

# St. Johns United Church of Christ

## News from Pastor Ken

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Happy New Year!

I cannot remember a time when so many were so anxious to close the door on the previous year and were ready to welcome the new year. Which is kind of funny because I thought the same thing about 2020 but somehow, 2020 just overflowed into 2021 and we cannot wait to be done with this one too.

So again, for many the New Year means a time of new beginnings and hope.

The New Year can give us a sense of optimism, opportunity, and excitement for what the days ahead. It is as if turning to the first page of the calendar allows us to set aside the challenges, disappointments and hurts of the past year and look forward to a fresh beginning.

That is exactly what this past month of Advent and Christmas are all about. Maybe that is why the church calendar always begins approximately a month before our standard secular calendar year. It gives us a little extra time to plan and prepare for this new beginning. It was good this past Advent spending time of active prayer and meditation discerning what God has called me (and us) to do and who God has called me (and us) to be. My hope is that this period of planning and discerning served you well also. And if somehow, you did not get to it. God allows you to start any time. And start over if you wish. As often as you wish.

As we look toward our New Year, I encourage each of us to consider our individual and personal gifts and opportunities and to actively participate in our personal growth and sustainability as well as that of our community of faith.

This may include planning and/or growing a ministry, reaching out to those in need, inviting friends and family to attend worship, reaching out to former members or your unchurched neighbors to visit us, encouraging generous giving, and sharing your story of faith in the community.

The reality is that this family of faith needs and more importantly calls you to be an active part in its vital role in the community and it cannot do it without you. Just as Christ could not carry on his ministry without his disciples and other followers, we cannot carry on without your active participation in spreading the good news. This approach to ministry more closely reflects the way Christ's own ministry was carried out. It creates wonderful opportunities for all to participate each according to our individual gifts of time, energy, talent, treasure, and other resources as we are able in various and appropriate ministries.

As we speak of gifts, January 6th is Epiphany, a time when it is said the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. I so much enjoy the whole idea of Epiphany and all the symbolism that goes with it. First, there was the arrival of the wise men on Epiphany. They traveled across what was then the entire world on faith, following a star to a place where, when they arrived, they were struck by a vision of hope and love so simple and yet so profound that it changed their lives. During this season of Epiphany, we too are invited to come to that place where our lives may be changed forever.

We also in the first week of Epiphany celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ. It is in that very same baptism that we too are baptized and called to be disciples each of us according to our gifts and abilities.

This is for me an exciting time. A time when the world so desperately needs to see hope, so desperately needs to see the love of Jesus. We are called to be the face of Christ, to be that light for the world to see. I think to myself "what an overwhelming task" but I realize that we do not go alone nor are we expected to do it all. We go knowing that God stands before us and behind us, that God will give us the words to speak and the strength to do God's will each according to our gifts and abilities. We are called to reach out to change the life of one person, who will change the life of one person, who may change the world. I always remember this wonderful quote "We are not called to do everything but we are called to do something."

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are surrounded by God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. There is a place for you here.

May this Epiphany season fill you and us with hope, recognizing and acting on our call to be disciples.

Happy New Year!! Take care and be well, Peace  
Ken

## Happy Birthdays in January

1-16 - Dorothy Hasler  
1-29 - Katie Phelan  
1-30 - Ron Duetsch

## Happy Anniversaries in January

1-24 - Brenda & Tom Fisher  
1-26 - Katie & Chris Phelan

## Prayers For .....

Claudette, Shirley, Barb, Bev, Ralph, Sue,  
Frazer, Lee, Arnie, Maxine, Harvey, Lynn,  
Don, Lois, Marion, Tom, Brenda, Ben,  
Tamara, Kathy, Michael, Gina, Families of St.  
John & St. James



## 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

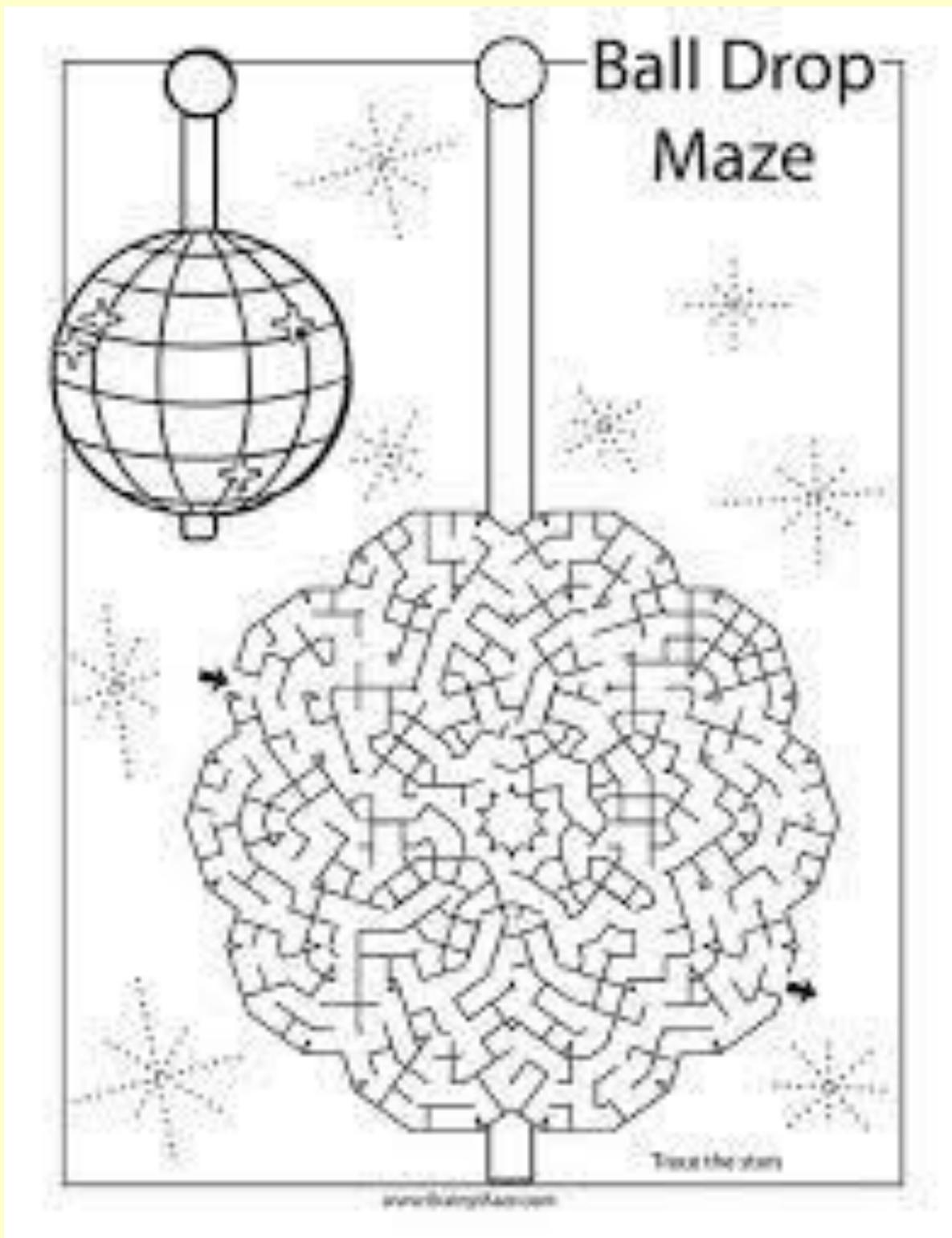
## Worship Ministry

**Volunteers Needed  
Please sign-up**

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

**\*\*Live streaming of Sunday Services will continue at 9:00am on the St. James Facebook page and St. Johns Sunday Services will continue at 11:00am on the St. Johns Facebook page. Both will be available as a video any time after the live streams.\*\***

Kid's Page



## New Year's Poem

### New Year Blessings

Here comes a brand new year,  
Lots of new things to explore,  
A clean, blank slate to write on,  
Fun happenings galore.

To you we wish the best of things,  
All the blessings a new year brings.

By Joanna Fuchs  
Poemsource.com



## Meeting Minutes / Reports

### St. Johns United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2021

Call to order:

Roll Call /Council Members: Georgia Phelan, Carolyn Hosford, Shari Faucher, Katie Phelan, Miriam Guyor, Pastor Rev. Ken Gadd    Absent: Don Weichert

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Miriam to approve agenda. Second by Carolyn, carried.

Minutes of last meeting: Motion by Shari to approve minutes as presented. Second by Carolyn, carried.

Calendar Updates: Christmas schedule: Mary Martha Guild Christmas Mtg., Dec. 8 at noon.  
Blue Christmas, Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m. at St. James.  
Christmas Eve Service: Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m. at St. John's  
Christmas Eve Service: Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m. at St. James  
Annual Meeting: January 16, 2022, after Sunday Service

#### Ministry Reports

##### 1. Worship

- a. New sign-up sheet for liturgists is on the table. Also need readers for Advent.
- b. Attendance discussion. A list will be drawn up of members we haven't seen recently with board members to make phone calls inviting them to return to services and letting them know they are missed. A Christmas Service schedule will be made to be mailed out and made available to members to share with friends and family.

##### 2. Fellowship

- a. Our Chili Potato Dinner financial report was reviewed. We will make sure to avoid conflict with St. James Chili Cook Off date next year.

##### 3. Outreach

- a. We will reach out to St. James regarding a cooperative effort with them in order to have more impact from our efforts. Will consider Blue Water Safe Horizons and Blue Water Area Humane Society as Outreach groups to assist.

##### 4. Spiritual Growth

- a. Prayer Group/Mary Martha.
- b. Sunday School report: Pastor Ken will look for "one room school" curriculum as lectionary curriculum based is divided into specific age groups.
- c. Women in the Bible discussion group in October went very well. Possibly do another discussion in the spring.

##### 5. Earthly Gifts

###### a. Treasurer's Reports

Shari made a motion to accept September Profit and Loss as corrected and October Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet as presented. Second by Carolyn. Carried.

b. Building & Grounds

Christmas decorating date will be scheduled.

Records/History Book update

Pastor's Report:

1. The 2022 Calendars are on the table for distribution.
2. Pastor Ken has had our piano tuned.
3. Pastor Ken has been passing out our information cards.

Unfinished Business

1. Motion by Shari not to renew our Marine City Area Chamber of Commerce membership. Second by Katie. Carried.
2. Draft use agreement/use of Community Room. Ken, Georgia. Ongoing.
3. Office filing system. Miriam will get file box and files from Ken's, organize and bring to church.
4. Community kitchen. Tabled to January.

New Business

1. Correspondence. We have received materials from the Boy Scouts of America regarding their bankruptcy and related information. Ken will review these.
2. Council Nominating Committee. Nominations not necessary at this time due to no terms expiring this year.
3. 2022 Budget/Finance Committee. Need to have the 2022 budget by the Annual Meeting in January. Georgia and Ken will be the committee.
4. Review Christmas gifts. We will give gifts to paid staff.
5. Advent activities; candles. Georgia will get a sign up sheet out.

Adjournment: Motion by Carolyn to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. and seconded by Katie. Carried.

Closing prayer: Pastor Ken

Next meeting: December 13, 6:30 p.m.

**Mary Martha Guild Report  
December 2021**

The December Mary Martha Guild meeting was held on December 8th. This was our annual Christmas Potluck. Eleven people were in attendance including spouses and special guests. A wonderful meal and visit were enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12, at noon in the fellowship room. Bring a sandwich. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Our hostess will be Carolyn Andrews.



**Scripture Readings for January**

**Sunday, January 2**

**Second Sunday After Christmas**

Jer 31: 7-14 or Sirah 24: 1-12  
Ps 147: 12-20 or Wisd of Sol 10: 15-21  
Eph 1: 13-14  
Jn 1: (1-9), 10-18

**Another Road**

**Sunday, January 16**

**Second Sunday After Epiphany**

Isa 62: 1-5  
Ps 36: 5-10  
1 Cor 12: 1-11  
Jn 2: 1-11

**Extravagant Sign**

**Sunday, January 9**

**The Baptism of Christ**

Isa 43: 1-7  
Ps 29  
Acts 8: 14-17  
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

**Affirmed by Love**

**Sunday, January 23**

**Third Sunday After Epiphany**

Neh 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Ps 19  
1 Cor 12; 12-31a  
Luke 4: 14-21

**Good News, Good Ways**

**Sunday, January 30**

**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

Jer 1: 4-10  
Ps 71: 1-6  
1 Cor 13; 1-13  
Luke 4: 21-30

**Prophet on the Edge**

12:02 PM

12/08/21

Cash Basis

**St. John United Church of Christ**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 November 2021

	Nov 21	Jan - Nov 21	% YTD
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Benevolence Offerings	0.00	300.00	0.0%
Christmas Offering	0.00	2,020.00	0.0%
Initial Offering	0.00	90.00	0.0%
Interest Income	0.39	14.32	2.7%
Lenten Service	0.00	180.00	0.0%
Memorial Fund	0.00	10.00	0.0%
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>			
Coffee Hour	39.00	150.04	26.0%
Fundraiser	6.00	1,097.06	0.5%
Refunds	0.00	50.00	0.0%
Rent	0.00	100.00	0.0%
TOPS #1564	20.00	140.00	14.3%
Tuesday Night AA	0.00	280.00	0.0%
<b>Total Miscellaneous Income</b>	<u>65.00</u>	<u>1,817.10</u>	<u>3.6%</u>
Other	0.00	90.00	0.0%
Plate Offering	3,332.00	44,075.35	7.6%
Scholarship Fund	0.00	350.00	0.0%
Social	0.00	50.00	0.0%
<b>Special Services Income</b>			
One Great Hour	0.00	30.00	0.0%
<b>Total Special Services Income</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>3,397.39</u>	<u>49,116.77</u>	<u>6.9%</u>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Bank Service Charges</b>			
Paypal Charge	0.00	3.51	0.0%
Bank Service Charges - Other	0.00	8.00	0.0%
<b>Total Bank Service Charges</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11.51</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Building Fund Expense</b>	0.00	1,094.99	0.0%
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	341.98	0.0%
Flower Expense	0.00	115.00	0.0%
Insurance Expense	0.00	2,677.00	0.0%
Internet and Phone	132.34	1,404.04	9.4%
Kitchen Supplies	0.00	43.90	0.0%
Licenses & Permits	0.00	130.00	0.0%
Office Supplies	0.00	235.98	0.0%
Payroll Expenses	3,195.00	34,508.20	9.0%
Postage and Delivery	50.00	213.00	27.2%
Printing and Reproduction	253.33	377.22	67.2%
Repairs and Maintenance	510.00	6,311.10	8.1%
Scholarship Fund Expenses	0.00	250.00	0.0%
Sunday School Supplies	0.00	18.47	0.0%
Utilities	432.05	3,901.41	11.1%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>4,502.38</u>	<u>51,630.96</u>	<u>8.7%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-1,104.99</u>	<u>-2,514.19</u>	<u>-44.0%</u>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
Interest Earned on CD	0.00	6.32	0.0%
Interest Earned on Money Market	3.10	29.27	11.0%
Rummage Sale	0.00	3,548.20	0.0%
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>3.10</u>	<u>3,583.79</u>	<u>0.1%</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>3.10</u>	<u>3,583.79</u>	<u>0.1%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>-1,101.89</u>	<u>1,069.60</u>	<u>-100.3%</u>

