

# 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

September 1, 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



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



## Fall Kick Off

Fall Kick Off will be held next Sunday, September 8.

We will be serving pulled chicken. There will be regular and gluten free buns. A vegetarian choice will be

available as well. Last names beginning with A-M are asked to bring a side dish and N-Z are asked to bring a dessert. We look forward to sharing food and fellowship with everyone!

## Thank You!

I cannot express how much we appreciate all the help that we've received from our church family through my prolonged illness. The cards, texts, emails, and food nourish my body and soul. The food was great! I haven't the energy to cook much as of late. The medical community hasn't yet any answers for us. So we wait...

I would especially like to thank Judy, Barb, Teresa, Jean and Pat for bringing over meals. Our church family is the best! We take care of one another. I will repay you all by "paying it forward" God Bless our St John's family.  
Love and Grace,  
Richard and Christine Johnston



## Sincere Thanks

Dear Church Members,  
Thanks for the cards and all the lovely notes from you.  
I will keep them and read all of your notes.  
I will miss you all very much and will keep you all in my prayers.

Love Always,  
Lorraine Loef-Post

## Pastoral Emergency Contact

In the event of a pastoral emergency, feel free to reach out to Pat Partridge at 616-915-7171.

## Meetings.....

**Worship Team Meeting**, Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

**Membership Team Meeting**, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.

**Council Meeting**, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

**Education Meeting**, September 19 at 6:00 p.m.

**Team Leads meeting** is scheduled for September 23 at 7:00 p.m.

**Lectionary  
Reading for Next Week  
September 8, 2024**

Prov 22:1-2,8-9, 22-23  
Psalm 125  
James 1:1-10, (11-13),  
14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

CHURCH  
chat

Today  
during  
coffee hour



**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.

**Join the Fellowship Team**

The Fellowship Team would love to have some additional members! Come join the fun!  
  
If interested, please see Todd Krupp.

**Celebration Sunday—the second Sunday of Each Month**



As a chosen family—we share many joys: birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, graduations, retirements, engagements and etc.  
  
Starting in September, and the second Sunday of each month thereafter, we will have a special cake in Fellowship Hall to honor these events.



Prayers of thanks for the support of Ellen’s mental health and that she is feeling better.


Prayers of joy for the upcoming visit from Geri.

Prayers for Pam’s granddaughter who is going through a rough patch.

Prayers of thanks for the blessing of the backpacks.

Prayers of joy for Pat and Stu who hosted the council meeting and serving a delicious dinner.

**Back to School Donations**

Donations are requested for back to school goodie bags for St. John’s kiddos:		Glue sticks
Mechanical Pencils Markers Highlighters Small pads of paper		Granola Bars Sugar-free gum and other treats. These will be distributed at the Fall Kick Off. Please put your donations in the Fellowship Hall.

**Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are needed for the Kick Off Dinner next Sunday. We will be gathering Friday, the 6th of September at 6:00 p.m. to prep for the dinner. Tables, chairs, cutlery, plates and etc. need to be assembled. If the weather is nice we will be eating outdoors. We will need some help bringing the tables and chairs outside on Sunday morning. After the event, some assistance with clean up would be appreciated as well.



Girlfriends will meet via zoom on Tuesdays, at 6:30 PM. (zoom information to come) We will be reading and discussing "The Bible Tells Me So....Why defending scripture has made us unable to read it" by Peter Enns. This book comes to us recommended by Susan and Bill Newsom and by some of my favorite authors: Rachel Held Evans, Brian McLaren, Rob Bell and Phyllis Tickle. I find this book quite intriguing and once again makes me reconsider. On Page 163, the author says, " The Bible "partners" with us (so to speak), modeling for us our walk with God in discovering greater depth and maturity on our journey of faith, not by telling us what to do at each step, but by showing us a journey of hills and valleys, straight lanes and difficult curves, of new discoveries and insights, of movement and change--with God by our side every step of the way." I love that and hope that you will join us on Tuesday nights, checking in, reading and thinking about the Bible. If you need a book call or text me -- 616.438-1336. Barb Huitema.

Mission Outreach Touches
This Month: 241
Year to Date: 48,784
Since Inception 359,663

Coffee Hour

September 8

Fall Kick Off

September 15

Open

September 22

Donna Proulx

September 29

Open

USHERS & GREETERS

September 8

Open

September 15

Judy Merrills

September 22

Open

September 29

Grooms Family

Liturgist Schedule

September 8

Jeffrey Dick

September 15

Bren Tooley

September 22

Jen Berg

September 29

Peter Huschilt

2024-2025 Education Schedule

Date	Nursery	WC1 WC1 Floater	WC2	Bridge	Floater
September 8 Fall Kick Off Bill Preaching	Teresa Markoski	Lisa Lindsey	Tarah and Susan?	Makenzie and Becky?	Ashley
September 15	Jen Berg	Lindsey Chloe	Tarah	Becky	Heidi
September 22 Mike Tooley- Maker's Space	Betsy Flory-McCoy	Lisa?? Jenna	Tarah	Makenzie	Dan/Mia
September 29	Pam Maniscalco	Lindsey Chloe OR Casey	Tarah	Makenzie	Heidi

Readers For At the Table Series

September 8	Chris Grooms Pat Partridge Bren Tooley
September 15	Casey Berg Pat Partridge Chris Grooms
September 22	Pat Partridge Bren Tooley Casey Berg
September 29	Bren Tooley Chris Grooms Pat Partridge
October 6	Bren Tooley Casey Berg Judy Merrill

# Clean or Unclean?

Mark 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23

## Word Search Puzzle

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

HEARTS  
TEACHERS  
DISCIPLES

FOOD  
RULES  
UNCLEAN

HONOR  
EATING  
HANDS

HYPOCRITES  
PHARISEES  
LAW

WORSHIP  
WASH  
LIPS

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](http://ucc.org)