

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

April 21, 2024

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



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@StJohnsUCCGR



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



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Children's Bell Choir



Our Children's Bell Choir will be playing during our worship service today.

We look forward to listening to this wonderful addition to our 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 or texting him at 269.547.9622

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. Outstanding sacred music is included. 8:00—9:00 p.m.—Podcast and discussion of the story of Jonah from the Hebrew Bible featuring Marcus Little. We will listen to Marcus' podcast and then discuss the content. Both Wednesday evening opportunities use the same Zoom connection. For the link, see the weekly email to members or the calendar at the St. John's home page stjohnsuccgr.org.

Thank you From UCOM

Thank you to everyone who contributed soups and condiments during Lent. Your gifts are so appreciated and will fill food baskets throughout the Wyoming and Southwest Grand Rapids areas. Again thank you to everyone!!!



Fellowship has begun planning for the Mother's Day brunch buffet. **We are in need of volunteers to help set up for the buffet on May 11 at 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** 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.

Lectionary Reading for Next Week
April 28, 2024

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8



**Deep roots.
Open arms.**



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.

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

Bernstein's Mass at Fountain Street Church

The Fountain Street Church Choir would like to invite the members of your community to our upcoming production of Leonard Bernstein's Mass: A Theatre Piece. I have attached a document with more information that you can draw from to share with your congregants.

We are very excited about this production and its relevance for these challenging times we are facing as faith-based organizations. We appreciate any ways you can share this with your community – newsletters, social media, announcements -- and hope many of you will be in the audience on April 27th. As noted in the banner, there is no charge to attend.

With gratitude,
 Meredith Bradley
 Fountain Street Church
 Mass Publicity Chair

More than 100 people have been planning and rehearsing for Fountain

Prayers

Prayers of thanks for the cards and messages for Christine who is still in the ICU and is healing.

Prayers for Judy who fell and broke her wrist.

Prayers for Carol who is having some medical issues.



St. John's
WiFi

Log in:
stjohnsguest

Passphrase:
stjohnsucc

Street Church's annual Memorial Concert this year. Mass: A Theatre Piece for Singers, Players and Dancers requires two adult choirs and a children's choir, dancers and a chamber orchestra. In addition to the Fountain Street Church Adult Choir, performers will include the Aquinas College choirs and singers recruited from the West Michigan Opera Project and the community along with dancers from the Deos Contemporary Ballet and a 20-piece orchestra. Fountain Street and Aquinas Choir Director Austin McWilliams will conduct. The production is directed by Dr. Rachael Gates, soprano, opera director and instructor of voice and pedagogy at Grand Valley State University. Ballet choreography is by Deos Artistic Director Tess Sinke.

The most important thing to know about Leonard Bernstein's Mass is that it isn't a Catholic Mass at

all, although it is based on one. Instead, it's a wild kaleidoscope of music, dance and theater depicting a clergyperson's spiritual crisis when faced with young people's distrust of organized religion. The Celebrant, as the main character is known, played by Dominic Aragon, journeys through doubt, angst, and complete spiritual breakdown to eventually find peace, but only after a musical journey that evokes everything from a symphony orchestra to a marching band to a rock band and a jazz combo. In a program note from the premier, Bernstein called the piece a "reaffirmation of faith." McWilliams says, "Mass may have been ahead of its time when it premiered in 1971 but is finding increasing relevance now as faith-based organizations struggle for membership."

Commissioned by former First Lady Jackie Kennedy



"Girlfriends"

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."


Meetings....

Team Leads Meeting,
 Tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.
 via Zoom

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

Education Volunteer Schedule


	Nursery	Worship Center 1	Worship Center 2	Bridge	Floater	Choir
April 28	Heidi	Lisa	Tarah	Becky	Teresa	Practice
May 5	Pam	Amanda	Susan	Makenzie	Dan/Mia	Practice



Coffee Hour

Apr. 21
Open

Apr. 28
Rich and Chris



Apr 21
Stacy Bare
Mckenzie Selland

Apr 28
Open

Liturgist Schedule Mar/Apr 2024

Apr. 21
Bill Newsom

April 28
Sue Bradford

You Are Invited!

We are invited to join " Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church on April 21, 2024 at 4:30 PM, for a panel discussion among LGBTQ+ affirming churches from a variety of denominations in the area. We will spend some time listening to each other's stories and learning about how we extend hospitality to our LGBTQ+ siblings."

Heidi Armock will be serving on the panel. You are invited to support Heidi and our siblings in Christ as we continue to seek to be the "Beloved Community" that Jesus calls us to be. Our presence also will show our support for Eastern Avenue CRC as they seek to become more open and affirming. The church is located at 514 Eastern Avenue, SE and a light supper will follow the discussion. This meeting is open to the public, so please pass this information on the your friends and families.

Mission Outreach Touches

This Month:
1,801

Year to Date:
42,760

Since Inception
353,639



The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18

Word Search Puzzle

P E P F E L D W S R L G F T T
T B F L O C K P K M I U W E J
Q V C Q K N O W F L F R I A Y
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LISTEN
ATTACKS
SCATTERS

SHEEP
CARES
VOICE

LOVES
PEN
SHEPHERD

WOLF
GOOD
LIFE

FLOCK
RUNS
KNOW

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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

ucc.org