



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor
July/August 2024

**The Little Country Church
That Can and Does!
Love in the Name of The Lord**

Summertime is here, and I hope you're all having a wonderful summer! Thank you for keeping the church strong over the summer by attending when you're not off on a summertime adventure. This coming week, on July 10th, we kick off the "Little Rascal's Camp!" We are all very excited about the fun we will have. We are also bringing summer communion to all our members who have trouble making it to church. If you or a loved one would like Holy Communion, please let me know. This year, Tim has joined me, serving when appropriate.

On another front, we should be breaking ground on the Solar system any day now; we finally have all the permits and approvals we need to get started. We are so blessed to have an active and thriving church. That is impossible without the deeply dedicated members giving so much of their time, talent, and treasure. Thank you so much on behalf of a grateful pastor and Church Council. Over the next few months, you will see a spirit of serving God's children moving through our church as we ramp up to do more for Kinder Cottage of East St. Louis. Aimee Hart, the executive director, spoke to a handful of our members about their families' needs and the great work they do to prepare the children for success. To say we were all moved deeply would not be an overstatement. I believe this is a movement of the spirit to reach children in need, and I am so proud of our organizations that will be rolling out initiatives to help them.

On another front, we strive to be Christ-like during an election. The language used to make a political point is all too often not the voice of Christ. Words that frame groups of people as evil are absolutely the problem on both sides of the aisle. Challenges do not fit into slogans and short sound bites. Loving our neighbor is not a small matter. It calls for deep compassion, commitment, and sometimes sacrifice. The country's challenges are not small matters, but we have a truth to live amid those challenges. That truth is to represent Christ's voice

during trash talk. Our language must lift up, not tear down; our words must see all our brothers and sisters as precious children. Our words must represent the hope we have in God and one another. As you take those summer adventures, you will meet wonderful people from all sorts of places, both near and far. You will get glimpses of their loving hearts. I promise you the world is not as portrayed. We live in a wonderful world full of wonderful people and a God who has given us every good gift. Let our language, actions, and hearts be full of hope!

The spirit is alive and well in our little country church, which reflects your hearts filled with the love of Christ. I am so privileged to serve alongside each of you. If you hear of a member or friend who could use a call from the Pastor, please reach out to me.

Blessings!
Pastor



**Student Pastor Tim will be preaching on July 14th.
I look forward to receiving his message!**

The Office of Pastor in the United Church of Christ

“How does one become a pastor in the UCC denomination?” I have been asked this question many times as I pursue my pathway towards becoming a minister. It can no doubt be a little confusing, that is why I wanted to write this short article to help both clear up confusion as well as shed light on the process itself.

Within the UCC denomination, becoming an ordained or licensed minister reflects that an individual has undergone an extensive process that involves the local church, the local UCC conference/association, and a specific standard of education. At this point in my journey I am seeking to become a licensed minister with hopes of becoming fully ordained at some point in the future.

I feel so very honored to serve the church as a student pastor. I do not take the sacred role of “pastor” lightly, but approach it with great reverence and humility. That is why I would like to emphasize my status as a student. I am working diligently to complete the seminary program I am enrolled in as I continue to undergo our conference’s process toward ministerial licensure. I look forward to the day when I can be referred to as a licensed or fully ordained UCC Pastor, but until then I am grateful and content to serve as a student and disciple of Jesus Christ.

God bless and keep you all!
Yours in Christ,
Tim

Youth Fellowship:

The Youth Fellowship met on Wednesday, May 15, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Cody Schmitz, and Pastor opened with a prayer.

Terry Roberson led a devotional on being an active church member, and how that affects everyone in the church. He thanked the youth for their interest in the church and how that reflects their devotion to God and Jesus.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Julia, seconded by Kadie. Motion carried.

The treasurer’s report showed a balance of \$3,677.90. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Hayden, seconded by Julia. Motion carried.

Old Business: The soda stand was discussed. The group discussed ways that could be used to improve their profit, which was very low at the Springfest. A couple of suggestions were using a cart and cooler to sell among the crowd, adding chips or candy bars, and moving closer to the food stand. A motion was made by Kadie, seconded by Kelsie to accept the all reports under old business.

New Business: The group discussed ways they could participate in the Hoyleton Hike and Bike in 2025. Some ideas were: plan activities with the Hoyleton youth who attend, walking or riding, help in promoting the event with a save-the-date going out to other churches several months in advance.

Summer activities were discussed, but no date was scheduled due to busy summer schedules for the youth. The group will try to schedule a day in August to go to The Edge Entertainment Center which has a variety of activities.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kadie, seconded by Hayden to adjourn. We closed with the Lord’s Prayer and enjoyed refreshments.

Parker Brandt, Secretary

- Florence Feldmeier is having her 100 year birthday party! Join her from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sunday, July 14, for an open house at Acorns.
- Little Rascals Summer Camp for ages 6-12 starts this Wednesday! July 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 9-12 each Wednesday. Flyers in the back of the church.
- On Saturday, July 20, from 9am-12 noon, we will have an Introduction to Handbells workshop in the sanctuary. This is open to anyone from 6th grade age and up who might like to learn more about handbells. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED so we know how to plan. To register or to find out more information please call or text Marcia at 618 581 6163 by Tuesday, July 15th.



News and Notes

Donate in Honor of Kaylee Muertz:

A year after receiving her bone marrow transplant Kaylee no longer needs blood or platelet transfusions but that has not stopped her from wanting to give back. She has received large units of platelets and red blood throughout her journey and without those would not be here. Kaylee encourages everyone to donate if able and help give others the **Gift of Life**.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday July 22 - 2 to 7 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish Center
101 S. Meyer, Valmeyer IL 62295**

Call 1-800-733-2767 or
Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter
ValmeyerComm to schedule appointment.
Get a commemorative STL Cardinal t-shirt
while supplies last

Prayer List:

- Please keep Randy Hicks in your prayers as he continues to heal from surgery.
- Please keep Gladys and Art Thies in your prayers. They are recovering from a car accident.
- Please keep Laurie Brown in your prayers. She has leukemia and is receiving treatment.
- Art Chastain as he recovers from a stroke.
- Jenny Linker Candler as she battles cancer.
- Dennis Rodenberg as he battles cancer.
- Mona Mothershead is receiving treatments for her cancer.
- Victoria Ripplemeyer's Sister-in-Law, Natalie Watson, is facing an aggressive cancer. Please keep Natalie and her family in your prayers.
- Dennis Knobloch as he heals from his surgery and receives the last rounds of chemo.
- Kaylee is getting stronger every day but still needs our prayers.
- Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.
- Renesmae Brown, she is 3 yrs old, has autism and now seizures.

Fifth Sunday Recipient:

Penelope Kate Karrenbrock is an 8-year-old little girl with a cancerous tumor on her upper spinal cord. She is receiving radiation and then to a hospital in Michigan for special treatment.
(Note: Only money noted for the fifth Sunday offering goes to the recipient.)

- On Sunday July 14, 2024, Florence Feldmeier will be turning 100. There will be an open house from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Acorns Golf Course.
- Congratulations to this year's graduates! If you would like your son or daughter to be recognized at our Graduation Recognition Service, please email Nicole at maeystownucc@gmail.com with your child's name and where they are graduating from. Feel free to include a sentence or two about their future plans.

Acolyte Schedule:

July

7 - Cody Schmitz & Emma Schultheis
14 - Claire Stafford & Lucas Blackwell
21 - Matthew Blackwell & Hudson Brandt
28 - Parker Brandt & Chloe Carron

August

4 - Lilly Carron & Jake Coats
11 - Owen Carron & Drake Coats
18 - Ashlyn Crouch & Payton Dilley
25 - Dallen Edler & Evan Hill

September

1 - Caden Huddleston & Landen Johnson
8 - Maddie Huddleston & Jackie Keller
15 - Derek Knoll & Ella Matzenbacher
22 - Henry Knoll & Kaylee Muertz
29 - Rowan Schilling & Cody Schmitz

Church Financial:

May/June 2024 Beginning Balance	29,722.54
Income	\$65,886.84
Expenses	\$71,232.30
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$24,377.08

Special Birthdays:

- 4th of July saw Lauren Hesterberg turning 66, Brian Edler turning 47, Chrissy Eckerty turning 46, Brooks Birk turning 5, and Dax Wild turning the big 1!
- Paula Bundy celebrated her 68th birthday on July 5, while Kathy Asselmeier celebrated her 65th birthday the same day.
- Jim Maurer turned 67 on July 8 while Lenny Schwarze followed him on July 9.
- Mona Mothershead turned 85 years young on July 11.
- A very big special birthday shout out to Florence Feldmeier as she turns 100 years young on July 14!
- Randy Esker turns 68 on July 17.
- Jim Matzenbacher and Susie Brinkmann are birthday buddies with both turning 69 on July 22.
- Dennis Schilling turns 68 on July 23.
- Twila Hoffmann turns 90 years young on July 24 while Mike Brown turns 73 and Connie Roberson turns 69 the same day.
- Karen McCoy turns 75 and Michelle Coats turn 66 on July 27.
- Larita Mohl turns 61 on August 4.
- Linda Green turns 72 on August 8.
- Barry Hoffmann celebrates his 68th birthday on August 11.
- August 13 is a big day for birthdays with Paul Hoffmann turning 74, Lynne Hicks turning 61, and Jay Leber turning 60.
- Nancy Schilling turns 77 on August 15.
- Eric Pieper turns 71 on August 18.
- Sharon Glessner celebrates her 67th birthday on August 19.
- Ginny Borcharding turns 77 on August 20.
- BJ Henerfauth celebrates her 70th birthday on August 25.
- Brenda Johnson turns 73 on September 2.
- Cathay Hoffmann turns 66 on September 3.
- Wallace Altes turns 83 on September 9.
- Ben Yancey turns 96 years young on September 10, while Elaine Hoerr turns 71 the same day.
- Peg Johner turns 84 on September 12.
- Barb Wischmeyer celebrates her 78th birthday on September 13.
- Sue Taylor turns 70 on September 14.
- **Special Anniversaries:**
- Steve & Dana Hicks will celebrate their ruby anniversary on July 14.
- Dennis & Dorothy Schilling celebrate 47 years of marriage on July 23.
- Dwight & Kathy Asselmeier celebrate 46 years of marriage on August 12.

- Tom & Susan Koesterer celebrate 30 years of marriage on August 13.
- Glenn & Linda Coats will celebrate 45 years of marriage on August 18.
- Lyle & Zoeann Schwarze will celebrate 42 years of marriage on August 21.
- Freeman & Ginny Borcharding will celebrate 55 years of marriage on August 30.
- Dan & Rita Hoffmann will celebrate 41 years of marriage on September 2.
- James & Connie Matzenbacher will celebrate 49 years of marriage on September 5, while David & Lauren Hesterberg will celebrate 43 years of marriage that same day.

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
Dax Wild	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
Owen Anthony Schreder	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
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	Maxwell Schaefer	Aug. 13
Paige Galligos	July 21	Adam Tyberendt	Aug. 14
Susan Brinkmann	July 22	Randy Hicks	Aug. 14
Jim Matzenbacher	July 22	Jackson Klinkhardt	Aug. 14
Emelie Nilges	July 22	Nancy Schilling	Aug. 15
Matthew Blackwell	July 22	Debbie Wischmeyer	Aug. 15
Colton Stafford	July 22	Rachel Russell	Aug. 15
Meaghan Kipping	July 22	Travis Busch	Aug. 15
Dennis Schilling	July 23	Blake Wild	Aug. 16
Twila Hoffmann	July 24	Hunter Floarke	Aug. 15
Calvin Larson	July 24	Eric Pieper	Aug. 18
Amelia Schellhardt	July 24	LJ Rosenkranz	Aug. 18
Zoey Belle Schellhardt	July 24	Victoria Rippelmeyer	Aug. 18
Michael Brown	July 24	Sharon Glessner	Aug. 19
Jared Coats	July 25	Jenny Prange	Aug. 19
Caden Huddleston	July 25	Monroe Lillian Vogt	Aug. 19
Lincoln Richeson	July 25	Ginny Borcharding	Aug. 20
Alicia Koester	July 26	Caine Hoeffft	Aug. 20
Lillian Coats	July 26	Becky Matzenbacher	Aug. 21
Claire Stafford	July 26	Jenny Krebel	Aug. 21
Karen McCoy	July 27	Dr. Jennifer Goessling	Aug. 22
Michelle Coats	July 27	Erik Floarke	Aug. 24
Eli Vesper	July 27	Jayce Rusteberg	Aug. 24
Emma Schultheis	July 27	Alyssa Andres	Aug. 24
Karen Marie McCoy	July 27	BJ Henerfauth	Aug. 25
Claire Stafford	July 28	Chloe LaFollette	Aug. 25
Braydon Eckart	July 29	Camille Hesterberg	Aug. 26
Andrew Whipple	July 30	Harris Stirnaman	Aug. 26
Lisa Maurer	July 31	Ryan Richeson	Aug. 27
Mike Roseman	July 31	Laurie Brown	Aug. 27
		Luke Thomas Andres	Aug. 27
Christina Faye Rippelmeyer	Aug. 1	Joy Hines	Aug. 28
Karen Schwarze	Aug. 2	Lauren Hesterberg	Aug. 28
Tate Steibel	Aug. 3	Stephen Braun	Aug. 28
Larita Mohl	Aug. 4	Michael Datema	Aug. 28
Leah Hill	Aug. 4	Samantha Datema	Aug. 29
Konner Stellhorn	Aug. 4	Danny Mueller	Aug. 29
Robin Evans	Aug. 5	Betty Levin	Aug. 29
Blaklee Schwarze	Aug. 5	Lisa Koester	Aug. 30
Julie Rusteberg	Aug. 5	Timothy Burns, Jr.	Aug. 31
Kelli Monroe	Aug. 5	Floyd Niebruegge	Aug. 31
Grant Coats	Aug. 6	Natalie Rohlfing	Aug. 31
LilyAnne Poole	Aug. 7		
Caroline Krebel	Aug. 7	Brenda Johnson	Sept. 2
Linda Green	Aug. 8	Madisyn Huddleston	Sept. 2
Justin Schmitz	Aug. 10	Jonathan Wolf	Sept. 2
Amy Roever	Aug. 10	Dominic Richeson	Sept. 2
Barry Hoffmann	Aug. 11	Sherry Stitzel	Sept. 2
Layne Prange	Aug. 11	Kristy Edler	Sept. 3
Jessica Hicks	Aug. 12	Cathy Hoffmann	Sept. 3
Paul Hoffmann	Aug. 13	Laurie Manning	Sept. 3
Lynne Hicks	Aug. 13	Jay Mueller	Sept. 3
Jay Leber	Aug. 13	Ally Coats	Sept. 3
Laurie Knoll	Aug. 13	Noah Rusteberg	Sept. 6
Robert Mathews	Aug. 13		
Grady Asselmeier	Aug. 13		

Jenna Keindenreich	Sept. 7
Levi Edler	Sept. 7
Karleigh Jane Wilson	Sept. 7
Amber Branson	Sept. 8
Tristan Steibel	Sept. 8
Teagan Rohlfing	Sept. 8
Wallace Altes	Sept. 9
Nolan Finch	Sept. 9
Mason Hicks	Sept. 9
William Niebruegge	Sept. 9
Ben Yancy	Sept. 10
Elaine Hoerr	Sept. 10
Susan Roseman	Sept. 10
Guy Tyberendt	Sept. 11
Peg Johner	Sept. 12
Pam Muertz	Sept. 12
Barbara Wischmeyer	Sept. 13
Julia Muertz	Sept. 13
Mallory Meyer	Sept. 13
Sue Taylor	Sept. 14
Kadence Keller	Sept. 14
Adleigh Wilson	Sept. 15

Robert & Kelly Mathews	Sept. 10
Brett & Kate Mueller	Sept. 12
Scott & Kate Larson	Sept. 13
Joel & Michelle Vogt	Sept. 13
David & Sandra Berg	Sept. 13
John & Juanita Roland	Sept. 14
Christopher & Christina Muertz	Sept. 15

Little Rascals Summer Camp
has begun with planning.
More photos will be coming.



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
Alex & Mallory Bakke	July 15
David & Amanda Schultheis	July 16
David & Nikki Asselmeier	July 19
Terry & Connie Roberson	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
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
Glenn & Linda Coats	August 18
Lyle & Zoe Ann Schwarze	August 21
Michael & Laurie Brown	August 21
Clinton & Amanda Hicks	August 22
Stephen & Amanda Braun	August 28
Dan & Sandy Mueller	August 30
Freeman & Ginny Borcharding	August 30
Danny & Rita Hoffmann	Sept. 3
James & Connie Matzenbacher	Sept. 5
David & Lauren Hesterberg	Sept. 5
Nathan & Stephanie Keller	Sept. 8



From the Pew Sisters:

After meeting with the Kindercottage directors last month, the women's bible study group (Pew sisters) decided to hold a collection to help fulfill their "Wish List" in August.

The Pew Sisters will have a table in the back of church beginning August 1st through the 31st for drop off collections. Please email or call me if you have any questions.

sataylor@htc.net
or 618-520-7400.

Sue Taylor

UNI-PRES KINDERCOTTAGE DONATION DRIVE

Amazon or Wal-Mart Gift Cards



WISH LIST:

Plastic cups, copying paper, paper towels, cases of water, paper plates, bleach, disinfectant wipes, wet wipes, toilet tissue, box of tissues, dish soaps, diapers (sizes 8, 3, 4, 5, and newborn) and children's socks (sizes 18 months to 4T).

Hosted by Pew Sisters



St. John United Church of Christ
1208 Franklin Street
PO Box 95
Maestown, IL 62256

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
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Maestown, IL 62256

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

When you feel like you're drowning in life, don't worry - your lifeguard walks on water.