

Joy of ST. JOHN'S UCC



NHL Initiative

NANCY HACKWORTH LIBRARY

The Nancy Hackworth Library and Literacy Initiative has hired Susan Nawroth as the Chief Literacy Officer. Sue has been a teacher in many capacities and is looking forward to launching the NHL tutoring program. "I think this is going to be a wonderful opportunity for me personally; but more importantly, I think this is a wonderful opportunity to help some very deserving young students," she wrote.

Sue and the NHL team are working with partners to identify student participants. The first tutoring sessions will be scheduled this month. Team members include B.

Steck, D. Hackworth and S. Vowler.



Please extend a warm welcome to Sue!

Spring Retreat

GET RECHARGED!

Our spring retreat is in the planning stage. The word "retreat" means "to withdraw; fallback." Author Glennon Doyle's definition is better: "I give myself a treat. Then I give myself another treat: I re-treat." Let's re-treat ourselves!

Why do we need a retreat? Spending some dedicated time away from our normal schedules is like a mini-vacation without the stress. A retreat allows us the time and space to breathe, to strengthen our relationships, to rest, to be recharged -- and restored.

Everyone is invited to our planning sessions. The first is Sunday, January 15 in the Prayer Room following our morning service. This will be an in-person group. The second planning session will be Tuesday, January 17 at 6 PM on Zoom.

Our retreat leader is Sharon Hronek from North Carolina. She was an IBM executive consultant for 20 years, specializing in relationship management and organization change. Sharon said, "I cannot remember a time when I did not talk with Jesus, study scriptures, and continually search for deeper truths."

Sharon will be joining our planning sessions by phone and Zoom. Please plan to join us!



IN THIS ISSUE

NHL Initiative
Spring Retreat

The Pastor's Screen
Conference Minister Visit

January Calendar
and Birthdays
Congregational Meeting

Mission Updates

Attendance and Giving
Council Update
Winter Book Study

From the Pastor's Screen

STRENGTHEN

Happy New Year! I can barely believe that we have been journeying together for nearly two years. In January of 2021, I was waiting for the Search Committee to call me -- and they were taking their time! They wanted to be certain, but I already knew in my heart that I would be here at St. John's. I am so happy that call finally came!

My initial intention was connection -- to get to know you. When we re-opened after the pandemic shutdown, we re-connected. We practiced forgiveness, we remembered what brings us joy ... and our wounds began to heal. Looking back, we can see how much healing has been accomplished. Good work, everyone!

Our second step was planting. Last year we "planted" Baby Sprinkles, Community Dinners, Special Dances, the Nancy Hackworth Library, and new partnerships. We formed a new board of directors for the United Center for Caring. Our facility is looking better, and our energy level is up!

Now, where do we want to go in 2023?

I have spent the past several days contemplating our direction for the new year. Every January I like to set an intention, so that at the end of the year we can look back and map our progress. An intention is not a plan -- it's a direction, a goal. For 2023, the intention that speaks to me is "strengthen."

How do we strengthen our faith? Our

community? Our church? Our relationships? Our facility?

I want to strengthen my ministry skills, so I'll be attending Professional Clergy Coaching classes each Wednesday afternoon. The tools I gain will help me become a better pastor as we grow.

To strengthen our faith and our relationships inside the church, we are planning a retreat -- and I hope you'll attend. Book studies, classes and mission work also help us grow strong.

To strengthen our facility, we will be exploring ways to finance a new roof and we're looking at funding for resurfacing the parking lot. A team is working on signage that adequately represents all our partners.

As we explore the intention to "strengthen," should we consider adding a seated yoga class, or a meditation group, or pickleball courts? What would help us grow strong?

Isaiah 35 tells us, "Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, be strong, do not fear!" Do not fear, my friends. The best is yet to be.

In the strength of God -- Pastor Judy

Conference Minister Visit

VISITING US JANUARY 8

Our new conference minister, Rev. Lillian Daniel, will visit St. John's UCC on Sunday, January 8 and will be our morning preacher. Please join us before our morning service to meet and welcome her! Coffee and snacks will be served at 9:30 AM.



Therefore,
strengthen your
feeble arms and weak
knees. "Make level
paths for your feet,"
so that the lame may
not be disabled, but
rather healed.

