

Description of Time and Talent Opportunities

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Attend Worship Regularly – All members of St. John’s UCC are encouraged to attend worship regularly, at least once a month. St. John’s constitution states that a member of the congregation is required to worship a minimum of 4 times a year, and take communion at least once during that year. Regular worship attendance helps us grow in our faith!

Childcare – Volunteers are scheduled on a rotating basis to help watch children 5th grade and younger. Your help allows parents to participate more fully in worship and allows them to know that someone will always be there to watch their children when needed.

Assist in Worship - Youth and adults who are willing to read scripture and/or lead the congregation in responsive readings, prayers.

Participate in Music Ministry – Persons with musical talents, vocal or instrumental, are needed to enrich the beauty of worship through music. Youth and adults who are willing to sing and/or play an instrument as part of a choral group are encouraged to join our Choir. Our Choir practices on Thursday nights and sings from September - May. St. John’s Handbell Choir is open to adults and youth who have knowledge of musical notation, although prior experience with any musical instrument is not required. SJHB Choir practices on Monday nights and plays from September - April.

Serve as Youth Choir Leader – Do you have musical talent and like to work with young children? Then volunteer for this exciting ministry of the church.

Usher – Ushers hand out bulletins, assist in seating those who so desire, assist in the collection of the offering, collect Ritual of Friendship folders and assist during communion service. Time commitment involves one Sunday a month and attending one usher meeting a year.

Greeter – Greeters are individuals, couples or families who greet fellow worshipers as they enter the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. The time commitment is one or two Sundays per year.

Welcomer – Welcomer’s welcome people as they come past the Pastor’s office and also by the lift in the Fellowship Hall. Welcomer’s are encouraged to invite any visitors to come to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments after worship, and to make a special effort to accompany them there and introduce them to people. This involves one Sunday a month.

Coffee Hour Host/Hostess – A coffee hour host/hostess extends the ministry of hospitality by making coffee and putting out juice and refreshments following worship services. A willingness to come early to make coffee and have a smile is all that is required.

Audio/Visual Team – This is an opportunity for several people (high school & adult) trained to use the audio system and video equipment. Members will participate in a rotating schedule to enhance the worship service with sound and visual images, and make recordings.

Drama/Arts & Ministry – Use your artistic and creative gifts to serve our congregation and enrich our worship by helping create and participate in drama, poetry, music, or the visual arts.

CARE MINISTRY

Pray for Sick and Others (Prayer Chain) – All Christians are encouraged to be people of prayer. Checking this item indicates that in your personal prayers you will pray for those mentioned on Sunday morning. Our prayer chain is contacted via e-mail.

Deliver worship DVD to the Homebound and those in Care Facilities – To extend the hand of Christian fellowship to church members who are confined to their homes by delivering the worship DVDs on a rotating schedule.

Prepare and Deliver a Meal – As a way to show love and concern following a hospital stay or death in a family, these helping hands will prepare and deliver meals at the request of the Helping Hands Coordinator.

Care Packages – Participants will send care packages to show Christ's love and care for our college students and military personnel.

Provide transportation to those in need – Volunteers will drive members of the congregation to church, the doctor, or therapy appointments as needed or requested.

Congregational Care Team – A program for lay members of the church to be trained to reach out and provide care for members in our congregation during times of need.

Visit, telephone or send cards to those in need -To extend the hand of Christian fellowship to church members who are confined to their homes or care facilities. Volunteers will call or visit members of our congregation as a way to stay in touch and bring cheer during the day.

Provide congregation members with routine maintenance or repairs – Many projects are too small to hire a contractor. If you enjoy projects, and are pretty good with a drill or saw, you might want to share your skill with people who need small things done around the house.

ORGANIZATIONS

Garden Club – This group is responsible for regularly maintaining various flower beds around the church buildings from Spring to Fall.

Bundles of Love Quilters – This group enjoys fun and fellowship while making baby quilts for infants baptized at St. John's. They also make lap quilts for shut-ins. This group meets twice a month on Tuesdays.

