



# ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February  
March  
April

2024

*We are a family of Christians raising children in Christian faith.*

## From Our Interim Pastor

### Wang's Words

Last June, our son and daughter-in-law were married within the context of a beautiful, awe-inspiring Mass, filled with magnificent music. They are both musicians; our son is Music Director in a Catholic church and his wife teaches music in a Catholic school. Music was a huge part of their wedding. They hired a professional choir – The Mirandola Ensemble (check them out on YouTube). The music flowing from the balcony in the back of the large Catholic church sounded like it was coming directly from heaven!

Now, why am I telling you this? Please hear me out. The music was magnificent. There was not one bit of applause during the entire Mass. Had I bought a ticket to hear this group in concert, I would have most definitely applauded. In the context of worship, silence – awed silence – was the appropriate response.

You know where I'm going. Please hear me out! St. John has so many talented musicians, it is a joy and a blessing when they share their gifts in worship. Really, this church is truly blessed to have such wonderful music, and such a variety of music! You know that. You are grateful. And I am sure that is why you applaud after each musical offering. What if you didn't? (Hear me out!)

Twice recently, Alberto has respectfully asked for 15 seconds of silence after he sang a solo in worship – once when he sang an aria from Handel's Messiah, and again on Christmas Eve when he sang O Holy Night. Sometimes, silence is the best response.

I have talked to all of our musicians about this. They do not expect applause; in fact, sometimes it makes them feel awkward; are they supposed to take a bow? They are not performing for applause; they are offering their gifts for the glory of God.

I understand that sometimes spontaneous applause is appropriate [like when the woodwind quartet did that awesome postlude from the Nutcracker!]. When applause is more of an automatic response every time music is offered, I believe it loses something. Too much applause makes worship start to feel like a concert. (My opinion.)

Sometimes awed silence is the better response.

So I'm giving you a challenge – try some reflective silence when the gift of music is offered in worship. Then tell the musicians afterwards how much you appreciate them! Send them a note. Write a note for the newsletter – I'll start:

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING MUSICIANS WHO GIVE OF YOUR TIME AND TALENT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD! THANK YOU FOR THE WAY YOU INSPIRE US ALL. WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOU!

Peace,

**Pastor Judy**

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### Planned Giving to St. John

Have you ever thought about leaving something for St. John in your will or trust as part of your estate planning? Many of us give regularly to St. John, but we forget that we have the opportunity to continue to support St. John into the future. Faith communities rely on gifts that are given through estate planning, so if you've never considered this for you and your family, please consider remembering St. John. Contact the office if you have any questions.

### Online Giving

### Bible Study

Bible Study

Tuesday's at 10:00 A.M.

**BIBLE  
STUDY**

## From Our Financial Secretary

Welcome to 2024! The new offering envelopes have been picked up by those requiring them. If you have not received your new envelopes, please call me or the church office and we can mail some to you.

2023 was an excellent year for giving. Almost everyone who pledged for the year met that pledge and gave above their pledged amount. If one compares pledged amounts to actual, we received 5% more, or 105% of pledged amounts.

For the current year 2024, 56 units have given pledges to the church totaling approximately \$200,000 for the year. The remaining 25/30 units will give an estimated \$43,000 for the new year. We are thankful for those pledges and for the financial support of all. As everyone has experienced, costs keep rising and we are thankful for all who are able to increase their giving to meet the church's operating and program expenses.

If I may be of help to you in any way regarding your giving or if you need assistance changing how you give, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Lana Cochran, Financial Secretary**

## Gifts

### Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit

Interested in volunteering at St. John in a new area? Want to know more what opportunities there are? If you didn't get a chance to look about the "Share Your Time and Talents" brochure this fall, or fill in the "Sharing Your Gifts" survey, go ahead and do it now. Both booklets are in the book rack in the narthex. Leave the survey in the office, and we will make it part of our information.

Thanks to all who completed the "Sharing your Gifts 2023-2024" survey this fall. We are putting all the information together now, and passing it out to the committees at St. John so they can use it.

## From Our Moderator

St. John Members,

With the Christmas season behind us, we look forward to a new year of growth for St John. As I write this newsletter, church leadership is preparing for our annual congregational meeting. It is Sunday, January 28, immediately after church. Please plan to attend. This is an important meeting and we want and need our members to participate.

The search committee is moving forward with their work and making good progress on our church profile. Hopefully the profile will be completed soon and reviewed by our associate conference minister so that it can be sent out to prospective candidates. **Barb Blye** is heading our website development with Chris at Dekker Web Solutions. This was desperately needed to make St. John's website easier to use for members and non-members who are looking to find out more about our church. We are very fortunate to have someone with **Barb's** expertise leading us. Thank you **Barb**.

