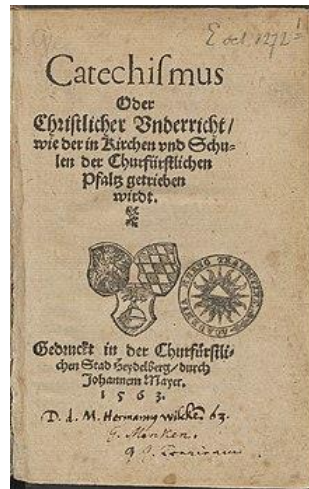




ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor
September 2023

What is your only comfort in life and death?
Great question right! The answer can be found in the Heidelberg Catechism



The Heidelberg Catechism (1563).

“Heidelberg Catechism, Reformed confession of the Christian faith that is used by many of the Reformed churches. It was written in 1562 primarily by Caspar Olevianus, the superintendent of the Palatinate church, and Zacharias Ursinus, a professor of the theological faculty of the University of Heidelberg. It was accepted at the annual synod of the Palatinate church in 1563.”

Lord's Day 1

h1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

- A. *That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together
for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me
of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.* [10](#)

Is this statement still relevant in our world that is so secularized? If you asked the question today “What is your only comfort in life and death?” I think people would say, my family, friends, some would even say their pets. Although we do find comfort in family, friends and even our pets it will never serve ultimately. I love the line ***“That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.”*** The message is so powerful that if we are to have peace, power, security and love, we must

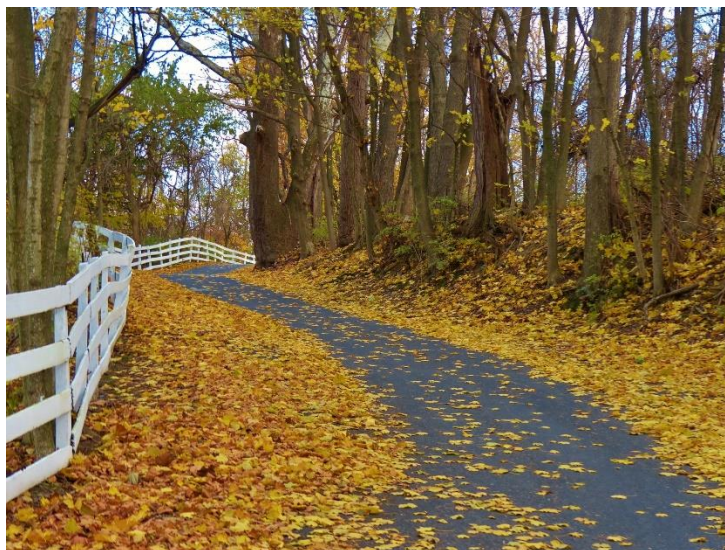
surrender completely to our Lord. When we attempt to find our comfort in our relationships, we drain the relationship dry. If your career or passions in life become your source they will also dry up. Nothing short of nurturing your relationship with your creator will give you the joy and ability to bring life into all your relationships. The love in your heart that you share comes from God. As you hold your child, especially when they are falling asleep, you experience the love God. You then share that love with your child. It is a wonderful cycle. God gives love, you share the love, the love is received, and in the acknowledgment and appreciation of God the love completes the cycle. However, if you take God out of the cycle, the love is eventually lost. 8 years ago, I was an adult chaperon at “Winter Weekend”, a youth retreat at Camp DuBois. The focus for the weekend was to teach the teens to unplug from all their life stresses. Including their cell phones and computers. In talking with the youth, a clear pattern emerged. They were indeed needing to unplug and had no idea how to do that. They used words like anxiety to describe their life. It was not for a few years later that I read that teen and preteen suicide rate was up significantly from 2009 to 2019. The youth live in a culture that sees God as an obscure notion from past generations and look for their security in their friends and family. They look to the culture to find validation and the new cycle is one of anxiety and insecurity. Let us bring our youth and culture back into the living in faith. It is our job to teach the wisdom of this nearly 500-year-old Catechism.

What is your only comfort in life and death?