Hebrews 12:12-13



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January Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE

- 1 - Ann Middlebrook
- 1 - Jean Shuberg
- 2 - Carmen Thompson
- 3 - Sue Schroeder
- 6 - Mary Dubois
- 7 - Tenesha Canter
- 9 - Ronni Nelson
- 9 - Tammy Thrun
- 10 - Duane Leece
- 17 - Alan Richmond
- 18 - Betty Allen
- 20 - Jean Allen
- 20 - Marleigh Hayes



Special Dances

JANUARY 28 SPECIAL NEEDS DANCE

Our Special Needs Dances continue under the leadership of Linda Miller and her team. The Winter Dance will be January 28. Help is needed for decorating before the event and clean up afterward. Snacks and monetary donations are also appreciated. If you would like to help, please contact Linda Miller or the church office.

Community Dinner

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Cooks and servers wanted! Our next free Community Dinner will be a Winter Picnic. Join us for hamburgers, hotdogs and brats on Tuesday, January 24 at 6 PM. If you can flip a burger, please arrive by 5 PM. If you can serve, we'll be ready for you by 5:45 PM.

Many thanks to the United Center for funding these events. Mark your calendar and join us!



Congregational Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 11:45 AM

Plan to attend our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29 immediately following our morning service. At this meeting we will vote on elected positions and fine-tune our new constitution. The proposed council is:

- President - Gary Reasoner
- Vice President - David Chesney
- Treasurer - Richard Poor
- Secretary - Miriam Brown Dorsey
- Financial Secretary - Albert Steck
- Building/Grounds Lead - Carl Robinson
- Outreach Lead - Vickie Steck
- Social Justice Lead - Michele Wilson
- Ministry Lead - Caroline Zangwill
- Delegate - Connie Williams-Moodie
- Delegate - Jim Benedict
- Alt. Delegate - Miriam Brown Dorsey

All reports are due by January 8 for inclusion in our 2022 Annual Report.

January Calendar

JAN 1 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM

JAN 3 - AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

JAN 8 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM WITH REV LILLIAN DANIEL ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

JAN 11- COUNCIL 3 PM

JAN 15 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM RETREAT PLANNING 11:45 AM

JAN 16 - MLK DAY

JAN 17 - RETREAT PLANNING 6PM ZOOM ONLY

JAN 18 - ARC CPR CLASS

JAN 20 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM-12 PM; LEAP 1:30-3:30 PM

JAN 22 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM BOOK STUDY 11:45 AM

JAN 24 - COMMUNITY DINNER

JAN 28 - SPECIAL NEEDS WINTER DANCE 7 PM

JAN 29 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Middlebrooks perform at our Night of Christmas Music

Samaritan Fund

BECOMING GOOD SAMARITANS

In December 2022 we had 6 requests for help with rent; 1 payment was issued. One person requested water bill assistance; 1 payment was issued. We received 3 requests for help with Consumers bills; 1 payment was issued. We received requests for help with a motel stay and gas money requests which were referred to other agencies. There were 11 requests for emergency food; all 11 were given emergency food. 5 participated in the Showers for Homeless program. Donations for the Samaritan Fund are always appreciated.

Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on December 16 and continues to serve families in need. Last month we provided 4100 pounds of food and served 140 individuals, representing 388 family members. We are so grateful for Carl and our faithful team of volunteers. The next Food Pantry will be Friday, January 20, from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Dungytreei

TOY DRIVE SUCCESS

Dena Morgan of Dungytreei organized a Christmas Toy Drive in December. We supported this effort with a box of new toys, and the NHL provided brand new books for each child. More than 45 children received Christmas gifts!

LEAP

LEARNING ENRICHMENT AND ARTS

LEAP students, teachers and volunteers will gather Friday, January 20 from 1:30-3:30 PM in the Social Hall at SJUCC. LEAP will be in session two Fridays per month through June 2, with several field trips planned. Grandparents needed!

LEAP is funded by grants from the United Center for Caring.



