

**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 2021**

If we thought 2020 was a challenge for the church, 2021 wasn't much better. However, because of the resilience of the members of St. John UCC, the body of Christ has not only survived, but thrived.

This time last year we were still worshipping from home with the bulletins/scripture texts/messages sent out via mail or email. We were able to reopen our sanctuary on March 7 with restrictions for sitting, masking, and singing. Because of the creativity of Sharon Banjavcic and Nancy Eisenhauer, we were able to enjoy videos and musical performances during worship. I enjoyed the variety of church music and musicians we were able to bring to our small Midwest church.

The Church Council was able to continue meeting every month because of Zoom. Evening Circle met briefly after worship to conduct their business. Unfortunately, we still cannot have fellowship with deserts and coffee on communion Sundays. I look forward to the time it will be safe enough to do that. We continue to follow the guidance of the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, and the Illinois Department of Health to keep the congregation as safe as possible during these times of variants.

Once the pandemic began, pastors were no longer able to visit church members in the nursing homes and at the hospitals, so in-person pastoral care was impeded. Right now, phone calls are the best way to interact with each other.

In 2021 we unexpectedly lost two members of our congregation; Ruth Ogles and Jack Gammon. They will truly be missed for years to come.

Our Tuesday Evening Zoom Bible Study continued except for a few breaks. We have been "on hold" since my knee surgery in August, however we plan to restart soon.

I thank all of you for your patience during the times of my health issues. I will do my best to remain strong physically, mentally, and theologically in the next year. We end this year the same way we began; no in-person worship. Yet we know God will remain with us and hear our prayers wherever we are.

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor. Peace and blessings to all,

Pastor Rosemary Captain

## **President's Annual Report**

Worship services were suspended for the month of January and February due to the Covid-19 cases. Pastor Rosemary continues to send out weekly bulletins containing the sermon via US mail and email. The weekly sermons can also be found on the church website ([www.stjohnfairview.org](http://www.stjohnfairview.org)). In person worship services began on March 7.

Software Call Multiplier was purchased to use when contacting members about important updates from church. The software allows a text message or voice message be sent to members.

At the semi-annual congregational meeting, changes were approved to the Church Meeting and Council by-laws. The change to the Church Meeting by-law changed the frequency of meetings from three meetings per year to two meetings per year. The change to the Council by-law allows for meetings to be conducted remotely.

Lew Thomasino

### **Semi Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes June 13, 2021**

Twenty Members were present. President Lew Thomasino opened the meeting at 10:45.

Minutes from the January 31, 2021 Congregational meeting were not available. Those minutes will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Ginny Ganschietz presented the financial report. Ginny stated that the church is in good financial shape because income has outpaced expenses. Offerings for the first 5 months of the year have been very good. Pastor Rosemary has been doing a great job keeping expenses very low as well. Ginny told the group that the Payroll Protection Program loan has been forgiven so the church will not need to repay any money. The Payroll Protection Program funds were used to pay staff during the pandemic.

Sharon Banjavcic read the by-law changes and additions. There were no questions. Nancy Eisenhower made a motion to accept the changes to the church meeting frequency. The motion was second by Mary Lou Baum. Motion carried. The changes to the meeting frequency were as follows:

#### **11/11/2020 Proposed Additions and Changes to By-Laws**

##### **ARTICLE X. CHURCH MEETINGS**

##### **(Proposed change to By-Laws)**

**(Old)** 1. The meetings of this church shall consist of three meetings per year: January, April, and September. The January meeting is considered the annual meeting. Prior to this meeting, the Council, the officers of the church, the Pastor(s), and ... The April and September meetings are to consist of financial reports and the status of the church.

**(Change)** 1. The church shall have an annual meeting, mid-year meeting, and other meetings as deemed necessary. Prior to the annual meeting, the Council, the officers of the church, the Pastor(s), and ... The mid-year meeting will be conducted to discuss financial reports and the status of the church.

Tom Miller made a motion to accept the additional by-law that addresses the methods that may be used to hold church meetings. The motion was second by Anne Brown. Motion carried. The addition of the following language about how church meetings may be held was as follows:

**(Additions to By-Laws)**

3. If necessary and properly communicated to the Congregation of St. John UCC in Fairview Heights, all Congregational Business meetings may be conducted remotely by one (1) or more means of communication through which all voting Congregational members may participate and vote in the meeting if the number participating constitutes a quorum (10%).

Tom Miller made a motion to accept the additional by-laws that address the methods that may be used to hold other meetings or gatherings of the church. The motion was second by Sue Williams. Motion carried. The addition of the following language about how church meetings may be held was as follows:

**ARTICLE VII. COUNCIL**  
**(Proposed addition to By-Laws)**

11. Any meeting of a Council approved Committee may be conducted by one (1) or more means of remote communication through which all voting committee members may participate and vote.

12. Any meeting of the Church Council may be conducted by one (1) or more means of remote communication through which all voting Church Council members may participate and vote in the meeting if the number participating constitutes a quorum (4 members).

Jim Eisenhauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55. Urban Baum seconded. Motion passed.

Sharon Banjavcic, Secretary

**Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**  
**January 31, 2021**

Twenty-four members were present. President Lew Thomasino opened the meeting at 10:33 am via Zoom. Pastor Rosemary opened the meeting with a prayer.

Becky Riess and Chuck Kistler agreed to serve on the Church Council. Ginny Ganschinietz and Tom Miller agreed to remain on the Council for another term. Pastor Rosemary moved that Becky Riess and Chuck Kistler be elected by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from the January 26, 2020 Congregational meeting were accepted. Motion made by Sue Williams and seconded by Ginny Ganschietz. Motion passed unanimously.

Ginny Ganschietz presented the financial report. Tiffany Baldwin moved to accept the financial reports from last year and Carol Bulva seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Judy Schmitt asked if an end-of-year report for the investments could be distributed. Eileen Gammon asked what is the balance of the parking lot loan. Ginny Ganschietz said she would follow up with a report on each in the weekly bulletin. An audit of the books by Jim Eisenhauer and Sharon Banjavcic has found the documents to be in good order. The 2021 Budget was presented. Nancy Eisenhauer moved to accept the budget and Cheri Schutzenhofer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

By-law changes and additions were discussed by the group. There were no questions about the changes. The by-laws will be voted upon at the June church meeting. The changes and additions are as follows....

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(Additions to By-Laws)

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The Church Council members were installed by Pastor Rosemary.

Tiffany Baldwin moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55. Judy Hartmann seconded. Motion passed.

Sharon Banjavcic, Secretary

### **EVENING CIRCLE**

This year the Evening Circle met in March, May, September, October, November & December after worship due to COVID.

The officers met in June to decide how to distribute the proceeds from our fundraisers. The proceeds were given to the Parking Lot fund , KinderCottage, Hoyleton , Camp Dubois, Strengthen the Church and OCWM. We also donated funds from the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of masks made by Nancy Eisenhower to Dubois and Beacon of Belleville.

We met in September for election of officers. Eileen made envelopes for our regular donations and special envelopes for the Thank Offering and Christmas donations. We were able to meet in the for regular meetings.

In December we were able to hold our annual Christmas party and we did sponsor a child at KinderCottage for Christmas.

All ladies of the church are welcome to join us. We would love to see you there.

### **Food Pantry 2021 Recap**

St. John UCC once again did a wonderful job supporting the Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry. The congregation donated food items and money each Sunday Communion was served.

St. John donated over 800 food items and more than \$2,800 in cash. Other food and cash donations were sent directly to the food Pantry by St. John members.

The pantry served 772 families (2367 people) in 2021. There were 56 new families that sought food assistance. The number of Fairview Heights residents seeking help for food insecurity continues. Although the number of Fairview Heights residents in food crisis appears to be in decline, many neighbors continue to deal with food insecurity.

Thank you all for helping meet the needs of others.

Sue Ganschietz