

ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor

October 2024

Lean into the Divine

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

May all your people find favor with you this day, God of majesty and power. Turn our sorrow into gladness and our mourning into a holiday, a holy day, in which to praise you and find ways to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Lift us from our daily preoccupations that we may pray with earnest intent, both to thank you and to be changed by you. Let our prayers be powerful and effective. May our worship be alive and life-changing. May the service we extend find favor in your eyes, blessed God. Amen.

This prayer is an invocation from this past Sunday. It is not unlike all the other invocations on Sunday morning, but take a moment to really take it in. Think about the power of the words used. Think about how different they are from anything else you hear on the street, in the classroom, or on the news. This is not a common language; it brings forth the understanding of our dependence on God and the hope we find as we walk in communion with God. It, in fact, is filled with hope! In these few short sentences, we move from sorrow to gladness, from preoccupied to helping others, from hopeless to powerful in the Lord. This prayer has the power to transform our perspective and fill us with hope and empowerment.

Imagine the impact of starting your day with such a prayer. How might you move through the day and week leading up to the following Sunday? Leaning into the divine gives you a foundation to stand on as you go through your day. As a schoolteacher, you might see greatness in the child who stands before you. If you are the wonderful lady who drives the trash truck every Monday in Maeystown, it might explain the joy that comes across your small and friendly wave out the window. In complex and everyday tasks, we bring a heightened level of grace, joy, and appreciation for the people we encounter and the integrity of the work we do. That is leaning into the divine.

The more challenging task for those who lean into the divine is dealing with anti-language. One of our wonderful fifth graders stepped up this past week in his class when another child was making derogative comments about Asians. He said, "You cannot say that." The student replied, "Why not?" He said it was offensive to Asians. Little to his knowledge, his Asian school teacher listened to the dialogue. Leaning into the divine moves us to remove the barriers that separate us from one another. Leaning into the divine gives us the courage to do the right thing, calling out anti-language. This young man did more than he could have imagined: remove the barriers that separate us. As barriers come down, we experience the love replacing the darkness of living separated from one another. That is genuinely leaning into the Divine!

Blessings!

Pastor

Church Council Minutes – August 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Drew Watts. Pastor Poole opened the meeting with a prayer. Those in attendance were Cheri Langsdorf, Debbie Eckart, Susan Koesterer, Pam Muertz, Mark Rey, Ron Richeson, and Fay Ross. Amy Rohlring was absent.

Review and Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2024 Council Meeting

The minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. There being no further corrections a motion was made by Cheri Langsdorf and seconded by Fay Ross 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 Cheri Langsdorf and seconded by Susan Koesterer to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

Council Member's Reports

Safety checks of the two new AEDs were discussed. One AED is located in the back of the church and the other AED is located at the bottom of the church hall steps. AEDs will be checked quarterly after the council meeting. A reminder will be added in the church bulletin.

The annual drive is coming up. A reminder that members may contribute toward the solar project will be included with the annual drive request.

OLD BUSINESS

Solar Power Update

Ameren was out Friday, August 9th. Everything is now hooked up. The council discussed the need for a monthly energy (solar savings) update.

Little Rascals Camp

The council discussed how wonderful the camp was. Pastor is so proud that our church embraced the camp and tree house. Pastor thanked Tim and all the volunteers.

Insurance Cancellation in October

Pastor reported that he has contacted the UCC Insurance. He is also gathering additional insurance quotes.

Sinking Ground by Church

Thank you to Drew and Don for their work to resolve the sinking ground. The issue is resolved.

Repair and/or Replacement of Church Hall Siding

Bids are still being obtained to power wash and paint two sides of the church hall.

Bids will also be obtained to reside the church hall.

Arborist for Pine Forest

The arborist assessed the pine forest. The forest has ~10 dead pines and ~3-4 pines that need to have their dead tops removed. Further discussion will occur with the arborist before the next meeting to better understand the situation.

NEW BUSINESS

Other Potential Hall Repairs

Metal Roof on Hall – The council discussed the metal roof on the hall. We need to have someone look at the roof and determine if it should be painted or if it will need to be replaced.

Leaking Hall Basement - We have water coming into the lower level of the church hall (kitchen side) during strong rains. Further assessment is needed to determine if larger guttering would correct the issue and/or if we need better drainage or a sump pump. Council members will contact professionals to review the issues and then obtain bids for the roof, guttering, and drainage prior to the next council meeting. The council will then prioritize how the issues should be addressed.

