

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

March 2, 2025

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



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

Come join us as we enter the
Lenten season!

Church Chat
today during
coffee hour.

Pastoral Emergency Contact

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

Mobile Food Pantry

On Wednesday, 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 artic 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
Grand Rapids, MI 49504



Brush off your
recipe cards.
The St. John's Cookie
Contest is March 16 during coffee
hour.

How about challenging yourself to bake outside of
the box- try a gluten free recipe!



Choir rehearsals
Handbell Choir
6:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m.

Lectionary
Reading for Next Week
March 9, 2025

Deut 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Rom 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13



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.



Prayers for our Muslim brothers and sisters as they begin Ramadan.

Prayers of celebration for Frank’s birthday.

Prayers for Alicia and her brother’s fiancé who just found out she has a tumor in her stomach.

Prayers of celebration for everyone who was able to attend Marilyn’s celebration of life service.

Prayers for the people of Ukraine who are struggling with Plan B without U.S. support.



“Girlfriends”

Girlfriends Meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Our book is: "Tomorrow Will Be Different, Love, Loss and the Fight for Trans Equality" by Sarah McBride. Any new joiners are welcome always!!!

For questions, please contact Barb Huitema 616-438-1336

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!

VMFC Team Meeting

Join our first Veterans Military Friendly Congregation (VMFC) Team Meeting,
Friday, March 7 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

St. John's UCC is proud to be the first Veteran Military Friendly Congregation (VMFC) in Michigan! We are forming a dedicated team to help implement the veteran-friendly programs we have chosen for our congregation. If you have an interest in supporting our veterans and military families, we invite you to join us for our first VMFC team meeting. This is a great opportunity to get involved and help shape how we serve those who have served our country.



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.



Save the Date!

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

Mission Outreach Touches
This Month: 1,623
Year to Date: 54,163
Since Inception 365,042

Serving on Sundays

Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Coffee Hour
March 2	Diana DeKorte	Bren Tooley	Judy Merrills and Ellen Mott
March 9	Open	Pat Partridge	We Celebrate You!
March 16	Judy Merrills	Christ Grooms	Cookie Contest
March 23	To be announced	Becky Tiedt	Soups On Pat and etc.
March 30	To be announced	Bren Tooley	Stacey and Makenzie

2024-2025 Education Schedule

Date	Nursery	WC1 WC1 Floater	WC2	Bridge	Floater
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

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

Children's Worship Bulletin

The Golden Rule

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
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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
ENEMIES
REWARD

BLESS
SINNERS
CURSE

WICKED
HATE
MISTREAT

GREAT
LOVE
MERCIFUL

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



**Jesus didn't reject people.
Neither do we.**

ucc.org