



The Visitor
November - 2025

Pastor's Reflection

Living in the rhythm and joy of being in the spirit!

Living in the rhythm and joy of being in the spirit! It's a church reality!

Oftentimes, I consult families that are going through real struggles: a child acting out, stress in their marriage, trouble at work, or a seriously ill loved one to name a few. One of the first things I discuss with them is their faith practice, and in particular, how much of a priority do they make going to church on Sunday? I do not think that going to church is a magic pill that will fix a marriage, change a work environment, or cure a loved ones' illness. However, I can confidently tell you that walking in rhythm with Christ impacts all aspects of our lives. We do see prayers answered, but even more than prayers being answered is the ability to be for others in a way that brings comfort and peace into their journey. As we walk in peace and joy, Sunday morning worship is a big aspect of that walk with God.

Exodus 20:8–11

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

To keep the Sabbath holy is where the rubber meets the road, so to speak. Organizing our lives around being present on Sunday morning does three compelling things that make a tremendous difference in our and our family's lives.

First, we communicate to ourselves, family, and community that God comes first, and the rest of our life must revolve around God. God provides every blessing, and we center our lives in God.

Second, structure is the key to raising children, and nothing demands more structure in the household than making it to church on Sunday morning. Our family must see that heaven and earth will move with our commitment to being at church on Sunday morning. We all find our security in a structured life, and a structure that reinforces that God is at the center is very powerful for our children and ourselves. When we bend the demands of this world to fit our commitment to be in church on Sunday mornings, the angels in heaven rejoice, and our walk becomes one of purpose. Build the structure for life that brings blessings, peace, and joy.

Third, and most important, is the covenant we have with God. AI puts it this way: "A covenant with God is a sacred agreement or promise between God and humanity, in which God pledges certain things and people agree

to follow His commandments.” As much as I like the directness of Al’s definition. I would express it a little differently. It is our relationship with our Lord, bringing us to an ever-increasing level of peace and grace amid life’s many challenges. Being true to our relationship and word with God by showing up on Sunday morning puts a concrete reality to keeping the covenant.

In a world that knows little peace, in a world that honors sports figures like heroes, and celebrities like gods, in a world that looks for love in all the wrong places, those who honor their covenant with God, bring a light into the world that shines brightly. The days of going to church on Sunday mornings because that is what everyone does are gone, every obstacle that can derail a person or family is in full force. To put church first on Sunday morning is nothing short of a courageous act that flies in the face of other parents and organizations. Jesus makes us this promise as he is preparing to go to his father.

John 14:27-29

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Jesus made us this promise of peace and security in him. Let us live as witnesses to this promise as we celebrate in worship together in the spirit of Christ!

Church Council Meeting - September 8, 2025

Attending: Ron, Pam, Amy R, Pastor, Faye, Amy J, Brian, and Jim

Opening Prayer

-Prior month’s council meeting minutes from July, no meeting in August-Approved by Pam 2nd-Faye

-Treasure’s Report/Bills/timecard/Pastor’s expenses-

-Jim questioned how Tim, student pastor, is getting paid. Pastor clarified that Tim is making \$12,000/year-\$8,000 paid by our church and \$4,000 being paid by St. Joe. This is not clear in the expense report. Jim approved the expense report with a further review/change in how this is listed in the report. Faye 2nd

-Don Edler and the County fixed the washout in the hall parking lot.

Old Business

-Approved the fed credit and utility credit checks to put toward loans
Brian- 1st Jim- 2nd

-Hall painting will begin in about 2-3 weeks

-Oil and chip parking lots and cemetery-Brian will work with Lenny Schwarze on getting bids

-Waiting on bids for snow removal from Clean Cut Lawncare and Aaron Esker

New Business

-Loans will be paid with the fed and utility credit checks

-Amy J will take the 5th Sunday offering check from June to Todd Clasquin.

-Outdoor Service on Sept. 21 with picnic following-Pastor asked for help setting up on Sept. 20.

-Fall Word Day-Pastor asked for everyone to keep an eye out for things that need to be done. The front door at church is coming open at random times. The handle needs to be fixed.

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Church Financial

Visitor Report

Beginning Balance - \$339.33

Income - \$25.00

Dennis & Barbara Wetzler - \$25.00

Expense - \$60.00

U.S. Post Master - \$60.00

Ending Balance - \$304.33

Thanks Barb & Dennis for always remembering Maeystown.

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Sunday School Checking Account

Beginning Balance - \$899.13

Income - \$0.00

Expenses - \$255.25

Anna Massie – St. John's Day - \$155.25

Kindercottage – Oct, Nov & Dec - \$100.00

Ending Balance - \$643.88

Sunday School Savings Account

Beginning Balance - \$3745.10

Income - \$1.03

Expense - \$0.00

Ending Balance - \$3746.13

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Women's Fellowship - September Meeting

The September 4, 2025 Women's Fellowship meeting was called to order by President Sue Taylor with 16 members and Pastor and Tim present. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Connie read the treasurers report with a balance of 4015.93. Linda and Sharon G made the motion to accept the report and motion carried.

Ellen read the secretaries report and a motion to accept was made by Nancy and Cathy. Motion carried.

Connie realized she did not read the receipts and expenses from May so she gave us that report. Joyce and Patty made a motion to accept the amended report. Motion carried.

Pastor talked about the sadness that we are experiencing with the events that are happening in and around our church. We need to reach out and show our love and care to the affected families.

Old business consisted of notifying everyone that our October meeting would be October 2 at 7:00 PM. This is to allow working people to come to the meeting.

Faye informed all that the coat drive will be happening the month of September. There are boxes in the hall to drop off new or slightly used coats that have been cleaned and repaired for kids and adults. These coats will be going to Kinder Cottage.

Connie reported that the donations for Kinder Cottage school drive was very successful and we will be delivering the donations next week. Thanks to all who donated.

The Region 2 Epiphany progressive dinner will be January 3, 2026. Our church is designated to supply the entrée and salad. The motion to participate in this dinner was made by Nancy and Connie. Motion carried. Connie, Nancy S, Ellen, and Sue will be deciding on the menu. More info will be available closer to the date.

After school workers, Octoberfest pie stand, and a pie list were passed around for signing. We have glass pie plates that we would like everyone to use, so the pies are easier to cut and remove from the greased plates. These pie plates can be taken and returned filled the day before or the morning of Octoberfest.

Christkindlemart which will be held on December 7th is progressing nicely with many vendors signing up already.

The old refrigerator was not working so Sue went to Harris' and found a new one on sale that ended before our meeting. A text was sent out and all approved Sue to purchase, have delivered, remove the old one, and purchase an extended warranty for a total of \$1812.99. Linda, and Sharon G made a motion for the record. Motion carried.

Sharon G and Linda are working on a 96 x 96 quilt to donate. We will discuss at a later date how to make the most of this donation.

September birthdays were celebrated by Cathy, Barb, Micky, and Sue.

Connie and Barb made the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ellen Edler Secretary

Women's Fellowship - October Meeting

The October 2, 2025 Women's Fellowship meeting was called to order by Sue Taylor with 15 members and Pastor present. This was an evening meeting.

Pastor opened with a prayer and deserts were served.

Sue read the treasurers report in Connies absence. The balance of 5043.70 was reported. Linda and Gale made a motion to approve and motion carried.

Ellen read the secretaries report. Motion to approve was made by Joyce and Victoria. Motion carried.

Ellen read thank you cards from Linda Sutter's family and Emma Schultheis family for the luncheons that were served.

Pastor's discussion was about hope and how we need to keep everyone involved to keep hope alive. There will be a work day on 10/25 from 8 – noon and a special Sunday School meeting after church on 11/2. Everyone is invited to show support for Sunday School to keep our kids involved.

Octoberfest pie stand was discussed and the price of pies will be 5.00/ slice and 25.00/ whole pie. Yvonne and Nancy made the motion to use these prices and the motion carried. The hall will be open on Saturday 10/11 from noon till 6:00 for anyone who wants to bring their pies on Saturday.

The work schedule for the pie stand and the after school schedules were passed around to have workers lined up for these jobs.

Sue also passed around a phone list to make sure that she has everyone's info correct. Any one interested in helping out with Women's fellowship and would like to be include, let Sue know your info to be added to the texts.

The Christkindlemart and quilt show were discussed and they have about 3 tables of the 30, left to sell. There will also be a food truck, donut truck, and a book truck that will be outside.

The quilt raffle will be postponed to a later date.

The Halloween in Maeystown will be 10/26 at 4:30 with a hay ride scheduled to take the kids up the hill from Hank and Lillies and they will trick or treat down the hill. There will be chilly and hot dogs at Hank and Lillies after.

The motion to donate \$150.00 to this event every year was made by Faye and Sharon B. Motion carried.

Discussion was had about putting the minutes of the meeting in the Visitor right away after our meeting. Everyone agreed this was a good idea.

Pastor appreciation day is 10/12. Anna and Gail made the motion to do the same as last year. Motion carried.

Sue informed us that the Women's Fellowship will be 120 years old on October 18th.

The Epiphany Progressive dinner will be Saturday January 3rd. We are in charge of the entrée and salad. More info will be coming on this project as the date gets closer.

It was brought to our attention that we could have a 3 hour class on CPR and it would be at no charge. If you wished to receive a certificate that would cost you \$8.00. It was decided to table this at this time to see if any other church members would be interested in joining us.

Birthdays were celebrated by Anna, Nancy, and Linda.

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

Pastor closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ellen Edler Secretary

YPL MINUTES

Youth Group met at 7:00 PM on September 17, 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, centered on bullying. We agreed that it's upsetting and disappointing to feel bullied. We might even feel lonely, or scared, or sad. We have to watch for bullying behaviors and report them to a trusted adult. Others might bully because they don't feel like they've been respected and accepted, or they may have problems at home and feel insecure. Their behavior might be a call for help. We have to remember that we still care for the person behind the bullying. In John 15:12, Jesus tells us, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." We need to focus less on how to be popular and more on how not to do hurtful things and how to treat others with compassion.

Minutes of the May meeting, along with the treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$2,942.84, were approved on a motion by Julia, seconded by Wyatt L. Motion carried.

Old Business: The Youth Sunday on June 29 was a success. Thanks to all the youth who participated, and especially to Ella for delivering the sermon.

Another thank you to the youth volunteers at VBS in June and at the Little Rascals summer camp in July. Thanks for stepping up to do this as well.

New Business: The youth agreed to have a soda stand again this year at the Octoberfest. Pastor will coordinate picking up products for the stand and will also prepare a work schedule for the day. Thanks, Pastor!!!

Holiday gift giving was discussed. We will have more information at our next meeting to decide what we will do, as we are looking at several different ideas.

We discussed getting "hoodies" for the group. It was decided to wait until after the holidays to discuss it further.

A motion was made by Julia, seconded by Morgan to elect officers at our October meeting. Motion carried.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mark your Calendars for ISC Region 2 Family Bunco Night to benefit DuBois Center. The fun takes place on Friday, November 21 at Zoar UCC, New Hanover. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., play begins at 7:00 p.m. \$10 per person. Snacks and beverages available. Silent auction and attendance prizes.
- Christkindlmarkt will be Sunday, December 7. Women's Fellowship is taking vendors. Reach out to Women's Fellowship to sign up as a vendor.

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

THANK YOU:

The family of Florence Feldmeier extends heartfelt thanks to all who brought desserts, helped with food transport, and gave their time helping in the kitchen for her memorial luncheon in any way. Your hospitality, generosity and kindness provided comfort and fellowship to our family and friends during a difficult time, and we are deeply grateful for the love shown by our church community.

We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to Pastor Poole for his many visits with Florence during her final illness, for the words of comfort he shared with her and with our family, and for providing such a fitting service in her memory. His care and guidance have been a true blessing.

With gratitude,

The Feldmeier Family

Prayer List:

- Kim Hicks found out she has cancer and 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:

- Pat Brandt will turn 71 on November 4.
- Connie Turner will turn 72 on November 6.
- Marlene Wild will turn 75 and Fay Ross will turn 74 on November 8.
- Dennis Knobloch will turn 72 on November 22.
- Larry Wild will celebrate his 76th birthday on November 25.
- 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.

Special Anniversaries:

- Charlie & Faye Birk will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary on November 13.
- Randy & Lynne Hicks will celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary on November 27.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

JENNIFER ROSENKRANZ Nov 1
 SUSAN HOFFMANN Nov 2
 LYNDA MORRISON Nov 2
 JUSTIN KNOBLOCH Nov 3
 PAT BRANDT Nov 4
 KATHY GOLDSCHMIDT Nov 4
 RENEE STEIBEL Nov 4
 GARRETT ROHLFING Nov 4
 LAUREN LaFOLLETTE Nov 5
 JOSH REINHARDT Nov 5
 MACLAIN NAUMANN Nov 5
 CONNIE TURNER Nov 6
 ETHAN RUSSELL Nov 7
 MARLENE WILD Nov 8
 FAY ROSS Nov 8
 RYAN P NOLAN Nov 8
 RILEY SKAGGS Nov 8
 MARK T. REY Nov 9
 MARKEE VOELKER Nov 9
 DONNY MUERTZ JR Nov 11
 CHERI LANGSDORF Nov 12
 LISA SCHWARZE Nov 12
 OLIVIA PRANGE Nov 12
 NATHAN BIRK Nov 13
 KATIE RIES Nov 15
 JAKE COATS Nov 15
 TODD JANSEN Nov 16
 MAREN VOGT Nov 16
 STEPHANIE KELLER Nov 18
 CHLOE REINHARDT Nov 18
 DOROTHY SCHILLING Nov 19
 BETH BUCHANAN Nov 19
 ROWAN EVANS Nov 19
 PAUL SKAGGS Nov 20
 MARIAH ROLAND Nov 20
 NATHAN WISCHMEYER Nov 21
 DENNIS KNOBLOCH Nov 22
 DAVE BERG Nov 22
 DIANE MUELLER Nov 22
 KYLE HOFFMANN Nov 23
 ALEX BAKKEN Nov 23
 LARRY WILD Nov 25
 ANDREA ASSELMEIER Nov 27
 WYATT ENGBRING Nov 29
 RAEGAN ECKART Nov 29
 DAVID RUSTEBERG Nov 30
 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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

CHARLES & BECKY SCHAEFER Nov 1
 BRAD & KATE EDLER Nov 1
 BRADLEY & LAURA WILSON Nov 2
 JOHN & TONI MICHELS Nov 3
 BEN & DARLENE YANCEY Nov 8
 JEREMY & RENEE STEIBEL Nov 8
 CHARLES & FAYE BIRK Nov 13
 JEREMY & KATHERINE RIES Nov 14
 RANDY & LYNNE HICKS Nov 27
 CHRIS & KRISTINE VOELKER Nov 30
 LEVI & JENNY WITTENBRINK Nov 30
 AMBER & JONATHAN WOLF Dec 1
 JUSTIN & SAMANTHA BOMAN Dec 15





St. John United Church of Christ
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pastorpoole123@gmail.com

"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."