



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor

March 2024

Piercing the Myth of Scarcity

Saturday, March 9th, I will be leading a workshop for the conference at the annual Day of Discipleship. This year is held at Camp DuBois. The title of the workshop is “Piercing the Myth of Scarcity.” The inspiration for this workshop is all of you! In a world where churches are struggling, this congregation is growing in serving, loving, and participating in the great work of being church together. We are imperfect, and we have our ups and downs, but we cannot deny our many blessings and the gift of our many dedicated members.

Let’s take a moment to acknowledge the challenge of living in a world where scarcity is the framework we all live. Not enough time, not enough money, not enough energy, not enough compassion, not enough grace, simply not enough and it is exhausting. Not enough is the background story of almost every challenge. The question posed in this workshop is “*Is it true or a myth? Is it a story so old that it feels like the truth?*” The world says we cannot because there is only so much to go around.

That is why churches make such a difference in the world. I am so proud of our little country church that says we can! When the Waterloo School Wellness Counselor came to a group of clergy in the Waterloo area and asked for help to feed the children who were going hungry over the weekends because the only reliable meals they were getting were from the school. You, collectively, with the leadership of your mission team said yes, we will not let the children go hungry. And the Back Pack Program was born. It now feeds 120 children every week, all year long, at an approximate cost of \$52,000 a year. This burden God quickly lifted off our shoulders with a very loving community that jumped in to help carry this program that has been running for over a decade. You also say “we can” when your members are in need; you give hundreds of dollars to our members who get caught in a bind. You also say “we can” when it comes time to support our youth attending college. The scholarship committee gives \$1000 to our youth who demonstrate a commitment to church and service. You say “we can” help when heart breaking circumstance hit families in our church and neighbors. The congregation gives thousands of dollars through the Fifth Sunday Offerings. When help is needed, you step up! The world of scarcity, never having enough, is not the drum we move to. The drum we move to is faith! Faith that when we step out to meet the needs of God’s children, we find ourselves in the company of angels. What was seemingly impossible becomes possible.

The wellspring that feeds us, moves us, and renews us is living in the Spirit. It is our walking in faith that becomes our foundation and the truth that claims us.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

The world’s truth is that there is not enough, causing us to fight over resources, Jesus came to give us a new truth to live into.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The world’s truth is not our truth, praise be to God!

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

We have so many treasured scriptures that reflect God's abundant love, grace, peace, and all that we need, from feeding the five thousand to living water. Every time we roll up our sleeves and get to work, we are expressing the truth of the Gospel, from our church standing tall on the hill with its glistening steeple to the mission work we do, the children we serve, the families that gather together Sunday morning, the prayers, heartbreaks, and joys we share. We are the body of Christ, and it is a wealth beyond compare!

Thank you for living out the Gospel truth that all things are possible in his name. You put your time, talent, and treasure to work, living a life of faith in God and one another! It is an honor to serve and work by your side!

Pastor

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING January 28, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Christy Muertz at 10:50am. Those in attendance from the church council were Drew Watts, Susan Koesterer, Cheri Langsdorf, Sandy Tutka. Absent were Mark Rey, Lisa Schwarze, Amy Rohlfling and Fay Ross. Pastor led the meeting with a prayer.

A motion was made by Chrissy Eckerty and seconded by Anna Massie to approve the 2023 Annual meeting minutes and all special meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Nancy Voelker reported that all financial records of the church and organizations have been audited and found to be in good order.

The church council candidates for 2024 are Debbie Eckert, Pam Muertz and Ron Richeson as elder. There being no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Barry Hoffmann and seconded by Dennis Trost to accept the candidates as presented. Motion carried.

Nancy Schilling has agreed to accept another term on the Maher Trust Board. A motion was made by Cheryl Prange and seconded by Patti Brandt to accept Nancy Schilling for another term on the Maher Trust Board. Motion carried.

Allyn Rohlfling and Ross Mueller have agreed to accept another term on the Cemetery Board. A motion was made by Charlie Eckerty and seconded by Nancy Schilling to accept Allyn Rohlfling and Ross Mueller for another term on the cemetery board. Motion carried.

Nancy Voelker (2025); Wendy Hill (2026) and Jennifer Klinkhardt (2027) have all agreed to complete their terms on the auditing committee. A motion was made by Kathy Asselmeier and seconded by Patti Brandt to accept the above mentioned members for the auditing committee. Motion carried.

