



# ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

***The Visitor***  
**April 2022**

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## ***Pastor's Reflection***

### **Our Roots and The Easter Miracle**

I had the privilege of performing Ruth Stumpf's memorial Service this past week. Ruth was 101, born in 1921. She was a Faus from home and grew up just a mile outside Maeystown. She was baptized, confirmed and married all in our beautiful stone church. She would have likely participated as a youth in the planting of our lovely Pine Forest. Her parents almost certainly spoke German in the household. Her father would have plowed the field with a horse or mule. Life in 1921 was very different. Here is an excerpt from a write up her family did for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Ruth was born on the farm where her family lived a mile out of Maeystown on Feb. 20, 1921. Her parents were Albert and Emma Miller Faus and she had two siblings, Melvin and Doris. The farm house had wood stoves, no bathroom, no running water and no electricity. The Sears catalogue pages were used as toilet paper in the outhouse. When electricity arrived in 1938, their first purchases included a refrigerator, a radio and an iron.*

*Ruth attended Posten School for grades 1 thru 8 – it was a one room school and had 60 students and one teacher. She then went to Maeystown High School which was only a three- year school and then Valmeyer High School for her senior year graduating in 1938.*

Ruth was a wonderful expression of the love of Christ and this church. This excerpt from her life is a reminder of our roots. They worked hard, had integrity, and cared about being a good neighbor without any expectation or want for recognition. They were poor by today's measures but rich in the truest sense of the word. Rich in family, honor, purpose. The Fellowship Hall would have been built by her second birthday. The church we love would have been only 60 years old. Likely some of the original craftsman would have been still around in their eighties. She likely heard stories of her family hauling rock up the hill to build the church. They lived in humble homes and yet build a magnificent church, a testament to what they valued. The men dressed in fine wool suits and the women dressed in beautiful dresses. The children put on their Sunday best and without fail, father, mother and the children went to church. This was the order of life, work hard, play hard, honor the sabbath, be a good neighbor. Life was hard, families all too often lost children to illnesses, and by necessity they worked before dawn and beyond dusk but brought dignity and honor to the work. They took pride in the quality of the work - you got it done and you got it done right. This is who they were, and I see these same great qualities in our members today. I have never known a harder working community in my life. Work is taken in stride and laughter is never far away. Hard work is welcome if it is for a purpose. The connection we must not lose is to what purpose is our work? What are we building? Let us look back at our past to guide us. They lived with almost nothing in comparison and yet built a church. They turned the ground into producing farms, made time to care for neighbors and put away to prepare for hard times. Their joy came from simple pleasures, playing baseball in the field, playing music and dancing. *Balance in all things.... "You can stay out late but you're going to be at church in the morning".* In the coming year will you allow Ruth's and your ancestors' stories to shape your life? Will we remember their story and values?

Easter is the time we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and in it all things being made new! Let us be renewed in our zeal for living such a life of purpose, balance, joy, family and being the body of Christ. We have so much to celebrate!

Blessings!  
Pastor

## **John's UCC Church Council Minutes - February 14, 2022**

Organizational Meeting: Lisa Schwarze nominated Christy Muertz for President; Mark Rey for Vice President; and Linda Schmidt for Secretary. Sharon Bergheger seconded the motion and it carried. All nominees accepted their positions.

President Christy Muertz called the meeting to order. Those attending were Lisa Schwarze, Sandy Tutka, Christy Muertz, Mark Rey, Sharon Bergheger, Andrew Watts, Linda Schmidt and Pastor Poole. Pastor opened with a prayer.

January 10th Meeting Minutes: Sandy Tutka made a motion to accept the minutes and Mark Rey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jan. 30, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes: Sandy Tutka made motion to accept the minutes once the spelling of Cheri Langsdorf name was corrected. Drew Watts seconded the motion and it carried. They will now be presented to the congregation for approval next January.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Asselmeier attended our meeting to explain the financial reports. Lisa Schwarze made a motion to accept the report as presented. Sandy Tutka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bills/Timecard: Lisa Schwarze made a motion to accept the bills and timecard as presented. Mark Rey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Pastor's Report: A review and suggestion needs to .be made for next month for the giving.envelopes for 2023. Linda Schmidt will contact them for a cost breakdown. The annual Hike and Bike event to be held May7th and include the normal walking/bike route as well as a SK and 10K, Fleet Feet will be in charge of the.5 and 10K. More details to follow. There will be .approximately 14-15 youth traveling to Colorado this summer along with 8 adults.

There is no Fastnacht this year but Ash Wednesday services will be at 7:00 PM March 2, 2022.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Church Sound System: We are still waiting for a second estimate.
- Kindercottage/Camp DuBois: An explanation will be included in the bulletin allowing payments to be made to the church and forwarded to the proper organization .
- Board to manage Edward Jones Investments: At this time there will be no board appointed. We will instead ask the representative to give us updates twice a year by attending our meetings.
- Ameren Rebates to install LED bulbs in lower church hall and church ceiling has been completed. The cost was \$217.69 and has been graciously been paid by a member
- Preparing New Constitution/By-Laws and sending out to the congregation: They will be mailed shortly.
- Heater in Basement: The new heater has been installed and is working well.
- As of March 1, 2022, masks will be optional for all church activities, The motion was made by Sandy Tutka, seconded by Linda Schmidt and it carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Representatives Introducing Possibilities of Historic District: Joyce Kuergeleis and Anita Muertz were at the meeting to explain the possibility of designating Maeystown as a Historic District. One Of the advantages is to be eligible for grants to make improvements. Another is to preserve the historic buildings and grounds. The property owners are being offered an opportunity to join this district. A motion to sign the petition was made by Mark Rey, seconded by Lisa Schwarze. Motion carried. This petition is to be presented to the commissioners for zoning consideration. If approved by the commissioners, it will be brought before the congregation for final approval.

Sandy Tutka made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Lisa Schwarze seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

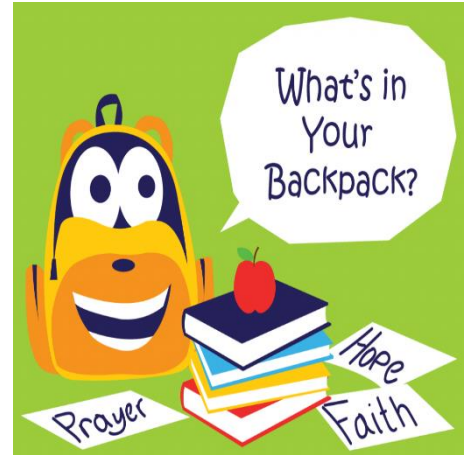
Linda Schmidt, Secretary

## Women's Fellowship.....

St. John Women's Fellowship is conducting a food drive for the BI-COUNTY BACKPACK PROGRAM during the months of April and May.

As the program is wrapping up its 11<sup>th</sup> school year it is currently serving 46 families and about 125 children within 4 school districts in both Monroe and Randolph counties. Food for weekend breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks is delivered to the families either directly or through school systems on a bi-weekly basis. The items distributed regularly are included on the list below.

Thank you for remembering this program upon which so many children and families depend. Donations of food may be brought to the sanctuary any Sunday during April and May. If you would like the Team to shop for you, monetary donations are also welcome. Checks should be made payable to St. John UCC Mission Team with a notation in the memo section that it is intended for the food drive. A note there to the effect of "Food Drive" will work. Envelopes with monetary donations may be left in the offering baskets at the rear of church. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Bi-County Backpack Program.



### Items to donate:

**Please No Glass Jars. Please Note: Due to regulations we are not able to give out expired food.**

#### Breakfast

Syrup  
Pancake Mix  
Cereal  
Pop Tarts  
Oatmeal

#### Lunch

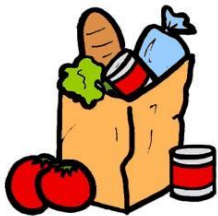
Soup  
Mac 'n Cheese  
Spaghetti-O's/Ravioli  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Beef Stew  
Chili

#### Dinner

Canned Chicken  
Canned Tuna  
Tuna Helper  
Chicken Helper  
Pizza Kits  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Spaghetti Noodles  
Completes  
Vegetables

#### Snacks

Popcorn  
Peanut butter/cheese crackers  
Pudding  
Fruit Cups  
Granola Bars  
Hot Chocolate  
Chips  
Cookies



## Upcoming Events

**Donations for Easter Lilies are being accepted. Please see the enclosed form.**

- April 3 Confirmation Presentation 10:00 a.m.  
April 7 Women's Fellowship 7:00 p.m.  
April 6 Lenten Wednesday Services  
April 10 Confirmands Confirmed 10:00 a.m.  
April 15 Good Friday Service  
April 17 Confirmands First Communion 10:00 a.m.  
Easter Sunday: 6:30 Sunrise Service; 7:00 Breakfast; 10:00 Traditional Worship;  
11:00 Easter Egg Hunt  
April 18 Pew Sisters, 6:30 p.m., home of Faye Birk
- May 5. Women's Fellowship, 7:00 p.m. - This will be the last meeting until September.  
May 7 "We Gotta Run" formerly known as Hike & Bike- Half-Marathon, 10K, 5K, and Kids Fun Run. T-shirt and Mile Marker Sponsorships are available. We are looking for more sponsors, so if you know of someone who might be willing to be a sponsor or if you would like to be a sponsor yourself, please contact Pastor or Nicole. **No donation is too small.**

