

Joy of ST. JOHN'S

Community Baby Shower

SEPTEMBER 24

The 16th annual Community Baby Shower will be held Saturday, September 24.

We already have 76 moms registered! Participants will attend either morning or afternoon sessions. All will be served lunch between the two sessions, catered by Crazy Cowboy.

Each group will attend two 20-minute educational classes offered by the Health Department and the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. Information and baby items will be provided at the Baby Expo; eleven tables have been booked.

Funding for this event have been donated by Kiwanis and gift cards by Meijer. Harry Wilson secured a \$4000 grant for the Baby Shower as well.

We will need volunteers for set up, assisting attendees and clean up. If you can help, please contact Donna Benedict or Evelyn at the church office.

Please pray for the success of this event! This is a great opportunity to meet and form relationships with families right here in Partnership Park.

Kids' clothing needed!

BABY SPRINKLES MINISTRY

Each month, under the direction and care of Donna Benedict and Caroline Zangwill, the Baby Sprinkles room is open for business! Baby Sprinkles is located in the church basement and provides baby items and children's clothing of all sizes -- free of charge.

We need children's winter clothing. If you have family members whose children have outgrown their clothing, we would appreciate their donations.

Clothing from infant sizes up to children's large (14-16) can be dropped off at the church office.



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TIKTOK

Last month Evelyn introduced me to TikTok. TikTok is an app that features short videos, usually around 15 seconds long. Users record themselves playing pranks, singing, dancing, talking – anything to be amusing. It seemed like a confusing waste of time to me, until I found out that a UCC minister in Atlanta has been using TikTok to explain what it means to follow Jesus.

“Pastormattchat” (a.k.a. Rev. Matt Laney of Virginia-Highland Church) uses TikTok videos to reach young people. His simple videos show him holding a succession of signs (like the old Burma-Shave road signs). Here's one example:

“The difference between Evangelicals & Progressives.”

“Evangelicals use scripture to understand LOVE.”

“Progressives use LOVE to understand scripture.”

“Discuss.”

He has over 100,000 followers. Think about that! I am now one of the 100K followers, and I look forward to watching Pastor Matt's newest sign show. (I also enjoy watching Grandma Bidy, but that's another story.)

TikTok became one of the fastest growing brands in 2020. It has only been around for five years, but young

viewers get hooked quickly. In fact, some have raised concerns over its addictive quality for young people who want constant stimulation.

I prefer a book and a cup of coffee. But TikTok can be a fun diversion if you're waiting in line somewhere or taking a quick break. When I tap the app, I look for Pastor Matt's latest, and I haven't been disappointed.

Matt's signs challenge us to rethink our spirituality and our faith. When are we following scripture, and when are we swallowing doctrine? The children of this generation are naturally curious and distrustful, and they are simply not going along with old doctrine. They desperately want to enjoy their lives without bowing to culture. That is admirable – but for many of us, it also feels scary and uncomfortable.

My hope for St. John's is that we will look critically at scripture - even when it makes us uncomfortable - and find relevant ways to apply it to our lives today. To do that, we have to be willing to play. We can't be afraid of technology. We can't expect our younger friends to approach faith the same ways we did. And we can't expect them to stay for more than 15 seconds.

We can reach people on TikTok, but I confess, it makes me a little nervous. I'm still getting used to Facebook live videos! Frankly, I can use some help.

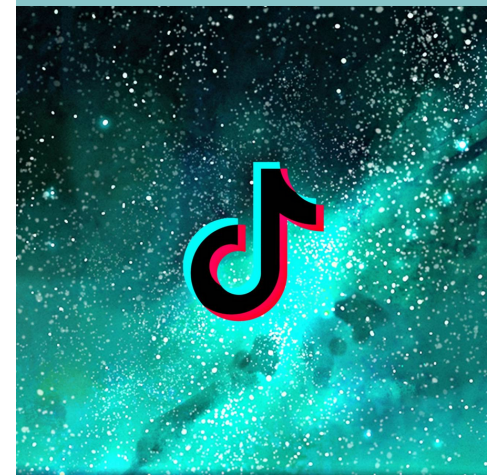
Please pray with me that we can share our faith in unexpected and new ways. There's a whole world waiting to hear some good news. Time is short, and the clock is ticking.