MyBakery

MYPLACE MINISTRY

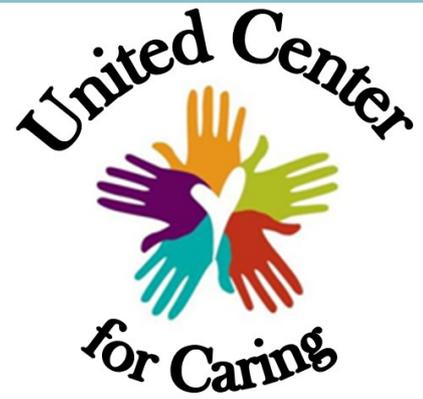
Our kitchen is looking fresh! Beginning this month, MyPlace will launch its entrepreneurial bakery; residents will be learning how to bake, manage and market. Twice each week MyBakery will be utilizing the kitchen. Cupboards have been prepared and new equipment is arriving. We're excited about this partnership with MyPlace!

Baby Sprinkles

KIDS' CLOSET AND MORE

Baby Sprinkles and Kids' Closet provides clothing up to size 14, in addition to baby items, infant clothing, and diapers. Last month 40 families received items, serving 56 children.

We appreciate donations. Come see us in action on January 20 at 10 AM.



Be the Blessing

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Here's what you can do to be a blessing:

- Invite friends to church.
- Attend the 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 donations for the Baby Sprinkles and Kids' Closet.
- Volunteer to be an Usher.
- Sign up for Coffee Hour.
- Offer your musical gifts.
- Notice who's missing from worship ... and reach out with love!



Rev. Judy Goodrow

260-668-9173

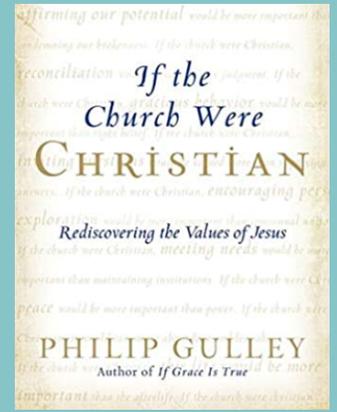
pastor@stjohnsjx.com

kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com

If the Church Were Christian

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 FOLLOWING OUR MORNING SERVICE

Our winter book study is *If the Church Were Christian* by Philip Gulley. At our January meeting we will discuss chapters 3-5. Even those who haven't read the book can participate in this conversation. How does our church reflect the teaching of Jesus?

