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# ST. JOHN

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

**June 2020**

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## Pastor's Reflection

### Pentecost Sunday!

The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (*Pentēkostē*) meaning "fiftieth". It refers to the festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, also known as the "Feast of Weeks".

Our Christian church moved from a very small group of followers to the birthing of the Church in a mighty movement of the Holy Spirit. As the Jewish people were gathered from many countries in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Weeks, there was a festival to celebrate the first harvest of wheat, and other early first fruits. The Holy Spirit like a mighty wind came in and turned the hearts of men to see Christ in their midst.

*Acts 2:1-4: 2When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

The scripture goes on to expound upon the wide scope of those involved. Pentecost is acknowledged to be the birthday of the Christian Church.

However, let's move past the history lesson and get to the heart of the matter. The Church of Christ is at its heart a movement of the Holy Spirit. A spirit that unites us and calls us into action as the people of God. Notice the wide range of people from all walks of life that are called into this Spirit.

*Acts 2:5-11: 5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."*

I love this scripture! All too often we minimize the power of the Holy Spirit. For one, it makes us look like nut balls to go on about how the Spirit is doing this or that, and second, it is pretty dangerous to assign things that happen to the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit moved me to do it" can be a huge red flag, but it is also the power of God in our lives! With respect and much humility, we carefully (but also boldly) claim that the Spirit of God is moving in our lives and ministry. For if we do not claim and celebrate what God is doing in our midst, we fail to honor our creator. We obscure the light God is shining in our presence.

You and I are people of the Spirit. We seek out and find the peace of Christ. We ask to do His will, we listen for His direction and we seek a presence in His company, all of which is living in the Spirit. We ask in His name and it is given; we dare to dream and to begin doing Christ's mission work, and we are blown away by the mountains of challenges that come down before our eyes as we move into action. We celebrate the Spirit moving in our wonderful congregation!

The Spirit made us all of one mind when we dared to rebuild and put up our steeple. The Spirit moved over our congregation when we stepped into the mission of feeding the children of Monroe and Randolph County all those years ago now with the back pack program. The Spirit moved over the Women's Fellowship and it thrives. The Spirit moves in the hearts of our Sunday School teachers. The Spirit moves in our worship and we are renewed. The Spirit is calling us into a new day of infinite possibility. We need only to dream of what is possible. I am so excited to see all the ways that God will call us into action, serving and caring and being a part of God's ongoing miracle.

Happy Pentecost!  
Pastor



**DECEASED AND FALLEN SOLDIERS AND THEIR BRANCH OF SERVICE:  
May, 2020**

Ralph Brandt	Army - 1945-1946
Willard Burkhardt	Army - <b>FALLEN SOLDIER</b>
Roy Dieckmann	Army – 1951-1952
Melvin Faus	Army – 1942-1945
Arthur Feldmeier	Army - WWII
Clarence Feldmeier	Army – WWII
Roy Gilbert	Army - Korean
Daniel E. Harris	Navy – 1960-1964
Wilbert Hesterberg	Army – 1942-1945
Earl Hoerr	Army
Walter H. Hoerr	Marines – 1945-1946
Cletus Hoffmann	Army – 1952-1954
Stanley Hoffmann	Vietnam War
Fred Johnson	Navy – 1941
Martin Maher	Navy - WWII
Willard Meister	Army – 1948-1954
Nichalos C. Novakov	Army – 1960-1964
John Rippelmeyer	Army – WWII
Roy Schroeder	WWII
William Sutter	Navy – 1962-1966
Gregg Turner	Navy – 1971-1975
Eugene Williams	Navy

## St. John's UCC Church Council Minutes April 4, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Charlie Eckerty via Zoom. Those in attendance were Judy Edler, Linda Schmidt, Susie Brinkmann, Shirley Stafford, Freeman Borcharding, Pat Brandt, Charlie Eckerty and Pastor Poole. Pastor Poole opened with a prayer.

The minutes for the March meetings were reviewed. March 2nd: A motion made by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Shirley Stafford, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried. March 16th: Motion was made by Judy Edler, seconded by Susie Brinkmann, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried. March 30th: A motion made by Freeman Borcharding, seconded by Linda Schmidt, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Kathy Asselmeier presented the Treasurer's report. After reviewing all entries, a motion was made by Susie Brinkmann and seconded by Freeman Borcharding to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Bills and Time cards were reviewed. A motion was made by Judy Edler and seconded by Shirley Stafford to accept the expenses presented. Motion carried.

