



DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Secretary Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri. 9am – 3 pm

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I believe that most of the trees, if not all, have lost their pretty leaves which now coat our lawns with cover to protect the grass from the snow. Because those trees look a little bare during these days of clouds and gray, some people decorate these trees with lights and color for Christmas. Those trees bring a little sparkle to our dim and gloomy days during the winter.

Yet, there are some trees that never lose their leaves and never lose their color. You guessed it. They are called **Evergreens**. I believe the name is perfect in many ways because it reminds me that God is with us always.

When other trees may seem to die in the winter, God created **evergreens** to give us the message that God never dies and neither does his Son, Jesus. Whenever I see an evergreen tree, it tells me that there is always (ever) hope for all of us in this world.



This time of year, many people bring evergreen trees into their homes to bring that sign of hope closer to their hearts. We put beautiful decorations on the tree to make it sparkle even more. I call those decorations, **memories**. You know what I mean. We have an ornament that our child or niece or nephew made in kindergarten. We have an ornament from a trip we took once. We might have one that says “Baby’s First Christmas”, or “First Christmas Married” or “Happy Birthday”. Sometimes we receive an ornament from the church we attend. It could be from a Girl Scout or Boy Scout project. They are all beautiful memories in our lives.



My favorite is what sits on top of our Christmas trees; it’s a messenger from God, an angel, who tells us, again, to remember the most important thing. We are celebrating God’s Son Jesus. Without him, we’d have no memories at all.

Peace and God’s richest blessings to you and your family this holiday season,
Pastor Rosemary

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

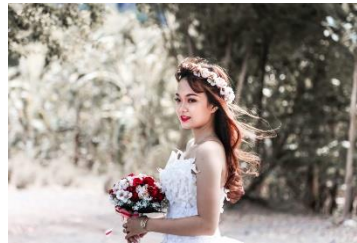


DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

12/3	Rosemary Williams	12/14	Jakob Arbeiter
12/3	Gene Ganschinietz	12/15	Aaron Drake
12/6	Abbey Coilmeyer	12/16	Becky Ballard
12/6	Wyatt Vance	12/20	Emily Whitaker
12/14	Barron Arbeiter	12/30	Pat Bregen

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

12/1 Carol & Terry Randle # 53
12/12 Eileen & Jack Gammon # 49
12/19 Nancy & Jim Eisenhower # 49



PRAYER LIST: the Petroff Family, Dave Seneczyn, Roger Fox, Eric White, Amy Arthur, Lori Riess, Charles Chamberlin, Donna Isselhard, Mitch Nallie, Becky Ballard, Candy Pearce, Greg Talley, Carol Meyer, Leah Williams, Pat Holtgrave, Jane Riess, DeAnne Weiss, Luz Captain, Rich Schmitt, Les Sattery, Pastor Rosemary, Jacquie Mantle, Karen Scherer

PRAYERS during his deployment, AIC Gabriel Alvarez.



SHUT – INS: Darleen Bax, Terry Kissel, Ardella Morris, Alice Stidham, and Jacque Mantle

CONDOLENCES: Our condolences to Tiffany, Lew, Silas and Gemma on the loss of Tiffany's mother, Seda Baldwin on November 12.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED:

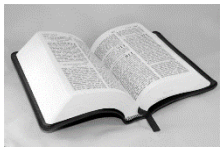


Pastor Rosemary & Jacquie Mantle

WORSHIP LEADERS

USHERS:

- 12/ 1 – Lew Thomasino and Judy Schmitt
- 12/ 8 – Urban and Mary Lou Baum
- 12/ 15 – Carol Bulva and Chuck Kistler
- 12/ 22 –Tom and Jan Miller
- 12/ 24 – (4 ushers) The Ganschinetz Family
- 12/ 29 – Sue Williams and Cheri Schutzenhofer



LITURGISTS AND READINGS:

12/1	Lew Thomasino	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13: 11-14
12/8	Eileen Gammon	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13
12/15	Members of the Adult Sunday School Class	Christmas Program	
12/22	Jan Miller	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7
12/24	Ginny Ganschinetz	Isaiah 9:2-7	Titus 2:11-14
12/29	Sharon Banjavcic	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-14

WOMENS' EVENING CIRCLE:

The Evening Circle met Monday, November 18th. We had a presentation by **Alina**, the foreign exchange student that is staying with Lew and Tiffany. Her presentation was very interesting and we all learned about her homeland Armenia, a country we are not very familiar with.

If you have purchased a present for the child we are sponsoring at Kinder Cottage, the gifts need to be at church by Dec. 1st. If you would like to donate a gift or money, see the notice on the Mission Bulletin Board.

Our annual Bake Sale will be Sunday, Dec. 8, so get busy baking and bring your sweet tooth with you on the 8th.

The Circle's Christmas party will be Monday, December 16th and a special offering will be taken for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. Everyone with bring a sweet or savory snack to share and I'm sure Carol and Eileen will have some fun games for us.

The Evening Circle meets the **third Monday of the month** and all ladies of St. John are welcome. Hope to see you all December 16th.





Just to reiterate: We will be having our Bake Sale again this year. All baked goodies are welcomed. **BAKE SALE will be DECEMBER 8th** after worship.



CHOIR NOTES

December means Advent and Christmas season. That means **music!** The Choir is already working on some beautiful music for the season. There will be special music on most Advent Sundays and, of course, on Christmas Eve. As always, we try to think of ways to put a new spin on traditions. Stay tuned and see what we are up to! Or better – join us! As always, you are welcome in choir. Talk to Nancy!

Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 7:00 p.m.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

As is our tradition, we will decorate the church after worship on **Sunday, December 1**. We will have a pizza lunch for those staying to decorate. The more help we have, the shorter the time spent. Please stay and help!

Also on **DECEMBER 1, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS FOOD PANTRY**, as we do the first Sunday of every month. Their supplies are down from last year, even with the Scouting for Food campaign. There is much need, so be generous.



Feeding the Community

PENNIES FOR MISSION

December pennies will be going to the **food pantry**.



ALUMINUM RECYCLING

Sunday, December 8 will be recycling day. The Baum's will have their truck near the back door. Let's try to fill it!



Everybody **CAN** help with this collection for the church.



The parking lot is done and the bill of \$11,784 has been paid. To date we have received donations towards the parking lot of \$2,345, leaving a balance due ourselves \$9,439. Please continue to remember the parking lot. Please also continue to think about increasing your general giving if it is possible. **Our bills continue to out distance our offerings.**



SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

December 15 is the Sunday set aside for the Sunday School program. It is something new, yet old. To find the answer to that riddle, join us on Sunday, December 15, for worship! **THERE'S A BIG SURPRISE. DON'T MISS IT!!!**



IT'S A WINNER!!

Nancy is happy to announce that her quilt, "**Genesis: In the Beginning Was Color**", has been juried into the group of 18 finalists for the "New Quilts From an Old Favorite" international contest! It will be on display this spring in the National Quilt Museum in Paducah for about 10 weeks and then will tour for a year and a half. Each quilt is a baby of Nancy's and as any mother knows, "we are so happy when they do well. The work is worth it."



The Church Office will be closed
**TUESDAY DECEMBER 24, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER
25,
AND THURSDAY DECEMBER 26**

December

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Followed by decorating the church	2 Office Hours 9am-3pm	3 Boy Scout meeting	4 Office Hours 9am-3pm	5	6 Office Hours 9am-3pm	7
8 Worship at 10 am Followed by bake sale after worship ALUMINUM RECYCLING	9 Office Hours 9am-3pm	10 Boy Scout meeting	11 Church Council 6 pm Office Hours 9am-3pm	12	13 Office Hours 9am-3pm	14
15 Worship at 10 am with Sunday School Children's program	16 Evening Circle meeting 7 pm Office Hours 9am-3pm	17 Boy Scout meeting	18 Office Hours 9am-3pm	19	20 Office Hours 9am-3pm	21
22 Worship at 10 am	23 Office Hours 9am-3pm	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27 Office Hours 9am-3pm	28
29 Worship at 10 am	30 Office Hours 9am-3pm	31				