



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor
July 2022

Pastor's Reflection

Summer is a time for swimming pools, sandy beaches, fun in the sun! I can remember as a boy there was a popular place everyone would load up the family station wagon and go for a day of fun in the sun. The place was called Suntan Beach. It was a few miles up the river road north of St. Charles MO. The sand was brought in from the nearby Missouri river. The mud that your toes squished into the moment you took that fatal step just beyond the limits of the imported sand did not need to be imported, we were swimming in the back waters of the muddy Missouri river. It was a glorified mud hole and we loved it. The sand, life guard stands, although absent of any lifeguards, gave it a certain appeal. There was always a long line at the concession stand, soda, hotdogs, all the fun foods looked so appetizing. Of course, none of that for us as we came prepared in our station wagon, complete with a packed lunch. I can't for the life of me remember what we had other than it was not nearly as good as what the other kids were getting at the stand. However, the beach lived up to its name, well kind of. It should have been called Sunburn Beach. By the end of the day, we were all as red as lobsters. That night I would be sleeping in a t-shirt soaked in vinegar and water. The misery of putting the ice-cold vinegar-soaked t-shirt did bring relieve at some point, I think. All I know for sure is that I would eventually fall asleep absolutely miserable. I ran across the old Suntan Beach a few years back. The luster of countless station wagons and throngs of people setting up camp on the beach were absent and the place resembled the remains of a chemical dump site. Awe, but such great memories.

I grew up spending my summers on the muddy waters of the Mississippi, boating with my father and sisters. I remember those chocolate milk mustaches that my sisters would have on their faces as they came up from the water. We could play in the sand, water and mud all day long.

Our memories become a part of us like old friends. Somewhere in our growing up we learn right from wrong. We learn the golden rule, to treat others as we would want to be treated. We learn to take and give it back. We were growing up even when we thought we were just being kids. Perhaps you stuck up for someone being picked on. Maybe you took on the bully in your school. Maybe you just survived but you did survive. I can remember my bully. Tracy Haas... he was so big. I think he had hair on his face in the seventh grade. He shook me down for my lunch money. When I told him no, I thought for sure I would die. He did not stop and one day I lost it and took him on! Just as he was about to beat me into the ground, Mike Prince, who was only a little bigger than me, stepped up and said, "If you're going to fight him, you'll have to fight me too". Where did that come from!? Holy cow, I was going to live to fight another day. Mike was my hero, sure he looked like he had already spent time in prison, a tough kid for sure, but why did he save me? Sure, I helped him with his math but this was Tracy Haas, the biggest and baddest kid in town. Tracy backed down and his three sidekicks all followed suite. Mike and I shared a bond from that time forward. I stood up to the bully and Mike saved me and we were growing up. There is no substitute for life in the process of growing up. That is why I love to just hear the children talk at the Children's moment. You can hear in their stories that life is happening.

Sure, there is some guilty pleasure in the humor of it all, but the truth is that I love to hear them articulate what life looks like from their perspective. Sibling rivalries are a necessary part of growing up. Life is not fair and all the other lessons of life are becoming clear. I hope they learn that although life is not fair it is a wonderful gift. I pray they see themselves through the loving eyes of the congregation and their pastor. When they are reflecting back at their childhood, I hope they remember the ladies serving them food at VBS, as well as being told to stay still and quiet. I hope they will remember their Sunday School teachers and that they will remember being Mary

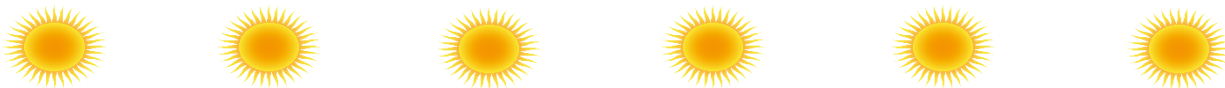
or Joseph in the Christmas play. We all have our favorite memories of absolutely hilarious moments. Cherish them for they are the roads to our children becoming the people that make us so proud.

Summer is a time of fun in the sun, but find time to see your pastor on Sunday morning because I want to be a part of your summer adventures!

