



# ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

**The Visitor**  
**October 2021**

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## **Pastor's Reflection - Be The Change the World Needs!**

So often the message of how to be a good Christian comes across like simplistic notion. All that love, grace, patience, turn the other cheek stuff... but what do you do when you are at an impasse with someone who you care deeply about, or a stranger that does something to put you off? One day I saw a man walking down the street wearing a Biden campaign t-shirt and I thought that could get him in trouble depending on where he is. The same could be said wearing a Trump campaign t-shirt. Again, depending on where they are. We are having a family gathering to celebrate my father and stepmother's 50th wedding anniversary. The family tension has already begun, based on who is vaccinated and who is not. If politics come up, we will be off to the races! Here is a good rule to follow when it comes to someone you care about and find yourself at an impasse. Put the relationship before the problem. You may not be able to agree but you can express your concern for the loss of the relationship and take responsibility for the aspects of the situation that you could have done better. Clearly not all challenges get resolved, but it is still possible for you to care and even love your friend without having the challenge resolved. *We are called by Christ to not just love when it is easy.*

### ***Love for Enemies***

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor<sup>[a]</sup> and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

V-48 "Be perfect" The Greek word translated here as perfect is τέλειος and is pronounced téleios. This Greek word can also be translated as *complete*, as in I am complete. Example: I was made whole and complete in the spirit of God's love. Understanding the original Greek words give you access to a deeper understanding of the passage. You may feel you can never be perfect like your Heavenly Father, but you can see that you can be made whole and complete as you are in the Love of our Heavenly Father. Therefore, with the ones you care deeply about keep working at it and keep your love front and center.

As for the strangers wearing their political campaign t-shirts, remember the story of the good Samaritan. The Samaritans and the Jews were sworn enemies for generations with much blood and hardship between them. When asked, Jesus tells his Jewish audience that the Samaritan is the good neighbor and, of course, tells the story. There is no real difference between the one that wears a Trump T-Shirt and the one that wears a Biden T-shirt. Both are very likely to stop and give you a hand when you need help. Both love their children and both care deeply about the challenges we face as a nation. So, by all means love your neighbor as yourself.

Our faith is no simplistic notion. It is real and very challenging. Our faith liberates us from strife and is a powerful force for healing. Imagine the freedom to be able to love your enemies. Imagine the change that happens when rather than seeing a stranger you see a brother and sister, regardless of the t-shirt they wear.

Let's live our faith! Pastor

## **St. John UCC Church Council Minutes – August 9, 2021**

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

July 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes: Adam Tyberendt made a motion to accept the minutes and Scott Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

July 25<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting Minutes: Christy Muertz made a motion to accept the minutes and Shirley Stafford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Susie Brinkmann made a motion to accept the report. Sandy Tutka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

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

Pastor's Report: St. John's Day will be held September 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be a kickoff of the new Sunday School year. The theme for the day is Hawaiian Luau. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Council Members Report: Sandy Tutka asked permission for the Village of Maeystown to use the hall for meetings if necessary. All were in agreement.

### **-OLD BUSINESS**

Review of Services, Ill South Conference update #22 for Covid: On a motion made by Christy Muertz, seconded by Adam Tyberendt it was decided to start wearing masks inside church. Motion carried.

Parsonage Roof: Charlie Eckerty was in touch with those who had presented proposals regarding the same type of shingle. The Elms proposal was a higher quality shingle. After some discussion, Christy made a motion to accept Brian Elms proposal for \$10,000 contingent upon him being able to do it in the fall of 2021. Adam Tyberendt seconded the motion and it carried.

Constitution/Bylaws Changes: A separate meeting has been set for August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM to discuss the changes being proposed for the Constitution/ Bylaws. The group of past elders who met initially to assist with changes will be asked to attend this meeting along with our current council members.

