

**St. John's  
United Church**

**October, 2011**

# The Journal

## In This Issue:

- Letter from Katie
- Women's Guild
- Hope Circle
- New Kitchen
- Clean-up
- Jeannette
- Youth Sunday
- Harp Concert
- Birthdays
- Calendars

## My Friends,

*When anyone is united to Christ, there is a new creation:  
The old order has gone, a new order has already begun!  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

We are about to launch "Growing Together"-- our missional transformation journey. This is a visioning process. We are going to be looking at where we have been as a church, where we are now, and where we discern God calling us to be in the future. "Growing Together" is different from other visioning processes we have done as a congregation. Here is how:

**God has a Mission  
God's Mission Needs a Church**

- We are not doing this alone! We are participating with a dozen or more churches in our Presbytery. Together the leadership teams of each church receive training, support, and coaching from The Center for Parish Development ([www.missionalchurch.org](http://www.missionalchurch.org)).
- We are focusing on missional transformation. We know that God has a mission. We know that God's mission needs a church. We will ask ourselves, how do we arrange our lives together in order to live out God's mission?

The transformational journey is:

**Participatory:** The process involves the entire congregation (friends and members) in a variety of ways and times, in gatherings large and small, in study, prayer, conversation, discernment, planning, and action.

**Missional:** The process is not based on marketing surveys or focus groups. Rather, we will engage one another in discerning God's call, looking at our current cultural context, and discovering life together as a community formed by the Holy Spirit.

**Strategic:** The congregation makes direction-setting decisions from a missional perspective. It makes decisions that will have long-term effects, impacting every aspect of our life together.

**Rewarding:** We will find this to be a learning journey of spiritual depth. We will experiment with and experience Christian community in new ways. Churches further along in the process report: "We are learning what it means to be the church and to live missionally." They have experienced new excitement and shared focus.

*(Letter continues on back page)*

## Women's Guild October 5th.

Women's Guild will hold their October meeting at Strongbow in Valparaiso on Wednesday, October 5.

**please note: We will meet there at 1 p.m. rather than our usual starting time of 12 noon.** Meal choices are a sliced turkey luncheon with all the trimmings (\$13) or all-meat turkey pie luncheon (\$11).

If you have not yet made your reservation, please do so with Karen Grant by Sunday, September 25. We have to give a final count to Strongbow that week.

Pastor Katie will share her sabbatical experience, "Journey to Chartres."

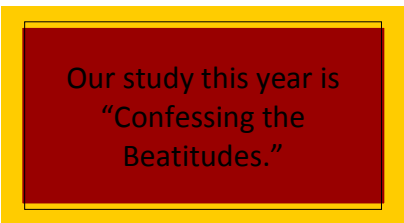
The mission items for Hilltop House are paper plates and bowls, napkins, and waxed paper.



## Hope Circle - October 11th.

Hope Circle began a new study in September but welcomes new members at any time. We are a small group of women who meet the second Tuesday evening of the month for Bible study, fellowship, and food. **Join us at 7 p.m. on October 11 at Carol Michaels' home, 739 Coffee Creek Road.**

Our study this year is "Confessing the Beatitudes."



The second lesson is based on Matthew 5:4 and Luke 6:21b, 25b. Jesus calls his disciples to honor the mourners and calls to account those who live a life of laughter unaffected by their neighbors' tears. Copies of the study book are available from Karen Grant, and the cost is \$8.50.

## New Kitchen and Bathrooms

After months of construction, the new bathrooms and kitchen were unveiled and blessed after worship on September 25th. A special presentation on Westchester Meals was given by Ryan Eash during service. Westchester Meals is just one

of many ministries that uses the kitchen of St. John's to provide meals to those in need. Plans are in the works to hold a soup kitchen in November to feed members of the community.



## Fall Clean-up Day - October 15th.

For 363 days of the year, it is the blessing and honor of the Property & Maintenance Committee and a dozen or so others to care for this building. It is a labor of love, and we are joyful as stewards of this building. Once in the spring and again in the fall, the Property Committee provides an opportunity for all of the members and friends of St John's United Church to join us in serving God by caring for His temple. We invite you to share in the joy on **Saturday, October 15th from 8:00AM to 12:00 noon.**

There is something for everyone. For you outdoor types, we will be planting raking leaves and cleaning up the lawn and parking lots. For those of you who prefer the comfort of the indoors, you can serve by vacuuming, dusting, washing windows. For those with small children, you can work while your children take a trip to the playground. For those of you with older children, you can watch while your teens joyfully do chores they won't do at home.

The real beauty of this stewardship opportunity, beyond glorifying our Lord, is that -- whether for an hour or for 4 hours -- you can honor God by doing chores that you all do regularly at home.

You don't need to prepare or study. You don't need to buy anything or spend any money. All we ask you to do is come and serve for a while -- an hour if that's all you have.

## Janeatte Dolk's 89th Birthday

Members of St. John's United Church celebrated the birthday of Jeanette Dolk. In honor of all the years of Jeannette writing birthday cards to members of the congregation, her family surprised her with a special birthday party after worship.



## Youth Sunday - October 23rd.

On Sunday, October 23rd, the children and youth will be leading the congregation in worship.

The youth will share testimonials about their Summer Mission Trip to Cincinnati, OH.



The Sunday School will be leading the congregation in some fun songs they have been learning during Sunday School.

## Friends of Francis Benefit Harp Concert

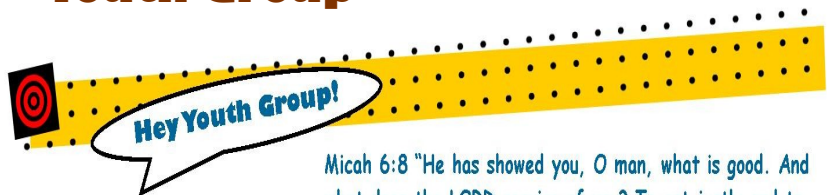
On Saturday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m., Cindy Shelhart (our Director of Music) will present her third annual "Friends of Francis" solo harp concert at St. John's to benefit local animals in need. Admission is free; proceeds from a freewill offering will benefit the Porter County Animal Shelter. Come enjoy Celtic and contemporary harp music, and help animals find a "forever home"! Contact Cindy at [harp@cynthiashelhart.com](mailto:harp@cynthiashelhart.com) or (219) 508-3558 for more information.

## Missional Church vs. Church With a Mission Program

A church with a mission program usually sees mission as one activity alongside many activities of the church—Christian Education, worship acts, hospitality, and other programs. A missional church focuses all of its activities around its participation in God's mission in the world. That means, it trains people for discipleship and witness; it worships and practices mutual support before the watching world. A church with a mission sends others to witness on its behalf. A missional church understands that the congregation itself is sent by God to proclaim and to be a sign of the reign of God.

Just as God sent Jesus,  
now Jesus sends the church  
(John 20: 21)

## Youth Group



Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

## Happy Birthday

- Diane Wrigley 10/1**
- Ross Blythe 10/5**
- Kayla VanNostran 10/7**
- Bob Perney 10/16**
- Andy Bloomquist 10/17**
- Drake Beck 10/19**
- Rob Klett 10/22**
- Laura Blythe 10/25**
- Gus Hultman 10/27**
- Rich Eshenaur 10/27**

## October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 5.5. 9:30 Worship 10:30am No YG	3	4	5	6	7	1 8 Paintball
9 5.5. 9:30 Worship 10:30am 12:00pm YG	10	11	12	13 House Devo 7th & 8th	14	15
16 5.5. 9:30am Worship 10:30am 12:00pm YG	17	18	19	20 House Devo Sen. High	21	22 Resale Shop
23 5.5. 9:30am Youth Sunday 10:30am 4:00pm YG @ Chelburg Farm	24	25	26	27 Fall Break...	28 ...	29 ...
30 5.5. 9:30am Worship 10:30am No YG	31					

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Pastor Jane Aicher

Brandon Long-Youth Leader

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[Brandon.long18@gmail.com](mailto:Brandon.long18@gmail.com)

# OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p><b>Growing Together Launched</b> No Chancel Choir</p> <p>9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship <b>No Youth Group</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>6:00 pm - Worship Comm.</p> <p>7:00 pm - Property Comm. 7:00 pm The Gathering/ New Creation Discussion</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 pm - Prayer Shawl <b>Knitting Group</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>1:00 pm - Women's Guild at Strongbow's</p> <p>6:00 pm - Chime Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30 am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Sunrise Restaurant</p> <p>8:00 pm - NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>8:00 pm - Al-Anon &amp; A.A.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00 pm - <b>Harp Concert for Animal Shelter</b></p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship</p> <p>12:00 pm - New Creation Discussion</p> <p><b>12:00 pm - Youth Group</b></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>8:15 am - Good Steward Committee</p> <p>7:00 pm - Building Comm. 7:00 pm The Gathering/ New Creation Discussion</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 pm - Finance Comm. 7:00 pm - Hope Circle at home of Carol Michaels</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Sunrise Restaurant</p> <p>8:00 pm - NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>8:00 pm - Al-Anon &amp; A.A.</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>Fall Clean-up</b> 8:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Chime Choir 10:30 am - Worship</p> <p>12:00 pm - New Creation Discussion</p> <p><b>12:00 pm - Youth Group</b></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>6:30 pm - Mission Comm. 7:00 pm The Gathering/ New Creation Discussion</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30 am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Sunrise Restaurant</p> <p>8:00 pm - NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>8:00 pm - Al-Anon &amp; A.A.</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>Fall Clean-up</b> Rain Date</p>
<p>23</p> <p><b>Youth Sunday</b></p> <p>9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship</p> <p>12:00 pm - New Creation Discussion</p> <p><b>4:00 pm - Youth Group at Chelburg Farm</b></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p><b>Journal Entry Deadline</b></p> <p>7:00 pm The Gathering/ New Creation Discussion</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 pm - Deacon Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts 7:15 pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Sunrise Restaurant</p> <p>8:00 pm - NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>8:00 pm - Al-Anon &amp; A.A.</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 11:30 am - Congregational Meeting</p> <p>12:00 pm - New Creation Discussion</p> <p><b>No Youth Group</b></p>	<p>31</p> <p>Westchester Meals</p> <p>7:00 pm The Gathering/ New Creation Discussion</p>					
						



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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.  
(Starting September 11th)*

*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)*

**Continued From Front Page**

The first step of "Growing Together" is participation in a series of five discussions around the theme: Behold a New Creation.

There will be three opportunities to participate in these discussion groups each week, beginning Sunday October 9.

Three times are: Sunday 9:15 Adult Sunday School (Yoder Room)  
Sunday 12:00 after worship (Fellowship Hall)  
Monday 7pm (Yoder Room)

They will last for 45 minutes. You can attend any one of them each week.

**It is vital that we all make the effort to participate at this early stage of our journey -- it will color the outcome of our future steps.**

I really believe in this process. I have been renewed already by the preparation so far. I hope you will participate to the best of your ability. You will not be disappointed.

Love,  
Katie