Pastor's Expenses for March were reviewed and Linda Schmidt made a motion to accept the expenses presented. Judy Edler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Conference Update: Conference calls, meetings, emails and additional support are being provided to pastors and churches as needed. Pastor's Report: Pastor & Faye continue to meet to maintain the calendar and weekly business of the church. The online services are continuing and going great thanks to the "team"! The Easter week services are as follows: Maundy Thursday - Zion; Good Friday - St. Johns, Easter Sunrise - Zion, Easter Service - St. Johns.

OLD BUSINESS: St. Joe Update: It has been so uplifting to see services come from their sanctuary. They are handling the current situation well and are happy to help with the online services. When we are able to have in person worship, plans are to continue online services to reach those compromised, living further away, and unable to attend in person.

Backpack Program: Pastor, Laurie Knoll and Charlie Eckerty were involved in conference calls & Zoom meetings this week with the 4 school districts that the program serves. There is clearly a need for help coming from all districts. At this time, Laurie Knoll, Backpack chairman, was invited to attend the meeting via Zoom. Following the request of the council, Laurie presented the proposal for the safe handling of the food and its distribution to the school districts, along with the safety measures in place for the volunteers. Several monetary donations have been received to help in this specific time of need. At this time, food donations from other churches and organizations will be suspended in order to limit contact with the items. After reviewing the need, and the safety concerns we have for those involved, a motion was made by Freeman Borcharding to continue with the program under the guidelines that Laurie presented. Linda Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Stimulus Package Loans : Paycheck Protection Program Loans have been made available to churches. Kathy Asselmeier gave an overview of the givings and financial security of our church at this time. After a short discussion, Linda Schmidt made a motion to pass on the Loan program at this time. Charlie Eckerty seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Annual Drive mailing timeline was discussed and is scheduled to send in the summer. We will continue to monitor giving and re-evaluate if we see the financial need is there to send earlier. Ringing of the Bells: A suggestion was made to join other churches in ringing the bells each day at 10:00 AM showing solidarity throughout this pandemic. This would require someone to be available for this task daily, as we manually ring the bells, where some churches are able to program this to happen automatically. After a brief discussion, it was decided to continue to ring the bells as usual (once a week) during this time.

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

**From the Mission Team:**

Dear Congregation Family,

On behalf of the entire Backpack program team and your mission team members we would like to say THANK YOU! Those two little words sometimes just aren't enough. Your generosity was truly wonderful when picking up the produce Saturday. We sold it all and, in the process, took in \$645!!!! This far exceeded our expectations and are now blessed with the ability to purchase apples and oranges for all the backpack kids for the months of June, July and August!!!! God was definitely working through you all who came and supported.

I also want to personally thank the fairy godmother or godfather who cleaned up all the tables and put everything inside. At 12:00 when Chrissy went over, after filming the church service to see what was left, she found that it was all gone and everything was cleaned up. Thank you so much whoever you are:)

I am missing seeing all of your smiling faces each Sunday. Let's all continue to pray for all those afflicted and effected by this disease.

Love in Christ,  
Laurie Knoll & All your mission team members

**St. John UCC Cemetery Report**

**June 1, 2020**

Due to rising costs, St. John Cemetery Board with the approval of the Church Council will implement the following rates for burial in the church cemetery beginning June 1, 2020:

Charges for Burial Rights for vaults or cremation in cemetery

	<u>Member/spouse</u>	<u>Non-member</u>
Cost of grave	\$250	\$800
Opening Grave	\$600	\$600

**Cremation Garden Area:**

Grave	\$250	\$600
Opening	\$250	\$250

Previously a non-member spouse of a member was charged as a non-member. Beginning June 1, the spouse of a member would be charged as a member

## Scholarship Committee Report

On behalf of St. Johns UCC, The Church Council and the Scholarship Committee we would like to say THANK YOU to Ruth Stumpf for her \$100 donation. This year we were able to award another \$1,000 scholarship to a 2020 senior graduate. Since inception of the scholarship fund in 2017, St. John's UCC has awarded six scholarships to seniors of our congregation.

This year members of the Scholarship Committee awarded Reid Schilling with a \$1,000 Pay It Forward Scholarship. Reid's future educational goals are to attend University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. His plans are to study Agricultural and Consumer Economics with a concentration in Agribusiness Markets and Management.

When asked what his involvement in church activities over the past several years have been and how it has molded him into the person he is today, Reid's response was: "I have enjoyed many experiences through St. John's UCC. Some of my favorite memories come from the church. From the experience of getting confirmed to going to the Dubois Center many times and then being a buddy for the Hoyleton Children, St. John's UCC has had a large impact on my youth. I feel I can talk to people better because I was raised in a church where people are friendly and care. I feel the church helped through my experience in the hospital last year and I thank the church for all the prayers for my grandfather Marvin as well. The church means so much to me and I hope to give back someday."

The St. John UCC Scholarship Fund was created on a Pay-It-Forward concept. The original donor of this scholarship fund was given a scholarship by their Pastor when they were attending college because the family was no longer able to provide financial support. The Pastor asked the donor when they were able to make a difference in someone else's life that they would Pay-It Forward. As a result the donor established this fund at St. John UCC to help youth in their church family furthering their education. We asked Reid how he sees himself Paying It Forward in the future?

Reid said: "I plan to pay it forward by trying to go to more services than I have in these past four years. I hope to serve on the church board someday as well. My main way I am going to try and pay it forward is by adding another generation to the church. This is a long way off, but I think it speaks of what St. John's UCC is to know that I am the sixth generation of my family to go through this church. Along with doing these things I hope to donate to the church as well as participate in any service projects. I know my dad helped serve the church when I was young quite a bit and I want to take after him and help with manual work or anything else that is needed. I am at Zoar UCC quite a bit because my best friend lives there and I have noticed that outside of church hours they have many people who help out with tasks around the church. I hope to one day be that for St. John's UCC, someone in the background who helps out with anything and everything. I would be happy to help out with any task while I am home from college or if anything can be done remotely, I would love to help with that too. I have ties to Monroe County and this church, so if at all possible, I hope to continue to be a part of this church's community for the rest of my life. Along with assistance to the church I want to help people in the community through other civic organizations. If anything is needed and I am able to help, I would love to be notified. Once my education is completed and my life has settled down, I hope to be of real help to the church in any way needed."

Pastor Poole and the Scholarship Committee will be presenting Reid with a scholarship during a Sunday church service in the near future. We hope everyone has stayed safe during this COVID-19 pandemic and we hope to see you soon.

The Scholarship Committee: Lisa Maurer, Michelle Vogt, Connie Turner, Adam Tyberendt and Paul Skaggs

# St. John's News & Notes

## **In the Nursing Home or Assisted Living:**

### Oak Hill - Waterloo

Elaine Hoerr

Wilma Johnson

Elveria Miller

### Garden Place - Waterloo

Marvin & Catherine Hoffmann

Ellen Kuergeleis

Carmelita Sensel

## **Military:**

Caleb Buchanan, Jacob Rey, Andrew Schaefer,  
Austin & Dillon Scheibe & Krista Wandro.

*Thank you all for your service!*

## **Prayer List:**

AJ Shipp, Duane Mueller, Marietta Schneider,  
Kaylee Muertz, Tim Branson, Jenny Berg, Peggy  
Johner Lisa Carron, Sherry Dilley & Tim Burns.

## **Special Birthday:**

Elveria Miller will be a young 94 on June 9

## **Special Anniversaries:**

- Paul & Jackie Hoffmann will celebrate 48 years on June 10
- Tom & Nancy Hornbeck will celebrate 49 years on June 12
- Marvin & Nancy Schilling will celebrate 53 years on June 17
- Calvin & Joanne Hoffmann will celebrate 58 years on June 30

## **Grace in the Past, Faith in the Future Books:**

Still available at \$10.00 each. This book is full of knowledge of our Church. Everyone should pick one up at the back of Church. Put your money in the offering tray labeled Grace in the Past Book!!

## **Old Hymnals for sale at \$10.00:**

You will find them at the back of Church! Place your money in the offering tray marked Hymnals!!!

## **YPL:**

Collecting change for Jessica Hicks  
The canister is in the back of church.

## **Thank You Notes:**

“2 Corinthians 5:7 – *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*”

UCC church members and Pastor,  
Thank you!! How can I ever say thank-you for all the food you gave to the kids at our school who are in need. Your help and support is always greatly appreciated! Thank you for always being there for our kids! Thank you and God's Blessings! (Prairie du Rocher School and Mrs. Juli)”

“UCC Members,  
The Prairie du Rocher #134 Board of Education would like to thank you so much for all the assistance with our school food pantry. Your generosity has made all the difference in the world to our children in the Prairie du Rocher area. Thank you again.  
(Prairie du Rocher #134 Board of Education)”

## **Upper Room:**

May-June Upper Rooms are in the back of Church. Please be sure to pick yours up for your daily devotional.

## **Cancelled:**

June 1-5 - Vacation Bible School

June 10 – The Magic House Trip

July 1 – Jefferson Barracks Swimming Pool Trip

August 5 – The Butterfly House Trip

## **Save the Dates:**

None at this time!!!!

