

**St. John's
United Church**

The Journal

January 2012

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New Year's Anticipation

Dear Friends,

As I contemplate the New Year, I find myself looking forward to the events in February that will lead up to our next church-wide conference. December's **Conference on the Past** was well attended and very fruitful (not to mention fun!) I know that the **Conference on the Present** in March will be equally enjoyable.

But it is the events leading up to it that really excite me.

For the four Sundays in February your *Growing Together* team will host a series of discussion groups around four "hypotheses" -- challenging, provocative statements about church life in our current culture that we will test out in our discussions.

The purpose of the discussion topics is to stimulate reflection and conversation about key challenges and opportunities that face us as a church.

Each Sunday the sermon topic will address the week's "hypothesis." We will hold three discussion groups each week (same topic, different times and day) to engage each other around these hypothesis.

I am excited about these discussion groups for the simple reason that they will connect us to one another as we share our thoughts and feelings about things that really matter. The discussion groups build community.

We will be spending quality time together interacting, talking, laughing, sharing -- all as part of the process of discerning where God is leading us.

If you cannot make a discussion group every week, that's okay -- attend the weeks you can. Try to make all four though, if possible, because regular attendance increases your sense of being part of something.

Dates: Each Sunday in February. Times: Sundays 9:15 and again at 12 noon. Mondays at 7pm
Remember that you can come to a different group each week.

The "hypotheses" will be sent out to each household in January for you to read, ponder, and discuss ahead of time.

Blessings as we begin our New Year,

Katie

Qigong Practice Group

Need a little time for yourself to get re-energized? ...balanced? ...de-stressed? ...reconnected to God? Looking for better health?



You are invited to a

Qigong practice group on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Yoder Room, led by Pat Jackson, starting Dec. 29.

Qigong (pronounced Chee-gong) is energy work to achieve your best health. Through gentle active exercises and meditation you can open your body's energy channels and promote the flow of healing energy to balance mind, body, and spirit. Practicing qigong in a group setting helps us to do it more regularly and wherever two or more are gathered there God will be in the midst.

All health levels are welcome because the active exercises can be adapted to all abilities. It will last about an hour and a half, but you can leave early if you need to.

Hope Circle

Hope Circle will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, at Elaine Pell's, 1312 Griffin Lake Avenue.

We are on Lesson 5 of our study, *Confessing the Beatitudes*. This lesson, "Greatly Honored Are Those Who Show Mercy," is based on Matthew 5:7 and Luke 10:25-37. We will explore the meaning of the word mercy as it was understood during Jesus' time and how we personally and as a congregation can honor the merciful among us.

Matthew 5:7
Luke 10:25-37

Women's Guild

Women's Guild will take a winter break during January and February. Stay tuned for an exciting new year of gatherings starting on Wednesday, March 7.

Thank You!

Thank you, Rob Klett, for the beautiful tack boards for our Sunday School. They add color and interest to our area. -CYM and kids.

Sweetwine

One Sunday you don't want to miss! Join us Sunday, January 29th when Sweetwine, a music ministry group from Valparaiso University, makes their annual visit to St. John's to lead the congregation in Worship through song and message.



John 15:5, - I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Baptism Classes

Baptism classes for parents with small children or adults desiring baptism will be held January 4 & 11 at 6:30 pm. For more information contact Pastor Katie at (219) 928-6281 or email: katie.lindberg@yahoo.com



Deacon's Retreat/Training

Deacons gather for their annual retreat and training session on Saturday, January 14th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the home of Katie Lindberg, 705 Oakwood Dr. Chesterton, IN.

New Website

Keep your eyes open. Our website is getting a makeover. Target date is the end of January. If you have any ideas or suggestions speak to Brandon Long or Wendy Marciniak.

Youth Sunday

Join us Sunday January 15th as the Youth Ministries leads the congregation in prayer, song, readings, experience, and worship. After worship the parents of the youth will host the hospitality hour.

The Youth are learning the importance of the church being responsible for caring for our community in which we are planted. We are asking all members of the congregation to donate 9 volt batteries to be delivered among our neighborhood families for their smoke detectors. Each battery will be delivered with a little note letting the neighborhood know who we are and what we are about.



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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



Like us on

St. John's United Church is on Facebook. And to give us a better presence and make things easily accessible, we are changing our Facebook group to a Page. Now visitors will be able to follow everything going on here at St. John's.

To access the page, simply go to the current group and click on any post that has St. John's United Church in blue letters. This will take you to the new page where you can click the "Like" button at the top of the page.

We will be deleting the group in the coming future, so please move to the new page at your earliest convenience

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*

*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*



Sarah Ton	1/1	Marie Brown	1/13
Aby Matthys	1/1	J.J. Jablonski	1/14
Madeline Matthys	1/1	Mary Pool	1/16
Kathy Willfond	1/1	Dan Bloomquist	1/17
Ken Knowlton	1/1	Mark Sundwall	1/18
Jack Eshenaur	1/1	Lillian Swickard	1/20
Jayden Hughes	1/1	Alice Stepanovich	1/21
Olivia Stockhausen	1/1	Amy Bloomquist	1/23
Paula Camel	1/3	Maureen Tuter	1/24
Jerry Flatz	1/3	Elaine Pell	1/26
Alexandra O'Brien	1/8	David Read	1/27
Allison Read	1/12	Brooke Kravitz	1/30