

ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

June 2021

Pastor's Reflection

Selling Snake Oil

Selling Snake Oil (*for those unfamiliar with the term*) means selling a cure-all for all that ails you but has no true benefit. The Snake Oil Salesman would be a traveling salesman in a covered wagon, going from town to town, keeping just ahead of the law because, of course, the cure-all was nothing more than some brewed formula of oils and spices. So when you hear someone say he is a snake oil salesman, it is an insult to the snake and you better beware. As a pastor one of my fears is to not be just another person selling sunshine that is not truly valuable in the struggles of life. In short, I do not want to be selling false promises "Snake Oil", and at the same time I want to shout from the roof top what God is doing in our lives and community. This past Sunday was Pentecost Sunday and we had a lovely service outside with an incredible turnout. We naturally talked about Pentecost being the birth of what we call the Christian Church. The Holy Spirit moved powerfully through the gathering as told in the scripture.

Acts 2:1-21

2When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Is it selling snake oil to talk about how the spirit moves in our services and in our lives? Is too much to say that the spirit brings healing, renewal and a sense of being made whole in Christ? Do you leave the worship service feeling renewed, if not all the time at least most of the time? I sure hope so and if you do not, please call me. It is easy for pastors to make claims about the power of faith to be a cure-all in your life, but life happens for people of faith just like everyone else. People of faith get ill. People of faith lose jobs. People of faith have failed relationships. Tragic things happen to people sometimes regardless of their faith. If a minister, me or others, promises you a life without heartache and pain, then we have slipped into selling Snake Oil. However, here are the promises that I feel the Church can stand behind. I do believe that the spirit moves when we gather in God's name and that we feel renewed in that Spirit. I do believe our faith gives us a very different outlook at what happens in our lives. I never say God will not give you more than you can handle. I can tell you about plenty of people that got more than they can handle, but we say boldly that we can make it through with the help of God, Son, Holy Spirit and the living body of Christ the Church. I have the privilege of being with our members through some of their hardest moments and some of the hardest chapters of their lives and their ability to allow God to sustain them through such times is inspirational! We have seen the power of forgiveness renew families. We have seen children grow up in the love of God and shine like the sun. We have experiences doing mission work and sharing the love in our heart, but of all the many ways we see God at work in our lives and in our community, there is nothing more powerful to me than the miracle of God sustaining us through it all, even to the point of having true joy even in the hardest of times. We call that the peace that comes from being in Christ. "*Peace Like A River*"

When peace, like a river, attends all my way,
when sorrows like sea-billows roll,
whatever my path, you have taught me to say,
'It is well, it is well with my soul.'
'It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.'
Though Satan may buffet, though trials may come,
let this calm assurance control:
that Christ knows my need and my helplessness here
and has shed his own blood for my soul.
The joy, O the joy of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
For me it is Christ, it is Christ now to live!
Though death's waters over me roll,
no fear shall be mine, for in death as in life
you will whisper your peace to my soul.
But, Lord, for your coming in glory we wait;
the sky, not the grave, is our goal;
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend:
bless the Lord, bless the Lord, O my soul!

Snake Oil or being of the Body of Christ? I believe we are so blessed to walk in the light and love of our God and I am so thankful to be on this journey with all of you!

Many Blessings!

Pastor

Summer Sunday School

Starting June 13, 2021; Summer Sunday School will be from 9:15am – 9:45am and then church will follow.

Parents, please meet in the Hall basement for refreshments and fellowship. We are considering offering a bible study geared to the parents of the Sunday School age children. If you have a topic or suggestions, we are all ears.

The goal of this change is to allow for our Sunday School teachers the ability to go to church. Please give it a try and give us your feedback.

Pastor

St. John UCC Church Council Minutes - April 12, 2021

President Charlie Eckerty called the meeting to order. Those attending were Charlie Eckerty, Susie Brinkmann, Sandy Tutka, Michelle Coats, Christy Muertz, Adam Tyberendt, Scott Johnson, Shirley Stafford, Linda Schmidt and Pastor Poole. Pastor opened with a prayer.

March 8th Meeting Minutes: Scott Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes and Susie Brinkmann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Coats made a motion to accept the report. Christy Muertz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bills/Timecard: Christy Muertz made a motion to accept the bills and timecard as presented. Michelle Coats seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Expenses: Linda Schmidt made a motion to accept the expenses presented. Shirley Stafford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: New member classes will begin soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Giving Envelopes: There are quite a few left to be picked up. If you would like someone to deliver them to you, call or message the church office.

