

**SPIRIT AWARDS
(eNews publication)**

June 16, 2020

Announcing the Opening of the Spirit Webpage!

You will find a growing list of those who exemplify the Spirit of St. John's in some way. We have many to honor and we're sure that there are many more out there.

<https://stjohnsuu.org/community/spiritofstjohns/>

June 16, 2020

A Spirited thank you to **David Roth, Matthew Cowperthwait, and Monica Pellman** who braved the virtual management of our congregational meeting despite the peculiarities of Zooming and persevered to make sure we were all served. You are much appreciated!



From May 31, 2020, published July 14, 2020

Lovingly planned in the spirit of generosity and vision, this year's Pledge campaign was shut down after only two weeks. **Joetta Prost** and her team bravely redesigned the project and taking the precarious financial climate in their stride, met 100% of the goal and exceeded it by \$20,000.

While they thank our members gracious monetary support, we thank them for allowing our community to thrive for another year. Joetta's dedicated team includes **Carol FencI, Charles Spencer, Cliff Shisler, Emily Hodges, Erin Zoller, Greg Terhune, Kathy Rentz, Linda Heath, and Nancy Henry.**

We also appreciate those who offered to host and/or facilitate the cottage meetings that couldn't happen because of Covid19.



August 28, 2020

A 'dancing' spirit award goes to **Nat Kutcher** who didn't wait until their actual book signing to jump into full participation at St. John's. Coffee hour helper, co-organizer of CommUUnity Connections, participant in Time with the Hymnal, choir, chalice group, and more, there seems to be no end to their contribution. We are lucky to have them!



September 8, 2020



If we had an Above and Beyond spirit award, it would go to **Greg Franseth**. Most of us think of him as the minister's spouse but he is so much more to St. John's. As our chief technical guru, such things as software quirks, password review, reboots, Wi-Fi connection, website platform, and PayPal code click through the air with ease thanks to him. Most of all, we appreciate his infinite patience as we each ask, "How do I?" time and time again.

October 6 and October 13, 2020

We honor **Emily Hodges** who was awarded the 2020 Steward of Partnership Award from UU's Partner Church Council of Canada and the US. She has spent over 25 years supporting St. John's partner church in Romania. Whether organizing dinner or overseeing the kitchen for our Soup and Bread lunches, whether funding schools or other projects in the Transylvanian community, Emily goes far beyond just answering requests, she's out in front. On one of her visits there, she spied an outdated world map on a school wall and quietly had a new one shipped. Thank you, Emily, for making a difference in so many ways.



Extra from October 16, 2020 (not published in eNews)
Marie was included in a segment honoring staff.



If the Spirit Team had an Energizer Bunny award, it would go to **Marie Inanli**. Yes, she's staff but she's been nominated more than once by congregants for the many ways she is bringing us together during the Covid isolation. An organization cog, she's behind the E-news, the Seasonal Journal, virtual coffee hours, new programming and so much more. Her engaging personality, optimistic outlook, and delicate finesse certainly exceed her job description and we are grateful.

November 10, 2020



It is Chalice Group season. The opportunity to experience spiritual growth in an open and supportive atmosphere is well worth the time spent, but last year's groups had a bonus session. **Ken Cunningham** invited participants and their spouses/significant others to dinner at their home for relaxation and fun. Ken was a member of the Chalice Group but his husband, John, jumped in to help make the event a delight. Thank you to the dynamic duo. We hope it becomes a tradition.

November 24, 2020

A dynamic duo award goes to **Charles Seibert** and **Mike Steiner** for taking on the leadership of the Thursday evening Theology Group. They have kept the discussion interesting and vital by providing readings, topics, and even speakers about Unitarian and Universalist history, thought, and theology. Thanks goes to them for volunteering, inspiring us to expand our minds, and allowing us to get to know each other better amid great discussions and laugh-out-loud moments.



December 8, 2020

Our finger-in-almost-every-pie Spirit Award goes to **Sarah Loar Seibert**. For the last 28 years her 'finger' has sweetened too many ventures fulfilling St. John's covenant to fit here! Her generous spirit reflects her love of people. She believes that every person is important, and every person has something to contribute which fuels her passion for St. John's and for Social Justice. In her work on the Membership team, her hope is that in enhancing people's experience of St. John's they will see a clear path here for spiritual growth and fulfillment. She sends the welcome letter to visitors, connects new people with others of similar interests, and many other things to generate our community. The beautifully written and printed brochures, the welcome table material, many activity posters, and with Bill Surber's beautiful pictures, the Membership wall (to mention just a few) are Sarah's contribution in time and expense to our congregation.



As our representative to IJPC, the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center, Sarah keeps us updated on community activities and events in the greater community. One of the brightest moments in Sarah's work for Social Justice happened in December of 2019. As coordinator of SIT, the Sanctuary & Immigration Team, she and her team and as many other volunteers as they could muster, put on a dinner for 80 entitled "Guests at St. John's Table". They cooked, decorated, translated, and transported people to the event and from (and sent food home). The speakers, many immigrants, shared their experiences to a touched and sometimes tearful audience. It was truly diversity melding. The feedback was marvelous, even from contributors who had already worked themselves silly. For Sarah, it was bliss. Thank you for all we see and all we don't, Sarah; we couldn't do without you.

December 29, 2020

A “First Principle” Spirit Award belongs to **Amy Monson** who quietly goes about helping us all honor the worth of every person. Her work in and beyond St. John’s goes back many years and encompasses too many areas to list here. Currently, among other things, she is on the steering committee for the Sanctuary Congregation Coalition of Cincinnati and our liaison to the sanctuary at our neighboring Methodist Church. To Amy, in 2020, that meant single-handedly, and at her own expense, painting and decorating the apartment in the Methodist Church to create a warmly inviting space for the incoming Congolese family. Then she invented and organized an Electronic Baby Shower which allowed us to help welcome the family's new baby. Amy unobtrusively pitches in where there is need, big or small. We think she personifies our covenant.

