



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor

July 2023

The Summer 100 Challenge!

"Help me, Help You!"

What famous movie is this quote from?

Help me, Help You, by keeping the church super strong through the summer.

We are really doing great in our church! For the past few months the average attendance has been over 100 and headed to 120! Children participating in Sunday School and in church has been fantastic, 20+ children almost every Sunday! Thank you, parents and kids!

Let us not lose momentum over the summer.

Going to Church Makes God Happy!

Church is important for each of us!

Church is important for our family!

You are important to church!

Help me keep our church strong over the summer!

"Help Me, Help You!"

By

Keeping the attendance above 100

Summer 100 Challenge

If you're in town, you're in church!

.....
What is different about folks that go to church and those that do not?

There are good people that do not go to church and obviously good people that do go to church. There are bad people that go to church and obviously bad people that do not go to church. There are people that dedicate themselves to serve the needs of people inside and outside of church.

With all that said, I believe that on the average folks that go to church are much more focused on the needs of others and in action about it! In our little church we manage through all your support, the support of our community and our amazing mission team, not to mention what we do through our conference, national UCC. Truly our members can say that Monroe and Randolph County has been served through our little country church and will continue to be served through the bi-county back pack program. We also have members that support The House of Neighborly Services, and Human Support Services, both great nonprofit organizations serving the needs of our county. Through the Conference we reach kids in need throughout the entire metro area and through our National UCC we are first to support every disaster that hits our brothers and sisters around the world. It is important to say that all that is possible because you and all our members make church a priority. So good on you!

Back to the question, “What is different about folks that go to church and those that do not?” Both are good and bad and both do acts of kindness. Let me list the ways!

We see our lives in the context of scripture, the whole story of a people that have been through all sorts of impossible circumstances and have been delivered by God to the other side. We honor that there is a much larger truth than the news cycle or even the news we get from our doctor. We are a people that are grounded in a much larger understanding of truth and values. Our life is not the dash between two dates. Rather an expression of a great truth that is eternal. We existed in God before all creation and we will return to our creator. While we are here, we live in communion with God and all those that respond to God’s call. We are a small but critical part of a whole that spans through all time and all creation. This truth is realized in our being and in the world every time we allow ourselves to surrender to God’s call on our life. Every time we celebrate the truth and give thanks in worshipping God, every time we reach out in service in his spirit, we experience that great joy of being in Christ.

We live in the joy of serving in Christ name. Our priorities are shaped by putting God first, worshipping God as a body. We understand that as an individual, contrary to what the world would have us believe, we need one another and most of all we need God. We are not independent, not from one another and certainly not from God. We find a well spring of energy, love, joy, and security in the wholeness of this way of being. Lastly our gift to the world is not from us or about us. It is the manifestation of the love of God that we share. When we get it right, we really get it right!

Disclaimer: Sometimes we fall short in both being in Christ and living out the narrow path of his love and that is alright. We do not expect perfection from our children and God does not expect perfection in us. God is interested in our heart and our priorities. Each Sunday we come back to God to clear out the past week for all its success and shortcomings and start anew in our walk with God. We pray for a spirit and more times than not we find it. We pray for peace and patience and more times than not we find it. We pray for one another and we see God working in our lives.

We love God and one another as sisters and brothers that share a secret bond that weaves us together as one body with a singular purpose to be one in Christ. When we are laid to rest it will not be a dash but a life that lives on in heaven, lives in the hearts of the people we have touched and most importantly, lives in the Holy Spirit that guides us into paths of righteousness. I will leave you with words much more powerful than my own. An ancient writing that speaks to the life of those that claim their place in the body of Christ.

Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death, ^[a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

God bless you and the journey that we find ourselves on together.

Pastor

Vacation Bible School Learning and Fun in June



Announcements and Other News

Parent Appreciation Brunch... Save the Date...

Our Youth Group is hosting a **Parent Appreciation Brunch on August 20th**, immediately following church services. Join them in the Church Hall for a delicious meal and dessert, all prepared with lots of love by our youth.



Let's Celebrate Our Graduates!

High School

- Ashlyn, Crouch Will be going to SWIC to continue her education;
- Owen Carron, Graduating High school is undecided currently;

College

- Markee Voelker, McKendree College, Major Athletic Science. Playing Sand Volleyball for the college, she graduated class Salutatorian.
- Sydney Finch graduated Miliken University with High Honors
- Tyler Koester, son of Chris and Lisa Koester and grandson of Freeman and Ginny Borcharding, graduated from Murray State University in Kentucky with a degree in Occupational Safety and Health [OSHE] and going to work for OXY Petroleum in Midland, Texas.

Upcoming Events:

- New member classes will be held on Sundays August 20, August 27, and September 10. New members will be welcomed into the congregation on September 17. Please contact Pastor Poole if you are interested in becoming a member at St. John.
- Pew Sisters will meet on Monday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. Watch Facebook and the Sunday bulletin for meeting location.

Special Birthdays:

- Lauren Hesterberg celebrates her 65th birthday on July 4th.
- Paula Bundy turns 67 on July 5.

- Jim Maurer turns 66 on July 8.
- And Lloyd Schwarze turns 66 the next day on July 9.
- Mona Mothershead turns 84 years young on July 11.
- Very special birthday wishes to Florence Feldmeier turning 99 years young July 14.
- And our very own Kaylee Muertz celebrates a very special 14th birthday on July 16.
- Susie Brinkmann and Jim Matzenbacher are birthday buddies who are turning 68 on July 22.
- Dennis Schilling celebrates his 67th birthday on July 23.
- Twila Hoffmann turns 89 years young on July 24.
- Connie Roberson celebrates her birthday on July 24 as well as she turns 68.
- Karen McCoy celebrates her 74th birthday on July 27, while Michelle Coats turn 65 that same day.
- Larita Mohl celebrates her 60th birthday on August 4.
- Linda Green turns 71 on August 8.
- Barry Hoffmann celebrates his 67th birthday on August 11.
- And on August 13, Paul Hoffmann turns 73 years old while Lynne Hicks celebrates her 60th birthday.
- Nancy Schilling turns 76 years young on August 15.

Special Anniversaries:

- Dennis & Dorothy Schilling celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary on July 23.
- Dwight & Kathy Asselmeier celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on August 12.
- Victor & Aileen Neely celebrate their 42nd wedding anniversary on August 15.

Acolyte Schedule:

July

2 - Ashlyn Crouch & Andrew Stafford
9 - Landon Johnson & Owen Carron
16 - Dallen Edler & Lilly Carron
23 - Jake Coats & Caden Huddleston
30 - Drake Coats & Jackie Keller

August

6 - Kaylee Muertz & Maddie Huddleston
13 - Rowan Schilling & Chloe Carron
20 - Cody Schmitz & Tanner Rosenkranz
27 - Lucas Blackwell & Evan Hill

Prayer List:

- *Kaylee is getting stronger every day! Thank you for all your prayers!*
- *Debbie Barnes has heart concerns.*
- *7th grader Elsa Wiemerslage is receiving treatment for cancer.*
- *Bob Sales, Sr is on hospice. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.*
- *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.*
- *Denise Farmer as she seeks answers for some neurological issues.*

General Fund:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| May 2023 Beginning balance: | \$23,531.72 |
| Income | \$12,190.65 |
| Expenses | \$10,311.64 |
| Ending balance 5/31/23 | \$25,410.73 |

The Visitor Report:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance - | \$98.78 |
| Income | |
| Charlie & Faye Birk - | \$100.00 |
| Expense | |
| U.S. Postmaster - | \$60.76 |
| Ending Balance - | \$138.02 |

Happy Summer to all!!!!!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Sunday School – Checking Account:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance - | \$503.42 |
| Income - | |
| Offering - | \$25.00 |
| Vacation Bible School - | \$203.60 |
| Expense - | \$0.00 |
| Ending Balance - | \$732.02 |

Sunday School – Savings Account

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance - | \$7476.41 |
| Income - | \$0.00 |
| Expense - | \$0.00 |
| Ending Balance - | \$7476.41 |

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Don't Forget to make plans to attend ST. JOHN'S DAY ON SEPT. 17 !!!



| ST. JOHN'S MAHER TRUST FUND | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--------------------------|------|--------------------|
| | | | | | Date | 5/31/2023 |
| Balance Forward: | 12/31/2022 | | | | | \$26,133.79 |
| Income: | | | | | | |
| | NOW Interest | | | \$ 17.17 | | |
| | Edward Jones - Add to principal | | | \$ 774.62 | | |
| | Edward Jones Interest | | | \$1,787.62 | | |
| | Farmers Mutual Ins | | | \$1,449.00 | | |
| | | | TOTAL INCOME | | | \$ 4,028.41 |
| Expense: | | | | | | |
| | Music Director | | | \$ 780.00 | | |
| | Pension Fund | | | \$4,000.00 | | |
| | Gateway FS Fertilizer | | | \$6,971.64 | | |
| | St. John Sunday School 2022 Distribution | | | \$ 744.00 | | |
| | St. John Cemetery 2022 Distribution | | | \$ 817.55 | | |
| | | | TOTAL EXPENSE | | | \$13,313.19 |
| | | | | | | |
| BALANCE | 5/31/2023 | | | | | \$16,849.01 |
| | | | | Linda Schmidt, Treasurer | | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Luke & Kristy Edler | July 2 | Adam & Stefanie Tyberendt | August 2 |
| Arthur & Julie Rusteberg | July 4 | Brent & Lisa Carron | August 4 |
| Adam & Paige Jackson | July 10 | John & Robin Evans | August 10 |
| Alex & Laurie Knoll | July 12 | Dwight & Kathy Asselmeier | August 12 |
| Steve & Dana Hicks | July 14 | Tom & Susan Koesterer | August 13 |
| David & Amanda Schultheis | July 16 | Justin & Julie Schmitz | August 14 |
| David & Nikki Asselmeier | July 19 | Victor & Aileen Neeley | August 15 |
| Terry & Connie Roberson | July 19 | Glenn & Linda Coats | August 18 |
| Brian & Robin Edler | July 21 | Lyle & Zoe Ann Schwarze | August 21 |
| Anthony & Sara Schreder | July 22 | Michael & Laurie Brown | August 21 |
| Dennis & Dorothy Schilling | July 23 | Clinton & Amanda Hicks | August 22 |
| Todd & Shannon Jansen | July 27 | Stephen & Amanda Braun | August 28 |
| | | Dan & Sandy Mueller | August 30 |
| | | Freeman & Ginny Borcharding | August 30 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| Jaclyn Knobloch | July 2 | Caden Huddleston | July 25 |
| Kyle Wandro | July 2 | Lincoln Richeson | July 25 |
| Cierra Goldschmidt | July 3 | Alicia Koester | July 26 |
| Shawn Hicks | July 3 | Lillian Coats | July 26 |
| Lauren Hesterberg | July 4 | Claire Stafford | July 26 |
| Brian Edler | July 4 | Karen McCoy | July 27 |
| Chrissy Eckerty | July 4 | Michelle Coats | July 27 |
| Brooks Birk | July 4 | Eli Vesper | July 27 |
| Paula Bundy | July 5 | Emma Schultheis | July 27 |
| Kathy Asselmeier | July 5 | Claire Stafford | July 28 |
| Amy Juelfs | July 5 | Braydon Eckart | July 29 |
| Michelle Vogt | July 5 | Timothy Buchanan | July 29 |
| Cody Rohlfing | July 5 | Andrew Whipple | July 30 |
| Jason Crouch | July 7 | Lisa Maurer | July 31 |
| Jim Maurer | July 8 | Mike Roseman | July 31 |
| Nora Matthews | July 8 | | |
| Claire Hoffmann | July 8 | Christina Faye Rippelmeyer | Aug. 1 |
| Owen Anthony Schreder | July 8 | Karen Schwarze | Aug. 2 |
| Lloyd Schwarze | July 9 | Tate Steibel | Aug. 3 |
| Margaret Vogt | July 10 | Larita Mohl | Aug. 4 |
| Mona Mothershead | July 11 | Leah Hill | Aug. 4 |
| Amanda Schultheis | July 12 | Konner Stellhorn | Aug. 4 |
| John Evans | July 13 | Robin Evans | Aug. 5 |
| Dane Barnes | July 13 | Blaklee Schwarze | Aug. 5 |
| Florence Feldmeier | July 14 | Julie Rusteberg | Aug. 5 |
| Jennifer Albat | July 14 | Kelli Monroe | Aug. 5 |
| Calen Schaefer | July 14 | Grant Coats | Aug. 6 |
| Ella Matzenbacher | July 14 | LilyAnne Poole | Aug. 7 |
| Henry Hicks | July 14 | Caroline Krebel | Aug. 7 |
| Lenny Schwarze | July 15 | Linda Green | Aug. 8 |
| Kaylee Muertz | July 16 | Justin Schmitz | Aug. 10 |
| Randy Esker | July 17 | Amy Roever | Aug. 10 |
| Rich Harsey | July 17 | Barry Hoffmann | Aug. 11 |
| Cole Schmitz | July 18 | Layne Prange | Aug. 11 |
| Keith Voelker | July 19 | Jessica Hicks | Aug. 12 |
| Chris Muertz | July 20 | Paul Hoffmann | Aug. 13 |
| Jacob Rey | July 20 | Lynne Hicks | Aug. 13 |
| Becky Huddleston | July 21 | Jay Leber | Aug. 13 |
| Paige Galligos | July 21 | Laurie Knoll | Aug. 13 |
| Susan Brinkmann | July 22 | Robert Mathews | Aug. 13 |
| Jim Matzenbacher | July 22 | Grady Asselmeier | Aug. 13 |
| Emelie Nilges | July 22 | Maxwell Schaefer | Aug. 13 |
| Matthew Blackwell | July 22 | Adam Tyberendt | Aug. 14 |
| Colton Stafford | July 22 | Randy Hicks | Aug. 14 |
| Dennis Schilling | July 23 | Jackson Klinkhardt | Aug. 14 |
| Twila Hoffmann | July 24 | Nancy Schilling | Aug. 15 |
| Calvin Larson | July 24 | Debbie Wischmeyer | Aug. 15 |
| Amelia Schellhardt | July 24 | Rachel Russell | Aug. 15 |
| Zoey Belle Schellhardt | July 24 | Travis Busch | Aug. 15 |
| Michael Brown | July 24 | | |
| Connie Mitchell Roberson | July 24 | | |
| Jared Coats | July 25 | | |



St. John United Church of Christ
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
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Send email updates, photos & group descriptions to maeystownucc@gmail.com

Church: 618-458-6940

Pastor's Cell Phone: 618-340-2372

Website: www.maeystownucc.org
pastorpoole123@gmail.com

“Like” us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/maeystownucc>

Thought for the day

Accept your past without regret, your present with confidence and face your future without fear!