



***The Visitor***  
**January - 2026**

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## **Pastor's Reflection**

### **Church Council Minutes – November 10, 2025**

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

### **Review and Approval of Minutes from October 13, 2025 Council Meeting**

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. There being no further corrections a motion was made by Fay Ross and seconded by Ron Richeson 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 Debbie Eckart to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

### **Council Member Reports**

There is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering November 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Brian Edler and seconded by Fay Ross to designate the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering to Andrea Kuehner, a local woman with acute leukemia. If Andrea does not accept the offering, motion clarified that the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering should be designated to the Mission Team. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Solar Power Update**

- The solar installation is paid off. We still have \$18,149 in credits outstanding. We have received, Solar SREC \$10,588 and Federal Credit \$33,282.

### **Church Hall Painting**

- The Maher Trust paid \$6,000, the Memorial Fund paid \$5,000, and the remaining \$12,179 will be paid from the general fund this month.

### **Oil & Chip Parking Lot**

- No update

### **Fall Work Day**

- Pastor reported it was a good day. Thanks to everyone who participated in the work day.

### **4H Tree Planting for Emma**

- The 4H club will get back to us regarding what type of tree they would like to plant and where they would like to plant it.

### **Tree Removal before they become a problem**

- Brian is reviewing options to remove the tree in the playhouse.

### **Nominations for 2026**

- Pastor continues to contact nominees for trustee and elder.

### **Budget for 2026**

- Motion by Brian Edler and seconded by Susan Koesterer to accept the 2026 Budget as amended. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Cemetery Board Request**

- Sheryl Prange attended the meeting to review the Cemetery Board's request to update grave prices and cemetery rules and regulations.
- Motion by Pam Muertz and seconded by Brian Edler to support the Cemetery Board's recommended price adjustments and rules and regulation changes, and approve the Cemetery Board taking the recommendations forward to the Annual Meeting for approval by the congregation. Motion carried.

#### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

- Six couples and three individuals joined the church.
- The Sunday school meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> was a success with about 30 attending. Many signed up to serve in different ways.
- Student Pastor Tim is now Pastor Tim. St. Joe is making plans to call Pastor Tim to be their pastor after a congregational meeting in December.
- Region 2 UCC churches in Monroe County and Randolph County are making plans to do joint advertising in local papers. We will budget \$500 in 2026 to support this effort.

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

Susan Koesterer, Secretary

## Women's Fellowship

### UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The church is looking for someone to do snow removal this winter. Contact Amy Juelfs 618-920-9261.
- 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.

### 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

Charles Richeson  
% Oak Hill  
623 Hamacher St  
Room 708  
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	DR. SHANNON KREBEL	Dec 17
JENNY KLINKHARDT	Dec 2	TONY STIRNAMAN	Dec 18
WYATT LIEFER	Dec 2	CHRISTOPHER BRIGANCE	Dec 18
CHARLES BIRK	Dec 3	JILL CROUCH	Dec 19
ALAN WISCHMEYER	Dec 3	EMILY REINHARDT	Dec 19
JUDY KREBEL	Dec 5	LESLIE RUSH	Dec 20
DENISE FAUS	Dec 5	CLYDE BRANSON	Dec 21
DAVID MOTHERSHEAD II	Dec 5	GWENIVERE EVANS	Dec 21
BRAD EDLER	Dec 5	CONNIE MATZENBACHER	Dec 22
JACOB BERG	Dec 5	LIZZY SHREWSBURY	Dec 22
GLENN COATS	Dec 6	JORDYN SCHAEFER	Dec 22
JULIE ROY	Dec 6	AUSTIN KEMPF	Dec 24
PAUL NILGES	Dec 6	JESSICA FLOARKE	Dec 25
CODY SCHMITZ	Dec 6	DR. JAMES SCHMUCK	Dec 26
ELLEN EDLER	Dec 7	LEXY EDLER	Dec 26
AMANDA PANZAU	Dec 7	BRETT MUELLER	Dec 27
JAMESON RICHESON	Dec 7	BRANDON KRUSE	Dec 27
COLE GOLDSCHMIDT	Dec 8	ANTHONY SCHULTHEIS	Dec 27
COHEN BAKKEN	Dec 10	ANDREA BLACKWELL	Dec 28
AMBER WOLF	Dec 11	JOANNE HOFFMANN	Dec 29
MASON KNOBLOCH	Dec 12	FAITH BERTRAM	Dec 30
BANKS HORN	Dec 12	MATTHEW ALBAT	Dec 30
COREY BLACKWELL	Dec 14	NOAH KLINKHARDT	Dec 30
YVONNE GILBERT	Dec 15	BENJAMIN ELLIOTT	Dec 30
BRIAN JOHNSON	Dec 15	UTE ENGBRING	Dec 30
CAROL BAY	Dec 16	ANGELA FINCH	Dec 31
SANDY TUTKA	Dec 16	KATLYN J NOLAN	Dec 31
BILL HUDDLESTON	Dec 16	BOB EDLER	Jan 4
AVERY ANDRES	Dec 16	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

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

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...**

AMBER & JONATHAN WOLF Dec 1  
 JUSTIN & SAMANTHA BOMAN Dec 15  
 AARON & SHERRI VOELKER Dec 16  
 JAY & DAWN LEBER Dec 20



**St. John United Church of Christ**  
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 PO Box 95  
 Maestown, IL 62256

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 Permit #1  
 Maestown, IL 62256

Send email updates, photos & group descriptions to [maeystownucc@gmail.com](mailto:maeystownucc@gmail.com)

Church: 618-458-6940

Website: [www.maeystownucc.org](http://www.maeystownucc.org)

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

*Thought for the day*

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