### **-NEW BUSINESS**

Propane Agreement: Two bids have been received for the new heating season for supplying L-P Gas from R & M Oil and Gateway FS for a price of \$1.54 each. On a motion made by Scott Johnson and seconded by Adam Tyberendt it was decided to stay with Gateway FS. Motion carried.

Church Sound System: We will be asking a representative from Audio Video Concepts of Columbia to come and go over what we are looking for so all of it can be accomplished at one time.

The motion to adjourn was made by Adam Tyberendt and seconded by Shirley Stafford. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Linda Schmidt, Secretary

## **St. John UCC Church Council Special Meeting**

August 29, 2021

The purpose of the meeting was to act on the proposals received for the new parsonage roof and half of the new lawn mower purchased by the Cemetery Board.

President Charlie Eckerty called the meeting to order.

Pastor Patrick Poole opened with a prayer.

Church council recommends to go with Elms Home Improvement for \$10,000. Other bids received were from HJ Gasser for \$10,620 and Shrum, Inc. for \$9,518. For clarity reasons it should be noted that Shrum's and Gasser's bid was for a different grade of shingle and Elm's has been making repairs to the existing roof at no charge.

A motion was made by Stephanie Tyberendt and seconded by Dennis Trost to accept the recommendation of the church council. Motion carried.

A donation made quite some time ago by Ralph Debuhr Estate in the amount of \$3545.80 and another donation from Elmer Altes Estate in the amount of \$3,000 had not been designated for any particular purpose. It was decided on a motion by Laurie Knoll, seconded by Jennifer Albat to spend that money on the new roof and take the remaining amount from the Memorial Fund. Motion carried.

The Cemetery Board decided to buy a new lawn mower this year and asked to split the cost in half with the church. Church's cost for half is \$3750. The church council approved to pay \$1875 in March. We would like a motion to approve paying the additional cost of \$1875. Dwight Asselmeier made a motion to pay the balance, seconded by Scott Johnson and it carried.

The motion to adjourn was made by Joyce Kuergeleis, seconded by Lynn Hicks and it carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Linda Schmidt, Secretary

*No matter what yesterday was like, birds always start the new day with a song*

# **Church Council Communications**

## **Sanctuary Seating**

The Council has decided that masks are to be used at this time.

The pews on the Left are open to sit as you are comfortable.  
The pews on the Right will remain spaced every other one for social distancing.

## **Future Outdoor Service Dates:**

- October 3, 2021
- October 31, 2021

*October 31<sup>st</sup> - 5th Sunday Offering, will support Zach Wheat*

*I would like to thank the Congregation for all the help and encouragement while in the position of  
Administrative Assistant.*

*Working with and for you has been a great joy.  
As of October 1, 2021, I am resigning from my position in the Church.*

*God bless you,  
Jennifer Valerius-Johnson*

## **Announcements**

### **New Member Classes**

***Begin in October!***

***They will be held October 3rd, 10th, & 17th.***

***Installation will be on October 31, 2021***

***The classes are 3 weeks in length and are held on Sundays following the 10am Service.  
Please speak with Pastor if you are interested in becoming a member at St. John!***

### **Save the Dates:**

October 7 – Women’s Fellowship Meeting, 7pm Fellowship Hall Basement  
October 10 – Oktoberfest in Maeystown  
October 11 – Church Council Meeting, 7pm  
October 18 – Pew Sister’s 6:30pm @ Lisa Maurer’s Home  
October 13 – Afterschool Program Begins, 3-5pm

## *Acolyte Schedule*



### October

3 – Outdoor Service  
10 – Andrew Stafford & Ashlyn Crouch  
7 – Dawson Goldschmidt & Clay Juelfs  
24 – Tanner & Rylee Rosenkranz  
31 – Outdoor Service

### *Please keep the following families in your prayers:*

*Continued prayers are needed for the following members:*

*Twila Hoffmann, Eva Novakov, Marvin Schilling, Dorothy Mueller, and Kaylee Muertz*

*and for the following friends and relatives of members:*

*Bill Schmitz, Bonnie Hoffmann, Elizabeth Meyers, Pam Roberson, Tim Branson, Brian Kreher, Ben Stork, Zach Wheat and Anthony Moll*

### *Sympathy and Prayers for the Families and Friends of those who went to their Heavenly Homes this past month:*

*Nancy Hornbeck July 29, 2021*

*Ricky Rodenberg September 11, 2021*

*Adele Hawkins September 16, 2021*

★ *If there is a loved one that you would like honored for Totenfest, please submit the name to Pastor Poole.* ★

***What an amazing turn out for St. John's Day! Thank you, Anna, for all your hard work putting together a wonderful event! Thank you to everyone who helped run the games for the kids to enjoy, Christy, Adam, Chris, and Oliver to name a few. Thank you, Don for the ice cream! Thank You, Brad for grilling up some patties. Thank you, Women's Fellowship, for the exercise, before our dessert.***







# SUNDAY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2021 UPDATES

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## **PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN**

Ms. Michelle's class started a fun new curriculum this year, and they kicked off their year learning about Creation. This month we will finish learning about Creation before moving on to learn about the flood.

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Bible Memory Verse: "And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is." (Ephesians 3:18)

## **3RD AND 4TH GRADE**

Ms. Karen's class is also starting their year with Creation. The students in this class will read from the Bible as they learn about the beginning of the world, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah over the next month.

**SAVE THE DATE: THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WILL BE ON DECEMBER 12 DURING CHURCH. REHEARSALS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINNING NOVEMBER 7.**

## **1ST AND 2ND GRADE**

Ms. Sheryl's class will spend this year studying the New Testament. To prepare for this, they are beginning the Sunday School year reading about Jesus' birth - CHRISTMAS! While Ms. Sheryl is enjoying some time away, Ms. Jennifer Johnson and Ms. Lauren Jensen are taking great care of her class.

## **5TH GRADE AND ABOVE**

Ms. Christy's class is using the Action Bible again this year as they explore and expand their knowledge of God's word. They kicked off their year in the Old Testament. A deeper understanding of the Scripture will be so beneficial when many of these students begin confirmation next year.

# St. John's News and Notes

## **Baptisms:**

September 11, 2021 - Braxton Lee Boman  
Parents: Justin & Samantha Bowman  
Godparents: Josh Kruse and Nichole Kruse and Ally Blueberg

## **Birth Announcements:**

Maren Marie Birk  
September 18, 2021  
Parents: Nathan and Julie Birk

## **Nursing Home or Assisted Living:**

Oak Hill - Waterloo  
Elaine Hoerr  
Elveria Miller  
Carmelita Sensel

Garden Place - Waterloo  
Marvin & Catherine Hoffmann  
Judy Tomlinson

## **Military:**

Caleb Buchanan  
Jacob Rey  
Andrew Schaefer  
Austin Scheibe  
Dillon Scheibe  
Krista Wandro



## **Special Birthdays:**

- Carmelita Sensel hits the Extraordinary Age of 94 on October 6<sup>th</sup>!
- Rosemarie Upchurch celebrates 82 Wonderful years on October 26<sup>th</sup>

*The Spectacular 77-year old's this month are:*

- Linda Sutter on October 7<sup>th</sup>!
- Ross Mueller on October 9<sup>th</sup>!

*Jim Bundy celebrates his 75th Platinum birthday on October 18<sup>th</sup>!*

*Linda Schmidt will celebrate 73 Brilliant years on October 15<sup>th</sup>!*

*Anna Massie will celebrate 72 Fantastic years on October 19<sup>th</sup>!*

*Judy Schmuck will celebrate 71 Delightful years on October 18<sup>th</sup>!*

*Super Seventy this Month is: Janie Houston on October 16<sup>th</sup> Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!!!!!*

*Bonnie Schwarze Hits the ground running at 60 years old on October*

*Joining the Golden 50's Club this month, both on October 29<sup>th</sup> are:*

- Wendy Hill
  - Amy Rohlfing
- Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!!!

*Joining the "Over the Hill Crowd" this month is: Matthew Brandt on October 5th  
Happy 40th Birthday!!!*

*The Beautiful Ladies hitting some substantial milestones this month are:  
Jennifer Coats breaks 35 on October 8<sup>th</sup>!*

*Lauren Brigance will turn 25 on October 19<sup>th</sup>!*

*Gwendlyn Panzau will hit her second decade (20) on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

*Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday to: Sydney Finch on October 25<sup>th</sup>.....CHEERS!*

*Our Newest Teenagers this month is:  
Dallen Edler on October 5.... Look out trouble!*

*Our first-time double-digit Birthdays are:*

- Kelsey Schmitz - October 2nd
  - Janey Berg - October 7
- Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!

*Brylee Rohlfing celebrates her 1st Birthday on October 1st!*

## **Special Anniversaries:**

Wallace & Jane Altes  
55th Anniversary on October 8th!

John & Phyllis Hoefft  
51st Anniversary on October 10th!

Glenn & Nancy Voelker  
49th Anniversary on October 21st!

Frank & Mary Graham  
42nd Anniversary on October 20th!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY....**

Bradley Koesterer	Oct. 1	Brian Eckart	Oct. 31
Brylee Rohlfing	Oct. 1	Candy Eckart	Oct. 31
Adam Eckart	Oct. 2	Jennifer Rosenkranz	Nov. 1
Kelsey Schmitz	Oct. 2	Susan Hoffmann	Nov. 2
Vanessa Stitzel	Oct. 3	Justin Knobloch	Nov. 3
Whitney Stitzel	Oct. 3	Kathy Goldschmidt	Nov. 4
Wyatt Schreder	Oct. 3	Dawn Burns	Nov. 4
Alex Knoll	Oct. 5	Marvin Hoffmann	Nov. 4
Matthew Brandt	Oct. 5	Pat Brandt	Nov. 4
Dallen Edler	Oct. 5	Renee Steibel	Nov. 4
Levi Wittenbrink	Oct. 5	Garrett Rohlfing	Nov. 4
Carmelita Sensel	Oct. 6	Lauren LaFollette	Nov. 5
Nancy Voelker	Oct. 6	Josh Reinhardt	Nov. 5
Sheri Dilley	Oct. 6	Maclain Naumann	Nov. 5
Mike Krebel	Oct. 6	Raymond Reed II	Nov. 6
Linda Sutter	Oct. 7	Connie Turner	Nov. 6
Janey Berg	Oct. 7	Ethan Russell	Nov. 7
Jennifer Coats	Oct. 8	Marlene Wild	Nov. 8
Graham Knobloch	Oct. 8	Fay Ross	Nov. 8
Connie Esker	Oct. 9	Riley Skaggs	Nov. 8
Ross Mueller	Oct. 9	Ryan Nolan	Nov. 8
Trey Rohlfing	Oct. 13	Markee Voelker	Nov. 9
Owen Carron	Oct. 14	Mark T. Rey	Nov. 9
Olivia Burns	Oct. 14	Donny Muertz, Jr.	Nov. 11
Kaiden Wilson	Oct. 14	Cheri Langsdorf	Nov. 12
Linda Schmidt	Oct. 15	Lisa Schwarze	Nov. 12
Janie Houston	Oct. 16	Nathan Birk	Nov. 13
Ben Hoefft	Oct. 16	Jake Coats	Nov. 15
Kristy Busch	Oct. 17	Katie Marie Ries	Nov. 15
Jim Bundy	Oct. 18	Knox Brian Tyberendt	Nov. 15
Judy Schmuck	Oct. 18		
Drew Watts	Oct. 18	<b>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY....</b>	
Lauren Brigance	Oct. 19	Wayne & Sherry Stitzel	Oct. 3
Bonnie Schwarze	Oct. 19	Alan & Debbie Wischmeyer	Oct. 4
Anna Massie	Oct. 19	Brandon & Emily Kruse	Oct. 4
Alexandra Rippelmeyer	Oct. 21	Jon & Becky Matzenbacher	Oct. 6
Tyler Barnes	Oct. 22	Justin & Kristin Knobloch	Oct. 6
Gwendlyn Panzau	Oct. 22	Todd & Betty Levin	Oct. 6
Mary Branson	Oct. 24	Wallace & Jane Altes	Oct. 8
Megan Schaefer	Oct. 24	John & Phyllis Hoefft	Oct. 10
Jolene Ann Keller	Oct. 24	Jared & Rebecca Coats	Oct. 10
Derek Hoffmann	Oct. 24	Brian & Shannon Eckart	Oct. 10
Sydney Finch	Oct. 25	David & Anita Muertz	Oct. 12
Dana Hicks	Oct. 26	Grant & Jennifer Coats	Oct. 13
Rosemarie Upchurch	Oct. 26	Tim & Leah Ziegler	Oct. 16
Annette Morwick	Oct. 26	Colby & Lauren Jensen	Oct. 18
Adalynn Huddleston	Oct. 26	Scott & Jennifer Johnson	Oct. 19
Jenney Berg	Oct. 27	Frank & Mary Graham	Oct. 20
Krista Wandro	Oct. 27	Tony & Amy Stirnaman	Oct. 20
Colten Huddleston	Oct. 27	Glenn & Nancy Voelker	Oct. 21
Andrea Kennedy	Oct. 28	Charlie & Chrissy Eckerty	Oct. 21
Wendy Hill	Oct. 29	Jeffrey & Angela Finch	Oct. 22
Amy Rohlfing	Oct. 29		
Payton Dilley	Oct. 29		
Sydney Kuergeleis	Oct. 30		

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
Tim & Mary Headrick	Nov. 3
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

## *When Autumn Leaves Begin to Fall*

*By Kathleen Higham*

When autumn leaves begin to fall  
I think of Him most of all  
Colors bursting with the sun  
Rays shine down on everyone.

There is a leafy autumn smell  
I walk on softness where they fell  
Floating gently to the ground  
Touching down without a sound.

Animal are scurrying to and fro  
Instinctively the creatures know  
The leaves scattered everywhere  
Beautifies a place once bare.

Rising up to the bluest sky  
A tree looks down, creaks a sigh  
Nestled in her hollowed place  
Life will wait through winter's race.

When the tress at last have shed  
Sturdy branches though not dead  
Beneath the earth roots hold tight  
Tall and stately through the night.

When autumn leaves begin to fall  
The Father orchestrates it all  
Blooms in waiting seem to say  
He is coming back someday.

Again dressed in a formal gown  
Branches filled and hanging down  
See the miracle of God once more  
Birds leap from her branch to soar.

Here I stand in wonder of this  
A soft wind blows to me a kiss  
My spirit tells my mind to hush  
Peace abounds in Christ for us.

The seasons change, come and go  
But this is what I truly know  
When autumn leaves begin to fall  
I think of Him most of all.



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### **Visitor Financial:**

Beginning Balance - \$421.11

Income - \$0.00

Expense - \$51.67

U.S. Postmaster - \$51.67

Ending Balance - \$369.44

Fall is Here!!!! Enjoy the beautiful weather!!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

### **General Fund:**

August: previous balance: \$10,376.76

Income: \$25,472.41

Expenses: \$13,287.18

Balance August 31, 2021: \$22,561.99

Kathy Asselmeier – Treasurer



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**Thought for the day:**

*When you want something different for yourself you have to start moving differently.*

*Old keys don't open new doors.*