

# 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 30, 2025

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

## Honoring Vietnam War Veterans

St. John's UCC is proud to be a Veterans Military Friendly Congregation (VMFC), committed to honoring and supporting those who have served our nation.

Today, at our service, we recognized National Vietnam War Veterans Day, observed annually on March 29. As a congregation, we honor the 9 million Americans who served dur-

ing the Vietnam War era, remember, the 58,000 lives lost, and acknowledge those who returned home without the recognition they deserved.

Through prayer and reflection, we express our gratitude for their service and sacrifice. May we continue to uphold and support our veterans, ensuring that their contributions are never forgotten.

## Pastoral Emergency Contact

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

## Meetings...

**Staff Meeting**, Friday, April 4 at 11:00 a.m. at church.

**Worship Team Meeting**, Monday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

**Membership Meeting**, April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

**Pastoral Search Meeting**, Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Council Meeting**, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Education Meeting**, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Team Leads Meeting**, April 28 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

## Mobile Food Pantry

Let's work together on Wednesday, April 2. 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. For more information about the Mobile Food Pantry, feel free to contact Teresa Markoski at 616-690-4566 or at tmarkoski2004@yahoo.com

**Lectionary  
Reading for Next Week  
April 6, 2025**

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Isaiah 43:15-21  
John 12:1-8

## Easter Egg Hunt Donations Needed

We are collecting donations for our Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on Easter Sunday, April 20th. Here at St. John's we do Easter Egg Hunts differently. Today (the start of Lent) the kiddos "buried" the Alleluia word by putting papers with "Alleluia" on them into the plastic Easter Eggs. They are not allowed to say that word all through Lent. Then on Easter Sunday (after the service) we will have an Easter Egg Hunt. They will find the plastic eggs around the church grounds, open them, yell "Alleluia" and exchange

that "Alleluia" paper for an Easter treat/trinket.

So, we are asking for Easter egg treat/trinket donation.

They don't have to fit in plastic eggs. Any candy, pencils, stickers, etc. you think a kiddos might love would be greatly appreciated. There is a basket in the Kid Section of Fellowship Hall to collect donations. Thank you so much for your continued support for our kiddos at St. John's.

Please reach out to the education@stjohnsuccgr.org with any questions.

## Choir

### Rehearsals

Handbell Choir

6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir

7:30 p.m.

## Church Chat

**April 6**

**During coffee  
hour**

**Palm Sunday April 13:** Wave your palms and join us as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

**April 17:** Maundy Thursday—Living Last Supper

A powerful portrayal of the Last Supper, bringing Da Vinci's iconic scene to life with live actors and narration.

**April 20** 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday celebrate resurrection and renewal with an uplifting Easter service, followed by food and fellowship

**April 20** after worship: Easter Egg Hunt



**CHURCH**  
OFFICE HOURS

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](mailto:office@stjohnsuccgr.org) or call 453-2497.

### Prayers

Prayers of thanksgiving that John’s surgery went well and he returned home the same day.

Prayers for Sally’s granddaughter who is having gallbladder removal surgery.

Prayers for Anna who is nearing the end of her life.


Prayers for Ben’s coworkers who were affected by a recent round of layoffs.

Prayer of joy for Ellen’s sister, Eve who has been sober for 28 days.

### Second Saturday Potluck

The Second Saturday Bible Study Potluck will resume on April 12 at 5:30 p.m., at the home of Richard and Christine Johnston. 3280 Johnson Ct. S.W. Grandville, MI 49418. Please bring a dish to pass. Bill Newsom will lead us in the

study of Philippians Chapter 1 versus 1-10. For more information call Christine at 616-534-7587. We look forward to seeing you then!



**Get Connected**

### Friends Discussion Group

Friends meet on Tuesdays 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

Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Coffee Hour
March 30	To be announced	Bren Tooley	Stacy and Makenzie
April 6	Diana DeKorte	Todd Krupp	Open
April 13	Open	Eva Little	We Celebrate You!
April 20	Judy Merrills	Casey Berg	Open
April 27	Open	Pat Partridge	The Berg Family

Mission Outreach Touches

This Month: 2,167

Year to Date: 54,767

Since Inception 365,586

2024-2025 Education Schedule					
Date	Nursery	WC1 WC1 Floater	WC2	Bridge	Floater
March 30	Pam	Lisa Chloe	Tarah	Makenzie	Jen
April 6	Teresa	Lisa Jenna	Susan	Makenzie	Heidi
April 13	Shelby	Lisa Chloe	Tarah Susan?	Makenzie	Teresa
April 20	??	No Worship Centers	No Worship Centers	No Worship Centers	No Worship Centers
April 27	Betsy	Lisa Ashley	Tarah	Becky	Ashley

Pulpit Schedule	
March 30	Jeffrey Dick
April 6	Bill Newsom
April 13	Marcus Little
April 20	Jeffrey Dick
April 27	Barb Huitema

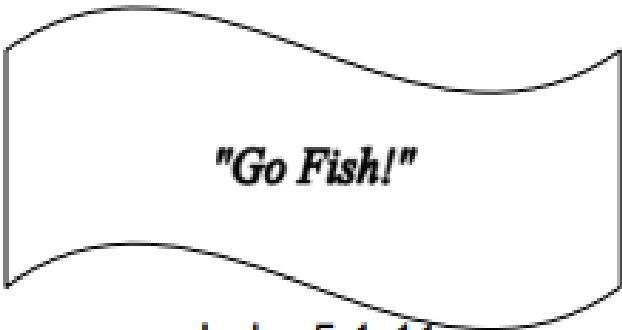
**Save the Date!**

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



2025

		1	2 Mobile Food Pantry 6:00 p.m.	3 Handbell Choir 6:30 p.m.  Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m.	4 Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m. at church	5
6 10:00 a.m. Service  Church Chat	7 Worship Meeting 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	8 Friends Discussion Group 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom	9 Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10 Handbell Choir 6:30 p.m.  Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m.	11	12 Second Saturday Potluck 5:30 at the home of Richard and Christine Johnston
13 10:00 a.m. Service  Celebration Sunday  Palm Sunday	14 Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	15 Friends Discussion Group 6:00 p.m. via Zoom	16 Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom	17 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.  Handbell Choir 6:30 p.m.	18 Good Friday  Office Closed	19
20 10:00 a.m. Service  Easter Sunday  Easter Egg Hunt after worship	21 Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. via Zoom	22 Friends Discussion Group 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	23	24 Handbell Choir 6:30 p.m.  Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m.  Education Meeting 6:00 p.m. via Zoom	25	26
27 10:00 a.m. Service	28 Team Leads Meeting 7:00 p.m. via Zoom	29 Friends Discussion Group 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	30			



Luke 5:1-11

Word Search Puzzle

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

PREACHING	AFRAID	BOATS	GALILEE	PETER
JESUS	DEEP	PEOPLE	SEA	FISHING
FISHERMEN	SHORE	WASHING	NETS	SINKING

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*