



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor
March 2022

Pastor's Reflection

Spring Cleaning Never Felt So Good!

Spring is in the air and all things look bright and beautiful! I spent my morning getting started on some early spring cleaning. Throwing out old masks was especially enjoyable! Can I hear an Amen! As we enter the Lenten Season let's take a fresh look at what Lent means to us.

In the Lenten Season we give up something. We do this to express our sincere appreciation for all Christ gave up for us. Of course, our giving up of one kind of treat or another is in no way comparable to his sacrifice. The purpose is to help us stay focused on Christ, his teachings, and his sacrifice. This year let's take a fresh approach to Lent.

Consider giving up something much greater than the usual. Let's do some serious spring cleaning and let go of grudges, old ones and new ones. We have stepped on toes over these past two years of COVID and have had our toes stepped on as well. If not from one another, it's been by the media, social media, government. I ask myself this question: Did I do enough to listen to our members' concerns about their health and also their concerns for the losses they experienced by covering their faces? Did I consider enough the pain and discomfort for those that choose not to get vaccinated? All of our goals were to protect one another, some from the virus and some from mandates that took freedoms away. We have lots to sort through post COVID, and we will. For Lent let us do a more pressing job than sorting all that out. Let's get started doing the work of the Lenten Season of forgiving and healing.

With all that said, I could not be prouder of our church! We had so many firsts... services online, outside services, even Easter and Christmas outside and in a big way! We froze together, we took communion together with wine and bread from our homes. We managed to love and care for one another. We pulled together as a body of Christ and for that I have to say, *thank you my dear congregation!*

Let us now do some spring cleaning for Lent. Let's clear out all the leftover pain and hurt feelings. One by one let them go as a sacrifice to honor Christ. This Easter let us be one body, not because we got it right or wrong, but because we have the miracle of grace in our hearts for one another.

Peace,
Pastor



St. John's UCC Church Council Minutes - January 10, 2022

President Charlie Eckerty called the meeting to order. Those attending were Charlie Eckerty, Shirley Stafford, Sandy Tutka, Susie Brinkmann, Adam Tyberendt, Linda Schmidt and Pastor Poole. Pastor opened with a prayer. Nicole Koch was at the meeting briefly to introduce herself to us.

December 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Susie Brinkmann made a motion to accept the minutes and Sandy Tutka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

December Budget/Constitution Congregational Meeting Minutes: Adam Tyberendt made a motion to accept the minutes and Shirley Stafford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Schmidt made motion to accept report. Susie Brinkmann seconded motion. Motion carried.

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

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

It should be noted that the new federal mileage rate is 58.5 cents per mile effective January 1, 2022.

Pastor is moving forward with the young adults that will be traveling to Colorado next summer.

OLD BUSINESS

- Church Sound System: Charlie Eckerty has contacted Systems Engineering Group for a bid for the new sound system. Only one bid has been received thus far.
- Kindercottage/ Camp DuBois Projects: Both organizations very familiar with our church have Capital Campaigns going on. As a church council we have decided to send \$1,000 to Kindercottage and \$2,000 to DuBois. We will begin a campaign within our congregation during the annual meeting. Any contributions can be sent directly to the individual organizations or can be included with your weekly offering designated for the organization. The Maher Trust Board has graciously agreed to make the initial payment of \$1,000 for Kindercottage and \$2,000 for DuBois. Thank you, Maher Trust board.
- Board to Manage Edward Jones Investments: We will ask for volunteers from congregation to serve on this Board. Charlie Eckerty will check with Collin Moore if authorization is necessary to inquire about investments at Edward Jones.
- Ameren Rebates to install LED bulbs in lower church hall/church cove lighting: The lighting to be upgraded includes the outside basketball court, hall basement lights not already LED as well as the Cove Lighting in the church sanctuary. The cost to the church for all upgrades is approximately \$912. An interested member wants to pay what would be the church's responsibility. This was accepted on a motion by Adam Tyberendt, seconded by Susie Brinkmann. Motion carried. Thank you to the anonymous donor. It is appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Church Services for January: Due to the increase of the spread of the next variant of Covid, we have decided to have only recorded church services for January 16th and 23rd and return to in-person services on January 30th. The motion was made by Adam Tyberendt, seconded by Shirley Stafford and it carried.
- Confirmation Class/After School Programs for January: The confirmation class will continue to meet and those unable to attend in person can join by Zoom. The after-school program will resume at a later date.
- Preparing New Constitution/Bylaws and sending out to Congregation: The changes discussed at the congregational meeting will be completed and a clean copy will be mailed to each member sometime in February.