Many thanks to **Pastor Judy Wang** for leading us through our Christmas services after recouping from pneumonia. Also, **a big thank you to all who helped put up the church decorations and take them down.** The church looked beautiful as usual.

There have been many of us battling illness this year, hopefully the worst is behind us. I am hoping for a short winter and an early Spring as we all wait patiently for warmth and sunshine!

As a reminder, if you have not submitted your pledge, it is never too late! Your time, talent and financial support are needed and appreciated. I hope to see you all on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully,

**Your Moderator, Paul Giambarberee**

### Church Calendar

Did you know that all of St. John's events are on a calendar that you can find on our website, [www.stjah.org](http://www.stjah.org)? Once you're on the website, click "About St. John" and you will see Upcoming Events/Calendar. Click on that and you'll see the calendar.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Pizza Movie Night**

**Friday, April 5 at 6pm**

**Details to follow!**

# Annual Congregational Meeting

Thank you to all who attended the St. John Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28. A list of our 2024 leaders is below.

**Moderator:** Paul Giambarberree

**Treasurer:** Mike Wilson

**Assistant Treasurer:** Roland Cooper

**Financial Secretary:** Lana Cochran

**Assistant Financial Secretary:** Gail Tiedel

**Delegate:** Mary Santi

**Spiritual Life Committee:**

Barbara Blye    Cindy Giambarberree    Judy Grimes    Dave Landeweer

Holly Petersen    Dennis Roesslein    Chris Hill

**Stewardship Committee:**

Russ Crum    Doug Petersen    Kathie Schultz    Paul Thoms

**Facilities Committee:**

Paul Cochran    Ed Heiberger    Chad Kurka    Cliff Schultz    Wally Schultz

**Christian Education Committee:**

Ellen Burkhardt    Cicely Cooper    Danielle Hong    Dave Tashima    Lisa Zwilling

**Music Committee:**

Bob Burdick    Colleen Kave    Julie Kurka    Jay Virchow    Carin Zachar


**Mission Committee:**

Connie Wayman    Pam Ahrendt    Martha Ross-Mockaitis    Tom Mockaitis    Jay Virchow    Betsy Wilson





## Don Larson COOK-OFF




**Don Larson COOK-OFF**  
**Mac & Cheese**

**St. John United Church of Christ**  
**13th Annual Cook-off**

Sunday, March 10, 2024  
During Fellowship Hour

ADULT \$6.00  
CHILD \$3.00 (10 and under)

## Church Member Note



Merry Christmas To All,  
Hoping everyone is staying  
warm and healthy. We  
just had a very cold  
Spell and it reminded me  
of when I lived in the  
North! Here I know it soon  
will be back in the 70's  
and 80's and Sunny Florida  
Weather. Again, Merry  
Christmas.

With love in Christ,  
Edie Helfers

## Thank You Altar Guild

**SHOUT OUT** to our **Altar Guild**  
who always do a wonderful job  
preparing the altar and com-  
munion. **THANK YOU!**



## Giving to St. John

**Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John.**

In addition to giving at Sunday worship, there are 2 ways to give to St. John:

1. Go to [www.stjah.org](http://www.stjah.org) and click the "DONATE" button at the top of the page. Once on the Give page, click "DONATE." Consider signing up for recurring giving. It's easy and helps the church plan.
2. Mail your gift to St. John UCC, 308 N. Evergreen Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

*"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." Maya Angelou*

## Spiritual Life Committee

The **Spiritual Life Committee** continues to help with worship on Sunday mornings. Committee members serve as greeters, ushers, communion servers, provide the announcements and perform other duties as needed to help **Pastor Judy** provide for a smooth and meaningful service.

We've also been asking members to serve as scripture readers and to sign up for coffee servers for coffee hour after the Sunday service. The congregation has responded by signing up for the many slots for both. For those who have never volunteered for either, we would be glad to explain what is needed. In fact, for coffee hour, we would be glad to sign up with you to help. Just contact anyone on the committee and let us know what day you would be interested in.

**Called to Care** has kept busy reaching out to our home bound members and those feeling under the weather. A number of people in our congregation serve on that committee and we are extremely grateful for the service they provide to those in need.

We just finished up a busy and meaningful Advent and Christmas season. Something new this year was the Love Lights service which was well attended. Wednesday and Friday night PADS are off to a great start **thanks to the many dedicated volunteers**. Friday night PADS has moved to Congregational Church and will return to St. John later this winter. In addition, the Little Free Pantry continues to provide needed items for those less fortunate.