## **Remember to Save Your Tabs!**

Kaylee Muertz is collecting recycled beverage tabs to help support the Ronald McDonald House program. This is a home-away-from-home for the families of seriously ill children being treated in nearby hospitals. There will be a tab collection box in the back of church for tab donations. Let's show Kaylee how much we support her by collecting beverage tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to.....**

Julie Ann Birk June 2  
Curtis Rusteberg June 6  
Wesley Kuergeleis June 6  
Breck Rohlfig June 8  
Elveria Miller June 9  
Aaron Esker June 9  
Gretchen Brandt June 11  
Duane Mueller June 12  
David Alan Berg, Jr. June 12  
Oliver Valerius June 13  
Ripken Voelker June 13  
Wyatt Braun June 13  
David Asselmeier June 14  
Parker Brandt June 14  
Sharon Ann Reese June 16  
Scott Rohlfig June 16  
Reagan Louise Skaggs June 16  
Harper Lynn Floarke June 16  
Lance Howard Edler June 20  
Ron Richeson June 21  
Landon Johnson June 21  
Kristine Voelker June 22  
Carley Hoffmann June 22  
Kevin Wischmeyer June 23  
Ryan Dean Hesterberg June 23  
Bear Engbring June 24  
Kate Louise Edler June 25  
Amy Burns Hicks June 25  
Randy Coats June 26  
William Roseman June 28  
Travis Branson June 28  
Jeffrey Hoffmann June 29  
Logan Whitlock June 29  
Amy Faus June 30  
Jacqueline Keller June 30  
  
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 Thomas Birk July 4  
Paula Bundy July 5  
Kathy Asselmeier July 5  
Amy Juelfs July 5  
Michelle Vogt July 5  
Jason Crouch July 7  
Jim Maurer July 8  
Nora Ann Matthews July 8  
Claire Hoffmann July 8

Lloyd Schwarze July 9  
Kevin Hirsch July 10  
  
Scott Johnson July 10  
Margaret June Vogt July 10  
Mona Mothershead July 11  
Amanda Schultheis July 12  
John William 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

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY....**

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  
Greg & Jaclyn Knobloch June 9  
Paul & Jackie Hoffmann June 10  
Scott & Hannah Rohlfig June 10  
Brent & Cherie Langsdorf June 11  
Tom & Nancy Hornbeck June 12  
Ryan Dean & Lauren Hesterberg June 13  
Shane Patrick & Andrea Kay Kennedy June 13  
Ryan & Emily Richeson June 13  
Lynden & Karen Prange June 14  
Marvin & Nancy Schilling June 17  
Scott & Leslie Rush June 18  
Caleb & Amy Hicks June 18  
Matthew & Gretchen Brandt June 25  
John & Sharon Glessner June 27  
Matthew & Jennifer Albat June 28  
Michael & Samantha Datema June 29  
Calvin & Joanne Hoffmann June 30  
  
Luke & Kristy Edler July 2  
Arthur & Julie Rusteberg July 4  
Alex & Laurie Knoll July 12  
Steve & Dana Hicks July 14

## General Fund Financial

Beginning Balance 4-1-20	\$14,261.39
Receipts April	13,753.75
Expenses April	9,065.05
Balance on Hand 4-30-2020	\$18,950.09

## Visitor Report

Beginning Balance -	\$94.24
Income -	\$145.00
Vicki Taake -	\$20.00
Ruth Stumpf -	\$100.00
Barb Wischmeyer -	\$25.00
Expenses -	\$54.62
U.S. Postmaster -	\$54.62
Ending Balance -	\$184.62

Vicki, Ruth & Barb Thanks so very much for your donation. They are greatly appreciated!!!!

HOPE YOU ALL HAD AN ENJOYABLE MEMORIAL WEEKEND AND A SAFE AND HEALTHY JUNE! HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT CHURCH SOON!!!!!!!!!!!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

### ACOLYTES:

June 7	Clay
June 14	Dawson
June 21	Jessica
June 28	Beth
July 5	Clay
July 12	Katie
July 19	Megan
July 26	Rylee

## Happy Father's Day

A Dad is a person  
who is loving and kind,  
And often he knows  
what you have on your mind.  
He's someone who listens,  
suggests, and defends.  
A dad can be one  
of your very best friends!  
He's proud of your triumphs,  
but when things go wrong,  
A dad can be patient  
and helpful and strong  
In all that you do,  
a dad's love plays a part.  
There's always a place for him  
deep in your heart.  
And each year that passes,  
you're even more glad,  
More grateful and proud  
just to call him your dad!  
Thank you, Dad...  
for listening and caring,  
for giving and sharing,  
but, especially, for just being you!  
Happy Father's Day.





**St. John United Church of Christ**  
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Church: 618-458-6940

Pastor's Cell Phone: 618-340-2372

Website: [www.maeystownucc.org](http://www.maeystownucc.org)

[pastorpoole123@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpoole123@gmail.com)

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

*Thought for the day:*

*We can't always choose the music life plays for us,  
But we can choose how we dance to it.*