TikTok,

Pastor Judy

"Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers."

Romans 13:11 NRSV



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September Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

- 1 - Russ Church
- 8 - Donna Benedict
- 9 - Linda Miller
- 14 - Diane Brush
- 16 - Kathy Schroeder
- 16 - Jim Benedict
- 17 - Eugene Johnson
- 17 - Fred Wessels
- 25 - Walter Shuberg III
- 26 - Gary Handloser
- 27 - Joanne Schuler

NHL Initiative

LIBRARY AND TUTORING SERVICE

Progress continues on the Nancy Hackworth Literacy Initiative.

Currently, books are being provided to children each Sunday. Advertisements for part-time tutors have been placed, and connections with the students at Francis Street Primary School are being forged! The goal is to provide a safe space where children can learn to read, enjoy quiet time and maybe explore other areas of study.

The tutoring center will be located in our building here at SJUCC. Tutors will meet with students by appointment. If you would like to get involved, please let us know at the church office.

Constitution Conversation

REVISITING THE REVISION

Our Constitution Committee is still meeting! On Tuesday, September 13 at 10 AM all who are interested will meet in the Fellowship Room and also on Zoom. Everyone is invited to participate in this important work.



Scholarships Awarded

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

St. John's is proud to award scholarships to our college students!

Congratulations to:

Sarah Vowler, Jackson College
Evelyn Park, Arizona State University
Hannah Ivie, University of Michigan

Scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, September 18.



September Calendar

SEPT 4 - WORSHIP 10 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

SEPT 5 - LABOR DAY - OFFICE
CLOSED

SEPT 8 - AMERICAN RED
CROSS CLASS - SOCIAL HALL

SEPT 11 - WORSHIP 10AM

SEPT 13 - CONSTITUTION
MEETING 10 AM

SEPT 14 - COUNCIL MEETS
3PM

SEPT 15 - BABY SHOWER
MEETING 10 AM

SEPT 16 - FOOD PANTRY AND
BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM

SEPT 18 - WORSHIP 10 AM

SEPT 20 - COMMUNITY
DINNER 6PM

SEPT 21 - HAPPY HOUR 6PM
ON ZOOM

SEPT 23 - FRANCIS STREET
PRIMARY KIDS PROGRAM
BEGINS

SEPT 24 - ANNUAL
COMMUNITY BABY
SHOWER

SEPT 25 - WORSHIP
10AM

Samaritan Fund

BECOMING GOOD SAMARITANS

In August 2022 we had 13 requests for help with Consumer's shut offs; 5 checks were requested. There were 12 requests for help with rent; 3 checks were requested. There were 4 requests for help with water shut offs; 1 check was requested. There were 7 requests for emergency food; 5 were given emergency food. Our emergency food supplies are running very low; donations would be appreciated.

Community Dinner

SEPTEMBER 20 6PM

We served 40 people at our August Taco Bar Community Dinner. Our next dinner will be Tuesday, September 20, at 6 PM. Funding for the dinners has been provided by the United Center for Caring. Plan to join us for these monthly community-building events!

Baby "Sprinkles"

EXPANDED BABY SHOWER

Come check out the Baby Sprinkles room downstairs! Baby Sprinkles offers baby items, clothing, diapers and more to moms in need every month. The goal is to journey with the moms and babies who participate in the annual Baby Shower. Last month 29 families including 64 children received items. We appreciate donations. Thank you!