Conference Delegates are Sue Taylor, Dave Henerfauth and B.J. Henerfauth. They have all agreed to serve as Conference Delegates and Alternates. A motion was made by Jim Bundy and seconded by Nancy Schilling to accept the conference delegates. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Chrissy Eckerty and seconded by Annie Massie to adjourn the meeting at 11:00A.M. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Poole.

Sandy Tutka, Secretary



Happy Easter!!

Women's Fellowship

The January meeting of the Women's Fellowship was called to order by Faye Birk on Thursday January 4th with 13 members and Pastor present. Pastor opened with a prayer.

We welcomed Victoria Rippelmeyer and hope she continues to join us in the coming months.

Sue read the treasurer's report and gave the December balance of 3541.34. Pat and Barb made the motion to accept and the motion carried.

The secretary's report from November was read and approved by Linda and Anna. Motion carried.

Several people who had received shut in bag expressed their appreciation of the gifts, especially the cookies.

The quilt show and the Christkindl mart were discussed and were rated a success. Anna was a big help with selling quilt raffle tickets. There was \$168.00 donated at the quilt show. Nancy and Joyce made a motion to add this money to

Hoyleton from the quilt raffle. Motion carried. Normally this would be added to the money to buy Christmas gift for needy families, but there was enough money from the 30 vendors tables to supply the 4 children and 1 senior, the gifts on their lists. The motion was made by Pat and Barb to not add the extra \$100.00 the Women's Fellowship usually gives to the gifts in 2023. Motion carried.

Thanks was given to Nancy Schilling for donating the new tree in the hall.

A motion was made by Barb and Sharon to change the color scheme on the Christmas tree in church to red, gold, and white to match the windows. Motion carried.

A motion to give \$300.00 dollars to the church's camp fund was made by Sharon and Anna. Motion carried.

Several ladies volunteered to take the raffle quilt to other local churches to sell tickets. The money from this raffle will be going to Homes for Healing at Hoyleton. It was decided the raffle will end with the drawing at 7:00 PM on February 13th at Fastnacht. We will not be having any other raffle at Fastnacht. There will still be the Country Store and items will be needed for that.

After school workers and desserts for the February meeting were assigned.

Happy birthday was sung to Joyce and Faye. Nancy S and Sue made the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Ellen Edler Secretary

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*As long as we have memories, yesterday remains.*

*As long as we have hope, tomorrow awaits.*

*As long as we have love, today is beautiful.*

*As long as you have God, anything is possible.*

*(copied)*

### **Fifth Sunday Offering**

Izabella is the recipient of this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering. She is the daughter of Michael & Megan DeSpain from Evansville and the granddaughter of Ron & Paulette Steiner. Isabella was having headaches and had an MRI and was diagnosed with an optic nerve glioma (tumor on her optic nerve). She was also having vision changes, and the doctor recommended that she see an oncologist for treatment with chemotherapy.

She started oral chemo in August and then three weeks later fell at school and broke her left upper arm. The broken arm healed in 8 weeks. She then developed sores on her toes and a whole body rash that would not go away with treatment and chemo had to be stopped to clear up her skin issues. She was hospitalized for 3 days because of the skin issues. MRI's have shown that chemo has been helpful with shrinking the tumor but the skin issues were getting too uncomfortable.

She also has been seeing a dermatologist. Izabella has missed a lot of school but has been positive and strong and thankful for the doctors giving her care.

Amy Hoffmann

### **Youth Fellowship**

Youth Fellowship met at 7:00 PM on January 17, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Cody with 16 members present, and Pastor Poole opened with a prayer.

Pastor Andrea Asselmeier led an interesting discussion about her work as a chaplain at Emmaus Homes. Emmaus is supported by the UCC and provides services to developmentally and intellectually disabled adults. Pastor Andrea explained that the name of the ministry comes from the Bible. On the afternoon of Resurrection Day two of Jesus' disciples were traveling on the road to the village of Emmaus when Jesus appeared to them. At Emmaus Homes they journey along the road of life with their clients, supporting them as they worship, work, sleep and eat. Pastor Andrea also talked about some of her experiences at Eden Seminary and her journey that led her into ministry. Thank you, Pastor Andrea, for coming to our meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of November 15 were approved as presented on a motion by Hayden, seconded by Emma. Motion carried.

The checking account balance is \$4,935.85. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Hayden, seconded by Emma. Motion carried.

Old Business: T shirts were discussed. David Henerfauth has prepared the design, and the suggested shirt style is short sleeved crew neck in sapphire blue. A motion was made by Payton, seconded by Claire to approve the design, style and color. Motion carried.

New Business: Pastor encouraged the members to try to volunteer for a shift helping at Fastnacht.