The Committee has been meeting monthly on the first Tuesday at 7pm at St. John. If you are interested in learning more about our committee and our work, feel free to reach out to anyone on the committee. The committee members include **Barbara Blye, Judy Grimes, Dennis Roesslein, Holly Petersen, Cindy Giambarberee, Chris Hill and Dave Landeweer**.

## Music Committee

The St. John Music Ministry was filled with exceptional music in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. We were also blessed with an amazing Advent Season of Music.

- Love Lights Service
- Caroling Recital "Songs of the Season" featuring Alberto and Colleen
- All Music Worship featuring Chancel Choir, BellTones, Orchestra, Worship Band and Paul and Linda at the Piano.
- Special Christmas Eve worship and music.
- **What a Joy to have our wonderful volunteers, musicians and our Directors!**



**My address and phone number have changed. I would love to hear from you!**

Joan Tangen  
800 W. Oakton Street, Suite #2210  
Arlington Heights IL 60004

(847) 463-3443

## Lenten Services

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
WORSHIP**  
Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m.



## Holy Week 2024



March 24<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday  
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday  
Service at 7:00 p.m.

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday  
Service at 7:00 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
March 31<sup>st</sup>  
Worship at 10:00 a.m.



## Food Pantry Donations

We're collecting food pantry donations every Sunday during worship. The kids will pick up food from you as you pass it to the center aisle. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

## Sunday Worship Livestream



Worship Livestream every Sunday at 10:00 A.M. / WORSHIP IS RECORDED!

## Cards

We play cards at St. John at 1:00 P.M. on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month. All are welcome!





January 8, 2024

Reverend Michael Jones  
St. John United Church of Christ  
308 N Evergreen Ave  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-6090

Dear Reverend Jones,

THANK YOU for your gift of \$500.00 to support our housing or pantry needs. It is appreciated by not only me but our families!

WINGS is fortunate to have a devoted staff and board who work to ensure the clients we serve have the opportunities and resources to move forward toward freedom, but we cannot do any of it without you.

These monetary donations truly help our clients in many ways. The most important way is by helping them make the critical decision to leave their abusive situation without worrying about how they will feed or provide hygiene items for their children.

It is a weight taken off many clients' shoulders to have these necessary items provided for them! Because of your help they can focus on overcoming trauma, accomplishing their goals, and moving forward in their healing journey to an enhanced quality of life.

With your support our families cannot only imagine what may seem impossible, but they can start to believe in it.

Gratefully,

  
Tabitha Nilson  
In-Kind Program Donations Supervisor

*We are excited to announce that our digital Annual Report is now available!*  
Scan this QR code to view:



WINGS Program, Inc. is a charitable organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3).  
No goods or services were furnished to you, in whole or part, for your donation, which is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. When donations exceed what is needed for a specific initiative, your generosity will be honored by using your gift where it has the most impact to support the clients of WINGS.  
Please consult your tax advisor and keep this receipt for your records.

P.O. Box 95615, Palatine, IL 60095 • Phone: 847.519.7820 • Fax: 847.519.7821  
wings@wingsprogram.com • www.wingsprogram.com



## Key Card Policy

The purpose of this policy is to optimize safety and security for church members, guests, visitors, employees, tenants, vendors and all others who visit the church.

All key card requests will be directed to the Pastor, Moderator, or Facilities Chair, whichever is appropriate. Upon their approval, the Church Administrator will program each key card and log the key card information (name, key card number, date activated, etc.) on the key card spreadsheet. The Key Card Request form must be completed for each request.

Church members who are on committees and those who volunteer regularly can request one activated key card at a time. If the key card is lost, the replacement cost is \$10 (current cost, subject to change).

Church employees will be given one activated key card at a time. If requested, the Pastor can have 2 activated key cards at a time. If a key card is lost, the replacement cost is \$10 (current cost, subject to change).

Tenants can request the number of key cards they require. The request must be submitted and approved by the Moderator. If a key card is lost, the replacement cost is \$10 (current cost, subject to change).

Facilities will authorize the Church Administrator to provide a key card, if needed, to a vendor for the time it takes for the contracted work to be completed. The vendor will return the key card to Facilities or the Church Administrator.

PADS Site Director(s) will authorize all key cards for PADS volunteers.

Key cards will not be issued to church guests, visitors, or children (under 18 years of age). Lost key cards will be deactivated immediately after reported to the Church Administrator. Key cards that are no longer needed must be returned to the Church Administrator. The list of key card holders will be reviewed annually by the Pastor, Moderator and Facilities Chair.

## Christian Ed Youth Group Meeting

The youth group will be meeting in Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 23rd at 6pm to make blankets for the homeless in Chicago. Pizza will be served. Please join us and bring a friend, all are welcome!

## Love Lights Service December 10, 2023

### In Memory:

Bob Albright  
Barb Bisping  
Patricia Callahan Bolin  
Sue Blanksma  
Grace Bonadonna  
Placido Bonadonna  
Howard Carlington  
Lorraine Carlington  
Russell Carlson  
Nancy Djangi  
John Donehoo  
Dorothy Esmail  
Susan Fischer  
Robert Frederick  
Walter & Lorraine Glander  
Edwin Krupela  
Donna Kubin  
Ed & Lorraine Kwayzer  
Carol-Jean Lewis  
Mel & Hazel my parents  
My Mark  
Hazel Nilson  
Richard Nilson  
Harriet Petersen  
Russell Petersen  
Joan Peterson  
Dick Rayner  
Tom & Nancy Riley  
Tom & Olive Riley  
Effie Roesslein  
Theodore Roesslein  
Patsy Roth  
Robert Runge  
Sheri  
Marlene Sowa  
Carol Stone  
Vernetta Stone  
William Stromberg  
Jim Vogt  
Jim Vogt

### In Memory:

Tussula & Harry Vombrack  
Lydia & Ed Widmer  
Betty & Raymond Wilson  
Todd Wilson  
Carol Yung

### In Honor:

Mae Block  
Norbert Block  
Bonnie Breedon  
Peggy Donehoo  
Ann Giambarberee  
Sam Giambarberee  
Jack Hanssen  
Olivia Hanssen  
Sharon Hanssen  
Dave Lewis  
Rick Lewis  
Scott Lewis  
Lily  
Alexis Morand  
Macks Morand  
David Nilson  
Melissa Nilson Bennett  
Holly & Doug Petersen Family  
Erin Schamber  
Harold Temple  
Darlene Vogt  
Jim Vogt, Jr. Family



## Love Lights Service (Continued)



### GETTING TO KNOW THE U.C.C.



**Break the Silence Sunday** is an effort to open up a conversation within the church about rape and sexual assault. Within the context of our faith communities we hope to:

- (1) acknowledge the reality of rape and sexual violence in our world;
- (2) support survivors by creating a place where they can tell their stories, feel loved and supported, and find encouragement on their healing journey;
- (3) commit ourselves to the work of changing the world, creating a future where rape is a memory.

Break the Silence Sunday was started by Rev. Moira Finley of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. At General Synod in 2019, in Milwaukee, the National UCC voted to make Break the Silence Sunday a dedicated Sunday on the church calendar, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in April.

Learn more at [breakthesilencesunday.org](http://breakthesilencesunday.org)

## Thank You from the Chicago Calligraphy Collective



Dear St. John's

On behalf of the Chicago Calligraphy Collective I would like to thank you for allowing us to host a calligraphy workshop in your lower level. The space was perfect and many attendees were very thankful to have a place to meet in person and practice their craft.

It is our hope in the future to return to St. John's for another workshop.

Thankyou again  
Karen Brooks  
Past. President of the  
Chicago Calligraphy Collective

## Women's Spiritual Group

We will be reading and discussing "The Practice of Finding: When Gratitude Leads the Way to Enough" by Holly W. Whitcomb. Read chapter 1 for February 22. The book is available in numerous places online, new and used. Questions? Contact Holly Petersen, Martha Ross-Mockaitis or Barbara Blye.

The Women's Spirituality group will continue to meet on Thursdays, February 22, March 7 and March 21 from 6:30pm-8:30pm in Fellowship Hall.



## Thank You from UCC



1300 East 9th St., Suite 1100  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
866.822.8224 ucc.org

October 21, 2023

St. John United Church of Christ  
308 N Evergreen Ave  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-6020

Dear Friends at St. John United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support disaster relief in Hawaii. Your gift of \$675.00 was received on 9/6/2023.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. Through your gift, families who have been displaced and need shelter and necessities will receive support. We are working with the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ, who are best equipped to assess and distribute for both short-term and long-term relief efforts. Please keep them in your prayers.

Your gift enables the church to be present with people amid this life-changing catastrophe, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery and support. With the help of our partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance. If you have questions regarding your donation, please feel free to contact us at [giving@ucc.org](mailto:giving@ucc.org) or 1-800-846-6822.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Thompson", followed by a horizontal line.