Ladies Night Out – All women of the church are invited to join this social group for monthly dinners, dessert, conversation and occasionally an activity.

Friends-N-Fun – This is a social group for anyone in their 20's, 30's and 40's and all those young at heart. They have fellowship activities about once a month, including an annual Progressive Dinner.

Good Timers – The Good Timers are a social group of mature adults that are interested in having fun and fellowship. We have no officers or dues. In the past some of our activities have included biking, miniature golf, road rallies, plays, square dancing, Venetian Night, minor league baseball, volleyball, bowling, game nights, wine tasting and, Super Bowl parties.

Men's Breakfast – This opportunity is open to all men and meets every other Thursday for breakfast, devotions, outside speakers, fellowship, and prayer.

Cards for a Cause – This group entails making cards. They meet the second Monday of the month. The money raised is used to support a mission.

Prayer Shawl – Knitters and crochets make prayer shawls that are blessed and distributed to people in need.

Help with Golf Outing – St. John’s hosts an annual golf outing. This crew helps plan and conduct the outing.

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Board of Christian Education – The Board of Christian Education oversees the educational ministry of St. John’s. The board meets once a month.

Confirmation Mentor – A one on one ministry to help discern faith and prepare the confirmand to make his/her covenant with God. will attend confirmation class weekly and meet with the confirmand outside of class. You will also be a part of the confirmation service.

Assist with Senior or Junior High Youth Groups – Willingness to interact with Junior High and High School youth through classes, activities, trips, mission work and fundraisers. A willingness to help youth grow and have a good experience is all it takes for this vital ministry. We are looking for people who enjoy the chance to work with this exciting age group.

Help with Special Programs- This is an opportunity to help with or lead a Christmas program, Lent program, Easter program, etc.

Help with Wednesday Youth Group known as Awana – Volunteers are invited to help our youth grow by helping this Wednesday night educational ministry. Teams of adults will work with children preschool through 5th grade. Volunteers work with our Directors of Youth and Children’s Ministries to prepare a lesson, crafts, or games and share faith and Christian experiences.

Vacation Bible School Helper – Many types of helpers are needed for VBS. Junior and Senior High School youth, along with adults, are encouraged to help as teachers, group leaders, music leaders, kitchen helpers and general help.

Adult Bible Study – This weekly Bible study explores how the Bible relates to today’s living.

Women’s Bible Study - A multigenerational group of women meeting the 2nd Monday of every month at 9:30am to study and discuss various topics relating to being a Christian woman in today’s world.

Women’s Book Club - This group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the book read for the month and to pick the next book to read.

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups - Youth (grades 6-12) are encouraged & invited to join us every Sunday night from 7:00-8:00pm in the Christian Community Center. During the evening, we discuss topics that the youth have expressed interest in exploring, play games and other activities, plan for upcoming outings and retreats, and learn more about what it means to be in a relationship with Christ.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Mission Outreach – Promotes benevolence and missions within the congregation, promotes work of the wider church, and selects local mission fields for the congregation. Participants also help plan “hands on” mission opportunities for the congregation.

Shepherd’s Table – Volunteers will go on the 4th Thursday every month to prepare and serve food at Shepherd’s Table in Joliet. We leave at 8:45 a.m. and return around 1:15 p.m. A rotating schedule is developed.

FISH – FISH raises money to help those in need in the Frankfort Township area. Volunteers are needed for the FISH Board.

Mentor New Members – Volunteers will stay in contact with new members for a 6 month period as they become part of the life of St. John’s.

Mission Trip – St. John’s organizes mission trips to help people in need close to home and around the country. Participants will be organized to see what the possibilities are.

Help with Parade Float - Every year St. John’s has a float in the 4th of July parade in Mokena. Volunteers are needed to help build the float before the parade and to walk next to or ride on the float during the parade and pass out flyers and other items. We appreciate help with any of these activities for the parade and are also often looking for youth to ride the floats during the parade.

