

**St. John's  
United Church**

# The Journal

**February 2012**

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## Pastor Katie's Note

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share with you an update on our visioning process, **Growing Together**. We are still in the "discovery" phase of our process -- where we are looking at our past and present in order to really understand where God is calling us in the future.

We completed the "past" phase of our process -- with the **Conference on the Past** in December. Results of that Conference are attached to this Journal. It was encouraging to your Visioning Team to discover such consensus around things that mattered to us in past that we wish to bring into our future.

The next step is to look at our present context. We are doing this in two ways:

First, the Council is doing an inventory on how well our church "works." Elders will spend their annual retreat in early March on this important work. Please pray for them!

Second, the Congregation will engage in discussions about how our culture impacts our life as a church family. These discussions, called "hypotheses" begin on February 5th and continue for five weeks. (Details about how to participate are printed on the back of the Results page.)

Present context includes both what's going on **inside** our church (i.e. how we "work") and **outside** our church (i.e. large cultural forces and their impact us.)

By taking a close look at this data from inside and outside our church, we will be well prepared to take the next step in our visioning process...

At the **Conference on the Present** we will discuss the challenges that lie before us and what strengths and resources we bring to meet those challenges. Like the **Conference on Past**, this event will be engaging, energizing, and fun.

From my perspective, what has made this process work so well has been the enthusiastic participation of so many of you -- both members and friends of our church family.

Let's keep it up!

Blessings, Katie

# Annual Congregational Meeting Addendum



**Our Addendum Meeting for the Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, February 12 after worship.**

We will be reviewing and approving 2011 Financial Reports and the 2012 Budget.

Make sure to pick up a copy of the Financial Report.

## Scrip News

### Scrip News

Don't go to the pumps without your SCRIP! Last year we made over \$3000 from your SCRIP purchases. In December, our profit was \$576. Let's keep up the momentum and have an even more profitable 2012.

Buy your gas, grocery, retail, and restaurant gift cards today!

In December, our profit was \$576.

## Watch Your Step

The Property and Maintenance Committee is asking everyone to please watch your step in the Sanctuary.

Our carpet can no longer be stretched tight to get rid of the bumps and folds.

We hope to replace most of the sanctuary carpet by spring, funded in part by your SCRIP purchases.  
[Did I read that correctly?]

We hope to replace most of the sanctuary carpet by spring, funded in part by your SCRIP purchases.  
[My SCRIP purchases can really help get new carpet?]

We hope to replace most of the sanctuary carpet by spring, funded in part by your SCRIP purchases.

Greg Smith	2
Meaghan Bailey	6
Roberta Neel	6
John Neel	7
Michelle Noe	8
Wynne Ton	9
Lily Tuter	9
Victoria Sundwall	9
Sue Klett	11
Brandon Fero	12
Michele Beck	15
Kelby Anderson	15
Christopher Tuter	16
Bob Cohn	20
Tom Clements	20
Luke Gipson	22
Martin Marciniak	22
Aimee Jablonski	22
David Fairchild	23
Tammie Fero	26
Dawn Mathys	26

# Hope Circle

This month's lesson, "Greatly Honored Are the Pure in Heart!" is based on Matthew 5:8; Psalm 24; Psalm 51:1-2. As we gather on Valentine's Day for this study, how appropriate it is that we consider the question, "How is your heart?" We will look at what our congregational and personal lives reflect about our hearts.

You will be hearing from and seeing members of Hope Circle as they assist the Mission Committee in promoting increased support of the Westchester Food Pantry and host hospitality after worship on the last Sunday of each month.

## Ash Wednesday

We will be joining with our neighbors at First United Methodist Church for our annual Ash Wednesday service. It will be held across the way at the Methodist Church. The service will take place on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 pm.

### Worship Committee

**Needed: people who care about worship!** The Worship Committee is looking for people to join us. We meet monthly to assist in the design and execution of Sunday Worship. Worship team members discuss changes to worship, learn about the theology of worship, and help make our Sundays shine! Interested? Speak to Kathy Lute or Pastor Katie.

### St. John's Youth Group

#### 9V Batteries Needed

Please continue to bring in 9V batteries to donate to the Youth Group Service Project. They will be giving these batteries to people in our neighborhood to charge their smoke detectors.

We will be delivering the batteries to homes in our neighborhood on February 12.

### Fun Day at Inmann's

To celebrate completing our service project, the St. John's Youth Group will be having a fun day at Inmann's in Valparaiso on Sunday, February 19th after worship. Cost is \$10 per person. Cost includes 2 games and shoe rental.

### Special Youth & Parents Meeting

There will be a very important meeting for all Youth Group members and parents on Sunday, February 26 after worship.

We will be discussing upcoming events and programs.

This will be a very important meeting especially for the youth.

