



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor
May 2023

Pastor's Reflection

The Tail Wagging the Dog

The tail wagging the dog is an old-time saying meaning we have lost sight of the big picture over an issue. The issue, although important, should not derail the mission or purpose. Politicians use wedge issues to stir up their base, media use wedge issues to draw in viewers. Nothing sells better than a good wedge issue. The problem becomes *the tail is wagging the dog*. Few issues are as simplistic as the sound bite. Let us look at the number one wedge issue for the past 40+ years. Pro Life vs Pro Choice.

This is clearly a serious and important issue, but can it be boiled down to a sound clip to push a wedge issue or is it better to treat it as the complex issue that it is? Here are some important facts that we never hear from our politicians to keep in mind.

Published by the Pew Research Center.

“What is the abortion rate among women in the U.S.? How has it changed over time?

Guttmacher says that in 2020 there were **14.4 abortions in the U.S. per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44**. Its data shows that the rate of abortions among women has generally been declining in the U.S. **since 1981, when it reported there were 29.3 abortions per 1,000 women** in that age range.

The CDC says that in 2020, there were **11.2 abortions in the U.S. per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44**. (That figure excludes data from California, Maryland, New Hampshire and the District of Columbia.) Like Guttmacher's data, the CDC's figures also suggest a general decline in the abortion rate over time. **In 1980, when the CDC reported on all 50 states and D.C., it said there were 25 abortions per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44.”**

Prior to Roe v. Wade we have no clear numbers showing how many abortions occurred as it is hard to track what is done illegally. Here is some history dating back to our founding fathers via the Wikipedia.

Early history and rise of anti-abortion legislation

Abortion has existed in North America since the European colonization of the Americas,^[21] was a fairly common practice, and was not always illegal or controversial.^{[22][23]} Until the 19th century, abortion was legal under common law, and only after quickening it was not allowed.^[24] Quickening indicates the start of fetal movements, usually felt 14–26 weeks after conception, or between the fourth and sixth month.^{[22][25][26]} Its determination was generally at the discretion of the pregnant woman,^[27] but the rules were unstated or unclear in written statutes.^[28] When the United States became independent, most U.S. states continued to apply English common law to abortion.^[29] In the mid-1700s, Founding Father Benjamin Franklin amended a general textbook from Britain to include a manual with instructions for early pregnancy abortion methods.^{[30][31]}

You might take from this that Pastor is pro-choice. Please do not assume that. I am very much Pro-Life, just not in the political sense. All life is sacred, the bible affirms that throughout, again and again. But simplistic answers such as making

it illegal has proven to fail and only put women at great risk. We must stand outside the wedge issue argument that reduces the complexity to a one liner. Like many of you, where I stand on an issue as important as this is outside the political arena. We look at the long history, the professionals in the field, what is working and not working. Complex issues call for complex thinking and the solutions may take decades to realize gains. We know any real solutions will require care, compassion, listening, and they will need to take into consideration the health of the woman, mentally and physically. The solutions must provide for a safe place to receive affordable health care and unless we believe that abstinence only is viable, the solution must provide reliable contraception if we want to reduce unwanted pregnancies. However, the wedge issue is not truly looking for a solution. Its primary goal is to drive people to the polls or their news show. It is designed to keep us separated. Here is a poll they should take and we would likely all be on the same page.

“Are you in favor of reducing unwanted pregnancies? Yes, No.”

“Are you in favor of continually lowering the need for abortions? Yes, No.”

“Are you in favor of reducing the number of abortions? Yes, No.”

The answers to these questions would overwhelmingly be ‘yes’ regardless of their politics, but building consensus does not drive the voters to the polls. Neither party wants to speak about the issue in real terms. If politician made a statement such as,

“Abortions continue to decline moving from a high in 1981 of 25 per 1000 to 11 per 1000 pregnant women in 2020. We have made great progress, but it is still vital that we do more to meet the needs of our young women and men to protect them and the life of the unborn baby”

Politicians on both sides are smart. They know that such a message would not provide the drama to keep voters motivated to vote for them. The churches also get wrapped up in wedge issues and lose their ability to speak to the complexities. The Southern Baptist Church once took a much more nuanced approach to abortion. This is a quote from Good Faith Media.

In 1971, the Southern Baptist Convention passed the first of four resolutions that most would consider “pro-choice” today.

Messengers to the convention affirmed the sanctity of human life, including that of a fetus, but they also called upon Southern Baptists to protect a woman’s right to an abortion.

