



# ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

***The Visitor***

**October - 2025**

## Pastor's Reflection

### It's a New Day!

Each day, we get to press the reset button. Life can be overwhelming and draining, leaving your proverbial tank empty. There are all kinds of advice out there to avoid this situation. The advice boils down to two categories: time management and psychology. The time management advice is to prioritize and take on less. The psychological advice is related to how the task makes you feel about yourself, leaving you uplifted or drained. This simple explanation is more than a little unfair, and I believe there is great value to be had by thinking about how you spend your time and the feelings that come up for you as you move through your many tasks. I want to invite you to a third way to see your new day from the place of Hope.

Hope is not a concept or idea you buy into, and it is not simply a feeling. Hope is not a belief, and hope is not the same as faith, but the foundation for faith. Hope is living in the presence of the Lord. Our access to hope is our ability to be still, to stop looking, and to stop asking questions until we are in the presence of the Lord. When the presence of the Lord is with you, you are standing in Hope. In hope the past vanishes, all broken promises are gone, all failures and brokenness are replaced with grace, love, and the overwhelming feeling of being whole, you are a new being. I often refer to this as going to the well. The truth at the well is not found in the past, nor in the circumstances of our lives. This truth is eternal, the very giver of all life, and its truth is that this is a new day, and you are made new in the image of God.

Beyond prioritizing your time, and dealing with how and why your life is turning out, I highly recommend a different starting place. In this New Day that God has given you. Start it in Hope! I leave you with a daily devotional shared with me as I prepared for our beloved Florence Feldmeier's memorial service. Bless you all in this new day! -Pastor



### Hope

Hope lifts me up when the world weighs me down.

### Saturday September 27, 2025

Poet Emily Dickinson described hope as "the thing with feathers that perches in the soul." These words fill me with hope when life feels heavy and my mood is low.

Hope is so much more than wishful thinking. It is a light in darkness, a whisper in silence, a shelter from life's storms. Even if I struggle to muster the faith that a troubling time will end, I can find hope there will be a brighter tomorrow. Keeping a positive expectation for a brighter future buoys me in the present. Hope helps me remain present to the world as it is while working toward the world I wish to help create.

My mood is lighter and my future feels brighter. I feel the presence of divine guidance as I move in the direction of a better day.

***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. — Romans 15:13***

## **Church Council Minutes – July 14, 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, Pam Muertz, Fay Ross, Debbie Eckart, Jim Maurer, and Brian Edler. Ron Richeson and Amy Juelfs were absent.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2025 Council Meeting**

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Solar Power Update**

- Credits are being processed and all systems are working.

### **Bids for Painting Church Hall**

- Pam and Jim reviewed the bids with the council. Since the last council meeting, Pam and Jim completed their review of all bids and held follow-up calls with the bidders. Motion made by Pam Muertz and seconded by Jim Maurer to accept the Malott painting and finishing bid. Motion carried.

### **Furnace Update**

- All work was completed.

### **Carpet in the Parsonage**

- All work was completed.

### **Generator first step cost: \$300 Materials**

- Drew will start the installation this month.

### **Roof on the Back of Church**

- All work was completed.

### **Mowing of the Pine Forest**

- Debbie reported that Rehmer-Rumker Lawncare will mow the pine forest this fall for \$75. We will need to pick up any sticks and flag any stumps.

### **Oil and Chip the Parking Lot**

- Brian will follow-up with the county.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering**

- Motion made by Pam Muertz and seconded by Fay Ross to designate the August 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering to Courtney Eschmann. Courtney was recently diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Courtney will start Chemo in July and will need surgery and radiation in the future.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor reported that the Little Rascals Camp is going great and that the children are enjoying building their cars.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Fay Ross 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

Beginning Balance - \$400.33

Income - \$0.00

Expense - \$61.00

U. S. Postmaster - \$61.00

Ending Balance - \$339.33

Faye Birk, Treasurer

### Sunday School Checking Account

Beginning Balance - \$859.13

Income - \$40.00

Offering - \$40.00

Expense - \$0.00

Ending Balance - \$899.13

### Sunday School Savings

Beginning Balance - \$3745.10

Income - \$0.00

Expense - \$0.00

Ending Balance - \$3745.10

Faye Birk, Treasurer

## Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship **change of meeting time:** The October 2nd meeting will be at **7:00 pm** in the Fellowship hall. Look forward to seeing you all then.

The May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Women's Fellowship was called to order by Sue Taylor. There were 13 members, Tim and Pastor present. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Our guest speaker was Meghan Seipp from Hoyleton and she talked about all the changes that have happened at the Hoyleton facility and how they are hoping to build another facility in the St. Clair county area. She encouraged the group to do a field trip to see the new facilities.

Sue read the treasurers report since Connie was not there. The April 30<sup>th</sup> balance of 5921.69 was reported and the motion to accept was made by Linda, and seconded by Sharon B. Motion carried.