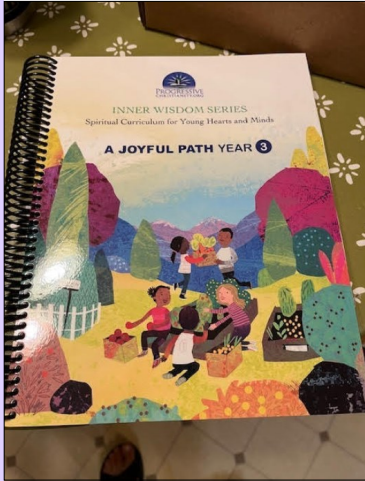
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson  
General Minister and President

*No goods or services were provided in return for this donation.  
Please keep a copy of this letter as a receipt for your taxes.*

## Pastoral Search Committee Update

As we continue our journey in search of a new pastor to lead our congregation, the **Pastoral Search Committee** would like to provide you with an update on our recent activities. Our committee has been meeting regularly in prayerful deliberation. Our current efforts are centered around completing the church profile. We've also been working on updating the church's website. Our goal is to complete the pastoral search process with diligence and thoroughness. We will keep you updated on our progress and provide updates. We appreciate your continued support and prayers during this pivotal time for our church. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the **Pastoral Search Committee**.

# Christian Ed Fun



## Contact INFORMATION

**My address has changed.**

**Jackie Nilson  
920 E. Northwest Highway  
Apt. 342  
Palatine, IL 60074**



## Christian Ed Fun (Continued)



As we celebrated Thanksgiving, the kids learned about gratitude and thankfulness as they created door hangers of the things in their lives that they were thankful for.

During Advent, the kids learned about the Four Themes of Advent. They made Advent wreathes to bring home as a reminder of the season. At the end the Advent, we hosted a holiday party. The kids decorated cookies, made ornaments, and read the Christmas story.

The Junior High and High School kids put together first aid packages for our PADS guests.

We plan to celebrate Valentine's Day with a party on Sunday, February 11.

For the Easter season, we will kick off the Heifer project for the Sunday school kids and we will host the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.

## Lenten Soup Sundays

Winter weather is officially here. Lent begins early this year...on February 14. What better way to warm your spirit, heart and hands than with a bowl of homemade soup??? St. John will celebrate Lent with Lenten Soup Sundays beginning February 18! Homemade soups and bread will be served by the four St. John committees and the Council on Sundays, February 18 through March 17 following worship. Pastor Judy will lead us in a brief reading/meditation each week. Come celebrate the season of Lent, get to know someone you do not yet know well over a steaming bowl of soup following worship, and celebrate the season of Lent with other St. John members and friends as we prepare our minds for Holy Week. A free-will offering will be collected.

**St. John Spiritual Life Committee**

# FamilyForward



12/27/23

Rev. Judy Wang  
St. John United Church of Christ  
308 North Evergreen Ave.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Dear Rev. Judy:

Happy New Year! On behalf of the families we help, I want to thank you and your members for your generous support of FamilyForward. We are so blessed! Your recent donation of \$1,025.00 on 12/21/23 is greatly appreciated and will help families who are struggling in our own community.

With your partnership, we continue to assist and empower low-income, working families to move toward self-sufficiency. We persist in helping our program families adapt to the ongoing financial turbulence created by the lasting effects of the pandemic, surging inflation, and out-of-control costs of daily living.

Even as we wrap up a year-long celebration of our 20th Anniversary in 2023, our focus remains on the here and now — the daily sources of financial stress and life challenges facing families in need across the northwest suburbs. We recognize that the need only continues to grow. More families within our own communities are struggling to pay increased rental-housing costs and other inflationary expenses while at the same time providing safe and secure environments for their children.

Thus, we are beyond grateful to all our dedicated donors, like you, who support our organization, allowing us to fulfill our mission. Please pass along our gratitude to the rest of your members. I look forward to continually developing our partnership and working together to better serve those in need.

So, we thank you. Together, we are transforming lives, one family at a time.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica Chianelli".

Erica Chianelli  
Executive Director

*Thank you so much!*

FamilyForward is a 501(c)3 organization, IRS number 56-2408453. Your donation is deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services of any value were or will be transferred to you in connection with this donation.

302 N. DUNTON AVE. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004

FAMILY-FORWARD.ORG 847-342-0846



## Stewardship Corner

We are always grateful for the generosity of the St. John congregation. In addition to regular giving, the congregation also participates in giving funds and in-kind gifts to many charitable requests.

Listed below are the donations of funds for outside requests that the congregation so generously made in 2023. Our thanks to everyone for their participation.

Disaster Relief – Primarily for Hurricane and Maui Fire Disasters	2,454
PADS to Hope -Including generous donation from Congregation United Church of Christ	4,894
Little Free Pantry – to supply pantry with needed goods	1,100
One Great Hour of Sharing	787
Neighbors in Need	870
Strengthen our Church	364
The Christmas Fund	525
Sunday School Project (adoption of child thru UCC)	516

## Christian Ed Valentine’s Celebration



### Sunday, February 11





Please join us in Sunday school for a Valentine’s celebration!

We will make valentines for our home bound members, decorate valentines’ cookies, play a few games, and most of all have some fun!

Come dressed in Valentine’s colors



Just A Note 1/14/2024

Hi LANA, & ALL


Thanks for sending my envelopes.

Hope Christmas was good for you & that 2024 will be better than 2023 - at least as for weather, we have had a COOL SPEC, no snow, but no sun either for FLORIDA.

ROBIN, Thanks.

With Love In Christ,

Eddie Helms



## Not Your Average Directory

Have you seen the new St. John Pictorial Directory that is up in the new fellowship area??? Many thanks to all those that submitted or had their photo taken. If you cannot find YOUR photo, it is not too late to submit one and be included! The burgundy box is still there in the new fellowship area awaiting your photo's arrival! You can even mail or email your photo to the church office. It must be 4"x6", on photo paper, if printed, vertical or horizontal, and list names as you want them printed from left to right. If you need your photo taken, contact one of the committee members.

**Many thanks for participating from the Spiritual Life Committee.**

**Dave Landeweer, Barbara Blye, Cindy Giambarberee, Judy Grimes,  
Holly Petersen & Dennis Roesslein**



*Karl*

## Christian Ed Annual Easter Egg Hunt

St. John United Church of Christ

Annual Easter Egg Hunt in North Park

Save the date! – Additional details to follow!



Please plan to join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31

Prizes and Easter eggs to be provided.





## PADS Update



Things are going well at St. John on Wednesday nights and at CUCC on Friday nights! Thank you for your continued support of the PADS program at St. John. The guests so appreciate all of your hospitality! **We need new and returning volunteers to sign up for food donations and serving all shifts!**

Journeys is looking for volunteers at the Hope Center (1140 E. Northwest Highway, Palatine) to volunteer on Saturday and Sundays so the Hope Center can be open for guests to have a warm place to stay on the weekends during the day. They need volunteers to man the front desk and serve in the kitchen to keep this program open. There are morning and afternoon shifts. Contact Danielle Kadamian ( Journey's Volunteer Coordinator) at [d.kadamian@journeystheroadhome.org](mailto:d.kadamian@journeystheroadhome.org), 847-963-9163 X 121.

We also have an Amazon Wish list if you would like to donate to our program:  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2A3ZJQSQFNZVJ?ref=wl\\_dp\\_view\\_your\\_list](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2A3ZJQSQFNZVJ?ref=wl_dp_view_your_list)

### **Wednesday Shifts Sign-up**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-pads1#/>

### **Wednesday Food/Meal servers Sign-up**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-202320241#/>

### **Friday Shifts Sign-up**

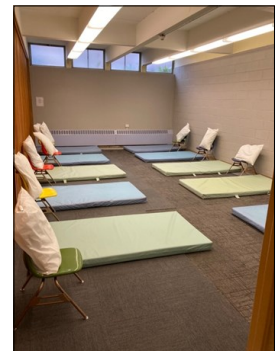
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-pads2#/>

### **Friday Food/meal servers Sign-up**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-202320242#/>

Please reach out to any team member with questions!  
Thanks so much for all of your support!

**The St. John PADS Team**





## Thanks for College Care Package!

I just received my college care package in the mail and it brightened my day so much. It was always my favorite day in Sunday school when we got to make these packages, so I can't believe that I actually just got one. I appreciate everything you do for our community and my family. So far in college it's been lots of hard work but also lots of fun. I'm looking forward to coming back to Arlington Heights and St. John in these upcoming breaks. I hope everyone is doing well!

Thanks again, **Chloe Brinson**

Dear St. John UCC,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the incredibly thoughtful care package that I just received in the mail. Your generosity and kindness have truly touched my heart, and I am filled with appreciation for the support I continue to receive from the St. John UCC community. Even when 700+ miles apart, your thoughtful gesture has reminded me of the strong sense of community we share at St. John UCC.

Your support means a great deal to me, and I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring and compassionate community. The items in the care package, along with your well wishes, have provided a much needed boost during the ever-challenging finals period up here in upstate New York.

Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity, and the unwavering support

Warm regards, **Alex Herazy**, *Cornell University '25*

Good Evening,

I want to express my gratitude and thanks for sending me a care package as I am away at college. It never fails to put a smile on my face and I always appreciate the thoughts and kind gifts of others.

