



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

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MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's hard to believe the month of May is upon us already. Didn't we just celebrate our Easter Resurrection Service? Fear not! The month of May has liturgical celebra-tions, also. On May 20 is a large celebration, **PENTECOST**; the disciples and all of us receive the Holy Spirit. (See Acts 2:1-21) Don't forget to wear **red** to worship on that day.

Another liturgical celebration is on May 10, **ASCENSION DAY**. Unfortunately, May 10 is on a Thursday. Some churches celebrate it on May 13. However, that is also, Mother's Day and the baptism of Trenton Alexander Pickens, Sharon Banjavcic's first grandchild. I'm sure there is a way to combine all three of those wonderful events, but I'm not going to try.

Instead, I will use this newsletter opportunity to share some information about Ascension Day, when recognition is given to the event of Jesus returning to his Father in heaven. (See Luke 24:44:53.) This event is a very important one in the life of all Christians, so we need to pay attention to its significance.

The ascension of Jesus is one of the accepted doctrines of Christianity. The Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed all confess that Christ ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father. (This summary was written by Jack Zavada.)

Following the resurrection of Jesus, he appeared many times to his disciples. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus called his 11 apostles together on the Mount of Olives, outside Jerusalem. Still not completely understanding that Christ's messianic mission had been spiritual and not political, the disciples asked Jesus if he was going to restore the kingdom to Israel.

They were frustrated with Roman oppression and may have envisioned an overthrow of Rome. Jesus answered them:

“It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:7-8, NIV) Then Jesus was taken up, and a cloud hid him from their sight. At that, the disciples walked back to Jerusalem to the upstairs room where they had been staying and held a prayer meeting.

The ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven is recorded in: Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:36-53, Acts 1:6-12, and 1 Timothy 3:16.

Points of Interest from the Ascension of Jesus Bible Story. *In the Bible, a cloud is often the expression of God's power and glory, as in the book of Exodus, when a pillar of cloud guided the Jews in the desert.*

Earlier, Jesus had told the disciples that after he ascended, the Holy Spirit would come down upon them with power. At Pentecost, they received the Holy Spirit like tongues of fire. Today, every born-again believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who gives wisdom and power to live the Christian life.

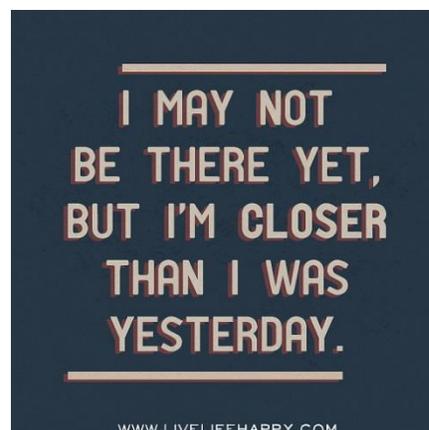
The command of Jesus to his followers was to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. The gospel first spread to the Jews, then to the Jewish/mixed race Samaritans, then to the Gentiles. Christians have a responsibility to spread the good news about Jesus to all who have not heard.

Jesus' mission on earth had been accomplished. He returned to heaven, where he had come from. He took on a human body and will forever remain both God and man in his glorified state.

I don't think there are any Hallmark cards to celebrate Ascension Day. Nonetheless, please celebrate part of our rich heritage from our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Rosemary Captain



AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Recently hospitalized

Carol Bulva

May Birthdays:

5/3	Susan Williams	5/16	Roger Fox
5/4	Jane Cohlmeier	5/17	Michael Schmitt
5/7	Jennifer Riess	5/18	Sharon Kistler
5/9	Larry Riess	5/21	Sharon Banjavcic
5/14	Ginny Ganschinietz	5/24	Urban Baum
5/15	Brian Ganschinietz	5/26	Polli Allen
		5/29	Anne Brown

Sunday School

Our Mission Possible project for April will be completed in May. We have quite a stockpile of fabrics and batting for dog beds at the Humane Society. Now we need to assemble them! We will have a **work day on Tuesday, May 22, starting at 9:00** – join us when you can. You do not need any special skills. We will be cutting the fabric and batting into strips and stuffing them into the “pillowcases” made from larger pieces of the fabric. Bring a scissors that will cut fabric and a rotary cutter, if you have it. With lots of help it won't take long!

We will have Sunday School each Sunday in May except for the first Sunday of the month, which we celebrate as family worship Sunday.

Our mission pennies for May will go for the camp scholarship fund to assist our campers.

NOTES AND THANK YOU'S

Thank you for dining at Houlihan's Restaurant on April 16 to raise money for St. John's Camp DuBois scholarship fund. The restaurant will be sending St. John a check for \$87.15. It was so good to see so many people from St. John dining when we were eating at the restaurant.

Thanks again! Sharon Banjavcic

Thanks to all who responded to my recent health problems. I so appreciate the cards, phone calls, and words of encouragement to get me through this "rough patch". Thanks to Pastor Rosemary for her visits to the hospital(s). Hopefully, there will be a solution for all this soon and I can get back to my old self! Love, Carol B.



If you were unable to attend my installation on April 15, below is my thank you to those who participated, the choirs of St. Paul UCC and St. John UCC, the two choir directors, and all of YOU. I was brimming with gratitude when

I gave this Benediction and blessing.

