



# ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

***The Visitor***  
**May 2022**

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

### **Easter is on!**

We are in the Easter Season! Yes, we have seven weeks of Easter Sundays. Leading up to Pentecost on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, in which we celebrate the birthday of the church. In the seven weeks of Easter, we hear what it was like for the disciples to discover that Christ was still with them as Jesus blessed them with the Holy Spirit. Jesus sends them into the world to bring the gospel. It is only right that we should celebrate these weeks with how much good there is in the world. Here are my top three to celebrate:

1. World Hunger went from 15% of the world population in 2004 to 8.9% in 2019. That is an amazing success story! [World Hunger Statistics 2020 - Food Aid Foundation](https://www.foodaidfoundation.org)  
<https://www.foodaidfoundation.org> > Food Aid  
Jan 7, 2022 — *The world has made great progress in reducing hunger: There are 216 million fewer hungry people than in 1990-92, despite a 1.9 billion increase ...*

2. Modern Medicine works! 14 diseases that used to cripple or worse are no longer a concern around the world. Through organizations like UNICIF. Work being done by heroes in the field from the nurses, doctors, scientists, volunteers, countless contributions from everyday people like you and I.

3. Civil rights and social justice issues for minorities of all kinds. When I was a child and that really was not that long ago, the world was a very different place. My mother had to fight with the bank teller to get a checking account opened in her name without her husband's name being on it. Doctors were exclusively white men. All positions of power were held by white men. Now our daughters have so many possibilities open to them. The challenges we face today are worthy of our compassion and our efforts to help in the process of healing.

*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

As we move to fulfill those powerful words, "One nation under God" we will have pain and strife through the process, but I would never want to lose the gains we have made for my daughters and my brothers and sisters, white, brown, and black. We must be proud and thankful for our soldiers that have given so much to make this nation free for all. Let's celebrate how far we have come and strive to do more.



What are your top three? Could it be the many breakthroughs in farming that have made it possible to feed the world? Perhaps the ability to travel and see the world firsthand? We have more promise than ever before! It is within our grasp to end world hunger! It is possible to be sure all children have the medicine and care they need to be healthy. We have it within us to transform barriers that keep us from holding one another as sisters and brothers.

If your skepticism is getting the best of you go to the source of what transforms. All our giant achievements in the world can be traced back to the Easter Miracle! Schools, universities, hospitals, modern medicine, science, all great achievements became possible because of the institutions inspired and brought into the world by people of faith and largely by the church. In our country and around the world. Would any of my top three been possible without the church, I don't think so. Without those needed universities like *Cheyney University*, the first university for African American.

*“On February 25, 1837, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania became the nation’s first Historically Black College and University (HBCU). The University was established through the bequest of Richard Humphreys, a Quaker philanthropist who bequeathed \$10,000 — one-tenth of his estate — to design and establish a school to educate people of African descent and prepare them as teachers.”*

Harvard, Yale, the list goes on and on! Long before the states picked up the mantle. If you think it is not possible to change the world, you need to only look at history and see where change begins. It begins in the spirit of Christ to bring the light in all its many ways into the world. What will our children and their children be able to accomplish here at home and beyond?

I am not closing my eyes to the problems we face. I am refocusing the way we see those problems in the context of our faith story. We have moved mountains. When we meet the challenges with our God given imaginations and collective talents we can and do change the world. Live into the Easter miracle the love and power of Christ is with us!

Bless you!!!  
Pastor



**Congratulations Confirmation Class 2022!**

- |                |                   |                    |               |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| • Drake Coats  | Evan Hill         | • Jackie Keller    | Kaylee Muertz |
| • Dallen Edler | Maddie Huddleston | • Chloe LaFollette | Cody Schmitz  |



## **St. John's UCC Church Council Minutes - March 14, 2022**

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

February 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Lisa Schwarze made a motion to accept the minutes and Drew Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bills/Timecards: Pastor's Expense: Cheri Langsdorf made the motion to accept all reports listed, seconded by Lisa Schwarze and it carried.

Pastor's Report: The Spaghetti Lunch is March 20, 2022. Please bring a dessert for the auction. The annual Hike and Bike event to be held May 7th is coming together and will include the normal walking /bike route as well as a 5K and 10K . Fleet Feet will be in charge of the 5 and 10K. The Confirmation Class visited the Islamic Temple in St. Louis. It was a great experience. The next visit will be the Greek Orthodox Church.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Tour of the Church for council members: A general tour of the sanctuary was done so all council members would become familiar with the weekly routine when doing ushering on Sundays. We also reviewed collecting the offering and decided to start the following Sunday.

