

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 19, 2025

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



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



PEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome New Member

Today during our worship service we are excited to have Laura Roede become a member of St. John's.

Join us during coffee hour as we celebrate

with our newest member.

We would like to welcome you to our St. John's family.

Pastoral Emergency Contact

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

Journal Archives from 1975

As part of our observance of Heritage Month, articles from our church journals from fifty years ago will be included in our current journal. The original journals from 1975 will be on display during February, when Heritage Month is celebrated.

From the Archives an excerpt from the January, 1975 Church Journal:

The following letter was received from the Evangelical Home for Children, Detroit, Michigan, by the Social Service Sewing Group of St. John's.

We were delighted to receive the 26 pairs of pajamas, the mittens, slippers, caps, and potholders which you recently sent; and all are being enjoyed by the children. With 48 active children, it takes some doing to see that each has what he needs, and assistance such as you have given helps assurance that those needs are all well met.

The items were so attractive and we do appreciate the time and effort involved in making them, and the planning in getting them to us.

Meetings...

Council Meeting, tomorrow, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

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



**Lectionary
Reading for Next Week
January 26, 2025**

1 Cor 12:12-31
Psalm 19
Luke 4:14-21

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!



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.

Mission

Outreach Touches

This Month:
485

Year to Date:
52,975

Since Inception
363,854



Prayers for Christine’s niece’s husband, Pat, who had a heart attack and now needs triple bypass surgery.

Prayer of joy for the many visitors.

Prayer for Betsy’s grandson and his daughter and all of those affected by the fires of Los Angeles and that the wind would stop.

Prayers for joy for the 28 volunteers (2 new) that distributed 4400 lbs. of food to 133 families (442 individuals) at our Mobile Food Pantry.

Prayers of thanks from John who returned to St. John’s to visit.

Prayers for Bill Newsom’s nephew, Noah, who evacuated from the LA area due to the fire.

Prayers for Tarah’s grandfather, Tom, who had successful surgery on his spine and will be starting physical therapy.

Prayers of thanks for Mike who worked to get our boiler working late in the week and for snowplowing before Dorothy’s funeral.

Prayers of thanks for all of the members ministers and the wonderful things they’ve brought to our services.



“Girlfriends”

Girlfriends meets at 6:30 on Tuesdays via Zoom
We will continue our study of "Kitchen Table Wisdom" by Rachel Naomi Remen .
For questions, please contact Barb Huitema 616-438-1336

Pastor Search

Update— Photos

Our Pastor Search Committee has now met twice, including once with Rev. Lawrence Richardson, our liaison with the MI Conference UCC. We are beginning to work on our church profile, which will then be shared with potential ministers who use the same electronic system. Rev. Richardson recommended that photos be added to the profile that not only reflect our church structure, but also our active church family. Our team hopes to visually capture some of these special moments in the coming weeks. If anyone would not like a photo of themselves to be used in this way please reach out to any of us and we will respectfully not use it. Our team consists of: Mike Tooley, Becky Tiedt, Donna Proulx, Teresa Markoski, Marcus Little, Jenna Grooms, Dan Busman, and Stacy Bare. We’re also always open to your thoughts. Please feel free to share your ideas or concerns with any of us as we prayerfully begin this journey together. Thank you.

UCC 2025 Climate Hope Art Contest for Children and Youth



We have officially launched the UCC’s 2025 Climate Hope Art Contest for Children and Youth. Our theme this year is “Planting Seeds of Hope.” We’ll accept art submissions from February 2nd to March 14th. Like last year, we will have winners different age groups and an overall winner who will receive an all-expense paid trip to visit Washington, DC with a parent or guardian. (Last

year’s winner had two members of congress personally as her for a poster of her artwork, so that they could hang it in their offices!) The winning art will additionally serve as the logo for UCC Climate Hope advocacy work throughout 2025. We will send your church a PDF of the art contest page on which artists will create their masterpieces. We are looking forward to seeing the amazing creativity and talent of our children once again.

Serving on Sundays

Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Coffee Hour
January 19	To be announced	Becky Tiedt	Grooms Family
January 26	To be announced	Jen Berg	Pat Partridge

2024-2025 Education Schedule

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

Pulpit Schedule

January 19	Bill Newsom
January 26	Barb Huitema

LGBTQ+ Winter Pool Party



Join us for the LGBTQ+ Winter Pool Party. This event is family friendly and seeks to help LGBTQ+ people from the greater Grand Rapids area form meaningful connections and community support. Feel free to email hel-lo@giftgr.org with any questions.

LGBTQ+ Winter Pool Party
January 26. 2025
\$10.00 per person
Wealthy St. Pool
4:30—5:30 Children Swim
Pizza for Teens/Adults

5:30—6:30 Teens/Adults Swim
Pizza for the kids
RSVP to (248)804-5758
By Saturday, January 25th

Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

John 2:1-11

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

JARS
LAST
GLORY

WEDDING
SIGNS
WINE

FILLED
FAITH
TASTED

MASTER
BEST
SERVANTS

SAVED
CANA
WATER

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