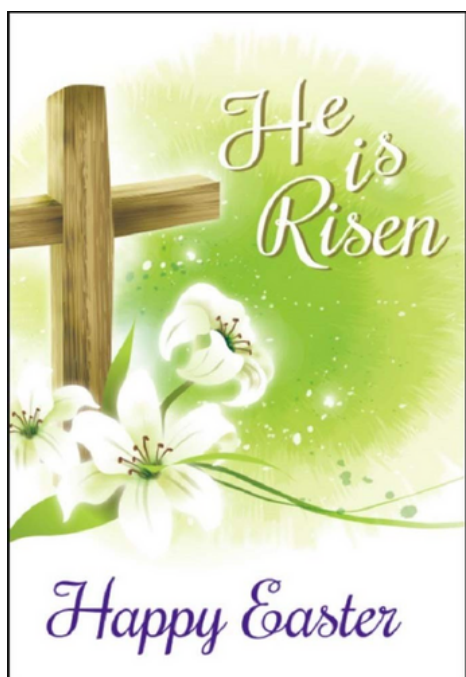


Joy of ST. JOHN'S UCC

Covenant Association Spring Meeting

APRIL 22 AT SJUCC

St. John's has been asked to host the Spring Meeting for the Covenant Association, the Northern Association, and the Eastern Association on Saturday, April 22. The meeting begins at 9:30 AM with coffee and refreshments available at 9 AM. We are excited and honored to host this hybrid Zoom and in-person event for three associations. All are welcome to attend and to help greet our visitors. Registration forms are available in the church office.



Join us for Easter breakfast at 9:30 AM on Sunday, April 9

Connections that Sustain Us

SPRING RETREAT JUNE 2-4

You deserve a time to rest and recharge. This retreat is for YOU. Yes, YOU!

Our retreat will begin with a potluck meal at Westminster Presbyterian on Friday, June 2. On Saturday we'll meet at Camp DeSales in the Lawrence Lodge in Brooklyn for a full day. Coffee, snacks, and lunch will be provided. On Sunday morning Sharon Hronek (see next page) will be our morning speaker at SJUCC, and our friends at Westminster Presbyterian will be joining us for worship.

Right now, there are faithful people in three states praying for the participants of this retreat. Join us for one, two or all sessions. We'll utilize a wide variety of activities for all ages and abilities to truly get to know one another and to learn how to faithfully respond to our changing world. Everyone is welcome.

Printed information will be available soon. There is no charge for this retreat. Donations are always welcome.

Do something special for yourself and join us!

-- Retreat Planning Group



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From the Pastor's Screen

MOVING FROM GROUP TO TEAM

What brought you to St. John's United Church of Christ? Why do you keep coming back? We all gather here for particular reasons, and sometimes those reasons keep us from fully connecting. We're a diverse group, and we are becoming a strong team.

A team has a common goal, a "same page" that keeps us focused. We can (and should) have many activities, while together we move toward our common goal. What is our common goal? What can everyone say "yes" to?

As your pastor I can't answer this question. You have the answer. As we work toward our intention this year to strengthen our faith, let's begin by seriously pondering these questions:

- What brought you here?
- What about this church is most significant to you?

We answer these questions as individuals, and we look for the common thread in our answers. Once we discover that thread, it will lead us to our goal. When we're all on the "same page," we'll move from a group to a team, and the dynamic of our church will change; our worship and communication will evolve.

The beauty of the team is that everyone shares their unique gifts. We'll be talking more about moving from a group to a team in the coming months. For now, let's cheer:

We've got Spirit, yes we do!

We've got Spirit -- how about you?

Go-o-o-o-o Saints! --Pastor Judy



Retreat Leader

SHARON HRONEK

I can't wait for everyone to meet Sharon Hronek, our Spring Retreat leader. Sharon has a spiritual exuberance that bubbles up wherever she goes. Her faith is evident in everything she does and says, and if you are able to spend a few minutes with her you will feel energized and valued. She listens fully and cares deeply about God, her neighbors and our world.

I met Sharon on the island of Dominica last fall. We were happily surprised to find we enjoy the same spiritual teachers, read the same books, and face similar challenges in our faith journeys.

