

## December Events

### Breakfast with Santa

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
801 S. Mechanic St. Jackson Mi.  
517-784-7580

**December 19, 2015; 9am to 11 am**  
**Donation encouraged: \$5 a person or**  
**\$20 per family.**

**Pancakes, sausage, orange juice, milk**  
**The Christmas Story will be read. Crafts**  
**to be done.**

**Parents may take pictures with Santa.**

### Family Fun Night

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
801 S. Mechanic St. Jackson Mi.  
517-784-7580

**December 19, 2015; 6 pm to 9 pm.**  
**Donation encouraged**

**Please bring Finger Foods or Snacks**  
**Bring a Home Made gift to exchange**

### Christmas in the Community Holiday Dinner

**Tuesday December 22, 2015**  
**5:30 - 8:00 pm.**

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
801 S. Mechanic St. Jackson Mi.  
517-784-7580

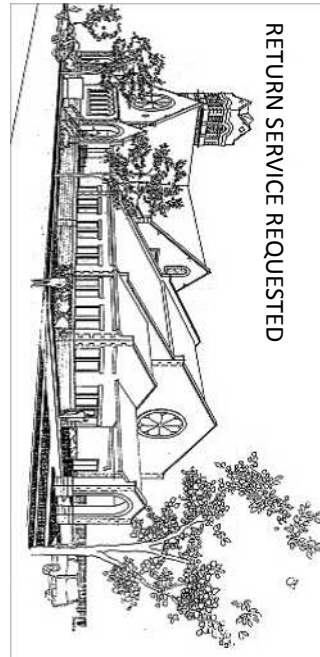
**ALL ARE INVITED!**

### A Community Christmas Dinner

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, at 2:00 pm.**  
**Queen's Parish Social Center**  
811 S. Wisner St. Jackson Mi.

**Please call for reservations and let them**  
**know if transportation is needed at**  
**784-9212**

**To volunteer your help call 524-7572**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St John's United Church of Christ  
801 South Mechanic Street  
Jackson, MI 49203-3022



## THE ENCOUNTER

Email: [www.unitedchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:www.unitedchurch@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.stjohnsuccjackson.org](http://www.stjohnsuccjackson.org)

Church office (517) 7847580

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Patricia Kenney

President: Mike Young

Secretary: Linda Reasoner



### Pastor Patti's Ponderings

#### Waiting and Hoping

When I was a little girl growing up in south side Chicago, my two younger brothers and I walked every Sunday morning to the nearest church to attend Sunday School. During the opening exercises, we would sing: "There's a welcome here, there's a welcome here, there's a Christian welcome here..." When I remember the words and melody, I feel a warmth deep inside. I am mindful of the kindness of Teacher Dolores, the wisdom of Mr. Paul, and the organization of Teacher Irene. They showed such tender love, extraordinary patience, and extravagant generosity. Never once did I hear them lament the fact that my parents did not volunteer or contribute to the life of the church. Never once did I hear them complain about my rambunctiousness and mischief. I looked forward to going; I expected stories and songs, little gifts for memorizing Bible verses, and life savers at Christmas time. Gradually, my landscape of faith, hope and love was planted and nurtured by this remarkable Christian community.

The Advent Season is upon us: a time of waiting and hoping for the coming of Christ—as a babe in the manger, in our hearts and the life of our community of faith, and at the end of the age. God is calling us to feel the Christian welcome embodied in Jesus the Christ, for you and for me, and for the gathered body of seekers and believers. God is calling us to pay attention, and notice the ways Jesus is incarnated for us in one another. God is calling us to step up, and recognize the ways we embody Christ for others within the community of faith and out in the world.

The best part to me is—we get to do all this together! We don't have to go it alone; we have one another to draw on for inspiration and strength. Like Mary and Joseph making the journey to Bethlehem, carrying the Christ child, we are embarking on our own journey to Bethlehem. We know where we are headed—and we know the way. We do not know what we will encounter along the way... blue skies or clouds, well-worn paths or new trails, friends or foes... but we do know this: God is with us. Emmanuel—"God-with-us" lights the path before us, walks beside us unfolding the Word of truth, and dwells within us, carrying our burdens for us.

I am so glad to be with you, and to walk this journey of faith together.

Patti Kenney, pastor and teacher

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
Paid  
JACKSON, MI  
PERMIT NO 439

# DECEMBER Events at St John's UCC

YOU ARE INVITED!

**Who?** All who love music or just want to sing.

**What?** Sing praise songs, Gospel, Hymns new and old

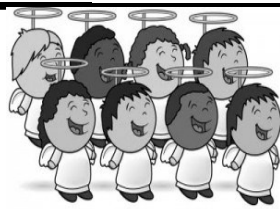
**When?** 9:15 a.m. on Sundays

**Where?** St John's UCC in the Sunday School room

**Why?** For personal Joy, comfort and blessing, because it is fun

With Love, Jan Middlebrook

Questions call 764-0590



Senior Choir is beginning to rehearse for the Advent/Christmas season. If you would like to join the choir to celebrate the season, please join us. We rehearse on Thursdays at 7:30. We would love to have you join us!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

2<sup>nd</sup> Eric Allen

Lois Tiffany

Eric Stadnikia

John Smeltzer

3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Dinges

Jennifer Ostrander

4<sup>th</sup> Barb Byrum

Michelle Pratt

5<sup>th</sup> Charles Dickerson

Isaiah Horsely

6<sup>th</sup> Marjorie Hochstetler

7<sup>th</sup> Latasha Canter

Sharon Glance

Lucas Richmond

8<sup>th</sup> Robert Harkness

10<sup>th</sup> Kimberly Trudell

11<sup>th</sup> Kevin Handloser

13<sup>th</sup> Sean Bischoff

14<sup>th</sup> Dylan Trudell

15<sup>th</sup> Zachary Handloser

Sarah Henry

17<sup>th</sup> Kristin Rose

Jakob Bugbee

Christopher Staton

18<sup>th</sup> Harry Wilson

19<sup>th</sup> Mae Covington

Pastor Sue Weier

22<sup>nd</sup> Olivia Schroeder

Jacqueline Stone

23<sup>rd</sup> Annetta Waldron

24<sup>th</sup> Thom Rathbun

25<sup>th</sup> Andrew Carey-Young

Jeff Houser

28<sup>th</sup> Hannah Schuler

Kristi Handloser

31<sup>st</sup> Louise Cole

Brittany Kinstle

Shannon Brooks

Jean Cole

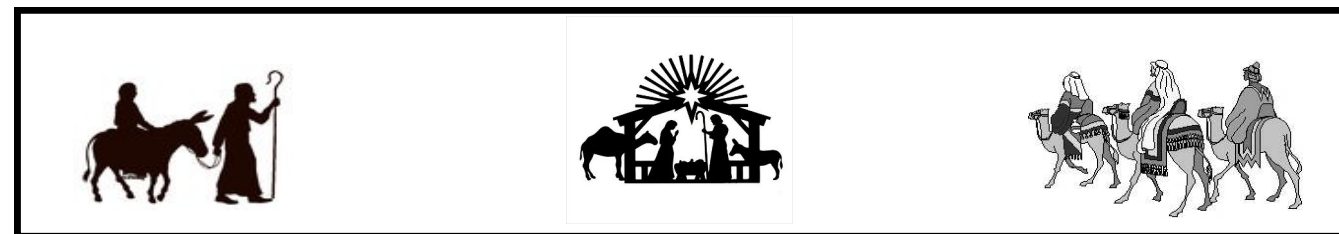
Faith Smith

*Happy  
Birthday*

# December Schedule 2015

	6	13	20	24 <i>Christmas Eve- 11:00</i>	27
Driver	M B DORSEY	R POOR	W BEAVERS		C ROBINSON
Worship	G REASONER	S SMITH	J BENEDICT		G JOHNSON
Greeter	J ALLEN	M TITTLER	L CANTER		M B DORSEY
Greeter	M DUBOIS	W BEAVERS	E BOLENBAUGH		J BENEDICT
Greeter	L CUBILE	N HACKWORTH	J & R NELSON		D BENEDICT
Greeter	L MOORE	A BONNER	M DUBOIS		A BONNER
Greeter	M ORT	B PARKS	D CHESNEY		B PARKS
Usher	E HANDLOSER	G REASONER	N HACKWORTH		B BYRUM
Usher	J BENEDICT	M DUBOIS	B PARKS		S SMITH
Usher	B HARKNESS	J ROGGENBUK	D WOODRUFF		B & S SISK
Usher	D BENEDICT	T SCHROEDER	L CHASE		J & R NELSON
Usher	W BEAVERS	MB DORSEY	A BONNER		D CHESNEY
Usher					
Crib					
Commun	J BUMPUS			P SMELTZER	
Commun	A SCHROEDER			S SMITH	
Coffee					
Coffee					

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**



## BRIDGES TO JUSTICE MASS INCARCERATION CAUSES, COSTS, REFORMS



- Monday, Dec.7 Challenges of Mental Health: Before, during and after Incarceration.
- Monday, Jan. 4 Challenges on the Inside
- Monday, Feb. 1 Challenges for Families
- Monday, Mar. 7 Challenges of Parole and Re-entry
- Monday, Apr. 4 Community Policing
- Monday, May 2 Bridges to Justice

All Forums will be held from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

St John's United Church of Christ  
801 S. Mechanic St.

[www.JACRAA.com](http://www.JACRAA.com)

### Crossroad Child & Family Services

PLEASE CLIP Campbell's UPC codes and Box Tops for Education for Crossroad Child & Family Services.

#### Please send to:

Zenovia Pearson  
Crossroad Development Office  
2525 Lake Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN. 46805



## Priceless Gift Store

*The Priceless Gift Toy Store Plans to be open 12 days again this Christmas,*

**November 27 through December 17**

*Wed thru Sat., 1:00 to 5:00 pm. & Thurs. Dec 3rd and 10th until 7pm*

*730 Tomlinson St. Jackson, MI **ADULTS ONLY!!!***

### Help create cash for the offset of loss of funds from Head Start moving out!!!!

**When:** *December 5, 2015*

**Where:** *Basement of St. John's UCC 801 S. Mechanic St. (enter on Biddle Street)*

**Time:** *9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

**Wanted:**

- ◆ *Second chance to get that garage, closet or cupboard cleaned out and bring in to us your "stuff" you no longer want or need.....*
- ◆ *Decorate your home, find out you have too many decorations, donate to our Rummage sale.*
- ◆ *Volunteers to price items!!!*
- ◆ *Volunteers to help Set up in Headstart Rooms in basement.*
- ◆ *People to work the day of sale and of course a clean-up group too.*
- ◆ *Would be great to have a snack bar and/or bake sale table. People were hoping for a bake sale last time so let's make it happen this time. Anyone up to getting that together can call Linda Reasoner at 517-784-7580.*

*Please contact Linda Reasoner at 517-784-7580 for any questions or suggestions or signing up for this project.*



### PartnershipPark/St. John's United Church of Christ United Center Community Dinner.

*Please bring a passing dish. Meat will be provided.*

St John's UCC & Partnership Park present

### **Annual "Eve on the Ave" 5K Run/Walk**



Celebrate Downtown Jackson

**December 31 at 10pm Call 784-7580 for details**

### **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

**When:** *December 19, 2015*

**Time:** *Starts 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M..*

**Where:** *St John's United Church of Christ  
801 S. Mechanic St  
Jackson, Mi. 49203*

*Donation encouraged; \$5 a person or \$20 per family. Menu: Pancakes, Sausage, Juice & Milk.*



### Christmas in the Community

**Holiday Dinner**

**Tuesday Dec 22nd**

**5:30-8:00pm**








**St Johns UCC**

**801 S Mechanic St. Jackson, Mi. 49203**

**All are Invited!**



# DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1 PPDNA - 4:30 P.M.</b> 	<b>2 United Center for Caring - 5:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship Committee 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>3 NAACP - 6:00 P.M.</b> <b>Cherub Choir: 5:30 p.m.</b> <b>Youth Choir: 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Senior Choir: 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 CHRISTMAS RUMMAGE SALE! 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.</b>  <b>JACRAA:12:00-4:00</b>
<b>6 Adult Bible Study 9:00a.m.</b> <b>Good News Choir II 9:15a.m.</b> <b>Worship 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>7JACRAA - 6:00 to 9:00p.m.</b> 	<b>8 COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 p.m.</b> 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Cherub Choir: 5:30 p.m.</b> <b>Youth Choir: 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Senior Choir: 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13Adult Bible Study 9:00a.m.</b> <b>Good News Choir II 9:15a.m.</b> <b>Worship 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Cherub Choir: 5:30 p.m.</b> <b>Youth Choir: 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Senior Choir: 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>18 Food Pantry 10:00 am. To Noon</b> 	<b>19 Breakfast with Santa 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Family Fun Night 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</b>
<b>20Adult Bible Study 9:00a.m.</b> <b>Good News Choir II 9:15a.m.</b> <b>Worship 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER</b>  <i>Time: 5:30 p.m.</i> <i>St John's UCC</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES</b> <b>Early Service - 7:00 pm.</b> <b>Late Service - 11:00 pm.</b>	<b>25 Merry Christmas!</b> 	<b>26</b>
<b>27Adult Bible Study 9:00a.m.</b> <b>Good News Choir II 9:15a.m.</b> <b>Worship 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29 PPDNA - 4:30 P.M.</b> 	<b>30</b>	<b>31Cherub Choir: 5:3p.m.</b> <b>Youth Choir: 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Senior Choir: 7:30 p.m.</b> <b>Eve on the Run!! 5K Walk /Run starting at 10:00pm. St John's</b>		

**REMINDERS!!!!**

**Resolution Adopted by the Michigan Conference**

**“Proclaim Release to the Captives”**

WHEREAS: the United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, 6 to 10 times greater than other industrialized nations, even surpassing repressive regimes like Russia, China, and Iran;

AND WHEREAS: rates of incarceration in the U.S. have quintupled in the past 40 years, with persons of color, especially black men, jailed in vastly disproportionate numbers, more than half for non-violent crimes, and receiving much longer sentences than white persons for the same offenses;

AND WHEREAS: the so-called "War on Drugs" has become the primary mechanism for a vast pervasive system of racialized social control: while a majority of illegal drug users are white, three-quarters of people imprisoned for drug use are persons of color;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that we the Michigan Conference, United Church of Christ, in the Spirit of Jesus who proclaims "Release to the captives and recovery of Sight to the blind," and says that the way we treat prisoners is the way we treat him, express to all elected officials in our Communities, Counties, State and Nation our pro found concern and moral outrage regarding this unjust system of mass incarceration.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team and the Associations work to educate the people and congregations of the Conference, and lead them into advocacy to dramatically change this unjust system at all levels of our society;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that we support all activities that would achieve racial justice in criminal sentencing; provide treatment rather than incarceration For non-violent drug offenders and those with mental illness; support re-entry services for ex-offenders; implement restorative justice principles in all possible circumstances, especially within the juvenile justice system; and also prohibit privatization of Michigan’s prison system.

**Christmas Poinsettias**

*Are available for purchase.*

You may purchase Poinsettia plants for \$9.00 each, or you may wish to donate to St John’s Flower Fund. Please designate your donation in memory or honor of a loved one. Those who order poinsettias may take them home following the Christmas Eve service.

Please fill out the bottom portion of this sheet and return it, by mail or offering, to the church, *with your payment.*

***Orders should be in by December 8<sup>th</sup>..***

-----Please print clearly-----

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia plant(s) at \$9.00 each; **OR** I wish to make a donation to the flower fund, for alter flowers in future months, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**IN HONOR OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**IN MEMORY OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pictures to color.

