

St. Johns United Church of Christ

News from Pastor Ken

November 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 dog seems 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

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dancing our way throughout the process. Others of us with some cautious 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 November

11/3 Dorothy Schultz
 11/3 Kathy Gallagher
 11/4 Mark Hincerick
 11/6 Sandra Fritz
 11/20 Patrick Phelan
 11/22 Lisa Forest

Anniversaries in November

11/1 Shari & Tom Faucher
 11/11 Sandra & Robert Fritz
 11/11 Megan &7 Mark Hincerick
 11/21 Loretta & Nelson Prange



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, Kathy, Ruth, Ken, Nancy, Melanie, Don, Families of St. John & St. James



Restaurant
Spirits & Hotel

DINE & DONATE!

Murphy Inn *Fundraising*

Help Support !

**St. Johns
United Church of Christ
Marine City**

Where: Murphy Inn

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

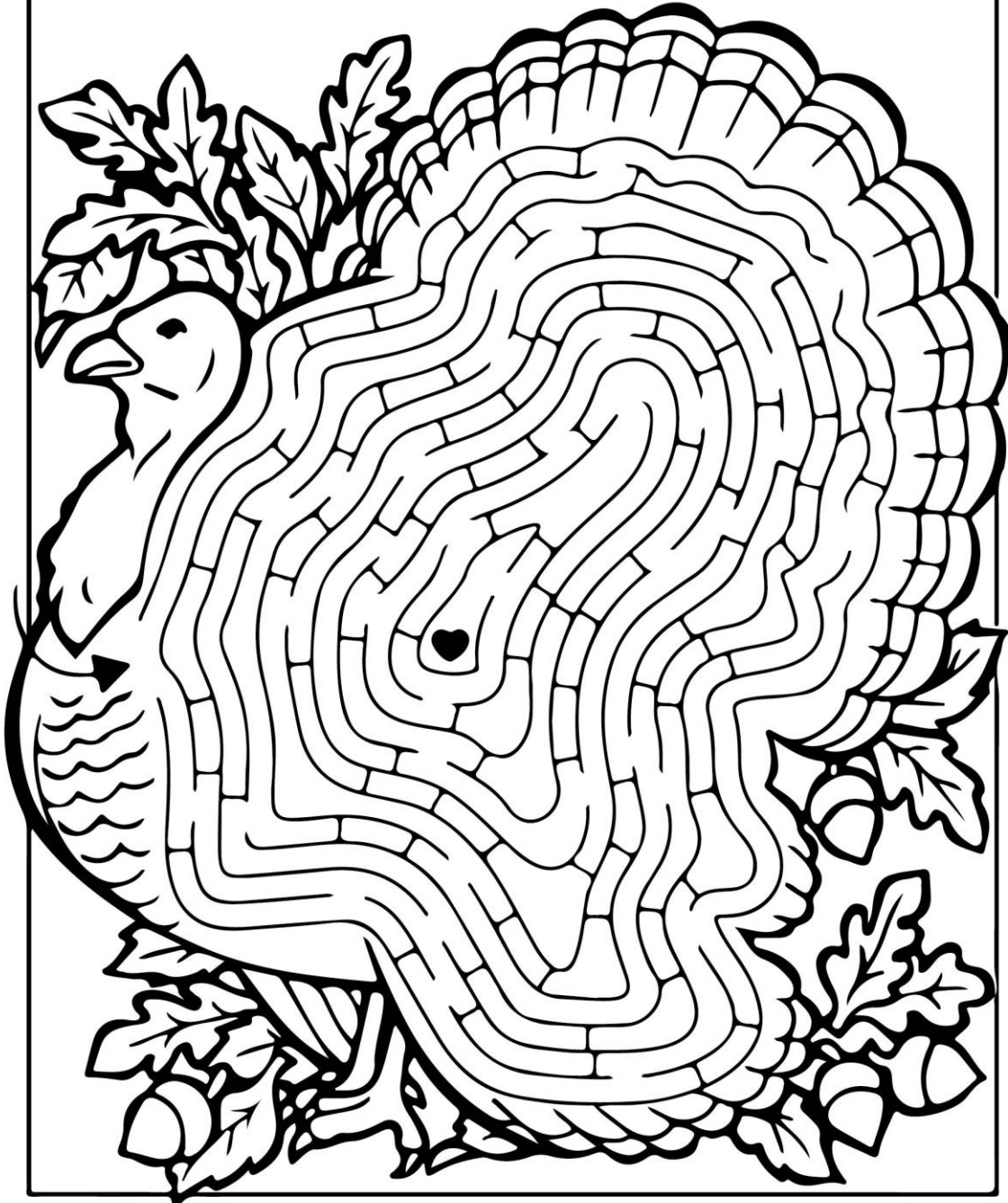
Murphy Inn will donate 20% of ALL sales.