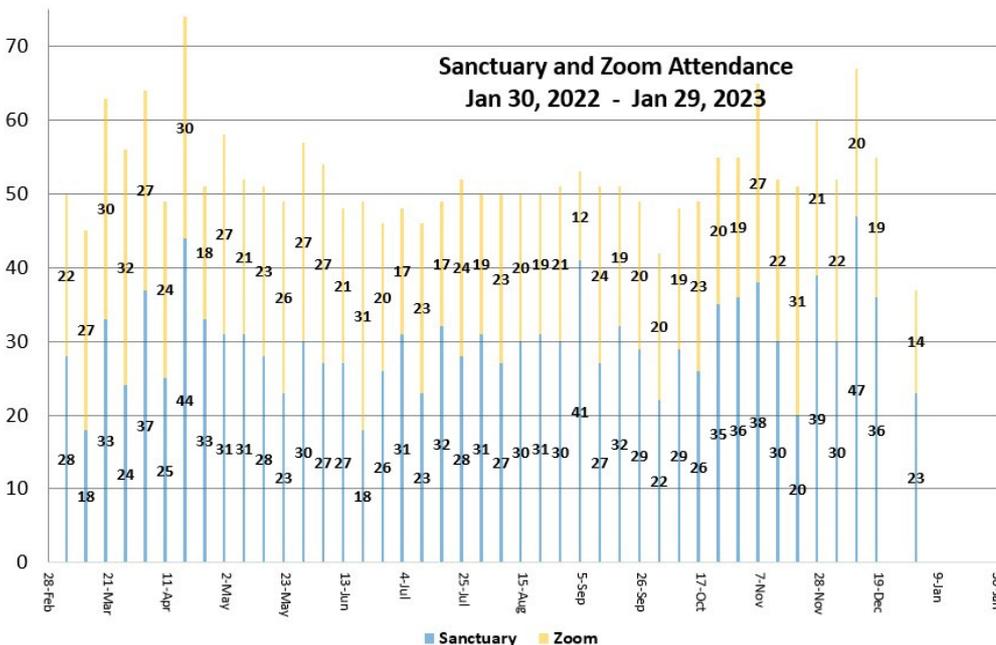
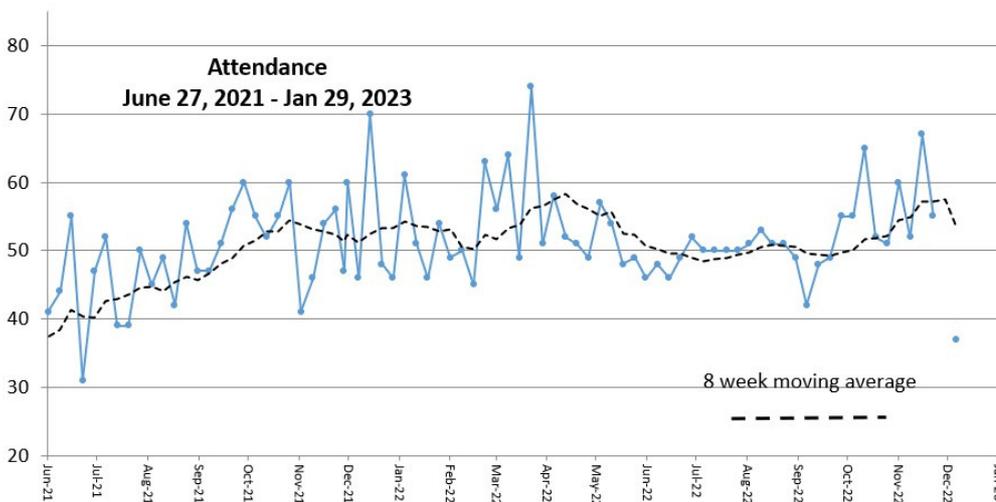
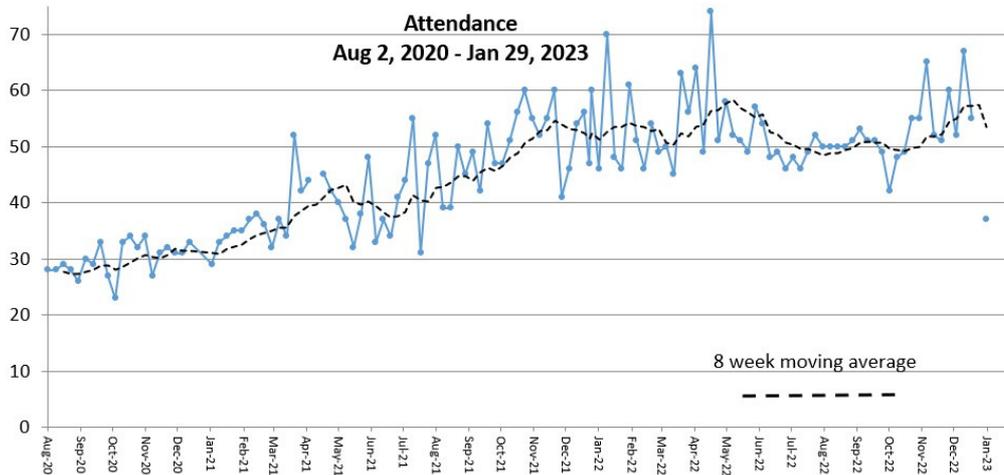


Council Update

The Church Council met December 14 and the following items were discussed:

- A team chaired by V. Steck and C. Robinson will explore new signage
- Contracts with ARC, Dungytreetree and MyBakery were approved
- B. Steck will lead a team to develop the 2023 budget
- Council nominating slate will be reviewed by elders
- Payroll service will be transferred to Ministry Works in February
- V. Steck will review our facility management/use of building
- Susan Nawrot was hired by the NH Literacy Initiative to launch the tutoring program
- Stewardship team will send reminder and thank you letters
- Youth games will be utilized by LEAP program
- Pastor will begin Professional Clergy Coaching classes in January
- Annual reports are due January 8

A Congregational Meeting will be held January 29. Meeting minutes for past meetings are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be January 11 at 3 PM in person and via Zoom.



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Encouraging people to

reach up to worship God,



reach in to strengthen faith, and

reach out in service to others.

St. John's

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