Pastor presented information regarding the Hoyleton Honors banquet on February 23. Both Maeystown and St. Joe congregations, along with the youth, will be honored at the banquet. (The YPL donated \$500 to Hoyleton to purchase Christmas gifts, and also planned, sponsored and attended an Easter party at Hoyleton for their youth in 2023.) A motion was made by Emma, seconded by Henry to purchase a table for eight at the banquet for \$600. Motion carried.

This year's Easter party at Hoyleton will be March 23, if that date works with Hoyleton's schedule.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The evening ended with a Roll the Dice Valentine gift exchange followed by refreshments. Thank you, Tricia, for the Rice Krispie treats!

Sheryl Prange

# News and Notes

## Announcements:

- The 2023 Giving Statements were mailed to everyone out near the end of January. If you did not receive your 2023 Giving Statement and need a copy, please email Nicole at [maeystownucc@gmail.com](mailto:maeystownucc@gmail.com).
- Easter Lilies will adorn our sanctuary once again for Easter. If you wish to make a donation for an Easter Lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please complete the form and return it to the church office.

## Upcoming Events:

- Lenten Services will be held on March 6, and March 13 here at St. John, Maeystown. Pre-service meals will be served.
- Lenten Service on March 20 will be held at Zion UCC, St. Joe. Pre-service emails will be served.
- Confirmation Presentation Sunday is March 17, and our Confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, March 24.
- Pew Sisters will meet on March 18.
- Good Friday Service will be on Friday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 p.m. at the Cemetery, followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Our traditional service will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

## Symphany:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Betty Leber who recently passed on February 29.

## Scholarship Fund:

Here is the link for the scholarship this year. We will stop accepting applications on April 14.

<https://bit.ly/SJCScholarship>

## Prayer List:

- *Herman Watts passed this past week. Please Keep Drew and his family in your prayers.*
- *Dave Berg Sr. is receiving treatment to ensure his cancer does not return.*
- *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.*
- *Florence Feldmeier is now recovering in the nursing home in Columbia.*

- *Dennis Knobloch is receiving chemo and will be having surgery for stomach cancer in the coming weeks. He has a great team of doctors and they are optimistic in their treatment plan and success.*
- *Tina Lloyd is fighting cancer.*
- *Bill Tutka is experiencing more dementia.*
- *Kaylee is getting stronger every day but still needs our 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.*
- *Denise Farmer as she seeks answers for some neurological issues.*
- *Carol Howell, member of Zoar is battling cancer.*
- *John Prather of Zoar is having back issues.*

## Special Birthdays:

- Joan Esker turns 81 years young on March 1.
- George Green celebrates his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday on March 2.
- Catherine Hoffmann turns 85 on March 10.
- Sheryl Prange celebrates her 71<sup>st</sup> birthday on March 11, while Jeanette McClellan celebrates her 77<sup>th</sup> birthday the same day.
- Allyn Rohlfing turns 70 on March 15.
- Robert Schmidt & Pastor Poole share a lucky birthday on March 17, with Robert turning 70 years young and Pastor turning 61.
- Melba Asselmeier turns 95 years young March 18.
- Lisa Carron celebrates a golden birthday March 21.
- Karen Prange celebrates her 66<sup>th</sup> on March 25.
- Becky Schaefer turns 66 on March 30.
- Glenn Woodcock celebrates his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on April 3.
- Carla Feldmeier celebrates her diamond jubilee birthday on April 7.
- John Hoefft turns 76 on April 8.
- Janet Trost celebrates her 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday on April 10, while Chuck Schaefer celebrates his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday the same day.
- Dorothy Matzenbacher turns 87 years young on April 12.
- Sharon Bergheger celebrates her 69<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 14.
- Dee Ann Trost celebrates her 79<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 15.

**Special Anniversaries:**

- Jerry & Peg Johner will celebrate their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on March 25.
- Bob & Judy Edler will celebrate 45 years of marriage on March 31.
- Allyn & Trudi Rohlfing will celebrate 48 years of marriage on April 10.
- Mark & Susan Hoffmann will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 14.

**Acolyte Schedule:**March

- 3 – Payton Dilley & Henry Knoll
- 10 – Ella Matzenbacher & Emma Schultheis
- 17 – Claire Stafford & Payton Dilley
- 24 – Parker Brandt & Matthew Blackwell
- 31 – Henry Knoll & Ella Matzenbacher

April

- 7 – Emma Schultheis & Claire Stafford
- 14 – Tanner Rosenkranz & Drew Stafford
- 21 – Lucas Blackwell & Hudson Brandt
- 28 – Matthew Blackwell & Parker Brandt

**Visitor Financial:**

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance - | \$455.95 |
| Income -            | \$20.00  |
| Pearl Hirsch -      | \$20.00  |
| Expenses –          | 112.86   |
| U.S. Postmaster -   | \$57.00  |
| U. S. Postmaster -  | \$55.86  |
| End Balance -       | \$363.09 |

Thank you very much Pearl for your generous donation!!!!

Faye Birk, Treasurer

**Sunday School – Checking Account**

|                                          |           |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance –                      | 189.48    |
| Income -                                 | \$2051.18 |
| Offering -                               | \$244.10  |
| Transfer from Savings -                  | \$500.00  |
| Refund from Cokesbury -                  | \$507.50  |
| Maher Trust -                            | \$755.00  |
| Zion – Bibles –                          | 44.58     |
| Expenses -                               | \$1363.03 |
| Cokesbury – Confirmation Material        | -\$507.50 |
| Michelle Vogt – Christmas Gifts -        | \$100.80  |
| Children’s International -               | \$66.00   |
| Children’s International -               | \$66.00   |
| Women’s Fellowship – Supplies Reimb      | \$362.15  |
| Michelle Vogt–Spring Semester Curriculum | \$260.58  |
| Ending Balance -                         | \$877.63  |

**Sunday School – Savings Account**

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance -    | \$7534.15 |
| Income -               | \$1.85    |
| Interest -             | \$1.85    |
| Expense -              | \$500.00  |
| Transfer to Checking - | \$500.00  |
| Ending Balance -       | \$7036.00 |

Faye Birk, Treasurer

**Church Financial:**

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| January 2024 Beginning balance  | \$37,123.33 |
| Income                          | \$10,953.47 |
| expenses                        | \$15,817.71 |
| ending balance January 31, 2024 | \$32,259.08 |

**Maeystown’s Museum**

Maeystown Preservation Society is in the process of expanding Maeystown’s Museum to the second floor of the mill.

We are planning a display of our local veterans, no matter if they served in war or peace time, we would like to honor them. (any veteran, any time they served from WWI to present)

Our display would feature their picture preferably in their uniform or of something they did while serving. Also, a brief write-up about their time in the service, pictures of them during their time. The display will be swing panels with one panel (size approx. 24” x 18”) per person.

Send an email to [memocc@htc.net](mailto:memocc@htc.net) and I’ll send you more info.

Thank you

Joyce

## **2024 Easter Lily Donation Form**

Donations are being accepted for the 2024 Easter Lilies. A donation of \$10.00 is recommended. The money for the donation is due **March 24, 2024**. If you wish to make your donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please complete the below information and return it with your donation.

**A donation of \$10.00 is required to make the donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one.**

DONOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to make your donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please complete the below information.

In memory of/ In honor of  
(please circle one and list how you would like it worded in the bulletin)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of/ In honor of  
(please circle one and list how you would like it worded in the bulletin)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Christkindlmarkt & Quilt Show**

Christkindlmarkt & Quilt Show is St John UCC Women's Fellowship contribution to the Old-Fashioned German Christmas. And why do we have a separate acknowledgment for this part of the event? Mainly because it takes a lot of organization and workers to put this all together.

This is a volunteer thing, and as we all know, sometimes, when asking someone to volunteer, they dig in their heels, especially at Christmas when there always seems to be a million and one things that need to be completed. And adding one more thing to our to-do list seems like craziness, but at St John UCC, we have a great bunch of ladies who step up to get this job done.

The search for a variety of crafters/vendors starts in September or before; the crafter/vendors get invited and the event organizers keep track of those coming to make sure the hall is full but not over full; in November, we decorate the church and hall, and we also solicit quilts for display from the church members.

One hundred percent of the Christkindlmarkt & Quilt Show proceeds go to purchase Christmas gifts for families in need. With their wish list in hand, we also do the shopping. Shopping is the last part of the chore that took months to get to this point, but we wouldn't have it any other way. This, we believe, is the true spirit of Christmas.

Thanks to everyone who shopped our Christkindlmarkt or dropped a dollar or two in the free-will offering basket at the quilt show.