*That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.*

We either belong heart and soul to God or we are living a lie. I can remember my children in their teens from time to time needing to have a “Coming to Jesus” conversation. They thought they had arrived into adulthood; they would decide how late they stayed out or how and when they would do their chores. That way of thinking insured a very clear conversation regarding reality and their place in it. Likely I am not the only parent that has had to have a coming to Jesus Conversation with their teens or preteens. We need a coming to Jesus Conversation in our culture. People need to come to reality that they do not breathe, grow, heal, have food to eat, strength in their bodies, give birth, hold a child, love a mother and father, without it first being given to them by God. We, in short, do not exist without God making it so. Strangely this simple but powerful fact is the source of our peace, comfort and security. We are never adrift in the seas of the culture but grounded and rooted in the Truth. That Truth becomes our walk with God.

May God bless you and keep you!
Pastor



Women's Fellowship

2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

| | |
|--|--|
| President: Faye Birk | Secretary: Ellen Edler |
| Vice President: | Treasurer: Sue Taylor |
| Thursday, September 7, 2023 @ 12:00 Chairs: Faye Birk Sheryl Prange | Discussions: Christkindlmarkt/Quilt Show Oktoberfest 8, 2023 - Pie Stand Pastor Appreciation Day-Oct. 8 |
| Thursday, October 5, 2023 @ 12:00 Chairs: Sue Taylor Anna Massie | Discussions: Pie Stand Shut-in Bags |
| Thursday, November 2, 2023 @ 12:00 Chairs: Linda Schmidt Joyce Kuergeleis | Discussions: December 3, 2023 Christkindlmarkt/Quilt Show Decorate Church for Christmas |
| Thursday, December 2, 2023 NO Meeting Assemble Shut-in Bags | Discussions: |
| Thursday, January 4, 2024 @ 12:00 Chairs: Nancy Voelker Patty Brandt | Discussions: February 13, 2024-Fastnacht Country Store/Raffle Donations-Hoyleton/DuBois |
| Thursday, February 1, 2024 @ 12:00 Chairs: Sharon Glessner/Twyla & Cathy Hoffmann | Discussions: February 13, 2024-Fastnacht Country Store/Raffle UCC Women's Sunday |
| Thursday, March 7, 2024 @ 12:00 Chairs: Barb Wischmeyer Sharon Bergheger | Discussions: Easter-March 31, 2024-Breakfast Women's Banquet |
| Thursday, April 4, 2024 @ 12:00 Chairs: Brenda Johnson Marietta Schneider | Discussions: Hike n Bike – May 11, 2024 |
| Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 12:00 Chairs: Connie Turner Ellen Edler | Discussions: Hike n Bike – May 11, 2024 2024-2025 Meeting Schedule |

St. John's UCC Church Council Minutes - August 14, 2023

- Pastor Poole opened the meeting with a prayer. Vice President Mark Rey called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Those in attendance were Cheri Langsdorf, Amy Rohlfing, Susan Koesterer, Lisa Schwarze, Fay Ross, Drew Watts and Sandy Tutka. President Christy Muertz joined the meeting at 7:00p.m.

- REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 26, 2023 MEETING

The minutes from the June 26, 2023 meeting were reviewed. There being no additions or corrections, a motion was made by Amy Rohlfing to accept the minutes and Cheri Langsdorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- REVIEW/APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS/TIME CARD/PASTOR'S EXPENSES

The treasurer's report/bills/time card and Pastor's expenses were presented and reviewed. There being no additions or corrections, Cheri Langsdorf made a motion to approve the reports and Sandy Tutka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor informed the council he will be taking the weekend of Sept. 22-24 off. He has not yet found a replacement.

Pastor reminded the council to continue to promote St. John's Day. A fun day is planned for all involved at the Civic Park. It will be held after church on Sept. 17, 2023. During church service that same day, the new members will be installed. At this time Pastor has 8-9 people that will be joining.

Pastor has met with the parents of the children who will be in confirmation this year. The 7th graders, will attend confirmation from Sept.-May for 2 years. The 8th graders, will attend 1 year of confirmation, but will get some extra Saturdays to make up the difference. Confirmation classes will be held on Wednesday from 7-8:30pm. On Sunday, the confirmands will be asked to attend Sunday school at 9:40am followed by church service. Cheryl Prange has agreed to help Pastor with the confirmation classes.

