



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor
April 2023

Pastor's Reflection

Easter Miracles Come True!

I believe in Easter Miracles! However, they can be just a little like giving birth. I say that because the kind of miracle I am talking about is the miracle of healing relationships. If you have fallen out with someone it is likely you have something to clean up and to possibly even apologize for. I seem to always have some apologizing to do. I have taken stock in my relationships and started making a few calls in hopes to restore what had been lost. It is likely I will need to hear about something I did or did not do, take responsibility, and authentically apologize. It was about this time last year when I reached out to someone that I had been holding a grudge against for many years. I know, shocking a pastor could hold onto a grudge for years. It was easy, I was right and he was wrong! So, I told myself.

I made the mistake of bringing up this grudge I had been holding on to for some 16 years at one of the adult bible studies and they highly encouraged me to call the person and work it out. Reluctantly I took their advice and made the call. The call was awkward to say the least, but the result was fantastic! We both had a few things to apologize for, and by the end of the conversation our relationship was restored. Having warmth in my heart for him and not that thorn of the grudge made such a difference in my daily walk. I encourage all of us to take stock of our relationships. Where has a coolness set in where there was once warmth? We are all about deepening of faith this year and nothing does more to deepen our faith than restoring our relationships.

You might challenge these thoughts as simplistic and overly sentimental notions that do not stand up to the real problems, such as standing up for one's principles. We as Christians get that. After all, Christ was hung on a cross for standing up for his principles, but we also understand and following Christ's example, to never stop forgiving, loving, caring, reaching out to others. In a world that is so polarized by principles one must be cautious, understanding that we are not infallible, even in our principles. Another challenge might be for those that keep forgiving to only be hurt again. Please do set good boundaries for healthy relationships and do keep yourself safe. We are called to love and forgive, but we are not called to allow ourselves to be taken advantage of or hurt. These can be very hard issues to resolve by yourself, so please do not hesitate to call for help. Now with all that said, time and time again Jesus challenges us to reconcile our relationships.

We have such a great Lord and Savior. He made it clear what it takes to follow Him from brokenness to being one with God. He said love your enemies. He said may the first one without sin throw the first stone. He taught us what it means to be the good neighbor. He taught us just how far He would go to love and forgive us as He proclaimed from the cross, "Lord, forgive them for they know not what they do". In just a few short days we will celebrate the glorious truth that the light of Christ was not put out; that He walked out of that tomb and is still walking with us today! He meets us along the way as we follow Him, caring, loving, forgiving. Yes, He lives! Deepen your faith and live the Easter Miracle by doing the work. Make that call to that friend or relative that has drifted away, send that letter to the one that broke your heart, soften your heart to the one that has hurt you, trade being right about that argument for the relationship that once was. Get started, the result may not be a healed relationship but you will be living the Gospel of Christ and that is always a good thing!

Let us Live the Truth of the Risen Christ!

Bless you all!!!

Pastor

St. John's UCC Church Council Minutes - February 13, 2023

Cheri Langsdorf called the meeting to order at 6:28pm. Those attending were Amy Rohlfing, Susan Koesterer, Andrew Watts, Faye Ross, Sandy Tutka and Pastor Patrick Poole. Christy Muertz, Mark Rey, and Lisa Schwarze were absent. Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING, JANUARY 29, 2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, & ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes from the January 9, 2023 Council meeting, the minutes from the January 29, 2023 annual meeting and the short council meeting for organization were reviewed. Correction was made to remove Andrew Watts from attendance record from January 9, 2023 council meeting. A motion made by Cheri Langsdorf, seconded by Susan Koesterer, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 council meeting, January 29, 2023 annual meeting, and organizational council meeting. Motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS/TIMECARD/PASTOR'S EXPENSES

The treasurer's report/bills/timecard and Pastor's expenses were presented and reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. Sandy Tutka made a motion to approve the reports as presented and it was seconded by Andrew Watts. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reported he is happy with the way things are going with our church attendance but encouraged everyone the need to still keep working to get people to come to church regularly.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

There were no reports from any council members.

OLD BUSINESS

We are still waiting on one piece of equipment to complete the sound system. Alobars is frustrated as well and will let Pastor know when the final piece comes in.

The adjusted fees for wedding rental were discussed. The deposit for non-members rental of the lower level of the fellowship hall was listed twice on the contract. The contract will be changed to read the deposit for the lower level (kitchen & dining hall) will be \$75.00 and the fee for the upper level will also be \$75.00. A motion was made by Amy Rohlfing and seconded by Faye Ross to accept the change as proposed. Motion carried.

Pastor gave the update on the parsonage which is coming along very nicely. Everything is moving along in the right direction. The new roof has been completed.

Cheri Langsdorf gave Lisa's report for Fastnacht. The online ticket sales are very slow. Lisa has done a great job of lining up workers, getting some of the younger members involved, noting the importance of keeping the tradition alive.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn and Linda Coats have brought it to our attention that there are two buildings next to their property which they have been using for many years for storage. It is believed that these two buildings are actually on church property. Glenn and Linda have been using and maintaining the area around the buildings for many years. Mark Rey is looking into the actual survey of the property to make sure they are indeed on church property. Glenn and Linda would like to continue using them as they have been. It was suggested that more information needs to be gathered concerning liability, insurance, etc. before a decision can be made.

TREES: There are several trees that need to be taken down in and around the pine forest. Andrew Watts will check to see if he can get a couple of people to help take down the trees. He will also contact Ameren regarding cutting down a couple of trees that are in close proximity to power lines.

Women’s Fellowship – February 2023

The February 1st Women’s Fellowship was called to order by president Faye Birk with 15 members and Pastor in attendance. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Sue gave the Treasurer’s report with a balance of 2223.40 for the end of January. Connie and Joyce made the motion and second to approve the report as read. Motion carried.

The secretary’s report was read by Ellen. Nancy and Pat made the motion and second to approve the report as read. Motion carried.

Under old business Pastor said Lisa Schwarze is overseeing the Fastnacht worker’s schedule. Pastor was asking everyone at the meeting to sign up to work a schedule in the kitchen or dining room. It was decided the chairs and tables would be set up on Sunday 2/19 after church. The tables would be cleaned, silverware wrapped, and get as much done that day so there would be less time needed on Tuesday.

Tickets for the raffle were handed out to anyone who wanted to sell them. There are about 8 items for the raffle. Products are also needed for the Country Store.

The meal before Lenten services were discussed and the scholarship committee will do 3/1. Women’s guild 3/8, Pew sisters 3/15, Mission team 3/22 and St Joe will do 3/29 at their church. These will all be simple quick meals and there will be a free will offering to go to the organization that is preparing the meal.

UCC Women’s Sunday is March 5th and pastor will have a list of jobs at the next meeting. Faye volunteered to work the Easter breakfast but asked to have a backup in case she did not get back from vacation in time. Sue volunteered as back up.

The food drive to benefit the back pack program will be conducted in April and May.

commented that the church attendance is improving and suggested that we need to let people know who are not attending that they are missed and they matter to the health of the community and the church. There were no February birthdays so Sue and Sharon made motions to adjourn. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Ellen Edler Secretary



Please make the following changes to your 2023 Directory

Please Add:
Wallace Altes
65 Third St., Apt 501
Troy, NJ 12180

Change of Address
Lisa Schwarze
214 Park Street
Waterloo, IL 62298

Change of Address
Twila Hoffmann
% Garden Place
735 Columbia Avenue
Apt. 29
Waterloo, IL 62298


Plan Now to Attend VBS Meeting....

We will be having a Vacation Bible School meeting immediately following church on April 30 for anyone willing to help plan and/or volunteer at VBS.

Our theme this year is Superheroes! I'm sure a lot of our families have thrown superhero parties, decorated superhero classrooms, or bought superhero toys. If you have anything you're getting rid of, and would be willing to donate, please drop it off on the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

We are also in need of something large and sturdy that we can make into a phone booth for our superhero puppet to hang out on stage! If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Michelle Vogt



Save the date!

COKESBURY'S
HERO
HOTLINE

Called Together
to Serve God!

Maeystown VBS
will be May 30 -
June 2 from 9AM
to NOON.

Register Now:
<https://bit.ly/maeystownvbs>





Food Drive in April and May

St. John Women’s Fellowship is conducting a food drive for the Backpack program during the months of April and May.

As the program is wrapping up the 11th school year it is currently serving 31 families and about 67 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 made with the regular Sunday offerings.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Backpack Program.

Connie Kuergeleis-Turner

Bi-County Backpack Program

No Glass Jars Please!

Note: Due to regulations we are not able to give out expired food.

Don’t want to shop? No problem. You can make your checks out to St. John UCC Mission Team, with Food Drive in the memo and we will do the shopping for you.

Thanks for your continued support of our mission!

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Snacks
Syrup	Soup	Canned chicken	Popcorn
Pancake Mix	Mac ‘N Cheese	Canned Tuna	Peanut butter/cheese crackers
Cereal	Spaghetti O’s/Ravioli	Tuna Helper	Pudding
Pop Tarts	Peanut Butter	Chicken Helper	Fruit Cups
Oatmeal	Jelly	Pizza Kits	Granola Bars
	Beef Stew	Spaghetti Sauce	Hot Chocolate
	Chili	Spaghetti Noodles	Chips
		Completes	Cookies
		Vegetables	

Hike, Bike, & Run

5K & Half-Marathon

OR

5 Mile Hike/Bike

May 13, 2023

5K & Half-Marathon: 8:30 a.m. start

5 Mile Hike/Bike: Start anytime 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Course begins & ends at St. John UCC, Maeystown

Registration Fees:

5K: \$35

5 Mile Hike/Bike: \$30

1/2 Marathon: \$60

T-Shirt Only: \$20

T-shirt & mile marker sponsorships available.

For more information

or to Register,

go to maeystownucc.org



Event is sponsored by St. John UCC, Maeystown, and Zion UCC, St. Joe.
Proceeds benefit the youth of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.

St. John's News and Notes

Announcements:

- Adult Bible Study will not meet during Lent, as there will be a meal served before our Lenten services.
- Sunday School Parents - You are invited to join Pastor in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, after your drop off the kids for Sunday School, for coffee, juice, fruit, Danish pastry and conversation. This will continue every Sunday through the end of the school year.
- The Women's Fellowship is conducting their annual Backpack Food Drive in April & May. See Connie's article for more information.

Upcoming Events:

- Good Friday is Friday, April 7.
- Easter is Sunday, April 9.
- The annual Hike, Bike, and Run will be held on Saturday, May 13. Registration is available through our website. Volunteers and sponsors are always needed and welcome. Email Nicole at maeystownucc@gmail.com for more information.
- Women's Fellowship April Meeting is Thursday, April 6 at 12:00 p.m.
- Pew Sisters will meet on Monday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. Watch Facebook and the Sunday bulletin for meeting location.

Special Birthdays:

- Glenn Woodcock turns 82 on April 3.
- John Hoefft celebrates his 75th birthday on April 8.
- Janet Trost celebrates her 71st birthday on April 10.
- Dorothy Matzenbacher turns 86 on April 12.
- Dee Trost turns 78 on April 15.
- Joann Knobloch celebrates her 76th birthday on April 27, while Debbie Barnes turns 69 the same day.
- Kay Floarke turns 68 on April 28.
- Jean Rahn turns 85 on April 29.
- Shirley Stafford will celebrate her 72nd birthday May 1.
- Dave Hesterberg celebrates his platinum birthday on May 7.
- Terry Roberson turns 71 on May 10.
- Eva Novako celebrates her 78th birthday on May 13.
- Lyndie Prange turns 65 on May 14.

Special Anniversaries:

- Allyn & Trudi Rohlfing will celebrate 47 years of marriage on April 10.
- Dennis & Janet Trost celebrate 52 years of marriage on April 17.
- Bob & Debbie Barnes celebrate 48 years of marriage on April 19.
- Charlie & Rita Richeson celebrate 59 years of marriage on April 21, while Randall & Connie Esker celebrate 44 years the same day.
- Ronald & Susan Brinkmann celebrate 46 years of marriage on April 23.
- Barry & Cathy Hoffmann celebrate 41 years of marriage on April 24.
- Ross & Dorothy Mueller close out the month by celebrating 57 years on April 30.
- Harry & Maxine Steingrubey will celebrate their 77th wedding anniversary on May 14.

Please keep the following in your prayers

- Evelyn Gauch is Lisa Maurer's mother. She has 3 fractured vertebra, compound fracture in spine and torn ligaments. Please keep her in your prayers.*
- Kaylee is in need of our prayers that her new medicine works fast. Please also pray for Julia and Chris, as they are scared and missing Kaylee and Christy.*
- Allyn Rohlfing is having surgery on his neck this Monday.*
- Darlene Yancy has a back issue*
- Debbie Barnes has heart concerns.*
- Virginia Borcharding is recovering at home after complications.*
- Jan Reitz as she faces cardiac issues & has influenza. She is currently in the hospital.*
- Roger Wild in your prayers as undergoes chemo for lymphoma.*
- 7th grader Elsa Wiemerslage is receiving treatment for cancer.*
- Bob Sales, Sr is on hospice. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.*
- Lynn Ahrens as she recovers from a terrible fall and surgery.*
- Allison Ford has a non-cancerous brain tumor with great complications.*
- Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.*
- Scott Stoeckel, as he battles cancer.*
- Renesmae Brown, she is 3 yrs. Old, has autism and now seizures.*
- Aileen Neeley in your prayers as she battles cancer.*
- Mary Kay Richards as she recovers from lung surgery.*
- Sarah Schmitz's sister, Cheryl Steiner, she has been diagnosed with kidney disease.*



We are putting together a book to capture the life of our church as we found ways to navigate being a faith community through COVID.

Pastor would like a write-up from each church group (and utmost importance, photos if you have them) about activities of each group during the covid period. Examples: Zoom meetings, live social distancing meetings, hiking, any activities the group did during that period or perhaps how you kept in touch.

Joyce will gather that info, organize it according to group, and publish it in a photo-type book. Please email a write-up and photos or hand a writeup and photos to Pastor and/or Nichole. (the photos will be duplicated and returned to you) The info will be passed on to Joyce.

Acolyte Schedule:

April

- 2 - (Palm Sunday) Derek Knoll & Jake Coats
- 9 - (Easter) Kaylee Muertz & Andrew Stafford
- 16 - Hudson Brandt & Landon Johnson
- 23 - Ashley Crouch & Owen Carron
- 30 - Dallen Edler & Lilly Carron

May

- 7 - Jackie Keller & Kylee Muertz
- 14 - Drake Coats & Rowan Schilling
- 21 - Caden Huddleston & Maddie Huddleston
- 28 - Chloe Carron & Cody Schmitz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

- Heather Elaine Wild Apr. 2
- Glenn Woodcock Apr. 3
- Kaitlyn Andres Apr. 3
- Nikki Asselmeier Apr. 4
- Matthew Schellhardt Apr. 4
- Ashlyn Crouch Apr. 5
- Aven Emily Kennedy 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
- Sharon Bergheger Apr. 14
- DeeAnn Trost Apr. 15
- Sharon Keeney 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
- Megan Vogt May 5
- Lilly Carron May 5
- Jensen Michael Roever May 5
- Sara Schreder May 6
- David Hesterberg May 7
- Dawson Goldschmidt May 7
- Clinton Hicks May 9
- Terry Roberson 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



St. John United Church of Christ

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Send email updates, photos & group descriptions to maeystownucc@gmail.com

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Pastor's Cell Phone: 618-340-2372

Website: www.maeystownucc.org

pastorpoole123@gmail.com

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