

Joy of ST. JOHN'S

Community Dinners resume!

JULY 19 AT 6 PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL

Just as no man is an island, no church exists in a vacuum. St. John's has been an integral part of the Partnership Park neighborhood and the Greater Jackson Area. We want to celebrate our community by following in the footsteps of the Apostles in Acts 2:42-47 by breaking bread together and inviting all to share in the bounty provided by our generous God.

We want people of all faiths, traditions, and dietary needs to be welcome at our Community Dinners, so we will be partnering with Xander Swartz from Jackson Food Not Bombs to provide vegetarian, vegan, kosher, or halal options.

Our first returning Community Dinner will be held in the Social Hall on Tuesday, July 19 at 6 PM. We will be inviting Habitat for Humanity volunteers who are working on the new buildings on the corner of Mechanic and Franklin.

If you would like to be part of the Community Dinners, please consider donating money or time (let Evelyn know in the church office if you'd like to volunteer), or, most importantly, show up and share a meal with us!



Happy Hour

WEDNESDAY JULY 20 ON ZOOM

Our Healthy Congregations group has completed its work! Congratulations, team! The group originated when Pastor Mike Mulberry introduced us to the book *Fishing Tips*.

Since we love getting together, a new group has formed: Happy Hour! We will meet the third Wednesday of each month on Zoom. Each meeting will have a theme. In July, everyone should wear their favorite university apparel! Plan to join in the fun! Watch for the Zoom link.

Autumn Events

UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER



The **Special Needs Dances** are coming back! The first one will be September 10 at 7 PM, sponsored by the Cascades Club. The Special Needs Dances are for people with disabilities and their families, friends, and allies, and are open to all people, completely free of charge! Contact Carl Robinson or Linda Miller for more information.

Baby Shower registrations are open! The Baby Shower will be held on September 24. Donations of diapers and baby clothes up to children's size 14 are welcome! We have 40 moms registered so far.



IN THIS ISSUE

Community Dinner

Happy Hour

Autumn Events

The Pastor's Screen

Be More Kind

Constitution,
July Calendar
Bible & Book Studies

Mission Updates
Summer Youth Events

Attendance and Giving

Council Update

From the Pastor's Screen

WOW!

Where have you seen God lately?

If you listen to the nightly news, you're probably thinking God went on vacation. Inflation is soaring, gas prices are crippling, and groceries are too expensive for many families. Violence is increasing, mass shootings are happening every day, and basic healthcare rights are being challenged.

Yet, in the midst of all this, the sun rises and sets. The flowers are blooming, the birds continue to sing, gardens offer their bounty, and the people of God continue to pray.

Author Edward Hays suggests that the start of each new month offers a chance to continue the quest for signs of the Astounding One -- the One we call God. Whenever we see something that causes us to say, "Wow!" God can't be far off. Hays writes, "'Wow' is a one-word prayer of adoration, a non-religious single word abbreviation of the seraphim's ecstatic cry, 'Holy, holy, holy!'"

When is the last time you saw something so amazing that you said "Wow"?

For me it's a blazing sunset, a child's laugh, a bluebird or an eagle. It's a dog frolicking, a gentle breeze, a brand-new book. It's a hymn sung with full hearts and uplifted hands. It's the smell of burning candles. It's people helping one another even when they disagree. Wow!

This month let's limit our news time and enlarge our quiet time. Let's focus on being present to what is right in front of us: a divinely supported world that continues to delight and amaze us. Let's focus on gratitude and not let a day go by without noticing something that makes us shout "Wow!"

Holy Wow! Pastor Judy



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.

These items make excellent gifts for children and grandchildren! And it's all for a very good cause!

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!



"Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord
God Almighty;
the whole
earth is full
of God's glory."

Isaiah 6:3



St. John's UCC
801 S. Mechanic
Jackson Michigan
49203

stjohnsuccjackson
@gmail.com

stjohnsjx.com

517-784-7580



July Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

- 2 - Tim Schroeder
- 3 - Katie Anderson
- 4 - Penny Poor
- 4 - Amanda Canter
- 5 - Rashiem Dentmond
- 8 - Kate Reynolds
- 8 - Gary Reasoner
- 9 - Debbie Benedict
- 15 - Allen Schroeder
- 17 - Rachael Hubbard
- 25 - Walter Shuberg Jr.
- 26 - Michele Wilson

Bible Study in the Courtyard

WEDNESDAYS AT 11 AM

Our bible study continues! Pastor Judy leads an outdoor, in-person summer Bible Study. We're currently exploring the parables of Jesus. Studying a parable is like biting into a chocolate candy -- you never know what's inside!

