

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

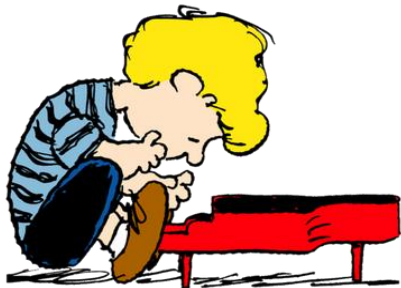
10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

618-397-6323

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

email: stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.com

Pastor Rosemary Captain



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



If you love music as much as Schroeder and I do, you are in for a treat during our Sunday worship services in October. Beginning with World Communion Sunday **October 6**, we will have Ukuleles transport us to Polynesia as we sing some favorite hymns and celebrate communion with churches around the globe.



On **October 13** the ladies of the choir will be joined by some friends to sing the Gospel story of the day.



The “Humble Servants”, a local Gospel Group, will lead us in worship with Southern and traditional gospel music. This worship service on **October 20**, is not to be missed!

And on **October 27**, our very own St. John Choir will finish the month with an anthem for Reformation Sunday.

There is something about music and church that go together like salt and pepper. I learned theology by sitting next to my mother in church learning how to sing hymns. As I have matured, those hymns continue to speak to me with their words of praise, prayer, lament, confession, forgiveness, assurance, and all the other emotions that come to us as we strive to live as disciples of Christ Jesus. The music, hymns, and songs of our faith give us the strength to continue that journey.

Has music always been part of the worship of God? According to our sacred scriptures, yes. In Genesis timbrels and harps are introduced. In 1 Chronicles 6:32 it reads, “they ministered with music before the tabernacle” and in 1 Chronicles 25:1, the ministry of prophesying was accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals. **If music was important in ancient times, its importance has only increased since then.** Join us in the melodies and harmonies of our faith.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Rosemary

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

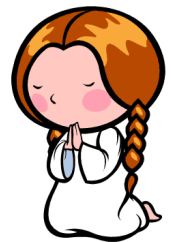
10/1	Janice Petroff	10/23	Doris Stewart
10/15	Lew Thomasino	10/25	Caitlin Turnbull
10/15	Gemma Thomasino	10/27	Terry Randle
10/18	Pastor Rosemary	10/27	Morgan Myers
10/20	Cole Underwood	10/20	John Arbeiter
10/21	Silas Thomasino	10/28	Melinda Stidham
10/22	Gary Warning	10/29	Russ Hartmann
		10/30	Chuck Kistler

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

10/15 Melinda & Mike Stidham # 8
10/20 Becky & Larry Riess # 29
10/20 Chris & John Arbeiter # 18
10/22 Judy & Rich Schmitt # 42



PRAYER LIST: The Petroff Family, Roger Fox, Ed McLaughlin, Lori Riess, Trenton Pickens, Charles Chamberlin, Donna Isselhard, Becky Ballard, Mary Ellen Akridge,, Charlie Ramos, Pat Holtgrave, Jan Miller, Jane Riess, Allen Pickens, Christina Hardin-Weiss



Prayer

*How to do nothing
and still think you're helping*

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

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED: Pat Holtgrave, Christina Hardin-Weiss

CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYNE SCHLOSSER for receiving the Pilgrim Degree, the Highest Degree of the Loyal Order of Moose.

THANK YOU: to Tami and Bill Hughes for their donation of the new solar lights that are lighting our outdoor crosses.



WORSHIP LEADERS

USHERS:

- 10/6 – Lew Thomasino and Sue Williams
- 10/13 - Ginny Ganschinietz and Sue Ganschinietz
- 10/20 - Wayne Schlosser and Cheri Schutzenhofer
- 10/27 - Tom and Jan Miller



LITURGISTS AND READINGS:

10/6	Sharon Banjavcic	Lamentations 1:1-6	2 Timothy 1:1-14
10/13	Ginny Ganschinietz	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	2 Timothy 2:8-15
10/20	Wayne Schlosser	Jeremiah 31:27-34	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
10/27	Jan Miller	Joel 2:23-32	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18



PENNIES FOR MISSION: the month of October will go to the Noisy Offering at Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting. The money will be used for the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries.

WOMENS' EVENING CIRCLE:

The Evening Circle had its first meeting of the year Monday, September 16th. We had the election of officers - Eileen Gammon and Carol Bulva are co-chairs, Sue Williams is Secretary and Judy Hartmann is Treasurer. We made plans for the coming year - sending Christmas cards to shut-ins, our annual bake sale in December and making sub sandwiches and turtles in January. After the meeting the ladies worked on a craft project you will see on the altar later this fall.



The Evening Circle meets the third Monday of the month and all ladies of St. John are welcome. Hope to see you on October 21st!



GIVE A HAND MINISTRY:

Give a Hand Ministry is a group from Trinity UCC in Belleville that ministers to people in the area by providing a meal, worship service, and clothing give-away on the first Saturday of each month. At our last Region 9 meeting we decided to help Give a Hand Ministry on Saturday, November 2. We are looking forward to this opportunity.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING: will be held Saturday, October 26 at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine. Delegates from St. John are Sharon Banjavcic and Nancy Eisenhauer who are also Co-Conveners of Region 9 Churches. Pastor Rosemary Captain will also be attending.



Offerings for this meeting include a Noisy Offering to be given to the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries. This money will come from our October Pennies for Mission. A second special offering taken at this meeting will go to the ministry of UniPres Kinder Cottage in East St. Louis. If you would like to donate to this cause, please place your donation in an envelope and mark it Kindercottage. Thank you.

PRAISE GOD WITH MUSIC!

