



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

The Pastor's Ponderings . . .

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As the temperature cools down this time of year, many people enjoy walking outside to view the changing colors of the leaves. Some people walk all year-round in order to stay fit. I recently read an article about "Forgiveness Fitness" published in the journal of Homiletics for September and October. I was intrigued by the title.

The article is reflecting on the Gospel text we heard during worship on September 17, 2017 from Matthew 18:21-35. "21 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?'" Jesus answers that we should forgive others as God forgives us, which is a lot. Not just a lot. God always forgives if we are truly sorry. But for humans, that is a tough act to follow.

So, what is "Forgiveness Fitness"? Bob Kaylor, the author of the article, compares physical fitness with spiritual fitness. Studies have found that physical fitness-goal success is increased by 30 percent when you have a Personal Trainer. Mr. Kaylor suggests that we might have more success with our forgiveness-goal success if we have a Personal Trainer.

Who could be our Personal Forgiveness Trainer? Of course, mentors, pastors, and trusted friends could fall into this category. Yet who could be a better personal trainer than Jesus, a trainer who specializes in forgiveness fitness?

Mr. Kaylor writes, "Jesus wants us to get stronger and healthier by making the decision to forgive, and then turning that choice into a process. Jesus acts as our forgiveness trainer, challenging us to make that choice repeatedly until it becomes a part of who we are," just as our bodies get stronger when we make physical exercise a choice we make repeatedly.

Another point about physical fitness success is having a buddy or a group of people to exercise with. The same thing can be said about "forgiveness fitness." Your faith family at St. John can be your "forgiveness partners", as we trek together on our faith formation journey. Consider joining us every Sunday at 10 am.

Peace and blessings in your efforts, Pastor Rosemary Captain

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Recently hospitalized:

Brandi Huffmann Wayne Schlosser, LaVerne Kistler, Dennis Ford, Ginny Ganschinietz

November Birthdays:

11/11 Darleen Bax	11/17 Jessica Riess
11/11 Jackie Canterbury	11/22 Ellen Taylor
11/12 Cassie Myers	11/27 Steve Banjavcic
11/12 Ed Myers	11/27 Chris Brown
11/13 Sue Sharp	11/29 Chris Arbeiter
11/15 Jim Eisenhauer	

November Anniversaries:

11/4 Sharon & Don Krieg #56
11/7 Jeanette & Gene Brown #58

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Did you know that you can give to St John online? Not very many people do. Online giving is an easy and painless process. The money comes right out of your checking account and it is easy to set up. The instructions for giving are on our website and are easy to follow. You can give automatically each week or once a month. It is great if you are going to be away for an extended period of time or if you just tend to forget to write a check each week. Even when we are not here the work of the church goes on and the bills must be paid. I have been using it for quite a while now and find it really convenient. If you are comfortable with computers just visit the St. John website to get started. If you're not sure how to get started just ask for help and someone can help you get set up.

We are coming to that time of year where we are looking to fill council spots for next year. We are going to have 3 members leaving in January and need to have replacements. If you are interested in being on the council please see me or any council member.

Susan Williams

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle is busy making plans for the rest of 2017. Our November meeting will be Monday the 20th and our Thankoffering will be donated to OCWM. I'm sure that Carol and

Eileen will have a fun game or craft for us. Our annual Bale Sale will be held Dec.10th so start looking through those recipes for something good to bring. As we do every year we will be sponsoring a child from KinderCottage, it's always so much fun to shop for the little ones. The Evening Circle meets the third Monday of the month. Hope to see you in November!

NOTES AND THANK YOU'S

I would like to thank everyone for celebrating my big birthday with me and Dorothy in September. I enjoyed reading all the cards and well wishes.

Thanks again, Barb Moran

Thank you so much for thinking of the needy in our area by providing fresh produce from the Farmers Market all through the summer months. Thank you also for the check for \$1500 that we received at the Fairview Heights City Council meeting on October 17th. The Food Pantry board is overwhelmed with the generosity of your congregation. It was very clear that your congregation is devoted to helping the less fortunate. We can never adequately thank you for all that you do for us. You are making the lives of many of our clients a little less desperate. Please accept our thanks and gratitude to each and every person in your congregation.