The motion to adjourn was made by Adam Tyberendt and seconded by Sandy Tutka. Motion carried.

A big thank you goes to the retiring members namely Charlie Eckerty, Susie Brinkmann, and Adam Tyberendt.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Linda Schmidt, Secretary

St. John UCC Annual Congregational Meeting - January 30, 2022

President Charlie Eckerty called the meeting to order. Pastor Patrick Poole opened with a prayer.

- The church council candidates are Mark Rey, Drew Watts, and Sharon Bergheger (to replace Michelle Coats), and the candidates for Elder are Chari Langsdorf, and Lisa Schwarze (to replace Scott Johnson). There were no nominations from the floor so Freeman Borcharding made a motion, seconded by Faye Birk to accept the candidates presented. Motion carried.
- Bob Edler has agreed to accept another term on the Maher Trust Board. Motion to accept Bob was made by Mark Rey, seconded by Barry Hoffmann. Motion carried.
- Lenny Schwarze has agreed to accept another term on the Cemetery Board. Motion to accept Lenny was made by Christy Muertz, seconded by Shari Langsdorf. Motion carried.
- Susie Brinkmann has agreed to accept another term on the Auditing Committee. Lisa Schwarze made the motion to accept Susie, seconded by Jean Rahn. Motion carried.
- Sue Taylor, Dave and BJ Henerfauth have agreed to serve as Conference Delegates. Freeman Borcharding made the motion to accept the conference delegates, seconded by Sandy Tutka. Motion carried.
- Kindercottage and Camp DuBois both have Capital Campaigns going on. As a church council we have decided to send \$1,000 to Kindercottage and \$2,000 to DuBois. We challenge our church members to join our lead and make donations to one or both organizations as you see fit. You can either make your contribution directly to the organization or place it in the offering and designate where you want it given. The Maher Trust Board has graciously agreed to make the initial payment of \$1,000 for Kindercottage and \$2,000 for DuBois. Thank you, Maher Trust board.
- We would like to set up a committee to oversee the Edward Jones Investments for the church. Volunteers are appreciated and can make their desire known to Pastor Poole or a church council member.

A motion was made by Dwight Asselmeier and seconded by Ellen Edler to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting and Congregational Meetings held during 2021. Motion carried.

The motion to adjourn was made by Barry Hoffmann, seconded by Lisa Schwarze and it carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Linda Schmidt, Secretary

Sunday School Report

The Sunday School will be having a meeting on Wednesday, March 9 at 6 PM. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School OR interested in helping with Vacation Bible School, your attendance is appreciated! At this meeting, we will map out the rest of the year of activities for our Sunday School aged kids!

We are currently in need of more adult volunteers. We are always taking names of people willing to substitute for a class - the class is always planned out for you so all you have to do is show up with a smile! We are also looking for 2-3 new teachers for the next school year. We have interest in adding new classes to our Sunday mornings, but we need adults to make this happen! If you are able to help out with either of these things, or are just interested in learning more, please come to our meeting OR reach out to Michelle Vogt at 618-972-9053 or Michelle88r1@gmail.com.

As a reminder, our Sunday School is currently open to all children who are at least 3 years old. We begin each Sunday at 9:40 AM, and we then join our parents in church around 10:15 so we can all worship together with our families.

