

St. Johns United Church of Christ

News from Pastor Ken

October 2023

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As we seem to try and squeeze out a few more days of summer weather and enjoying every last drop of it, I must say that I very much enjoy the season of fall for so many wonderful reasons.

First, I love fall weather. It's perfectwarm sunny days and cool gentle nights. I enjoy the change in temperature but even more the anticipation and realization of the incredible palette of color that surrounds us in trees, bushes, fall flowers and vegetables. Even fall sunrises and sunsets seem more glorious. The colors are beautiful, the air is crisp, and it is perfect window open while sleeping weather. I start pulling out my comfy sweatshirts and warm socks. Even my nutty dogs seem to relish in the cool air and piles of leaves to roll and play in.

Just like the weather, it has been a year of change for many of us. Even though I know what season follows fall, I have come to accept that this is the natural order of things. What's more, I know that before long the cycle will be complete and with certainty, spring will arrive. Until then, I enjoy the seasons as they come, each with its own unique challenges, joys and beauty. With the weather just like life, I have found the key to peace and serenity is "Accepting life on life's terms". So take heart, keep the faith, enjoy, and continue to be part of the great transformation.

And of course, fall and my gardens, fall gives me a great appreciation for gardening and gardeners, and the joy of being a steward of God's creation. The older I get the more I realize it is the simple things in life that make me happiest... ah life is good today!

When I think of my own gardening experience, I think that is how our spiritual journey experience works as well. Some seem to be born into it, laughing, and dancing our way throughout the process. Others of us with some cautious

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hesitation, while some of us go kicking and screaming. Then sometimes quickly, sometimes slowing we find ourselves moving from resistance to tolerance to enjoying it and often without even noticing, a spiritual transformation occurs. The only thing required was the willingness to participate and to be open to the possibility of change.

As always, while in the garden I remember, ever so humbly, the many gifts that have been given to me. During this harvest time I am reminded of God's grace and abundance in my life and the importance of sharing that abundance with others. Just like sharing gardening stories, even sharing the story of our own journey can have a profound effect on others.

I encourage you to share your journey with others that they too may experience the joy and hope of transformation and perhaps encourage them to take the first steps into their own spiritual garden. It is exciting to be a part of this faith families garden of growth and harvest. We invite you to sense your ministry, feel your call and join us in this journey together, each according to our talents and energy.

In the garden at home and here in our congregation's spiritual garden there is always plenty to do and each helping hand regardless of how large or small makes life a little easier for everyone. Any gardener will tell you how much better things look and taste when we have taken part in their creation. Whatever your gift and ability, regardless of how significant, or insignificant, you may think it is, know that we are all richer because you are here sharing those gifts. Whatever we do, we do in the light of God's unconditional love, boundless mercy and unending grace.

We look forward to growing together and invite you to join us on the journey and harvest. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's path, there is a place for you here and we welcome you.

One more thing. I have been sharing this little prayer a friend passed on to me. Seems appropriate for fall.

Dear God, thank you
for all that you have given me
for all that you have taken from me
for all that you have left me
Amen

Take care and be well, Peace
Ken

Hapy Birthdays in October

10/9 Judy Lester
10/13 Douglas Beattie
10/14 Kurt Schultz
10/15 Pat Kaufman
10/17 Carolyn Andrews
10/22 Jennifer Sielski
10/23 Lois Weichert
10/24 Bill Galvin
10/28 Helen Delude



Military Prayer List

I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your love one's, family member or friend's name, rank, and branch of service to be placed on the list.