Ordering Church Envelopes for 2023: In the past we have ordered 365 Book style envelopes and 16 Special envelopes for Holidays etc. Each year we have several envelopes not picked up and used. We have some members using online payments and some special envelopes are not necessary as they are posted as offering. After some discussion it was decided to purchase 350 envelopes and reduce the number of special envelopes to 12. This could save the church almost \$100.00. The motion was made by Drew Watts, seconded by Sandy Tutka and it carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The church service May 8, 2022, which is Mother's Day will be outdoors, weather permitting. We will have communion.

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

## **St. John UCC Special Congregational Meeting - March 13, 2022**

President Christy Muertz called the meeting to order. Pastor Patrick Poole opened with a prayer. The purpose of the meeting was to decide if the church property should be added to the Historic District being proposed by property owners in Maeystown.

Those present representing property owners: Joyce Kuergeleis, Anita Muertz and John Rehling. The village would like to be able to apply for grants to make improvements as well as preserve the historic gutters, walls, and bridges etc. The first step to becoming a Historic District is to present a petition, signed by interested property owners, to county commissioners. If approved at that level additional steps would need to be completed.

At this time it has not been determined who would be participating in making rules and enforcing them. It may be a zoning board of some type. An attorney would need to review rules as they are being established.

A map was distributed to the congregation showing those property owners interested in belonging and the Church property was not included in the initial petition. It was thought the church could join or ask to be removed at any time.

Discussion from congregation included as to whether we would have been able to renovate the church steeple with stainless steel instead of wood. No one could answer that question since the rules have not been established.

Questions were asked regarding any possible upkeep of the buildings and what restrictions could be imposed. Barry Hoffmann suggested we wait until the rules are established before we make a decision as whether to join or not. Brian Edler made motion to delay the vote until later, seconded by Jessica Liefer and it carried. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Linda Schmidt, Secretary

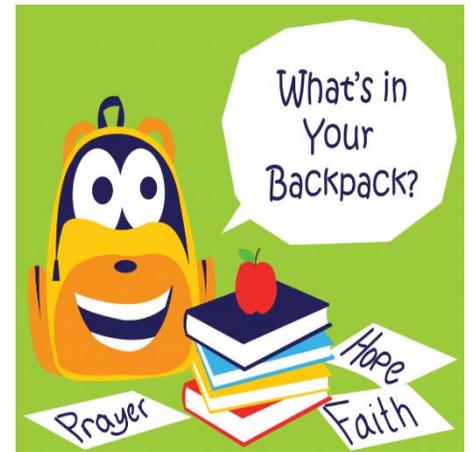
## Women's Fellowship.....

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

## Help !!! Sunday School Volunteers Needed

This summer we will be returning to one combined class for the summer months. We will need **1-2 parent volunteers** each week to work with one of our teachers to help this be a success like it has been in the past.



If you are available to help with Summer Sunday School, please let Pastor know which date works for you! The dates we have available are:

June 12	July 10	August 7
June 19	July 17	August 14
June 26	July 24	August 21
July 3	July 31	August 28

There will not be Sunday School on September 4. We will kick off the next year of Sunday School on September 11 with our annual St. John's Day celebration so be sure to save the date!

(Michelle Vogt)

## Vacation Bible School

This year's vacation bible school is sneaking up on us! It will be here in a short 42 days - May 31-June 3! The theme this year is Food Truck Party, and I cannot wait to hear the Bible lessons that we have picked out.

If you have not yet registered your child or grandchild - or whoever it is you are bringing, please do that as soon as possible! This helps us make sure we have enough supplies for crafts, science, and snacks.

The link to register is: <https://maeystownucc.mycokesburyvbs.com/> - at the top of the website, it will say child registration or adult registration. If you have a child who is 3 or older (but not yet confirmed), please use this link to sign them up. If you have a child who was just confirmed in the past few years, and you want to bring them to help, please use the adult registration link.

Within the next week or so, we will send out what we need for snacks and science, so please keep an eye out for that email! If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text me at 618-972-9053.