Michelle Vogt

Upcoming Events

March:

There will be a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** on March 13 following church. The purpose is to hear the proposal about including the church in the proposed Maeystown Historic District. After discussion, a vote will likely take place.

A **SPAGHETTI DINNER & DESSERT AUCTION** is March 20 after church. Please contact Pastor if you would like to donate a dessert for the auction. Proceeds benefit the Youth Mission to help support the youth going on the Colorado Mission Trip in June. Bring a big appetite and come to support our youth as they raise funds to share God's love with their hands as they help to restore the forest destroyed by wildfires.

We are raising money for the **KINDERCOTTEGE PLAYGROUND AND FOR CAMP DUBOIS** to help with needed building projects, ranging from a new cabin to many updates.

Adult Choir practices this Wednesday, March 9, at 7:15 p.m.

April

Women's Fellowship will meet on April 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Schedule:

Donation forms for Easter Lilies will be available soon.

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

7:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

May

THE HIKE AND BIKE is getting a makeover this year. "We Gotta Run" will take place on May 7 and will include a 5K, 10K, Half Marathon and a Kids 1 Mile Fun Run. Register today at <https://raceroster.com/events/2022/57698/we-gotta-run>. If you know of someone who would want to be a mile marker sponsor or a t-shirt sponsor, please let Nicole know at maeystownucc@gmail.com. Sponsors of all sorts are welcome, so if you or someone you know would like to make a smaller donation, please let Nicole know as well. No donation is too small to help the children of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.

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## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO....**

|                        |         |                          |         |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| Lenny & Karen Schwarze | Mar. 11 | Josh & Emily Reinhardt   | Apr. 2  |
| Jim & Lisa Maurer      | Mar. 14 | Randy & Brandy Hicks     | Apr. 5  |
| Rodney & Debbie Eckart | Mar. 21 | Garrett & Elise Rohlfing | Apr. 5  |
| Scott & Julie Upchurch | Mar. 23 | Jason & Sheri Dilley     | Apr. 9  |
| Keith & Sarah Schmitz  | Mar. 24 | Allyn & Trudi Rohlfing   | Apr. 10 |
| Jerry & Peg Johner     | Mar. 25 | Tom & Stacy Schilling    | Apr. 10 |
| Ryan & Megan Kempf     | Mar. 25 | Ron & Susan Richeson     | Apr. 11 |
| Bob & Judy Edler       | Mar. 31 | Mark & Susan Hoffmann    | Apr. 14 |

# St. John's News & Notes

## Baptism:

Joselynn Marie Schultheis – February 6, 2022.  
Daughter of Richard Dillow, Jr. and Anna Schultheis.  
Godparents: Randy Dillow and Rachel Salger

## Birth:

Dalton Louis Roever, born January 22, 2022, son of  
Jared and Amy Roever. Congratulations!

## Nursing Home or Assisted Living:

### Oak Hill - Waterloo

Elaine Hoerr  
Carmelita Sensel

### Garden Place - Waterloo

Marvin & Catherine Hoffmann  
Judy Tomlinson

## Military:

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

## Thank You Notes:

Thank you to everyone who sent lovely cards,  
Facebook messages, phone calls and flowers at the  
time of my brother Dale's sudden passing. This has  
been a very hard time for our family, and all of your  
support has meant so much. Thank you!

Marcia Braswell

Thank you to all the musicians who have continued  
to share their talents with us during these past two  
years in solos and small ensembles, and of course as  
our Adult Choir. We appreciate your help and your  
willingness to share because your music adds so  
much to our services. A special thanks to Shirley  
and Susan for sharing the organ/piano spot with  
me. You're the best! Thank you!

Marcia Braswell

## Prayer List:

Please keep the following in your prayers

- Ruth Stumpf is in hospice care
- Debbie Barns is recovering from a very successful surgery
- Pat Berry is recovering from surgery.
- Jen Thompson is battling cancer.
- Bob Scheibe as he treats and fights his cancer.
- Heather Wild in your prayers as she recovers from an auto accident.

