

# Joy of ST. JOHN'S

## Community Dinner

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Our next Community Dinner will be Tuesday, October 25 at 6PM. We will serve pancakes and sausage, egg casseroles, and biscuits & gravy.

Funding for the dinners is provided by the United Center for Caring. In September, 45 people attended our dinner. This is a great opportunity to meet and form relationships with families right here in Partnership Park.

Hope to see you there!



The 16th Annual Community Baby Shower served 58 families!

## Special Needs Dance

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Get ready to dance the night away!

The first Special Needs Dance of 2022 will be held in the Social Hall on October 29 from 6-9PM. Friends, family, and allies are all welcome to join in the fun. Light refreshments will be served. Costumes welcome but not required. Questions? Call Linda Miller at 517-787-0426. Everyone is welcome to attend!



## All Saints

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

This year we are planning a video slide show for All Saints Day. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, especially those who passed away in 2022, please send a photograph (digital pictures are best) to Evelyn at the church office. Include the person's name and birth/death dates. The pictures will be shown during our Sunday worship on November 6.



### IN THIS ISSUE

Community Dinner

Special Needs Dance

All Saints Day

The Pastor's Screen

October Calendar

Crop Walk

Mission Updates

Attendance and Giving

Council Update

# From the Pastor's Screen

## DOMINICA

In November I'll be traveling to the island country of Dominica.

Dominica is the newest and youngest island of the Lesser Antilles, southeast of Puerto Rico. Often called the Nature Island of the Caribbean, it is the perfect setting for two of my favorite things - hiking and yoga.

The trip is organized by Peace Through Yoga Foundation, founded by a friend I met at seminary, Sally Bassett. Sally has traveled to over 120 countries and often encountered the need for girls' education. In 2005 she created a girls' school called *Girls for Success* in Costa Rica. I visited the school in 2016.

The *Girls for Success* program is inspiring -- and successful. On a trip to Dominica, Sally met with local women and discovered the need for a girls' library, so *Girls for Success* created one. The library is part of an endeavor called "The Girlhood Lounge," located in a rural area of Dominica.

The *Girls for Success* Library provides a safe space where Dominican girls can learn about reproductive health, mental health, safety and human rights, in addition to receiving academic help, joining in fun activities, and meeting with mentors.

I'm looking forward to visiting the Girlhood Lounge, meeting the students and providing the library with more books. If you are curious

about Girls for Success, visit [peacethroughyoga.org](http://peacethroughyoga.org).

Sally's vision for girls' education reminds me of Nancy Hackworth's dedication to literacy. Our own Nancy Hackworth Library and Tutoring Initiative was created by Nancy's family to continue her work for education right here in our community.

It also reminds me of our Learning Enrichment & Arts Program (LEAP), created by Michele and Harry Wilson in conjunction with the Francis Street Primary School.

Frederick Douglass said, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Won't you join me in supporting these programs?

Here's how:

- Help potential tutors connect with St. John's
- Be a "warm body" at our LEAP afternoons here at SJUCC
- Provide snacks or crafts for the students
- Purchase new board games, sharpened pencils, journals, 2023 daily planners, markers and books for teenaged girls in Dominica
- Donate a used suitcase for me to pack with supplies and leave at the Girlhood Lounge
- Pray for our young people

The bible doesn't say much about education, but Jesus could read -- when probably less than ten percent of his contemporaries were literate. When we help children learn to read, we create possibilities for their future. Victor Hugo said, "He who opens a school door closes a prison."

Sun Salutations!

Pastor Judy

"... the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to the one who possesses it."

Ecclesiastes 7:12 NRSV



Trafalgar Falls, Dominica

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## October Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

- 3 - Janeen Bush
- 5 - John Letson
- 10 - Elaine Kalbarczyk
- 10 - Eileen Bolenbaugh
- 10 - Barry Kimble
- 16 - Norma Smith
- 17 - Dawn Thomas
- 21 - Kristi Shannon
- 23 - Eric Canter
- 29 - Janine Osborne



## 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.

Please join us! 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, October 19 at 6PM.

## Crop Walk

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Support our local food pantries by participating in the Jackson County Crop Walk. We'll meet at First Congregational UCC on Sunday, Oct. 9. Registration begins at 11:30AM. The walk starts at 12:15PM. Contact the church office to register or donate.

## United Center

GAINING MOMENTUM

The United Center for Caring is moving forward. Grants totaling \$12,500 from the Michigan Dept of Community Health and Henry Ford Health Systems have been utilized. In 2022 more than three times the normal number of families have been served by the Baby Sprinkles program and the Annual Baby Shower. The Open Table Community Dinners help many people combat loneliness. Francis Street Primary School is partnering with the UC4C to facilitate after school programming twice a month in our building. The UC4C was awarded a second grant to carry these programs through May 2023.

With Carl's leadership we continue to serve over 100 families monthly in need of food. This year we received a \$12,000 grant from the Jackson United Way and recently we received \$4,500 from Brad Flory's Lunch Bunch Program.

If you want to help, please call Evelyn in the office (517) 784-7580 or email Harry @ harryianwilson@gmail.com.

-Submitted by Harry Wilson

## October Calendar

OCT 1 - BETTY HAY MEMORIAL SERVICE 1PM

OCT 2 - WORSHIP 10AM  
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCT 7 - LEARNING  
ENRICHMENT & ARTS (LEAP)  
1:30-3:30PM

OCT 9 - WORSHIP 10AM AND  
CROP WALK 11:30AM

OCT 12 - COUNCIL MEETS  
3PM

OCT 16 - WORSHIP 10AM

OCT 19 - HAPPY HOUR 6PM  
ON ZOOM

OCT 21 - FOOD PANTRY AND  
BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM

OCT 21 - LEAP 1:30-3:30PM

OCT 23 MICHIGAN CONF  
ANNUAL MEETING 9:30AM ON  
ZOOM

OCT 23 - WORSHIP 10AM

OCT 25 - COMMUNITY DINNER  
6PM

OCT 29 - SPECIAL NEEDS  
DANCE 6-9PM

OCT 30 - WORSHIP 10AM  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOV 2 - SAUERKRAUT  
SUPPER FEATURING CALVARY  
BRASS ENTERTAINMENT



# *Samaritan Fund*

## BECOMING GOOD SAMARITANS

In September 2022 we had 9 requests for help with Consumer's shut offs; 3 checks were requested. There were 10 requests for help with rent; 1 check was requested. Several called because their rent had increased by \$200 or more. There were 3 requests for emergency food; all 3 were given emergency food. Our emergency food supplies are running very low; donations would be appreciated.

## *NHL Initiative*

### TUTORS AND MENTORS NEEDED

The Nancy Hackworth Library received a donation of 51 books from the Jackson Public Library in September. Books are provided to children who attend our Sunday services and will also be used by our on-site tutoring/mentoring program. If you or someone you know would like to earn some extra money by teaching children to read, please contact the church office.

## *Baby Sprinkles*

### AND KIDS' CLOSET

Baby Sprinkles has expanded to include Kids' Closet, which provides clothing up to size 14, in addition to baby items, infant clothing, and diapers. Last month 21 families including 44 children received items. We appreciate donations. Come see us in action on October 21 from 10AM to 12PM.

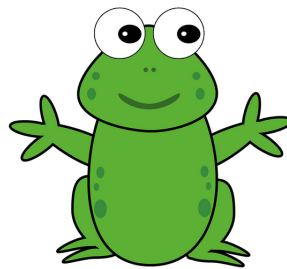
# *LEAP!*

## LEARNING ENRICHMENT AND ARTS

The United Center for Caring's Learning Enrichment and Arts Program (LEAP) has begun! The first meeting was at Francis Street Primary School in September. The students and teachers will begin meeting twice each month here at St. John's. The next gathering is Friday, October 7 from 1:30-3:30PM.

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; you can be an on-site grandparent - tying shoes, and giving hugs and encouragement. Contact the church office or Michele Wilson if you can help.



## *Food Pantry*

### COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on September 16 and continues to serve families in need. We provided 1500 pounds of food and served 113 individuals, representing 300 family members. Many thanks to Carl and our faithful team of volunteers. The next Food Pantry will be Friday, October 21, 10AM to 12PM



## *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 LEAP.
- 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!



Rev. Judy Goodrow

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# Sauerkraut Supper November 2

FEATURING ENTERTAINMENT BY CALVARY BRASS

Save the date! On Wednesday, November 2 we will be serving our famous sauerkraut supper. Under the direction of culinary artists Bert Steck and Carl Robinson, dinner will be served in the Social Hall following a concert by the Calvary Brass in the Sanctuary. Donations for this meal will be accepted and appreciated. Stay tuned for more information.