Easter Services: It was a tremendous service and well attended.

NEW BUSINESS

Reservations Discontinued: You will no longer need to make reservations to attend church. The first 75 people to come in church will be seated. The overflow will go to the hall on a motion made by Michelle Coats and seconded by Shirley Stafford. Motion carried. Sunday School will continue in the church hall.

Outdoor Services: Due to the popularity of the outdoor services, we will continue with one service a month. Mother's Day will be the first outdoor service on May 9th.

5th Sunday Offering: The 5th Sunday Offering for May will go to the Reese Wild family. She is the daughter of Heather and Blake Wild.

After a discussion regarding colored toner for the copier a motion was made by Scott Johnson and seconded by Shirley Stafford to purchase the toner from Coast to Coast at a cost of \$682.02. Motion carried.

The motion to adjourn was made by Scott Johnson and seconded by Michelle Coats. Motion carried

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Linda Schmidt, Secretary

Happy Father's Day!

St. John UCC wants to welcome the following new members to our congregation:

Kyle and Kaitlyn Andres were married 2 years ago and live in Valmeyer. They have a daughter Kynlee, who will turn one later this week. Kaitlyn is a special needs teacher at Valmeyer High School and enjoys hunting and fishing. Kyle is an IT Technician for Americom. He is a proud member of the Valmeyer Volunteer Fire Department.

Eric Brellinger and Kelli Monroe recently got engaged and bought a new house in Waterloo, where they hope to build their new lives together. They both enjoy sports, being outdoors, and spending time with friends and family. Eric, aka Chewy, is a Union Journeyman Plaster and has worked for Schilli Plastering for 9 years. Kelli is a Nurse and has worked at Oak Hill for 14 years! She is busy planning their October 2022 wedding. And spends as much time as she can with her Puppy Callie Rose!

David F. Mothershead II is married to Melissa Mothershead, they live in Rural Fults, with their 4 dogs. He has 2 sons and 1 step-daughter and is a proud grandpa to 1 grandson. David is a Senior Project Manager at ICON Mechanical. He loves camping, fishing, and anything outdoors.

Levi Wittenbrink has been married to Jenny (Krebel) Wittenbrink for almost 3 years. They live in Rural Prairie Du Rocher with their 1-year-old daughter Klairé. Levi has worked in a production factory since High School and is currently employed at Trost Plastics. He enjoys hunting, fishing, grilling, and watching the Blues play.

Jonathan Wolf has been married to Amber (Langsdorf) Wolf for 2 years. They live in Waterloo, with their new baby daughter, Indie. Jonathan works in Landscaping for Gardens of Grace. He loves hanging out with friends, family, and their dog Kona.

We welcome you all to our church family and look forward to a continued relationship together in Christ.



Women's Fellowship

Thank you to all the women of St. John, we pushed through a tough year and came out on top!
Enjoy your summer break and we'll be back at it in September!

Your Sister in Christ,
Jennifer Valerius-Johnson

**Women's Fellowship
2021-2022 Meeting Schedule**

President: Jennifer Johnson
Vice President: Michelle Coats

Secretary: Connie Turner
Treasurer: Sue Taylor

<p><u>Thursday, September 2, 2021</u></p> <p>Chairs: Sandy Tutka Faye Birk</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>St. John's Day Cake Walk Activities for the Year Ahead Chairwomen, Banquet, Christkindlmarkt</p>
<p><u>Thursday, October 7, 2021</u></p> <p>Chairs: Sue Taylor Anna Massie</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Oktoberfest (10th), Pies</p>
<p><u>Thursday, November 4, 2021</u></p> <p>Chairs: Linda Schmidt Joyce Kuergeleis</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Shut in Bags</p>
<p><u>Saturday, December 4, 2021</u></p> <p>No Regular Meeting Assemble Shut-in Bags 8:00am Meet in Hall Bring Cookies</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Sunday, December 5, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quilt Show • Christkindlmarkt
<p><u>Thursday, January 6, 2022</u></p> <p>Chairs: Nancy Voelker Patty Brandt</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Fastnacht: March 1, 2022</p>
<p><u>Thursday, February 3, 2022</u></p> <p>Chairs: Sharon Glessner Twyla Hoffmann Cathy Hoffmann</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Finalize for Fastnacht: Tuesday, March 1, 2022</p>
<p><u>Thursday, March 3, 2022</u></p> <p>Chairs: Barb Wischmeyer Linda Sutter</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Easter Breakfast April 17, 2021 Banquet Preparations</p>
<p><u>Thursday, April 7, 2022</u></p> <p>Chairs: Brenda Johnson Jennifer Johnson</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Hike and Bike, Saturday, May 7, 2021 Food Drive</p>
<p><u>Thursday, May 5, 2022</u></p> <p>Chairs: Connie Turner Ellen Edler</p>	<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Last Meeting before Summer Break.</p>
<p>Meetings are at 7:00 pm In the Hall Basement.</p>	<p>Please notify Linda Sutter if you would like a Sympathy, Get Well, Anniversary, Birthday or any other type of Greeting Card sent from the Women's Fellowship.</p>

Honoring our Graduates

High School

Elizabeth Buchanan

Graduated from: Valmeyer High School

Awards or Accreditations: National Honor Society, Top 5% Graduates

Continuing Education at: Maryville University to study Nursing

Currently Employed at: Walgreen's

Plans or Life Goals: Travel the world



Jessica Hicks

Graduated from: Valmeyer High School

Awards or Accreditations: SIUE Cougar Pride Scholarship

Continuing Education at: Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville to study Nursing

Plans or Life Goals: After college I would like to get a job in a cancer center at a children's hospital and eventually get married and have kids of my own.

Katie Morwick

Graduated from: Valmeyer High School

Awards or Accreditations Valedictorian, 4.0, NHS, Model UN, Class president and raised over \$10,000, got \$15,000 in scholarships, cheer co-captain, involved in musicals, YPL president

Continuing Education at: Olivet Nazarene University

Seeking employment in the field of: film studies/directing/editing/sound/etc.

Employed at: National Geographic or Yes Theory

Plans or Life Goals: Getting married, traveling the world, living in a cottage or mansion/cottage somewhere remote, having a little cat, becoming internet famous at least once, writing several fiction books (or maybe a microhistory or philosophy book), becoming a local wise granny philosopher/witch

Megan Morwick

Graduated from: Valmeyer High School

Awards or Accreditations: Two Pirate Pride awards, various FFA awards, Youth Advisory to Springfield recommendation, 2nd place American Legion Essay Award

Continuing Education at: Olivet Nazarene University to study Zoology

Currently Employed at: various shops around Maeystown, but I hope to get a job at a zoo on working on a wildlife preserve.

Plans or Life Goals: Buy a small rural house situated by a crystal-clear creek

Blake Obst

Graduated from: Waterloo High School

Awards or Accreditations: Top Dog Award Winner

Continuing education at: SWIC

Currently Employed at: Busch Stadium and Washy's Saloon

Plans or Life Goals: P.E. teacher and baseball coach

AJ Shipp

Graduated from: Valmeyer High School

Konnor Stellhorn

Graduated from: Valmeyer High School

Awards or Accreditations: National Honors Society

Continuing Education at: SWIC to study Marketing

Seeking employment in the field of: Agriculture

Currently Employed at: Gateway FS

Emily Washausen

Graduated from: Waterloo High School

Awards or Accreditations: Two letters of Accommodation, Top Dog Award,
\$2,500 Illinois Masonic Scholarship program

Continuing Education at: Mark Kislingbury Academy of Court Reporting

Seeking employment in the field of: Court Reporting

Currently Employed at: Logo's 'N Stitches, Kennel Klub (Waterloo School District),
Vogt-Baczynski Farms

Plans or Life Goals: To eventually work in a federal position, and just to exceed in life.

College

Bradley Koesterer

Graduated from: SIUE - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Degree: Political Science

Continuing Education: Planning on attending law school in the Fall

Plans or Life Goals: pursue a career in Law

Lily Poole

Graduated from: Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Major / Field of Study: Animal science, specializing in pre-veterinary medicine

Currently Employed at: Riverstone Animal Hospital as a veterinary assistant

Plans or Life Goals: I plan to apply to vet schools in the fall

Mariah Roland

Graduated from: UMSL (University of Missouri St Louis)

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Biology

Continuing Education: Possibly continuing for a master in genetic counseling in the future.

Seeking employment in the field of: Research of cancers or diseases in STL

Currently Employed at: Bellson Animal Hospital

Plans or Life Goals: I want to have a career where I can help people. I would love to eventually work with children or work on children's cancer research but that would be further in the future.

To accomplish great things
we must not only act,
but also dream,
not only plan,
but also believe!

St. John's News and Notes

Baptism:

Kynlee Sue Andres – May 23, 2021

In Nursing Home/Assisted Living

Oak Hill – Waterloo

Elaine Hoerr

Elveria Miller

Carmelita Sensel

Garden Place – Waterloo

Marvin and Catherine Hoffmann

Judy Tomlinson

Special Birthdays:

Curtis Rusteberg turns 75 on June 6th

Elvira Miller turns an Astonishing 95 years old on June 9th.

2 Members joining the “Over the Hill Crowd”:

Happy 40th Birthday!

Gretchen Brandt on June 11th

David Asselmeier on June 14th

Randy Coats Hits his full Social Security age of 65 on June 26th.

William Roseman will celebrate his 80th Birthday on June 28th.

Special Anniversaries:

Tom & Nancy Hornbeck will celebrate their Golden 50th Anniversary on June 12th

John & Sharon Glessner are celebrating 40 years of wedded bliss on June 27th

Thank You Note:

From the YPL Take A Pan/Make A Pan Event

Ladies,

What a blessing! It seems we always have a family “struggling” and these meals will be exactly what they need. God always seems to know exactly what we need at just the right time.

Currently we are serving about 150 families in the drive-thru! We are so blessed to be able to provide for so many.

Again, many thanks, many blessings and much gratitude!

(Becky Wilson, Pantry Director, Hope Christian Church)

Please keep the following families in your prayers:

- Ben Stork has been diagnosed with cancer, tests are still being run, please pray for him and his family as they await results.
- Baby Reese is still considered critical and needs your continued prayers. She has made a slow and steady progress the past few weeks, but prayers are needed for her liver and other organs to heal.
- Florence Feldmeier needs our prayers as she receives medication treatment for cancer and is also healing from a recent fall.
- Marvin Schilling is at home recovering from surgery and is in need of our prayers.
- Dorothy Mueller is doing well, but still needs our prayers as she continues her treatments.
- Raymond, Bob and Sue Taylor's son-in-law, had successful surgery and is at home. Please continue your prayers as he has a long road of recovery ahead.
- Brian Kreher's tumor has been removed. He is believed to have stage 3 or 4 cancer and will have 5 weeks radiation as of now. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Randy Bingham and his family are in need of our prayers as his cancer has progressed.
- Kaylee Muertz is doing OK but appreciates your continued prayers!
- Tim Branson's cancer treatment is working! Please keep the prayers coming!

Announcements

Save the Dates:

- June 1-4 VBS (Tuesday – Friday)
- June 5 Maeystown Garage Sale.
Please bring donations to
Support Sunday School
- June 6 Outdoor Service
- June 23 YPL Day Trip to Johnson
Shut-in
- June 28 Pew Sisters, 6 p.m., Faye
Birk’s home

Summer Outdoor Service Dates:

- June 6th
- July 4th
- August 1st
- September 12th – St John’s Day

There will NO Sunday School when the service is held outdoors.

Sanctuary Seating:

The church council has voted on opening the seating limit to 100 in the sanctuary. The pews on the left are open to sit as you are comfortable. The pews on the right are still spaced every other one for social distancing.

Reminders:

If you’d like to have *The Visitor* mailed to you, please let us know at maeystownucc@gmail.com

- May/June **UPPER ROOMS** are in back of church. Please be sure to pick up yours for your daily devotional!
- **150th ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS** still available for \$10.
- **OLD HYMNALS** for sale \$10 each. You’ll find them at the old schoolhouse Place your money in the offering plate.

Visitor Financial:

Beginning Balance	\$404.16
Income	0
Expenses	
USPS	52.00
Ending Balance	\$352.16

Hope you all enjoyed your Memorial Day Weekend! (Faye Birk, Treasurer)

General Fund:

Previous Balance	\$16,485.44
Income	15,952.63
Expenses	12,339.87
4/30/21 Balance	\$20,089.20

Committee Reports

Sunday School

We are starting fresh with our Sunday School lessons as we kick off the summer! This summer, the kids will be learning about why Jesus taught parables. Each week, we will learn about a parable that He taught and reflect on why He used parables to teach lessons instead of just telling people what to do.

The kids will also be making a mini book for each parable to help them share the lessons at home with the rest of their family. We talk a lot in Sunday School about the importance of spreading God’s word and living out the lessons that Jesus teaches us - hopefully these books help them to further that goal!

Scholarship Committee:

The Scholarship Committee awarded 4 scholarships this year. The recipients are: Elizabeth Buchanan, Jessica Hicks, Katie Morwick and Megan Morwick. Good luck in your future endeavors!!

The Committee was not able to have its usual fundraiser this past year due to Covid. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, we are accepting donations.

Pew Sisters:

We are learning about the women of the Bible. If you are interested in participating, our next meeting is Monday, June 28 at 6 pm. Faye Birk will be hosting the event at her house.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.....

Julie Ann Birk June 2
Curtis Rusteberg June 6
Wesley Kuergeleis June 6
Breck Rohlfing June 8
Elveria Miller June 9
Aaron Esker June 9
Gretchen Brandt June 11
David Berg, Jr. June 12
Oliver Valerius June 13
Ripken Voelker June 13
Wyatt Braun June 13
David Asselmeier June 14
Parker Brandt June 14
Sharon Reese June 16
Scott Rohlfing June 16
Reagan Skaggs June 16
Harper Floarke June 16
Lance Edler June 20
Ron Richeson June 21
Landon Johnson June 21
Kristine Voelker June 22
Carley Hoffmann June 22
Kevin Wischmeyer June 23
Ryan Hesterberg June 23
Bear Engbring June 24
Kate Edler June 25
Amy Hicks June 25
Randy Coats June 26
William Roseman June 28
Travis Branson June 28
Gemma Nolan June 28
Jeffrey Hoffmann June 29
Amy Faus June 30
Jacqueline Keller June 30

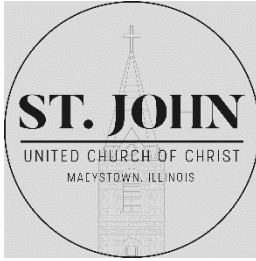
Jaclyn Knobloch July 2
Kyle Wandro July 2
Cierra Goldschmidt July 3
Shawn Hicks July 3
Lauren Hesterberg July 4
Brian Edler July 4
Chrissy Eckerty July 4
Brooks Birk July 4
Paula Bundy July 5
Kathy Asselmeier July 5
Amy Juelfs July 5
Michelle Vogt July 5
Jason Crouch July 7
Jim Maurer July 8
Nora Matthews July 8
Claire Hoffmann July 8
Lloyd Schwarze July 9

Kevin Hirsch July 10
Scott Johnson July 10
Margaret Vogt July 10
Mona Mothershead July 11
Amanda Schultheis July 12
John Evans July 13
Dane Barnes July 13
Florence Feldmeier July 14
Jennifer Albat July 14
Calen Schaefer July 14
Ella Matzenbacher July 14
Henry Hicks July 14
Marvin Schilling July 15
Lenny Schwarze July 15

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY....

Jonathan & Jessica Liefer June 1
Lloyd & Jennifer Rosenkranz June 1
Wesley & Andrea Kuergeleis June 2
Randy & Michelle Coats June 3
Mark & Brenda Rey June 3
David & Amanda Rusteberg June 5
Mike & Dr. Shannon Krebel June 6
Aaron & Katie Esker June 6
Matt & Paige Galligos June 6
Greg & Jaclyn Knobloch June 9
Paul & Jackie Hoffmann June 10
Scott & Hannah Rohlfing June 10
Brent & Cherie Langsdorf June 11
Tom & Nancy Hornbeck June 12
Ryan & Lauren Hesterberg June 13
Shane & Andrea Kennedy June 13
Ryan & Emily Richeson June 13
Lynden & Karen Prange June 14
Marvin & Nancy Schilling June 17
Scott & Leslie Rush June 18
Caleb & Amy Hicks June 18
Matthew & Gretchen Brandt June 25
John & Sharon Glessner June 27
Matthew & Jennifer Albat June 28
Michael & Samantha Datema June 29

Luke & Kristy Edler July 2
Arthur & Julie Rusteberg July 4
Alex & Laurie Knoll July 12
Steve & Dana Hicks July 14



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

Website: www.maestownucc.org

pastorpoole123@gmail.com

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

Thought for the day:

*Just because you can't see the air doesn't mean you stop breathing,
And just because you can't see God doesn't mean you stop believing.*