Joyce Kuergeleis

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Joan Esker Mar. 1  
George Green Mar. 2  
Susan Koesterer Mar. 3  
Adam Prange Mar. 3  
Emily Rusteberg Mar. 3  
Brooke Dawsyn Knobloch Mar. 3  
Elisa Marie Horn Mar. 4  
Mabel Louise Jensen Mar. 5  
Jeff Edward Roy Mar. 6  
Gracie Allen Mar. 6  
Marlee Rose Melching Mar. 7  
Charles Ray Eckerty Mar. 9  
Emily Michele Kruse Mar. 9  
Catherine Hoffmann Mar. 10  
Jeanette McClellan Mar. 11  
Sheryl Prange Mar. 11  
Carrie Grueninger Mar. 11  
Mark Hoffmann Mar. 14  
Caleb Buchanan Mar. 14  
Andrew (AJ) Shipp Mar. 14  
Allyn Rohlfing Mar. 15  
Dan Gilbert Mar. 15  
Robert Schmidt Mar. 17  
Pastor Patrick Poole Mar. 17  
Melba Asselmeier Mar. 18  
Josie Ann Rusteberg Mar. 18  
Kamryn Barnes Mar. 19  
Juanita Roland Mar. 20  
Stephanie Tyberendt Mar. 20  
Lisa Carron Mar. 21  
Bradley Philip Horn Mar. 21  
Owen Steven Prange Mar. 21  
Katie Morwick Mar. 22  
Megan Morwick Mar. 22  
Joe Floyd Niebruegge Mar. 22  
Matthew Rippelmeyer Mar. 22  
Eva Jean Floarke Mar. 23  
Morgan Schmitz Mar. 23  
Tim Burns Mar. 23  
Cole Juelfs Mar. 24  
Karen Prange Mar. 25  
Susan Richeson Mar. 25  
Mary Headrick Mar. 26  
Larry Henson Mar. 27  
Aaron Prange Mar. 27  
Everett Charles Kruse Mar. 27  
Kelly Hoefft Mar. 28  
Rodney Morwick Mar. 29  
Chris Voelker Mar. 29  
Becky Schaefer Mar. 30  
Michelle Burns Mar. 30  
Reagan Landen Johnson Mar. 31  
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

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

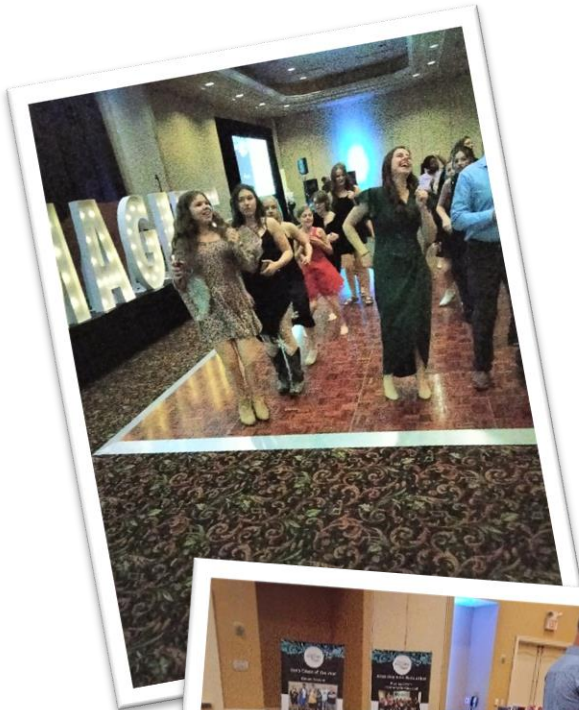
Lenny & Karen Schwarze Mar. 11  
Jim & Lisa Maurer Mar. 14  
Rodney & Debbie Eckart Mar. 21  
Scott & Julie Upchurch Mar. 23  
Keith & Sarah Schmitz Mar. 24  
Jerry & Peg Johner Mar. 25  
Ryan & Megan Kempf Mar. 25  
Bob & Judy Edler Mar. 31  
Josh & Emily Reinhardt Apr. 2  
Randy & Brandy Hicks Apr. 5  
Garrett & Elise Rohlfing Apr.  
Jason & Sheri Dilley Apr. 9  
Luke & Alyssa Andres Apr. 9  
Allyn & Trudi Rohlfing Apr. 10  
Tom & Stacy Schilling Apr. 10  
Ron & Susan Richeson Apr. 11  
Mark & Susan Hoffmann Apr. 14





## Hoyleton Honors Night at the Regency Center Ballroom

Our church was honored for outstanding commitment to kids



Together at Fashnacht

Behind the Scenes





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

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U. S. Postage Paid  
Permit #1  
Maestown, IL 62256

Send email updates, photos & group descriptions to [maestownucc@gmail.com](mailto:maestownucc@gmail.com)

Church: 618-458-6940

Pastor's Cell Phone: 618-340-2372

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

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

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

**Thought for the day**

**Sometimes we forget that waking up each morning is our first blessing of the day.**