*

10 AM BEGINNING SUNDAY JUNE 5

We will begin our worship at 10 AM beginning on June 5. Zoom will be available at 9:50 AM each Sunday.



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# From the Pastor's Screen

## WHY ARE WE HERE?

Last month we talked about our mission and vision statements. Why does St. John's UCC exist, and in what direction are we moving?

Mission statements are foundational, but they must be simple, memorable and up to twelve words. Two options are:

"Love God, Love People, Serve Both."

"Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out." (The expanded version is "Reach up to love God, reach in to build faith, reach out to serve others," which is 15 words.)

Our current mission statement is, "As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called, in unity and fellowship, to build and maintain open and loving faith families among our membership, neighborhood, community and world."

Which of these three examples is easiest to remember? Which defines why we are here, why we are a church, and what we do? Which is most likely to be spoken aloud to visitors and friends when they ask about our church?

We will be talking about these mission statements as we review our church's constitution on Tuesday, June 7 at 10 AM in person and on Zoom. If you have a preference or an idea, please let your voice be heard!

Listening and wondering,  
Pastor Judy

# Church Finance Class

## OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

Everyone is invited to attend a class hosted by Vickie Steck on Wednesday, June 1. Vickie has audited our financial statements and will teach us how to read the reports correctly. If you're wondering how St. John's is doing financially, you will want to attend this class.

We will meet in the Fellowship Room and on Zoom on June 1 at 3 PM. Plan to join us!



# Constitution Conversation

## VISITING THE REVISION

Our Constitution Committee will be discussing their work on Tuesday, June 7 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Room. The church constitution informs our decision-making and organization, and it needs to be revised as our situation changes. Copies will be available for all who request them (by mail and email). Please contact the church office.

Plan to join us in the Fellowship Room and on Zoom on Tuesday June 7 at 10 AM.

"...God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7b



**be  
more  
Kind**

**Be More Kind** merchandise can be ordered at St. John's! We have hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies on display in the Fellowship Room.

Please make checks out to United Center for Caring. **ALL PROCEEDS** go to humanitarian relief for Ukraine. Many thanks to Don Tassie for envisioning this fund-raising effort!

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# Happy Birthday

## June Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

- 1 - Richard Poor
- 1 - Art Bonner
- 3 - Janell Houser
- 8 - Connor Bush
- 8 - Dorothy Woodruff
- 15 - Rick Havens
- 20 - Jerry Nelson
- 25 - Lori Canter



## Bible Study in the Courtyard

WEDNESDAYS AT 11 AM

Beginning on Wednesday, June 8 at 11 AM, Pastor Judy will lead an outdoor, in-person summer Bible Study (weather permitting). We'll discuss the bible reading from the previous Sunday, and then move into the biblical text for the coming Sunday.

On June 8 we will discuss Genesis 11 and Proverbs 8. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll meet in the Fellowship Room.

Everyone is welcome to join in! Bring your lunch, bring your questions, and bring your bibles! **Please RSVP** at the church office if you are interested in attending.



## Fem Alliance

MULUCHA JAY UPDATE

On May 22 Mulucha Jay shared about life in Uganda for LGBTQ persons. This event was sponsored by the United Center for Caring, the Pride Center and Liberty UU Church of Clark Lake.

Fem Alliance Uganda advocates for respect and protection of LGBTQ persons and also runs a shelter for those who have been disowned by their families.

Jay's organization received over \$500 in support from this event.

## Summer Study

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Our summer study explores Christian Nationalism: How did our country become so divided? What can we do?

If you would like to join in, copies of *The Power Worshippers* are available in the Fellowship Room. We'll meet on June 12 following worship for the discussion.

## June Calendar

JUNE 1 - CHURCH FINANCE CLASS 3PM

JUNE 5 - GUEST TAMMY DINDOFFER FROM MY PLACE JACKSON

JUNE 7 - CONSTITUTION REVIEW MEETING 10AM

JUNE 8 - BIBLE STUDY IN THE COURTYARD 12PM; CHURCH COUNCIL 3PM

JUNE 11 - DIAMOND & R'YANNA SHANNON GRADUATION CELEBRATION 2PM

JUNE 12 - POWER WORSHIPPERS BOOK STUDY 11AM

JUNE 12 - CHARLIE JANKE CELEBRATION OF LIFE AT JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL 2PM

JUNE 15 - BIBLE STUDY 11 AM; UNITED CENTER FOR CARING 12 NOON; HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS 6PM

JUNE 17 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM

JUNE 22 - BIBLE STUDY IN THE COURTYARD 11AM

JUNE 26 - ERV HANDLOSER MEMORIAL 2PM AT ST. JOHN'S UCC



# *Samaritan Fund*

## BECOMING GOOD SAMARITANS

St. John's continues to help our neighbors! Each week we receive calls for help with rent, electricity and water bills, and food.

For May 2022 we had 13 requests for help with Consumer's shut offs; 2 checks were requested. There was 2 request for assistance with water bills; 1 check was requested. There were 8 requests for help with rent; 4 checks were requested. There were 3 requests for emergency food. There was 1 request for gas cards and 1 request for motel stays, which were referred to Jackson Giving Back to the Community and Love in the Name of Christ.

Many thanks to Donna Benedict and her tireless efforts to help those in need!

## *Baby "Sprinkles"*

### EXPANDED BABY SHOWER

Come check out the new Baby Sprinkles room downstairs! Baby Sprinkles 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 16 families received items!

We appreciate donations of diapers and any new or used clothing in good condition for all seasons. Bring your donations to the church office. Thank you!

# *Summer Youth Events*

## UNITED CENTER OFFERING

Thanks to the grant writing skills of Harry Wilson, Director of the United Center for Caring, we are planning events for students this summer!