“I have an announcement. Thanksgiving Day has been moved to April 15. Instead of turkey and pumpkin pie, I have been feasting on the goodness in this room, and I am so grateful. I give thanks to my friends and colleagues for participating in this wonderful celebration of nourishment.

Thank you, Sharon our organist, who served scrumptious sounds from those pipes. With that beautiful prelude of my favorite hymn, you and Nancy whetted our appetites for more.

Thank you to our musicians directed by Nancy (Helmich) and Nancy (Eisenhauer). You encouraged the combined choir and all of us to make a joyful noise to the Lord. The visiting pastors offered this service authority and years of wisdom seasoned to perfection. Rev. Don Wagner gave us words of sustenance. Something we can all sink our teeth into.

What would Thanksgiving Day be without family? Thank you, my family for coming. (My daughter, Julie, and her daughter, Lucy. My son, Christopher, his wife, Leah, and their three children, Olivia, Noah, and Henry, plus my niece, Dawn Meyer.)

Thank you to all the members of St. John for inviting me into your house. Your hospitality is overwhelming. I am so blessed to have this opportunity to celebrate with you today and every Thanksgiving Day and all the time in-between.

And as at all Thanksgiving dinners, we should offer a prayer of gratitude to God who makes all things and all days possible.

As we leave this sanctuary, know you are always invited to join God’s table of goodness, even when the green bean casserole burns in the oven.

Our gracious and ever faithful God gives us the Son who will always make sure we are fed with his love, and the Holy Spirit who makes our hearts hungry for justice and mercy for all people. May your appetites be filled every day with the feast of God’s love and care. Amen.”

Choir

April was a busy month for choir. We sang on Easter and we joined the choir from St. Paul, Lebanon, to sing for Pastor's installation on the afternoon of April 15. We had lots of fun at the installation and it was truly a joyous celebration!

May brings Pentecost and the final anthem of our season. Think about joining us in the fall.



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

A few weeks ago, one of our scripture texts was from the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 4:8-12. John and Peter had just healed a man crippled from birth. The high priests and elders cornered them and asked, “By what power or in what name did you do this?” This is their response. (from the Common English Bible)

“⁸ Then Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, “Leaders of the people and elders, ⁹ are we being examined today because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? ¹⁰ If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone! ¹² Salvation can be found in no one else. Throughout the whole world, no other name has been given among humans through which we must be saved.”

So what does that mean, Jesus is the cornerstone? (from gotquestionsministries.com)

“In biblical times, a cornerstone was used as the foundation and standard upon which a building was constructed. Once in place, the rest of the building would conform to the angles and size of the cornerstone. In addition, if removed, the entire structure could collapse.

“In the Bible, messianic prophecies spoke of the Messiah as the Cornerstone. Isaiah 28:16 says, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a

stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation." Psalm 118:22 speaks of the Messiah, stating, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Matthew, Mark, and Luke record Jesus referring to this passage as finding its fulfillment in Him (Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17).

"Each Gospel indicates this teaching of Jesus occurred between Monday and Wednesday of the Passover week, while Jesus was in Jerusalem during the time between His triumphal entry (called Palm Sunday) and His crucifixion. Peter later used this passage to condemn the Jewish religious leaders, stating, "This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone" (Acts 4:11).

"The apostle Peter also spoke of Jesus as Cornerstone on two other occasions. In 1 Peter 2:6, he notes, "For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'"



"For those living in societies where people often built their own homes, using construction terminology to explain the priority of Jesus the Messiah as the Cornerstone of the household of God provided a clear connecting point that would have been well understood by the original audience. Today, we read these words and clearly see the Bible's indication that Jesus serves as the foundation of the Church as well as for each Christian's individual life."

Jesus is our rock, our refuge, and our cornerstone. Peace, Pastor Rosemary

OUR CHURCH WORKERS FOR MAY

USHERS

5/6 – Wayne Schlosser and Judy Schmitt
5/13 – Ginny Ganschinetz and grandson
5/20 – Rosemary Williams and Sue Ganschinetz
5/27 – Judy Hartmann and Vicki Hartmann

LITURGISTS

5/6 Sharon Banjavcic
5/13 Nancy Eisenhauer
5/20 Eric Moayer
5/27 Nancy Eisenhauer

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR MAY



**May 6 Acts 10:44-48
1 John 5:1-6**
**May 13 Acts 1:15-17, 21-
26**
1 John 5:9-13
May 20 *PENTECOST*
Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:22-27
May 27 Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
June 3 1 Samuel 3:1-20



MAY 20 IS PENTECOST
Wear your brightest red.

May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u> ● <u>8:45 am Bible Study</u> ● <u>Sunday Worship 10am</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> ● <u>7pm Church Council</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> ● <u>8:45 am Bible Study</u> ● <u>Sunday Worship 10am</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> ● <u>8:45 am Bible Study</u> ● <u>Sunday Worship 10am</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> ● <u>9am Mission Project Help</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u> ● <u>8:45 am Bible Study</u> ● <u>Sunday Worship 10am</u>	<u>28</u> ● <u>Church Office Closed for Memorial Day</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		