



Rain, rain, go away!

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2020

NEWSLETTER

**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST**

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Let me start by saying, “YES, I miss you all very much and I am anxious to see you as soon as it is safe.” We are certainly living in an unusual time of stay-at-home, social distance, and wearing masks. The good news is that, as far as I know, none of our church members have been ill or passed away from this virus. That tells me that our “inconvenient” practices are having a positive effect.

Just because there are no people in the building doesn't mean your church leadership has been hibernating. Your Church Council has been meeting via Zoom on the internet. Some people are calling others to check on them. “Thinking of You” cards and other greeting cards have been going out. Nancy has been making masks. Nancy and Jan Miller are organizing a food drive for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. (See the flyer in this newsletter.) Ginny has been picking up the mail and keeping our books straight. She also filled out all the forms to apply for the Personal Protective funds from the government. Our church application was accepted and we had money to pay our employees for 2 months.

All phone calls have been transferred to Judy at home plus she checks in with the hospitals to see if we have any members as inpatients. Bob and Steve have been mowing the lawn and checking on the building. Before the building opens again, the carpets will be professionally cleaned and the whole place sanitized as much as possible.

I have been writing worship service bulletins which include a message, for every Sunday we have not been together. Most of these are emailed out. However, we have about 20 homes who have no computers or internet. For those I have been printing out the bulletins and mailing them to those 20. I



have also been keeping in touch with Rev. Shana Johnson, our Conference Pastor, and all the other pastors in Illinois South Conference, to keep up-to-date on changes concerning Covid and rules of preventing the spread from our Illinois Governor. Plus, I have started a Zoom Bible Study every Tuesday Evening at 7 pm. If you have the internet and would like to join us, send me an email.

That leads me to the next question you may have; WHEN CAN WE GO BACK TO THE CHURCH BUILDING? Our goal is to keep the building closed UNTIL ALL OF US CAN WORSHIP SAFELY. As of June 1, only 10 people can gather together. Who should we leave out? That is why we will wait until the Governor says 50 people can gather. The worship experience will not be the same as it was when we left on March 15. I mentioned those changes in the May 24 Worship Bulletin, but I'll copy that message here.

"First of all, we will all have to wear masks, all of us. Our temperatures will be taken and we will have to answer questions about our exposure to the virus. Only one door will be used for entering. Once entering the sanctuary, ushers will guide you to your seats. People will be seated in every third pew to provide 6 ft of distance and they will be seated from the first of the sanctuary to the back. They will be dismissed back to the front. You can sit only with the people you have been staying at home with.

"Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pews. There will be NO SINGING of hymns or the choir. Singing spreads particles from our lungs which could have the virus. Gratefully we have Sharon who can share her wonderful talents on the organ and piano. The service will be less than 45 minutes. (I know that's not a bad thing for some of you.)



Wilma quiets the congregation for her Prelude.

"There will be no fellowship time in the L-room and no lingering in the sanctuary or narthex to chat. You are welcome to chat with each other out on the parking lot as long as you remain 6 ft apart."

My goal is to prepare you for the future. And please know, no matter what the Governor says, if YOU do not feel comfortable returning to the building just yet, that's perfectly okay. Your safety comes first! I estimate the very earliest Sunday we could open would be July 5. But that could change according to the Governor, the CDC, IDPH, etc. We'll follow whatever the science tells us.

♥ MISSING YOU...



In the meantime, if you need anything, don't hesitate to call Judy at the church number or me 660-8894. God bless all of

you. Stay safe. We isolate now so when we return again, no one is missing.
Pastor Rosemary

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the church applied and received assistance from the Federal Paycheck Protection Program enabling us to continue paying the full salaries of our employees. The grant does not have to be re-paid as long as the church uses the 75% of the funds to pay for salaries and 25% of the money for benefits and utilities. The grant totals \$13,039 and has to be spent in 8 weeks beginning on April 29.

I am also extremely pleased that approximately 60% of our members/friends have been supporting the church with their donations during this stressing time. Our financial status is firm and with the PPP help, we are in excellent shape.

Dear EVENING CIRCLE members,

Hope this bulletin finds you all well and sane. It seems ages since our last meeting when we enjoyed the movie "POMS". Needless to say, I have watched too much TV and streamed too many movies. (Just watched "Moana" last night.) The Circle missed distributing the monies from our fundraisers. Many are struggling now, but will be glad to accept our contributions in the future. We also missed eating out in April. On the bright side, no one had to make our hardest decision of the year: picking a restaurant.

Keep those brains working. I am sure several of our members will have new ideas for our meetings. Just jot down any unusual activities during your quarantine to share at our first gathering (we know Jan Miller can write a book). Not sure when we'll meet again, but keep the faith. Miss all your smiling faces.

**EVERY PATH
HAS PUDDLES.
JUMP OVER THEM!**

Take care and stay healthy. Eileen Gammon



FUNERAL:

The service for Roger Fox was held on Tuesday, March 10. Our condolences to Jo and their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

MEMORIALS:

For Roger Fox: Eileen & Jack Gammon, Ginny Ganschinietz, Sue & Gene Ganschinietz, Mary Lou & Urban Baum, Judy & Russ Hartmann, Vanna Burger



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 4/1 Trisann Underwood | 4/18 Tom Miller |
| 4/2 Brenna Cohlmeier | 4/24 Stacie Pickens |
| 4/11 Madison Brown | 4/27 Becky Riess |



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- 4/26 Tiffani & Brad Eisenhauer # 17

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5/3 Susan Williams | 5/18 Sharon Kistler |
| 5/4 Jane Cohlmeier | 5/21 Sharon Banjavcic |
| 5/7 Jennifer Riess | 5/24 Urban Baum |
| 5/9 Larry Riess | 5/25 Bob Puckett |
| 5/14 Ginny Ganschinietz | 5/26 Polli Allen |
| 5/15 Brian Ganschinietz | 5/29 Anne Brown |
| 5/17 Michael Schmitt | 5/31 Cody Brink |

NO MAY ANNIVERSARIES

IT'S PARTY TIME



JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------|---------------|
| 6/1 | Hunter Brink | 6/17 | Jack Gammon |
| 6/4 | Vicki Hartmann | 6/18 | Judy Schmitt |
| 6/6 | Melanie Wilhelm | 6/21 | Kim Turnbull |
| 6/9 | Scott Ganschinetz | 6/23 | Earlene White |
| | | 6/29 | Lily Brown |



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:



- | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|
| 6/14 | Ashley & Michael Schmitt | # 6 |
| 6/14 | Christine & Aaron Drake | # 6 |
| 6/17 | Anne & Chris Brown | # 14 |

STOCK THE PANTRY!

The Fairview Heights Food Pantry is reopening on June 1. St. John is having a socially distant **“Stock the Pantry”** event on Saturday, **June 6, from 10:00 to noon** at St. John UCC, 10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights.



Here is how it will work: put your donations into the trunk or back of your vehicle. (1) Pull into the St. John parking lot and follow the directions of the workers. Stay in your vehicle! (2) Raise or unlock your trunk/hatchback and your donations will be unloaded for you. (3) There will be a box for cash or check donations. Flash your headlights if you want us to bring the box to you for your deposit. Your help is much appreciated. This has been a difficult time for so many, and the pantry is very happy to be able to step in once again to provide nutrition to hungry families. Anyone

is welcome to donate to help the Fairview Heights Food Pantry, so please tell friends, neighbors and family who may want to donate.

Many thanks and God bless you!

Items of great need: Pancake mix and syrup
Spaghetti and sauce, Cereal -- especially sugar coated, Rice,
Toilet paper. Please don't bring canned green beans or corn.