Joshua Bieske	Sgt. First Class	US Air Force
Lacey Tite	Security	US Navy

Worship Ministry

Volunteers Needed

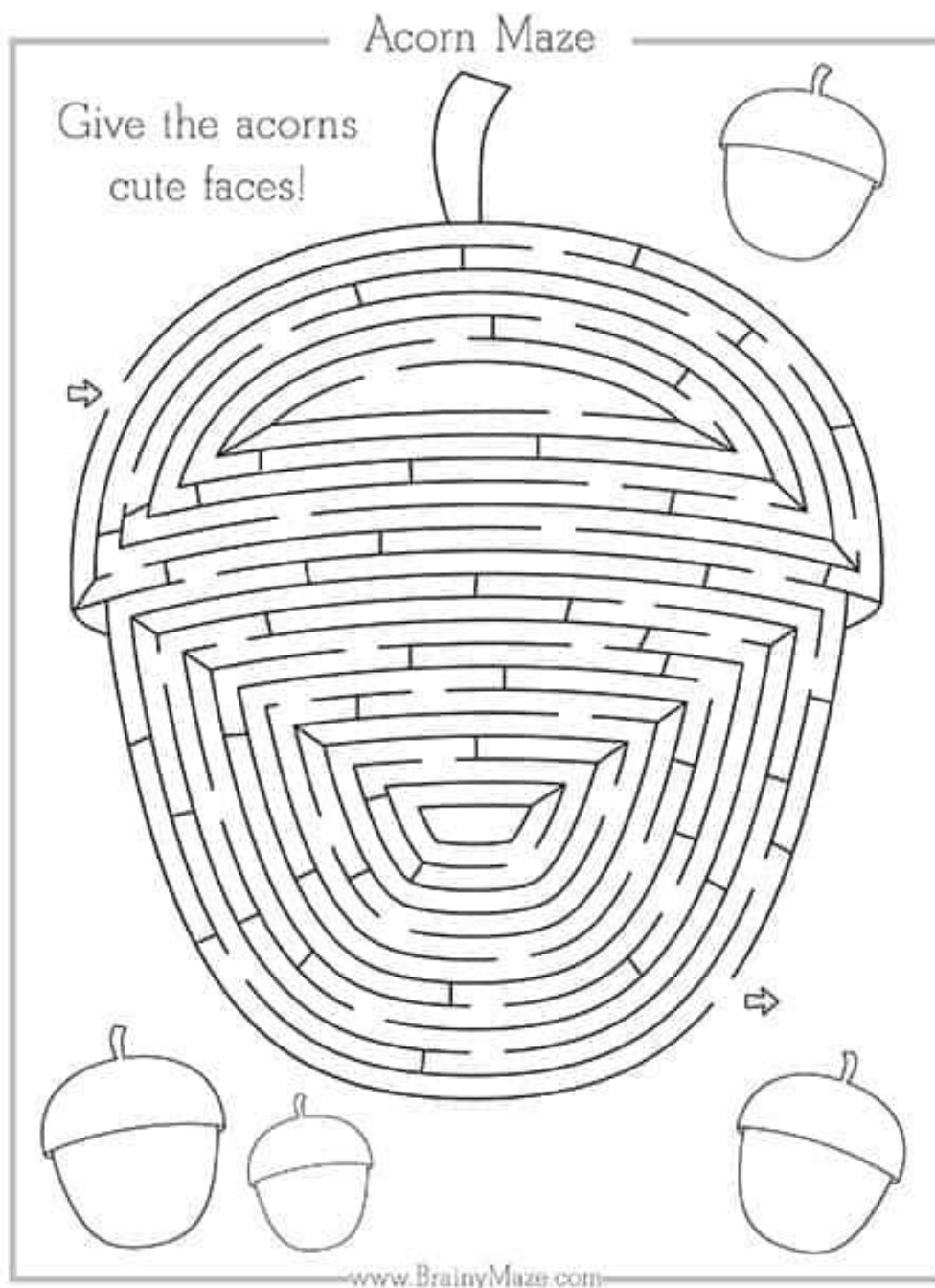
Please sign-up

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/ Greeter, Liturgists, Communion Servers, and Altar Care.

Prayers For

Prayers for Wayne, Judy, Art, Christopher, James & Family, Gina, Michael, Trudy, Ken, Nancy, Melanie, Don, Families of St. John & St. James


Kid's Page



Fall Blessings!


