

St. Johns United Church of Christ

News from Pastor Ken

September 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

<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity/>

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

Happy Birthdays in September

9/15 Bernetta Borneman
 9/20 Miriam Guyor
 9/20 Georgia Phelan
 9/22 Denise Beattie
 9/22 Tamara Gorence
 9/23 Tom Gorence
 9/23 Linda Leonard
 9/27 Kristy Buckingham

Anniversaries in September

9/10 Pat & Tom Kaufman
 9/21 Christina & Bill Galvin



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, John, Gina, Michael, Trudy, Ken, Melanie, Don, Families of St. John & St. James

Kid's Page

PUZZLE TIME

BACK TO SCHOOL

wordsearch puzzle

S	C	H	O	O	L	B
B	T	E	A	C	H	A
E	G	P	E	N	E	G
L	L	L	A	C	R	B
L	A	E	O	I	L	O
P	P	T	O	B	T	O
E	N	B	P	H	E	K

PENCIL
BELL
TEACHER
GLOBE
BOOK
SCHOOLBAG
LAPTOP
PEN

A cartoon illustration of a young girl with glasses, a ponytail, and a skirt, holding a pointer stick. She is surrounded by various school supplies: a globe, a pencil, a book, a small bell, a backpack, and a pen. All items have simple faces.

Fall Blessings!

Prayerfully I Walk

Time alone in an autumn wood,
I stroll on a mosaic carpet
of moist multicolored leaves--
rust brown, yellow, crimson.
I ponder the deep red patches,
scattered every step of my way.
Silently they speak of our Savior's
redemptive, sacrificial blood---
blessing each pace on the path of life.

Charlotte Adelsperger ©1994

Meeting Minutes / Reports

St. John's United Church of Christ
June 12, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 6:40 p.m.

Roll Call/Council Members: Shari Faucher, Georgia Phelan, Carolyn Hosford, Miriam Guyor, Pastor Ken

Absent: Don Weichert, Linda Girard, Katie Phelan

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

Minutes of May 8 meeting: Shari made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Carolyn. Carried.

Calendar Updates: July 16: Outdoor Service and Potluck
 July 20: American Red Cross Blood Drive

Ministry Reports

Worship Shari is interested in assisting with Altar cloths, Miriam with Communion.

Fellowship. No report.

Outreach. A. American Red Cross blood drive registration is available online. Shari has distributed flyers. Miriam and Georgia will post to various community Facebook pages.
 B. Both awardees attended the Scholarship Service on June 11,

Spiritual Growth Discussion group will continue in the fall.

Earthly gifts. No report.

Treasurer's Reports. A. Motion by Shari to accept the Treasurer's Report with clarifications.
 Second by Carolyn and carried.
 B. The rummage sale brought in approximately \$2000.
 C. Comcast account is now set up with eco-billing and auto pay.

Building and Grounds.

A. Sandy Fritz, Mary Galvin, Carolyn Hosford and Georgia Phelan participated in the Spring Cleaning. Their work is very much appreciated.

B. Parking lot sealing. Mike Phelan is looking into this.

C. Hall rental. We had a funeral lunch on June 9. Rental income is \$125, with an additional \$75 security deposit that has been returned as the hall was left in the same condition as before the lunch.

Records/History Book. No report.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Ken welcomes suggestions for our Discussion Group. Our Facebook postings and streaming of our

Sunday services are getting comments and "likes."

Unfinished Business. None

New Business. Shari made the motion to pay East. Assoc. of MI UCC our annual dues of \$237. Second by Carolyn, carried.

Correspondence. Thank you note received from American Red Cross for \$525 donation for tornado relief.

Adjournment: Miriam made the motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Second by Shari and carried. Closing prayer by Pastor Ken.

Next meeting: July 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

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, ponyes a, 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.

3:20 PM
07/25/23
Cash Basis

St. John United Church of Christ
Profit & Loss
June 2023

	Jun 23	Jan - Jun 23
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Christmas Offering	0.00	30.00
Fundraiser - Income		
Fox Fire Fixin	0.00	322.70
Rummage Sale	0.00	2,104.76
Total Fundraiser - Income	0.00	2,427.46
Hall Rental	175.00	175.00
Initial Offering	5.00	75.00
Lenten Service	0.00	270.00
Memorial Fund	0.00	1,925.00
Miscellaneous Income		
Coffee Hour	31.00	223.00
Rent		
TOPS #1904	20.00	210.00
Tuesday Night AA	0.00	200.00
Rent - Other	0.00	50.00
Total Rent	20.00	460.00
Total Miscellaneous Income	51.00	683.00
Our Christian World Mission	0.00	30.00
Plate Offering	3,975.64	26,631.30
Scholarship Fund	0.00	25.00
Tonado Relief	0.00	525.00
Total Income	4,206.64	32,796.76
Expense		
Bank Service Charges		
Paypal Charge	0.00	9.68
Bank Service Charges - Other	0.00	30.00
Total Bank Service Charges	0.00	39.68
Contributions & Donations	0.00	2,000.00
Disaster Relief Expense	0.00	525.00
Flower Expense	0.00	406.00
Fundraising Expense		
Quilt Raffle Expense	0.00	178.01
Total Fundraising Expense	0.00	178.01
Insurance Expense	0.00	3,861.00
Internet and Phone	119.90	399.65
Kitchen Supplies	0.00	74.12
Office Supplies	0.00	292.32
Payroll Expenses	3,549.99	19,716.62
Postage and Delivery	0.00	120.00
Reimbursement	-25.00	-25.00
Repairs and Maintenance	455.00	2,324.99
Scholarship Fund Expenses	336.99	336.99
Utilities	234.30	1,928.48
Total Expense	4,671.18	32,177.86
Net Ordinary Income	-464.54	618.90
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Interest Earned	0.61	3.40
Interest Earned on CD	2.23	6.56
Interest Earned on Money Market	1.88	13.22
Total Other Income	4.72	23.18

