

# BE THE CHURCH

God is still speaking.  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.  
Embrace diversity. **Reject racism.** Forgive often.  
Love God. **Fight for the powerless.**  
Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life.

# Saint John's Journal

AUGUST 6, 2017

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

## St. John's United Church of Christ

1934 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 ~ 616-453-2497 ~

StJohnsUCCgr.org Office@StJohnsUCCgr.org ~ Rev. Dr. Robyn Gray

### Vacation Bible School Begins!

St John's United Church of Christ Vacation Bible School begins tomorrow. The theme is "Cave Exploration."

Service projects for Kids Food Basket,

Amenity Kits for the Veterans and Making dog treats for Lake Haven and Mackenzie's Animal will be included in the fun!

### Join us for a "Camp Out" at St. John's

Saturday, August 19, we will be "Camping Out"! Bring your campers, tents, and grills to the west lot and yard.

Beginning at 1:00 p.m., we will set up the campers and tents. There will be a corn hole tournament for the adults and games for the kids. We will be grilling hot dogs (provided) and have a potluck around 5:00 p.m. There will be



S'more roasting, songs and games throughout the night. Service Sunday morning will be held outside, weather permitting. If you don't want to sleep outside, the church will be open for people to use the Fellowship Hall, Bridge Room, and Parlor. A sign up sheet for the potluck is posted on the Fellowship Board in Fellowship Hall.

### Night at the Whitecaps



Grand West Association Night at the Whitecaps, Friday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m. The Whitecaps play the Bowling Green Hot Rods.

Tickets are \$11.50 and a sign up sheet will be on the board in Fellowship Hall.

### Prisoners and Christian Community

In Hebrews 13:3, we are told: "Remember those who are in prison as though you were in prison with them." The Rev. Vern Hoffman, a retired Reformed Church Pastor and founder of the Micah Center, David Dickerson, who was behind bars for 30 years, and Paula Creswell, Co-founder of Cards for Prisoners, will be sharing their project that encourages church members to take up a card-writing

ministry to prisoners. In addition they hope to find congregations that will have a small cluster of people who will become healing congregations for returning citizens following their release from prison. They are schedule to be with us Sunday, August 27 during worship and coffee hours. Join us to learn more about this exciting ministry opportunity!

### Meetings

**Worship Team** meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.  
**Council Meeting**, Monday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m.

### Help Needed!

Gardening help needed!

Bring your gardening clothes (or even wear them to church.). Today and August 13 we will have a light lunch for those working, then get our hands dirty on our grounds from noon to 2:00 p.m. Bring your gardening gloves and your weed-pulling tools!

We also have some tree trimming to do for those who can help. We have jobs for all ages and abilities. If the weather is slated to be above 85 degrees or it is raining, we will postpone to a later date.

Thank you!

Property Team

### Degage

St. John's will be serving dinner at Degage on Sunday, August 27. Volunteers report by 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served from 6:00—7:00 p.m.

We appreciate your continued support!



## Next Mobile

### Food Pantry

Wed. Sept. 6  
Volunteers report at  
5:30  
Food distribution  
begins at 6 p.m.

## Office Hours

Tuesdays  
9:00—noon

Wed., Thurs., Fri.  
9:00—3:00 p.m.

## Ministry Touches

This month:  
377

Year to Date:  
24,957

Since Inception:  
409,757

## Taize Prayer

A Prayer for Peace will be held on August 14 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 423 First St. N.W. Grand Rapids.

## Plastic Bags

Don't know what to do with those plastic grocery bags? Turn them in outside of the church office. They will be put to good use for our Food Truck.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Kids Food Basket

Please help us reduce hunger in children from our area by checking the wish list in the narthex and placing donation in the basket.

Kids food Basket will then place these items in

## Prayer Needs



Please contact the church office if you would like an individual placed on the prayer chain.

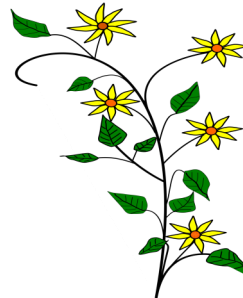
Contact Sally at the church office by calling 616-453-2497 or by emailing the church office at:  
office@stjohnsuccgr.org

## Flowers



Spots are still available on the 2017 flowers sponsorship sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Lily's Floral provides weekly altar flowers. Altar flower sponsorships are \$40.00 per week.



lunch bags and send them home with children in our area schools to provide them with a healthy evening meal.

## Directory

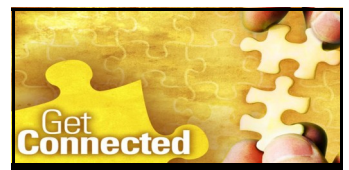
Our new photo directory is posted on the "Secure Members Page" of our website.

If you have updated information that you would like placed in the directory, contact the church office at 453-2497 or email the office at:

office@stjohnsuccgr.org

If you are in need of the password for the "Secure Members Page, please contact the church office.

**Special thanks to Michelle Hoffner for your photography expertise and all of the people who made this new directory possible!**



## 'Girlfriends'

"Girlfriends," a Women's Bible Study, meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at St. Johns.

We will be starting a new ten week series, titled: "Embracing Spiritual Awakening" by Diana Butler Bass.

In this engaging and provocative DVD and study guide, Diana leads a small group of diverse adults, young adults and youth in a fascinating discussion of how, both culturally and spiritually, we are in the midst of another of history's "great awakenings". The discussion asked what it means to be spiritual, to be religious, and how Christian today might be grace-filled witnesses to the reality they know an experience. Come join us on Tuesday nights this summer from 6:30—8 at church (sometimes on the church lawn if the weather is great). Study guides will be available from Diana DeKorte or Barb Huitema. Everyone is welcome!

## Young @ Heart

Young @ Heart, a group for seniors meet on Wednesday at New Beginnings near the corner of Richmond and Alpine at 9:30 a.m.