New Life for Old Bags – Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. They take old plastic bags and recycle them into mats for the homeless.

SERVICE WITHIN ST. JOHN’S

Technology Committee - The technology committee is responsible for overseeing and assisting with all technology initiatives in the church. No prior technology experience is needed to serve on the committee however an interest in technology is a must.

Music & Worship Committee - The Music & Worship Committee assists with the Music & Worship ministry of St. John’s by giving feedback and providing leadership.

Facilities Board – This Board oversees, maintains, and improves all the facilities of St. John’s UCC, except the cemetery. People with a talent for accomplishing work projects and working with their hands and tools are encouraged to be part of the Facilities Board.

Budget Committee – This committee is composed of 5 or 6 persons who prepare and propose a preliminary budget to the Church Council. Their work involves gathering data and making projections for budgeting concerns for the coming year(s). This committee meets a few times in the fall.

Nominating Committee – Committee members approved by the Council meet as needed to suggest members to serve on the Church Council and various boards.

Memorial Committee – The Memorial Committee is composed of 4 persons. This committee has the responsibility of overseeing memorial matters, making recommendations to the Council for memorial expenditures, and maintaining the memorial plaques. Term of office is 2 years.

Church Council – The chief administrative body, which conducts the business and affairs of the church on behalf of the congregation. It is composed of 9 members elected by the congregation. The term of office is 3 years. Council meets monthly and involves additional committee responsibilities. Members of the council also serve as financial officers of the congregation and help serve communion.

Stewardship Team – This committee makes people aware of our call to be wise stewards of all God has entrusted to us and invites people to share what they have with others. The committee meets throughout the year and plans the fall stewardship campaign.

St. John’s Reserve Fund Committee – This committee of 3 persons (appointed by Council) and one Council member is charged with managing and investing the moneys in St. John’s Reserve Fund.

St. John's Cemetery Board – This Board consists of the Pastor and 8 “trustees” elected by the congregation. The responsibilities of the trustees are the overseeing and administration of the affairs of St. John's Cemetery. The Board meets about 4 times annually. The term of office is 4 years, but members may be re-elected.

Communion Committee – The first Sunday of each month and special worship services, this committee is responsible for the preparation of communion elements and the clean-up following the worship service. Bread, wine and grape juice need to be purchased.

Altar Committee – This committee is responsible for changing the paraments with each church season and covering them after each worship service, checking the amount of oil in the candles each week, setting up the candelabra for weddings, setting up the Advent wreath and maintenance of the communion table and altar linens. Members rotate their duties on a monthly basis.

Altar Flower Committee – This committee is responsible for placing floral arrangements in the Sanctuary on Sundays as needed.

Serve at Dinners, Events, Funeral Lunches – This is another equal opportunity position for persons willing to assist in the food preparation, serving, and cleanup at the various special events and following funeral services held at St. John's.

Pastoral Relations Committee – This committee meets quarterly to facilitate communication between the pastor and congregation.

Safe Church Committee - This committee meets quarterly to help the church in providing a safe environment for all people in the church.

Planned Giving Committee - The mission of the Planned Giving Committee is to implement a Planned Giving Ministry. The committee members report to Church Council and are responsible for drafting a Long Term Asset Policy Statement to be approved by 1) the Church Council and 2) the Congregation prior to implementation. Committee members initial focus is on four key areas: 1) Governance, 2) Gift Acceptance Policy, 3) Investment Policy and 4) Spending Policy.

Personnel Committee – This committee meets quarterly and serves as oversight for both the staff and church Council; keeping up-do-date job descriptions, directing staff reviews, supervising hiring/firing and answering personnel questions/issues.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

There are equal opportunity positions for persons desiring to assist in the upkeep of St. John's above and beyond the regular janitorial duties. One does not need to be a professional to volunteer. It is good to know whom we might call upon for various tasks as they arise.