### Acolyte Schedule:

#### April

- 3 - Cole Dilley & Andrew Stafford
- 10 - Ashlyn Crouch & Lilly Carron
- 17 - Dawson Goldschmidt & Clay Juelfs
- 24 - Landen Johnson & Owen Carron

#### May

- 1 - Cody Schmitz & Jackie Keller
- 8 - Dallen Edler & Cody Schmitz
- 15 - Drake Coats & Maddie Huddleston
- 22 - Evan Hill & Chloe Carron
- 29 - Tanner Rosenkranz & Caden Huddleston



**When Angels sense you need them, and Angels always do,  
They come unseen from everywhere to help and comfort you**



## News and Notes

### Births:

A daughter was born to Adam and Allie Prange on March 14, 2022. Marlee James Prange was born at 5:10pm weighing 6lbs 4 oz.

### Baptism:

Olivia Lyn Prange was baptized March 27, 2022. She is the daughter of Aaron and Jenny Prange.

### Special Birthdays:

- Glen Woodcock will be 81 on April 3.
- Janet Trost will ring in her Diamond Jubilee birthday on April 10.
- Dorothy Matzenbacher will turn 85 years young on April 12.
- Deann Trost turns 77 on April 15.
- Tanner Rosenkranz celebrates his Sweet 16 on April 17.
- Jack Roy turns 21 on April 23.
- Eric Brellinger enters his 30's on April 25.
- Joann Knobloch turns 75 years young April 27.
- Imogene Rahn celebrates her 84th on April 29.

### Special Anniversaries:

- Dennis & Janet Trost will celebrate 51 years of marriage on April 17.
- Mike & Barb Stafford will celebrate 2 decades of marriage on April 20.
- Charles & Rita Richeson ring in 58 years of marriage on April 21.
- Ronald & Susan Brinkmann will celebrate 45 years of marriage on May 23.
- Barry & Cathy Hoffmann will celebrate four decades of marriage on May 24.
- Ross & Dorothy Mueller will celebrate 56 years of marriage on April 30.

### Thank You:

Thank you to everyone who remembered me and my daughter with cards, emails, Facebook messages, texts and phone calls when my mom passed away. Thank you also to those who braved the resurgence of Covid to attend her visitation and funeral. Special thanks to Pastor Poole for his Christmas Eve visit. She knew you were

there. And to Pastor Andrea, Andrea Blackwell, my daughter Carrie, Marcia Braswell, Brian and Brad Edler, Dawn Burns, Katie and Jeremy Reis and Jonathon Schwarze for making her service so fitting for who she was. She may no longer be physically present on this earth but her spirit continues to live in the hearts of many. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness!

Connie Kuergeleis Turner

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

- *Ramona Oxmann, she is receiving cancer treatments.*
- *Renesmae Brown, she is 3 yrs old, has autism and now seizures.*
- *Kathy Fitch, treatment for cancer*
- *Family of Ruth Stumpf as she went to be with the Lord.*
- *Debbie Barnes 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 in your prayers as she battles cancer.*
- *Zack Wheat.*

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



## 2022 Easter Lily Donation Form

Donations are being accepted for the 2022 Easter Lilies. A donation of \$8.50 is recommended. The money for the donation is due April 10, 2022. If you wish to make your donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please complete the below information and return it with your donation.

**A donation of \$8.50 is required to make the donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one.**

DONOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to make your donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please complete the below information.

**In memory of/ In honor of**

(Please circle one and list how you would like it worded in the bulletin)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory of/ In honor of**

(Please circle one and list how you would like it worded in the bulletin)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

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**March Visitor Report**

Beginning Balance	\$357.05
Income -	\$0.00
Expense -	\$46.56
St. John UCC Reimbursement of postage	
Ending Balance	\$310.49

Spring has Sprung!!! Happy Easter to All!!!!!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

**Sunday School Checking**

Beginning Balance March 1, 2022 -	\$1932.49
Income -	\$0.00
Expense -	\$277.47
Children's International -	\$66.00
Christian Book Dist. -	\$211.47
Ending Balance as of March 31 -	1655.02