## Message from St. Johns Council President

Aaaannndddd... there goes 2021! No matter what's going on, I'm always incredulous on January 1<sup>st</sup> of how fast the previous year went by. It reminds me of something my mom used to say about raising kids- sometimes the days seem long, but the years just fly.

Looking back, it was heartening to recapture most of our normal congregational life. Sunday services each week, Lent and Easter, Advent and Christmas, Sunday School and all our other precious times of faith, including several discussion groups. Additional St. John's events like our Rummage and Bake Sales, Outdoor Service and Picnic, Chili Potato Dinner, and more strengthened our Christian commitment and fellowship in such trying times.

With our Christian faith in mind, we are extending our Outreach Ministry to reach those suffering the effects of the horrific tornado that tore through four states in early December. While I'm safe and warm in my home, I'm reminded that so many have lost theirs through this natural disaster. We, together with St. James', will be collecting monetary donations to send to an organization/church on the ground there to help these folks. We plan to send something in early January, so please make your donations soon. They may be in cash or checks made out to St. John's and marked Tornado Relief. Give your donation to Carolyn Hosford or myself or mail to St. John's UCC, PO Box 313, Marine City MI 48039.

Our Fellowship Room and Sanctuary look wonderful for the Christmas season! Many thanks to Bill and Mary Galvin, Sandy Fritz, Nelson Prange and Miriam Guyor. I joined them on the Friday after Thanksgiving to make our spiritual home beautiful for the holy season of Advent and Christmas.

Within just a few weeks, our Sunday School program collected quite a few hats and mittens on their tree and Miriam Guyor delivered them to the Marine City Old Newsboys just in time for distribution. Nice job!

IT'S BACK! Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 16, following our regular service. After not holding it in 2020, I'm pleased we're able to hold this meeting. Hopefully, the continuing Covid situation does not affect this decision, but at this time both our general vaccination status and lower attendance at St. John's make it feasible to meet. For those comfortable with it, a potluck meal will follow the meeting. Please sign up so that we know both how many will stay to eat and what dish you will bring.

Our giving envelopes for 2022 are now available. Please pick yours up from the table in the Fellowship Room. We appreciate your financial support of St. John's- this is what makes us able to be here. The last two years have been a challenge, but we're confident in the generosity of our church family here to get us back on track.

Many blessings as we finish out this year and head into the next with Christ at our side.

Georgia Phelan, Council President



## **January Activities**

Sunday, January 2 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am.

Sunday, January 9 – Sunday Worship – 11am.

Monday, January 10 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm.

Sunday, January 16 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am.

Sunday, January 23 – Sunday Worship – 11am.

Sunday, January 30- Sunday Worship with Healing – 11am.

## **Additional Activities**

### **Midwest Tornado Relief Collection**

Donations may be given to Carolyn Hosford or Georgia Phelan or mailed to St. John's UCC, P.O. Box 313, Marine City, MI 48039. We plan to send something in early January, so please make your donations soon. They may be in cash or checks made out to St. John's and marked Tornado Relief.

### **Sunday Services**

Sunday Service is in person 11:00 a.m. Service is also available via online streaming on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. If it is not available on our Facebook page, please try St. James' - it is the exact same service. Both will be available to view as a video any time after the live streams. [www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity](http://www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity) or [www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008](http://www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008).

### **Council Meetings**

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

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School meets Sunday during service.

### **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.

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We're on the Web!  
[stjohnsmarinecity.org](http://stjohnsmarinecity.org)



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER