



# Weekly News

November 29, 2023

Issue #149

**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 (11/30):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room
	7:00PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday (12/03):</b>	<b>10:30AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	12:00PM	Bell Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Tuesday (12/05):	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](#)

<b><u>December 3</u></b>	<b><u>Pastor Mark Anthony</u></b>	<b><u>December 10</u></b>	<b><u>Pastor Mark Anthony</u></b>
<b><i>First Sunday of Advent</i></b>		<b><i>Second Sunday of Advent</i></b>	
<b><i>Communion</i></b>			
Scripture: 1 Thess. 5: 1-11 & Mark 13: 24-37		Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-11 & Mark 1: 1-8	
Sermon: Stay Awake		Sermon: Incredible News	
Musical Offering: Chancel Choir/I Will Give Thanks		Musical Offering: TBA	
Liturgist: TBA		Liturgist: Brenda Williams	
Acolytes: TBA		Acolytes: TBA	
Godly Play: Mary and Joseph Show the Way (p.133)		Godly Play: The Shepherds Show the Way (p.136)	
Storyteller: Sharon		Storyteller: Erin	



## OUR CHRISTMAS FAMILY

Once again, we will gather Christmas items for a family this year. Tags with the specific information for each gift will be on the Christmas Tree in the Assembly Room soon. Please plan to help in this effort to make Christmas a time of joy for this family by providing one of these gifts.



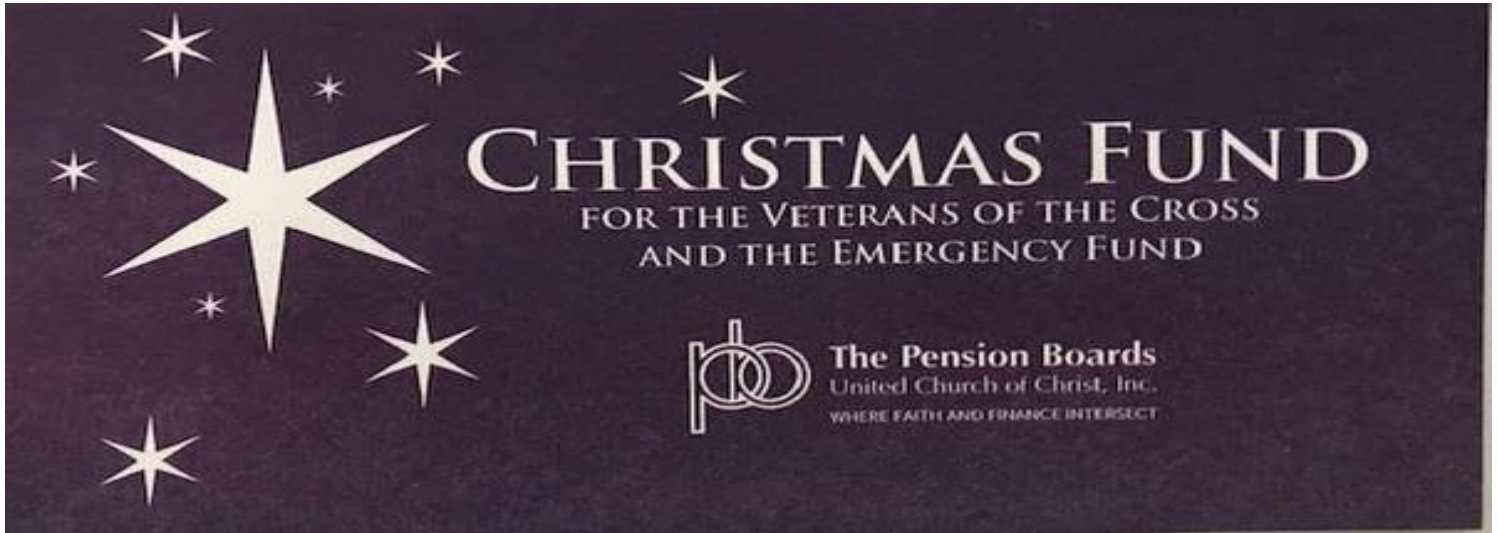
## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

We are introducing a **Blue Christmas Service** at St. John's this year. It will be held on **Thursday, December 21, 2023, which is the Winter Solstice, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.** The Christmas holiday can be a time of stress and loneliness for many, so this time of prayer and meditation is offered for the expression of grief, pain, and heartbreak as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope found in Christ. Anointing with Oil will be available for the strengthening of mind and body.



## CHRISTMAS FUND

On Christmas Eve, an offering for the UCC Christmas Fund, formerly known as the Veterans of the Cross collection, will be taken. This offering has been received for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Envelopes for this collection are available at the entrances to the church. In support of so many who spent their lives in service to the church, please consider giving a donation.



## ADVENT SEASON

As we approach the Advent Season, we again will have families lead the congregation in prayer by the Advent Candles each Sunday. We are still in need of volunteers for December 10 and 17. Families of any size, even one, are welcome! Please call the church office if you have questions or want to volunteer.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests via email ([secretarystjohns937@gmail.com](mailto: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, Cheryl.

**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](mailto:pastormanthony45327@gmail.com)

(937) 657-5347

**Decker Jones**

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST

[deckerjones@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deckerjones@sbcglobal.net)

(937) 414-8693

**Barbara Craycraft**

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

[SecretaryStJohns937@gmail.com](mailto:SecretaryStJohns937@gmail.com)

(937) 855-2050

