

## **The Mini Messenger January 2024**

**Wow! I can't believe it is 2024 already! It seems as if I just started at St. John's, but in reality it is about eight months into my second year. The first year was a year of trying several things to see what worked. The second year is continuing those things that worked and discovering new things.**

**If you have read your copy of The Messenger, you know that I made some new discoveries on Christmas Eve. To have the time to truly look around our sanctuary and take in all that was there was big for me. I knew the stained-glass windows were there all along, but I never really looked at them. I sometimes can get so wrapped up in the word of the week or the Grace Place lesson that at times I am not fully present.**

**This has me wondering how we as a congregation can sometimes go on autopilot, and miss things. I can recall the old joke about a Pastor saying "Good morning" and the congregation responding with "and also with you".**

**This year I would like us to open our eyes so that we may see what God has in store for us.**

**Try entering the church from a different door (unless of course you need the door with assist).**

**Sit in a different pew (this can be challenging, I know).**

**Look at the Narthex: is it bright and welcoming? What does it say about St. John's?**

**Look at Grace Space in the back of the sanctuary: What might it need?**

**Do we still need Activity Bags? If so, for what ages? What would you like them to include?**

**In the Christian Education class I took at United, we were tasked with walking in our churches on our knees so that we would see what a child sees when they enter the building. We were also tasked with looking at the spaces we had for children: was the furniture old and out of date? Were the tables and chairs child height? Was the space inviting?**

**I learned that we teach our children not only by our words and actions but also by what we don't say: the space, the furniture, inclusion (or non inclusion) in worship and fellowship.**

**I believe that we are off to a really good start, but I also believe we can discover new things to help us grow. What new discoveries will you make and share with us so that we can continue to move forward and grow together?**



# PASSING ON OUR FAITH

## THROUGH CARING CONVERSATIONS

One of the ways we pass on our faith is through caring conversations. Here are some conversation starters for you to discuss in your household this month. Some of these were taken from Faith Talk with Children, available at: [store.milestonesministry.org](http://store.milestonesministry.org)

- \*If your best friend lost their belongings in a fire or tornado, what three things of yours would you give them?
- \* If you could change one thing about church, what would it be?
- \*My favorite hymn or Sunday School song is...

## SAVE THE DATES:



**JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

**Game Meet Up Night 6-8PM**

**Meet in Fellowship Hall at 6PM for snacks and games.**

**Bring a snack to share and a game to play if you would like.**

**FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

**St. John's Chili and Cornbread Contest**

**Think your recipe has what it takes to win the Golden Ladle and /or the Golden Spatula?**

**Enter your chili and /or Cornbread to find out!**

**FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

**Shrove Tuesday Party 6:30PM-8:30PM**

**Come to Fellowship Hall on Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup> for St John's Second Annual Shrove (Fat) Tuesday Party! There will be**

**Get To Know You Bingo with prizes, beads, a pancake game**

**for children, music, pancakes, and ice cream. Come join the fun!**