Bless you!
Pastor.



Pastor will be on vacation July 30 through August 12



Upcoming Events:

- **Pew Sisters will meet on July 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Taylor's house.**
- **YPL meeting on Wednesday July 20th at 6:30. Will be planning a lock-in!**

✓ SAVE THE DATE: Women's Banquet will be Saturday, October 23.

We request a themed basket or item donation for the Silent auction to be held during the Women's Fellowship banquet. Proceeds to benefit local needs.

There will be a Special Women Fellowship meeting after church August 14th in the fellowship hall to discuss banquet needs. Let me know if you have any questions or contact Sue Taylor for any information (618) 935-7471.

St. John's UCC Church Council Minutes - May 9, 2022

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

April 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Cheri Langsdorf made a motion to accept the minutes and Lisa Schwarze seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bills/Timecards: Pastor's Expense: Drew Watts made the motion to accept all reports listed, seconded by Linda Schmidt and it carried.

Pastor's Report: The next outdoor service will be on Father's Day, June 19th. The overall winner for the half marathon and the run was our Drew Watts. Congratulations Drew. Pastor Poole thanked the council members for setting up the outside service which included communion. The details for the Colorado Mission trip are coming together.

Old Business:

Sound System and Hooking up Bell Tower: A question was asked of the council as to whether wireless speakers could be used. Upon inquiry they are not recommended. Pastor has contacted a company from Brentwood, Mo. A bid will be forthcoming.

Online Services: A motion was made by Drew Watts and seconded by Shirley Stafford to continue online services. Motion carried. Recording options are being reviewed since the sound quality is not the best with our current system.

New Business:

Cemetery Board: The cemetery board has hired a lawn service to assist Eric for the mowing season.

Shirley Stafford made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mark Rey seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Linda Schmidt, Secretary

Acolytes Schedule

July

3 – Landen Johnson & Owen Carron
10 – Lilly Carron & Kylee Muertz
17 – Jackie Keller & Dallen Edler
24 – Rowan Schilling & Drake Coats
31 – Maddie Huddleston & Caden Huddleston

August

Evan Hill & Chloe Carron
Tanner Rosenkranz & Lucas Blackwell
Derek Knoll & Rowan Schilling
Jake Coats & Hudson Brandt

St. John's News and Notes

Thank You Notes:

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the St. John UCC Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity which has allowed me to further my education to become a vet tech. You have no idea how thankful I am. (Rylee Rosenkranz)

Dear Congregation,

We are at a loss of words to fully express the gratitude we have for members of St. John's United Church of Christ – Maeystown. Being on the receiving end of an act from such selfless Christians who we have never met.

God has blessed us beyond measure the last two years with the people He has put in our path and this includes YOU! Your care, compassion, love, and support will be etched on our family's hearts forever.

May God continue to bless you and your families the way you have blessed us!"

(Chris Morris)

Special Birthdays:

- Amy Juelfs celebrates her golden birthday on July 5th.
- Cody Rohlfing joins the 40's club July 5th.
- Jim Maurer turns a special 65 on July 8, while Lloyd Schwarze does the same on July 9.
- Mona Mothershead turns 83 years young on July 11.
- Florence Feldmeier inches closer to 100 when she turns 98 years young on July 14!
- Marvin Schilling is keeping it young at 82 on July 15 while Lenny Schwarz turns the big 5-5 on the same day.
- Kaylee Muertz becomes a teenager on July 16!!
- Twila Hoffmann turns 88 years young and Michael Brown celebrates his 71st birthday on July 24.

- Jared Coats joins the 40's club on July 25.
- Caden Huddleston celebrates his Sweet 16 also on July 25.
- Lillian Coats turns double digits on July 26.
- Karen McCoy celebrates a special 73rd birthday on July 27.
- Braydon Eckart also enters double digits on July 29.

Special Anniversaries:

- Adam & Paige Jackson celebrate their 1st Anniversary on July 10.
- Dennis & Dorothy Schilling celebrate their 45th Anniversary on July 23.

