



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor
August - 2025

Pastor's Reflection

Living in Faith

How much of our time and emotional resources do we spend worrying about the future—the future of our children, grandchildren, church, jobs, nation, and world? Worry has a way of setting into your bones. It can be such a constant that you lose track of when it started. Living in faith is the alternative, but it is not as straightforward or simplistic as it sounds.

Living in faith means trusting God, but that does not mean you tune out of life's real challenges or that God will take those challenges away. Saying don't worry, trust in God, and it will all work out is not a formula for success, nor is it what faith is all about.

Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

As we choose to be in prayer, humbly and earnestly expressing our concerns with grateful hearts, we ask God to show us the way forward and accomplish what seems impossible. We find peace and rhythm by letting go and trusting in God. This does not mean we stop working for better relationships, health, and life. We do not let go of our responsibility but rather trust that all things are in perfect harmony with God as we listen for God's guidance. Patience is not passive; patience is the act of trusting in God. For example, we all know when someone is struggling; we also understand that a simple answer will not help them. Without a single word being spoken, you can make a difference by believing in them. You provide so much by believing in their ability to figure it out, to come to both a conclusion and the action necessary to change their circumstances. Your belief in them is ultimately more powerful than giving them the answer. They learn to stand strong because you believe in them. Our relationship with God is much the same. God may not give us the answers we seek or the requests we are praying for. We often find the strength, peace, and wisdom we seek from within. God believes in us, and we see ourselves in his reflection and love. This relationship is the source of our strength and our peace. The future God is calling us into is bright and beautiful. We all become our best selves when we are being the reflections of his love for us. Living in faith is not a simplistic answer; it is a complex relationship of trusting in God to be with us, guide us, and love so completely that we are whole and complete in every possible way. And when we raise our children in this love, when we care for our neighbor in this love, and when we build a faith community in this love, we see a future for which we are full of joy!

Let's live in faith together!

Pastor

Church Council Minutes – June 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Amy Rohlfing. Pastor Poole opened the meeting with a prayer. Those in attendance were Susan Koesterer, Ron Richeson, Fay Ross, Debbie Eckart, Jim Maurer, Brian Edler and Amy Juelfs. Pam Muertz was absent.

Review and Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2025 Council Meeting

The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. There being no further corrections a motion was made by Jim Maurer and seconded by Brian Edler to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report, Bills, Timecard and Pastor's Expenses

The treasurer's report, bills, timecard and Pastor's expenses were presented and reviewed. There being no changes or corrections a motion was made by Fay Ross and seconded by Jim Maurer to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Solar Power Update

- The credits are being processed. All systems are working.

Bids for Painting Church Hall

- Jim will review and organize all bids before discussion at the July council meeting.

Furnace Update

- Final unit is being installed in June.

Carpet in the Parsonage

- The carpet will be installed in June.

Generator first step cost: \$300 Materials

- Drew will start the installation in June.

Roof on the Back of Church

- The roof will be replaced in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Mowing of the Pine Forest

- Debbie will secure a bid from Cindy Ruemker to mow the pine forest in the spring and fall.

Oil and Chip the Parking Lot

- The council will evaluate further after the ditch and culvert are cleaned out.

PASTOR'S REPORT

· Pastor shared we had over 50 children at day one of VBS. We also had over 180 people at church on Sunday morning. We need to keep attendance strong over the summer. We will have new members joining the church in the fall.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Debbie Eckart and seconded by Amy Juelfs to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned. Pastor closed the meeting by leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Susan Koesterer, Secretary

Church Financial

Visitor

Beginning Balance - \$517.83

Income - \$0.00

Expense - \$57.50

U.S. Postmaster - \$57.50

Ending Balance - \$460.33

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Sunday School Checking Account

Beginning Balance - \$265.99

Income - \$200.00

\$200.00 – Anna Massie – Donation for Little Rascals Camp

Expense - \$263.77

\$263.77 – Anna Massie – VBS Craft Supplies

Ending Balance - \$202.22

Sunday School Savings Account

Beginning Balance - \$4743.88

Income - \$1.22

\$1.22 – Interest

Ending Balance - \$4745.10

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Women's Fellowship

September is right around the corner. We will resume 2025-2026 meeting schedule on September 4th at noon in the church hall. For those not able to attend we will discuss the October Pie stand at Maeystown Octoberfest (October 12, 2025). I will post the work schedule along with the pie donation list on the bulletin board at the back of church. If you are able to donate a pie or work a 2 hour shift please sign up on either of those lists.

I look forward to this new year of activity. If you have any questions please let me know.

God bless,

Sue Taylor 618-520-7400

email: sataylor@htc.net

The Little Rascals Camp 2025!

The children first learned they have the power to make something new again. As they fixed and painted the old Little Rascals club house:

The children learned to share their vision of a Go-Kart,

They learned to create a vision together as a team for a Go-Kart

They learned to come together as a team to build their outrageous vision of a Go-Kart.

We had a fantastic time, and I can not wait for next year's Little Rascals Camp!

Coat Drive 2025

The women's Fellowship is sponsoring a coat drive this year, with the coats to-be delivered in October of 2025. We will accept gently used or new coats.

This serves as a heads-up to anyone planning on getting rid of any of your coats between now and September/October. We would appreciate it if you could save any of your gently-used coats for our coat drive this coming fall.

We will NOT be collecting the coats until after the summer, so please keep them to donate. We will start collecting coats from September 1-30, 2025.

More information will be available later on when and where to drop them off.

