

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

May 18, 2025

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

Veteran's Recognition



Memorial Day celebrates and honors the service and sacrifice of the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. It's a day to remember and mourn those who have died in defense of the nation, regardless of the conflict. Our St. John's congregation will pay a special tribute to our fallen brothers and sisters during our May 25, 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Graduation/Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 1, we will celebrate Graduation/Recognition Sunday. This is a day to recognize all graduates this year. (preschool, high school, college) and thank our teachers and assistants.

"Prom" the Musical

Our very own St. John's member Chris Grooms is directing the musical 'The Prom' at Circle Theatre, and you're invited to attend! A group of us will be attending the matinee on **Sunday, May 25 at 3pm**. If you would like to attend with us, please **add your name to the list by Monday, May 19** to get your ticket at a group rate! **if cost is a prohibiting factor, please know there are sponsored tickets available if needed. **Access the list here:** <https://forms.gle/RbAvL4chA1ofL4Mc6>

You don't need to be a St. John's member to attend with the group, so please feel free to invite others to attend with you!

If you can't attend on the 25th but still want to see it, please visit Circle's website to purchase your tickets!

Show Dates:

Thursday, May 15 - Saturday, May 17
Wednesday, May 21 - Sunday, May 25
Thursday, May 28 - Saturday, May 31

Cost: \$32 for adults, \$15 for students **if cost is a prohibiting factor, please let Jenna or Chris know as we have a few sponsored tickets available

Length: 2.5 Hours (including intermission)

Genre: Musical Comedy

Location: Circle Theatre Grand Rapids, 1703 Robinson Road SE, GR, MI 49506

Is it appropriate for kids?? It's rated PG-13 (some f-bombs and spicy language), but Violet (11) and Rose (7) will be seeing it—they've been singing the soundtrack for months. (That said, we're a theater family, so your boundaries may vary.) But it's definitely appropriate for teens.

What's it about?: It's based on a true story of a high school girl who wanted to take her girlfriend to the prom, and the school wouldn't let her and deemed it inappropriate. At the core, *The Prom* is an LGBT-focused musical all about acceptance, inclusion, and standing up for others—messages that feel especially powerful right now. If you want an idea of what it's about, you can watch the version currently on Netflix right now (starring Meryl Streep).

<https://circletheatre.org/production/the-prom/>

Garage and Bake Sale

Mark your calendars! We're hosting a garage and bake sale here at St. John's June 27th-28th, and we need your help to make it a success. Donations of gently used items and baked goods are warmly welcomed, and volunteers are needed, too! All proceeds will benefit the Capital Campaign. Interested in helping out? See Lindsey Kremer for details or to sign up.

Pastoral Emergency Contact

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

Meetings...

Council Meeting, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Pastoral Search Team Meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Save the Date!

The Annual Church Camp Out is

**scheduled for July 12
and 13!**

Thank You!

Sincere thanks to all that helped to make the Mother's Day Brunch a complete success! We couldn't have done it without you!

We hope that all of you had a wonderful Mother's Day!

**Lectionary
Reading for Next Week
May 25, 2025**

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Rev 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29



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.

Church office closed on May 23rd in Observance of Memorial Day. Normal office hours will resume on May 27.



Prayers of thanksgiving for the 27 volunteers who unpacked over 5000 lbs. of food for 116 households (332 households, 101 children, 97 seniors, 10 veterans) Excess food went to UCOM and Grandview Apartments.

Prayers of celebration for Owen's 16th birthday.

Prayers of celebration for the new pope and our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church.

Prayers of thanks for prayers for Judy's son, Lucas.

Prayers for Brian and his family whose wife passed away 7 years ago on Mother's Day.

Prayers for Diana's sister, Sharon, who is in the hospital.

Prayers for the family of Renee's coworker's brother who was accidentally shot in the head and passed away.

Prayers for Diana's great niece who got married.

Prayers for Ellen's friend Jody.

Prayers of joy for the Dog, Zelda, who was enjoying her last walk prior to be euthanized. And prayers for the family of Zelda.

Prayers for Sally who had surgery and is home recovering.

Prayer for Gary and Nicholas at the passing of the wife and mother, Karen.



Friends Discussion Group

We will be starting our new book discussion in a couple of weeks. Our new books comes to us, recommended by Bren Tooley, titled, " The Beautiful Madness of Martin Bonham, a Tale about Loving God" by Robert Hudson. It is a quirky story about Katie Westcott, a student in seminary and Martin Bonham, an English professor. Katie confesses to Professor Bonham, that she does not love God. Together this unlikely pair pose the question: What if students could major in "loving God", not religion or theology, but in the daily challenge of loving the Creator with all your heart. We will meet on May 20, via Zoom, at 6:30 to start our discussion. Lets start with the first 2 chapters and see where our discussion leads us. Let me know if you cannot find the book or have questions. All are welcome to join our time together. Barb 616-438-1336. We will start our discussion on May 20, at 6:30 PM. If you have a problem finding the book let me know. Barb Huitema 616-438-1336. Special invitation to folks looking for a small group discussion and again all are welcome.

Serving on Sundays

Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Coffee Hour
May 18	Open	Sue Bradford	Open
May 25	Open	Jen Berg	Open

2024-2025 Education Schedule

Date	Nursery	WC1 WC1 Floater	WC2	Bridge	Floater
May 18	Pam	Lindsey Chloe	Tarah	Becky	Jen
May 25	Shelby	Lisa Chloe or Casey	Tarah	Becky	Dan/Mia

Pulpit Schedule

May 18	Jeffrey Dick
May 25	Marcus Little

Mission

Outreach Touches

This Month:
565
Year to Date:
56,190
Since Inception
367,009

A New Commandment

John 13:31-35

Word Search

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

DISCIPLES
COMMAND
ANOTHER

LOOK
LITTLE
JESUS

CHILDREN
MEN
LONGER

GLORIFY
JEWS
TOLD

LOVE
GIVE
KNOW

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