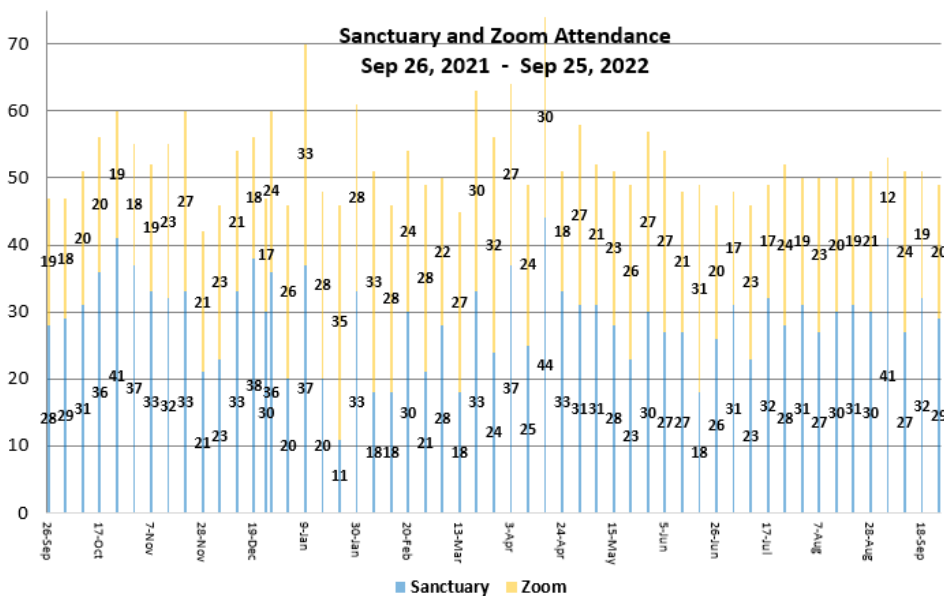
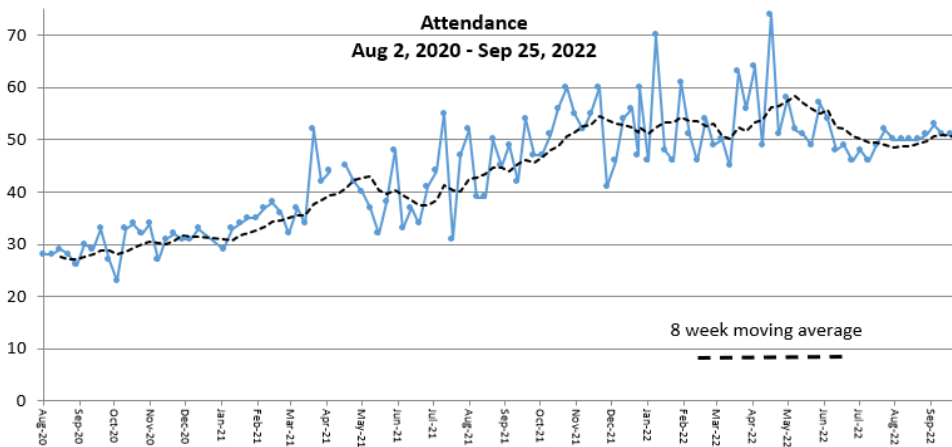
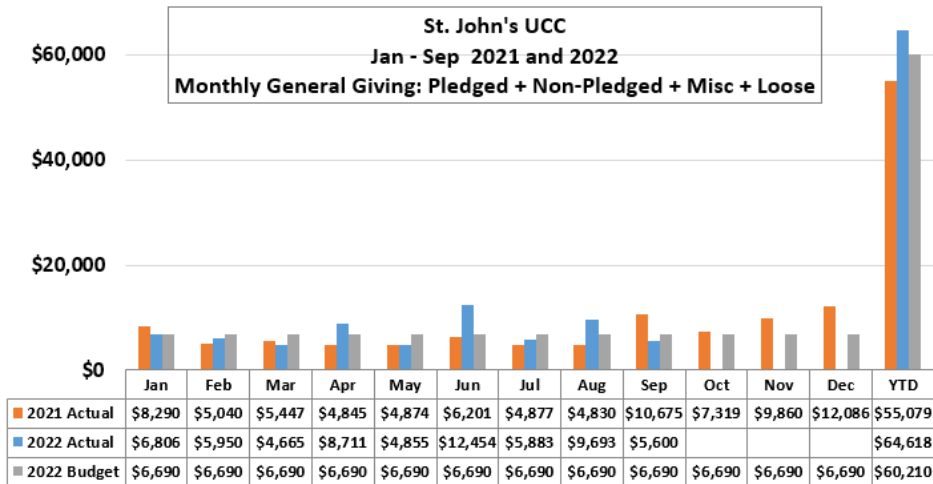


## Council Update

The Church Council met on September 13 and the following items were discussed:

- Partnership with Dungytrees Foundation for emergency food;
- Dungytrees' use of the building for an after school program;
- Weekly worship attendance has been consistently around 50;
- Plans evolve for the Learning Enrichment program with FSP;
- The NHL and Tutoring Initiative is advertising for tutors;
- Congregational meeting was set for October 30;
- Worship time at 10:30 a.m. proposed for the winter months;
- Proposed summer worship time 10 a.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. The congregation will vote on this schedule.

Meeting minutes for past meetings are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be October 12 at 3 PM in person and via Zoom.



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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!*

# St. John's

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