

# 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

DECEMBER 3, 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

### St. John's Christmas Pageant

You are invited to our Annual Youth Christmas presentation during worship service on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. Through photos, music, costumes, and readings, our children and grandchildren are excited to share the Christmas Story. Sue Bradford is leading this joyous event. **Parents please mark you calen-**

**dars for the following costume photograph and rehearsal date:** Please bring all children to the sanctuary for costume photos at 11:00 a.m. today. Rehearsal will be held at 11 a.m. The final rehearsal will be held next Sunday, Dec. 10. Help us make this wonderful tradition special!

### Youth in Worship 12/24 and 12/31

We are looking for children of all ages to help with the offering on December 24 and December 31. We would like to get a list of how many children would like to do it each week.

If you are interested,

please email Diana DeKorte at: dizz119y@outlook.com Or by phone at 616-450-3695. She is also available during coffee hour if you have any questions.

### Sincere Thanks

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you for the outpouring of love and support that we received on the death of Richard's Father. The Swedish Proverb "Shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half

a sorrow" speaks volumes. Having a church family in our time of sorrow is so appreciated.

Again our thanks.

Christine and Richard Johnston

### Party for a Vet

The next Party for a Vet is scheduled for December 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe, Grand Rapids.

Join us as we celebrate our veterans!



### Taize Prayer

A Prayer of Peace happens on December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 423 First St. N.W. Grand Rapids.

### Meetings....

**Worship Team** meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.

**Property Team** Meeting Wednesday , Dec. 13 at 6:00 p.m.

### Holiday Gift Bags



One of the many ways we let people know we are thinking of them is to deliver homemade holiday gift bags. Please consider donating snack-sized treats, small self-care products, small craft projects, store-bought or homemade cookies sealed and labeled in zip-lock bags, fresh fruit (no apples) and other individually wrapped thoughtful items. You will find a needs list and the gift bags on the table in the back of Fellowship Hall. Many bags will be delivered at our next Home for Veterans Outreach Party on Monday, December 11. Bags will also be delivered on care-giving visits. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Poinsettia Sale  
Cost: \$6.00



Order forms are available in Fellowship Hall. All orders must be turned in by Sun. Dec. 10. Please insert your choice of red or white poinsettias and your in memory of or in honor of dedication. Thank you.

## Next Mobile

### Food Pantry

Wed. Dec. 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.

Office Closed  
Dec. 20 Vacation day  
Dec. 25 and 26 for  
Christmas

## Ministry Touches

This month:  
503  
Year to Date:  
34,503

Since Inception:  
418,303

## Choir Rehearsal

Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir are in full swing on Thursday evenings. Handbell Choir rehearsals begin promptly at 6:20 p.m.

## St. John's Story

If you would like to share your St. John's story during Sunday worship, please contact Pastor Robyn. Afraid of public speaking? We can record your story and play it on the screens on

## Flower Sponsorships

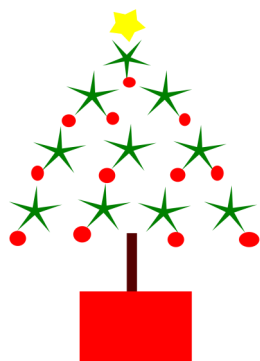


The 2018 flower sponsorship sign up sheet is now posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Lily's Floral provides weekly altar flowers. Altar flower sponsorships

## Tree of Warmth

You will find our annual hat, mitten, glove, scarf, and sock tree in Fellowship Hall. Store-bought and hand-knitted items for all ages and sizes are welcome and appreciated. Let's overflow the tree with donations! We intend to donate items to Cesar Chavez Elementary School, Cook Library Community Center, and upcoming St. John's mission outreach locations. Let's wrap our community with love and warmth this Winter.



until 7:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir rehearsals begin at 7:30 and last approximately one hour.

**No rehearsals Dec. 28.**

Sunday morning. We'd love to hear how God has touched you through the community here at St. John's.

## WiFi

are \$40.00 per week.

Please leave your dedication on the sheet as well or contact the church office via email or telephone to include a dedication.

St John's has a WiFi guest network available. You can connect in the sanctuary and in the library. For internet access, log on as "stjohnsguest" with the p a s s p h r a s e "stjohnsucc" with your mobile device.

Our home page has links to bulletins, announcements and more.

## Kids Food Basket

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

Kids Food Basket will then place these items in lunch bags and send them home with children in our area schools to provide them with a healthy evening meal.



## 'Girlfriends'

"Girlfriends," a Women's Bible Study, meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Final meeting for 2017 will be held on Dec. 5 at Mr. Burger on Lake Michigan Drive.

## Young @ Heart

Young @ Heart, a group for seniors will meet on Wed. December 13 at the home of Pat Partridge for a potluck at 11:30 a.m.

**Please bring dish soap and/or toilet paper to the Christmas potluck at Pat's house. This is a much needed donation to the Northwest Food Pantry.**

**Please consider car pooling at church for the 11:30 potluck.**

## 2nd Sat. Potluck

Our 2nd Saturday Potluck will be held on Saturday, December 9 at the home of Janet Marvin, 2533 Oakview Wyoming, at 5:30 p.m.