The resolution reads, “We call upon Southern Baptist to work for legislation that will allow the possibility of abortion under such conditions as rape, incest, clear evidence of fetal deformity, and carefully ascertained evidence of the likelihood of damage to the emotional, mental, and physical health of the mother.”

Messengers would reaffirm the 1971 statement in 1974, proclaiming that the 1971 resolution “reflected a middle ground between the extreme of abortion on demand and the opposite extreme of all abortion as murder” and “dealt responsibly from a Christian perspective with complexities of abortion problems in contemporary society.”

In 1976 and 1977, the SBC passed softer resolutions which argued “that in the best interest of our society, we reject any indiscriminate attitude toward abortion, as contrary to the biblical view ... and support the right of expectant mothers to the full range of medical services and personal counseling for the preservation of life and health.”

Prior to the late 1970’s, most SBC leaders viewed abortion as a deeply personal issue that was complex and not simply a “right to choice” versus a “right to life.”

The Southern Baptist Church today is adamantly opposed to their own position just a few decades earlier. Not to just pick on the Southern Baptist, we in the UCC have our own set of wedge issues we champion to the effect of losing sight. One last bit of history. The Roman Catholic Church has not always seen abortion as murder of a fetus. Here is quote from PubMed. [Title Abortion and the Catholic Thought](#). This article follows the stream of thinking.

Early Church leaders began the debate about when a fetus acquired a rational soul, and St. Augustine declared that abortion is not homicide but was a sin if it was intended to conceal fornication or adultery. During the period of 600-1500, illicit intercourse was deemed by the Irish Canons to be a greater sin than abortion, Church leaders considered a woman's situation when judging abortion, and abortion was listed in

Church canons as homicide only when the fetus was formed. St. Thomas Aquinas declared that a fetus first has a vegetative soul, then an animal soul, and finally a rational soul when the body was developed.

Now that we have touched on the Faith Tradition in the Church. What does the bible have to say about when life begins.

Genesis 2:7

“then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.”

Many quote Genesis as to say life begins at the baby’s first breath. Others will quote Jeremiah to make the argument it begins even before conception.

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you. (Jeremiah 1:5)
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
(Psalm 139:15)*

Personally, I think both sides are taking the scriptures out of context to make an argument that the bible is not making. Simply put, the bible is not making a case for or against abortion. These scriptures do speak to the gift of life and to God’s profound depth of knowing and caring for us. How we apply that profound truth is ours to struggle with, hopefully taking into consideration the many complexities in answering how best to care for all of life. One can make a very sound argument in scripture that all life is sacred and that applies to a very wide set of issues from feeding and caring for the least of these to being good stewards of the creation. The argument that I am making is ultimately not even about abortions rights. That is just an example of a wedge issue and how they have the effect of *the tail wagging the dog*.

As people of faith, we must be bigger than the politics that separate us and reduce our ability to address complex issues. I am sad to say that politicians and organizations will weaponize faith to embolden their case and push the wedge issue agenda. Those with differing viewpoints get painted with a brush that they are unfaithful, not taking their bible seriously, “That a true Christian take their bible literally”. We must protest to that narrow viewpoint. It is our duty to read the bible and discern how to allow it to guide us in our time and context. When we take a few verses and use it to make a case we often miss represent the original intent of the scripture, and the consequences of that hurt people deeply. In the United Church of Christ, we believe following Christ requires us to think deeply about the scripture and how to bring the love of Christ into each and every issue. In the UCC, and certainly in our church, there is not just one opinion. There is not a company line to follow or you are out. We need all our members’ viewpoints as we strive to be our best for Christ as a church. I feel privileged to walk in faith with our members and their wide range of positions on most any topic. I hear in our members a desire to stand up for what is right and a desire to bring common sense and compassion to the issue.

The next wedge issue already sweeping our nation is over transgender issues. Notice the *tail already wagging the dog* as commonsense goes out the window. The narrative is being shaped on both sides to push the agenda. If there was ever a time for cool heads with the capacity to think deeply about an issue that will be with us for decades to come, it is now.

The next visitor article will speak to the issue. I will not be making a case for opposite genders to share bathrooms. I will not be making a case for children or their parents to make life long lasting decisions on the thoughts and feeling of an adolescent. I will be making the case to be compassionate and patient. I will address what the bible says and does not say about homosexuality as it will certainly be at the center of this issue. These are topics I will not preach from the pulpit as they lack the ability to unite us in the spirit. They are topics that I feel you would welcome a voice from your pastor. These are troubled times but there has never been a time without troubles. Let us greet these days with hearts full of love and grace, bringing the spirit of Christ into our world!

May God bless you and keep you!

Pastor

St. John's UCC Church Council Minutes - March 13, 2023

Vice President Mark Rey called the meeting to order at 6:37pm. Those in attendance were Drew Watts, Lisa Schwarze, Susan Koesterer, Cheri Langsdorf, Sandy Tutka and Pastor Patrick Poole. President Christy Muertz attended the meeting via Zoom. Faye Ross and Amy Rohlfsing were absent. Pastor opened with a prayer.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 13, 2023 MEETING

The minutes from the February 13, 2023 meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. Lisa Schwarze made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 13, 2023 meeting and Drew Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS/TIMECARD/PASTOR'S EXPENSES

The treasurer's report/bills/timecard and Pastor's expenses were presented and reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. Cheri Langsdorf made a motion to approve the reports as presented and it was seconded by Sandy Tutka. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Mark Rey reported on the 2 buildings being used by Glenn and Linda Coats which are on church property. Mark spoke with attorney Mary Buettner and she suggested a possible lease. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of ownership of the 2 buildings. The possibility of selling, leasing, and quick claim deed were all discussed. Mark will continue to look into the best possible solution for the buildings and report back to the board.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reported that the numbers in church are good but could always be better. We need to continue to encourage people, not just to come to church, but to come regularly. Bring the kids. The more we get the word out, the better.

SOLAR POWER

Brian Edler presented much information for solar power panels for the church, the church hall and the parsonage to the board. There are many more facts to be considered and more information forth coming before a proposal could be presented to the congregation.

SOUND SYSTEM

Pastor had no new information on the sound system and when the final piece might be installed.

COPIER CONTRACT

The copier contract has been signed and is in effect per board's approval at the Feb. 13, 2023 meeting.

MOWING

Lisa Schwarze has spoken with Clem Ruemker regarding the trimming. He would like to trim every week when he mows, otherwise it becomes too much to do every other week. The board was fine with the trimming weekly. Lisa will let him know to mow and trim as planned.

Pastor has spoken with Alan Rohlfsing regarding the sale of the mower owned by the cemetery board and the church. He will be getting a fair price estimate for the mower and let Pastor know what it is.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Many of the offering envelopes have been picked up or delivered, but there are still some remaining in the church basement. Pastor encouraged us to look at the remaining envelopes and if we feel comfortable delivering them, it would be appreciated. He has spoken with The Church Budget Envelope Company that prints the envelopes on ways we might be able to reduce the amount of envelopes and costs, and what we have now is about the best we will be able to do.

FIFTH SUNDAY FOR APRIL

The Fifth Sunday recipient for April was unanimously decided, by the board, to be the Kaylee Muertz family. Pastor will speak with the family and let them know our decision. A motion was made by Cheri Langsdorf and seconded by Lisa

Schwarze to have the Fifth Sunday offering go to Kaylee Muertz. President Christy Muertz was not available by Zoom when the decision was made. Motion carried.

WAIVER OF ESTATE FINANCES

Pastor Poole and Mark Rey signed the Waiver of Trust Accountings for the Joyce Ann Sliment Revocable Trust. The same thing was done one year ago.

A motion was made by Cheri Langsdorf and seconded by Lisa Schwarze to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Sandy Tutka, Secretary

Women's Fellowship – March 2, 2023

President Faye Birke called March 2nd meeting to order with 16 members present and Pastor who opened with a prayer.

Sue gave treasurer's report with balance of 3184.40 for end of February. Connie and Nancy V. made the motion to accept. Motion carried.

The secretary's report was read by Ellen. Barb and Sharon B. made the motion to accept. Motion carried.

Lisa Schwarze was coordinator of the Fastnacht and did an excellent job. Thank you so much for taking it on. Set up for Fastnacht on Sunday was a great success with many helpers. Thanks to all who helped after church. Cathy Hoffmann did an excellent job with the raffle and Country store. These sales go into the Women's Guild treasury. Thank you, Cathy, for all the work to make this a success.

Sue volunteered to look for an additional pancake dispenser and cart.

Pastor recruited members to help him with the March 5th Women's Sunday. All slots were filled.

March 8th will be the night the Women's Fellowship will furnish the meal for before the Lenten service. Chicken and dumplings will be furnished by Nancy S, Linda, Connie, and Ellen. Sue will bring slaw, applesauce by Marietta, corn bread by Joyce and Faye, and desserts by Nancy V, Anna, and Cathy.