## LEARNINGS FROM THE CONFERENCE ON THE PAST

St. John's United Church  
December 4, 2011

Observable Patterns and Themes	Supportive Data	Impact on the Present	Implications for the Future
#1 - Importance of youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Long history of supporting youth by sponsoring mission trips, camp scholarships, youth activities</li> <li>‣ Hiring youth director</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Keeping current members with children</li> <li>‣ Expanding youth activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Budget and staffing for future programs</li> <li>‣ Resources for Sunday School</li> <li>‣ Worship services that speak to youth</li> <li>‣ Regular children's sermons</li> </ul>
#2 - Importance of seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Concern about accessibility at church</li> <li>‣ Homebound visits</li> <li>‣ Women's Guild</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Continuing and expanding help for the needs of our seniors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Growing need due to aging of congregation</li> <li>‣ Continue to create opportunities for coming together</li> <li>‣ Learning to accept others' needs</li> <li>‣ Commitment of funds for building project</li> </ul>
#3 - Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Missions outside the church are a priority according to conference data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Greater need in local community</li> <li>‣ Education for youth by raising their awareness of needs of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Address the need for more volunteer involvement</li> <li>‣ Prioritize outreach opportunities</li> <li>‣ Explore new opportunities in our community</li> </ul>
#4 - Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Majority of people know, understand, and value the mission statement</li> <li>‣ Practice of welcoming hospitality</li> <li>‣ Atmosphere of acceptance</li> <li>‣ Seamless melding of denominations</li> <li>‣ Passing of the peace</li> <li>‣ Hiring open, caring pastor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Acceptance creates positive atmosphere</li> <li>‣ Sincere welcoming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Embrace mission statement</li> <li>‣ Address marketing of church</li> </ul>
#5 - Lack of conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Willingness to resolve conflicts as they occurred</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Absence of tension and assumed mutual trust within the congregation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Strong base from which to go forward</li> </ul>






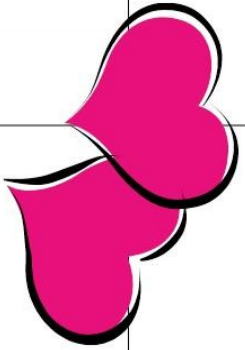
For our upcoming Conference on the Present...  
Plan to join one of the discussion groups each week, beginning Sunday, February 5th.

Times are Sunday 9:15 am, Yoder Room.

Sunday 12 noon, Fellowship Hall.

Monday 7 pm, Yoder Room.

# FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
5 9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship	6 Westchester Meals 6:00 pm - Worship Comm. 7:00 pm - Property Comm. 7:00 pm The Gathering	7 7:00 pm - Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm - Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 7:00 pm - Hope Circle	8 Westchester Meals 6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts	9 8:30 am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Round the Clock 8:00 pm - NA & Nar-Anon	10 Westchester Meals 8:00 pm - Al-Anon & A.A.	11
12 Addendum to Congregational Meeting 9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship	13 Westchester Meals 8:15 am - Good Steward Committee 7:00 pm - Building Comm. 7:00 pm The Gathering	14 6:30 pm - Finance Comm. 	15 Westchester Meals 6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts	16 8:30 am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Round the Clock 8:00 pm - NA & Nar-Anon	17 Westchester Meals 8:00 pm - Al-Anon & A.A.	18
19 9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Chime Choir 10:30 am - Worship	20 Westchester Meals <b>Journal Entry Deadline</b> 6:30 pm - Mission Comm. 	21 7:00 pm - Council Meeting 	22 Westchester Meals No Chime Choir 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday service @ UMC 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts 	23 8:30 am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Round the Clock 8:00 pm - NA & Nar-Anon	24 Westchester Meals 8:00 pm - Al-Anon & A.A.	25
26 9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship	27 Westchester Meals No Gathering Katie Away	28 6:15 pm - Deacons Meeting	29 Westchester Meals 6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:15 pm - Chancel Choir 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts			
						



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## ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

*United In Love*

*We are an accepting, diverse, and  
compassionate family of faith.*

**We're on the web!**  
[sjuchurch.org](http://sjuchurch.org)

*St. John's is a joined congregation of the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) .*

*Sunday School: 9:15 am.*

*Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am.*

*Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.*

*You can contact the office by phone or email:*

*(219) 926-1476*

*[office@sjuchurch.org](mailto:office@sjuchurch.org)*

*If you are in need of pastoral care or have a confidential matter, you can contact Pastor Katie Lindberg:*

*(219) 926-6281*

*[katie.lindberg@yahoo.com](mailto:katie.lindberg@yahoo.com)*

## **What does it mean to be a member of St. John's?**

Though there are many benefits to being a member of St. John's, let's get down to the basics. Membership means:

1. You can vote at congregational meetings.
2. You can serve as a deacon or elder.
3. St. John's pays a total of \$36.24 on your behalf to our two denominations.
4. You can...

Wait a minute. What was that about paying \$36.24 on my behalf? That's right. We report our membership to the greater Presbyterian and United Church of Christ denominations. Since we're a merged congregation, half of us are counted as Presbyterians and the other half UCC. So, there are about 200 members listed, and that equals about \$7,248 total paid to the two denominations. This \$36.24 per member is called per capita.

This year, the Council is asking people to consider paying their own per capita in addition to their pledged amount. As you can see, if each of us paid this \$36.24, our budgeted expense of \$7,248 to pay per capita could be eliminated.

Please submit your per capita offering of \$36.24 for each member in the per capita envelopes. Don't forget to include your names on the envelope.

Thank You,

The Good Steward Committee