505 Clinton Avenue - St. Clair, MI 48079 - 810.329.7118

Kid's Page

Find your way to the turkey heart!



Thanksgiving Blessings!

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father in Heaven,
Creator of all and source of all goodness and love,
please look kindly upon us
and receive our heartfelt gratitude
in this time of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings
You have bestowed upon us,
spiritual and temporal:
our faith and religious heritage,
our food and shelter, our health,
the loves we have for one another,
our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity,
please grant us continued graces and blessing
throughout the coming year.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus,
Your Son and our Brother.

Amen.

Meeting Minutes / Reports
St. John's United Church of Christ
September 11, 2023 Council Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

July 10, 2023 Minutes: Motion by Carolyn to accept minutes as presented, second by Don. Carried.

Calendar updates: October 1 & 15: Sunday service with Communion
October 8 & 22: Sunday service and Sunday School
October 25 & November 1: Discussion group, 7:00 p.m.
October 29: Healing Service
November 5: All Saints Day Observance. Memorial photos encouraged at service
November 22: AA Gratitude Meeting
November 22: Thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7:00 p.m.

Ministry Reports

Worship - due to lack of consistency, processions will not be continued.

Fellowship - Murphy's Dinner will be planned for Nov. 8, Georgia will make arrangements.

Outreach A. Maui Relief raised \$1300.

B. Mary Galvin will make arrangements to provide for a family for Christmas.

C. Miriam will coordinate our entry for the Marine City Christmas parade.

Spiritual Growth - Discussion group sessions will be held on Oct. 25 and Nov. 1 on the Sacraments.

Earthly Gifts

A. Treasurer's Report - Motion by Miriam to accept as presented, second by Carolyn, carried.

B. Georgia will check rates for our CD which matures on Sept. 7. If no major changes in rate or term, she will leave it as is for the next term.

Building and Grounds

A. Parking lot sealing. It is felt that we can get through this winter with the lot as it is. We will put it in the budget for 2024, which will also allow us to get more quotes.

B. Bill Galvin will be at church when our boiler check takes place on Oct. 3.

Records/History Book - No report.

Pastor's Report - Covered above, discussion group. Pastoral assistance is ongoing.

Unfinished Business: Georgia will get pricing for imprinted business envelopes.

Correspondence - none

Adjournment: Motion by Don to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Second by Linda and carried.

Closing prayer: Pastor Ken

Next meeting is October 9, 2023

Message from St. Johns Council President

It's Fall Dinner time! Last year's St. John's UCC fundraiser dinner was fun and successful, so we're doing it again. If you didn't make it last year, circle Tuesday, November 7, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on your calendar and join the fun this time. We'll be at Murphy Inn in St. Clair again and they will donate 20% of all proceeds from the evening to St. John's. That includes dine-in, take-out, beverages and gift cards. Wow- very generous! Proceeds are used for many purposes at St. John's, including our annual scholarships in the spring. So, invite your friends and family and make it a night out with your church family!

Our Fall Discussion Group is a shorter affair this year, running just two weeks- October 25 and November 1, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. It's online via Zoom, so no need to go out! The topics will be the two Sacraments observed in the United Church of Christ. You can participate in both or just one. If you haven't participated before, just let Pastor Ken know and he'll add you to his list: email him at kqadd@stjohnsmarinecity.org or call or text to 313-402-0858.

Hard to believe, but Advent is around the corner. Check out the calendar in this newsletter. Please note that Pastor Ken's annual Blue Christmas service will be held at St. John's this year. We have several Outreach ministries going this year for the holidays. We'll be adopting a family for Christmas and will have a tree with ornaments that each feature a gift needed by our family. Take an ornament, purchase the gift, wrap it and return it with the ornament attached. Gifts will be forwarded to our family. We're also supporting St. James' Christmas Totes for Kids program. Pick up a list of needed items and bring back your contribution. Both projects will conclude in November to allow time to process and deliver gifts. Many thanks to all who can participate in this Outreach ministry. The Mary-Martha Guild Christmas Luncheon is on December 13. Meat provided; bring a dish to pass. On a sad note, we have received word of the passing of St. John's member Helen DeLude. Although Helen had moved closer to family, she never forgot about us and was supportive to the end. I'm sure you'll join me in condolences to her family.