Connie will put article in the Visitor about food drive to benefit the Back Pack program to be held in April and May.

The final bill for the closet was submitted and exceeded the \$1000.00 amount that was originally voted on. It was decided to pay the extra 178.56 out of the treasury. Motion was made by Connie and Sue. Motion carried.

Faye will be organizing the Easter Sunday breakfast and Sue will be back up if Faye is not available.

Pastor commented about the good turnout for the Fastnacht, Ash Wednesday service, and before Lenten service meal. He is glad to see everyone who is attending.

Our guest speaker from Straight Up Solar was not able to make it to the meeting, so Pastor told us about the possibility of the church, hall, and Parsonage getting solar power. If the project moves forward there would be a set of solar panels on the hill beside the hall and behind the parsonage. There would also be a set of panels on the side of the church. The church is waiting on an accurate quote from the company and Pastor was wanting the women's thoughts on the idea of the project and talk to a board member with your thoughts.

May 13th will be the Hike and Bike and run. People will be needed to help with this fund raiser for Hoyleton again this year. More will be discussed on this at the April meeting.

Pastor was the only birthday for the month of March so everyone sang happy birthday and cake was served to honor him. Sue and Connie made the motion to adjourn and motion carried. Pastor led with the Lord's Prayer.

Ellen Edler, Secretary

YPL Eggs-travaganza at Hoyleton

What kind of story does the Easter Bunny like best?



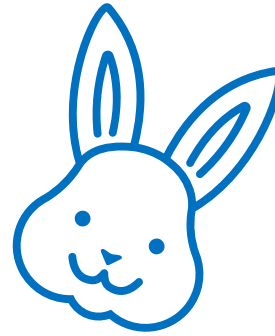
The ones with hop-py endings, of course!!

And that's eggs-actly the type of story brought to life by our Youth Group when they visited Hoyleton!

The Youth Group was amazing and made over 100 sandwiches the morning of our trip! Once we arrived, they all jumped in and quickly sat up the activities including hiding dozens and dozens of Easter eggs.



When the Hoyleton children arrived, the looks on their faces were priceless as they visited the Easter Bunny, got their faces painted, and participated in all the games. The entire day was packed with fun, excitement, and joy – the smiles were endless!



Thank you, YOUTH GROUP, you're all truly amazing and so much fun!!

If you have any eggs or tiny items for inside the eggs (not candy) that you got in hunts this weekend that you don't want to store all year, please consider putting them in a bag and dropping them off at the Sunday School. We will use them next year!



I hope everyone had a great Easter!

Michelle Vogt

Announcements, News & Notes ...

Hike, Bike, & Run on May 13 Registration:

Registration is still open. See the church's website to register. Volunteers are needed as well. Contact Nicole in the church office if you have any questions.

VBS will be May 30 – June 2:

Registration is open. Contact Michelle if you have any questions.

Sunday School Parents:

Parents, after you drop off the kids for Sunday School you are invited to join Pastor in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings for coffee, juice, fruit, Danish and conversation. This will continue every Sunday through the end of the school year.

Annual Backpack Food Drive in April & May

The Women's Fellowship is conducting their annual food drive. See Connie's article for more information.

Sympathy:

We, at St. John's, extend our sympathy to Roger Wild's family and friends. Roger passed away this past week.

Upcoming Events:

- The annual Hike, Bike, and Run will be held on Saturday, May 13. Registration is available through our website. Volunteers and sponsors are always needed and welcome. Email Nicole at maeystownucc@gmail.com for more information.
- Women's Fellowship May Meeting is Thursday, May 4 at 12:00 p.m.
- Pew Sisters will meet on Monday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. Watch Facebook and the Sunday bulletin for meeting location.

Special Birthdays:

- Shirley Stafford will celebrate her 72nd birthday on May 1.
- Dave Hesterberg will celebrate his platinum birthday on May 7.
- Terry Roberson turns 71 on May 10.

- Eva Novako celebrates her 78th birthday on May 13.
- Lyndie Prange turns 65 on May 14.
- Curtis Rusteberg celebrates his 77th birthday on June 6.
- Reagan Rohlfing celebrates her 1st birthday on June 9.

Special Anniversaries:

- Harry & Maxine Steingrubey will celebrate their 77th wedding anniversary on May 14.
- Randy & Michelle Coats celebrate 45 years of marriage on June 3, while Mark & Brenda Rey celebrate 40 years of marriage the same day.
- Paul & Jackie Hoffmann will celebrate 51 wonderful years of marriage on June 10.

Acolyte Schedule:

May

- 7 – Jackie Keller & Kylee Muertz
- 14 – Drake Coats & Rowan Schilling
- 21 – Caden Huddleston & Maddie Huddleston
- 28 – Chloe Carron & Cody Schmitz

June

- 4 – Tanner Rosenkranz & Lilly Carron
- 11 – Lucas Blackwell & Derek Knoll
- 18 – Evan Hill & Cody Schmitz
- 25 – Hudson Brandt & Jake Coats

Thank You Notes:

I want to say a big THANK YOU to all those that helped make the 2023 Fastnacht a huge success. A big THANKS to the anonymous donor that pays for all the supplies except for the sausage. It takes a team to make an event a success and that is what we had; a great team. Again, Thanks for all your help.

Lisa Schwarze

Thank You to Nancy Voelker & Joyce Kuergeleis for spring cleaning the plants & bushes around church. They removed all the dead parts and where needed replanted new plants. Nancy also replaced the mulch.

Prayer List:

- *The family of Roger Wild. Roger made his journey to the Lord this past Monday.*
- *Kaylee is home from the hospital but still has a long road ahead.*
- *Evelyn Gauch, Lisa Maurer's mother, has 3 fractured vertebrae, a compound fracture in her spine and torn ligaments. Please keep her in your prayers.*
- *Allyn Rohlfing had surgery on his neck.*
- *Darlene Yancy has a back issue*
- *Debbie Barnes has heart concerns.*
- *Virginia Borcharding is recovering at home after complications.*
- *7th grader Elsa Wiemerslage is receiving treatment for cancer.*
- *Bob Sales, Sr is on hospice. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.*
- *Lynn Ahrens as she recovers from a terrible fall and surgery.*
- *Allison Ford has a non-cancerous brain tumor with great complications.*
- *Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.*
- *Scott Stoeckel, as he battles cancer.*
- *Reyesmae Brown, she is 3 yrs old, has autism and now seizures.*
- *Aileen Neeley in your prayers as she battles cancer.*
- *Mary Kay Richards as she recovers from lung surgery.*
- *Sarah Schmitz's sister, Cheryl Steiner, she has been diagnosed with kidney disease.*
- *Denise Farmer as she seeks answers for some neurological issues.*

Church Directory Updates:**Please add:**

Pat Berry
108 E. Woodland Ridge, Apt 10
Valmeyer, IL 62295

Address Change:

Sheryl Prange
240 Church Street
Fults, IL 62244

Visitor Report:

Beginning Balance -	\$208.32
Income -	\$ 0
Expense -	
U.S. Post Master -	\$ 56.36
Ending Balance -	\$151.96

Faye Birk, Treasurer

Sunday School - Checking Account:

Beginning Balance -	1129.48
Income -	
Offering -	\$ 28.00
Expense -	
Anna Massie - Easter Candy -	\$ 32.06
Ending Balance -	\$1125.42

Sunday School - Savings Account:

Beginning Balance	\$7474.64
Income -	\$ 1.77
Interest -	\$ 1.77
Expense -	\$ 0
Ending Balance -	\$7,476.41

Faye Birk, Treasurer

General Fund Financial:

March 2023	
Beginning balance:	\$23,195.55
Income	\$10,371.57
Expenses	\$15,113.34
Ending balance 3/31/2023	\$18,453.78





Save the Date!



st. John's Day
September 17, 2023

MAEYSTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION PARK

More information to come



THE WHOLE CHURCH IS
INVITED TO ATTEND!



The Blessings of Spring

There are many blessings,
that each new Spring brings
you can see it bloom about
and hear the song it sings.

With winter's bleakness over,
and brighter days ahead
comes promises of new life
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,
and their buds begin to show,
He gives to us the assurance
grace in our hearts will grow.

He sends us the robin's song,
with the promise to provide
a shelter under His mighty wing
where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snowy covers,
and sends the refreshing rain
sprinkling us with His mercies
to heal winter's ache and pain.

God's given to all His Son,
to shed upon us a new light
and the real blessing of Spring . . .
is keeping Jesus in our sight!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ♥

Terry & Debbie Walster	May 4
Ronald & Larita Mohl	May 7
Tim & Mary Branson	May 10
Kyle & Kaitlyn Andres	May 12
Harry & Maxine Steingrubey	May 14
Erik & Erin Floarke	May 14
Pete & Dr. Jennifer Goessling	May 14
Jared & Amy Roever	May 14
Morris & Pat Brandt	May 15
Monty & Patti Jackson	May 15
Brad & Amy Juelfs	May 17
Larry & Marlene Wild	May 19
Pastor Patrick & Kathy Ann Poole	May 19
Paul & Miki Skaggs	May 21
Jeffrey & Joy Hines	May 23
George & Linda Green	May 24
Dean & Charlotte Hesterberg	May 24
Christopher & Amanda Schweigert	May 25
Jeff Edward & Julie Ann Roy	May 27
Steven & Heather Hicks	May 27
Justin & Cody Rohlfing	May 28
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
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
Shane and Andrea Kennedy	June 13
Ryan & Emily Richeson	June 13
Lynden & Karen Prange	June 14

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you ♪ ♪ ♪

Shirley Stafford	May 1
Elise Sandra Rohlfing	May 3
Caleb Hicks	May 3
Shannon Marie Jansen	May 4
Luca Michael Heidenreich	May 4
Megan Vogt	May 5
Lilly Carron	May 5
Jensen Michael Roever	May 5
Sara Schreder	May 6
David Hesterberg	May 7
Dawson Goldschmidt	May 7
Clinton Hicks	May 9
Terry Roberson	May 10

Lane Dale Mathews	May 11
Cole William Dilley	May 12
Eva Novakov	May 13
Lynden Prange	May 14
Paige Jackson	May 15
Kathy Ann Poole	May 15
Mikayla Krebel	May 17
Megan Kempf	May 17
Bryanna Crouch	May 18
Reid Schilling	May 18
Judith Tomlinson	May 19
Braxton Lee Boman	May 19
David (Eli) Buchanan	May 20
Maiana Asselmeier	May 20
Clay Juelfs	May 21
Angela Dixon	May 21
Amy Lynn Stirnaman	May 22
Debbie Walster	May 23
Dwight Asselmeier	May 23
Tom Schilling	May 23
Nathan Keller	May 23
Joel Alexander Parris	May 23
Marietta Schneider	May 24
Hannah Patrice Rohlfing	May 24
Sandra Berg	May 25
Michael Stafford	May 26
Tucker Lee Schwarze	May 26
Maddie Carron	May 27
Drake Coats	May 27
Milo Greydon George	May 27
Manlee Knobloch	May 28
Coley Hoffmann	May 28
Kynlee Sue Andres	May 28
Callie Elise Rohlfing	May 29
Ava Jean Edler	May 29
Christina Kay Muertz	May 30
Jackie Hoffmann	May 30
Pat Harris	May 31
Audrey Lee Knobloch	May 31
Jamie Grace Nolan	May 31
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



There is still time to donate to the Backpack Program

St. John Women's Fellowship is conducting a food drive for the Backpack program during the months of April and May.

As the program is wrapping up the 11th school year it is currently serving 31 families and about 67 children within 4 school districts in both Monroe and Randolph counties. Food for weekend breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks is delivered to the families either directly or through school systems on a bi-weekly basis. The items distributed regularly are included on the list below.

Thank you for remembering this program upon which so many children and families depend. Donations of food may be brought to the sanctuary any Sunday during April and May. If you would like the Team to shop for you, monetary donations are also welcome. Checks should be made payable to **St. John UCC Mission Team** with a notation in the memo section that it is intended for the food drive. A note there to the effect of "Food Drive" will work. Envelopes with monetary donations may be made with the regular Sunday offerings.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Backpack Program.

Connie Kuergeleis-Turner

Bi-County Backpack Program

No Glass Jars Please!

Note: Due to regulations we are not able to give out expired food.

Don't want to shop? No problem. You can make your checks out to St. John UCC Mission Team, with Food Drive in the memo and we will do the shopping for you.

Thanks for your continued support of our mission!

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Snacks
Syrup	Soup	Canned chicken	Popcorn
Pancake Mix	Mac 'N Cheese	Canned Tuna	Peanut butter/cheese crackers
Cereal	Spaghetti O's/Ravioli	Tuna Helper	Pudding
Pop Tarts	Peanut Butter	Chicken Helper	Fruit Cups
Oatmeal	Jelly	Pizza Kits	Granola Bars
	Beef Stew	Spaghetti Sauce	Hot Chocolate
	Chili	Spaghetti Noodles	Chips
		Completes	Cookies
		Vegetables	



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

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
Maeystown, IL 62256

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

A guitar without strings is useless,
A cell phone without a battery is useless,
Life without God is useless.