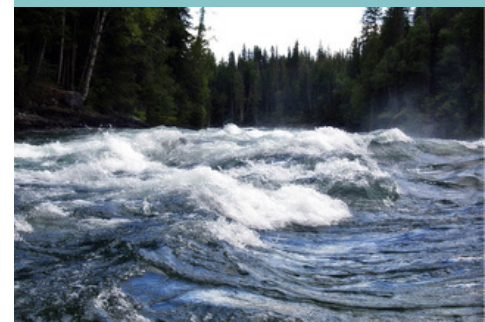
Sharon is a former IBM consultant specializing in relationship management and organizational change. She's the mother of two and grandmother of three. She writes, "I cannot remember a time when I did not talk with Jesus, study scriptures, and continually search for deeper truths."

Come and be blessed at our spring retreat!



"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you."

Isaiah 43:2a NIV



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April Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE

- 4 - Marilyn Tittler
- 15 - Janice Hoffman
- 19 - Janet Middlebrook
- 21 - Tony Thomas
- 28 - Jeannine Havens
- 29 - Carl Robinson



NANCY HACKWORTH
LITERACY INITIATIVE
— AT ST. JOHN'S UCC —

NHL Tutoring

LIBRARY AND LEARNING

Tutoring at the Nancy Hackworth Literacy has begun. Tutor Susan Nawroth has been meeting with Francis Street Primary students each week. Darryl Hackworth, assisted by Andy Hackworth and Sara Vowler, are providing books and resources for the NHL. Bert Steck is providing marketing and business acumen. It is so exciting to have this new ministry! Visit the library in our nursery room at SJUCC.

Special Dances

APRIL 29 AT 7 PM

The next Special Needs dance will be Saturday, April 29. 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, dance, and have fun, call the office.

Technology Update

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Our tech team is envisioning ways to enhance our worship, both online and in-person. We currently have \$1700 in our tech fund. Additional funds are needed to purchase better microphones, a subwoofer, and an additional camera. If you are willing to donate to this fund, please mark your gift "technology fund." Thank you for your generosity.

Community Dinner

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Our next free Community Dinner is on Tuesday, April 25 at 6 PM. We are grateful to Carl for cooking and to the United Center for funding these events. Mark your calendar and bring a dessert to share!

Lenten Fund Drive

SAMARITAN FUND

Lent has traditionally been the season when we support our Samaritan Fund. St. John's has a reputation in our community for the place to come for help with rent, utility assistance, and emergency food.

Gifts collected during Lent have exceeded \$1000! Thank you for sharing.

April Calendar

APR 2 - PALM SUNDAY WITH HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 AM

APR 6 - RESIDENTS IN ACTION HOMELESS SUPPORT RESOURCE EVENT 11 AM-7 PM HOSTED BY UNITED CENTER FOR CARING

APR 9 - EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST 9:30 AM AND WORSHIP 10:30 AM

APR 12 - UNITED CENTER FOR CARING MEETING 12 NOON

APR 12 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 3 PM

APR 16 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM

APR 18 - CENTERING PRAYER 5 PM

APR 18 - RETREAT PLANNING MEETING ON ZOOM 6 PM

APR 21 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM-12 NOON

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

APR 22 - COVENANT ASSOCIATION MEETING IN SANCTUARY 9 AM-11:30 AM

APR 23 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM

APR 25 - COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

APR 29 - SPECIAL NEEDS DANCE 7 PM

APR 30 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Samaritan Fund

BECOMING GOOD SAMARITANS

In March our Samaritan Fund distributed \$800 in assistance. We had 10 requests for help with rent; 4 payments were issued. One person requested water bill assistance; documentation was incomplete. We received 15 requests for help with Consumers bills; 8 payments were issued. Requests for help with motel stays and gas money were referred to other agencies. Nine persons received emergency food. Seven participated in the Showers for Homeless program. Donations for the Samaritan Fund will be collected during Lent.

Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on March 17 and continues to serve families in need. Last month we provided 1600 pounds of food and served 87 individuals, representing 174 family members. We are so grateful for Carl and our faithful team of volunteers. The next Food Pantry will be Friday, April 21, from 10 AM to 12 Noon.



A happy Baby Sprinkles quilt recipient.

