

# CALLED TO COMMUNITY

**"BUILD HOUSES AND LIVE IN THEM. PLANT GARDENS AND EAT THEIR PRODUCE. PURSUE THE WELL-BEING OF THE CITY... PRAY TO THE LORD ON ITS BEHALF, FOR WHEN IT THRIVES, YOU WILL THRIVE."**

- Jeremiah 29:5, 7

We are **CALLED TO COMMUNITY** - both within and outside the church walls.

We answer that call when we live into the vow we take when joining the church to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church through our **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**

Throughout October we will consider how we are answering our call to community through this vow and how God is calling us to support the St. John's community and the community around us.

Each weekday focuses on one aspect of our membership vow and the weekends invite us to consider our call to community.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 <b>OUR CALLING...</b></p> <p>Today is World Communion Sunday, a day in which we celebrate our oneness in Christ with our Christian siblings around the world.</p>	<p>2 <b>PRAYERS</b></p> <p>THIS WEEK, INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: - Our global community - Our church family</p> <p><i>Reflect: What does your prayer life look like now?</i></p>	<p>3 <b>PRESENCE</b></p> <p>Presence at church doesn't mean you have perfect attendance, but it requires being present in a way that is regular and committed.</p> <p><i>Reflect: How often do you commit to being present in Sunday morning worship?</i></p>	<p>4 <b>GIFTS</b></p> <p>You have been given gifts from God that are uniquely yours - which can include your time, strengths, talents, &amp; financial gifts.</p> <p><i>Reflect: How can you use these gifts to bring glory to God?</i></p>	<p>5 <b>SERVICE</b></p> <p>Jesus led his disciples by serving them. Service is at the heart of following Jesus.</p> <p><i>Reflect: How do you currently serve others in your life?</i></p>	<p>6 <b>WITNESS</b></p> <p>"Witness" speaks to the public or outward nature of faith.</p> <p><i>Reflect: What is one practical way you can show love (i.e. witness) to your neighbor over the next week?</i></p>	<p>7 <b>COMMUNITY FOCUS</b></p> <p>How might we, as a church, connect with neighbors and community partners we don't yet know?</p>
<p>8 <b>OUR CALLING...</b></p> <p>According to the prophet Jeremiah, to be a good neighbor means to seek the well-being of the place where you live; for "when it thrives, you will thrive."</p> <p>Are you living in a way that is causing the place you live to thrive?</p>	<p>9 <b>PRAYERS</b></p> <p>THIS WEEK, INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: - Your neighborhood - Our church leaders, clergy, &amp; staff.</p> <p><i>Reflect: Do you pray at the same time every day/week or spontaneously throughout the day/week?</i></p>	<p>10 <b>PRESENCE</b></p> <p>Presence goes beyond worship to include being present for those in need or hurting.</p> <p><i>Reflect: How can and do you show up for people with a compassionate, attentive presence?</i></p>	<p>11 <b>GIFTS</b></p> <p>What are your spiritual gifts? (If you don't know, Google "UMC Discipleship Gifts Inventory" and take the quiz.)</p> <p><i>Reflect: How are you sharing your gifts through St. John's?</i></p>	<p>12 <b>SERVICE</b></p> <p>Service can occur formally through St. John's ministries or less formally by reaching out in love to someone.</p> <p><i>Reflect: Who is your "neighbor" and what does it mean to love them?</i></p>	<p>13 <b>WITNESS</b></p> <p>To witness means to live in such a way - through our choices, words, and actions - that the light of our faith and the light of Jesus shines through us.</p> <p><i>Reflect: Which of your lifestyle choices most enable you to shine Christ's light?</i></p>	<p>14 <b>COMMUNITY FOCUS</b></p> <p>How might we increase St. John's influence and have a bigger impact on our community?</p>