Pastor's Report

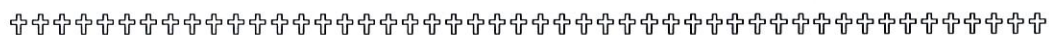
Tim Burns – Tim's preaching is outstanding. Tim has the ability to draw the congregation into his stories. Tim did an excellent job navigating the Children's Sermon this past Sunday.

Sunday School – Pastor reported a new Superintendent will be named at St. John's Day.

Women's Fellowship – Pastor reported the Women's Fellowship is searching for a new President.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Cheri Langsdorf 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



Celebrating Reverend Kenneth Knobloch

This past Sunday, September 29th, we celebrated Rev. Ken Knobloch's 60th anniversary of being ordained. We had a ceremony as part of the service, and the Women's Fellowship organized an event to fellowship after church in the Hall with many desserts.

Thank you all for helping us acknowledge his amazing ministry.

As a boy growing up in our humble little country church, he was baptized, confirmed, and then ordained all right here. Never underestimate the difference our children grow up to make in the world!



Women's Fellowship

The May 4th Women's Fellowship meeting was called to order by President Faye Birke with 16 members and Pastor. Pastor opened with a prayer.

The treasurer's report was read by Sue with a balance of 2190.47. The motion was made by Joyce and seconded by Nancy to approve. Motion carried.

The secretary's report was read by Ellen. Cathy and Connie made the motion to approve. Motion carried.

The windows in the hall were cleaned by several members before the meeting and the curtains were rehung. Thanks to all the ladies that came early to get this job done and to Joyce for taking down the curtains and washing them.

Connie reported that the food drive for the back pack program is under way and will continue through the month of May. Some donations have been coming in.

Sue displayed the 2 carts and new pancake dispenser that the Women's Guild purchased. Thanks to Sue for purchasing and assembling the carts.

The Hike and Bike will be on Saturday May 13th and fruit will be needed for the runners. The balance of the food will be supplied by St Joe. Pastor commented that he had all the helpers needed.

The luncheon for the 45 + people from Germany and relatives in the area for May 9th was discussed and the food was discussed. 13 members volunteered to bring sides for the meat tray and pulled pork. Set up will be at 10:30 and the luncheon will be served at 11:30.

New business was assigning workers for the last 2 after school snacks and the hostess schedule was passed around for any changes to the coming year.

Pastor mentioned that he had enough workers for Bible School which will run from May 30th through June 2nd. He also commented on the "Can do attitude" of our church. Everybody just pitches in and gets things done which he greatly appreciates.

May, June, July, and August birthdays were celebrated. Happy birthday was sung to Nancy, Marietta, Sharon, and Twila. Nancy and Anna made the motion to adjourn and the motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ellen Edler Secretary

Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship met at 7:00 PM on August 28, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Cody with 12 members present, and Pastor Poole opened with a prayer. Our devotional was focused on Christian love and how we show that love to others around us.

Minutes of May meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Julia, seconded by Kaylee. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3,677.90 A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Sofia and seconded by Ella. Motion carried.

Old Business: The soda stand was discussed. We had a very low profit on the stand at the Springfest

The Hoyleton Hike and Bike was discussed. In 2025 it is scheduled for May 10. It was decided to table this until the January meeting.

We were unable to schedule our trip to The Edge over the summer. It was decided to try to go this winter. A motion was made by Hayden, seconded by Kelsie to go on January 18. Motion carried.

New Business: A Halloween party at Hoyleton was discussed, but it was decided that we wouldn't be able to do that.

The Octoberfest is October 13, and we will again have a soda stand. Pastor will prepare a work schedule for sign-up at our next meeting. It was decided to have water, Gatorade, and four different sodas. We will also have chips at the stand. It was decided to try walking through the crowd to sell drinks.

A motion was made by Kadie, seconded by Kaylee to accept all the old and new business.

A motion to adjourn was made by Hayden, seconded by Sofia. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday School Financial

Sunday School-Checking Account

Beginning Balance -	\$6.81
Income -	\$100.00
Transfer from Savings Account -	\$100.00
Expense -	\$82.28
Faye Birk – Reimbursement of Checks purchased from Current -	\$82.28
Ending Balance -	\$24.53

Sunday School-Savings Account

Beginning Balance -	\$7039.50
Income –	\$0.00
Expenses -	\$100.00
Transfer to Checking Account -	\$100.00
Ending Balance -	\$ 6939.50

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Visitor Report Financial

Beginning Balance –	141.66
Income -	\$0.00
Expense -	\$59.61
U. S. Post Master -	\$59.61
Ending Balance -	\$82.05

Our balance is getting low. If anyone could make a donation, it would be greatly appreciated!!!!

Thanks.

Faye Birk, Treasurer

News and Notes

Announcements:

- September Fifth Sunday Offering Uni-Pres Kindercottage needs help. State funding cuts hit hard, and the St. Louis Foodbank stopped going to East St. Louis. Let's step up to help close the gap for their families. Please keep the following in
- Annual Drive letters have gone out. If you do not receive yours in the next week or so, please let Nicole know so one can be resent.
- Oktoberfest is Sunday, October 13. Come out and support the Youth Group at the Soda Stand. Donations of ice are appreciated.
- Veteran's Day is November 11. We will honor our Veterans on Sunday, November 10. If you want to make sure your loved one is on the list, please email Nicole.

Upcoming Events:

- New Member Classes will be held after church on Sundays, October 6, 20, and 27. Installation of new members will be on Sunday, November 3. Please see Pastor Poole if you are interested in becoming a new member.
- Registration is open for vendors for Christkindlmarkt on Sunday, December 1. See Nancy Voelker or Pat Brandt for any questions.
- Halloween in Maecystown is Sunday, October 27.
- Mark your calendars for a St. John Work Day on Saturday, November 2.

Acolytes:

- October 6: Payton Dilley and Morgan Schmitz
- October 13: Ella Matzenbacher and Guy Tyberendt
- October 20: Matthew Blackwell and Levi Edler
- October 27: Julia Muertz and Wyatt Liefer
- November 3: Wyatt Braun and Kadence Keller

Special Birthdays:

- October 6 sees Nancy Voelker celebrating her 70th birthday and Sheri Dilley celebrating her 50th birthday.
- Linda Sutter turns 80 years young on October 7.
- Steve Lawler celebrates his 70th birthday on October 8.
- Ross Mueller celebrates his 80th birthday on October 9.
- Linda Schmidt turns 76 on October 15, while Elaine Knobloch turns 71 the same day.

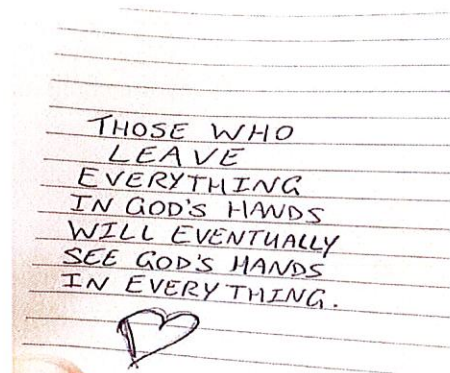
- Janie Houston will celebrate her 73rd birthday on October 16.
- Jim Bundy will celebrate his 78th birthday on October 18, while Judy Schmuck will turn 74 the same day.
- Anna Massie will celebrate her diamond jubilee birthday on October
- Rosemarie Upchurch will celebrate her 85th birthday on October 26
- Pat Brandt will celebrate her 70th birthday on November 4.
- Raymon Reed will celebrate his 80th birthday on November 6, while Connie Turner will celebrate her 71st birthday the same day.
- Fay Ross will celebrate her 73rd birthday on November 8 and Marlene Wild will celebrate her 74th birthday the same day.

Special Anniversaries:

- Special anniversary shout out to Lucas & Vanessa Smothers who celebrated their anniversary on September 24 but their anniversary was accidentally left off the list in the last Visitor.
- John & Phyllis Hoefft will celebrate 54 years of marriage on October 10.
- David & Anita Muertz will celebrate 40 years of marriage on October 12.
- Charles & Faye Birk will celebrate 48 years of marriage on November 13.

Church Financial:

August 2024 Beginning balance:	\$26,480.96;
Income:	\$89,005.53
(includes \$77,000 loan for solar)	
Expenses:	\$41,217.73;
Ending balance August 31, 2024	\$74,268.76



Prayer List:

- Judy Krebel as she recovers from a bypass heart surgery.
- Kay Floarke as she recovers from pneumonia and other complications.
- Darlene Yancey as she continues to recover from a broken leg.
- Jane and Pat McCarthy as they struggle with ongoing health concerns.
- Luann Walsh has cancer of the pancreas, liver, and lymph nodes.
- Camden Hurst is recovering from home after a brain injury.
- Willie Krebel has two large masses on his left lung and needs our prayers.
- Art Chastain as he recovers from a stroke
- Dennis Rodenberg as he battles cancer.
- Mona Mothershead is receiving treatments for her cancer.
- Please keep Natalie and her family in your prayers.
- Dennis Knobloch as he continues to get stronger every day.
- Kaylee is getting stronger every day but still needs our prayers.
- Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.
- Renesmae Brown, she is 3 yrs old, has autism and now seizures.

Thank You:

A special Thank You to Pastor Poole for all his visits, prayers, and phone call while **Laurie** was in the hospital. Also, thank you to everyone that sent cards, texts, phone calls, and food at Laurie's passing. A special thanks to the ladies that helped with the luncheon. Your love and support during this difficult time is much appreciated. God Bless you all! (Family of Laurie Brown)

Thanks from the Maher Trust Board

On behalf of the Arline and Martin Maher Trust Board we would like to thank those members of our church that took time out of their day to show interest in farming the 88 acres of land.

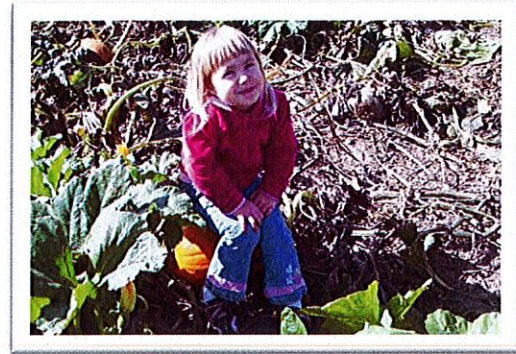
Also, thanks to Drew Watts for being the auctioneer. It was an important and necessary auction. We could not have done it without your help.

To our dear friends,

Our family would like to thank you so much for recognizing Ken's 60th year of ministry. His journey started in St. John, where he attended Sunday School, youth fellowship, and other activities. Rev. Emil Hotz saw the potential in Ken and encouraged him gently. It meant a lot to be recognized back in his home church.

Thank you for your kindness and friendship. It means a lot to us!

Jean and family



Time to go pumpkin' picking!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

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
Colby & Lauren Jensen	Oct. 18
Frank & Mary Graham	Oct. 20
Tony & Amy Stirnaman	Oct. 20
Charlie & Chrissy Eckerty	Oct. 21
Eric Brellinger/Kelli Monroe	Oct. 22
Gregory & Jessica Floarke	Oct. 24
Paul & Emilie Nilges	Oct. 24
Nathan & Julie Birk	Oct. 25
Ben & Lindsey Hoefft	Oct. 25
Matthew & Lauren Schellhardt	Oct. 25
Bill & Laurie Manning	Oct. 27
Jeff & Ashley Melvin	Oct. 30
Matt & Victoria Rippelmeyer	Oct. 30

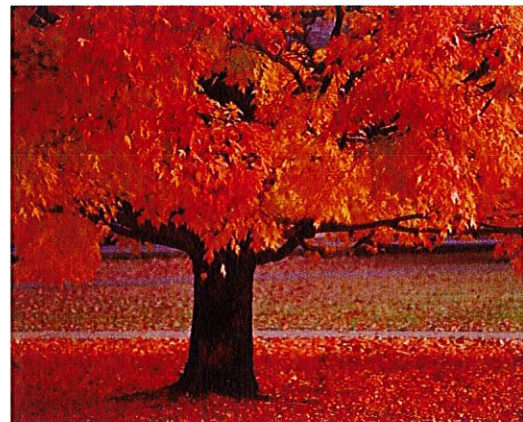
Charles & Becky Schaefer	Nov. 1
Brad & Kate Edler	Nov. 1
Bradley & Laura Wilson	Nov. 2
Toni & John Michels	Nov. 3
Ben & Darlene Yancey	Nov. 8
Jeremy & Renee Steibel	Nov. 8
Charles & Faye Birk	Nov. 13
Jeremy & Katie Ries	Nov. 14

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO.....

Bradley Koesterer	Oct. 1
Brylee Rohlfig	Oct. 1
Adam Eckart	Oct. 2
Kelsey Schmitz	Oct. 2
Wyatt Schreder	Oct. 3
Alex Knoll	Oct. 5
Matthew Brandt	Oct. 5
Dallen Edler	Oct. 5
Levi Wittenbrink	Oct. 5
Nancy Voelker	Oct. 6
Sheri Dilley	Oct. 6
Mike Krebel	Oct. 6
Vanessa Smothers	Oct. 6
Whitney Stitzel	Oct. 6
Linda Sutter	Oct. 7
Janey Berg	Oct. 7
Jennifer Coats	Oct. 8
Graham Knobloch	Oct. 8
Steve Lawler	Oct. 8
Connie Esker	Oct. 9
Ross Mueller	Oct. 9
Trey Rohlfig	Oct. 13
Owen Carron	Oct. 14
Kaiden Wilson	Oct. 14
Linda Schmidt	Oct. 15
Elaine Knobloch	Oct. 15
Janie Houston	Oct. 16
Ben Hoeft	Oct. 16
Kristy Busch	Oct. 17
Jim Bundy	Oct. 18
Drew Watts	Oct. 18
Judy Schmuck	Oct. 18
Lauren Brigance	Oct. 19
Bonnie Schwarze	Oct. 19
Anna Massie	Oct. 19
Wade Wittenbrink	Oct. 19
Alexandra Rippelmeyer	Oct. 21
Tyler Barnes	Oct. 22
Gwendlyn Panzau	Oct. 22
Mary Branson	Oct. 24
Megan Schaefer	Oct. 24
Jolene Ann Keller	Oct. 24
Derek Hoffmann	Oct. 24
Sydney Finch	Oct. 25
Adalynn Josephine Huddleston	Oct. 25
Dana Hicks	Oct. 26

Rosemarie Upchurch	Oct. 26
Annette Morwick	Oct. 26
Jenney Berg	Oct. 27
Krista Wandro	Oct. 27
Colten Huddleston	Oct. 27
Andrea Kennedy	Oct. 28
Amy Rohlfig	Oct. 29
Payton Dilley	Oct. 29
Wendy Hill	Oct. 29
Sydney Kuergeleis	Oct. 30
Brian Eckart	Oct. 31
Candy Eckart	Oct. 31

Jennifer Rosenkranz	Nov. 1
Susan Hoffmann	Nov. 2
Lynda Morrison	Nov. 2
Justin Knobloch	Nov. 3
Kathy Goldschmidt	Nov. 4
Pat Brandt	Nov. 4
Renee Steibel	Nov. 4
Garrett Rohlfig	Nov. 4
Lauren LaFollette	Nov. 5
Josh Reinhardt	Nov. 5
Maclain Naumann	Nov. 5
Raymond Reed II	Nov. 6
Connie Turner	Nov. 6
Ethan Russell	Nov. 7
Marlene Wild	Nov. 8
Fay Ross	Nov. 8
Riley Skaggs	Nov. 8
Ryan Nolan	Nov. 8
Markee Voelker	Nov. 9
Mark T. Rey	Nov. 9
Donny Muertz, Jr.	Nov. 11
Cheri Langsdorf	Nov. 12
Lisa Schwarze	Nov. 12
Olivia Prange	Nov. 12
Nathan Birk	Nov. 13
Jake Coats	Nov. 15
Katie Marie Ries	Nov. 15
Knox Brian Tyberendt	Nov. 15



Halloween in Maeystown

SUNDAY, OCT. 27

at 4:30 PM

at Hank & Lilly's Creekside

AT 5:00 A HAYRIDE WILL TAKE CHILDREN UP TO THE CHURCH.
THE CHILDREN WILL TRICK OR TREAT THROUGH TOWN
ENDING BACK AT HANK & LILLY'S. CHILI WILL BE AVAILABLE
BEFORE AND AFTER TRICK OR TREATING & S'MORES AFTER.

CHRISTKINDLMARKT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN UCC FELLOWSHIP HALL

IN HISTORIC MAEYSTOWN, IL

FREE Quilt Show in the sanctuary

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

To be a vendor, scan the QR code OR go to:

<https://forms.gle/5F92tsCgbowUGJeb6>.





St. John United Church of Christ
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Send email updates, photos & group descriptions to maestownucc@gmail.com

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Pastor's Cell Phone: 618-340-2372

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pastorpoole123@gmail.com

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

Thought for the day

Don't wait for the blessing. Be the blessing!