During October there will be special music each Sunday!
Join us to praise God in song!



October 6 – World Communion Sunday Ukuleles will transport us to Polynesia as we sing some favorite hymns and celebrate communion with churches around the globe.

October 13 – SSA choir The ladies of the choir will be joined by some friends to sing the Gospel story of the day.

October 20 – Humble Servants This group will lead us in worship with Southern and traditional gospel music. Not to be missed!

October 27 – St. John Choir Our own choir will finish the month with an anthem for Reformation Sunday.

Thank you, Nancy Eisenhauer, for bringing music to our services.

MORE MUSIC: If you enjoy Gospel Music, **THE ISAACS** will be in concert at St. Paul UCC in Waterloo on **October 27** at 6 pm. This quartet has won 7 Dove awards and has been nominated for several Grammy awards. For ticket information go to www.stpaulonline.org

BEFORE THE SHOW: or just after our worship service, on October 27 go to St. Paul UCC in Lebanon for their Annual Wursmarkt All-You-Care-to-Eat Sausage Dinner. 11 am – 3 pm. Dinner includes real mashed potatoes, vegetables, sauerkraut, applesauce, and homemade pies.



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

During a recent Adult Sunday School class at St. John UCC, the question was brought up; “who actually wrote the Bible? When did they write it and how long after the events was it written?” Additionally, why is it important to consider the answers to these questions when we study scripture. To tackle these questions, I searched for a book that might help.

Richard Elliot Friedman has written a book concerning these queries in “Who Wrote the Bible?” published by Simon & Schuster and in its third printing. Dr. Friedman begins his book by answering our last question; why is this important. Following is an excerpt from his introduction.

“Investigators have been working on the solution to this mystery (are traditional ascriptions correct) for nearly a thousand years, and particularly in the last two centuries they have made extraordinary discoveries. Some of these discoveries challenge traditional beliefs. Still, this investigation did not develop as a controversy of religion versus science or religion versus the secular. On the contrary, most of the investigators were trained in religious traditions and knew the Bible as well as those who accepted only the traditional answers. Indeed, from the outset to the present day, a significant proportion of critical biblical scholars, perhaps the majority, have been, at the same time, members of the clergy. Rather, the effort to discover who wrote the Bible began and continued because the answer had significant implications for both the traditional and the critical study of the Bible.



“It was the Bible, after all. Its influence on Western civilization – and subsequently on Eastern civilization – has been so pervasive that it has hardly been possible to recognize its impact, much less to accept its authority, without caring from where it came. If we think that the Bible is a great work of literature, then who were the artists? If we think of it as a source to be examined in the study of history, then whose reports are we examining? Who wrote its laws? Who fashioned the book out of a diverse collection

of stories, poetry, and laws into a single work? If we encounter an author when we read a work, to whatever degree and be it fiction or nonfiction, then whom do we encounter when we read the Bible?

“For most readers, it makes a difference, whether their interest in the book is religious, moral, literary, or historical. When a book is studied in a high school or university class, one usually learns some-thing of the author’s life, and generally this contributes to the under-standing of the book. Apart from fairly advanced theoretical literary considerations, most readers seem to find it significant to be able to see connections between the author’s life and the world that the author depicts in his or her work. . .

“The more obvious this seems, the more striking is the fact that information has been largely lacking in the case of the Bible. Often the text cannot be understood without it. Did the author of a particular biblical story live in the eighth century B.C. or the fifth? – and thus when the author uses a particular expression, do we understand it according to what it meant in the eighth century or the fifth? Did the author witness the events in the story? If not, how did the author come to have an idea of what happened? Was it through written sources, old family stories, divine revelation, completely fictional composition, or some other means? How much did the events of the author’s own day affect the way in which the author told the story? Did the author write the work with the intent that it should become a sacred, authoritative text?



“Such questions are important to understanding what the text meant in the biblical world itself. But they also offer an opportunity for producing a new and richer understanding of the book today, for both the religious and the non-religious reader, once we come to know the persons and forces that produced it.”

Stay tuned as we explore this book further, or better yet, join us for Adult Sunday School at 8:30 am Sunday mornings. The book is available for purchase from Amazon and other fine book stores. Pastor Rosemary

Richard Elliot Friedman is one of the premier Bible scholars in the country. He is the Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Georgia and Professor of Jewish Civilization Emeritus at the University of California, San Diego. He earned his doctorate at Harvard, was a visiting fellow at Oxford and Cambridge, a senior fellow of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, an American Council of Learned Societies fellow, and a visiting professor at the University of Haifa.

October

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Boy Scout Meeting 7 pm	2 Region 9 Meeting 7 pm	3	4	5
6 Service of Word & World Wide Communion 10 am with ukuleles. Followed by Fellowship Time DuBois Fall Festival 11am to 5 pm Fellowship hall rented 4 – 6	7	8 Boy Scout Meeting 7 pm	9 Church Council Meeting 7 pm	10	11 Collinsville Chorale concert at St. John UCC Collinsville	12
13 Worship at 10 am Choir Practice 9 am Fellowship hall rented 4 -6 p.m.	14	15 Boy Scout Meeting 7 pm	16	17	18	19
20 Worship at 10 am – Humble Servants will lead us in worship with Southern & traditional gospel music Fellowship hall rented 4 -6 p.m.	21 Evening Circle Meeting 7 pm	22 Boy Scout Meeting 7 pm	23	24	25	26 Illinois South Annual Meeting – All Day
27 Worship at 10 am Choir Practice 9 am Fellowship hall rented 4-6 p.m.	28	29 Boy Scout Meeting 7 pm	30	31		