

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 28, 2024

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



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Connections Sunday

Do you want to get involved at St. John's or get to know people at St. John's? Do you like light-hearted games and fabulous prizes?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please plan on join us this morning after worship. Learn about each of our teams and groups and

how to get involved via discussions and fun activities. As you complete activities, meet new people. Participation is your entry into drawings for prizes! St. John's has grown recently and this is a great opportunity to mingle and learn about the church at the same time. Visitors, long-time members, new members—are all invited!

9 a.m. Pastor Class—Sunday Mornings

Join Rev. Dannon 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 future of Christian thought. 30 minute lec-

ture 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

Mother's Day Brunch

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.

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.

Many Thanks!

Our sincere thanks to all of the individuals that helped to deep clean and reorganize the kitchen.

From the sparkling cabinets, contents, and kitchen space, to the detailed labeling, it all looks amazing!

We appreciate all of your hard work!

Lectionary
Reading for Next Week
May 5, 2024

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17



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

The Education Team is Looking for Help This Summer

We need your help! Members or visitors... experience with children or none, you can help out our education team this summer. We have 2 main volunteer opportunities we are looking for help.

1. This summer all worship center children will be together in Fellowship Hall during Worship Center time learning about "**Pieces of the Church**". We are looking for volunteers interested in teaching the children about the different pieces of the church. For example the offering plate, the communion table, the pride flag, etc. The children will then do a craft (if you are not crafty, the education team is happy to come up with a craft for that week). There will be other adults in Fellowship Hall to help. If you feel passionate about or have

experience with any "pieces of the church", please reach out to the education team. You would only be committing to ONE day this summer.

2 Our theme for Vacation Bible School this year is "**Gifts of the Spirit**". We are looking for volunteers to come one day during that week (July 15-19) to share their job and how they use their spiritual gifts in their every day life. We are looking for teachers, architects, nurses, retired folks, etc. If this is something you are interested in, please reach out to the education team.

Also, we provide a free dinner at **Vacation Bible School** each night so we are looking for volunteers to provide **dinner** each night. We do have some money in the budget for this purpose; you would just need to submit your receipts to be reimbursed.

Lastly, we can always use help with the **nursery** and **floater/assistants** to check in both for summer Sundays and for vbs.

If you are interested in helping out with any of the above opportunities, please reach out to the education team at education@stjohnsuccgr.org

Prayers

Prayers for Christine Johnston who is recovering from surgery.

Prayers for Alicia who is going to an interview and moving soon.

Prayers for Brian's friend who was just diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Prayers for Brian's friend who had a stroke and is in the hospital.

Prayers for mindfulness of name tags.

Prayers of joy for Peter's friend who is back on his meds and doing well and has an upcoming surgery on his leg.

Prayers for Ellen.

Prayers for continued strength for Ashley's grandpa, Tom.

Prayers for Heidi's friend Janelle who was diagnosed with breast cancer and has surgery this week.

Prayers of joy from Debbie who is thankful that the gospel remains fresh.



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....

Worship Team Meeting, Tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. p.m. via Zoom

Staff Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 2 at church.

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

Spring
 Congregational
 Meeting
 Next Sunday at
 11:30 a.m.

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!!!

Education Volunteer Schedule

	Nursery	Worship Center 1	Worship Center 2	Bridge	Floater	Choir
May 5	Pam	Amanda	Susan	Makenzie	Dan/Mia	Practice
May 12 Mother's Day	Teresa	Lisa	Susan	Makenzie	Christine/Richard	Performance
May 19 Pentecost Last Day of Class Confirmation Class Confirmed		Amanda	Susan	Makenzie	Teresa	



May 5
Open

May 12
Mother's Day Brunch

May 19
Open

May 26
The Bergs



May 5
Open

May 12
Open

May 19
Open

May 26
Open

Liturgist Schedule May 2024

May 5
Betsy Flory-McCoy

May 12
Margaret Hawley-Lowry

May 19
Jen Berg

May 26
Pat Partridge

Mobile Food Pantry

Our Mobile Food Pantry will be held on May 1 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church, 1550 Oswego N.W.
Volunteers are always welcome!

Mission Outreach Touches

This Month:
2,055

Year to Date:
43,014

Since Inception
353,893

The True Vine

John 15:1-8

Word Search Puzzle

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

true
vine
father
gardener

branch
bear
fruit
prunes

clean
remain
withers
thrown

fire
burned
words
glory

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