



# ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MAEYSTOWN, ILLINOIS

***The Visitor***  
**November 2024**

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## **Preparing The Way for The Advent Season!**

It is an exciting time for the life of our little country church!

Our joy when our kids come marching down the church aisle after they finish their Sunday School lesson is beyond compare! This past Sunday, we had 40+ children! We are blessed to have an excellent Sunday School Program, much thanks to Michelle's leadership as our Sunday School Superintendent over this past decade. Now, she continues to support our new Sunday School Superintendent, Student Pastor Tim Burns. We also deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Sunday School teachers. Thank you to Karen, Anna, Christy, Michelle, and Confirmation Class teacher Sheryl for their love for our children and the great job they always do. Tim and the teachers are gearing up for the Christmas Program, it will be another great program!

As we prepare our hearts for the upcoming Advent Season, it is a great time to say thank you to all who make our faith community possible. Our beloved choir, the dedication and heart of the church, and our Women's Fellowship. The leadership of our Church Council. Many dedicated volunteers. You are all building a fantastic faith community! This Sunday, we will have many volunteers to paint the hall's roof, clean up the pine forest, paint, spread rocks, trim trees, and much more. What a great way to prepare for the miracle of Jesus as we approach the Advent Season! The Spirit lives in our little country church; this coming Sunday, we will welcome into this body of Christ 14 new members. I know you will love, encourage, and support our latest members as we share in each other's journey. These blessings of children and new members directly result from the love you share in Christ. When asked what draws the latest members to this church, they report. "I feel at home here; everyone is warm and welcoming." This all makes a significant lead into the Advent Season! This year, we will lean into the Advent Season with much to be grateful for and much light to share with the world!

Blessings!  
Pastor

*Each season with its special joys is a blessing from Thy hand  
And all the fullness of the earth is by Thy goodness planned.  
We lift our thanks today, O Lord, as now we humbly pray;  
But may our greater "thanks" be shown in serving Thee each day!*

## Women's Fellowship

The September 7, 2023 Women's Fellowship meeting was called to order by President Faye Birk with 13 members and Pastor Poole in attendance. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Sue gave the treasurers report with a balance of 2208.18. Joyce and Sharon made the motion to approve. Motion carried.

Ellen read the secretaries report and Cathy and Barb made the motion to approve. Motion carried.

Under **old business** the Banquet was left to be discussed at a later meeting.

The German Dinner was a huge success and everyone was thanked for all the help and food furnished.

The Hike and Bike was a success. Not too many runners but still made about 4000.00 for Hoyleton.

Under **new business** after-school workers were needed for the next 4 Wednesdays. Octoberfest Pie stand will be our big money maker again this year and will have a sign up sheet at next month's meeting for workers.

Thanks to Barb, Joyce and Nancy who decorated the church windows for fall before our meeting.

It was decided to have 2 members furnish the desserts for the meeting so the hostesses only have to furnish the main meal. Nancy and Barb will be supplying desserts for the October meeting.

Sandy and Barb volunteered to shop at Sam's for supplies. It was suggested that we did not need to pay for all the supplies so Sue will give us an estimated total as to what we are spending yearly for supplies and this will be discussed more at the next meeting.

Joyce purchased 2 new filters for the refrigerator and discussion was had that it appears the freezer door is not always closing properly so a sign was put on it to make sure that the drawer is always closed. We will see if that is the problem or if we need to have the refrigerator serviced.

We will have a guest speaker in October from Hoyleton. Sharon and Sue made the motion to give them a donation of \$200.00 for coming to talk to us. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nancy and Joyce to give pastor a 50.00 gift certificate to Beane Tree for Pastor appreciation day. Motion carried.

Birthdays were celebrated by Sue, Barb, Cathy, and Brenda.

Nancy V and Nancy S made motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Edler Secretary



# News and Notes

## Announcements:

Veteran's Day is November 11. We will honor our Veterans on Sunday, November 10. If you want to make sure your loved one is on the list, please email Nicole.

