

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 25, 2025

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

Veteran's Recognition



Today during our worship service we will be honoring the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have died in defense of our nation, regardless of the conflict.

Member Recognition:

From Kim, Lorraine Loef-Posts daughter: Lorraine's first husband, James Loef served in the Korean Conflict.

Christine Johnston: Richard Johnston was in the Army during the Vietnam War.

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.

Many thanks!

My sincere thanks to all of you for your thoughts and prayers through my surgery and as I move forward to next challenge brought before me.

I appreciate all of the cards, emails, texts and calls!

I have full confidence in my surgical and cancer teams and look forward to finding out what needs to be done to ensure that I am healed and can get on with this wonderful life.



Sally Oracz

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...

Worship Meeting, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Staff Meeting, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. at church

Education Meeting, June 11 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Council Meeting is scheduled for June 16 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Team Leads Meeting, June 30 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Mobile Food Pantry

The Feeding America West Michigan Mobile Food Pantry sponsored by St. John's UCC in partnership with Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church is scheduled for June 4, 2025, at 1550 Oswego NW, Grand Rapids, MI., 49504. Volunteers will gather at 5:00 pm, distribution begins at 6:00 pm. For more information about the Mobile Food Pantry feel free to contact Teresa Markoski at 616-690-4566 or at tmarkoski2004@yahoo.com. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 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 at 1934 Bridge Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI, 49504.

Together, we serve



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
or call 453-2497.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Prayers of joy for Lorraine visiting with us.

Prayers for those who were affected by the recent storms.

Prayers to thanksgiving for Todd and others involved in the Mother’s Day brunch.

Prayer for Pam who was in a car accident and is recovering.

Prayers for Sharon who is still in the hospital in serious condition.

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



Get Connected

Friends Discussion Group

Our new is 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 meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 to start our discussion. All are welcome to join our time together. Any questions, contact 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 25	Open	Jen Berg	Open
June 1	Open	Bren Tooley	Judy Merrills and Ellen Mott
June 8	Open	Todd Krupp	We Celebrate You
June 15	Judy Merrills	Peter Huschilt	Father’s Day Potluck
June 22	Open	Jen Berg	Open
June 29	Open	Pat Partridge	Open

2024-2025 Education Schedule

Date	Nursery	WC1 WC1 Floater	WC2	Bridge	Floater
May 25	Shelby	Lisa,Chloe or Casey	Tarah	Becky	Dan/Mia
June 1	Jen	Lindsey Chloe	Susan	Makenzie	Heidi
June 8	Teresa	Lisa Jenna	Susan Tarah help?	Makenzie	Dan/Mia

Pulpit Schedule

May 25	Marcus Little
June 1	Barb Huitema
June 8	Bill Newsom
June 15	Jeffrey Dick
June 22	Bill Newsom
June 29	Jeffrey Dick

Mission Outreach Touches

This Month:
886

Year to Date:
56,511

Since Inception
367,330

“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 today **at 3pm**. **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 are not attending today but still want to see it, please visit Circle's website to purchase your tickets!

Show Dates:

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/>

Lectionary
Reading for Next Week
June 1, 2025

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Rev. 22:12-14,16-17,
20-21
John 17:20—26

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





2025

1 Church Chat Recognition Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.	2 Worship Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom	3 Friends Discussion Group 6:30 p.m.	4 Mobile Food Pantry 6:00 p.m.	5	6 Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m.	7
8 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Pentecost Sunday Celebration Sunday	9	10 Friends Discussion Group 6:30 p.m. Church Office Closed	11 Education Meeting 10:00 a.m. via Zoom	12	13	14 
15 Outdoor Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Father's Day Potluck	16 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom	17 Friends Discussion Group 6:30 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22 Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	23	24 Friends Discussion Group 6:30 p.m.	25	26	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	30 Team Leads Meeting 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom					

Peace of Mind and Heart

John 14:23-29

Word Search

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

WORDS
TEACHING
GREATER

HEARTS
FATHER
AFRAID

SPIRIT
LOVE
WORLD

HOME
OBEY
PEACE

GLAD
HOLY
COME

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