Sincerely, Jo Ann Nadler, Fairview Heights Food Pantry Board

Thank you to Pastor Rosemary for her prayers and visits and to my church family for your prayers and cards.

I hope to be home on Sunday, Ginny Ganschinietz

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Pennies for Mission for November will be for Belleville Christian Center.

Sunday School: Missions Possible

The theme for this Sunday School year is "Missions Possible". We are working on a different mission each month.

For the month of October, we asked the children and their families to bring items to church that we could put into "Birthday Bags" for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. We will be able to assemble at least 10 bags this coming Sunday in Sunday School. The bags include cake mix, frosting, candles, crepe paper, plates, napkins a gift card to Dollar General and other party items. The volunteers at the Food Pantry will give those out as they see fit. **The mission for October was possible!**

The children also learned about the 10 Commandments. Did you know that the commandments are usually divided into two groups: those about God and those relating to other people? Can you name some in each category?

Here is the **November mission**: to provide foods to others for their Thanksgiving dinner. On the first Sunday of the month, November 5, please include some items for Thanksgiving dinner along with your food pantry donations. Suggested items are:

- ⑩ canned cranberry sauce
- ⑩ canned yams
- ⑩ canned creamed corn
- ⑩ dressing mix
- ⑩ Jello mix
- ⑩ pudding mix
- ⑩ pumpkin pie mix

Other churches and groups will provide additional items for the dinners.

Also, on that day, we will have the opportunity to see the Food Pantry in its new location, city hall. **Sue Ganschietz will take us on a tour of the pantry after church and fellowship.** We will bring all of our items and help shelve them. This is a great way to see how the pantry works to nourish families. As Jesus himself said, "Feed my sheep." It is important that the kids, and all of us "do church" as well as come to church.

Remember, Food Pantry items are welcome any Sunday of the month, not just the first Sunday.

Christian Education Conference

On October 17 – 19, Pastor Rosemary and Nancy Eisenhower attended the GLAUCE (Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators) conference in Pokagon (yes, I want to say Pokemon, too) State Park in northeast Indiana. In addition to the beautiful setting that evoked quiet meditation, we learned about programs in other UCC churches, both large and small. We need some time to digest all that we learned, but hope to bring some new ideas to St. John.

Choir Notes

We are looking forward to Advent and Christmas. A great way to celebrate the season would be to sing in choir. Come and join us!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Blessed is the one who digs a well from which another may draw faith

November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<u>5</u> ● <u>Worship at 10 a.m. with Holy Communion with fellowship time after worship.</u> ● <u>Time change - fall back.</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> ● <u>Boy Scout meeting.</u>	<u>8</u> ● <u>Church Council Meeting 7 pm.</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> ● <u>Sunday Worship 10 a.m.</u> ● <u>Anniversary for ONA.</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> ● <u>Boy Scout meeting.</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> ● <u>Sunday Worship 10 a.m.</u>	<u>20</u> ● <u>Evening Circle Meeting 7 pm.</u>	<u>21</u> ● <u>Boy Scout meeting.</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> ● <u>Happy Thanksgiving.</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u> ● <u>Sunday Worship 10 a.m. including Totenfest.</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> ● <u>Boy Scout meeting.</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>		

OUR CHURCH WORKERS FOR NOVEMBER

USHERS

11/5 Lew and Silas Thomasino
11/ 12: Jane Cohlmeier and Brenna Cohlmeier
11/19: Sue Williams and Rich Williams
11/26: Sue Ganschinietz and Tyler Underwood

LITURGIST

11/5 Barb Whitaker
11/12
11/19 Jim Turnbull
11/26 Jan Miller



LITURGICAL READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 2, 2017 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

NOVEMBER 12, 2017 Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

NOVEMBER 19, 2017 Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

NOVEMBER 26, 2017 Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23