



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

The Visitor

May - 2025

Pastor's Reflection

I Need Thee Every Hour

This Lenten Season and Easter were wonderful! From the youth bringing an Easter celebration to the Hoyleton kids, enjoying meals together before our Lenten service, to the packed church on Easter morning, even standing in the rain for the Sunrise service was a joy, not to mention the fantastic breakfasts together. In my joy, I have one hymn that keeps running through my mind. "I need Thee Every Hour"

I love and need the Lord every minute of every hour, but this hymn also rings in my heart the way I need and love all of you every hour. As a body in Christ, we are not silos standing alone. We are a beautiful tapestry with fantastic strength in our unity.

In our strength, we are given gifts and the duty to bring healing into the lives of those in need. We do this in so many ways in our church. Our Fifth Sunday offerings, in our Sunday service, greeting new faces, our backpack program, the work we do with Kindercottage and our new food program for their families, and our work as partners in the missions of Hoyleton, to name a few.

I have never lived in or seen a community like this one. If a neighbor calls you in need, you help. Caring for one another is a way of life that needs no recognition; it is simply what you do. The world needs this way of life, caring for one another. We know we need God and one another every hour. We know the joy of walking in this truth of responding to God's call to care for one another. Let the Easter Season continue as we celebrate having one heart in Christ.

My heart is full of love for you!
Pastor

I Need Thee Every Hour

*1. I need thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord.
No tender voice like thine
Can peace afford.
I need thee, oh, I need thee;
Ev'ry hour I need thee!
Oh, bless me now, my Savior;
I come to thee!*

*2. I need thee ev'ry hour;
Stay thou nearby.*

*Temptations lose their pow'r
When thou art nigh.
I need thee, oh, I need thee;
Ev'ry hour I need thee!
Oh, bless me now, my Savior;
I come to thee!*

*3.I need thee ev'ry hour,
In joy or pain.
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain.
I need thee, oh, I need thee;
Ev'ry hour I need thee!
Oh, bless me now, my Savior;
I come to thee!*

*4.I need thee ev'ry hour,
Most holy One.
Oh, make me thine indeed,
Thou blessed Son!
I need thee, oh, I need thee;
Ev'ry hour I need thee!
Oh, bless me now, my Savior;
I come to thee!*



Church Council Minutes – March 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Amy Rohlfing. Pastor Poole opened the meeting with a prayer. Those in attendance were Susan Koesterer, Ron Richeson, Fay Ross, Debbie Eckart, Jim Maurer, Brian Edler, Amy Juelfs and Pam Muertz.

Review and Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2025 Council Meeting

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. There being no further corrections a motion was made by Jim Maurer and seconded by Amy Juelfs to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report, Bills, Timecard and Pastor's Expenses

The treasurer's report, bills, timecard and Pastor's expenses were presented and reviewed. There being no changes or corrections a motion was made by Jim Maurer and seconded by Pam Muertz to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Solar Power Update

- Pastor, Amy and Jim met with the solar company. The solar is working. The church is seeing Ameren credits on the monthly electric bill. The applications for both the federal and state incentives have been submitted. Carbon Solutions is handling final state approval. Once state approval is received, final signoff of the certificate of substantial completion will occur and the church will issue final payment to the solar company.

Bids for Siding on Church Hall

- The council reviewed the painting and residing bids. Motion made by Fay Ross and seconded by Brian Edler to hold a congregational meeting to gain approval to either paint to reside the Church Hall.

Arborist for Pine Forest

- Debbie will present the arborist findings at the next meeting.

Furnace Update

- All three furnaces are installed and working. The outside air conditioning units will be installed soon.

Carpet in the Parsonage

- The carpet has been ordered.

Generator first step cost: \$300 Materials

- The installation of the electrical connection for a portable generator in not yet complete.

Snow Removal Plan

- Council members will continue to secure additional snow removal bids.

6-Inch Gutters

- The council discussed the bid to replace the Church Hall's current gutters with 6-inch gutters to support heavy rains. The council will hold on any decision until there is a decision regarding painting or residing the hall.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business

Pastor's Report

- Pastor reviewed the top priorities for this year.
 1. Maintenance Committee – Dorothy Schilling has agreed to serve as the chair of the committee.
 2. New Parents Programming - Women's Fellowship and Sunday School mailing program for the first three years of newborns life
 3. Young Adult Programming – No Update
 4. Senior Programming – No Update
 5. Men's Programming – No Update
 6. Media/Social Committee
 7. Continue to strengthen our Sunday School Program
 8. Continue to strengthen our Women's Fellowship
- There will no longer be a Hoyleton Hike and Bike. Participation had fallen to low levels.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jim Maurer and seconded by Ron Richeson to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned. Pastor closed the meeting by leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Susan Koesterer, Secretary

Church Financial

March 2025. Beginning balance:	\$51,897.00
Income:	\$17,888.38
Expenses:	\$22,362.00
Ending balance March 31, 2025	\$47,422.58

Women's Fellowship

The March 6th, 2025 Women's Fellowship meeting was called to order by President Sue Taylor with 11 members and Pastor and Tim present. Pastor opened with a prayer.

The treasurer's report was given by Connie. The February 28th balance was \$4713.53. Nancy S and Cathy made the motion to accept and the motion carried.

Ellen Edler read the secretary's report. Linda and Barb made the motion to approve. Motion carried.

Pastors report was about Seeing is believing, but actually church members say Believing is Seeing. We believe and then we make it happen.

Under old business Fastnacht was discussed. We made \$880.00 from the raffle and \$232.00 from the Country store. Cathy thought we need to announce in church to get more donations from the congregation for the Country store. Everyone thought it went well and all workers were appreciated.

The Outreach team have passed out a survey in church with suggestions as to get more women involved with Women's Guild. There will be a survey coming out via e mail to contact all the women of the church.

There was discussion of the By Laws again and a few items were discussed and will be changed for next month.

March 26th will be the evening the Women's Fellowship will have the meal before the Lenten service. Sausage, hot dogs, chip, salad, and dessert will be furnished. The meal starts at 6:00 and will be cleaned up by 7:00 when church starts.

Region 2 LA clean up buckets will be put together at New Hanover. Our contribution is to be a monetary donation to purchase heavy duty clean up bags and help assemble the buckets.

New business was discussing the Easter Breakfast and Faye B, Barb, and Sandy volunteered to come early to set up. Easter sunrise service will be held at 6:30 at the cemetery.

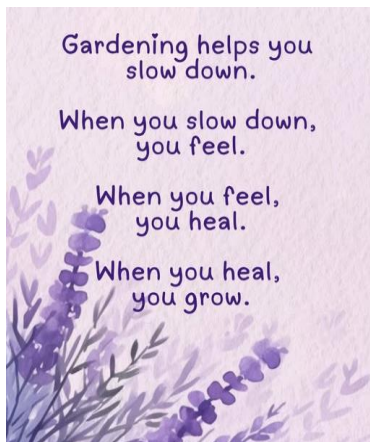
Linda Sutter has been sending out cards to members for birthdays, sympathy, get well, and anniversaries. Linda is not able to do this anymore. We tabled the issue until the April meeting to come up with suggestions as to continue or modify what to do with this program.

We will meet at 10:00 on May 1st to clean the hall windows before our meeting. Bring your Norwex rags if you have them.

Pastor was the only birthday this month and he left before we had a chance to sing Happy Birthday to him.

Patty and Barb made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ellen Edler Secretary



**St. John UCC
VBS 2025**

June 9-13,
9AM-12PM

Cokesbury Kids
ROAD TRIP
ON THE GO WITH GOD

Advanced Registration Open:
<https://bit.ly/maeystownVBS2025>

Our Youth Group at Hoyleton



Youth preparations for the Hoyleton Easter



This and That

Congregational Meeting after church on May 18 to make decisions about the siding on the Hall and asphalt shingle roof on the back side of the church.

Mowing Season is here: Please help our cemetery by removing any flowers and decorations.

Volunteers Needed – Clean Up Fire Buckets

Need volunteers to assist with delivery and set up of trash bags for Region 2 CWS Clean Up Fire Buckets project: Saturday May 17th, 8-10am and for Sunday May 18th at noon for assembly of buckets. If you are able to help either of these days, please contact Sue Taylor 618-520-7400 or Pastor.