Thank you. ~The Women's Fellowship

This and That

- POPSICLES BY THE CREEK: Sunday, August 24, 2025; 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., by the creek in Maeystown. Bring the family for activities, games, facepainting, and of course popsicles. Hosted by Maeystown area businesses and organizations (The Roastery, CandaLuna Candles, the Corner George Inn Bed and Breakfast, the Maeystown General Store, and our own St. John UCC).
- Save the Date: Saturday, August 23 from 4:30-6:30pm, the Friends of Bluegrass will present a Creekside Concert by the Preservation Society Mill. Bring your lawn chairs!

Prayer List:

- Please keep the family of Emma Schultheis in your prayers as they mourn her passing.
- Kim Hicks found out she has cancer. She is having a scan in August, then they will come up with a plan.
- Keep John Bueschel in your prayers as he struggles to find a treatment that works for his cancer.
- Please keep Glen Coats in your prayers as he finds his footing.
- Please keep Brent Langsdorf in your prayers as he recovers from a successful prostate surgery.
- Please pray for Linda Sutter. She has an infection in her blood along with many other complications.
- Please keep Cathy Hoffmann in your prayers as she struggles with eye control and sight.
- Please keep Pam Coplin in your prayers as she struggles with Bell's Palsy
- Debbie Barnes for heart concerns.
- Rose Schultheis, a 23-year-old, is now on the active kidney list for a transplant and on daily dialysis.
- Please pray for Bob Barnes, whose feet are healing, and who has significant heart issues.

- Gideon, infant son of Chris and Amanda Schweigert, as he receives therapy for a dislocated jaw.
- Jane and Pat McCarthy as they struggle with ongoing health concerns.
- Willie Krebel has a new tumor in the lymph node under his liver. Please continue praying.
- Mary Ann Lutz, Julie Birk's aunt, needs a Kidney Transplant.
- Kaylee is getting stronger every day but still needs our prayers.
- Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.

Birthday Shoutouts:

- Linda Green will turn 73 on August 8.
- Paul Hoffmann will turn 75 on August 13.
- Nancy Schilling will turn 78 on August 15.
- Eric Peiper will turn 72 on August 16.
- Sharon Glessner will turn 68 on August 19.
- Ginny Borcharding will turn 78 on August 20.
- BJ Henerfauth will turn 71 on August 25.
- Brenda Johnson will turn 74 on September 2.
- Cathay Hoffmann will turn 67 and Laurie Manning & Jay Mueller will turn 65 on September 3.
- Wallace Altes will turn 84 on September 9.
- Ben Yancey will turn 97 years young on September 10 and Elaine Hoerr will turn 72 years old the same day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

CHRISTINA RIPPENMEYER	Aug 1
KAREN SCHWARZE	Aug 2
TATE STEIBEL	Aug 3
LARITA MOHL	Aug 4
LEAH HILL	Aug 4
KONNOR STELLHORN	Aug 4
ROBIN EVANS	Aug 5
JULIE RUSTEBERG	Aug 5
KELLI BRELLINGER	Aug 5
BLAKLEE SCHWARZE	Aug 5
GRANT COATS	Aug 6
LILYANNE POOLE	Aug 7
CAROLINE KREBEL	Aug 7
LINDA GREEN	Aug 8
JUSTIN SCHMITZ	Aug 10
AMY ROEVER	Aug 10
BARRY HOFFMANN	Aug 11
LAYNE PRANGE	Aug 11
JESSICA HICKS	Aug 12
PAUL HOFFMANN	Aug 13

- Peg Johner will turn 85 on September 11.
- Barb Wischmeyer will turn 79 on September 13.
- Sue Taylor will turn 71 on September 14.

Special Anniversaries:

- Dwight & Kathy Asselmeier will celebrate 47 years of marriage on August 12.
- Glenn & Linda Coats will celebrate 46 years of marriage on August 18.
- Lyle & Zoeann Schwarze will celebrate 43 years of marriage on August 21.
- Freeman & Ginny Borcharding will celebrate 56 years of marriage on August 30.
- Danny & Rita Hoffmann will celebrate 42 years of marriage on September 2.
- James & Connie Matzenbacher will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 5, while David & Lauren Hesterberg will celebrate 44 years of marriage the same day.
- John & Juanita Roland will celebrate 40 years of marriage on September 14.

LYNNE HICKS	Aug 13
JAY LEBER	Aug 13
LURIE KNOLL	Aug 13
ROBERT MATHEWS	Aug 13
GRADY ASSELMEIER	Aug 13
MAXWELL SCHAEFER	Aug 13
ADAM TYBERENDT	Aug 14
RANDY HICKS	Aug 14
JACKSON KLINKHARDT	Aug 14
NANCY SCHILLING	Aug 15
DEBBIE WISCHMEYER	Aug 15
RACHEL RUSSELL	Aug 15
TRAVIS BUSCH	Aug 15
BLAKE WILD	Aug 16
HUNTER FLOARKE	Aug 16
ERIC PIEPER	Aug 18
LJ ROSENKRANZ	Aug 18
VICTORIA RIPPENMEYER	Aug 18
SHARON GLESSNER	Aug 19
JENNY PRANGE	Aug 19
MONROE VOGT	Aug 19
GINNYBORC HARDING	Aug 20
CAINE HOFFETT	Aug 20

LITTLE RASCALS CAMP 2025 PICTURES





St. John United Church of Christ
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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U. S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
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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

Be the reason someone smiles today.