Please keep the following in your prayers

- *Allison Ford has a non-cancerous brain tumor with great complications.*
- *Ellen Heavener as she is treated for Thyroid cancer.*
- *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 yrs. old, has autism and now seizures.*
- *Kathy Fitch, treatment for cancer*
- *Pat Berry is recovering from another 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.

The Colorado Mission Trip was a big success. More info to come next month along with photos.

Vacation Bible School - 2022

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make Vacation Bible School a success this year! We had so much help during the entire process - and I know all the kids appreciated it!

The kids were able to enjoy creativity of the Food Truck Party theme, experiments related to their lessons, sing and make music together, and, of course, enjoy a snack and recess!



VBS is such fun!

Being around kids is so fun!

I again worked in the kitchen at VBS this year, along with several others.

A big thank you to Nancy, Patti, Connie, Sharon, (and Joyce). Lynne put in some time also. Thanks to everyone that helped out. It really is appreciated!



Now back to my 'kid' story.....

As I was leaving VBS on Friday, Knox was sitting on the sidewalk all by himself, studying something intensely.

I asked, "What do you have there, Knox?"

"It's a worm, and it's a big one!" he replies as he lifts it for me to see.

"It sure is!" I replied.

About that time, Grandma hollered, "Come on, Knoxie, we're leaving."

I said, "Hold on, Grandma, we have a worm to take care of."

So Grandma's reply was, "Well, don't pick it up!"

In the meantime, I'm watching Knox placing the worm gently in the grass. Then, as he looks at me, he says, "I'll just put him in the grass."

(like he was saving the poor worm from some tragedy, as he gently moved Mr. worm from concrete to grass)

Don't pick it up, you say.....Too late, Grandma. LOL

Joyce Kuergeleis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 🎵 🎵

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
Cody Rohlfing	July 5
Jason Crouch	July 7
Jim Maurer	July 8
Nora Matthews	July 8
Claire Hoffmann	July 8
Lloyd Schwarze	July 9
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
Kaylee Muertz	July 16
Randy Esker	July 17
Rich Harsey	July 17
Cole Schmitz	July 18
Keith Voelker	July 19
Chris Muertz	July 20
Jacob Rey	July 20
Becky Huddleston	July 21
Paige Galligos	July 21
Susan Brinkmann	July 22
Jim Matzenbacher	July 22
Emelie Nilges	July 22
Matthew Blackwell	July 22
Colton Stafford	July 22
Dennis Schilling	July 23
Twila Hoffmann	July 24
Calvin Larson	July 24
Amelia Schellhardt	July 24
Zoey Belle Schellhardt	July 24
Michael Brown	July 24
Jared Coats	July 25
Caden Huddleston	July 25
Lincoln Richeson	July 25
Alicia Koester	July 26

Lillian Coats	July 26
Claire Stafford	July 26
Karen McCoy	July 27
Michelle Coats	July 27
Eli Vesper	July 27
Emma Schultheis	July 27
Patti Jackson	July 27
Claire Stafford	July 28
Braydon Eckart	July 29
Andrew Whipple	July 30
Lisa Maurer	July 31
Mike Roseman	July 31

Christina Faye Rippelmeyer	Aug. 1
Karen Schwarze	Aug. 2
Tate Steibel	Aug. 3
Larita Mohl	Aug. 4
Leah Hill	Aug. 4
Konner Stellhorn	Aug. 4
Robin Evans	Aug. 5
Blaklee Schwarze	Aug. 5
Julie Rusteberg	Aug. 5
Kelli Monroe	Aug. 5
Grant Coats	Aug. 6
LilyAnne Poole	Aug. 7
Caroline Krebel	Aug. 7
Linda Green	Aug. 8
Justin Schmitz	Aug. 10
Amy Roever	Aug. 10
Barry Hoffmann	Aug. 11
Layne Prange	Aug. 11
Jessica Hicks	Aug. 12
Paul Hoffmann	Aug. 13
Lynne Hicks	Aug. 13
Jay Leber	Aug. 13
Laurie Knoll	Aug. 13
Robert Mathews	Aug. 13
Grady Asselmeier	Aug. 13
Maxwell Schaefer	Aug. 13
Adam Tyberendt	Aug. 14
Randy Hicks	Aug. 14
Jackson Klinkhardt	Aug. 14
Nancy Schilling	Aug. 15
Debbie Wischmeyer	Aug. 15
Rachel Russell	Aug. 15
Travis Busch	Aug. 15
Nikolai Hesterberg	Aug. 15