Learning Enrichment

FRANCIS STREET OUTREACH

On Friday, September 23, our community Youth Program will launch! Our first meeting will be at Francis Street Primary School and following the kick-off, we will host students at SJUCC on the second and fourth Friday afternoons of each month.

Our focus areas are literacy, STEM, and social/emotional learning. We'll include some field trips, and we will invite the families to our community dinners.

Funding was provided for *Learning Enrichment* by grants from the United Center for Caring. This program will assist the students as well as connect SJUCC with our neighborhood families.

We will need volunteers to prepare materials and provide general help during our two-hour Friday sessions. No special skills needed, but it's a bonus if you like kids!

Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on August 19 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, September 16, 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 NHL Initiative or Learning Enrichment.
- Pray for our church every day!
- Donate time or money to the Samaritan Fund or Food Pantry.
- Bring diapers and donations for the Baby Shower and Sprinkles.
- Volunteer to be an Usher.
- Offer your musical gifts.
- Notice who's missing from worship ... and reach out with love!



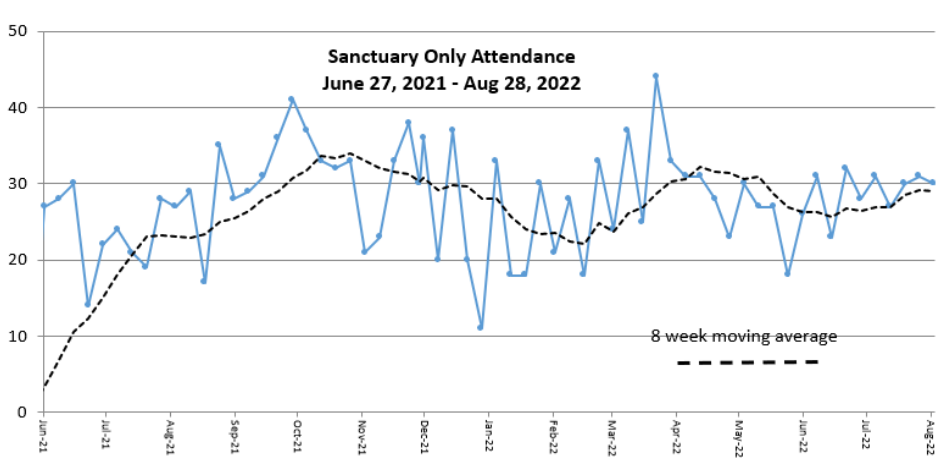
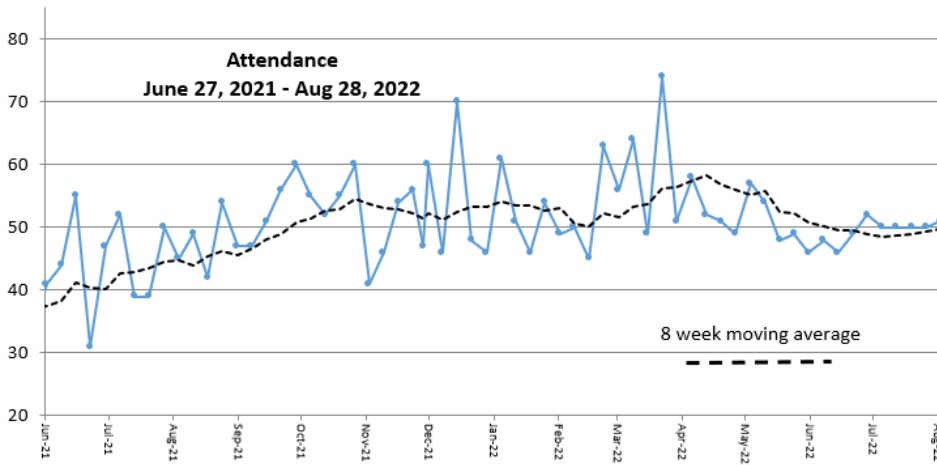
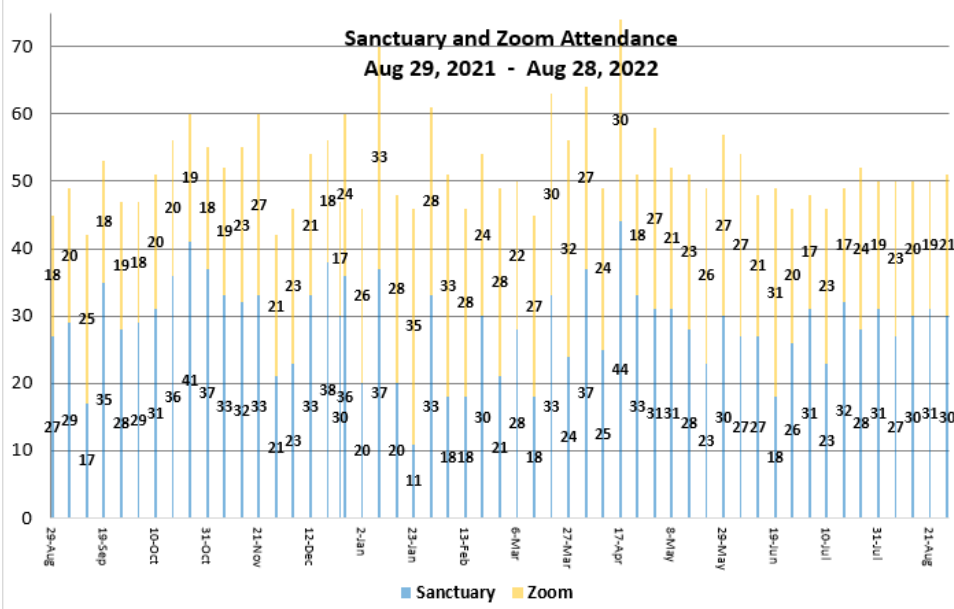
Peaches at The Orchard are ready for picking! Stop by and enjoy.

