

St. Johns United Church of Christ

News from Pastor Ken

February 2022

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Even though these continue to be interesting times, I continue to think of February as a month of hope even though it can be a challenging month with too little sun and too much cold. February finds itself strangely located between the festive holidays and not quite spring.

I particularly like the fact that this year Epiphany fills the entire month of February. Epiphany, the season of light, the season filled with ah-ha moments as we are invited back to the manger just like the wise men to experience Christ for the very first time, over and over again.

As I said earlier, I like to think of February as a month of hope. Epiphany keeps revealing itself to me every time I notice some little thing like driving home from a late afternoon appointment and realizing it is staying light outside later and later. Ahhh... Epiphany. Epiphany that moment when things are revealed to us. I love experiencing those ah-ha moments. Those are the moments when something becomes clear to me that was not clear to me before. I have been told and it has been proven to me that if we continue to maintain a working relationship with God, we WILL have spiritual experiences, awakenings if you will. This is not a maybe statement but an absolute statement. We just need to be aware enough to notice them. Is not that what Epiphany is all about. Learning to trust God enough to let God guide us and teach us, despite what we think is a better way. Allowing ourselves to learn how to grow and live more spirit filled lives. And then doing so. When we do that, we allow ourselves to be present to and experience a never-ending number of miracles that occur in us and around us.

For those who are anxious about whether you are ready to do what it is that God may call you to do, remember that God does not call the prepared but prepares the called.

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

During this Epiphany season, it is my hope that you allow God the opportunity to shine more brightly in you and through you. May each of us bring a little more light to the world that so desperately needs it, as we prepare ourselves for Lent.

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. And there is a place for you here.

Take care and be well, Peace
Ken

**Happy Birthdays in
February**

- 2-2 Carolyn Hosford
- 2-8 Lynn Andrews
- 2-9 Ron Leonard
- 2-18 John DeLude
- 2-26 Steve Andrews

Prayers For

.... Claudette, Shirley, Barb, David, Bev, Ralph, Rosemary, Sue, Frazer, Lee, Arnie, Wayne, Harvey, Lynn, Don, Lois, Marion, Tom, Brenda, Ben, Carolyn, Joy, Bill, Prange Family, Jenney, Wanda, Trisha, Ljupka (Lupe-ka), Tamara, Ken, Kathy, Michael, Gina, Jim, Faith, Linda, 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.****

Valentine's Day Word Search

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



- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine



Valentine Day's Poem



My Only Love

Just to say I love you
never seems enough.
I've said it so many times
I am afraid you won't understand
what I really mean when I say it.
How can so much feeling,
so much adoration possibly fit into
those three little words.
But until I find some other
way of saying what I feel, then
"I love you" will have to do.
So no matter how many times I say it,
never take it lightly, for you are my life,
and my only love.
I love you now more
than ever before.

Meeting Minutes / Reports

St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2021

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Shari to accept Agenda with changes. Second by Carolyn. Carried.

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

Calendar Updates: 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 service. Potluck Dinner.

Ministry Reports

1. Worship

- a. Sign up sheet for liturgists passed around for council members to sign up.
- b. Member phone contacts. All have received a call and/or postcard.
- c. Christmas Service postcards are being shared with friends, family, contact list and as a hand out.

2. Fellowship

- a. We are waiting to hear St. James Chili Cook Off date for 2022 before setting the date for our Chili Potato Dinner.

3. Outreach

- a. St. James cooperative efforts: we will begin by working on Christmas totes donations list with them.
- b. St. John's outreach: Blue Water Safe Horizons and Blue Water Area Humane Society will be tabled until January.

4. Spiritual Growth

- a. Prayer group/Mary Martha Guild: Christmas luncheon was Dec. 8 with a short meeting to discuss their donations for this year.
- b. Sunday School Report: Ken and Miriam will pick a "one room school" curriculum.

5. Earthly Gifts

- a. Treasurer's Reports: Reviewed Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet. Motion by Shari to accept the P&L and Balance Sheet as presented. Second by Don. Carried.
- b. Georgia talked to our bank manager and got online banking issues worked out.
- c. We are hoping to have the 2022 Budget prepared for review at the next meeting.
- d. End of year gifts: Same as 2020 except financial secretary and treasurer to be taken off the list. Motion by Carolyn to approve end of year gifts at a total of \$750. Second by Don. Carried.

Records/History Book

Pastor's Report

1. Pastor Ken is establishing cooperative ministry efforts at Young Funeral Home with support from Randy Young.
2. Contribution made to discretionary fund has been sorely needed.

Unfinished Business

1. Pastor Ken is working on reorganizing line items and setting up Profit and Loss into sections in line with our Ministry areas.
2. Draft use agreement/use of Community Room. Ongoing.
3. Office filing system.
4. Georgia checked into a new AT&T phone and internet plan that would save us \$500 per year. Motion by Miriam to switch to new AT&T phone/internet plan for \$75 per month with autopay. Second by Carolyn. Carried.

New Business

1. Annual Meeting reports need to be turned in as soon as possible.
2. Carolyn will handle the sign up for the Annual Meeting potluck.
3. St. John's will initiate a collection in cooperation with St. James to collect donations for relief of the tornado victims in the south. Georgia will announce at services.

Adjournment: Motion by Carolyn to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Second by Katie. Carried.

Closing prayer: Pastor Ken

Mary Martha Minutes from the meeting held on December 8, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 2pm by Loretta.

Members present: Loretta, Carolyn H., Brenda, and Lynn.

New Business - The balance in our checking account as of November 30, 2021 was \$675.21. We made \$592.50 from the bake sale we sponsored at the Chili Potato Dinner on October 23rd.

Donations of \$80.00 were collected at our Christmas Dinner, for a total balance in our checking account of \$755.21.

Motion was made by Lynn, seconded by Carolyn H., to make donations of \$120.00 to each of the following five organizations:

The Salvation Army, The MC Old Newsboys, Downriver Helping Hands, A New Dawn and the United Church of Christ's Our Churches Wider Missions. Motion carried.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 12 noon. Our hostess will be Carolyn Andrews.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Reh
Secretary/Treasurer

Scripture Readings for February

**Sunday, February 6
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany**

Isa 6; 1-8, (9-13)

Ps 138

1 Cor 15: 1-11

Luke 5: 1-11

A Surprising Catch

**Sunday, February 20
Seventh Sunday After Epiphany**

Gen 45: 3-11, 15

Ps 37: 1-11, 39-40

1 Cor 15: 35-38, 42-50

Luke 6: 27-38

Love Your Enemies

**Sunday, February 13
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany**

Jer 17: 5-10

Ps 1

1 Cor 15: 12-20

Luke 6: 17-26

Surprising Teaching

**Sunday, February 27
Transfiguration**

Ex 34: 29-35

Ps 99

2 Cor 3: 12 – 4:2

Luke 9: 28-36, (37-43a)

Astounding Glory

2:46 PM
01/09/22
Accrual Basis

St. John United Church of Christ
Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
December 2021

	Dec 21	Jan - Dec 21
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolence Offerings	0.00	390.00
Christmas Offering	790.00	2,810.00
Disaster Relief	750.00	750.00
Initial Offering	0.00	90.00
Interest Income	1.05	15.37
Lenten Service	0.00	180.00
Memorial Fund	0.00	10.00
Miscellaneous Income		
Coffee Hour	36.00	186.04
Fundraiser	0.00	1,097.06
Refunds	0.00	50.00
Rent	0.00	100.00
TOPS #1504	20.00	160.00
Tuesday Night AA	0.00	280.00
Total Miscellaneous Income	56.00	1,873.10
Other	0.00	90.00
Plate Offering	8,015.00	52,090.35
Scholarship Fund	0.00	350.00
Social	0.00	50.00
Special Services Income		
One Great Hour	0.00	30.00
Total Special Services Income	0.00	30.00
Total Income	9,622.05	58,738.82
Expenses		
Bank Service Charges		
Paypal Charge	0.00	3.51
Bank Service Charges - Other	0.00	8.00
Total Bank Service Charges	0.00	11.51
Building Fund Expense	0.00	1,094.99
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	341.98
Flower Expense	0.00	115.00
Insurance Expense	0.00	2,677.00
Internet and Phone	142.33	1,546.37
Kitchen Supplies	0.00	43.90
Licenses & Permits	0.00	130.00
Office Supplies	0.00	235.08
Payroll Expenses		
Christmas Gift	750.00	750.00
Payroll Expenses - Other	3,191.66	37,699.92
Total Payroll Expenses	3,941.66	38,449.92
Postage and Delivery	0.00	213.00
Printing and Reproduction	0.00	377.22
Repairs and Maintenance	175.00	6,486.10
Scholarship Fund Expenses	0.00	250.00
Sunday School Supplies	12.17	28.64
Utilities	270.00	4,171.41
Total Expense	4,541.16	56,172.12
Net Ordinary Income	5,080.89	2,566.70

