



MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Pastor Rosemary Captain

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HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OF YOU!!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

HE HAS RISEN!! HE HAS RISEN INDEED!

We had a wonderful celebration on Easter Morning. The lilies were beautiful. All the banners were lovely, as was the altar with the new candle holders in memory of Edgar Warning's 100th Birthday. The choir was in perfect voice. Stacie's flute was melodic, and Sharon's keyboard skills were on full display on the organ. Thank you to Carol Bulva, Sue Williams, Nancy Eisenhauer, and all others who helped decorate the sanctuary. **What an inspiring way to welcome the risen Christ into our midst?**

The lectionary Bible Texts now continue the story of Jesus' appearance to the disciples and his last instructions and inspiration to them to continue what Jesus himself started. Many of our texts move to the Book of Acts as we read how the followers of Jesus answer the commission. Some would say it was the beginning of our Christian church.

However, the first recorded use of the term "christian" (or its cognates in other languages) is in the New Testament, in **Acts 11:26**, after Barnabas brought Saul (Paul) to Antioch where they taught the disciples for about a year, the text says: "the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

Yet there is some controversy about that. Scholar Kenneth Samuel Wuest holds that all original New Testament verses' usages reflect a derisive element in the term Christian to refer to followers of Christ who did not acknowledge the emperor of Rome. The city of Antioch, where someone gave them the name Christians, had a reputation for coming up with such nicknames. Interesting. Plus, the fact that the New Testament was first written in Greek and there is no word in Greek that can translate to "christian." The followers of Jesus were simply called "believers" and their "church" was called "the way."

Now it is our turn. As followers of Jesus, how do we nurture and strengthen our belief while answering the call from Jesus to continue his work of teaching, healing, and compassion?

Peace on your journey. Pastor Rosemary

GIRLS HYGIENE KITS TO PERU - UPDATE



**LOOK WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISHED!!
YOUR GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED!!**



**The Nurses who
delivered them a few days after
Easter.**

**New life to the girls who no longer
have to miss school during that
“time of the month”
Their “stone is rolled away.”**

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



May Birthdays:

5/3	Sue Williams	5/17	Michael Schmitt
5/4	Jane Cohlmeier	5/18	Sharon Kistler
5/7	Jennifer Riess	5/21	Sharon Banjavcic
5/9	Larry Riess	5/24	Urban Baum
5/14	Ginny Ganschinietz	5/25	Bob Puckett
5/15	Brian Ganschinietz	5/26	Polli Allen
5/16	Roger Fox	5/29	Anne Brown

Condolences: to the family of Hap Horner. His visitation and service were April 6.
Also condolences to Clay Harris and family on the loss of Clay's brother.

Prayer List: Tom Petroff, Dave Seneczyn, Roger Fox, Eric White, Gary Carr,
Ed McLaughlin, Amy Arthur, Lori Riess

Shut – Ins: Darleen Bax, Terry Kissel, Ardella Morris, Alice Stidham, and Jacque Mantle.

NOTES AND THANK YOU'S

Thank you to our friends at St. John for all the cards, prayers, and visits during Don's illness.

The Akridge Family



Thank you to Becky Reiss and the entire Christian Education Team and volunteer helpers for a delicious pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday. All of you are blessings to our church in many ways. Pastor R.

ARE THERE GRADUATES IN YOUR FAMILY?

Call the office and let Judy know who, what, and where so we can include them in the June newsletter.





NEW LIGHTS IN THE BUILDING!!

On Tuesday, April 23, Jarvis Electric came to St. John and replaced all the fluorescent lights in the Church offices, Fellowship Hall, and Sunday School rooms. We were notified Monday afternoon that the electricians would be at church the following day. On short notice the faithful of St. John responded to an email plea to come and wash light fixture covers. In all 60 covers were washed!! A "BIG THANK YOU" to Sharon Banjavcic, Sue Ganschinetz, Shari Hamilton, Yvonne Weber, Jack Gammon, and Jan Miller for your help!! Stop by and see the improved lighting!

Tom Miller, Church Council Building and Grounds

A REQUEST FROM CAMP DUBOIS

Odds and Ends Needed



DUBOIS NEEDS:

- **Pool Cues:** Ours are old and in disrepair. We have a table in the game room that is used by weekend guests and during inclement weather.
- **Puzzle Pieces:** If you have old puzzles with missing pieces of any size, we can put them to good use. They are fun additions to our stash of craft supplies. With a summer camp theme of "Peace Works" - the possibilities are almost endless.
- **Scrabble Letters, Buttons & Ribbon:** More great additions to our Craft Grotto!
- **Glass Jars or Containers:** We are looking for ones that are 16 ounces or smaller for a variety of projects.

Items may be delivered to DuBois Center or the Illinois South Conference office in Highland. If this doesn't work for you, contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 to make other arrangements.

