



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor
December - 2025

Pastor's Reflection

"Christmas is in the Air"

Christmas is indeed in the air! Seems as though everyone is so ready to be in the Christmas mood! People have a little more grace for one another and are so giving in this wonderful Advent Season! We have so much to look forward to this December.

The Christkindl Mart on December 7th; The children's Christmas program is on December 14th. The Christmas Cantata is on December 21st. We are having a caroling celebration in our Hall on December 21st, with our amazing choir members joining us to help those of us who cannot carry a tune. We, of course, will have our amazing candlelight Christmas Eve service and Christmas morning service.

The birth of Christ means a new beginning for all of us. How will you bring in this new day? What makes your heart sing? Let the season of the birth of Christ fill your thoughts and your heart with all the possible ways we can move into this new year.

You are all such a gift to me and this congregation. You share your time, your talent, your resources, and, best of all, your heart. When one hurts, we all hurt, and when one celebrates, we all celebrate. We have been profoundly blessed with a loving congregation that absolutely reflects the love of our Lord. I am so thrilled to be celebrating Christmas together!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor

Church Council Minutes – October 13, 2025

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

Review and Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2025 Council Meeting

The minutes from the September 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 Susan Koesterer and seconded by Jim Maurer to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Solar Power Update

- Motion was made by Brian Edler and seconded by Pam Muertz to approve final payment for the solar installation. Motion carried.
- Pastor will prepare a solar summary to be shared with the congregation.

Church Hall Painting

- The council discussed that the hall paint looks great. Motion was made by Pam Muertz and seconded by Jim Maurer to approve payment of \$12,179 for the hall painting. Motion carried.

Oil & Chip Parking Lot and Cemetery

- No Update

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Work Day

- The Fall work day is scheduled for October 25th from 8 am to Noon.

4H Tree Planting for Emma

- Motion made by Jim Maurer and seconded by Amy Juelfs to approve 4H planting a tree in Memory of Emma. Motion carried.

Tree Removal

- The maintenance committee has identified two trees that need to be removed before they become a problem. One tree is inside the play house and the other tree is near the church solar panels. Motion by Jim Maurer and seconded by Brian Edler to remove the trees. Motion carried.

Nominations for 2025

- Motion made by Brian Edler and seconded by Amy Juelfs to accept the nominations as presented. Motion carried.

Budget for 2026

- The council received the 2026 proposed budget. The council will discuss at the November meeting.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor shared that we have 14 new members joining the church.
- The Sunday School will hold a meeting on November 2nd after church.

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

Susan Koesterer, Secretary

Church Financial

Visitor report: October 2025. Beginning balance: \$20,529.22; income: \$23,880.00; expenses: \$29,148.92; ending balance \$15,260.30 October 31, 2025 - Kathy Asselmeier

Visitor Report

Beginning Balance - \$304.33

Income - \$0.00

Expense - \$63.00

U. S. Postmaster - \$63.00

Ending Balance - \$241.33

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Sunday School Checking

Beginning Balance - \$643.88

Income - \$49.00

Offering - \$49.00

Expense – \$510.26

Christy Muertz – Winter & Spring Curriculum Reimbursement - \$510.26

Ending Balance - \$182.62

Sunday School Savings

Beginning Balance - \$3746.13

Income - \$0.00

Expense - \$0.00

Ending Balance - \$3746.13

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Women's Fellowship

The November 6, 2025 Women's Fellowship was called to order by President Sue Talyor with 11 members present. Sue opened with a prayer in the absence of Pastor.

The treasurer's report was read by Sue in the absence of Connie. \$7274.69 was the balance as of October 31st. This includes the money from the pie stand and the money from the sale of tables for the Christkindlmarkt. Linda and Sharon G made the motion to accept and the motion carried.

The secretary's report was read by Ellen. Faye and Gale made the motion to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

The Octoberfest pie stand was very successful. We had about 50 pies and we sold all of them. The glass pie plates were a success and made cutting the pies easier. The glass plates were washed by Nancy and we thank her for that.

Faye and Charlie took 9 garbage bags of children's coats to Kinder Cottage along with 4 bags that had been delivered when the school supplies were delivered. All were greatly appreciated.

A \$250.00 donation was made to Homes for Healing at Hoyelton which was voted on in November 2023 to send every year through 2027.

The Halloween event was a success even though it rained for most of the day. Donations were collected to cover the cost of the chili and drinks at Hank and Lilly's and all other expenses were donated.

The list for after school workers and items for the shut-in bags were passed around and all dates and products were covered. We will assemble the bags on December 11 at 11:00 am. Cookies will be needed for the 25 bags.

There will be a new member reception on November 9th after church in the hall. We will serve coffee and punch with cookies, brownies and doughnuts.

We will decorate the church and hall for Christmas after church on November 16th.

We will set up for the Christkindlmarkt on Saturday December 6th at 9:00 along with decorating outside the hall.

Christkindlmarkt and quilt show will be on December 7th. There are 22 vendors and 3 trailers that will be attending. The quilt show will be in the sanctuary and any type of crochet or embroidery work is welcome to be on display along with the quilts.

The money from the sale of the tables for the Christkindlmarkt will again go to help families in need. Faye and Sharon made the motion to donate up to \$200.00 if more money is needed to buy the gifts for the families.

Motion carried.

Bunco night for Region 2 will be November 21 at Zoar church in New Hanover. They will have a silent auction with proceeds going to Camp Dubois. Gale and Joyce made the motion to donate \$200.00 instead of a basket.

Motion carried.

Pat and Joyce made the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ellen Edler Secretary

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth Fellowship met at 7:00 PM on October 15, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President Cody with eighteen members present. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Pastor and Angie presented our devotion time, titled "Fill Your Bucket." Life can be draining: school, bus, extra-curricular activities, conflict and more. How do we restore ourselves? We sleep or do something we enjoy, or we pray and go to church. Through our faith, we come in to church with a weight on our shoulders, but go out feeling lighter. "Go back to the well: Center yourself, get in touch with God. God's plan for us is always bigger than what we see.

Minutes of the September meeting, along with the Treasurer's report, were approved on a motion by Kadie, seconded by Owen. Motion carried.

Old Business: The soda stand was successful. We expect to have a profit of around \$500-\$600.

Holiday gift giving was discussed. We will contact Hoyleton to see if there is an item they need for the benefit of all their residents.

A motion to approve all old business was made by Ella, seconded by Wyatt B. Motion carried.

New Business: Election of officers was held with the following results: President: Cody; Vice-President: Parker; Treasurer: Julia; Secretary: Lexy; Information/Communications Officer: Ella.

A motion was made by Kaylee, seconded by Kelsey to accept the new business. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Levi, seconded by Seth. Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The church is looking for someone to do snow removal this winter. Contact Amy Juelfs 618-920-9261.
- Christkindlmarkt will be Sunday, December 7, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lots of great vendors, including a few mobile trailer vendors. There will be a Quilt show in the sanctuary at the same time.
- The Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 14 during our 10:00 a.m. worship service, which will be held in the Fellowship Hall.
- The choir's Christmas Cantata will be on Sunday, December 21 during our 10:00 a.m. worship service.
- We will be having a Christmas Sing-along on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, no matter your singing ability. Please feel free to bring snacks and baked goods.
- The Christmas Eve service is 11:00 p.m. and the Christmas Day services at 10:00 am.. Both have holy communion. The Christmas Eve service is a candlelight service.
- Donations are being taken for the 2025 Christmas Poinsettias. Order forms are enclosed and due to the church December 7.
- The churches of Region 2 of the Illinois South Conference are hosting an Epiphany Progressive Dinner on Saturday, January 3. St. John Maeystown will be hosting the entree portion of the dinner. Women's Fellowship is preparing the food, but we need volunteers (women and men) to set up, prepare and serve the food. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entryway for details about the event. Contact Sue Taylor at (618) 520-7400 or sataylor@htc.net to volunteer or for more information.
- SAVE THE DATE: Fastnacht will be on Tuesday, February 17. Watch Facebook and the bulletin for more details.

We welcomed the below 15 new members to the St. John UCC, Maeystown Family on Sunday, November 9.

Austin and Madeline Gerovac
Tyler and Claire Grob
Michael and Abbey Kleibueker
Kyle Koester and Emily Sensel
Aaron and Maddie Nabers
Marvin & Glenda Schweickhardt
Erika Soutiea
Bill Soutiea
Konnor Stellhorn

Members in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Centers

Carol Bay
Room 158-MC
c/o Park Place at Winghaven
2002 Boardwalk Pl Dr
O'Fallon MO 63368

Jean Rahn
% Garden Place
Box 33
735 Columbia Ave
Waterloo, IL 62298

Elaine Hoerr
% Oak Hill
623 Hamacher St
Room 712
Waterloo, IL 62298

Ben & Darlene Yancey
% Cedarhurst
526 Legacy Dr
Apt 37
Waterloo, IL 62298

Catherine Hoffmann
% Reflections at Garden Place
710 S. Main St
Columbia, IL 62236

Prayer List:

- Kim Hicks found out she has cancer and is receiving treatments.
- Please pray for Donna Solich. She is home from the hospital and continues to heal.
- Please keep Glen Coats in your prayers as he finds his footing.
- Please keep Pam Coplin in your prayers as she struggles with Bell's Palsy.
- Rose Schultheis, a 23-year-old, is now on the active kidney list for a transplant and daily dialysis.
- Gideon, infant son of Chris and Amanda Schweigert, as he receives therapy for a dislocated jaw.
- 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:

- Charles Birk will turn 71 on December 3.
- Glenn Coats will celebrate his 75th birthday on December 6.
- Ellen Edler will turn 72 on December 7.
- Cohen Bakken will celebrate his 1st birthday on December 10.
- Yvonne Gilbert will turn 87 years young on December 15, while Brian Johnson will turn 76 the same day.
- Carol Bay will turn 91 years young on December 16 and Sandy Tutka will turn 77 and Bill Huddleston will turn the big 5-0 the same day.
- Clyde Branson will turn 88 on December 21.
- Dr. James Schmuck will turn 76 on December 26.
- Joanne Hoffmann will turn 84 on December 29.
- Bob Edler will turn 72 on January 4.
- Lyle Schwarze will turn 71 on January 14.

Special Anniversaries:

- Brian & Brenda Johnson will celebrate 54 years of marriage on January 15.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

KODY SCHWARZE	Dec 1
JENNY KLINKHARDT	Dec 2
WYATT LIEFER	Dec 2
CHARLES BIRK	Dec 3
ALAN WISCHMEYER	Dec 3
JUDY KREBEL	Dec 5
DENISE FAUS	Dec 5
DAVID MOTHERSHEAD II	Dec 5
BRAD EDLER	Dec 5
JACOB BERG	Dec 5
GLENN COATS	Dec 6
JULIE ROY	Dec 6
PAUL NILGES	Dec 6
CODY SCHMITZ	Dec 6
ELLEN EDLER	Dec 7
AMANDA PANZAU	Dec 7
JAMESON RICHESON	Dec 7
COLE GOLDSCHMIDT	Dec 8
COHEN BAKKEN	Dec 10
AMBER WOLF	Dec 11
MASON KNOBLOCH	Dec 12
BANKS HORN	Dec 12
COREY BLACKWELL	Dec 14
YVONNE GILBERT	Dec 15
BRIAN JOHNSON	Dec 15
CAROL BAY	Dec 16
SANDY TUTKA	Dec 16
BILL HUDDLESTON	Dec 16
AVERY ANDRES	Dec 16
DR. SHANNON KREBEL	Dec 17
TONY STIRNAMAN	Dec 18
CHRISTOPHER BRIGANCE	Dec 18
JILL CROUCH	Dec 19
EMILY REINHARDT	Dec 19
LESLIE RUSH	Dec 20
CLYDE BRANSON	Dec 21
GWENIVERE EVANS	Dec 21
CONNIE MATZENBACHER	Dec 22
LIZZY SHREWSBURY	Dec 22
JORDYN SCHAEFER	Dec 22
AUSTIN KEMPF	Dec 24
JESSICA FLOARKE	Dec 25
DR. JAMES SCHMUCK	Dec 26
LEXY EDLER	Dec 26
BRETT MUELLER	Dec 27
BRANDON KRUSE	Dec 27
ANTHONY SCHULTHEIS	Dec 27
ANDREA BLACKWELL	Dec 28
JOANNE HOFFMANN	Dec 29
FAITH BERTRAM	Dec 30
MATTHEW ALBAT	Dec 30
NOAH KLINKHARDT	Dec 30
BENJAMIN ELLIOTT	Dec 30

UTE ENGBRING	Dec 30
ANGELA FINCH	Dec 31
KATLYN J NOLAN	Dec 31
BOB EDLER	Jan 4
TONI MICHELS	Jan 4
ANDREW STAFFORD	Jan 5
BECKY COATS	Jan 6
ALISHA STAFFORD	Jan 8
AMANDA RUSTEBERG	Jan 9
BILL MANNING	Jan 10
MICHAEL SCHULTHEIS	Jan 10
JUSTIN BOMAN	Jan 11
DANNY HOFFMANN	Jan 12
STEVE LAWRENCE	Jan 12
AARON BRIGANCE	Jan 12
LYLE SCHWARZE	Jan 14
JUSTIN ROHLFING	Jan 14
KYLE KIPPING	Jan 14
SAMANTHA BOMAN	Jan 14
ABIGAIL GRABER	Jan 14
ELLIS KRUSE	Jan 14
CAMERON KNOBLOCH	Jan 14
BRADLEY WILSON	Jan 15
LYLA GOLDSCHMIDT	Jan 15

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

AMBER & JONATHAN WOLF	Dec 1
JUSTIN & SAMANTHA BOMAN	Dec 15
AARON & SHERRI VOELKER	Dec 16
JAY & DAWN LEBER	Dec 20
JEFF & COLEY HOFFMANN	Dec 20
DARREN & AMANDA KNOBLOCH	Dec 20
PAUL & DENISE FAUS	Dec 28
PAUL & WENDY HILL	Jan 4
BRIAN & BRENDA JOHNSON	Jan 15



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
Maestown, IL 62256

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

Church: 618-458-6940

Website: www.maestownucc.org

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

Thought for the day

"The smallest seed of faith is better than the largest fruit of happiness."