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Council Update

The Church Council has been on summer break.

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.



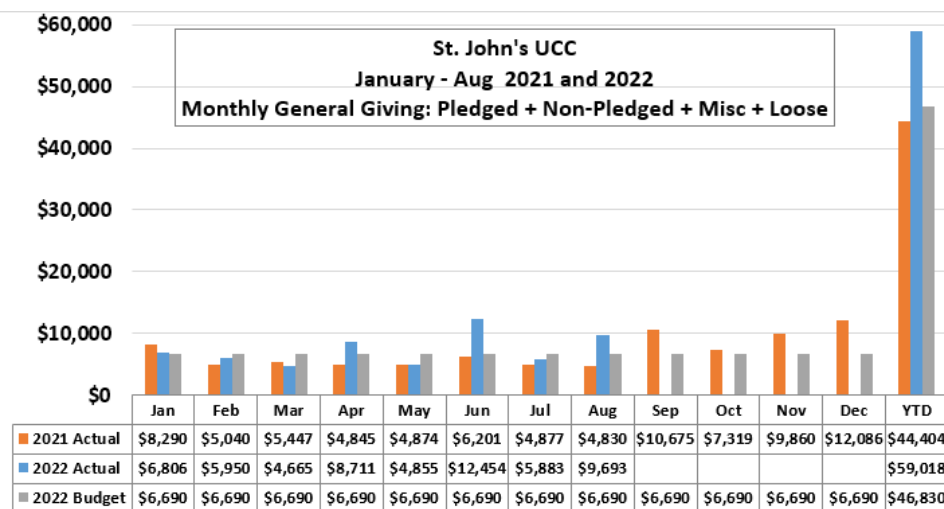
Happy Hour

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?

Let's talk about it! Watch for the Happy Hour Zoom link in the Weekly Digest and join us on Wednesday, September 21 at 6PM.



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*Reach up,
Reach in,
Reach out!*



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

*There's a place
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