Prayer List:

- Linda Sutter broke her hip and is now recovering at the Clinton Manor Living Center in New Baden. 111 E. Illinois St., Room 300; New Baden IL 62265. If you would like to send a card or note, you can send it to this address.
- Please pray for Randy Hicks's recovery after his very long and successful surgery.
- Please pray for Todd Clasquin; he had back surgery that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Please pray he regains his ability to walk again.
- Please pray for Bob Barnes, whose feet are healing, and who has significant heart issues.
- Please keep Lenny Schwarze in your prayers as he recovers from a serious illness.
- Please keep Linda Sutter in your prayers. She is recovering from hip surgery.
- Gideon, infant son of Chris and Amanda Schweigert, as he receives therapy for a dislocated jaw.
- Keep John Bueschel in your prayers as he receives chemo treatments.
- Keep Joyce Kuergeleis in your prayers as she continues her treatments.
- Jane and Pat McCarthy as they struggle with ongoing health concerns.
- Willie Krebel has two large masses on his left lung and needs our prayers.
- Mona Mothershead is receiving treatments for her cancer.
- Mary Ann Lutz, Julie Birk's aunt, is needing a Kidney Transplant.
- Kaylee is getting stronger every day but still needs our prayers.
- Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.

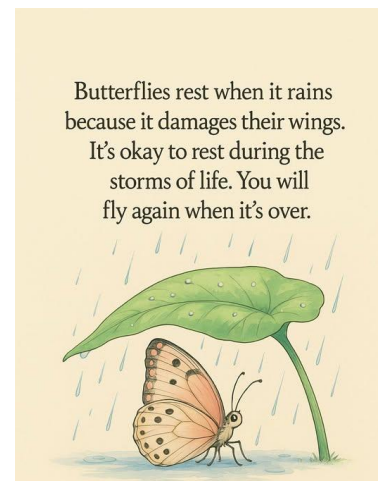
Birthday Shoutouts:

- Shirley Stafford will celebrate her 74th birthday on May 1.
- Dave Hesterberg will turn 72 on May 7.
- Terry Roberson will turn 73 on May 10.
- Eva Novakov will turn 80 on May 13.
- Debbie Walster will turn 70 on May 23 and Dwight Asselmeier will turn 69 the same day.
- Marietta Schneider will turn 71 on May 24.
- Sandra Berg will turn 66 on May 25.
- Jackie Hoffmann will turn 72 on May 30.
- And the very special Pat Harris will close out the month by turning 81 years young on May 31.
- Curtis Rusteberg will turn 79 on June 6.

Special Anniversaries:

- Morris & Pat Brandt will celebrate 49 years of marriage on May 15.
- Larry & Marlene Wild will celebrate 52 years of marriage on May 19.
- George & Linda Green will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 24.
- Randy & Michelle Coats will celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary on June 3, while Mark & Brenda Rey will celebrate 42 years the same day.
- Paul & Jackie Hoffmann will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on June 10.
- Lynden & Karen Prange will celebrate 45 years of marriage on June 14.

Butterflies rest when it rains
because it damages their wings.
It's okay to rest during the
storms of life. You will
fly again when it's over.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO....

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
 Kimberly Soutiea 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
 Clay Juelfs 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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Terry & Debbie Walster May 4
 Ronald & Larita Mohl May 7
 Tim & Mary Branson May 10
 Kyle & Kaitlyn Andres May 12
 Erik & Erin Floarke May 14
 Pete & Dr. Jennifer Goessling May 14
 Jared & Amy Roever May 14
 Morris & Pat Brandt May 15
 Brad & Amy Juelfs May 17
 Larry & Marlene Wild May 19
 Pastor Patrick & Kathy Poole May 19
 Paul & Miki Skaggs May 21
 Jeffrey & Joy Hines May 23
 George & Linda Green 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
 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



St. John United Church of Christ
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Send email updates, photos & group descriptions to maestownucc@gmail.com

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Pastor's Cell Phone: 618-340-2372

Website: www.maestownucc.org

pastorpoole123@gmail.com

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

Thought for the day

***The true test of your faith is when you don't understand anything at all
and still trust God***