**IF YOU HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE,
BRING THEM TO CHURCH AND LET PASTOR ROSEMARY KNOW
BY THE WAY, DUBOIS BOOKLETS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

PENNIES FOR MISSION: for the month of May the pennies will go to our Camp Scholarship fund.

Pennies for April went to Food Pantry and totaled \$141.23.



CHOIR NOTES

Thank you to all who joined in the wonderful music during Holy Week. Nancy was our pianist Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Kim Christ shared her voice with us on Maundy Thursday. Sharon, Stacie, Ann and the entire choir made Easter morning even more uplifting with their musical talents. There is no music as joyful as Easter music! St. John is blessed to have so many talented musicians.



SLEEPING MATS FOR THE HOMELESS

There is always a need. We were able to make over 200 kits for young women in Peru. This time the need is more local – sleeping mats for the homeless made from plastic shopping bags. We have a lot of plastic bags at church. There are three different jobs that need to be done:

1. The bags need to be folded and cut into strips.
2. The strips need to be joined into a continuous piece of plastic for crocheting.
3. The mats need to be crocheted using only a chain stitch and single crochet. You will need a crochet hook, size N, or something close.



Instructions for making the mats can be found on Youtube and many websites.

Here is a sample pattern:

1. Flatten the plastic bag and straighten any of the bags creases. Keep folding bag vertically (from left edge to right edge) until the fold is approx. 1 inch wide.
2. Cut off the top handles and the bottom seam. (Put unused scraps in a bag to recycle at grocery store drop-off).

3. From top to bottom of folded bag, cut 1 1/2 inch strips across vertically (left to right). Each strip should be a loop when opened up. (If any strip has an opened end, tie a very small knot to make it a loop).
4. Hook the loops together with a basic "larks head knot". This is done by overlapping two of the loops end-to-end, then pulling the top of one end through the middle intersection of the two loops. Repeat this step.
5. Roll the looped strips into a ball of "plarn".
6. Using size N crochet hook, or something close, crochet 60 chain stitches (approx. 3 ft wide). Continue to crochet rows of single crochet stitch until the sleeping mat is approximately 6 feet long and 3 feet wide.
7. Crochet a chain stitch of plarn long enough to attach to one end and tie up the rolled mat. This serves as a carrying handle.

OUR CHURCH MINISTERS FOR MAY

USHERS:

- May 5 – Wayne Schlosser and Sue Ganschinietz
 May 12 – Lew Thomasino and Sue Williams
 May 19 – Ginny Ganschinietz and Chuck Kistler
 May 26 – Judy and Vicki Hartmann

LITURGISTS AND READINGS:

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5/5 | Wayne Schlosser | - Acts 9:1-20 | Revelation 5:11-14 |
| 5/12 | None required | - Mother's Day | Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 |
| 5/19 | Ginny Ganschinietz | - Acts 11:1-18 | Revelation 21:1-6 |
| 5/26 | Sue Williams | - Acts 16:9-15 | Revelation 21:1-10, 22:1-5 |
| 6/2 | TBA | - Ascension Day | Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23 |



SEEKING THE CURIOUS, WONDERING, OR SEARCHERS

Part of my calling as your Pastor is teaching. I certainly **do not** know everything about our faith, church history, Bible study, or what it means to be a member of the United Church of Christ. However, I **DO** enjoy learning about those topics with others. If you ever feel curious enough to learn more, **let's get together**. Some of us never had the opportunity to learn **anything** about the Bible. The Bible appears to be a big confusing book about a time long ago with words I don't understand and names that are impossible to pronounce. **I get that**. But I have books that are short and sweet reads to fill in those gaps. **Let's read them together**.

How about the subject of the UCC? Would you like to learn more? As a matter of fact, in this newsletter I am going to print a list of "What We Believe" in the UCC. Our denomination is one of a hand full that **DO NOT REQUIRE ANY CREEDS, DOGMA, OR DOCTRINES** to be a member. Despite those of us who came through confirmation when it was still the Evangelical and Reformed Church and we had to memorize our catechism book, that is no longer required to become a member in the UCC. **The only thing required is the belief in Jesus Christ and be willing to strive to follow his ways.**



Are you curious to learn more now? Let's talk about when we could get together. I certainly enjoyed our Lenten Study. Perhaps we could continue that practice. Or maybe Sundays or Saturdays work better for you. **We adults could have our own "confirmation" class** or maybe **Christians Under Construction**.

ANYONE CURIOUS?? LET'S TALK ABOUT IT. Pastor R.

What We Believe in the UCC

We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who – no matter what – no matter where we are on life's journey – notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed – we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized – past, present and future – are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized – and we promise that we won't take it back – no matter where your journey leads you.

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' – our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials–unity, in nonessentials–diversity, in all things–charity," These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking, ...

May

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Followed by Fellowship Time	6	7	8 Church Council Meeting 7 p.m.	9	10	11
12 Worship 10 am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship 10 am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 10 am	27 Memorial Day – Church office closed	28	29	30	31	