College has been going great so far this semester! Although my schedule and extra curriculars have kept me on my toes, I have been enjoying every moment and opportunity that is presented to me. I'm looking forward to the last few weeks of the semester and being able to celebrate the holidays with my friends and family within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you, **Faith McNaney**

## Message from Treasurer

St. John continues to be in a strong financial position. Our generous congregation has faithfully supported the ongoing financial needs of our church through their pledges, weekly offerings and memorials. We also completed the capital campaign this year and are all enjoying the beautiful upgrades to our sanctuary and the other improvements to the building. Pledges and giving were 107% of budget for the year. This was an increase of 6% from 2022. Total income was 108.9% of budget, an increase of 10.7% from 2022. This is due in part from the income of the new preschool and by the generosity of our members. Our expenses resulted in a minor increase this year over 2022. This was primarily due to increased utility costs and the prep work required for the new preschool. We were 103.2% of the expense budget for 2023. While we budgeted a deficit of \$17,877 for 2023, our deficit in actual dollars was only \$1,996. Our balance sheet remains strong. We have about \$86,000 in unrestricted funds in the General Fund. The Building Fund has a balance of \$12,256.

### Other ongoing projects:

- We submitted documentation for an Employee Retention Credit (ERC) and are awaiting results from the IRS.
- We applied for a security grant through the State of Illinois. This program is designed to help houses of worship increase building security. Our proposal for camera and intercom systems was accepted by the State. We are in the process of completing all requirements and hope to begin installation of equipment later in 2024.

Respectfully submitted, **Mike Wilson, Treasurer**

### St. John Social



Did you miss the fun we had in December at our Potluck/Trivia gathering? Well mark your calendars so you don't miss any of the fun. We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6PM in Fellowship Hall. February 10th we celebrate Chinese New Year! March 9th we start our St. St. Patrick's Day celebration of the green a little early! Mark your calendars and see you there!

### St. John Book Club



Looking for a good book to read and then talk about? Well, join us as we welcome 2024 with a new set of books. We meet at church on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2PM. February 12th we will explore **Rez Dogs** by Joseph Bruchac as he takes us to a New England Indian Reservation during Covid. March 11th takes us back to the American Revolution with **A Girl Called Samson** by Amy Harmon. Join us and bring your suggestions for future titles. All are welcome.

## Mission

### Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of items that are ineligible for purchase with a SNAP card. Most helpful items would be diapers in sizes of 2, 4 or 5, baby wipes, feminine hygiene items, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, shampoo, dishwashing liquid, etc., and boxed cereal (name brands not necessary). Contact **Connie Wayman** with questions.



### Heifer Project

The Christian Ed committee and the Mission team will partner up working on the Heifer project during the Lenten season with the St. John youth this year. Contact **Tom Mockaitis** and/or **Ellen Burkhardt** for more information.



## RefugeeOne





A huge **THANK YOU** to those who contributed items to the RefugeeOne household goods drive. Along with FUMCAH and First Presbyterian of AH, we collected enough items to help set up apartments for at least one month of arrivals - likely more! The staff were excited, amazed, and so grateful when **Cicely Cooper** and **Jenn Borrell** pulled up with their vehicles packed to the gills with your donated items. Families will be just as excited and grateful to have the items set up for them as they start their new lives in the U.S. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated.



## Little Free Pantry Update

The Little Free Pantry has been well-utilized this season, with items like hand warmers and socks particularly quick to go. With more people enrolled in Journeys and PADS this year, there is clearly a continued need for aid. Warm weather items are welcome donations. Contact **Jay Virchow** or **Jenn Borrell** with questions.

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 1pm Cards 	<b>2</b> 7pm PADS	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b> 10am Worship & Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10am Bible Study 4:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Spiritual Life Committee Meeting	<b>7</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PADS	<b>8</b> 4pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting	<b>9</b> 7pm PADS	<b>10</b> 6pm St. John Social-Chinese New Year Potluck 
<b>11 Transfiguration</b> 10am Worship & Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour 11am CE Valentine's Day Party 	<b>12</b> 2pm Book Club 	<b>13</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Council Meeting	<b>14 Ash Wednesday</b> 4pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting 7pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm PADS	<b>15</b> 1pm Cards 	<b>16</b> 7pm PADS	<b>17</b>
<b>18 First Sunday in Lent</b> 10am Worship & Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour / Soup Supper	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Stewardship Meeting	<b>21</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PADS	<b>22</b> 4pm Brownies Troop Meeting 6:30pm Women's Spiritual Group	<b>23</b> 6pm CE Youth Group Meeting 7pm PADS	<b>24</b>
<b>25 Second Sunday in Lent</b> 10am Worship & Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour / Soup Supper	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7pm PADS	<b>29</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal		
		<b>Save the Date!</b>  <b>Mac &amp; Cheese Cook Off</b>  <b>Sunday, March 10</b> <b>11am</b>				



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February			
1st	Olivia Hanssen, Lisa Lewis	13th	Barbara Blye
2nd	Ken Peters	14th	Madelyn Riley
8th	Chloe Brinson	20th	Connie Wayman
10th	Marion Rayner	22nd	Erin Daniels
11th	Connor Kave	26th	Alyssa Dorszewski
		28th	Joan Tangen, Debra Cohen

March			
2nd	Cicely Cooper, Maureen Temple	17th	Laura Santi
3rd	Edie Helfers	22nd	Lizzie Johns
7th	Susan Kaiser, Kathy Winters, Kalani Polk	24th	Eileen Christensen, Gary Gephart, Penelope Tashima
10th	Sarah Larson	26th	Dawn McNaney
12th	Jake Donovan, Mackenzie Travis	29th	Amiee Stevens
15th	Lana Cochran	30th	Natalie Herazy
16th	Chris Hill, Joyce Pavelko	31st	Sharon Porter, John Salazar

April			
2nd	Janet Landeweer	20th	April Swenson
5th	Zoey Kurka, Isa Zielinski	21st	Eloise Berg, Laney Donovan
12th	Jane Olszowka	22nd	Roberta Morand
15th	Paul Giambarberee	23rd	Carol Heiberger
16th	Ed Hong, Gloria Vogel	26th	Bella Polk
17th	Adam Martin	28th	Marie Shurson



*Do we have your birthday? If not, please call the office and let us know!*

## March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7pm PADS	2
<p><b>3 Third Sunday in Lent Anniversary Sunday</b> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour / Soup Supper</p>	4	<p><b>5</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Spiritual Life Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>6</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PADS</p>	7 ♣♥♦♠	<p><b>8</b> 7pm PADS</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6pm St. John Social-St. Patrick's Day Potluck</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>
<p><b>10 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour / Soup Supper 11am Cook Off</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time begins</p>	<p><b>11</b> 2pm Book Club</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>BOOK CLUB</b></div>	<p><b>12</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b> 4pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PADS</p>	14	<p><b>15</b> 7pm PADS</p>	16
<p><b>17 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour / Soup Supper</p>	18	<p><b>19</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Stewardship Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>20</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PADS</p>	21 ♣♥♦♠	<p><b>22</b> 7pm PADS</p>	23
<p><b>24 Sixth Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday</b> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>	25	<p><b>26</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7pm PADS</p>	<p><b>28 Maundy Thursday</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Worship</p>	<p><b>29 Good Friday</b> 7pm Worship</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p><b>30 Holy Saturday</b></p>
<p><b>31 Easter</b> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour 11am CE Annual Easter Egg Hunt</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>						

# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><b>1</b> <i>Office Closed</i></p> <p><b>CLOSED</b> EASTER MONDAY</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Spiritual Life Committee Meet-</p>	<p><b>3</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PADS</p>	<p><b>4</b> 1pm Cards ♣♥♠♦ 4pm Girl Scouts Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b> 6pm CE Pizza Movie Night 7pm PADS</p>	<b>6</b>
<p><b>7</b> <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour</p>	<p><b>8</b> 2pm Book Club</p> <p><b>BOOK CLUB</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b> 4pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PADS</p>	<b>11</b>	<p><b>12</b> 7pm PADS</p>	<p><b>13</b> 6pm St. John Social</p>
<p><b>14</b> <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour</p>	<b>15</b>	<p><b>16</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Stewardship Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PADS</p>	<p><b>18</b> 1pm Cards ♣♥♠♦ 4pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7pm PADS</p>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>21</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour</p>	<b>22</b>	<p><b>23</b> 10am Bible Study 4:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 6pm Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7pm PADS</p>	<p><b>25</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>26</b> 7pm PADS</p>	<b>27</b>
<p><b>28</b> <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11am Coffee Hour</p>	<b>29</b>	<p><b>30</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Rehearsal</p>				



## Contact Us

St. John United Church of  
Christ  
308 N. Evergreen Avenue  
Arlington Heights, IL  
60004

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Office: 847.255.6687

Office Hours:  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

## Staff

Rev. Judy Wang, Interim Pastor— [pastor@stjah.org](mailto:pastor@stjah.org)

Janice Gilligan, Church Administrator – [office@stjah.org](mailto:office@stjah.org)

Dr. J. Paul Cochran, Organist & Orchestra Director

Linda Styzek, Pianist & Worship Band Coordinator

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director & Livestream Coordinator

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director



### ST. JOHN UCC OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT

*The congregation of St. John United Church of Christ rejoices that our community of faith is strengthened by diversity. We declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation, extending God's extravagant welcome to all people regardless of culture, economic status, age, sex, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, marital status, or physical/mental condition. We invite everyone to join our journey of faith and participate fully in the life of our congregation.*

St. John United Church of  
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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

