

SEPTEMBER

2021
NEWSLETTER

ST. MARK'S AND ST. JOHN'S

HOME OF THE E.D.E.N. GARDENS

BE REAL.
BE HEALED.
BE LOVE.



UPDATES

Sunday Worship is now streaming live on our YouTube Channel. Links can be found on our website.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make emergency food delivery possible. Although we are no longer offering delivery our Wednesday Food Shelf is still open from 10:30-Noon.

Restoration work will continue in October in the Chancel with the refinishing of the oak floor and installation of new steps that will span the entire front for easier access.

A new, more interactive website will launch soon. You're going to love it.

A SUMMER OF VOLUNTEERS

This summer has been filled to the brim with volunteer groups looking to help out and make a difference here at SMSJ! In the past few months, we have hosted groups from University of Rochester, Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, Rochester Institute of Technology, and several United Churches of Christ in Buffalo in the E.D.E.N. Gardens. Projects completed include moving raised beds at the Denver Training Garden, moving beds, mulching, and constructing a new fence at the Children's Garden, building five new raised beds at Culver 1199, and unearthing leaky irrigation systems. Thank you so much to these volunteer groups and to our SMSJ volunteers who helped run these volunteer days!



University of Rochester
Wilson Day volunteers



Excellus BCBS volunteers moving
raised beds at the Children's
Garden

WELCOME CHLOE!!

Chloe was raised in the Finger Lakes Region of New York and attended Hobart and William Smith Colleges for her undergraduate degree, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Biology and an Associate Degree in Sociology. Although human health science is Chloe's primary field of interest, she is passionate about social justice initiatives, community partnerships, and sustainability.



Additionally, she enjoys any activity that involves creativity or time spent outside. During her service year here at St. Mark's and St. John's, she will be engaging primarily in indirect service (meaning that she may often be hiding in one of the offices of the church!) The majority of her time will be spent learning about the history of the Beechwood community and the current projects that St. Mark's and St. John's sponsors, while identifying possible ways to enhance programming, strengthen community partnerships, and augment resources. However, don't be surprised to find her helping out in one of our many community gardens in the coming weeks!

"If you see me at St. Mark's and St. John's or in the Beechwood neighborhood please reach out. I look forward to the possibility of meeting you all!"

Over the course of the next year, she will be partnering with SMSJ to strengthen the organizational capacity of the E.D.E.N Center for Well-Being and its mission to become a neighborhood-based center for affordable and culturally responsive health resources.

AUGUST HARVEST

In August alone, our wonderful volunteers harvested **870 lbs of produce** from the E.D.E.N. Gardens!

This brings our current total harvest up to **1536 lbs** for the 2021 season so far.



FARM STAND

With summer well underway, our E.D.E.N. gardens are producing crops to share with the neighborhood and as of July 10th, our weekly farm stand opened for the season. Since opening, the farm stand has served **142 people** and brought in **\$970!** We look forward to continued bounty in our gardens and the opportunity to continue providing fresh and affordable produce to the neighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering at the farm stand, contact Deacon Mike!

This Saturday (9/11) will be our final one of the season. It's been an awesome summer!

E.D.E.N. GARDEN VOLUNTEERING

Summer may be coming to a close but we're not done yet! Throughout July and August, our amazing garden captains and volunteers have harvested over 1500 lbs of fresh produce from the E.D.E.N. gardens! The summer harvest of our warm-weather crops is still going strong and the fall harvest of roots, greens, potatoes, and winter squash is right around the corner. If you have interest in getting involved with our gardening effort, we are always in need of volunteers. Garden volunteering can include weeding, pruning, composting, harvesting, and so much more. Visit our website or give us a call for more information.

MONDAYS

EDEN - 1199

6:00 PM, 1199 Culver Road

TUESDAYS

Children's Garden

10:00 AM, 408 Rosewood Terrace

EDEN - Parsells

10:00 AM, 336 Parsells Avenue

EDEN - Merchants

5:00 PM, 622 Merchants Avenue

WEDNESDAYS

Church Garden

9:00 AM, 1245 Culver Road

FRIDAYS

Denver Training Garden

11:30 AM, Corner of Denver and Melville



Volunteers from Excellus BCBS mulching at the Children's Garden

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM)

Beginning September 8th, Pastor Cindy will be leading a weekly Bible Study. Study will take place on Thursday nights at 7:00PM and participants will be able to attend in person or online. We will be studying the Book of Acts! If you'd like the Zoom link for then class please email Pastor Cindy Rasmussen.cynthia@gmail.com.

PRAY WITH US!

Sundays 9:15am
Wednesdays 9:30am

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We are always looking for more volunteers!
Gardening, food deliveries or distribution, you name it - we'd love to have you! If you have skills or talents to share with us, please call (585) 654-9229 or check out our website!
stmarksandstjohns.org

CONNECT WITH US!



Phone:
(585) 654-9229



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Website:
stmarksandstjohns.org



Be real.
Be healed.
Be love.

St. Mark's
& St. John's



**RIT
Fraternity
Service Day**

**Saturday,
September 4th**

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/9: Bible Study Begins

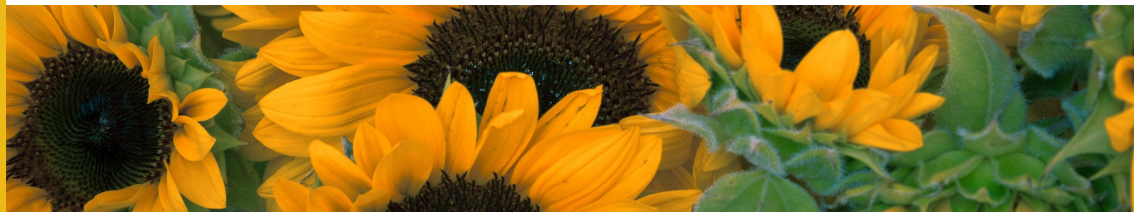
Weekly Bible study will take place Thursday evenings from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Join us in person or find the zoom link on the website.

9/26: Harvest Coffee Hour

Meet us in the Church garden after Sunday service for coffee and conversation!

9/29: Walking Club Begins

Put on your walking shoes and meet us in front of the church! Monthly walking club will take place the last Wednesday of every month from 10:30am - 11:30am.



SCIENCE STARS AT SMSJ

The Freedom Scholars are back in the building, this time as an after-school science program! The Science STARS engages local urban teens in a science inquiry club that meets twice a week and is facilitated by science education masters students from the Warner School. The program is focused primarily on justice-centered science teaching and empowering youth to nurture their identities in science. This group will be using multiple church rooms throughout September and October on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and evenings.