Happy Birthday to All!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ♥

Luke & Kristy Edler	July 2
Arthur & Julie Rusteberg	July 4
Adam & Paige Jackson	July 10
Alex & Laurie Knoll	July 12
Steve & Dana Hicks	July 14
David & Amanda Schultheis	July 16
David & Nikki Asselmeier	July 19
Brian & Robin Edler	July 21
Anthony & Sara Schreder	July 22
Dennis & Dorothy Schilling	July 23
Todd & Shannon Jansen	July 27

Adam & Stefanie Tyberendt	August 2
Marvin & Catherine Hoffmann	August 3
Brent & Lisa Carron	August 4
John & Robin Evans	August 10
Dwight & Kathy Asselmeier	August 12
Tom & Susan Koesterer	August 13
Justin & Julie Schmitz	August 14
Victor & Aileen Neeley	August 15



Sunday School Savings Account

Beginning Balance June 1, 2022 -	\$5906.44
Income	\$248.33
May Offering -	\$77.33
VBS Offering -	<u>\$171.00</u>
	\$248.33
Expense -	\$0.00
Ending Balance June 30, 2022 -	\$6154.77

Faye Birk, Treasurer

General Fund Financial

Beginning balance	\$14,093.37
Income	\$12,721.30
Expenses	\$12,584.53
Balance May 31, 2022	\$14,230.14

June Visitor Report

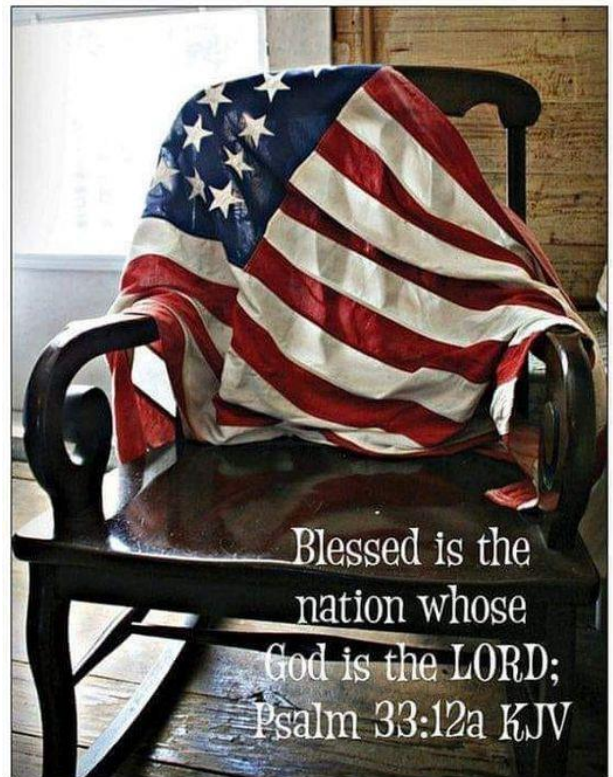
Beginning Balance	\$557.67
Income:	
Pearl Hirsch	10.00
Expense	
U.S. Postage	\$49.75
Ending Balance	\$517.92

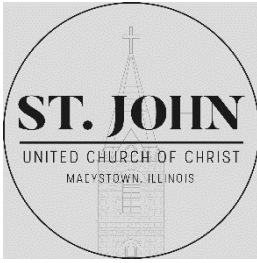
Pearl, thanks for your donation!!! We really appreciate it!!!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Sunday School Checking

Beginning Balance June 1, 2022 -	\$1,655.02
Income -	\$0.00
Expense -	\$0.00
Ending Balance June 30, 2022 -	\$1,655.02





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:

*Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones,
you'll start having positive results.*

(copied)