Leaves

by Elsie N. Brady



How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow.



Meeting Minutes / Reports
St. John's United Church of Christ
July 10, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 6:43 p.m.

Council Members Present: Shari Faucher, Georgia Phelan, Carolyn Hosford, Miriam Guyor, Don Weichert, Pastor Ken. Absent: Katie Phelan, Linda Girard

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

June 12, 2023 Minutes: Shari made the motion to accept as presented. Second by Carolyn, carried.

Calendar updates: July 16: Outdoor service/potluck
July 20: American Red Cross Blood Drive
July 25: St. James Fundraiser Dinner, Murphy Inn, 5-8 p.m.
July 30: Healing Service

Ministry Reports

Worship - No report

Fellowship - council in favor of a fundraiser dinner in November. Will discuss further at later date.

Outreach - A. Outdoor service. Georgia sent out invitations to previous guests.
B. Working on getting volunteers and more donors.

Spiritual Growth - Discussion group will continue in the fall.

Earthly Gifts - No report

Treasurer's Report - Ken changed arrangement of P&L, added account #'s to Balance Sheet.
Carolyn made the motion to accept, Miriam seconded, carried.

Building and Grounds - A. Mike Phelan is working on parking lot sealing.
B. Hall use. Had a grad party and a funeral luncheon in June, and have an upcoming funeral service and luncheon.

Records/History Book - No report

Pastor's Report - service attendance is slowly increasing; doing a significant amount of pastoral support.

Unfinished Business - No report

New Business - A. Georgia corrected our location and added "Handicap Acceptable" to our UCC Church Finder page.
B. Georgia will work on our website
C. There will be no Council meeting in August.

Correspondence - No report

Shari made the motion to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Second by Carolyn, carried.

Closing prayer: Georgia

Next meeting is September 11, 2023

Giving Lasts All Year!

St. John's & St. James' Christmas Charity Tote Bags: Some needed items:

We are starting over again for the next year. The tote bags are for both boys and girls between the ages of 2 and 14. The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: toothbrush holders, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, dental floss, comb/brushes, hair accessories such as head bands, ponytails, clips, bows, and barrettes and school supplies such as: notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, pencil sharpeners, scissors (for youngsters and older children), rulers, large erasers. Pens, pencils and socks, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens and toys.

Please donate travel size items, we only have so much space to store the items in for the year and we need to get all items to fit in the bags. Please try to **stick to the list** so we receive enough of the items we need and not a little of items that are considered extra items.

Thank you!!!

Donations accepted all year to accumulate 100 of each item.
distribution is via local organizations. Donation box & COMPLETE LIST on table.

Message from St. Johns Council President

Hello again!

Time for our Fall Dinner at Murphy Inn again! That was so fun last year and they were very generous with our earnings from the evening. We're on the calendar for Tuesday, November 7, 5:00-8:00 p.m. So get it on your calendars and invite your friends and family. St. John's will make 20% of all sales, including take out and gift cards. Those gift cards make great gifts 😊 Murphy Inn is in St. Clair.

Catherine Nutter, one of our musicians, has suggested we put together a choir for Advent and Christmas. I'm on board, although my voice isn't what it used to be. No matter, I can still make a joyful noise to the Lord. And so can you! Let me know if you're interested and we'll make a plan to make some noise!

Mary Galvin will once again arrange for us to Adopt a Family for the holidays. Items need to be collected ahead, so watch for more details.

The same applies to our Christmas Tote Bags put together with St. James. Miriam keeps updated lists in the Fellowship Room, so grab a list and pick a few things up soon.

See you in the pews!

Georgia

The Mary Martha Guild

Mary Martha Guild News

The Mary Martha Guild will be holding a Silent Auction on December 3, 10 and 17. We will be auctioning an Underground Railroad quilt made by Karen Jolicoeur. Watch for further information in next month's newsletter.