<p>15 <b>OUR CALLING...</b></p> <p>"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." - John 1:14, <i>The Message</i></p> <p>Jesus not only came and lived among us long ago, but he continues to move into the places where we live today. What does it mean to see Jesus as our neighbor?</p>	<p>16 <b>PRAYERS</b></p> <p>THIS WEEK, INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: - The greater Baton Rouge region - God's will for what you will pledge in 2024.</p> <p><i>Reflect: Is there anything you'd like to add, change, or a way you'd like to grow in prayer?</i></p>	<p>17 <b>PRESENCE</b></p> <p>Your presence makes a difference to your St. John's church family. You matter to us and we love you!</p> <p><i>Reflect: Whose presence from the church has made an impact on your life?</i></p>	<p>18 <b>GIFTS</b></p> <p>Study the Increased Pledge Calculator on the back of this calendar.</p> <p><i>Reflect: What financial resources are you willing and able to give to the ministries of St. John's in 2024?</i></p>	<p>19 <b>SERVICE</b></p> <p>Our stewardship theme scripture from Jeremiah 29:5, 7 says "pursue the well-being of the city..."</p> <p><i>Reflect: How can you support the well-being of our community through acts of service and love?</i></p>	<p>20 <b>WITNESS</b></p> <p>You can be a witness for St. John's by inviting people to Fall Fest this Sunday, from 4-6pm.</p> <p><i>Reflect: What's standing in your way from inviting someone to worship or an event/program at church?</i></p>	<p>21 <b>COMMUNITY FOCUS</b></p> <p>How might we use connections we already have, neighbors we already know, as a starting place for deepening community ties?</p>
<p>22 <b>OUR CALLING...</b></p> <p>When Jesus ascended, he gave his disciples power, presence, and purpose to live out their calling to spread the Good News.</p> <p>How are we uniquely positioned to fulfill our calling to be witnesses &amp; bearers of God's love today?</p> <p><b>FALL FEST, 4PM-6PM</b></p>	<p>23 <b>PRAYERS</b></p> <p>THIS WEEK, INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: - Neighbors near our church - A positive response on Commitment Sunday, 10/29</p> <p><i>Reflect: What would you like your prayer life to look like going forward?</i></p>	<p>24 <b>PRESENCE</b></p> <p>Presence includes participating in small groups, service opportunities, ministry teams, meetings, etc.</p> <p><i>Reflect: In what ways might you become more present in the mission and ministries of St. John's?</i></p>	<p>25 <b>GIFTS</b></p> <p>Making a pledge brings intentionality to our giving and develops the discipline of generosity as a priority in our lives.</p> <p><b>I commit to giving gifts of time, spiritual gifts, and financial gifts by...</b></p>	<p>26 <b>SERVICE</b></p> <p>Feeding people spiritually and physically is at the heart of our vision at St. John's.</p> <p><i>Reflect: What are some ways you can help us fulfill this vision?</i></p> <p><b>I commit to service by...</b></p>	<p>27 <b>WITNESS</b></p> <p>Ways to Witness: Engage in conversations about faith with friends, write letters to elected reps. to advocate for those on the margins, volunteer in the Shepherd's Market, be mindful of how you engage on social media.</p> <p><b>I commit to witnessing by...</b></p>	<p>28 <b>COMMUNITY FOCUS</b></p> <p>What is your hope for our community - both for today and for generations to come?</p> <p><i>Reminder: Prepare your pledge card for Sunday or pledge online today: <a href="http://stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024">stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024</a></i></p>
<p>29 <b>OUR CALLING...</b></p> <p><b>Worship at 10am with Potluck to follow.</b> (In celebration of this special day, we will only have <u>one</u> worship service.)</p> <p><b>JOIN US FOR COMMITMENT SUNDAY!</b></p>	<p>30 <b>PRAYERS</b></p> <p>THIS WEEK, INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: - Gratitude for our community - Gratitude for our church family</p> <p><b>I commit to praying by...</b></p>	<p>31 <b>PRESENCE</b></p> <p>So much of discipleship is about "showing up" and being fully present when you do show up.</p> <p><b>I commit to being present by...</b></p>				



**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church  
[stjohnsbr.org/called-to-community](http://stjohnsbr.org/called-to-community)

# OCTOBER 2023

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CALENDAR

# Increased Pledge Calculator

*"BUILD HOUSES AND PLANT GARDENS. PURSUE THE WELL-BEING OF THE CITY. PRAY TO THE LORD ON ITS BEHALF, FOR WHEN IT THRIVES, YOU WILL THRIVE."*

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In 2024, the Finance Committee is proposing a 13-14% increase to our ministry budget. This aspirational stewardship goal includes: increasing support of Christian Formation ministries, especially for children and youth; increased funds for maintaining our facilities, the place where we live most live out our mission and vision; cost of living increases for our staff; and more of what you love about St. John's - warm hospitality, dynamic worship, and transformative service opportunities.