3:20 PM
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Cash Basis

St. John United Church of Christ
Profit & Loss
June 2023

	<u>Jun 23</u>	<u>Jan - Jun 23</u>
Other Expense		
Misc	0.00	198.05
Total Other Expense	0.00	198.05
Net Other Income	4.72	-174.87
Net Income	<u>-459.82</u>	<u>444.03</u>

Message from St. Johns Council President

Hello again!

After taking August off from newsletters, Council meetings and several other items, we're back and ready to take in September and the start of autumn. I say take "in" because to me, September is a heady month. We're absorbing the last of the warm summer days, bringing in the produce from our gardens (or reaping the benefits of others' gardens!), sending kids and grandkids off to college, and preparing our homes and ourselves for the changing of the seasons. In my family, it's also birthday season as September is jam-packed with birthdays. So just as the lazy days of summer wind down, the rush of fall air and activities move in.

It's also a wonderful time to remind ourselves to refocus our attention toward our faith and our church family. With all the natural disasters that have spared our state, it's a good time to search for ways to do God's work in areas that weren't spared. We will be having a fund drive for the victims of the hurricane in Maui, Hawai'i. Please be as generous as possible here and elsewhere where the needs are so great.

That's probably a good segue into a reminder of our ongoing Pastor's Discretionary Fund (first Sunday each month), Helping Hands food collection and joint Christmas tote bags with St. James, both ongoing. Do not overextend yourselves financially to participate in these efforts, but there is probably room for most of us to do just a bit more and help those less fortunate. Pace yourselves and participate- you'll be glad you did.

Let me wind up with hearty congratulations to members Don and Lois Weichert who just celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary! And about half of that time, they've been members here, at St. John's. May you both continue to be wrapped in God's blessings.
See you in the pews-

Georgia Phelan

The Mary Martha Guild

The Mary Martha Guild has been busy. At the Rummage sale in May, we had a successful bake sale, making \$877.00.

The quilt raffle was also very successful. We sold tickets from the end of April through June. Two Saturdays were spent in front of VG's market selling tickets and collecting donations. The total amount received was \$2,791.00. The winner of the quilt was Mary Beth Panganiban. Mary Beth is a friend and neighbor of Lynn Reh.

With the proceeds, we gave a \$300.00 scholarship to Mikayla Sans, who will be attending Oakland University. The remaining money will be distributed at Christmas to various persons and organizations in the community.

Thank you to everyone who supported our projects, from baking and buying baked goods to buying raffle tickets. A special thank you to Loretta Prange for completing the quilt started over 30 years ago, by our late church member Bruce Beattie.

Our winner, Mary Beth Panganiban with her new quilt.



September Activities

Sunday, September 3 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Service and Pastor’s Discretionary Fund Collection – 11am

Sunday, September 10 – Sunday Worship Service – 11am

Monday, September 11 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm.

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

Wednesday, September 13 – Mary Martha Guild – 12:30pm in the Fellowship Room. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Our hostess will be Carolyn Hosford.

Saturday, September 15 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, September 17 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 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 September 10, 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 September

Sunday, September 3

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 3: 1-15 and Ps 105: 1-6, 23-26 or

Jer 15: 15-21 and Ps 26: 1-8

Rom 12: 9-21

Matt 16: 21-28

Spirit-Led Living

Sunday, September 17

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 14: 19-31 and Ps 114 or Ex 15: 1b-11,
20-21 or

Gen 50: 15-21 and Ps 103: (1-7), 8-13

Rom 14: 1-12

Road to Freedom

Sunday, September 10

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 12: 1-14 and Ps 149 or

Ezek 33: 7-11 and Ps 119: 33-40

Rom 13: 8-14

Matt 18: 15-20

Remember, Restore, Renew

Sunday, September 24

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 16 : 2-15 and Ps 105 : 1-6, 37-45 or

Jonah 3: 10-4:11 and Ps 145: 1-8

Phil 1: 21-30

Matt 20: 1-16

Tensions in the Wilderness

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We're on the Web!
stjohnsmarinacity.org



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER