

Saint John's Journal

SEPTEMBER 2010

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE!

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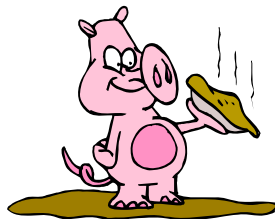
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Pig Roast & Pie Contest Sept. 12

On September 12, St. John's celebrates the return of fall with the Annual Pig Roast! Bake your favorite pie recipe and bring it for the Pie Baking contest.

You will need to bring your own table service as well as a dish to pass. Sign-up sheets are available at the Fellowship

If weather permits, The Pig Roast will be held outside. You are encouraged to bring yard games and lawn chairs! Invite your friends!!



Men, Dave and Tony invite you to the Men's Night Out at 9:00 p.m. the evening before the Hog Roast (Sept. 11) to meet the pig and support

This Week...

Monday (Aug. 30)
Praise Team Rehearsal

Tuesday (Aug. 31)
Back to School Picnic, 4-7 p.m. Lincoln Park

Friday (Sept. 1)
Food Truck

ONA Meeting

Today, after church, the Open and Affirming

St. John's United Church

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pass. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Fellowship board downstairs.

Hog Roast (Sept. 11) to roast the pig and prepare for the festivities.

Today, after church, the Open and Affirming Committee will hold a meeting to discuss details for the upcoming celebration.

If you are not on the committee and would like to help, please see Theresa Bileth.

Same God, Broader Approach

Worship Team has put on its creative cap planning autumn worship services. Recognizing that worship can take many forms, the team has encouraged a wider variety of music styles, the use of more instruments, and congregational participation beyond responsive prayers. The talents of more congregation members will deepen our time together in the sanctuary.

As new as the elements of our services may feel, we are worshipping the same God with the same activities

done in new ways.

Worship Team hopes you find the broader approach in worship meaningful, refreshing, and even toe-tapping!

Worship Centers Begin Sept. 12

The Fall 2010 teachers for Sunday School are Sue Garza, Christian and Theresa Bileth, Tammy Scott and Frank VanPelt.

Worship Center 1 (3 y—K) students are: Olivia, Katie, Nolan, Evan, Emily, Bella, Brook, Kayla and Austin.

Worship Center 2 (1st—3rd) students are:

Julia, Nathan, Everette, Sophia, Isabelle.

If we've left your child's name off the class lists please forgive us, and contact Frank Jenks, chair of the CE Team.

Our fall programs for children launch Sunday, Sept. 12.



NEVER PLACE A PERIOD WHERE GOD HAS PLACED A COMMA

Living Together in Love & Fellowship

Study Celtic Christian Spirituality

Through the centuries various ways to understand the Bible and practice rituals developed within Christianity.

Competition rather than peaceful co-existence developed. This fall Pastor Bill will guide a study on one of these marginalized forms of Christianity: Celtic Christian Spirituality.

With its emphasis on the practice of the presence of God, nature, community, and human goodness, Celtic expressions of our faith are be-

gins with a travel log from Pastor Bill's summer trip to Scotland. He invites you to join this 10 week study to learn new ways to read Scripture, worship, and practice our faith on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 15, 1:30 p.m. at church, and 7:15 p.m. at Pastor's home.

The Celtic Way by Ian Bradley will guide the study. Books are available for \$12 from Pastor.



Flu Shot

September 26, after church, Spectrum Health Visiting Nurses will be administering flu shots.

If you are interested in receiving a shot, the cost is \$30.00. Please see the list of insurance companies that they are able to accept. The list is posted on the Fellowship board.

The nurse asks for one or two volunteers to assist with signing in. Please consider helping.



Stewardship Update

Weekly Current Fund Need

\$ 2,800.00

Current Fund Offering

\$ 1,599.99

Current Fund Balance

- \$ 14,853.35

Celebrate Hospitality & Welcome

Attendance	
Aug. 1	71
Aug. 8	59
Aug. 15	61
Aug. 22	69

goodness, gentle expressions of our faith are being re-born.


The study group be-

Choir News

Choir Committee has set its schedule for the autumn season.

Rehearsals will happen on Sundays at 9 a.m. beginning Sept. 12.

Choir will sing in worship on Sundays, Oct 3, 17, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 5, and 19.

 Choir will include a variety of musical styles from classical to spirituals.

If you plan to sing in the choir, please contact Susan Newsom so she can have your music ready!

Celebrate Hospitality & Welcome

On Saturday, Oct. 16 St. John's UCC and our friends will gather to celebrate our history of Hospitality and Welcome. The banquet will include fantastic food, wonderful entertainment and meaningful celebration!

Our journey of hospitality and welcome began decades ago. That evening we'll tell the stories associated with each milestone along the way—from our refugee response in WWII, our welcome of women in leadership, our accessibility addition in the 1980s, to our Open and Affirm-

ing designation earlier this year.

How has our journey of hospitality and welcome touched *your* life?

Please jot your thoughts on paper or email and share them with the ONA celebra-



tion committee: Theresa Bileth, Frank VanPelt, Sue

Bradford, Ron Martell, Heidi Armock, Heather Morris, Christine Johnston and Roddy Wiggins.

Details regarding time and cost will be coming in weeks ahead. Mark your calendars now and plan to be part of this encouraging evening!

Serving the Wider Church and Community

Reaching Out to Families

St. John's will host a booth at the Grand Rapids Public Schools Back-to-School Picnic at Lincoln Park on Tuesday, August 31, 4-7 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to introduce our ministry to neighborhood families. We need volunteers to pre-

pare the display and help at the picnic.

Everyone interested in this new ministry opportunity with our schools is invited to meet this Wednesday (Aug. 25) at 6:30 p.m. at the church to determine our game plan. God has opened a door!



GWA Meeting

Grand West Association United Church of Christ's fall meeting is October 10, at First Congregational Church UCC 6330 Ada Dr., Ada. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m.

All clergy and churches in the GWA should make plans now to attend this important meeting. More to come.

Ramadan Ends

Our Muslim friends conclude the month-long celebration of Ramadan on September 10. The feast marking the end of Ramadan is called 'Id al-fitr and feels much like

Pilgrim Manor Calls Special Mtg.

Shareholder churches will meet in special session at Pilgrim Manor on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010 to consider offering new stock to Retirement Housing Foundation

A question/answer flier about the proposal is posted on the Mission Board in Fellowship Hall. You may direct questions to Pilgrim Manor at 458-1133.

**Next Mobile
Food Pantry**

fitr and feels much like the American Thanksgiving holiday.

Learn more about Ramadan and how you can observe it at the "Interfaith" page on our web site. To read how one church learned to stand in solidarity with Muslims pick up a copy of Ray Gaston's *A Heart Broken Open: radical faith in an age of fear*. "Ramadan mubarak!"

Undie Sundays

Undie Sunday has been extended until Sept. 12. Sew and Sews are collecting new, children's underwear and socks for Sibley Elementary School. Thank you to all participating in this ministry of hospitality!

Housing Foundation (RHF), the largest UCC housing provider in the U.S. If approved RHF would hold a 51% share in Pilgrim Manor, effectively acquiring the corporation.

Rosh Hashana

Our Jewish friends mark their new year at sundown on Sept. 8 when Rosh Hashanah begins. With apples and honey for a sweet year ahead, and bread crumbs cast on flowing water to carry away last year's sins, Rosh Hashanah initiates ten days of repentance. This time concludes at the end of Yom Kippur. Learn more about Rosh Hashanah at the "Interfaith" page on our web site.

Manor at 458-1133.

St. John's may send two voting delegates to this meeting along with their pastor. If you would like to be one of our delegates, please contact Tony Garza.

UCOM

UCOM honors Program Director and founders in a Gala Dinner of international foods on Tuesday, September 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 at 1311 Chicago Dr. SW in Wyoming.

Guest presenter is the Honorable Rev. George Heartwell, Mayor of Grand Rapids. Tickets are \$60 per person/\$500 per table. For more information visit UCOM on line at

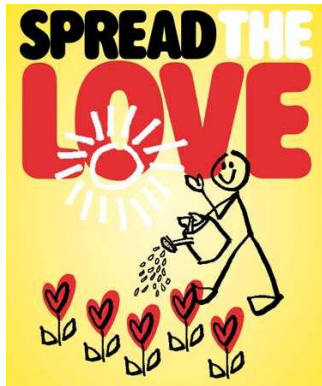
www.UCOMgr.org

Food Pantry

Food Truck This Thursday Sept. 2

On August 5, 106 family units were served, which represented 342 people.

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