## Upcoming Events:

- Vendor registration is full for Christkindlmarkt on Sunday, December 1, so mark your calendars to attend and see all the great vendors. Watch the church's Facebook profile over the next few weeks to see some of our vendor spotlights.
- Mark your calendars for a St. John Work Day on Saturday, November 2.
- Bunco Night! Nov. 15th, Zoar New Hanover, Doors open at 6:30, Play begins at 7. \$10 per person.

## Birth:

Kyle and Meaghan Kipping welcomed their son, Spencer David Kipping, who was born on September 17, 2024. Spencer weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long. Congratulations!

## Thank You:

The Women's Fellowship had another outstanding year of selling our pies at the Oktoberfest. Thank you to everyone that took the time out of their busy day to make and deliver the yummy treats to us. The weather was great, which brings out so many folks to enjoy the fresh country air and fill our little town with many interesting people that love to eat pie. THANK YOU!

## Prayer List:

- *Renesmae Brown, she is 3 yrs old, has autism and now seizures.*
- *Lynn Moore as she undergoes a major heart surgery and her husband Russel.*
- *Eric Offermann. He has multiple issues/complications he is currently dealing with, including pancreatic cancer.*
- *Darlene Yancey as she continues to recover from a broken leg.*
- *Jane and Pat McCarthy as they struggle with ongoing health concerns.*
- *Luann Walsh has cancer of the pancreas, liver, and lymph nodes.*
- *Camden Hurst is recovering from home after a brain injury.*
- *Willie Krebel has two large masses on his left lung and needs our prayers.*
- *Art Chastain as he recovers from a stroke.*
- *Dennis Rodenberg as he battles cancer.*

- *Mona Mothershead is receiving treatments for her cancer.*
- *Dennis Knobloch as he continues to get stronger every day.*
- *Kaylee is getting stronger every day but still needs our prayers.*
- *Tim Branson in his battle with cancer.*
- *PK is a 9 year old little girl that has a brain stem cancerous tumor. She is in a study in Michigan after being treated at children's hospital with no improvement. She has had 10 percent shrinkage of the tumor and is allowed to continue in the study. She has no feeling from her waist down and is using a wheelchair.*

## Special Birthdays:

- Pat Brandt will celebrate her 70th birthday on Nov. 4
- Raymond Reed will celebrate his 80th birthday on November 6, while Connie Turner will celebrate her 71st birthday the same day.
- Fay Ross will celebrate her 73rd birthday on November 8 and Marlene Wild will celebrate her 74th birthday the same day.
- Dorothy Schilling will celebrate her 66th birthday on November 19.
- Dennis Knobloch will celebrate his 71st birthday on November 22, while Dave Berg turns 67 and Diane Mueller turns 60 the same day.
- Larry Wild celebrates his 75th birthday on November 25.
- Charles Birk will celebrate his 70th birthday on December 3.
- Glenn Coats turns 74 on December 6.
- Ellen Edler turns 71 on December 7.
- On December 15, Yvonne Gilbert turns 86 and Brian Johnson turns 75.

## Special Anniversaries:

- Charles & Faye Birk will celebrate 48 years of marriage on November 13.
- Randy & Lynne Hicks will celebrate 42 years of marriage on November 27.

**Christkindlmarkt & Quilt Show**

The ladies at St John UCC are busy planning the 2024 Christkindlmarkt & Quilt Show, which is part of Maeystown Old Fashioned Christmas on December 1, 2024. Both church hall floors are fully booked, with vendors selling their one-of-a-kind items for your home and/or Christmas shopping list.



There will also be freshly made donuts on the porch, someone selling fresh flowers outside, the newly built clubhouse will be magically transformed into a Gingerbread house, and much more.

Our treasured quilts will also be on display in our beautiful stone church. It just gets better and better every year. Please come.

