

# 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

May 5, 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



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

## Spring Congregational Meeting

Join us after worship today in Fellowship Hall for our Spring Congrega-

tional Meeting. Meeting packets were emailed a few weeks ago.

## 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 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](mailto: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](http://stjohnsuccgr.org).



**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)

## Volunteer Information

For those who volunteered to assist with the Mother's Day buffet there are three areas of help needed:

- 1)Prep work the afternoon of Saturday the 11th.
- 2)Kitchen assistance the morning and afternoon of Mother's Day.
- 3)Clean up in the early afternoon of Mother's Day.

Aprons will be provided!

Information sheets are available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



Join us for our Mother's Day Brunch next Sunday after worship. There will be a selection of fresh fruit, green salad, vegetarian entrée, gluten free entrée, pastries and appetizers. We hope to see you there!

**Lectionary Reading for Next Week**  
**May 12 2024**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
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

## Prayers

Prayers for Pastor Nathan's brother as he travels to Boston.

Prayers of thanksgiving that Christine will be coming home from the hospital on Tuesday.

Prayers of joy and appreciation for Joel.

Prayers of joy for Frank's nephew who graduated from MSU.

Prayers for Frank's niece and nephew-in-law who will welcome a baby within the next 48 hours.

Prayers for the people of Nebraska who were affected by tornadoes.

Prayers for the nurses and doctors at the new Helen DeVos Med Psych Unit.

Prayers for Jocelyn and her unborn child and prayers for her family to get along.

Prayers of thanks for Brian's friend Joe and for his recovery and rehabilitation.

Prayers of thanks for Renee's father passing in peace and her graduation.

Prayers for Nick's father who is paralyzed.

Prayers of thanks for Pastor's acting inspiring Rachel to be cast at Civic Theater.

Prayers of joy that Ellen's sister, Eve, attended her first AA meeting in a while.



## "Girlfriends"

Girlfriends will be taking a break for a few weeks. They will likely return on May 21. Watch the journal for more details!

## Meetings....

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

**Property Meeting**, Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at church

**Education Meeting** Thursday at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Council Meeting** is scheduled for May 20 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

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

## 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](mailto:education@stjohnsuccgr.org)

# Education Volunteer Schedule

	Nursery	Worship Center 1	Worship Center 2	Bridge	Floater	Choir
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 12**  
Mother's Day Brunch

**May 19**  
Open

**May 26**  
The Bergs



**May 12**  
Diana DeKorte

**May 19**  
Judy Merrill

**May 26**  
Betsy McCoy

## Liturgist Schedule May 2024

**May 12**  
Margaret Hawley-  
Lowry

**May 19**  
Jen Berg

**May 26**  
Pat  
Partridge

## Mission Outreach Touches

**This Month:**  
922

**Year to Date:**  
43,936

**Since Inception**  
354,815

# Love One Another

John 15:9-17

## Word Search Puzzle

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

FRIENDS	OBEY	LOVE	FRUIT
DOWN	BUSINESS	BEAR	MASTER
LAY	FATHER	LIFE	REMAIN
SERVANTS	GREATER	COMMAND	CHOSE

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)