On July 6 we will discuss the Good Samaritan parable. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll meet in the Prayer 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.



Constitution Conversation

REVISITING THE REVISION

Our Constitution Committee will continue to fine-tune their work on Tuesday, July 12 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.

Everyone is invited! Plan to join us in the Fellowship Room and on Zoom on Tuesday July 12 at 10 AM.



Summer Study

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Our summer book 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 July 10 following worship for the discussion.

July Calendar

JULY 6 - BIBLE STUDY IN THE COURTYARD 11 AM

JULY 10 - POWER WORSHIPPERS BOOK STUDY 11AM

JULY 12 - CONSTITUTION REVIEW MEETING 10AM

JULY 13 - BIBLE STUDY 11 AM

JUNE 15 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM

JULY 17 - ELDER MEETING 11:15 AM

JULY 19 - COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

JULY 20 - BIBLE STUDY 11AM

JULY 20 - HAPPY HOUR 6PM ZOOM

JULY 27 - BIBLE STUDY 11AM



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 June 2022 we had 6 requests for help with Consumer's shut offs; 5 checks were requested. There were 6 requests for help with rent; 2 checks were requested. There were 4 requests for emergency food. There were 3 requests 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 17 families including 30 children 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

FRANCIS STREET PRIMARY

Thanks to the grant writing skills of Harry Wilson, Director of the United Center for Caring, we have received funds for a summer kids program. We will be partnering with Francis Street Primary School to create four 2-day events for kids during the summer. Watch for details and ways you can help!



Help Wanted

MOVE THAT BUS!

A local entrepreneur is converting school buses into tiny homes. If you have experience in plumbing, electrical systems, solar power, woodworking, or diesel mechanics, she is looking to barter & trade for your expertise. For more information call (313) 736-0140 or email whydwestop2021@gmail.com.

Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on June 17 and continues to serve families in need. We provided 1800 pounds of food and served 108 individuals, representing 258 family members. Many thanks to Carl and our faithful team of volunteers! The next Food Pantry will be Friday, July 15, 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

260-668-9173

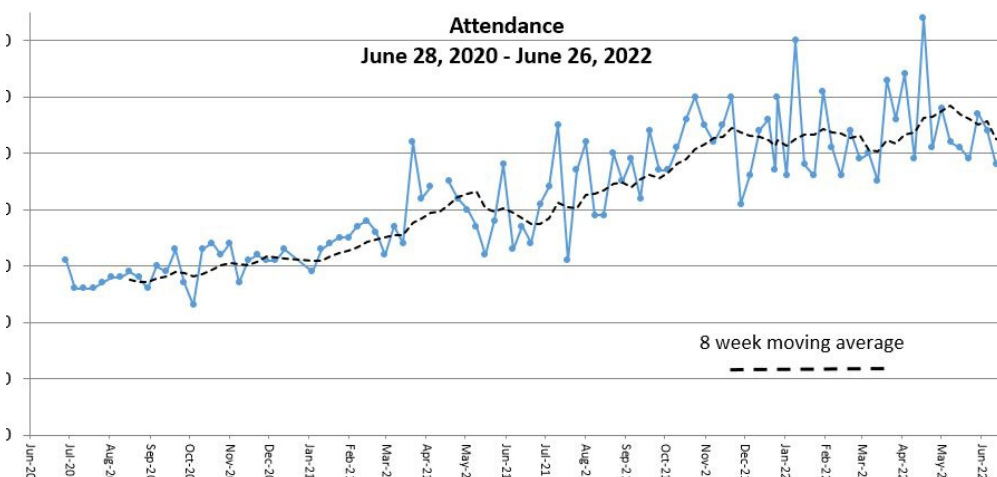
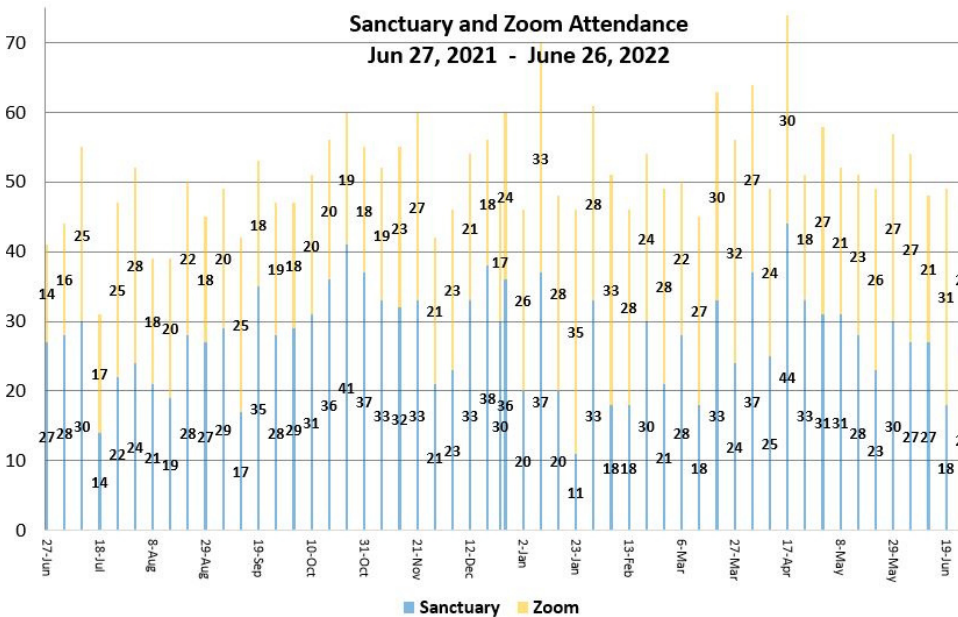
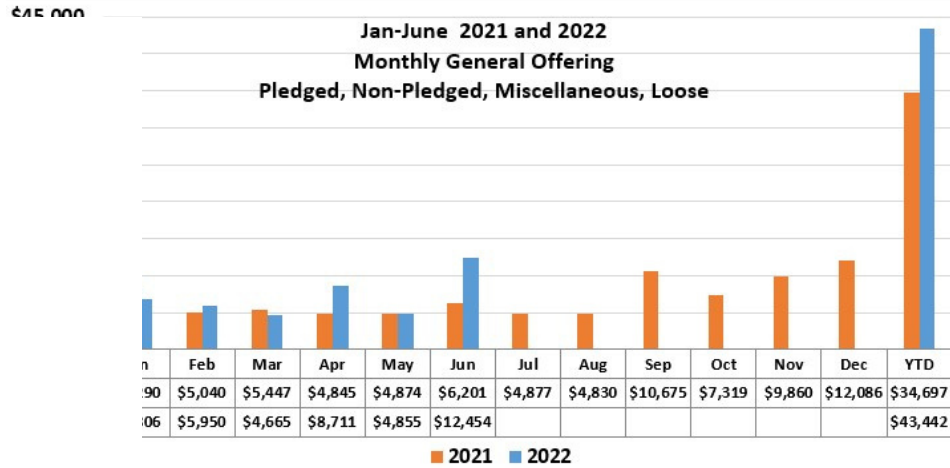
pastor@stjohnsjx.com

kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com

Summer Elder Meeting July 17

PRAYER AND CONVERSATION

All Elders are invited to attend a gathering following worship on Sunday, July 17. Please plan to be present.



Council Update

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

- American Red Cross has renewed its lease with us through December of 2023.
- We are staying with Church Windows as our accounting software.
- A possible merger with Westminster Presbyterian Church was discussed.
- Potential plans for a Sauerkraut Supper were discussed.
- The United Center for Caring has received \$3,300 in grants. Mulucha Jay's presentation was paid for from this money.
- We are changing our garbage service from Modern Waste to Emmons.

Full minutes are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be September 14 at 3 PM in person and via Zoom.



St. John's UCC
801 S. Mechanic Street
Jackson Michigan 49203

Postage

stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com
stjohnsjx.com
517-784-7580

*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

stjohnsjx.com