Joyce Kuergeleis

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**Visitor Report**

Beginning Balance - \$82.05  
Income - \$0.00  
Expenses - \$66.27  
U. S. Postmaster - \$66.27  
**Ending Balance - \$15.78**

If anyone would be feeling generous, we could use some donations. Thanks.

Faye Birk, Treasurer

**Sunday School Checking Account**

Beginning Balance – \$24.53  
Income - \$1089.00  
Offering - \$89.00  
Transfer from Savings - \$1000.00  
Expenses - \$812.60  
Television Purchased - \$812.60  
**Ending Balance - \$300.93**

**Sunday School Savings Account**

Beginning Balance - \$6939.50  
Income - \$1.77  
Interest - \$1.77  
Expenses - \$1000.00  
Transfer to Checking - \$1000.00  
**Ending Balance - \$5941.27**

Faye Birk, Treasurer

**Youth Fellowship**

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

Our devotion time was focused on Christian love, and we talked about some verses in 1 John. “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” We were reminded that if we can’t love the people that we can see, then we can’t love our God who we can’t see. We all took a few minutes to write what we think Christian love looks like to teens.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved on a motion by Levi, seconded by Sofia. Motion carried.

The treasurer’s report was presented, showing a balance of \$4,347.24. Income from the soda stand at the Octoberfest was \$1,015.00 and expenses were \$345.66, resulting in a profit of 669.34. We still owe about \$100 to the Octoberfest group for our stand. A motion was made by Sofia, seconded by Wyatt L. to approve the report. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Soda stand was discussed. The wagon which we used to sell soda in the crowd was a great idea and helped with our sales.

Our trip to The Edge is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2025. Details will be discussed at our next meetings.

New Business:

Pastor encouraged anyone interested to help out at the church workday on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Charitable Christmas donations were discussed. It was decided to adopt a family from House of Neighborly Services. HNS will be contacted for a list of what the family needs and what we need to purchase.

The possibility of serving as porters at the Octoberfest was also mentioned. Pastor said we’d have to take steps to make that happen as there are already porters.

Another suggestion was to volunteer at an animal shelter. This was a popular idea with the group, and we will look into it further.

A motion to accept all old and new business was made by Payton, seconded by Claire. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned, and we closed with the Lord’s Prayer. However, the meeting was then reconvened as Tricia had gotten information from

House of Neighborly Services. After discussion with them, we learned that there is a huge need for donations

for Thanksgiving boxes, at a cost of about \$40 per box. Last year 125-150 families received boxes, but there were others on the waiting list. A motion was made by Claire, seconded by Kadie to purchase Thanksgiving boxes instead of Christmas gifts. Motion carried. A motion was made by Wyatt B, seconded by Jackie to donate \$600 to purchase about 15 boxes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Alex Bakken       | Nov. 23 |
| Brittany Huebner  | Nov. 23 |
| Larry Wild        | Nov. 25 |
| Lauren Jensen     | Nov. 27 |
| Andrea Asselmeier | Nov. 27 |
| Wyatt Engbring    | Nov. 29 |
| Raegan Eckart     | Nov. 29 |
| David Rusteberg   | Nov. 30 |
| David Reese       | Nov. 30 |