**Will you join us in this 14% increase?** Check the chart to see what a 14% increase to your current 2023 annual pledge will be.

If your 2023 Annual Pledge is:	And you commit to an increase in 2024 of <b>10%:</b>				And you commit to an increase in 2024 of <b>14%:</b>			
	New Annual Pledge	Annual Increase	Monthly Increase	Weekly Increase	New Annual Pledge	Annual Increase	Monthly Increase	Weekly Increase
\$250	\$275	\$25	\$2.08	\$0.48	\$285	\$35	\$2.92	\$0.67
\$500	\$550	\$50	\$4.17	\$0.96	\$570	\$70	\$5.83	\$1.35
\$750	\$825	\$75	\$6.25	\$1.44	\$855	\$105	\$8.75	\$2.02
\$1,000	\$1,100	\$100	\$8.33	\$1.92	\$1,140	\$140	\$11.67	\$2.69
\$1,200	\$1,320	\$120	\$10.00	\$2.31	\$1,368	\$168	\$14.00	\$3.23
\$1,500	\$1,650	\$150	\$12.50	\$2.88	\$1,710	\$210	\$17.50	\$4.04
\$1,750	\$1,925	\$175	\$14.58	\$3.37	\$1,995	\$245	\$20.42	\$4.71
\$2,000	\$2,200	\$200	\$16.67	\$3.85	\$2,280	\$280	\$23.33	\$5.38
\$2,500	\$2,750	\$250	\$20.83	\$4.81	\$2,850	\$350	\$29.17	\$6.73
\$3,000	\$3,300	\$300	\$25.00	\$5.77	\$3,420	\$420	\$35.00	\$8.08
\$3,500	\$3,850	\$350	\$29.17	\$6.73	\$3,990	\$490	\$40.83	\$9.42
\$4,000	\$4,400	\$400	\$33.33	\$7.69	\$4,560	\$560	\$46.67	\$10.77
\$4,500	\$4,950	\$450	\$37.50	\$8.65	\$5,130	\$630	\$52.50	\$12.12
\$5,000	\$5,500	\$500	\$41.67	\$9.62	\$5,700	\$700	\$58.33	\$13.46
\$5,500	\$6,050	\$550	\$45.83	\$10.58	\$6,270	\$770	\$64.17	\$14.81
\$6,000	\$6,600	\$600	\$50.00	\$11.54	\$6,840	\$840	\$70.00	\$16.15
\$7,000	\$7,700	\$700	\$58.33	\$13.46	\$7,980	\$980	\$81.67	\$18.85
\$8,000	\$8,800	\$800	\$66.67	\$15.38	\$9,120	\$1,120	\$93.33	\$21.54
\$9,000	\$9,900	\$900	\$75.00	\$17.31	\$10,260	\$1,260	\$105.00	\$24.23
\$10,000	\$11,000	\$1,000	\$83.33	\$19.23	\$11,400	\$1,400	\$116.67	\$26.92
\$12,000	\$13,200	\$1,200	\$100.00	\$23.08	\$13,680	\$1,680	\$140.00	\$32.31
\$14,000	\$15,400	\$1,400	\$116.67	\$26.92	\$15,960	\$1,960	\$163.33	\$37.69
\$16,000	\$17,600	\$1,600	\$133.33	\$30.77	\$18,240	\$2,240	\$186.67	\$43.08
\$18,000	\$19,800	\$1,800	\$150.00	\$34.62	\$20,520	\$2,520	\$210.00	\$48.46
\$20,000	\$22,000	\$2,000	\$166.67	\$38.46	\$22,800	\$2,800	\$233.33	\$53.85
\$25,000	\$27,500	\$2,500	\$208.33	\$48.08	\$28,500	\$3,500	\$291.67	\$67.31