**Sunday School Savings Account**

Beginning Balance March 1, 2022 -	\$5089.61
Income -	815.50
Offering	\$60.50

**Maher Trust**

Expense -	\$0.00
Ending Balance as of March 31 -	\$5905.11

## ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!***

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 Hoefft	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
Sharon Keeney	Apr. 17
Leah Christian Ziegler	Apr. 17
Jesse Barnes	Apr. 17
Tanner James Rosenkranz	Apr. 17
Robin Edler	Apr. 18
Jeremy Duane Ries	Apr. 18
Mary Catherine Graham	Apr. 19
Emma Ruth Miller	Apr. 19
Sage Elizabeth Kennedy	Apr. 19
Samantha Rippelmeyer	Apr. 20
Daniel Kyle Miller	Apr. 21
Jeremiah James Reese	Apr. 22
Ethan Floarke	Apr. 22
Jack Michael Roy	Apr. 23
Jeffrey Hines	Apr. 23
Ziggy Clemens Hines	Apr. 23
Logan Michael Esker	Apr. 23
Eric Bollinger	Apr. 25
Greg Knobloch	Apr. 27
Joann Knobloch	Apr. 27
Debbie Barnes	Apr. 27
Karen Rodenberg	Apr. 28
Kay Floarke	Apr. 28
Imogene (Jean) Rahn	Apr. 29

Owen Evans	Apr. 30
Shirley Stafford	May 1
Elise Sandra Rohlfing	May 3
Caleb Hicks	May 3
Shannon Marie Jansen	May 4
Luca Michael Heidenreich	May 4
Lilly Carron	May 5
Jensen Michael Roever	May 5
Timothy John Ziegler	May 6
Sara Schreder	May 6
David Hesterberg	May 7
Dawson Goldschmidt	May 7
Clinton Hicks	May 9
Jim Burns	May 10
Lane Dale Mathews	May 11
Cole William Dilley	May 12
Eva Novakov	May 13
Lynden Prange	May 14
Paige Jackson	May 15
Kathy Ann Poole	May 1

## ***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ALL OF YOU...***

Josh & Emily Reinhardt	Apr. 2
Randy & Brandy Hicks	Apr. 5
Garrett & Elise Rohlfing	Apr. 5
Jason & Sheri Dilley	Apr. 9
Allyn & Trudi Rohlfing	Apr. 10
Tom & Stacy Schilling	Apr. 10
Ron & Susan Richeson	Apr. 11
Mark & Susan Hoffmann	Apr. 14
Kody & Afton Schwarze	Apr. 16
Dennis & Janet Trost	Apr. 17
Aaron & Jenny Prange	Apr. 18
Bob & Debbie Barnes	Apr. 19
Michael & Barb Stafford	Apr. 20
Charles & Rita Richeson	Apr. 21
Randall & Connie Esker	Apr. 21
Ronald & Susan Brinkmann	Apr. 23
Barry & Cathy Hoffmann	Apr. 24
Adam & Allison Prange	Apr. 29
Ross & Dorothy Mueller	Apr. 30
Terry & Debbie Walster	May 4
Jim & Dawn Burns	May 5
Ronald & Larita Mohl	May 7
Tim & Mary Branson	May 10
Kyle & Kaitlyn Andres	May 12
Harry & Maxine Steingrubey	May 14
Erik & Erin Floarke	May 14
Pete & Dr. Jennifer Goessling	May 14
Jared & Amy Roever	May 14
Morris & Pat Brandt	May 15
Monty & Patti Jackson	May 15

# **“We Gotta Run”**

**5K, 10K, Half-Marathon**  
**(Formerly known as Hike & Bike)**

**May 7, 2022**

**All races begin and end in Historic Maestown, IL and take you through the beautiful countryside around Maestown. Don't miss your opportunity to run this unique route!**

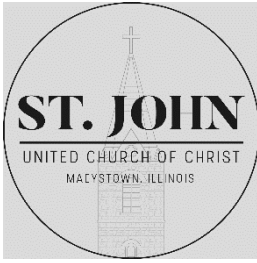
Register by clicking on the QR Code or by going to:  
**<https://raceroster.com/events/2022/57698/we-gotta-run>**.



T-Shirt and Mile Marker Sponsorships are available.  
Email **maestownucc@gmail** for more information.

*Proceeds benefit the youth of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services*





**St. John United Church of Christ**  
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PO Box 95  
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Send email updates, photos & group descriptions to [maeystownucc@gmail.com](mailto:maeystownucc@gmail.com)

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**Thought for the day:**

*Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God.  
(Ronald Reagan)*