2:46 PM
01/09/22
Accrual Basis

St. John United Church of Christ
Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
December 2021

	Dec 21	Jan - Dec 21
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Interest Earned on CD	3.22	9.94
Interest Earned on Money Market	0.00	28.27
Rummage Sale	0.00	3,546.20
Total Other Income	3.22	3,584.01
Net Other Income	3.22	3,584.01
Net Income	5,084.11	6,150.71

Message from St. Johns Council President

I love saving money! So I'm pleased to let you know we contacted A T & T about our phone and internet service and found we could change plans and save a lot of money for St. John's. Without losing any part of our service AND adding free battery back up service, we cut our bill by \$50 per month. Woo-hoo!

That's \$600 per year. I wish I could do that at home 😊

As previously shared, our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 13, following service. Please try to join us. Besides having a nominee for the open Council seat (you can also nominate someone there), we will be presenting updated By-Laws for your approval. This update was actually drafted and approved by Council over a year ago but had to wait until now to have a good representation of members available to vote on it. We need your input. If you can't be with us at the meeting, the draft version is attached to this newsletter, so let me know if you have any questions and I can pose them at the meeting.

I am so proud of our efforts on behalf of the shared fund drive with St. James' for tornado relief. Here at St. John's, we raised \$820! This will be combined with St. James' collection and will funnel through the Michigan Eastern Conference and One Great Hour of Sharing program to help those still struggling from this disaster.

Our new Sunday school curriculum has arrived. Many thanks to Pastor Ken for locating an appropriate program for our school and to Miriam Guyor and Lynn Andrews for their work with our youngest members. Our students are also starting a new Ministry for animals. They will be working with Council member Katie Phelan, Director of the Blue Water Area Humane Society, to support their efforts. A list of items needed will be shared with us for the kids to bring out to the shelter.

I don't know if anyone had noticed the sad state of the flags out front of our church, but the Michigan one was in such poor condition it had to be removed. Old Glory is following closely. Our Christian flag seems to be holding up. We have procured new U.S. and Michigan flags but are going to wait for the calmer weather of spring to raise them. I'm especially looking forward to this because it should coordinate with the blooming of the bulbs I planted under the flags last fall. My world can never have too many flowers in it- each one is like a little gift from God!

Remember to bring in your items for our ongoing Ministry collections (soon to include pet items):

- Christmas tote bags
- Mary Martha Guild food collection
-

A new sign-up list is available this week for Liturgists, Greeters and Ushers. Please participate!

In God's everlasting love-

Georgia



February Activities

Sunday, February 6 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am.

Sunday, February 13 – Sunday Worship – 11am.

Monday, February 14 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm.

Sunday, February 20 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am.

Sunday, February 27 – Sunday Worship – 11am.

Additional Activities

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 or www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008.

Council Meetings

Church Council's next meeting is February 14th 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.

Giving Lasts All Year!

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

School supplies:

Colored pencils/markers

Crayons

Pencil sharpeners/erasers

Scissors/rulers

Toothpaste/Floss

Washcloths

Socks- for ages 2-14

Headbands/barrettes/bows

Toys ages 2-14

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

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We're on the Web!
stjohnsmarinecity.org



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER