

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 10, 2024

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



1934 Bridge Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

616.453.2497



www.stjohnsuccgr.org



facebook.com/stjohnsuccgr



[@StJohnsUCCGR](https://twitter.com/StJohnsUCCGR)



<http://alturl.9-16com/etrte>

9 a.m. Pastor Class—Sunday Mornings

Join Rev. Dannison for a time of spirit-filled (and spirited) conversation on Sunday mornings before worship. Each Sunday we will gather in the conference room (just behind the sanctuary) for a brief presentation and conversation about some of the more challenging aspects of our faith, traditions, and history. Bring your doubts and challenges! Join a lecture/discussion series on pressing social issues and the history and fu-

ture of Christian thought. 30 minute lecture followed by a brief discussion. Choir members will be dismissed on time for worship.

This class is open to *everybody*. You are not required to attend every session - come as frequently or infrequently as you're able. Simple breakfast snacks and food provided.

Feel free to recommend a discussion topic to Nathan by emailing him at pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org or texting him at 269.547.9622

Wednesday Evening Prayer /Discussion Offered

Join us for our Evening Prayer Service on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. It's an opportunity to share joys and concerns, pray together and catch up with each other in the middle of the week.

8:00-9:00pm – Lecture and discussion of The Apostolic Fathers featuring Dr. Bart Ehrman. At each even-

ing session we will listen to a video lecture by Prof. Ehrman and then discuss the content. There is no cost and no book is required. Both Wednesday evening opportunities use the same Zoom connection. For the link, see the weekly email to members, or the calendar on the St. John's home page stjohnsuccgr.org.

Renucci House

Please join us in providing a loving breakfast to the guests at Renucci Hospitality House. Breakfast service starts at 9:00 a.m. and lasts about an hour and we plan on serving 20-30 guests. If you are not able to join us,

please consider donating items that can be brought to church, or making a monetary donation. If you are planning to help and need to use the facility to prepare your item, we will be welcome at 7:00

Membership Orientation

A Membership Orientation Session will be held today from 11:10 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

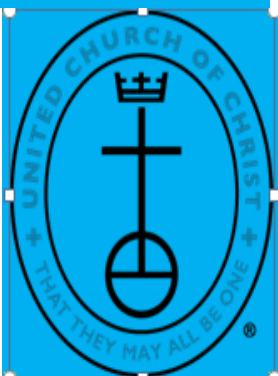
The orientation will provide information for those interested in becoming a member of St. John's UCC. It will be held in the church library, across the hall from the kitchen. Please join us and feel free to bring your coffee and snacks.

Membership packet is available for download in the "members only" section of the website:

<https://members.stjohnsuccgr.org/a/resources/c/membership/RE159/new-member-materials>

Lectionary Reading for Next Week March 17, 2024

Jer 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Heb 5:5-10
John 12:20-33



Pastor Nathan Dannison
pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org

Joel Gary,
Director of Music
music@stjohnsuccgr.org

Sally Oracz,
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsuccgr.org



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.

Pastoral Care

If you would like to speak with the Pastor or there is a pastoral emergency, feel free to reach out to Pastor Nathan Dannison at his email, pastor@stjohnsuccgr.org or by phone at 1-269-547-9622



Thursday

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

Easter Egg Hunt

It will soon be time for our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Again this year it will be held on Easter Sunday—March 31, 2024 after the service. Again this year the kiddos will be filling Plastic Easter Eggs (and no we do not need any plastic eggs, we have plenty) with the word alleluia next week. As it is our custom to not say/use the word Alleluia during Lent.

Easter morning we will scatter/hide the Eggs for

Prayers

Prayers of joy for Sue and Dave's 10 year old grandson who will be swimming the 50 meter backstroke at the state competition next weekend.

Prayers for the people at Gaza and Ukraine.

Prayers for our Muslim brothers and sisters who will be starting Ramadan in the next few days.

Prayers of thanks for the calls, texts, and cards that aided Christine's recovery.

Prayers for anyone fighting addiction or depression including Jenny's brother who is back in the hospital with pancreatitis due to alcohol.

Prayers for Pat who is having surgery on Wednesday.

Prayers of thanks for the prayers of the friend with a bad heart who now has a pacemaker and is doing better.

Prayers of joy and safe travels for Judy whose family is taking her on a vacation.

Prayers for Phyllis Roh whose 33 year old grandson passed away after a long illness.

Sincere Thanks

I would like to thank my church family for all the cards, notes, phone calls, texts (and a car ride from Pam) that I received during my health issues. Your words and acts of service fed my soul. I'm absolutely sure that all these things sped my recovery. I love each and every one of you.

Christine



Girlfriends discussion group will begin our new book on March 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Our new book will be "The Four Agreements", A Toltec Wisdom Book by Don Miguel Ruiz. The cover calls the book, "A practical guide to personal freedom. This book comes recommended to us by Judy Merrill. I do not know anything about "Toltec" wisdom but I plan on doing some research!!! Join us as we explore this ancient ancestral wisdom. "The Four Agreements" offer a powerful code of conduct that can rapidly transform our lives to a new experience of freedom, true happiness and love." Let's start with a discussion of the first 25 pages and then go from there. Enjoy!!

Meetings....

Emergency Preparedness Meeting, today at 11:15 a.m.

Property Meeting, Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Education Team Meeting Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Team Leads Meeting, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

the kiddos to find. They can turn the eggs in for small gifts/prizes to adults that morning.

We would like your help with this project.

1. We need volunteers to help scatter/hide the eggs
2. We need volunteers to help award the finders of the eggs.
3. We need gifts/prizes for the finders.

We are looking for small items. They do not have to fit into an egg. The adults will have a selec-

tion of items for the kiddos to hopefully choose from. We are thinking:

Pencils, erasers, stickers, some candy, small stuffed animals, washable tattoo's small cars, bubble wands, puzzles, chips, crackers, pretzels, and books.

Just an FYI: you can find a lot of cool things and ideas at Dollar Tree or your local dollar store.

What can you add to


the list?

Tarah has a basket in Fellowship Hall ready to receive your generous donations. Any questions, please contact Tarah from Education Team or Diana from Membership Team.

The education and membership teams greatly thank and appreciate you for your help with this project.

Education
Volunteer
Schedule

	Nursery	Worship Center 1	Worship Center 2	Bridge	Floater	Choir
March 17	Heidi	Lisa	Susan	Margaret	Jen	
March 24	Pam	Amanda	Susan	Margaret	Teresa	




Coffee
Hour

March 17
Open

March 24
Open

March 31
Open



USHERS
&
GREETERS

March 17
Open

March 24
Judy Merrell

March 31
Open

Liturgist
Schedule
March 2024

March 17
Spencer Hoffmann

March 24
Christine Johnston

March 31
Pam Maniscalco

Mission
Outreach Touches

This Month:
508

Year to Date:
41,467

Since Inception
352,346

Measuring God's Love

John 3:14-21

Word Search Puzzle

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

SON
PERISH
CONDEMN
THROUGH

ONLY
HIM
SNAKE
GAVE

BELIEVES
WORLD
LOVED
SEND

MOSES
DESERT
ETERNAL
GOD

WHOEVER
LIFTED
LIFE
SAVE



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