

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

June 8, 2025

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

**Today will be the last day of
Worship Centers. The children will be serving
a spaghetti dinner during coffee hour.**

**We will also be celebrating all of the special things that are
happening in the lives of our members and friends, through-
out the month of June with "Celebration Sunday."
Join us as we celebrate all of you during coffee hour today!**

**Pastoral
Emergency
Contact**

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

Outdoor Service/ Father's Day Potluck

Join us next Sunday, June 15, as we celebrate Father's Day, weather permitting, we will be having the worship service outdoors. If the event of inclement weather, we will hold the service indoors. After the service, we will hold an outdoor BBQ in honor of Father's Day. Hot Dogs, burgers and buns will be provided. We will have vegetarian and gluten free options available as well.

If you would like to bring something:
A—M A side dish would be great!
N-Z Condiments (lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles, cheese) or a dessert
Volunteers for set up and clean up are always welcome!
We hope to see you there!
Join us as we celebrate all of the wonderful Dad's!

Meetings...

Membership Meeting, Tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
Education Meeting, Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
VBS Planning Meeting, Thursday at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pat Partridge
Team Leads Meeting, Monday, June 30 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom



Church Chat Re-Cap

Father's Day Potluck, June 15,
Outside Service

Trash and recycle take out volunteers needed.

Second Best Sale Sign Up

VBS, July 7-10

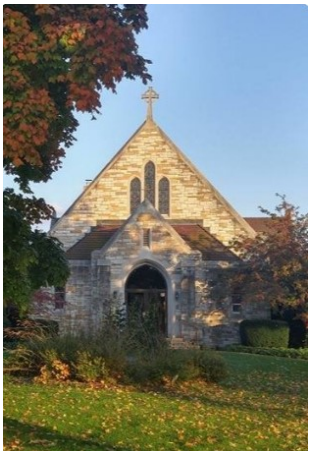
Church Camping Trip, July 12-13

Spaghetti lunch June 8

Marcus and Cara Presentation—literacy council

Jill Wolfe veteran and author

Lectionary Reading for Next Week June 15, 2025
Romans 5:1-5 Psalm 8 John 16:12-15






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.

The church office will be closed on June 10, 2025.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Prayers for Casey’s family friends whose daughter passed away.

Prayers of thanksgiving that Pam is back at church after her car accident (and prayers for a new car)

Prayers for Sharon who is in the hospital but sitting up and moved out of intensive care.

Prayers for Renee and her daughter, Ava, after Ava was hit by a car.

Prayer for Bren’s brother-in-law, Ken, who is starting treatment for cancer.

Prayer of joy and thanksgiving for the tiny newborn deer that Betsy saw.

Prayers for Amy’s daughter, Becca, who is struggling with a chronic illness.



Get Connected

Friends Discussion Group

Our new book 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.

Vacation Bible School—Crafts of the Bible

Looking for something fun, free, and meaningful for your kids this summer? Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. John’s UCC might be just what you’re looking for! July 7-10 from 5:30—8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served each night at 5:30 p.m. (everyone in the family is welcome to join)
Theme: Crafts of the Bible
We’ll have hands-on crafts, engaging Bible stories, games, music, snacks and more—all in a safe, welcoming environment.
Open to all kids preschool (must be potty trained) through 6th grade. Completely free—and no church experience required!
Register here: stjohnsuccgr.org/vbs.
Whether church is part of your weekly routine or something totally new, we’d love to have your family join us. St. John’s is an open and affirming congregation—which means we believe that no matter who you are, where you’re from, or what you believe, you are truly welcome here.
Questions? Email us anytime at: education@stjohnsuccgr.org—we’re happy to help!
We can’t wait to meet you and your kids from a fun-filled week at VBS.



ST JOHN'S
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

VBS 2025
Vacation Bible School

July 7 - 10, 2025
5:30pm - 8pm

FREE!



Ages preschool
(must be potty
trained) to 6th grade



Crafts, Bible Stories, Songs & More!

Dinner provided at 5:30pm

Register: stjohnsuccgr.org/vbs





Location
1934 Bridge St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI



Visit Our Website
www.stjohnsuccgr.org



St. John's UCC is an
Open and Affirming
congregation.

Mission

Outreach Touches

This Month:
407

Year to Date:
56,918

Since Inception
367,737

Serving on Sundays

Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Coffee Hour
June 8	Open	Bren Tooley	We Celebrate You
June 15	Judy Merrills	Peter Huschilt	Father’s Day Potluck
June 22	Open	Jen Berg	Donna Proulx
June 29	Open	Pat Partridge	John and Jean Kritschgau

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

2024-2025 Education Schedule

Date	Nursery	WC1 WC1 Floater	WC2	Bridge	Floater
June 8	Teresa	Lisa Jenna	Susan Tarah help?	Makenzie	Dan/Mia

Pulpit Schedule

June 8	Bill Newsom
June 15	Jeffrey Dick
June 22	Bill Newsom
June 29	Jeffrey Dick

Help Us Make the St. John's ‘Garage’ Sale a Success!

We’re getting ready for a big ‘Garage’ Sale on June 27 and June 28 to support our Capital Cam-
paign, and we need YOUR help!

Have gently used items you no longer need? We’d love to take them off
your hands!

**Drop them off now through June 22 during church office hours or on
Sundays after worship in storage room 110.**

We’re accepting:

Clothing | Toys | Baby Gear | Sports Equipment | Furniture | Books | Housewares | Antiques
Working Electronics | Accessories | Linens | Instruments
| Small Appliances | Complete Games & Puzzles | Jewelry | Holiday Decor ... and more!

****Please make sure all donations are clean, complete, and in working order.****

There are several other ways to get involved:

- Can you volunteer? We need helping hands to help sort, price, and run the sale!
- Got a folding table or two we can borrow? Let us know! Be sure it’s labeled so we can return it.
- Have a clothing rack sitting around? Any extra hangers? We'd love to borrow them to hang clothes - be sure to label it!
- Calling all gardeners! We'll have a table for selling seedlings, propagated plants, herbs, veg-
gies, cut flowers/bouquets, etc. Donate what you can!

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!

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Word Search Puzzle

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

PENTECOST
HEAVEN
DAY

FILLED
FIRE
HOLY

HEAR
TONGUES
SOUND

HOUSE
LANGUAGE
SPIRIT

WIND
OTHER
SPEAK

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