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

Pastor reported about how our church is a church that works on Believing is Seeing. If we see something that needs to be fixed we make it happen in stead of waiting for it to get done by someone else and then say it could be done.

We had about 10 members come about 10:00 to wash the windows in the basement. Thanks to all the member who helped and for Sue taking the curtains home to clean them. The project was totally done by about 11:30.

The easter breakfast was discussed and every one thought it went well. We had a good attendance even with the weather. It was decided that we should have a sign up sheet for what everyone would be bringing since we cleaned up most of the food.

The buckets that are being put together by Region 2 at the Waterloo church on May 18<sup>th</sup> were discussed. Our donation is garbage bags and will require some work on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>. Linda, Cathy, Ellen and Sue will be going on Saturday and Sunday to deliver the bags, make some rolls of 25, and fill the buckets. Thanks to all who donated bags.

There were no birthdays so Micki and Barb made the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Ellen Edler Secretary

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- New Member's Classes will be on Sundays, October 5, 19, and 26. New members will join the church on Sunday, November 9. Please see Pastor Poole if you are interested in becoming a new member or learning more about being a member at St. John's.
- October Pew Sister's Bible study will meet the 20th of October at Nancy Schilling's house, 6:30pm. Topic of discussion will be 1 Peter, letter to the Christians living in the northern part of Asia Minor. Bring your Bible if you have one.
- Women's Fellowship is celebrating their 120th Anniversary on October 18.
- WORK DAY: Saturday, October 25, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Sunday School meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2 directly after church. This meeting is for parents, grandparents, and any church members who are interested in discussing how we can continue the great work of the Sunday School program. Sandwiches will be provided.
- Christkindlmarkt will be Sunday, December 7. Women's Fellowship is taking vendors. Reach out to Women's Fellowship to sign up as a vendor.
- Halloween in Maeystown will be Sunday, October 26. Meet at Hank & Lilly's at 4:30. Hayride up to the church at 5:00. Trick or treat throughout Maeystown. End up back at Hank & Lilly's. Chili and hot dogs will be available before and after Trick or Treating. S'mores will be available after.

## 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:

- Rev. Ken Knobloch is in hospice care and soon to make his way to heaven.
- Kim Hicks found out she has cancer. She is having a scan in August,
- Please pray for Donna Solich as she faces some health challenges.
- 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.
- Cathy Hoffmann in your prayers as she continues to improve 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 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.
- 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:

- Nancy Voelker will celebrate his 71st birthday on October 6.
- Steve Lawler will turn 71 on October 8.
- Ross Mueller will turn 81 on October 9.
- Linda Schmidt will turn 77 and Elaine Knobloch will turn 72 on October 15.
- Janie Houston will celebrate her 74th birthday on October 16.

- Jim Bundy will turn 79 and Judy Schmuck will turn 75 on October 18.
- Anna Massie will turn 76 on October 19.
- Rosemarie Upchurch will turn 86 on October 26.
- 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.

**Special Anniversaries:**

- John & Phyllisa Hoeftt will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on October 10.
- Frank & Mary Graham will celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary on October 20.
- William & Laurie Manning will celebrate their 41st wedding anniversary on October 27.
- Charlie & Faye Birk will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary on November 13.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...**

BRADLEY KOESTERER	Oct 1	GWENDLYN PANZAU	Oct 22
BRYLEE ROHLFING	Oct 1	TYLER BARNES	Oct 22
ADAM ECKART	Oct 2	MARY BRANSON	Oct 24
KELSEY SCHMITZ	Oct 2	MEGAN SCHAEFER	Oct 24
WYATT SCHREDER	Oct 3	JOLENE KELLER	Oct 24
ALEX KNOLL	Oct 5	SYDNEY FINCH	Oct 25
MATTHEW BRANDT	Oct 5	ADALYNN HUDDLESTON	Oct 25
LEVI WITTENBRINK	Oct 5	MONROE BRELLINGER	Oct 25
DALLEN EDLER	Oct 5	ROSEMARIE UPCHURCH	Oct 26
NANCY VOELKER	Oct 6	DANA HICKS	Oct 26
SHERI A DILLEY	Oct 6	ANNETTE MORWICK	Oct 26
MIKE KREBEL	Oct 6	JENNEY BERG	Oct 27
VANESSA SMOTHERS	Oct 6	ANDREA KENNEDY	Oct 28
WHITNEY STITZEL	Oct 6	COLTEN HUDDLESTON	Oct 28
JANEY KAY BERG	Oct 7	AMY ROHLFING	Oct 29
STEVE LAWLER	Oct 8	WENDY HILL	Oct 29
JENNIFER COATS	Oct 8	PAYTON DILLEY	Oct 29
GRAHAM KNOBLOCH	Oct 8	SYDNEY KUERGELEIS	Oct 30
ROSS MUELLER	Oct 9	CANDY ECKART	Oct 31
CONNIE ESKER	Oct 9	BRIAN ECKART	Oct 31
HATTIE HORN	Oct 11	JENNIFER ROSENKRANZ	Nov 1
NICK LEY	Oct 13	SUSAN HOFFMANN	Nov 2
TREY ROHLFING	Oct 13	LYNDA MORRISON	Nov 2
OWEN CARRON	Oct 14	JUSTIN KNOBLOCH	Nov 3
KAIDEN WILSON	Oct 14	PAT BRANDT	Nov 4
LINDA SCHMIDT	Oct 15	KATHY GOLDSCHMIDT	Nov 4
ELAINE KNOBLOCH	Oct 15	RENEE STEIBEL	Nov 4
JANIE HOUSTON	Oct 16	GARRETT ROHLFING	Nov 4
BEN HOEFFT	Oct 16	LAUREN LaFOLLETTE	Nov 5
KRISTY BUSCH	Oct 17	JOSH REINHARDT	Nov 5
JIM BUNDY	Oct 18	MACLAIN NAUMANN	Nov 5
JUDY SCHMUCK	Oct 18	CONNIE TURNER	Nov 6
DREW WATTS	Oct 18	ETHAN RUSSELL	Nov 7
ANNA MASSIE	Oct 19	MARLENE WILD	Nov 8
BONNIE SCHWARZE	Oct 19	FAY ROSS	Nov 8
LAUREN BRIGANCE	Oct 19	RYAN P NOLAN	Nov 8
WADE WITTENBRINK	Oct 19	RILEY SKAGGS	Nov 8
ALEXANDRA RIPPELMEYER	Oct 21	MARK T. REY	Nov 9
		MARKEE VOELKER	Nov 9
		DONNY MUERTZ JR	Nov 11

CHERI LANGSDORF  
 LISA SCHWARZE  
 OLIVIA PRANGE  
 NATHAN BIRK  
 KATIE RIES  
 JAKE COATS

Nov 12  
 Nov 12  
 Nov 12  
 Nov 13  
 Nov 15  
 Nov 15

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...**

WAYNE & SHERRY STITZEL  
 ALAN & DEBBIE WISCHMEYER  
 BRANDON & EMILY KRUSE  
 JON & BECKY MATZENBACHER  
 JUSTIN & KRISTIN KNOBLOCH  
 BETTY & TODD LEVIN  
 JOHN & PHYLLIS HOFFT  
 JARED & REBECCA COATS  
 BRIAN & SHANNON ECKART  
 DAVID & ANITA MUERTZ  
 GRANT & JENNIFER COATS  
 MADELYN & DYLAN SMITH  
 FRANK & MARY GRAHAM  
 ANTHONY (TONY) & AMY STIRNAMAN  
 CHARLIE & CHRISSY ECKERTY  
 ERIC & KELLI BRELLINGER  
 PAUL & EMELIE NILGES  
 GREGORY & JESSICA FLOARKE  
 MATTHEW & LAUREN SCHELLHARDT  
 BENJAMIN & LINDSEY HOFFT  
 NATHAN & JULIE BIRK  
 WILLIAM & LAURIE MANNING  
 MATTHEW & VICTORIA RIPPELMEYER  
 CHARLES & BECKY SCHAEFER  
 BRAD & KATE EDLER  
 BRADLEY & LAURA WILSON  
 JOHN & TONI MICHELS  
 BEN & DARLENE YANCEY  
 JEREMY & RENEE STEIBEL  
 CHARLES & FAYE BIRK  
 JEREMY & KATHERINE RIES

Oct 3  
 Oct 4  
 Oct 4  
 Oct 6  
 Oct 6  
 Oct 6  
 Oct 10  
 Oct 10  
 Oct 10  
 Oct 12  
 Oct 13  
 Oct 15  
 Oct 20  
 Oct 20  
 Oct 21  
 Oct 22  
 Oct 24  
 Oct 24  
 Oct 25  
 Oct 25  
 Oct 25  
 Oct 27  
 Oct 30  
 Nov 1  
 Nov 1  
 Nov 2  
 Nov 3  
 Nov 8  
 Nov 8  
 Nov 13  
 Nov 14

**St. John UCC Work Day**  
**Saturday, October 25**  
**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**



Many hands make light work. No experience necessary.

**Halloween in Maeystown**

THE HAUNTING STARTS **SUNDAY 26 OCT**  
**at 4:30 PM**  
**at Hank & Lilly's**

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.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Christkindlmarkt**

Sunday, December 7, 2025  
 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 St. John UCC, Maeystown






**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](mailto:maestownucc@gmail.com)

Church: 618-458-6940

Pastor's Cell Phone: 618-340-2372

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

[pastorpoole123@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpoole123@gmail.com)

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

***Thought for the day***

***"Throw kindness around like confetti"***