(Michelle Vogt)

## Acolytes Schedule:

May 1	Cody Schmitz & Jackie Keller	June 5	Lucas Blackwell & Derek Knoll
May 8	Dallen Edler & Cody Schmitz	June 12	Kaylee Muertz & Jake Coats
May 15	Drake Coats & Maddie Huddleston	June 19	Hudson Brandt & Cole Dilley
May 22	Evan Hill & Chloe Lafollette	June 26	Andrew Stafford & Ashley Crouch
May 29	Tanner Rosenkranz & Caden Huddleston		



*Congratulations Graduates!*

## *St. John's Coming Events and News and Notes*

### **Women's Fellowship:**

May 5: 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship - This will be the last meeting until September.

### **We Gotta Run:**

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 let Pastor or Nicole know. No donation is too small.

### **Pew Sisters**

The Pew Sisters will meet May 16, 6:30 p.m., at Connie Turner's home.

### **Thank You:**

Happy Easter Everyone. I hope you are enjoying the blessings of Easter while staying safe and dry. I apologize for not acknowledging your support sooner but sometimes life just gets in the way of everything. On behalf of the staff, our children and parents, I thank you for thinking of us and sharing your gifts. God bless each of you. Watch out for the Easter Bunny. – (Brenda Crisp, UniPres Kindercottage)

### **Wedding:**

Congratulations and blessings to Luke & Alyssa (Pellman) Andres who were married on April 9.

### **Special Birthdays:**

- Happy 18th Birthday Dawson Goldschmidt on May 7.
- Jim Burns turns the Big 5-0 on May 10.
- Birthday Blessings to Pastor's wife, Kathy, on May 15.
- Mikayla Krebel enters double digits when she turns 10 on May 17.
- Braxton Boman celebrates his 1st birthday on May 19.

- Maiana Asselmeier also enters double digits on May 20.
- Happy 18th Birthday Clay Juelfs on May 12
- Manlee Knobloch turns 80 years young on May 28.

### **Special Anniversaries:**

♥ Harry & Maxine Steingrubey celebrate a special 76 years of marriage on May 14. Special congratulations to so many wonderful years of wedded bliss!

♥ Brad & Amy Juelfs will celebrate their silver anniversary on May 17. Congratulations!!

### **Sympathy:**

We at St. John extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bob Scheibe who went home to the Lord on April 21.

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

- Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.
- Scott Stoeckel, as he battles cancer.
- Ramona Oxmann, she is receiving cancer treatments.
- Renesmae Brown, she is 3 years old, has autism and now seizures.
- Kathy Fitch, treatment for cancer
- Debbie Barnes is home and recovering from a very successful surgery
- Pat Berry is recovering from surgery.
- Jen Thompson is battling cancer.
- Aileen Neeley in your prayers as she battles cancer.
- Zack Wheat.

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



### **Fifth Sunday Offering:**

Tanner Pohle is the son of Tyler and Amy Pohle, youngest grandson of Jim and Lisa Maurer. Tanner is 10 months old and just had surgery to remove a mass from his lung. The mass was discovered on the first ultrasound during pregnancy. It's called CPAM, Congenital Pulmonary Airway Malformation, that effects 1 in 25,000 pregnancies.

Tanner is recovering nicely and will live a happy, healthy life. The hospital bills are overwhelming from a high-risk pregnancy and major surgery.

### **We Need Your Help!**

The Cemetery Board has been planning to have the asphalt portion of the road repaired, widened and resurfaced. As with everything in today's world, the cost far exceeds our expectations, at \$38,000. The asphalt surface was laid in 2010 and this maintenance is necessary to prevent further deterioration to the road.

We are appealing to the congregation to raise about half of that amount through donations, in order to avoid totally depleting our funds for this project.