On Wednesday, December 13, we will be hosting our annual Christmas dinner. The congregation is invited to join us. Mary Martha will provide the meat (ham). Everyone coming is asked to bring a dish to pass. We will be collecting a free will offering, which will be used to provide a family in need with a Christmas to remember (dinner and gifts). Signup sheets will be available at the end of November.

October Activities

Sunday, October 1 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Service and Pastor’s Discretionary Fund Collection – 11am

Sunday, October 8 – Sunday Worship Service – 11am
Sunday School begins.

Monday, October 9 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm.

Wednesday, October 11 – The Prayer Group - 11:30am in the Fellowship Room

Wednesday, October 11 – Mary Martha Guild – 12:30pm in the Fellowship Room. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Hostess will Be Lis Weichert.

Saturday, October 21 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, October 22 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Service – 11am
St. James Annual Chili Cook Off at Perch Point – 4pm.

Sunday October 29 – Sunday Worship with Healing – 11am.

November Activities

Saturday, November 4 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm
Euchre is now the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month

Sunday, November 5 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Service and Pastor’s Discretionary Fund Collection – 11am

Tuesday, November 7 – dinner at Murphy’s Inn in St. Clair 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Wednesday, November 8 – The Prayer Group - 11:30am in the Fellowship Room

Wednesday, November 8 – Mary Martha Guild – 12:30pm in the Fellowship Room. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Sunday November 12 – Sunday worship Service – 11am

Monday, November 13 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm.

Sunday, November 19 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Service – 11am

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving

Sunday November 26 – Sunday Worship Service – 11am.

Additional Activities

Sunday Services

Sunday Service is held at 11:00 a.m. each week. This service is also available live via online streaming at 11:00 a.m. St. James' service is streamed at 9:00 a.m. Both are available to view as a video any time after the live streams. www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity or www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008

Council Meetings

Church Council's next meeting is July 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Students are encouraged to attend services on the first and third Sundays as well. Lynn Andrews and Miriam Guyor are teachers this year. Sunday School begins October 8, 2023.

Mary Martha Guild

Mary Martha Guild meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon in the Community Room.

Coffee Donations

There is a container on the counter by the coffee pots for freewill donations to help pay for the cost of Coffee Hour. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Prayer Group

Prayer Group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Community Room. We will be praying for our family and friends. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please let us know if you have any prayer needs.

Coffee Hour

Although we gather for coffee, visiting and goodies each Sunday after service, we have a special Coffee Hour the first Sunday of each month when special food is prepared and shared. This is provided by members. To take a turn to host, please sign up in the Community Room.

Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can make it possible for them to remain in their homes as long as possible. The **Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers** program is in need of drivers who are available during daytime hours. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You tell us what days, times and areas are convenient for you and we call you with specific appointments that meet your criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and we will call you another time. Even one more ride a year makes a big difference to the person who needs it! Please call our office today at (586) 757-5551. Learn more at www.ivcinfo.org

Scripture Readings for October

Sunday, October 1

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 17: 1-7 and Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16 or

Ezek 18: 1-4, 25-32 and Ps 25: 1-9

Phil 2: 1-13

Matt 21: 23-32

God's Sustaining Presence

Sunday, October 15

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 32: 1-14 and Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23 or

Isa 25: 1-9 and Ps 23

Phil 4: 1-9

Matt 22: 1-14

Praiseworthy Living

Sunday, October 8

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Ps 19 or

Isa 5: 1-7 and Ps 8: 7-15

Phil 3: 4b-14

Matt 21: 33-46

Wisdom for the Way

Sunday, October 22

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 33: 12-23 and Ps 99 or

Isa 45: 1-7 and Ps 96: 1-9 (10-13)

1 Thess 1: 1-10

Matt 22: 15-22

Living Messages

Sunday, October 29

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Deut: 34: 1-12 and Ps 90: 1-6, 13-17 or

Lev 19: 1-12, 15-18 and Ps 1

1 Thess 2: 1-8

Matt 22: 34-46

The Compassionate Life

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER