



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor

June 2024

Dare To Dream!

Time to dream of all the ways we can express our great faith in small and large ways. I am excited and energized to work with Tim as our first Student Pastor. He is such a gift and an answer to my prayers!

This summer, we will roll out a new summer program for Children ages 6-12 called The Little Rascals Summer Camp. It will be 9-noon July 10,17, 24, 31. We will have lots of fun and learn how our faith can move mountains as we learn to be a team, building what is sure to be an awesome clubhouse. I will need many grandparents to help to give our children this great experience. We will also be planning some day trips for our very active grandparents and great-grandparents. They may want to bring a grandchild with them as we explore cool places and fun places to eat!

Life is such a gift and sharing that gift with all of you is wonderful!

Serving this faith community is a great joy in my life! As we dream of the church God is calling us to be, we need each and every one of our members to participate. Each member's gifts, spirit, light, wisdom, strong opinions, and even opposition are needed and wanted. As we build the church of our dreams that will serve the next five generations, we will need all our members to participate. We are so fortunate that our members give of their time and talents, not to mention they keep us financially strong which puts us in a great place to build for our future.

Of all our strengths none is greater than your collective ability to care for one another. A pastor would have to be blind to not be absolutely inspired by the way you care for one another. I hear testimony after testimony about how moved our members are when they suffer a loss of one kind or another and the outpouring of love and support they experience. There can be no greater sign of the strength of a faith community.

Let us hear your dreams—the church you envision! Together, we will build a church that shines the light of Christ so bright it cannot be missed and will be strong for generations to come!

Blessings!
Pastor

“Keep your heart open to dreams. For as long as there’s a dream, there is hope, and as long as there is hope, there is joy in living.” Anonymous

Women's Fellowship

The April 4th 2024 Women's Fellowship was called to order by President Faye Birk with 19 members and Pastor in attendance. Pastor opened with a prayer.

The treasurer's report was read by Sue Taylor with a March 30th balance of 3631.10 Sharon and Linda made the motion to accept, motion carried.

The secretary's report was read and approved by Connie and Barb. Motion carried. The correspondence was 2 thank you notes from the Human Support Service and the Voelker family.

Nancy volunteered to set up a Pay Pal account so the Women's Fellowship can proceed with the Ven Mo account. More information will be coming on this in the next month.

The Easter breakfast was a success and it was decided no changes were needed for next year.

The Hoyleton Hike and Bike will be May 11. There will be no 5K or other races this year. St Joe will be furnishing the food and Maeystown will again furnish fruit and water. Volunteers will be needed to help and Anna and Connie volunteered. More information will be coming with our May meeting.

We will do the signs again this year for the 4 members we lost this past year. Carmalita, Maxine, Rita, and Aileen. It was not sure if we would have to do 2 signs or if the names would all fit on one sign.

Pat Brandt asked if it would be alright to start contacting vendors for the Christkindl mart since it will be December 1st the Sunday after Thanksgiving which is a very busy weekend. All were in agreement to contact vendors to save the date.

Pastor passed out papers about the student pastor position explaining what Tim would do and how Maeystown and St Joe would split the cost and responsibilities. There will be informational meeting on April 28 with vote on May 19th.

Sharon Bergheger was the only birthday in April. Brenda and Sue made the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Pastor closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ellen Edler Secretary

Hike 'n Bike Report

On the morning of May 11th, volunteers from St. John's and Zion gathered to continue a 40-year tradition: the annual Hike & Bike benefit for the kids of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services. For a \$25 registration fee, community members were invited to take part in a 5-mile excursion along Maeystown backroads, starting and ending at St. John's. This tradition originally started as a walk-a-thon and eventually grew into the event it is today.

On this bright and breezy day, 7 Hoyleton House children were treated to hours of laughter. They drew with chalk, played an energetic game of kickball, and were given the surprise of balloon models courtesy of Art Juelfs. He has only officially been twisting balloons for 2 months, but you wouldn't know that from his speed and their quality. Dave Henerfauth was kind enough to bring two of his electric bikes and offer rides to anyone interested.

Afterward, lovely ladies of Zion UCC Women's Fellowship provided a delicious lunch: hot dogs, sloppy joes, ham sandwiches, various fruits, chips, pickles, and a full dessert table. According to these women, a favorite of the children is a hot dog covered in sloppy joe topped with shredded cheddar cheese; it's a surprisingly delightful version of a chili dog.

Thanks to the generosity of 30 registered participants and donations from others, the event raised over \$2,000. This money will be used to give the children of Hoyleton House a special treat: a day of fun and thrills at Six Flags St. Louis! This trip will be a first for many of these children.

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services provides therapeutic residential care, counseling care, and fostering support to vulnerable youth in Southern Illinois. You can see more about their programs at [Hoyleton Youth and Family Services](#) or follow them on social media.



Firefly Lou brought Vacation Bible School to Maeystown!

She transformed the community center into a campsite with tents, campfires, and many lessons on God's love for His children. From May 28th to 31st, 56 kids gathered each morning to play, learn, and grow in their relationship with God. They spent three hours every day rotating between different stations and activities centered around one main theme: we can and should trust God. They carried with them one Bible verse:

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you” (Psalm 56:3, ESV).

Every day focused on a different Bible story that drew from that theme. The kids learned that they can trust God to go with them through the story of Jacob's flight to Haran (Genesis 28:10-22). Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1) taught them that they can trust God to lead the way. They learned to trust God to share wisdom through the tale of Mary & Joseph finding Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:41-52). Lastly, Phillip's interaction with the Ethiopian man taught them that they can trust God to spark joy (Acts 8:26-40).

In addition to Bible story time, they played various games and participated in fun and illuminating activities. At the science station, they conducted experiments about chemical reactions, inertia and momentum, and the difference between solids and liquids. During the last experiment, they all created Ooblek (made from water and cornstarch), a strange substance that blurs the line between solids and liquids.

New crafting projects awaited them each day. They were invited to design their own campsites using stickers, made necklaces and “Trust God” bracelets, wound God's eye crafts, and even made little firefly toys.

Last but not least, different games taught them the value of trust. Their first game involved blinding one child and having another lead them. In this, they learned that God's guidance is without fail so long as they hold on to Him. The next game had them learning the different Cardinal directions, highlighting that the compass of God's love will never leave them. Then they played a game of Gagaball in which each child drew the name of another child. Whoever they drew, they were not allowed to target or eliminate. This showed them that trust can be difficult but rewarding. Lastly, they participated in a three-legged race in which they had to trust their partner not to race ahead without them.



By: Erika Soutiea May 31, 2024 - Holy Bible. English Standard Version. YouVersion Bible, Version 10.6.1, Life.Church & Crossway, 2001.

VBS
2024



Thanks to the kiddos, parents, volunteers and everyone who contributed in any way to make our VBS Week a creative learning experience!

News and Notes

Announcements:

- Artists of all ages are invited to participate in the annual Plein Air Paint Out in Maeystown on Saturday, June 8.
- Little Rascals Summer Camp for ages 6-12. July 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 9-12 each Wednesday. Flyers in the back of church.
- 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 from where they are graduating. Feel free to include a sentence or two about their future plans.

Acolyte Schedule:

June

- 2 - Evan Hill & Caden Huddleston
- 9 - Maddie Huddleston & Landen Johnson
- 16 - Jackie Keller & Derek Knoll
- 23 - Henry Knoll & Ella Matzenbacher
- 30 - Kaylee Muertz & Rowan Schilling

July

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

Thank You Note:

A big thank you from the Youth Fellowship to our members and adult helpers at the Fruelingfest soda stand: Our members - Chloe, Claire, Cody, Ella, Emma, Henry, Julia, Kelsey, Payton and Sofia; and our adult helpers - Sarah and Keith Schmitz, Amanda Schultheis and Pastor Thompson. Thanks to all of you for your hard work!!

Thank you to the Adult Choir for sharing your talents with us. The summer music schedule begins on June 9 with special music by Terry Roberson.

Special Birthdays:

- Curtis Rusteberg turns 78 on June 6.
- Ron Richeson celebrates his 60th birthday June 21.
- Randy Coats turn 68 on June 26.
- William Roseman celebrates his 83rd birthday on June 28.

- 4th of July will see Lauren Hesterberg turning 66, Brian Edler turning 47, Chrissy Eckerty turning 46, Brooks Birk turning 5, Dax Wild turning the big 1!
- Paula Bundy celebrates her 68th birthday on July 5, while Kathy Asselmeier celebrates her 65th birthday the same day.
- Jim Maurer turns 67 on July 8 while Lenny Schwarze follows him on July 9.
- Mona Mothershead turns 85 years young on July 11.

☆☆☆ A very big special birthday shoutout to Florence Feldmeier as she turns 100 years young on July 14!

Special Anniversaries:

- Randy & Michelle Coats will celebrate 46 years on June 3, while Mark & Brenda Rey will celebrate 41 years that same day.
- Paul & Jackie Hoffmann will be married 52 years on June 10.
- Lynden & Karen Prange will celebrate 44 years on June 14.
- John & Sharon Glessner will celebrate 43 years on June 27.
- Steve & Dana Hicks will celebrate their ruby anniversary on July 14.

Prayer List:

- *Please pray for Eric Pieper as he receives treatment for cancer.*
- *Please keep Linda Sutter in your prayers as she recovers from heart concerns.*
- *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.*
- *Denise Farmer as she seeks answers for some neurological issues.*

Happy Anniversary to....

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Jonathan & Jessica Liefer | June 1 |
| LJ & Jennifer Rosenkranz | June 1 |
| Wesley & Andrea Kuergeleis | June 2 |
| Randy & Michelle Coats | June 3 |
| Mark & Brenda Rey | June 3 |
| Cole & Laura Goldschmidt | June 3 |
| David & Amanda Rusteberg | June 5 |
| Mike & Dr. Shannon Krebel | June 6 |
| Aaron & Katie Esker | June 6 |
| Matt & Paige Galligos | June 6 |
| Greg & Jaclyn Knobloch | June 9 |
| Paul & Jackie Hoffmann | June 10 |
| Scott & Hannah Rohlfing | June 10 |
| Brent & Cherie Langsdorf | June 11 |
| Ryan Dean & Lauren Hesterberg | June 13 |
| Ryan & Emily Richeson | June 13 |
| Lynden & Karen Prange | June 14 |
| 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 |
| | |
| 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 |

Visitor Report:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Balance - | \$305.00 |
| Income - | |
| Dennis & Barb Wetzler - | \$25.00 |
| Expense - | |
| U. S. Postmaster - | <u>\$60.23</u> |
| Ending Balance - | \$269.77 |

Thanks Dennis & Barb for your generous donation!! Hope to see you in Maeystown soon!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Sunday School Report:

Checking Account

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance - | \$307.34 |
| Income - \$0.00 | |
| Expense - \$0.00 | |
| Ending Balance - | \$307.34 |

Savings Account

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance - \$ | 7037.75 |
| Income - \$0.00 | |
| Expense - \$0.00 | |
| Ending Balance - | \$7037.75 |

Faye Birk, Treasurer

General Fund Financial:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| April 2024 Beginning balance: | \$32,496.36 |
| Income | \$12,987.84 |
| Expenses | \$15,761.66 |
| Ending balance April 30, 2024 | \$29,722.54 |



The Little Rascals Summer Camp

We are building a clubhouse and need lots of stuff!

Doors, wood, metal barn roof materials, also anything that might be fun, old playground parts, pulleys, really anything fun to use!

We also need lots of grandparents to have fun with me!

Pastor

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| <p>Use the long days of summer to explore, learn, and exceed your own expectations."</p> |
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Fifth Sunday Offering:

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.

Celebrating Pastor Paul Thompson:

On June 2 we celebrated Rev. Thompson's 50th Anniversary of ordination. We helped celebrate with him by taking a moment to share donuts and visiting after church service.



Happy Birthday to

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Julie Ann Birk | June 2 |
| Curtis Rusteberg | June 6 |
| Wesley Kuergeleis | June 6 |
| Breck Rohlfing | June 8 |
| Aaron Esker | June 9 |
| Reagan Rohlfing | June 9 |
| Gretchen Brandt | June 11 |
| David Alan Berg, Jr. | June 12 |
| Ripken Voelker | June 13 |
| Wyatt Braun | June 13 |
| David Asselmeier | June 14 |
| Parker Brandt | June 14 |
| Sharon Ann Reese | June 16 |
| Scott Rohlfing | June 16 |
| Reagan Louise Skaggs | June 16 |

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Harper Lynn Floarke | June 16 |
| Laura Goldschmidt | June 18 |
| 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 |
| Gemma Nolan | June 28 |
| Jeffrey Hoffmann | June 29 |
| Logan Whitlock | June 30 |
| Amy Faus | June 30 |
| Jacqueline Keller | June 30 |
| Julie Upchurch | 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 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 |



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

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pastorpoole123@gmail.com

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

Thought for the day

*Stop disliking people for what "you heard" and
be grateful God doesn't dislike you for what He knows.*