

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

January 5, 2025

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



Mobile Food Pantry

Let's work together on Wednesday. St. John's UCC in partnership with Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church will host a Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry, 1550 Oswego N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Volunteers will gather at 5:00 p.m., distribution begins at 6:00 p.m. We are an equal opportunity provider. Last month, we served 111 households, 386 individuals, 145 children, 76 seniors, and 5 veterans. A total of 27 dedicated volunteers braved the winter advisory weather and moved 8,361 pounds of food. Five new people joined our volunteer crew: Laura Sue, Laura Taylor, Darin, Emily and Bryson Lambert. Thank you for working so hard! Christmas gifts were given

to clients were made by Carol Stechow, Sharon VanBennekum, Mary Rose Johnson, Fern, Kathy, and Darin, Emily and Bryson Lambert. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents!

Three carloads of surplus food were delivered to UCOM by Richard Johnston, Jeffrey Dick and Nancy Carlson. For more information about the Mobile Food Pantry, feel free to contact Teresa Markoski at 616-690-4566 or at tmarkoski2004@yahoo.com. Financial support is always welcome by donating on the church app or by writing a personal check to St. John's United Church of Christ, 1934 Bridge St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504. It takes a village to feed our neighbors, together we serve.

Time to Un-Decorate the Church

We will be "undecorating" the church for Christmas, Sunday, January 12. Garland, wreaths and the tree come down and all decorating must be stored.

The more hands we have, the faster the work! Join us as we undecorate and prepare for another wonderful year!

Pastoral Emergency Contact

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

Meetings...

Education Meeting is scheduled for January 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting, January 20, at 7:00 p.m.

Team Leads Meeting is scheduled for January 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Lectionary Reading for Next Week
January 12, 2025

Isa 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



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.
The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Little Free Library Donations



Our church’s Little Free Library could use more books! If you have any gently used adult or children’s books you’d like to donate, please drop them off in the box located in the narthex. Teresa will use your generous donations to stock our library. Thank you for helping us keep our library full and vibrant for those in need!



“Girlfriends”

Girlfriends are taking a break for the holidays and will resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Pulpit Schedule

January 5	Bill Newsom
January 12	Marcus Little
January 19	Bill Newsom
January 26	Barb Huitema

Mission

Outreach Touches

This Month:
1,371
Year to Date:
52,490
Since Inception
363,369



Serving on Sundays

Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Coffee Hour
Dec. 29	Open	Peter Huschilt	Open
Jan. 5	To be an- nounced	To be an- nounced	To be announced
Jan. 12	To be an- nounced	To be an- nounced	We Celebrate You!
January 19	To be an- nounced	To be an- nounced	Grooms Family
January 26	To be an- nounced	To be an- nounced	Open

2024-2025 Education Schedule

Date	Nursery	WC1 WC1 Floater	WC2	Bridge	Floater
Jan. 5	Teresa	Lisa Ashley	Tarah	Makenzie	Heidi
Jan. 12	Jen	Lindsey Chloe	Tarah	Becky	Dan/Mia
Jan, 19	Betsy	Lisa Shelby	Tarah	Makenzie	Heidi
Jan. 26	Pam	Lindsey Jenna	Tarah	Becky	Dan/Mia

Is Christmas Really Over?

John 1:10-18

Word Search Puzzle

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

JESUS
KNOWN
FLESH
BORN

GLORY
BLESSING
SEEN
TRUTH

DWELL
BELIEVE
CHILDREN
NAME

FATHER
WORLD
WORD
GRACE

RECEIVE
TESTIFY
GOD
RIGHT

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