

# BE THE CHURCH

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



# Saint John's Journal

March 31, 2024

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



1934 Bridge Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

616.453.2497



[www.stjohnsuccgr.org](http://www.stjohnsuccgr.org)



[facebook.com/stjohnsuccgr](https://facebook.com/stjohnsuccgr)



[@StJohnsUCCGR](https://twitter.com/StJohnsUCCGR)



<http://alturl.9-16com/etrte>



**Pastor Nathan  
Dannison**  
[pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org)

**Joel Gary,**  
Director of Music  
[music@stjohnsuccgr.org](mailto:music@stjohnsuccgr.org)

**Sally Oracz,**  
Administrative Assistant  
[office@stjohnsuccgr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsuccgr.org)

## Welcome New Member

Today during our worship service Ashley Womersley will be becoming a member of St. John's. Please join us in wel-

coming her to our St. John's family during coffee hour, immediately following the worship service.

## 9 a.m. Pastor Class—Sunday Mornings

Join Rev. Dannison for a time of spirit-filled (and spirited) conversation on Sunday mornings before worship. Each Sunday we will gather in the conference room (just behind the sanctuary) for a brief presentation and conversation about some of the more challenging aspects of our faith, traditions, and history. Bring your doubts and challenges! Join a lecture/discussion series on pressing social issues and the history and fu-

ture of Christian thought. 30 minute lecture followed by a brief discussion. Choir members will be dismissed on time for worship.

This class is open to *everybody*. You are not required to attend every session - come as frequently or infrequently as you're able. Simple breakfast snacks and food provided.

Feel free to recommend a discussion topic to Nathan by emailing him at [pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org) or texting him at 269.547.9622

## Easter Egg Hunt



Join us after worship today for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt after the service.

Easter Eggs will be hidden for the kids to find. They can turn in the eggs to adults for small gifts. Join us for the fun!

## Annual Congregants Survey

Our annual survey has been available for some time now. We have collected many! Surveys are still coming in—and the FINAL DEADLINE for submitted surveys is tomorrow, April 1, 2024. You may complete the

survey online or give a completed survey to Sally at the Church Office (or hand a completed survey to any member of Council. If you wish, on a Sunday). Thank you for your feedback!

## Wednesday Evening Prayer/Discussion Offered

Join us for our Evening Prayer Service on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. It's an opportunity to share joys and concerns, pray together and catch up with each other in the middle of the week.

**8:00-9:00pm – Lecture and discussion of The Apostolic Fathers featuring Dr. Bart Ehrman.** At each evening session we will listen to a video lecture by Prof. Ehrman and then discuss the content. There is no cost and no book is required. Both Wednesday evening opportunities use the same Zoom connection. For the link, see the weekly email to members, or the calendar on the St. John's home page [stjohnsuccgr.org](http://stjohnsuccgr.org).

## Meetings....

**Worship Team Meeting** tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom  
**Staff Meeting,** Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

**Lectionary Reading for Next Week**  
**April 7, 2024**

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1-22  
John 20:19-31



Tuesday 8:00—1:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday 8:00—2:00 p.m.  
 Thursday 8:00—2:00 p.m.  
 Friday 8:00—2:00 p.m.  
**The church office will be closed April 2-5.**

You may email Sally at:  
 office@stjohnsuccgr.org  
 or call 453-2497.

### Pastoral Care

If you would like to speak with the Pastor or there is a pastoral emergency, feel free to reach out to Pastor Nathan Dannison at his email, pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org or by phone at 1-269-547-9622

**Thursday  
 Handbell Choir  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Chancel Choir  
 7:30 p.m.**

## Prayers

Prayers for all people who struggle mentally.

Prayers for Frank's brother who has to have another surgery.

Prayers for the family of Frank's friend, Eduardo, who passed away from cancer.

Prayers for Todd's Friend, Courtney who lost her job and is searching for a new position.

Prayers for members of the church who are waiting for medical diagnoses.

Prayers for the family of Stacey's friend, Gordon, who died last Sunday, prayers for people of Detroit where Gordon was very active in rebuilding efforts, that Gordon's dog finds a new home.

Prayers of healing for Judy.

Prayers of joy and thanks for the prayers for Judy and her family as they went on a cruise.

Prayer of thanksgiving for good uses of technology.

## Mobile Food Pantry

Let's work together on Wednesday, April 3! St. John's UCC in partnership with Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church will host a Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry at 1550 Oswego NW, Grand Rapids, MI., 49504.

Last month, 24 energetic volunteers moved 6,147 pounds of food. Food was distributed to 126 households, 410 individuals, 142 children, 109 seniors and 17 veterans. Phil and Karen Walsh, and Mary and Phil Carpenter were new to our volunteer crew. Thank you for joining us!

Brooke Bernier collected socks and hand-warmers that she gifted to clients. Greg Markoski and Richard Johnston delivered surplus food to UCOM.

For more information about the Mobile Food Pantry mission and the opportunity to serve, contact Teresa Markoski at 616-690-4566 or at [tmarkoski2004@yahoo.com](mailto:tmarkoski2004@yahoo.com).

Financial support is always welcome by contributing on the church app or by writing a personal check and mailing to St. John's United Church of Christ, 1934 Bridge Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI., 49504. It takes a village to serve our neighbors. Together, we serve.



Girlfriends discussion group meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We are reading "The Four Agreements", A Toltec Wisdom Book by Don Miguel Ruiz. The cover calls the book, "A practical guide to personal freedom."



Fellowship has begun planning for the Mother's Day brunch buffet. There will be gluten free and vegetarian options available.

Fellowship Hall will be all set in anticipation of the event—but we need some volunteers to help in the kitchen (getting the hot entrees ready and then getting the food onto the buffet table when the brunch begins. No special kitchen skill is required.

We also need some help cleaning up, bussing tables, cleaning dishes, and loading the dishwasher. Again, no special skill is required and a hardy apron will be supplied. Any questions, please see Dave B. or Todd Krupp.

### Church Chat

April 7 at 11:00 a.m.



# Education Volunteer Schedule

	Nursery	Worship Center 1	Worship Center 2	Bridge	Floater	Choir
April 7	Jen	Amanda	Tarah	Becky	Casey	
April 14	Heather D.	Lisa	Tarah	Becky	Christine/ Richard	
April 21	Christine/ Richard	Amanda	Tarah	Becky	Jen	Practice
April 28	Heidi	Lisa	Tarah	Becky	Teresa	Practice



**Coffee Hour**

Apr 7  
Open  
Apr 14  
The Dannisons  
Apr. 21  
Open  
Apr. 28  
Rich and Chris



**USHERS & GREETERS**

Apr 7  
Open  
Apr. 14  
Open  
Apr 21  
Open  
Apr 28  
Open

## Liturgist Schedule Mar/Apr 2024

Apr. 7  
Pam Maniscalco  
Apr. 14  
Dorothy Kuperus  
Apr. 21  
Bill Newsom  
April 28  
Sue Bradford



## Mission Outreach Touches

This Month:  
1,481  
Year to Date:  
42,440  
Since Inception  
353,319

# An Easter Surprise

Matthew 28:1-10

## Word Search Puzzle

B H M W E E K A J E S U S E S  
N T J O X D G N O L M L N A R  
I S Z V K M T G O R H C L R I  
B D O I T C A E R I S E N T S  
X A M O L A L L R S R R T H E  
A Y F O E A X P N L D T O Q N  
O H N X B G Q X N I U N M U L  
S E L O Y Z W S R O D S B A V  
H A C N L S X L O D Z V F K A  
O V H Z G I Y Q L J U U I E F  
O E U E I W N U L D Q B R Y R  
K N S V X Z B T E L J Q S O A  
T M K J Z F M F D F Z I T N I  
Y T I N M F A Q P H J F G Z D  
J Z E D A W N P S T O N E N G

TOMB SHOOK EARTHQUAKE	ANGEL WEEK ROLLED	RISEN FIRST JESUS	RISEN DAWN AFRAID	STONE HEAVEN DAY
-----------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



**Jesus didn't reject people.  
Neither do we.**

[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)