



## St. John United Church

United Methodist/Presbyterian Church (USA)

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

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September 13, 2024

### “Count Me In” Special Offering

Dear SJU family:

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

I write this note asking you to consider making a contribution to our church that is above and beyond your regular giving or 2024 pledge.

At the 2024 annual meeting, the SJU Council presented a budget with a deficit of \$28,725. This was a “Faith-Based Budget.” I call it faith-based for two reasons:

- First, we have the assurance that goes all the way back to Abraham and Isaac. “The Lord will provide” for the people who depend on and call out to God. (*Genesis 22:14*).
- Second, the leadership of our church family has faith in you, our family members. One of the great things about St. John United Church is that we see a need, and address that need.

I personally saw this in the Spring when we were asked to address the need of transportation for mothers giving birth in the Osiligi community. We took up a special offering with a \$3,000 goal. We met the need and exceeded the goal by 20 percent!

This time the need is closer to home. We have not made up the budget deficit we projected in January. In fact, despite the hard work of SJU leadership, the deficit is projected to be reduced by only 20% to 50% by year-end.

A large part of our budget is for staff salaries. Our staff - me as pastor, our administrator, music director, and accompanist - are vital in leading and guiding all our ministries and worship. Although we cannot do it without you and other volunteer support, our staff works extra hard and their leadership is essential.

We need your help. We are taking up a special offering and asking you to prayerfully consider making a contribution that is beyond your normal giving. We’re calling it “Count Me In” because it takes all of us to support the work of Jesus Christ.

You can make your offering through September by check (write Count Me In on the memo line) or using the special donation envelope on Givelify. We will pray over and thank God for our generosity during worship on September 29.

As we are in the process of calling a new permanent pastor, we can support that pastor, our staff, and our exciting future by stepping up and supporting the mission and ministry of SJU in 2024 and then into 2025.

I thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration to “Count Me In”.

In the love of Christ I am,

*Rev. Steve Nofel*

Interim Pastor

St. John United Church

