

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 25, 2026

PASTOR'S REPORT for 2025

Sisters and brothers in faith,

Another year has passed and I have been privileged to worship with you in the sanctuary of St. John UCC in Fairview Heights. Being your pastor has been one of the highlights of my life. I can't imagine being anywhere else. We may be few in number, but our prayers are loud and clear to God.

I have enjoyed bringing the good news of the Gospel to you each Sunday. One of my goals is to make all of us comfortable with our Holy Bible. I want you to be able to receive the sacred words of Jesus and be informed, inspired, and comforted by his words. When events of the world seem too much to bear, God is with us and hears our prayers.

May God grant us many more years together. Peace be with you all.

Pastor Rosemary Captain

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

It has been my privilege to serve on the St. John UCC Council in 2025. Other Council members this year are Jan Miller – Vice President, Sharon Banjavcic – Secretary, Ginny Ganschinietz – Treasurer, Financial Secretary – Judy Schmitt, Assistant Financial Secretary – Russ Hartmann, Building and Grounds – Lew Thomasino.

Our finances and building are in good order. The hackberry tree that was outside the rear of the building has been removed. We feared that a storm would drive the tree into the wires outside the building or do damage to the building itself.

Lew Thomasino, building and grounds chair, researched and found a system for hearing assistance in the sanctuary. It should be installed soon.

The church is being frequently rented to the Hearts 'n' Hands Quilt Guild for meetings and workshops. This has created very little extra work for our custodians and has produced some income. By the way, the quilters love this building, as it has no steps. That makes for easy access for those who have trouble with steps. We also provide space for weekly meetings of AA. They make a monthly donation to the church.

We continue to support the larger church and related charities. This little church makes a difference! Nancy Eisenhauer, Council President

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES - January 25, 2026

14 Members Present

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2025

14 Members Present

President Nancy Eisenhauer opened the meeting at 11:00 am. Nancy recognized Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister, who was attending the meeting. Pastor Rosemary Captain opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes from the January 21, 2024 Congregational meeting and the June 23, 2024 Semi-Annual Congregational meeting were accepted. Motion made by Sue Williams and seconded by Eileen Gammon. Motion passed unanimously.

Ginny Ganschinetz presented the financial report. The income was greater than expenses for the year leaving a positive balance in the general account. Ginny stated that expenses for the year were not as high as expected. Several cost savings measures taken were the hiring of a lawn care service and money saved by switching insurance companies. Previously the lawn care was handled by the custodians but switching to a lawn service allowed St. John to save money.

The cost-of-living increase for the year was 2.5%. The pastor and organist were given a 2.5% raise. The church secretary was given a raise at the 1-year anniversary of her employment. The custodians will receive a raise at the 1-year anniversary of their employment. Ginny Ganschinetz proposed a budget for 2025. Judy Schmitt moved to accept the financial reports from last year and the 2025 budget. Eileen Gammon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. An audit of the books was completed by Jim Eisenhauer and Sharon Banjvcic.

Eileen Gammon asked when the church parking lot would be resurfaced. Nancy Eisenhauer said the job would be completed when person who volunteered to do the work has working equipment and has time to schedule the job.

Nancy Eisenhauer recognized the work done at the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. Sue Ganschinietz is the chairperson of this group. Ginny Ganschinietz helps at the Food Pantry.

Judy Schmitt has presented a Mission Moment one Sunday of each month for the past year. Through her efforts, St. John UCC raised over \$1,100 for the Justice 100 Campaign for the Open and Affirming Coalition. Judy Schmitt has another project for the congregation concerning issues relating to global warming. Members of St. John will make Valentines to be taken to local representatives to remind representatives of the need to continue clean energy tax credits.

The Council terms of Nancy Eisenhauer, Jan Miller, Ginny Ganschinietz, and Russ Hartmann have expired. All four individuals have agreed to serve on the Church Council for another 2-year term. Motion passed unanimously to elect all Church Council members.

Pastor Rosemary Captain led the group in saying The Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35. Sharon Banjavcic, Secretary

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES – June 22, 2025

June 22, 2025

14 Members Present

Council president, Nancy Eisenhauer, called the meeting to order at 10:54 and opened with a prayer.

Sharon Banjavcic distributed the minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025. A motion was made by Sue Williams and seconded by Mary Lou Baum to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Ginny Ganschinietz reviewed the financial report with the members. Ginny said that the financial picture of the church is good but reminded members to continue giving to the General Fund, Building Fund, and Parking Lot Fund.

Lew Thomasino reported that the church outside cleaning day went well. Lew is getting bids for the removal of the hackberry tree in back of the church office area. Lew is also getting bids for the parking lot work.

Ginny Ganschinietz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Judy Schmitt seconded the motion. Nancy Eisenhauer led the group in “The Lord’s Prayer”. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03.

Sharon Banjavcic, Secretary

CIRCLE

The Circle meets on the 2 Sunday of the month after worship from October through April.

In February we signed Valentines to be given to Seniors through the PSOP also for our shut ins.

In March Eileen and Carol decorated jars and filled them with inspirational sayings. Everyone who received a jar made a donation when they were finished with the jars.

In April we distributed money from our fundraisers to: Fairview Heights Food Pantry, Kindercottage, Hoyleton, DuBois, OCWM and the parking lot fund.

We met in October for election of officers. Eileen made envelopes for our regular donations and special envelopes for the Thank Offering and Christmas donations This year we gave special offerings for OCWM and the Fairview Heights Food Pantry.

At our November meeting we had a Thank Offering for OCWM.

In December we signed Christmas cards to be delivered to Seniors at Grand Manor and 2 other assisted living apartments. Carol also donated wrapped gifts and made jars of candy to be distributed. We also held a cookie bring and buy event again this year. We had a special offering for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry.

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

2025 PENNIES FOR MISSION

Mission Name	Month of Collection	Collected Amount
Dubois Camp	\$ 81.13	January
Fairview Hgts Food Pantry	\$ 105.97	February
One Great Hour	\$ 356.74	March
Kinder Cottage	\$ 110.40	April
Strengthen the Church	\$ 181.90	May
Emmaus Homes and Ministries	\$ 129.75	June
Hoyleton Ministries	\$ 61.64	July
O C W M	\$ 298.47	August
Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministries	\$ 177.69	September
Neighbors in Need	\$ 261.27	October
Open & Affirming Coalition	\$ 675.00	November
Christmas Fund	\$ 461.49	December
TOTAL DONATION	\$2,901.45	

ST. JOHN CHOIR

The choir sings once a month, generally. Our season runs from October through Pentecost. In addition to members of the church, we pay a few singers to fill out our choir through a special projects fund. Nancy Eisenhauer, Choir Director

2025 FOOD PANTRY RECAP

2025 was a year full of challenges for people dealing with food insecurity. The giving spirit of St. John United Church of Christ continued to help our neighbors in need throughout the rough times of 2025. On communion Sundays 918 food items graced the altar. Cash donations of \$2320 were made.

The Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry served 1156 families. That equals 3626 people 106 new families reached out to the pantry to meet their food needs.

Thank you all for helping ease the food insecurity of others.