Of course, November brings Thanksgiving. Such a meaningful day- it's unfortunate that it gets run over by the huge machine that is Christmas. But as we make our way through November and into December, let's remember we have much to be thankful for that has nothing to do with gifts, food, Santa or all the other trappings that can overwhelm us. Being at service each Sunday helps me stay focused on what is really important- please join us at 11:00 a.m. and we'll meet in the pews!

Georgia

The Mary Martha Guild

Martha Mary Minutes from the meeting held on September 13, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by Loretta.

Members present: Loretta, Lois, Carolyn, Judy, Bea and Lynn (by phone).

Minutes from the May meeting was read. Motion by Carolyn, seconded by Bea, to accept as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report - The balance in our checking account as of August 31, 2023, is \$3,536.97. We made \$877.00 at the Bake Sale held during the Rummage Sale and \$2,791.00 from the quilt raffle and donations. Motion made by Judy, seconded by Carolyn to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business - We discussed what to do with the Underground Railroad quilt made and donated by Karen Jolicoeur. Motion by Carolyn, seconded by Bea that we hold a silent auction the first three Sundays in December. Bidding will start at \$150.00, with increments of \$5.00, Drawing will be on December 17. Motion carried.

New Business - The Church council is looking into participating in the Marine City Christmas Parade. Carolyn will let us know what we can do to participate.

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 13 at noon. Mary Martha will purchase the ham and those attending will be asked to bring a dish to pass. All church members will be invited to attend. A freewill offering will be collected to be donated to a family in need. Signup sheets will be available after Thanksgiving.

Motion made by Carolyn, seconded by Bea to adjourn the meeting at 2:15pm. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Reh
Secretary/Treasurer

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.

November Activities

Wednesday, November 1 – Discussion Group via Zoom – “The Sacraments” – 7pm

Saturday, November 4 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm (Euchre held the 1st & 3rd Saturday of month)

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

Tuesday, November 7 – St. John’s 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

Saturday, November 18 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

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

Wednesday, November 22, Thanksgiving Service – St. Paul’s Lutheran on Palms Road – 7pm
Pie to follow service.

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving

Sunday November 26 – Sunday Worship Service – 11am.

December Activities

Saturday, December 2 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm.

Sunday, December 3 - Sunday Worship with Communion 11 am

Sunday, December 10 - Sunday Worship 11 am

Wednesday, December 13 – The Prayer Group - 11:30 am in the Fellowship Room

Wednesday, December 13 – Mary Martha Guild Christmas Luncheon, noon, meat provided, bring a side dish

Saturday, December 16 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, December 17 - Sunday Worship with Communion 11 am

Thursday, December 21 – Blue Christmas at St. Johns – 7pm

December 24 - Sunday Worship with Communion 11 am

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm

December 31 - Healing Sunday Worship 11 am

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.

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 November

Sunday, November 5

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Josh 3: 7-17 and PS 107: 1-7, 33-37 or

Mic 3: 5-13 and Ps 43

1 Thess 2: 9-13

Matt 23: 1-12

Partners in Service

Sunday, November 19

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Judg 4: 1-7 and Ps 123 or

Zeph 1: 7, 12-18 and Ps 90: 1-8, (9-11), 12

1 Thess 5: 1-11

Matt 25: 14-30

Extravagant Opportunity

Sunday, November 12

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Josh 24: 1-3a, 14-25 and Ps 78: 1-7 or

Wisd of Sol 6: 12-16 or Amos 5: 18-24 and Wis of

Sol 6: 17-20

1 Thess 4: 13-18

Matt 25: 1-13

Tending God's Light

Sunday, November 26

Reign of Christ

Ezek 34: 11-16, 20-24, and Ps 100 or

Ezek 34: 11-16, 20-24, and Ps 95: 1-7a

Eph 1: 15-23

Matt 25: 31-46

Reigning Compassion

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We're on the Web!
stjohnsmarinacity.org



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER