

Joy of *ST. JOHN'S*

Holy Communion

AUGUST 7

This month we are offering two forms of Communion during our August 6 worship service.

We have ordered new individual communion cups for those who prefer to social distance during communion. These cups are easier to hold and open.

Communion will also be offered at the table, where wafers with juice or wine will be served. Those who would like to come forward for communion will be invited to do so; we will hold the wafer and juice until everyone has been served, so that all can partake together.

We hope this small change will allow all members of our church family to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the form that best ministers to them.



Global Ministry Mission Dash

VIRTUAL 5K FOR OUR CLIMATE

This August, Global Ministries of the UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is hosting its very first Mission Dash! Walk, roll, run, jog, advocate, or spiritually sprint wherever you are! The cost is \$25 per person, and each registrant will receive a collapsible water bottle and magnet. Contact Judy or Michele if you are interested.

US Flag Conversation

SUNDAY AUGUST 14

Should the U.S. Flag be present in the church? If so, where should it be?

In years past the U.S. Flag was displayed in the sanctuary. Many people feel that God alone should be our focus during worship, and because Christianity is global no flag should be present. Others feel strongly that the U.S. Flag represents the right to worship freely, and it should be displayed.

We will present portions of a UCC video regarding this topic following worship on August 14. Each participant will be invited to share as well as listen to differing perspectives. Plan to join the conversation!



IN THIS ISSUE

Communion

Mission Dash

US Flag Conversation

The Pastor's Screen

Constitution,
August Calendar
Baby Shower

Mission Updates
Summer Youth Events

Attendance and Giving
RIP Medical Relief

Council Update

From the Pastor's Screen

CHANGELESS

Change can be abrupt. A birth, a house fire, a sudden death.

Change can also be gradual: a child growing from infancy to adulthood, a caterpillar metamorphosing into a butterfly, the slow transition from winter to spring.

Have you ever looked into the mirror and felt surprised? Where did this old person come from? I still feel 20 years old inside ...

We have all had that experience. What we're feeling is our soul, the eternal part of us that is never born and never dies. Your body today does not have a single cell it had at birth; every single one has been replaced. Your body has changed, sometimes slowly over the years and other times very quickly, but nevertheless, it has changed.

But you have not. Your soul is the same as always; you have grown and learned and expanded, but your soul is still who you really are. The poet Rumi explains it this way:

I am not this hair
I am not this skin
I am the soul
that lives within.

The caterpillar looks nothing like the butterfly; a forest newly planted will look very different decades from now. A person celebrating their 80th birthday looks nothing like their infant self. But the caterpillar had the blueprint for the butterfly inside;

the acorns knew what to do to become trees; the infant's soul lives on in the octogenarian.

Wisdom comes from identifying what changes and what is changeless.

In Genesis we learn that God created our world and declared it very good. Our bodies were fashioned from the soil, and life was breathed into us. The body will go the way of all things; it will return to the soil. But the breath lives on. It is our soul, and it is without beginning and without end. It is part of God, the spirit of life in the Universe.

We are eternal.

Your life matters, because the breath in you is God's own. What you accomplish is not nearly as important as what you experience, the wisdom you gather, the compassion you generate, and the creations you bring forth. God experiences all that we experience. Our lives contribute to the experience of God in the world.

When we notice the beauty of a butterfly, God sees through our eyes. When we feel pain, God feels it too. When the minister said, "We are never alone," she was exactly right. When we read the words "Christ in you," it begins to make sense. God is creating in us and through us, as us. No life is ever wasted, no matter how brief. We are all connected, we are all creating, and we are all filled with God.

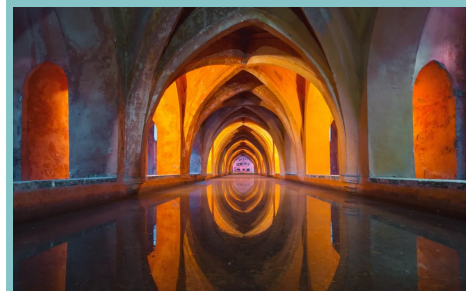
Changeless.

♥ Pastor Judy



"Do you not
know that you
are God's
temple and that
God's Spirit
dwells in you?"

1 Corinthians 3:16



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August Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

- 8 - Larry Martin
- 13 - Vickie Steck
- 18 - Sheila Simpson
- 19 - Dorothea Henry
- 20 - Judy Goodrow
- 25 - Evelyn Park
- 31 - Daniel Canter

Baby Shower September 24

ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT

Our annual Baby Shower now has 61 moms signed up! There will be two groups of moms in attendance, and lunch will be served. The Health Department and the Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect will be teaching a brief class, and ten other social service agencies will share resources at the Baby Expo.

We are always in need of diapers (size 1 through 6) and volunteers of all sizes! Please bring your donations to the church office and sign up to help during the event! And please, pray for the continued success of this much-needed ministry!

Constitution Conversation

REVISITING THE REVISION

Our Constitution Committee is continuing their work! On Tuesday, August 2 at 10 AM all who are interested will meet in the Fellowship Room and also on Zoom. The church constitution informs our decision-making and organization, and it needs to be revised as our situation changes. Everyone is invited to participate in this important work.

Copies of the work-in-progress will be available for all who make a request (by mail and email). Please contact the church office for more info.

Scholarships

APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 14

Scholarship applications are now available in the church office! We are proud to provide scholarships to young people in our congregation and in our neighborhood. This is one of the many ways in which St. John's "reaches out" to share the love of Christ.

Scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, August 28.



August Calendar

AUG 2 - PRIMARY ELECTIONS 6AM-6PM; CONSTITUTION MEETING 10 AM

AUG 3 - BIBLE STUDY 11 AM

AUG 7 - WORSHIP 10 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

AUG 10 - BIBLE STUDY 11AM

AUG 11 - AMERICAN RED CROSS TRAINING

AUG 14 - WORSHIP 10AM
FLAG CONVERSATION;
SCHOLARSHIP APPS DUE

AUG 17 - BIBLE STUDY 11AM
AND HAPPY HOUR AT 6PM
ON ZOOM

AUG 18 - AMERICAN RED CROSS TRAINING

AUG 19 - FOOD PANTRY AND
BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-
12PM

AUG 21- WORSHIP 10AM

AUG 23 - COMMUNITY
DINNER 6PM TACO BAR

AUG 24 - BABY SHOWER
MEETING 10AM; BIBLE
STUDY 11AM; ARC BLOOD
DRIVE ALL DAY!

AUG 26 - AMERICAN RED
CROSS TRAINING

AUG 28 - WORSHIP 10AM

AUG 31 - BIBLE STUDY
11AM; UNITED CENTER FOR
CARING MEETING 12 NOON

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.

In July 2022 we had 5 requests for help with Consumer's shut offs; 3 checks were requested. There were 4 requests for help with rent; 1 check was requested. There were 4 requests for help with water shut offs; 3 checks were requested. There were 3 requests for emergency food; all were given emergency food and referred to other food banks for additional assistance.

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 participate 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 are planning to create events for kids as they transition into the school year. School supplies and books will be provided as well!

Community Dinner



AUGUST 23 6PM

Our first Community Dinner on July 19 was a huge success! 45 people attended and enjoyed sloppy Joe sandwiches and chili dogs. We were joined by Habitat for Humanity, MyPlace residents and staff, and the I-94 Corridor Project. Many thanks to all who participated, brought desserts and helped with set up, serving, and clean up.

Our next dinner will be Tuesday, August 23 at 6 PM. Plan to join us for this community-building event!

Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on July 15 and continues to serve families in need. We provided 1750 pounds of food and served 97 individuals, representing 243 family members. Many thanks to Carl and our faithful team of volunteers! The next Food Pantry will be Friday, August 19, 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!
- Join in the fun at our next Community Dinner!
- 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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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Join us for lively discussions about what church can be, and what God is calling us to be!

At Happy Hour, bring your own beverage, pull up a chair and dream with us! What kind of future do you see for St. John's?

This month we'll begin by sharing funny animal stories! ... or something equally ridiculous. Anything for a smile!

Let's talk about it! Watch for the Happy Hour zoom link in the Weekly Digest.

RIP Medical Debt Relief

PROPHETIC INTEGRITY MISSION

The Prophetic Integrity Mission of the Michigan Conference has invited all UCC churches to contribute \$275 toward the Medical Debt Relief fund. The State of Michigan reports that Michiganders at poverty level have over \$4 million in medical debt. This debt can be eliminated for only \$40,000!

We can help! Let's put together our gifts, so that St. John's UCC here in Jackson can send in \$275. Mark your envelop "RIP Medical." Thank you!



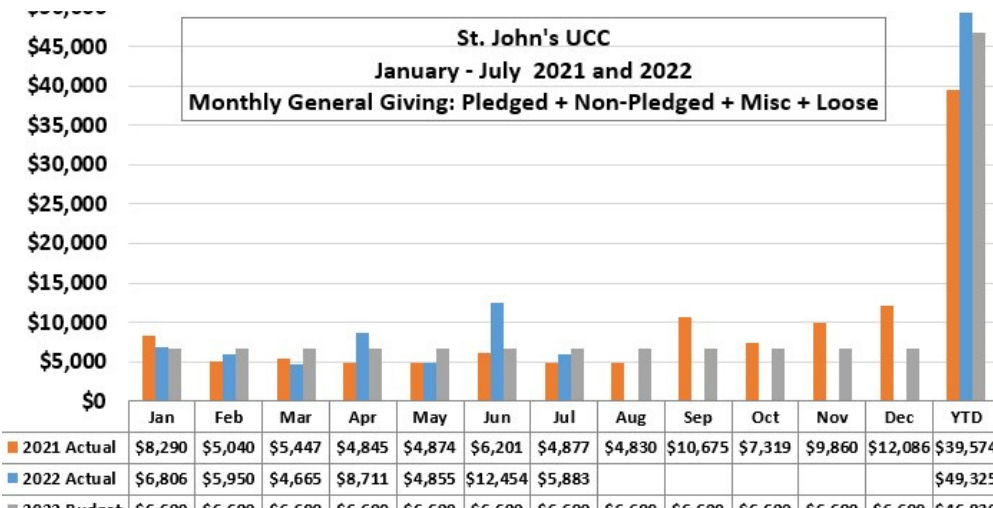
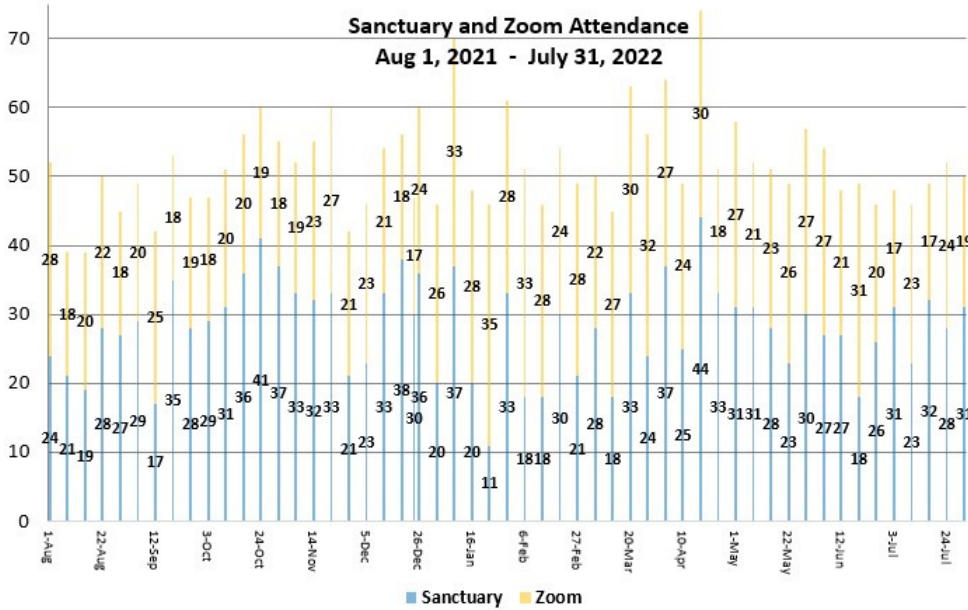
Council Update

The Church Council is on summer break!

A special council meeting was held July 5 at 1PM to discuss the lease between SJUCC and Dungytrees Heritage Foundation. Executive Director Dena Morgan will be leasing office space beginning July 9. Her office will occupy the infant room in the nursery.

In July SJUCC also renewed an agreement with the American Red Cross to offer our facility as an emergency shelter for disaster relief.

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



Executive Director Dena Morgan and volunteers from Dungytrees Heritage Foundation

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*Reach up,
Reach in,
Reach out!*



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*Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey ...*

*There's a place
for you here!*

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