- Aileen Neeley as she battles cancer.
- Zack Wheat.

**Continued prayers are needed for the following members:** Kaylee Muertz, *Elizabeth Meyers*, *Tim Branson*, and *Brian Kreher*.

† † † † † † † † † † † † †

**Grace in the Past, Faith in the Future Books are still available at \$10.00 each. This book is full of knowledge of our Church. Everyone should pick one up at the back of Church. Put your money in the offering tray labeled Grace in the Past Book!!**

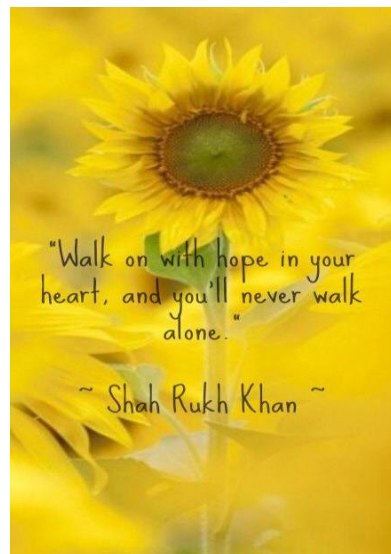
**Old Hymnals for sale at \$10.00. You will find them at the back of Church! Place your money in the offering tray marked Hymnals!!!**

**YPL – Collecting change.**

**The canister is by the programs!!!**

**Upper Room – March-April Upper Rooms are at the back of the church. Please be sure to pick yours up for your daily devotional.**

**Congregational Meeting following Church Service on March 13, 2022**



**Church Financial Report:**

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance:               | \$20,458.38 |
| Income:                          | \$12,477.43 |
| Expenses:                        | \$13,360.01 |
| Ending Balance as of 01-31-2022: | \$19,575.80 |

(Kathy Asselmeier)

**February Visitor Report:**

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$337.05 |
| Income -          |          |
| Barb Wischmeyer - | \$20.00  |
| Expense -         | \$0.00   |
| Ending Balance    | \$357.05 |

Thank you very much, Barb. Your donation is greatly appreciated !!!!

Happy St. Patty's Day to all!!!!!!

(Faye Birk, Treasurer)

**Sunday School Financial****Checking:**

|                                          |           |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance January 1, 2022 -      | \$2027.06 |
| Income -                                 | \$0.00    |
| Expense -                                |           |
| Coast to Coast Eqpt & Supplies - toner - | \$94.57   |
| Ending Balance as of February 28 -       | \$1932.49 |

**Savings Account:**

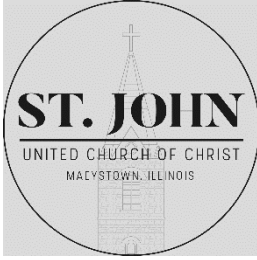
|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance January 1, 2022 - | \$5060.86 |
| Income - Offering                   | \$ 28.75  |
| Expense -                           | \$0.00    |
| Ending Balance as of February 28 -  | \$5081.61 |

(Faye Birk, Treasurer)

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO....***

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Joan Esker             | Mar. 1  |
| George Green           | Mar. 2  |
| Susan Koesterer        | Mar. 3  |
| Adam Prange            | Mar. 3  |
| Emily Rusteberg        | Mar. 3  |
| Brooke Dawsyn Knobloch | Mar. 3  |
| Elisa Marie Horn       | Mar. 4  |
| Mabel Louise Jensen    | Mar. 5  |
| Jeff Edward Roy        | Mar. 6  |
| Gracie Allen           | Mar. 6  |
| Marlee Rose Melching   | Mar. 7  |
| Charles Ray Eckerty    | Mar. 9  |
| Emily Michele Kruse    | Mar. 9  |
| Charles Richeson       | Mar. 10 |
| Catherine Hoffmann     | Mar. 10 |
| Jeanette McClellan     | Mar. 11 |
| Sheryl Prange          | Mar. 11 |
| Carrie Grueninger      | Mar. 11 |
| Mark Hoffmann          | Mar. 14 |
| Caleb Buchanan         | Mar. 14 |
| Andrew (AJ) Shipp      | Mar. 14 |
| Rita Richeson          | Mar. 15 |
| Allyn Rohlfing         | Mar. 15 |
| Dan Gilbert            | Mar. 15 |

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Robert Schmidt           | Mar. 17 |
| Pastor Patrick Poole     | Mar. 17 |
| Melba Asselmeier         | Mar. 18 |
| Josie Ann Rusteberg      | Mar. 18 |
| Kamryn Barnes            | Mar. 19 |
| Juanita Roland           | Mar. 20 |
| Stephanie Tyberendt      | Mar. 20 |
| Lisa Carron              | Mar. 21 |
| Bradley Philip Horn      | Mar. 21 |
| Owen Steven Prange       | Mar. 21 |
| Katie Morwick            | Mar. 22 |
| Megan Morwick            | Mar. 22 |
| Joe Floyd Niebruegge     | Mar. 22 |
| Matthew Rippelmeyer      | Mar. 22 |
| Eva Jean Floarke         | Mar. 23 |
| Morgan Schmitz           | Mar. 23 |
| Cole Juelfs              | Mar. 24 |
| Karen Prange             | Mar. 25 |
| Susan Richeson           | Mar. 25 |
| Mary Headrick            | Mar. 26 |
| Larry Henson             | Mar. 27 |
| Aaron Prange             | Mar. 27 |
| Everett Charles Kruse    | Mar. 27 |
| Kelly Hoeffft            | Mar. 28 |
| Shane Patrick Kennedy    | Mar. 28 |
| Evan Daniel Dressel      | Mar. 28 |
| Rodney Morwick           | Mar. 29 |
| Chris Voelker            | Mar. 29 |
| Todd Bradshaw            | Mar. 30 |
| Becky Schaefer           | Mar. 30 |
| Jackie Hoffmann          | Mar. 30 |
| Reagan Landen Johnson    | Mar. 31 |
| Heather Elaine Wild      | Apr. 2  |
| Glenn Woodcock           | Apr. 3  |
| Kaitlyn Andres           | Apr. 3  |
| Nikki Asselmeier         | Apr. 4  |
| Matthew Schellhardt      | Apr. 4  |
| Aven Emily Kennedy       | Apr. 5  |
| Ashlyn Crouch            | Apr. 5  |
| Andrew Schaefer          | Apr. 6  |
| Abriale Lee Smith        | Apr. 6  |
| Otis Wayne Hines         | Apr. 6  |
| Carla Feldmeier          | Apr. 7  |
| John Hoeffft             | Apr. 8  |
| Courtney Hoffmann        | Apr. 9  |
| Karrin Larson            | Apr. 9  |
| Morgan Daniel Hoffmann   | Apr. 9  |
| Charles (Chuck) Schaefer | Apr. 10 |
| Janet Trost              | Apr. 10 |
| Ashley Melvin            | Apr. 10 |
| Logan Matthew Albat      | Apr. 10 |
| Rilynn Grace Heidenreich | Apr. 11 |
| Amelia Louise Hoffmann   | Apr. 11 |
| Dorothy Matzenbacher     | Apr. 12 |
| Kelly Ann Mathews        | Apr. 12 |
| Henry Alexander Knoll    | Apr. 12 |
| Stacy Brigance           | Apr. 13 |
| Tyler James Ziegler      | Apr. 14 |
| Sharon Bergheger         | Apr. 14 |
| DeeAnn Trost             | Apr. 15 |
| Jeremy Daniel Dressel    | Apr. 15 |



**St. John United Church of Christ**  
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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:***

*My life is in God's hands. I can't get much safer than that!*