- GLENN/LINDA COATS BUILDINGS

A letter was given to the Coats' approximately two months ago outlining the responsibility/liability of the buildings that are on church property but are being used by the Coats'. Mark Rey will check with Attorney Mary Buettner on the next steps to be taken.

- COMMITTEE FOR EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

Discussion was held regarding CPR training, emergency evacuation plan and other situations which may arise during any state of emergency. The committee made up of Cheri Langsdorf, Lisa Schwarze and Drew Watts will keep working on the proper way to be trained and what training is really needed, and who would do the training.

- NEW BUSINESS

Pastor informed the council that the insurance company the church currently uses will be changing providers. A new quote should be given to Pastor by the end of August.

- SOLAR POWER

Another company is currently making a presentation to Valmeyer School. More details are to follow on this subject.

- MAPLE TREE

There Is a large maple tree on the north side of the church hall that is dying and needs to be cut down. The council agreed that it should come down. Mark Rey and Drew Watts will make several connections with some people about cutting the tree down and removing the debris.

- LP GAS CONTRACT

The council agreed to sign the contract and have the LP gas delivered by FS at the cost of \$1.74/gal.

- **5th SUNDAY OFFERING IN OCTOBER**

Cheri Langsdorf will contact the Dickerson family of old Valmeyer who have a 5yr old son battling leukemia. A motion was made by Lisa Schwarze and seconded by Fay Ross for these plans to proceed.

- **A/C REPAIR BILL**

A motion was made by Cheri Langsdorf and seconded by Amy Rohlfing to pay \$85.55 to Nathan Keller for the fan blade to repair the church air conditioner. No labor was charged.

A motion was made by Cheri Langsdorf and seconded by Lisa Schwarze to adjourn the meeting. Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting at 7:30pm.

Sandy Tutka, Secretary



New members will be welcomed into the church family on St. John's Day on Sunday, September 17 during the worship service.

Pew Sisters will meet on Monday, September 18 at 6:30 PM. Watch Facebook and the Sunday bulletin for meeting location.

Women's Fellowship begins their meetings this month. See the enclosed flier for meeting dates and times.

There will be a **Senior Potluck and Bible Study** on Tuesday, September 19 at 5:00 p.m. All of our older members are welcome to bring a dish and join each other and Pastor for food, fellowship, and a Bible Study.

Adult Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 p.m. Come hungry!

The next YPL meeting will be Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. All youth, confirmation age through high school are welcome to join us!

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE:

September

3 - Evan Hill & Cody Schmitz
10 - Hudson Brandt & Jake Coats
17 - Ashlyn Crouch & Andrew Stafford
24 - Landon Johnson & Owen Carron

October

8 - Dallen Edler & Lilly Carron
15- Jake Coats & Caden Huddleston
22 - Drake Coats & Jackie Keller
29 - Kaylee Muertz & Maddie Huddleston

Announcements and Other News

➔ If you have a life event, such as a new baby or a loss of a loved one, and would like this included in the Visitor, email Nicole at maeystownucc@gmail.com so she can get it added to the Visitor.

➔ **St. John's Day is Sunday, September 17.** It is after church at the park. We hope to see everyone there.

~~~~~

### Weddings

♥ Alex Bakken & Mallory Meyer were married here on July 15.

♥ Kyle Kipping & Meaghan Touchette were married here on August 5.

### Baptisms

★ Elnora "Ellie" Datema, daughter of Michael and Samantha Datema was baptized on July 9.

★ Joelle Morgan Rohlfing, daughter of Garrett and Elise Rolfhing was baptized on August 27.

**New Member Classes** continue today and Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. (NOTE – New Member classes will not be held Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, as it is Labor Day weekend.) New members will be officially welcomed into the church on St. John's Day, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pastor if you are interested in learning more about becoming a member at St. John's.

**Special Music** on Sunday, September 3 will be by Jim Bundy and BJ Henerfauth.

**Adult Choir rehearsals** will resume on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!

**Save the Date** for the annual Creekside Concert by the Friends of Bluegrass on Saturday, Sept 9 at 4:30 p.m.!

**Cemetery work day on September 16<sup>th</sup>** from 8-11. Help keep our cemetery in great shape. We will be seeding, cleaning, and painting. Please bring your paint brush and scraper, rake, shovel and we will get it done! Thanks for support our cemetery!

### Prayer List

- Carol Bay fell again and has another broken arm and a broken pelvis. Carol thanks everyone for their prayers. She is recovering in rehab.
- Kaylee is getting stronger every day! Thank you for all your prayers!
- Debbie Barnes has heart concerns.
- Bob Sales, Sr is on hospice. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.
- Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.
- Scott Stoeckel, as he battles cancer.
- Renesmae Brown, she is 3 yrs old, has autism and now seizures.
- Aileen Neeley in your prayers as she battles cancer.
- Denise Farmer as she seeks answers for some neurological issues.

**The After School Program is looking for snack donations for this upcoming year.**

A list of suggested items:

1. Cookies (all kinds)
2. Cheese Balls
3. Canned Icing
4. Doritos
5. Popcorn
6. Cheese in a Can
7. Ritz Crackers
8. Graham Crackers
9. Boxes of Brownies (We will make them that day)
10. Potato Chips
11. Pretzels
12. Powdered Sugar Donuts
13. Chocolate covered donuts
14. Little Debbie Cakes
15. Fritos
16. Rice Krispie Treats
17. Surprise Us



*Welcome  
September!*



### Special Birthdays:

- Brenda Johnson celebrates her 72nd birthday on September 2.
- Cathy Hoffmann celebrates her 65th birthday on September 3, while Laurie Manning and Jay Mueller will both turn 63 the same day, and Kristy Edler will turn the big 5-0 the same day.
- Wallace Altes will turn 82 years young on September 9.
- Ben Yancey will turn 95 years young on September 10, while Elaine Hoerr celebrates her 70th birthday the same day.
- Barb Wischmeyer celebrates her 77th birthday on September 13.
- Sue Taylor celebrates her 69th birthday on September 14.
- Carmelita Sensel will turn 96 years young on October 6.
- Linda Sutter celebrates her 79th birthday on October 7, and Ross Mueller follows suit two days later on October 9.
- Connie Esker turns 63 on October 9.
- On October 15, Linda Schmidt will turn 75 while Elaine Knobloch will turn 70.

### Special Anniversaries:

- Danny & Rita Hoffmann celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on September 3.
- James & Connie Matzenbacher celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary on September 5, while David & Lauren Hesterberg celebrate their 42nd anniversary the same day.
- John & Phyllis Hoefft will celebrate 53 years of marriage on October 10.



### Note From A Past Resident

I really enjoy receiving the Visitor. I have enclosed a donation.

I have to agree that the YPL is Amazing.

It has been 63 years since we left **Maeystown** but I still think of it as home.

Fred Hotz

### Visitor Report

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance -      | \$83.45  |
| Income -                 | \$245.00 |
| Jim Bundy -              | \$50.00  |
| Frederick Hotz -         | \$20.00  |
| Ross & Dorothy Mueller - | \$25.00  |
| Robert & Linda Schmidt - | \$100.00 |
| Dennis & Janet Trost -   | \$50.00  |
| Expense -                | \$57.17  |
| U. S. Postmaster -       | \$57.17  |
| Ending Balance -         | \$271.28 |

Ask and you shall you receive. Thanks to all of you for your generous support!!!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

### Sundy School – Checking Account

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance - | \$787.02 |
| Income -            | \$24.00  |
| Offering -          | \$24.00  |
| Expense -           | \$0.00   |
| Ending Balance -    | \$811.02 |

### Sunday School – Savings Account

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance - | \$7478.27 |
| Income -            | \$0.00    |
| Expense -           | \$0.00    |
| Ending Balance -    | \$7478.27 |

Faye Birk, Treasurer

### **Happy Birthday!!!**

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Brenda Johnson       | Sept. 2  |
| Madisyn Huddleston   | Sept. 2  |
| Jonathan Wolf        | Sept. 2  |
| Dominic Richeson     | Sept. 2  |
| Sherry Stitzel       | Sept. 2  |
| Kristy Edler         | Sept. 3  |
| Cathy Hoffmann       | Sept. 3  |
| Laurie Manning       | Sept. 3  |
| Jay Mueller          | Sept. 3  |
| Ally Coats           | Sept. 3  |
| Kayla Adkins         | Sept. 5  |
| Noah Rusteberg       | Sept. 6  |
| Jenna Keindenreich   | Sept. 7  |
| Levi Edler           | Sept. 7  |
| Karleigh Jane Wilson | Sept. 7  |
| Amber Branson        | Sept. 8  |
| Tristan Steibel      | Sept. 8  |
| Teagan Rohlfing      | Sept. 8  |
| Wallace Altes        | Sept. 9  |
| Nolan Finch          | Sept. 9  |
| Mason Hicks          | Sept. 9  |
| William Niebruegge   | Sept. 9  |
| Ben Yancy            | Sept. 10 |
| Elaine Hoerr         | Sept. 10 |
| Susan Roseman        | Sept. 10 |
| Guy Tyberendt        | Sept. 11 |
| Peg Johner           | Sept. 12 |
| Pam Muertz           | Sept. 12 |
| Barbara Wischmeyer   | Sept. 13 |
| Julia Muertz         | Sept. 13 |
| Mallory Meyer        | Sept. 13 |
| Sue Taylor           | Sept. 14 |
| Kadence Keller       | Sept. 14 |
| Adleigh Wilson       | Sept. 15 |
| Morris Brandt        | Sept. 16 |
| Bob Barnes           | Sept. 18 |
| Brandt Mueller       | Sept. 18 |
| Maren Marie Birk     | Sept. 18 |
| Don Edler            | Sept. 19 |
| Bill Tutka           | Sept. 20 |
| Pat Berry            | Sept. 20 |
| Kate Larson          | Sept. 20 |
| Aura Hicks           | Sept. 20 |
| Mildred Jensen       | Sept. 20 |
| Julie Schmitz        | Sept. 22 |
| Lillian Hicks        | Sept. 22 |
| Jared Roever         | Sept. 22 |
| Maggie Schwarze      | Sept. 22 |
| Evan Hill            | Sept. 23 |
| Steven Hicks         | Sept. 24 |
| Clayton Braun        | Sept. 24 |
| Harry Steingrubey    | Sept. 25 |
| Nadine Feldker       | Sept. 25 |
| Harper Rohlfing      | Sept. 25 |
| Scott Upchurch       | Sept. 25 |

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Ayla Jean Esker | Sept. 27 |
| Tyler Koester   | Sept. 28 |
| Miki Skaggs     | Sept. 28 |
| Kalista Wetzel  | Sept. 28 |
| Afton Schwarze  | Sept. 28 |
| Wayne Stitzel   | Sept. 29 |
| Paul Faus       | Sept. 30 |

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Bradley Koesterer | Oct. 1  |
| Brylee Rohlfing   | Oct. 1  |
| Adam Eckart       | Oct. 2  |
| Kelsey Schmitz    | Oct. 2  |
| Vanessa Stitzel   | Oct. 3  |
| Whitney Stitzel   | Oct. 3  |
| Wyatt Schreder    | Oct. 3  |
| Alex Knoll        | Oct. 5  |
| Matthew Brandt    | Oct. 5  |
| Dallen Edler      | Oct. 5  |
| Levi Wittenbrink  | Oct. 5  |
| Carmelita Sensel  | Oct. 6  |
| Nancy Voelker     | Oct. 6  |
| Sheri Dilley      | Oct. 6  |
| Mike Krebel       | Oct. 6  |
| Linda Sutter      | Oct. 7  |
| Janey Berg        | Oct. 7  |
| Jennifer Coats    | Oct. 8  |
| Graham Knobloch   | Oct. 8  |
| Connie Esker      | Oct. 9  |
| Ross Mueller      | Oct. 9  |
| Trey Rohlfing     | Oct. 13 |
| Owen Carron       | Oct. 14 |
| Kaiden Wilson     | Oct. 14 |
| Linda Schmidt     | Oct. 15 |
| Elaine Knobloch   | Oct. 15 |

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** ♥♥♥

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Danny & Rita Hoffmann          | Sept. 3  |
| Tim & Tina Buchanan            | Sept. 3  |
| James & Connie Matzenbacher    | Sept. 5  |
| David & Lauren Hesterberg      | Sept. 5  |
| Nathan & Stephanie Keller      | Sept. 8  |
| Robert & Kelly Mathews         | Sept. 10 |
| Brett & Kate Mueller           | Sept. 12 |
| Scott & Kate Larson            | Sept. 13 |
| Joel & Michelle Vogt           | Sept. 13 |
| David & Sandra Berg            | Sept. 13 |
| John & Juanita Roland          | Sept. 14 |
| Christopher & Christina Muertz | Sept. 15 |
| Dan & Jackie Gilbert           | Sept. 16 |
| David & B.J. Henerfauth        | Sept. 20 |
| Jacob & Carrie Grueninger      | Sept. 21 |
| Ryan & Katlyn Nolan            | Sept. 21 |
| Rodney & Annette Morwick       | Sept. 22 |



|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Lloyd & Margaret Schwarze | Sept. 22 |
| Corey & Andrea Blackwell  | Sept. 23 |
| Donald Sr. & Pam Muertz   | Sept. 24 |
| Nathan & Amanda Hoffmann  | Sept. 24 |
| Randall & Kay Floarke     | Sept. 25 |
| Chris & Lisa Koester      | Sept. 26 |
| Robert & Linda Schmidt    | Sept. 27 |
| Dennis & Elaine Knobloch  | Sept. 27 |
| Wade & Kathy Goldschmidt  | Sept. 27 |
| Bill & Becky Huddleston   | Sept. 27 |
| Travis & Kristin Busch    | Sept. 29 |
| Bill & Sandy Tutka        | Sept. 29 |

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Wayne & Sherry Stitzel    | Oct. 3  |
| Alan & Debbie Wischmeyer  | Oct. 4  |
| Brandon & Emily Kruse     | Oct. 4  |
| Jon & Becky Matzenbacher  | Oct. 6  |
| Justin & Kristin Knobloch | Oct. 6  |
| Todd & Betty Levin        | Oct. 6  |
| John & Phyllis Hoefft     | Oct. 10 |
| Jared & Rebecca Coats     | Oct. 10 |
| Brian & Shannon Eckart    | Oct. 10 |
| David & Anita Muertz      | Oct. 12 |
| Grant & Jennifer Coats    | Oct. 13 |



### **General Fund Financial**

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| July 2023 Beginning balance: | \$13,712.75 |
| Income                       | \$15,053.46 |
| Expenses                     | \$17,823.74 |
| Ending balance July 31, 2023 | \$10,942.47 |

### ***A Little Spiritual Humor.....***

#### **Little Johnny**

Little Johnny went to Sunday school one Sunday. The lesson for the day was from Genesis. "God opened up Adam's side, took a rib from him, and created Eve from it," was what really struck Johnny.

Later, that afternoon, Johnny started feeling sick, and his side began to hurt. He layed down on the couch, and after about half an hour, his mother came over and asked him if he was feeling okay. He said, "Not really – I think I'm gonna have a wife."

#### **Pastor Dave**

Pastor Dave tells us: After a worship service at First Baptist Church in Newcastle, Kentucky, a mother with a fidgety seven-year-old boy told me how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet.

About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, 'If you don't be quiet, Pastor Dave is going to lose his place and he will have to start his sermon all over again!' It worked."

~~~~~





St. John United Church of Christ
1208 Franklin Street
PO Box 95
Maestown, IL 62256

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Send email updates, photos & group descriptions to maestownucc@gmail.com

Church: 618-458-6940

Pastor's Cell Phone: 618-340-2372

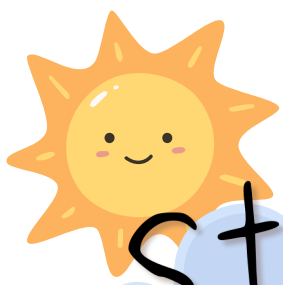
Website: www.maestownucc.org

pastorpoole123@gmail.com

“Like” us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/maestownucc>

Thought for the day

Jesus is the one who picks us up when no one else has even noticed we've fallen.



St. John's Day

a tradition since 1935

September 17, 2023
After Church

MAEYSTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION PARK



We will have the main dish, please feel free to bring a side or dessert to share!

We will have live music from 12-2.

Bring your lawn chairs.

Also, bring your balls, bats, and gloves so we can have a softball game.

THE WHOLE CHURCH IS
INVITED TO ATTEND!

