



Weekly News

November 15, 2023

Issue #147

St. John's United Church of Christ is an inclusive congregation where God's love is felt by all, for all, and in all we do through worship, mission, and community.

CALENDAR

Thursday (11/16):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room
	7:00PM	Chancel Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sunday (11/19):	10:30AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	12:00PM	Bell Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Tuesday (11/21):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room

WORSHIP

Join us for in-person worship **Sundays at 10:30AM.**
 Livestream worship is available on [St. John's YouTube channel](#)

<u>November 19</u> <i>Pastor Mark Anthony</i> <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>November 26</u> <i>Pastor Mark Anthony</i> <i>Reign of Christ</i>
Scripture: Ezekiel 34: 15-24 & Matthew 25: 31-46	Scripture: Hebrews 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9 & Matthew 27: 27-31
Sermon: Surprise!	Sermon: Reigning Compassion
Musical Offering: Gilead's Grace/God So Loved	Musical Offering: TBA
Liturgist: Elaine Pottenger	Liturgist: TBA
Acolytes: TBA	Acolytes: TBA
Godly Play: How the Church Tells Time (p.126)	Godly Play: The Prophets Show the Way (p.130)
Storyteller: Erin	Storyteller: Sharon



PLEDGE CARD REMINDER

Church Family & Friends: **Please remember to turn in your Stewardship Pledge Cards by Thursday, November 30th.** You are welcome to leave them in the church office or you can mail them directly to the church. If you lost your card or did not receive one, we have extra pledge cards on the table in the Assembly Room. We thank you for your donations and your time. Enjoy this beautiful holiday season!



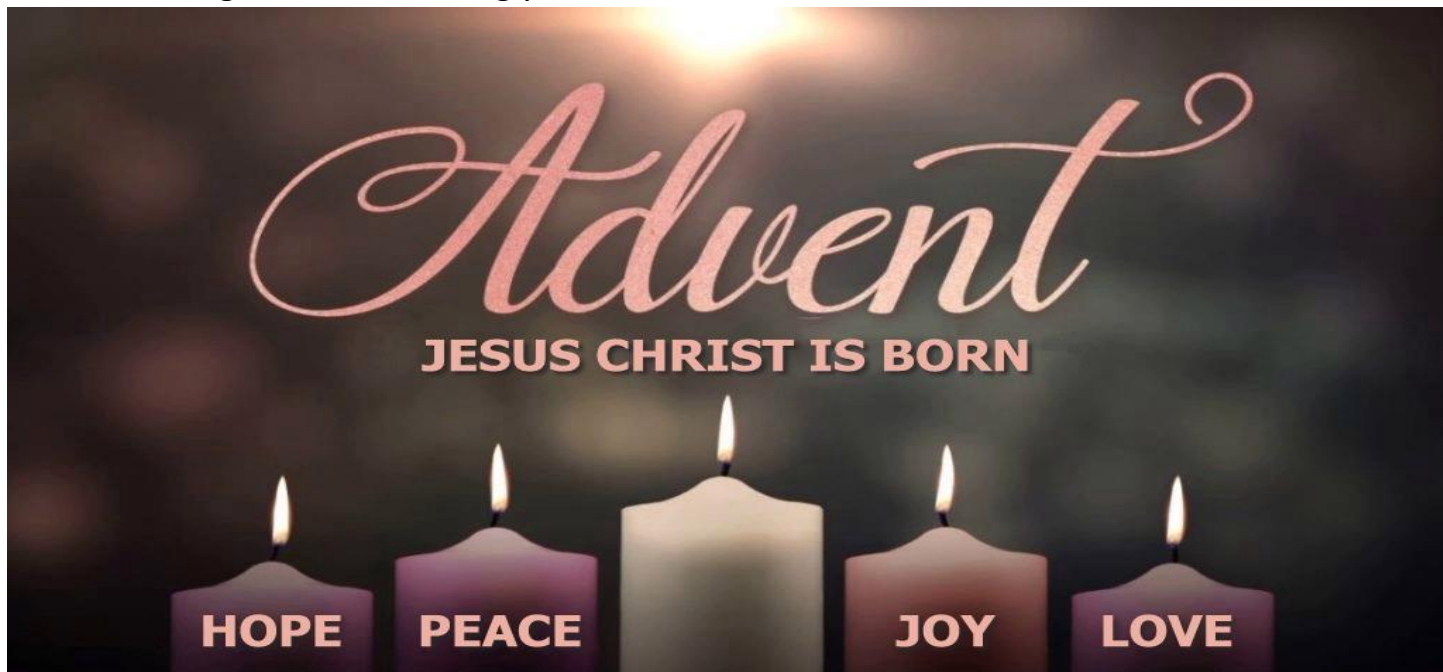
ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service, hosted by the Farmersville Ministerium, will take place this year on Sunday, November 19th, at 4:00 P.M., at the Farmersville United Church of Christ. Each participating church is invited to bring at least one dessert to share with everyone. This year, Pastor Mark Anthony from St. John's United Church of Christ in Germantown will be preaching. Join us as we gather together as one family of God to thank Him for His blessings this year!



ADVENT WORKSHOP

On November 26th, immediately following worship, Pizza, Chips and Drinks will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please see Brenda Williams or Erin Keister. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



ST. JOHN'S STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Members of St. John's UCC,

During the month of November, we will be conducting a stewardship campaign. Each Sunday during the month, a member of our congregation will be giving a personal statement about what St. John's means to them and why they think it is important to support the church financially. During this time, and by no later than November 26, you will be asked to return a pledge card indicating your estimate of 2024 giving. We will use this information to prepare the 2024 budget.

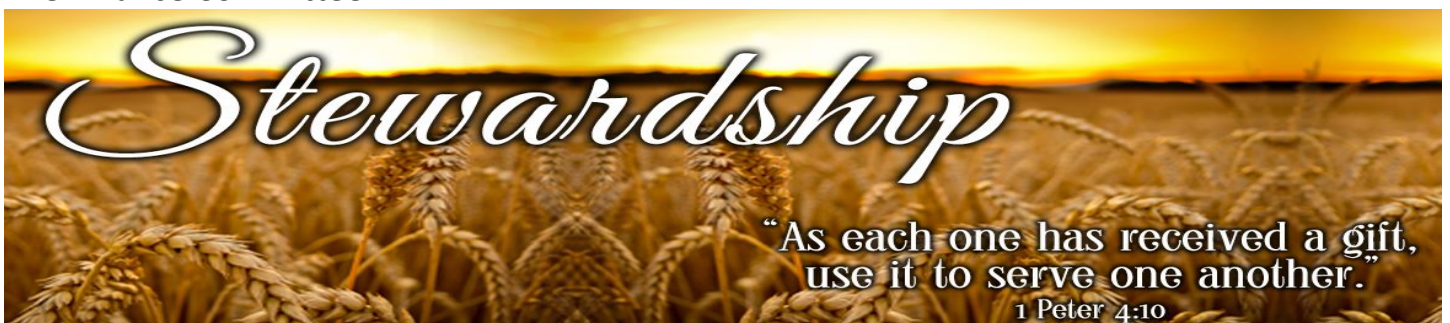
In the last decade, we have had only two years of surplus income over budgeted expenses. This has occurred even though during that same period of time our actual expenses have every year been lower than the budget approved at the annual congregational meeting. We have also had two separate occasions where we discussed finances with the congregation and asked for a vote on whether or not we should go to a part-time pastor in order to reduce our annual expenses. Both times, the congregation voted to maintain a full-time pastor.

We recognize that every family has multiple demands on its financial resources. Our goal this year is to have you think about the importance of your church to you and your family's well-being. Even though we don't DEMAND your support, we certainly NEED it. We cannot pay the salaries of our pastor, secretary, and music director, pay the utility bills or maintain our building and equipment without your support. We are asking that you consider what St. John's means to you, and how you are able to support it financially, then to make a commitment of financial support. Then we count on you to honor your commitment. If you make a pledge to give X dollars per week, that means we count on those funds even in the weeks you aren't in church.

We do not want you to feel that we are engaging in arm-twisting or financial bullying. We are asking that you prayerfully consider the amount you have been giving and ask yourself if you can find a way to increase that amount.

This church has a long history of rising to meet the need. We ask that you continue that tradition. Thank you for your support of St. John's UCC.

In God's love,
The Finance Committee



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests via email (secretarystjohns937@gmail.com) or by calling the church. They will be shared in our Weekly News and during online worship. Please make sure you make note of whether request is for Pastor/Elders only or to be published/shared via internet. Prayer requests shared during online worship do not include last names for privacy purposes. **If you have questions or want updates regarding anyone on our prayer lists, please contact the Church Office (937) 855-2050.**

Ongoing Care Circle: Dick, Danita, Mary Anne, Elaine, Vickie, Mary Louise, Margaret, Barbara.

Members of the Armed Forces: Chad, Christina, Robert.

Cancer Survivors: Gerald, Jackie, Dorris, Paul, Judy, Sarah, Elaine, Rhonda, Twila.



CONTACTS

Mark Anthony

PASTOR

pastormanthony45327@gmail.com

(937) 657-5347

Decker Jones

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST

deckerjones@sbcglobal.net

(937) 414-8693

Barbara Craycraft

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SecretaryStJohns937@gmail.com

(937) 855-2050