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO.....***

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Jennifer Rosenkranz   | Nov. 1  |
| Susan Hoffmann        | Nov. 2  |
| Lynda Morrison        | Nov. 2  |
| Justin Knobloch       | Nov. 3  |
| Kathy Goldschmidt     | Nov. 4  |
| Pat Brandt            | Nov. 4  |
| Renee Steibel         | Nov. 4  |
| Garrett Rohlfig       | Nov. 4  |
| Lauren LaFollette     | Nov. 5  |
| Josh Reinhardt        | Nov. 5  |
| Maclain Naumann       | Nov. 5  |
| Raymond Reed II       | Nov. 6  |
| Connie Turner         | Nov. 6  |
| Ethan Russell         | Nov. 7  |
| Marlene Wild          | Nov. 8  |
| Fay Ross              | Nov. 8  |
| Riley Skaggs          | Nov. 8  |
| Ryan Nolan            | Nov. 8  |
| Riley Michelle Skaggs | Nov. 8  |
| Markee Voelker        | Nov. 9  |
| Mark T. Rey           | Nov. 9  |
| Donny Muertz, Jr.     | Nov. 11 |
| Cheri Langsdorf       | Nov. 12 |
| Lisa Schwarze         | Nov. 12 |
| Olivia Prange         | Nov. 12 |
| Nathan Birk           | Nov. 13 |
| Jake Coats            | Nov. 15 |
| Katie Marie Ries      | Nov. 15 |
| Knox Brian Tyberendt  | Nov. 15 |
| Gavin Huebner         | Nov. 15 |
| Dawsyn Huebner        | Nov. 15 |
| Todd Mathew Jansen    | Nov. 16 |
| Maren Dolores Vogt    | Nov. 16 |
| Colby Jensen          | Nov. 18 |
| Stephanie Keller      | Nov. 18 |
| Chloe Reinhardt       | Nov. 18 |
| Dorothy Schilling     | Nov. 19 |
| Elizabeth Buchanan    | Nov. 19 |
| Rowan Evans           | Nov. 19 |
| Paul Skaggs           | Nov. 20 |
| Mariah Roland         | Nov. 20 |
| Nathan Wischmeyer     | Nov. 21 |
| Dennis Knobloch       | Nov. 22 |
| David Berg            | Nov. 22 |
| Diane Mueller         | Nov. 22 |
| Kyle Hoffmann         | Nov. 23 |

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Kody Schwarze          | Dec. 1  |
| Jenny Klinkhardt       | Dec. 2  |
| Wyatt Liefer           | Dec. 2  |
| Charles Birk           | Dec. 3  |
| Alan Wischmeyer        | Dec. 3  |
| Judy Krebel            | Dec. 5  |
| Denise Faus            | Dec. 5  |
| Brad Edler             | Dec. 5  |
| Jacob Berg             | Dec. 5  |
| David Mothershead      | Dec. 5  |
| Glenn Coats            | Dec. 6  |
| Paul Nilges            | Dec. 6  |
| Julie Roy              | Dec. 6  |
| Cody Schmitz           | Dec. 6  |
| Ellen Edler            | Dec. 7  |
| Haley Faus             | Dec. 7  |
| Amanda Marie Panzau    | Dec. 7  |
| Jameson Richeson       | Dec. 7  |
| Cole Goldschmidt       | Dec. 8  |
| Amber Marie Wolf       | Dec. 11 |
| Mason Knobloch         | Dec. 12 |
| Banks Christopher Horn | Dec. 12 |
| Corey Blackwell        | Dec. 14 |
| Yvonne Gilbert         | Dec. 15 |
| Brian Johnson          | Dec. 15 |

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...***

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Charles & Becky Schaefer | Nov. 1  |
| Brad & Kate Edler        | Nov. 1  |
| Bradley & Laura Wilson   | Nov. 2  |
| Toni & John Michels      | Nov. 3  |
| Ben & Darlene Yancey     | Nov. 8  |
| Jeremy & Renee Steibel   | Nov. 8  |
| Charles & Faye Birk      | Nov. 13 |
| Jeremy & Katie Ries      | Nov. 14 |
| Randy & Lynne Hicks      | Nov. 27 |
| Chris & Kristine Voelker | Nov. 30 |
| Levi & Jenny Wittenbrink | Nov. 30 |
| Jonathan & Amber Wolf    | Dec. 1  |
| Justin & Samantha Boman  | Dec. 15 |



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

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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)

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**Thought for the day**

**Today, just breathe. Have faith and hope and know everything is going to be fine.**

**God is in control.**