LEAP

LEARNING ENRICHMENT AND ARTS

LEAP students, teachers, and volunteers will gather Friday, April 21, from 1:30-3:30 PM in the Social Hall at SJUCC. LEAP will be in session two Fridays per month through June 2. Several field trips are planned. Grandparents are needed -- and you can be one! LEAP is funded by grants from the United Center for Caring. Call the office if you can help.



Centering Prayer

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, AT 5 PM

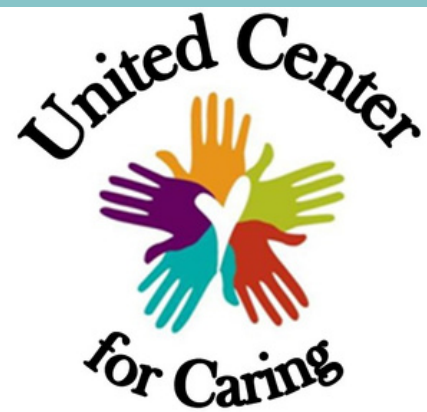
Centering Prayer is a silent prayer time in our beautiful sanctuary. Participants choose their own sacred word, quiet their minds and listen for God. We will meet on April 18, at 5 PM. After a brief discussion we will pray silently for 30 minutes, so we leave feeling connected and refreshed. Plan to join us.

Baby Sprinkles

KIDS' CLOSET AND MORE

Baby Sprinkles and Kids' Closet provide clothing up to size 14, in addition to baby items, infant clothing, and diapers. Last month 25 families received items; 39 children were served.

We appreciate donations. Come see us in action on April 21 at 10 AM.



Be the Blessing

**SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE**

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

- Pray for our spring retreat
- 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

Partnership Team

PREPARING FOR PARTNERING

What does it mean to be a "joint witness" church? St. John's is exploring how to engage with ministry partners. The following individuals will be gathering to discuss what it means to partner with other church families: Duane Leece, Cindy Osborne, Carl Robinson, Allen Schroeder, Vickie Steck and Michele Wilson. Thank you all!



He is not here; He has risen
just as He said.

