

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 26, 2024

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



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616.453.2497



www.stjohnsuccgr.org



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



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

Congratulations!

During our service this morning we will celebrate the baptism of Henry Locke.

Join us in Fellowship Hall after the service to welcome him into our St. John's family.

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

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 or texting him at 269.547.9622

Vacation Bible School Sign ups

Vacation Bible School at St. John's will be July 15-19 from 5:30—8:30 p.m. A free dinner is included each night. We will be talking about the Gifts of the Spirit this year and it's sure to be a blast. Anyone preschool—6th grade is welcome to join us so please share with your family, neighbors, and friends and sign up at <https://stjohnsuccgr.org/vbs>.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

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

Outstanding sacred music is included.

For the Zoom link, see the weekly email to members or the church calendar on the St. John's home page stjohnsuccgr.org.



Renucci House

Please join us as we serve guests at Renucci House on Wednesday, May 29 for a Casserole Dinner from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. We are in need of

casseroles, volunteers, and/or monetary donations. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Berg

[St. John's UCC: Casserole Night! \(signupgenius.com\)](mailto:St.John's.UCC:CasseroleNight!@signupgenius.com)

**Lectionary
Reading for Next Week
June 2, 2024**

1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
2 Cor 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-3:6



Pastor Nathan Dannison
pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org

Joel Gary,
Director of Music
music@stjohnsuccgr.org

Sally Oracz,
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsuccgr.org



**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 of thanks for their prayers for Ellen who is on a weight loss journey.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the faith journey of the confirmands and new members.

Prayers for Christine and Richard as Christine continues to heal.

Prayer for Jenna who is having hip surgery.

Prayers of joy for the Mother's Day Brunch.

Prayers of joy for Chris who is directing a musical that is going well he will be able to be home again after a few weeks of rehearsal.

Prayer of thanksgiving for all of the talent in the congregation participating in local theatre.

Recognition Sunday



Join us on Sunday, June 2 during our worship service, as we celebrate our teachers and graduates of 2024.

If you know someone that is graduating and would like them recognized during our worship service, please contact Tarah Tiedt by May 31.

Congratulations to all of the teachers for another successful year and congratulations to the graduates of 2024!



"Girlfriends"

The Girlfriends group meet on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and are reading the book "Invisible Lines of Connection, Sacred Stories of the ordinary, by Lawrence Kushner. An interesting book of short stories, where sacred meets the ordinary and above all, where you will meet yourself and find the invisible connections in your own life. Let Diana DeKorte know if you need the Zoom information.

Mission

Outreach Touches

This Month:
2,382

Year to Date:
45,338

Since Inception
356,217

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



May 26
The Bergs

June 2
Open

June 9
Open

June 16
Open

June 23
Open

June 30
Open



May 26
Betsy McCoy

June 2
Open

June 9
Stacy and McKenzie

June 16
Bill and Susan
Newsom

June 23
Open

June 30
Open



May 26
Pat
Partridge

June 2
Dan Busman

June 9
Peter Huschilt

June 16
Becky Tiedt

June 23
Ellen Mott

June 30
Jen Berg



The Greatest Gift of All

John 3:14-17

Word Search Puzzle

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

THROUGH
ETERNAL
LOVED
MOSES

GAVE
GOD
CONDEMN
LIFTED

BELIEVES
PERISH
WHOEVER
DESERT

SEND
HIM
SAVE
LIFE

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