Donations can be sent to the church, with checks payable to St. John Cemetery. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

(St. John Cemetery Board: Allyn Rohlfing, Ross Mueller, Lennie Schwarze, Aaron Voelker and Sharon Glessner)

### **Sunday School Checking**

Beginning Balance March 1, 2022 -	\$1,932.49
Income -	\$0.00
Expense -	
Children International -	\$66.00
Michele Vogt (Christian Book Dist. Reimbursement) -	\$211.47
	\$277.47
Ending Balance April 30, 2022 -	\$1655.02

### **Sunday School Savings Account:**

Beginning Balance March 1, 2022 -	\$5089.61
Income -	\$816.83
Maher Trust -	\$755.00
Offering -	\$60.50
Interest -	\$1.33
Expense -	\$0.00
Ending Balance April 30, 2022 -	\$5906.44

Faye Birk

### **General Fund Financial:**

Beginning Balance	\$15,368.06
Income	\$12,174.81
Expenses	\$13,721.81
Ending Bal. 3/1/22	\$13,820.84

### **St. John's Maher Trust Fund:**

Bal. Fwd 12/31/2021	\$33,405.60
Income:	
NOW Interest	15.73
State Bank CD Interest	595.49
Edward Jones Interest	<u>889.59</u>
	\$1,500.81
Expenses:	
Music Director	390.00
Pension Fund	2,000.00
Sunday School 2021 Distribution	755.00
UniPres Kindercottage playground	1,000.00
DuBois Center-Capitol project	<u>2,000.00</u>
	\$6,145.00
Balance	\$28,761.41

Linda Schmidt, Treasurer

### **April Visitor Report**

Beginning Balance	\$357.05
Income -	
Freeman & Ginny Borcharding -	\$250.00
Jim & Judy Schmuck -	\$100.00
Pearl Hirsch -	\$10.00
Expense -	
U.S. Postage -	\$97.36
Ending Balance	\$619.69

Thank you very much Freeman & Ginny, Jim & Judy & Pearl. We truly appreciate your continued support!!! Spring has finally sprung!!! Enjoy!!!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

## ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!***

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 15
Mikayla Krebel	May 17
Megan Branson	May 17
Bryanna Crouch	May 18
Reid Schilling	May 18
Judith Tomlinson	May 19
Braxton Lee Boman	May 19
David (Eli) Buchanan	May 20
Maiana Asselmeier	May 20
Clay Juelfs	May 21
Angela Dixon	May 21
Amy Lynn Stirnaman	May 22
Debbie Walster	May 23
Dwight Asselmeier	May 23
Tom Schilling	May 23
Nathan Keller	May 23
Joel Alexander Parris	May 23
Marietta Schneider	May 24
Hannah Patrice Rohlffing	May 24
Sandra Berg	May 25
Michael Stafford	May 26
Tucker Lee Schwarze	May 26
Maddie Carron	May 27
Drake Coats	May 27
Milo Greydon George	May 27
Manlee Knobloch	May 28
Coley Hoffmann	May 28
Kynlee Sue Andres	May 28
Callie Elise Rohlffing	May 29
Ava Jean Edler	May 29
Christina Kay Muertz	May 30
Jackie Hoffmann	May 30
Pat Harris	May 31
Audrey Lee Knobloch	May 31
Julie Ann Birk	June 2
Curtis Rusteberg	June 6
Wesley Kuergeleis	June 6

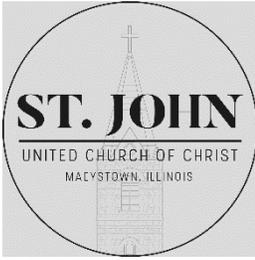
Breck Rohlffing	June 8
Aaron Esker	June 9
Gretchen Brandt	June 11
David Alan Berg, Jr.	June 12
Ripken Voelker	June 13
Wyatt Braun	June 13
David Asselmeier	June 14
Parker Brandt	June 14

## ***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!***

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
Brad & Amy Juelfs	May 17
Larry & Marlene Wild	May 19
Pastor Patrick & Kathy Ann Poole	May 19
Paul & Miki Skaggs	May 21
Jeffrey & Joy Hines	May 23
George & Linda Green	May 24
Dean & Charlotte Hesterberg	May 24
Christopher & Amanda Schweigert	May 25
Jeff Edward & Julie Ann Roy	May 27
Steven & Heather Hicks	May 27
Justin & Cody Rohlffing	May 28
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 Rohlffing	June 10
Brent & Cherie Langsdorf	June 11
Ryan Dean & Lauren Hesterberg	June 13
Shane and Andrea Kennedy	June 13
Ryan & Emily Richeson	June 13
Lynden & Karen Prange	June 14

The Easter Egg Hunt was fun for the little ones  
although the day was a little chilly





**St. John United Church of Christ**  
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“Like” us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/maeystownucc>

***Thought for the day:***

*Worrying doesn't take away tomorrow's troubles,*

*It takes away today's peace.*