

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

February 23, 2025

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



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.

For Your Calendar:

The Committee on Lay Life and Work, Mrs. Charles Mathew, Chairman, has announced that the next Family Night Celebration will be held on Sunday, March 16, 1975, as a "Hobo Supper". Further details will be announced!

Please place this date on your family calendar now!

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated soup and/or crackers for UCOM. We collected 245 cans of

soup and 17 boxes of crackers. Just wonderful! Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you to all who brought in wonderful dishes for our Heritage Potluck and many thanks to everyone that stayed to clean up! We appreciate all of you!

Pastoral Emergency Contact

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

Meetings...

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

Worship Team Meeting, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Membership Meeting is scheduled for March 10 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Education Meeting, Thursday March 13 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Council Meeting, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom

Pastoral Search Team Meeting, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom



St. John's Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 5 at 7:15

p.m.

Come join us as we enter the Lenten season!

Mobile Food Pantry

On Wednesday, March 5, 2025, St. John's UCC in partnership with Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church will host a drive thru Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry at 1550 Oswego NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Volunteers will gather at 5:00pm, distribution begins at 6:00 pm. We are an equal opportunity provider. Last month two records were broken with 557 individuals and 213 children receiving food at the Mobile Food Pantry. Other statistics of clients receiving food include 159 households, 81 seniors and 8 veterans. A total of 21 dedicated volunteers braved cold weather and distributed 7,336 pounds of food. Three new volunteers joined our volunteer crew. Welcome to Mary Jo Deering, Travis and Shareece. Thank you for showing up during an arctic blast! Hats knitted by Carol Stechow were distributed and a small donation of surplus food was delivered to UCOM by Richard Johnston. 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 Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. It takes a village to feed our neighbors, together we serve.

Location:

The Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church
1550 Oswego NW



Choir rehearsals
Handbell Choir

6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m.

**Lectionary
Reading for Next Week
March 2, 2025**

Ex 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Cor 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)



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.

**Little Free Library
Donations Needed!**

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!



Prayers for Dave who had ankle surgery and is healing.
Prayers for Jeffrey’s son, Lamont, who is going through some tough times.
Prayers for Violet and Rose who are home sick.
Prayers of joy for Jenna’s brother who just found an apartment.
Prayers for Jen who slipped on ice and is healing from a concussion.
Prayers for Stacy’s friend, Jake, who is going through a rough time.
Prayers for all of the federal workers and other people affected by the federal funding freeze.
Prayers of joy for Judy’s family reunion.
Prayers for Judy’s birthday.
Prayers for Ellen’s family friend, Alan, who has cancer and is starting chemotherapy.
Prayers for Marilyn’s family who is traveling from many different locations to attend her celebration of life.
Prayers for East Church in Grand Rapids.

Save the Date!

The Annual Church Camp Out is scheduled for July 12 and 13!

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 until 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 per-

sonally 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.

“Girlfriends”

The Girlfriends next read will be: "Tomorrow Will Be Different, Love, Loss and the Fight for Trans Equality" by Sarah McBride. Little different than our usual book choices, but I think very relevant--also a very excellent read. To give you all a chance to get the book, we will take a few weeks off and start our discussion again on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom Any new joiners are welcome always!!!
For questions, please contact Barb Huitema 616-438-1336

Brush off your recipe card. The St. John’s Cookie Contest is March 16 during coffee hour!

**Mission
Outreach Touches**

This Month:
1,382

Year to Date:
53,922

Since Inception
364,801



2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Service 10 a.m. Church Chat	3 Worship Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.	4 Girlfriends 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	5 Mobile Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. At Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church 1550 Oswego N.W. Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 p.m. 	6	7 Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m.	8
9 10:00 a.m. Service Celebration Sunday Daylight Savings Time Begins	10 Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	11 Girlfriends 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	12	13 Education Meeting 6:00 p.m. via Zoom	14	15
16 10:00 a.m. Service  Cookie Contest during coffee hour	17 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. via Zoom St. Patrick's Day 	18 Girlfriends 6:30 p.m. via zoom	19 Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22
23 10:00 a.m. Service One Great Hour of Sharing	24	25 Girlfriends 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 a.m. Service	31					

Serving on Sundays

Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Coffee Hour
February 23	To be Announced	Ellen Mott	Donna Proulx
March 2	Diana DeKorte	To be announced	Judy Merrills and Ellen Mott
March 9	Open	To be announced	We Celebrate You!
March 16	Judy Merrills	To be announced	Cookie Contest
March 23	To be announced	To be announced	Soups On Pat and etc.
March 30	To be announced	To be announced	Stacey and Makenzie

2024-2025 Education Schedule

Date	Nursery	WC1 WC1 Floater	WC2	Bridge	Floater
February 23	Betsy	Lindsey Shelby	Susan	Becky	Dan/Mia
March 2	Pam	Lisa Chloe	Tarah	Becky	Teresa
March 9	Shelby	Lindsey Jenna	Tarah	Mackenzie	Heidi
March 16	Jen	Lisa Chloe	Tarah	Makenzie	Heidi
March 23	Betsy	Lindsey Chloe or Casey	Tarah	Makenzie	Dan/Mia
March 30	Pam	Lindsey Chloe	Tarah	Makenzie	Jen

Pulpit Schedule

February 23	Barb Huitema
March 2	Marcus Little
Ash Wednesday March 5	Jeffrey Dick
March 9	Jeffrey Dick
March 16	Bill Newsom
March 23	Barb Huitema
March 30	Jeffrey Dick



Luke 6:27-38

Word Search Puzzle

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

FATHER	BLESS	WICKED	GREAT
ENEMIES	SINNERS	HATE	LOVE
REWARD	CURSE	MISTREAT	MERCIFUL

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