Matthew 28:6

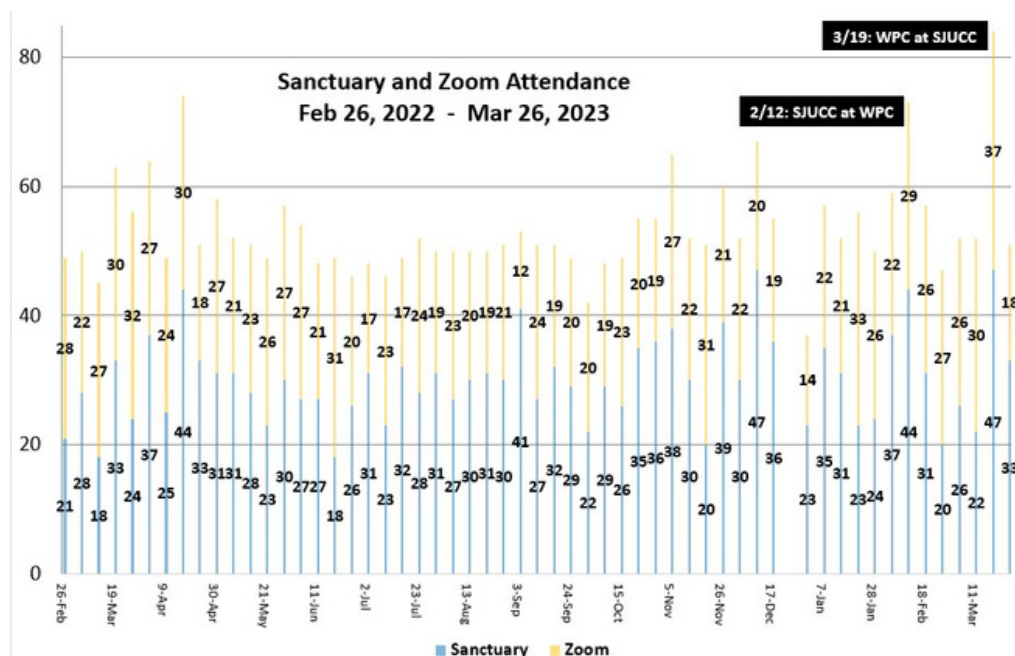
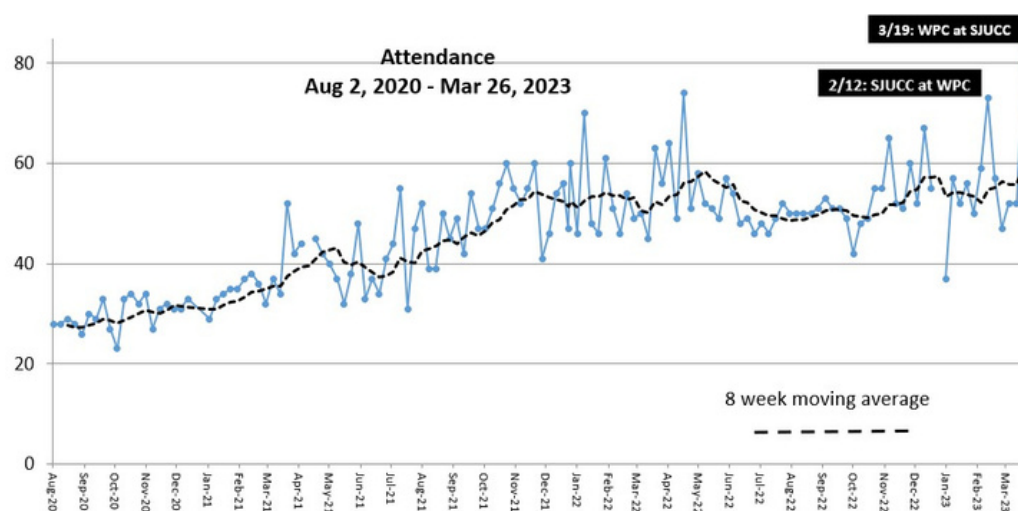
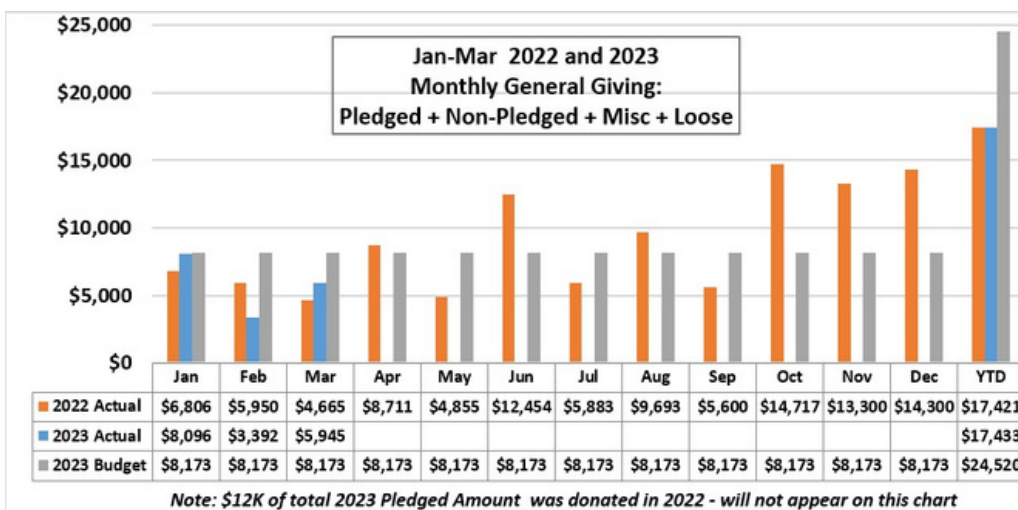


Council Update

The Church Council met March 7 and the following items were discussed:

- The damaged metal roofing material was removed at a cost of \$980.
- AV equipment totaling \$4000 has been requested. With \$1700 available in the budget, a work group was established to determine the best course.
- Living Memorial Fund income will be discussed by the Finance committee to determine the amount available for Social Justice concerns.
- Westminster Presbyterian will attend SJUCC's worship service on March 19.
- The church van will be put out of service due to multiple issues.

Meeting minutes for past meetings are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be April 12 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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love God ♥ Love People ♥ Serve Both

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