There are several possibilities to consider. The grant may fund field trips for existing summer school programs, or it can fund events here at St. John's, including tutoring and crafts. We're also envisioning providing lunch and books for students during the summer months.

YOU can help! If you can bake cookies, assemble craft packets, or pack brown-bag lunches, you can help!

Stay tuned for announcements and opportunities.



## *Food Pantry*

### COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on May 20 and continues to serve families in need. We provided 1800 pounds of food and served 108 individuals, representing 258 family members. Many thanks to our faithful team of volunteers! The next Food Pantry will be Friday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## *All Hands on Deck!*

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

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

- Invite friends to church!
- Help with the Summer Youth events.
- 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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[kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com](mailto:kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com)

# Healthy Congregations

WORDS, WORDS AND MORE WORDS!

Our new invitation is (finally!) on the hallway wall: "Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, there's a place for you here!" We also have a new banner in the Fellowship Room: "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly & to love mercy & to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8". We will rotate scripture and inspirational quotes on banners throughout the year, reflecting the seasons of Advent and Lent and other special events -- and reminding us why we're here.

Those who participate in Healthy Congregations conversations are also interested in developing our mission and vision statements, as well as marketing materials such as yard signs. Too many people in Jackson think we are the Catholic church, not the UCC. How can our words differentiate us? If you want your voice to be heard, join in!

We'll continue our conversation on June 15 at 6 PM.

—Pastor Judy

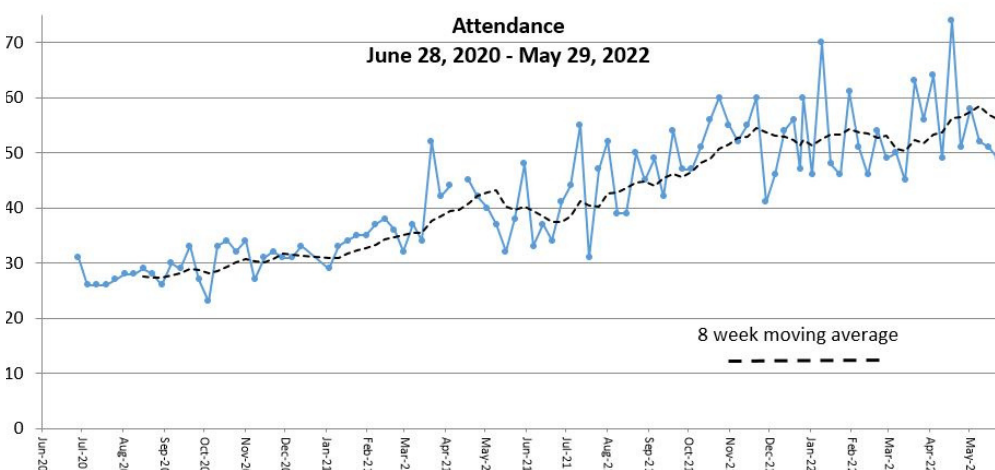
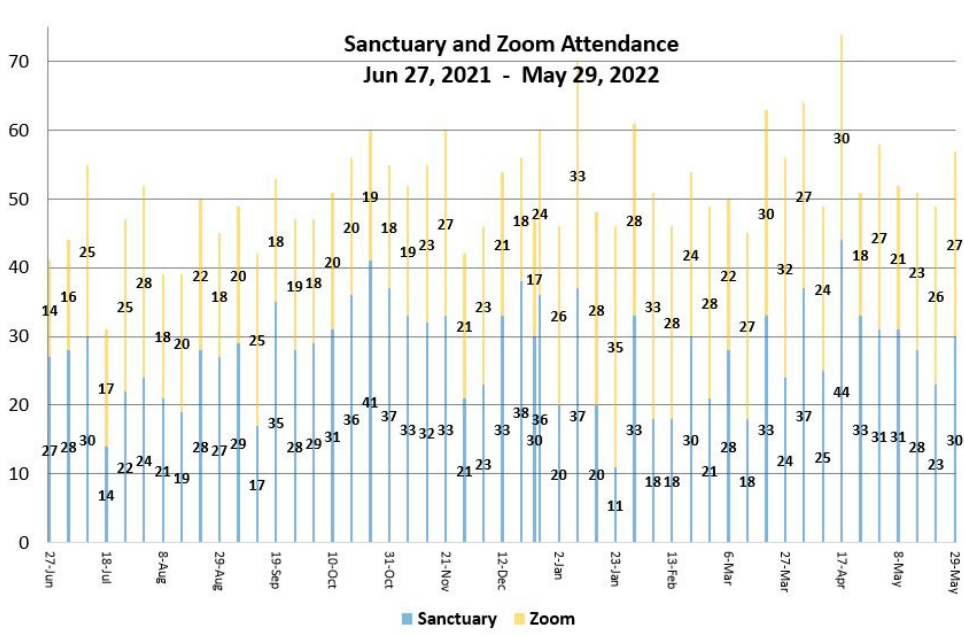


## Council Update

The Church Council met on May 11 and the following business was discussed:

- Payroll service opportunity with Brotherhood Mutual will be explored;
- An invitation to explore merging with Westminster Presbyterian was accepted. Information to be provided to Elders and congregation soon;
- Finance class was scheduled for June 1 at 3PM;
- Purchase of a piano mic and speaker equalizer was approved with monies from Memorial Fund and Brass Concert fundraiser;
- Social Hall piano was tuned by Jeff Smith.

Full minutes are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be June 8 at 3 PM in person and via Zoom.



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*Reach up,  
Reach in,  
Reach out!*



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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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