



DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are now in the church season of Advent; the season of joyful anticipation for the birth of our Christ and Savior. In the meantime, we wait.

We wait in line to pay for our presents we are buying for the family. We wait to receive Christmas cards. We wait for RSVPs to the party you are hosting. We wait to decorate the house for that party. We wait for a time to bake cookies.

In our Sunday scripture lessons, we read about the disciples asking Jesus when he will come back and when the Kingdom of God will come. Below are some words of Wisdom from theologian, Henri Nouwen.

The Attitude of Waiting

When Jesus speaks about the end of time, he speaks precisely about the importance of waiting. He says that nations will fight against nations and that there will be wars and earthquakes and misery. People will be in agony, and they will say, "The Christ is there! No, he is here!" Many will be confused and many will be deceived. But Jesus says, you must stand ready, stand awake, stay tuned to the word of God, so that you will survive all that is going to happen and be able to stand confidently (con-fide, with trust) in

the presence of God together in community (see Matthew 24). That is the attitude of waiting that allows us to be people who can live in a very chaotic world and survive spiritually.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henri J. Nouwen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

from Pastor Rosemary



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
WILL BE AT 7 PM DECEMBER 24**

We promise there will be lots of music and singing of Christmas carols, including the candlelight singing of "Silent Night". **BRING YOUR FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS.**



P.S. We will have our usual worship service on Sunday, December 26 at 10 am.
Bring your donations for the Food Pantry.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 12/3 Rosemary Williams | 12/15 Marilyn Paul |
| 12/3 Gene Ganschietz | 12/15 Aaron Drake |
| 12/6 Abbey Cohlmeier | 12/16 Becky Ballard |
| 12/6 Wyatt Vance | 12/20 Emily Whitaker |
| 12/14 Barron Arbeiter | 12/26 Abby Stewart |
| 12/14 Jakob Arbeiter | 12/30 Pat Bregen |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

12/1 Carol & Terry Randle #55
 12/19 Nancy & Jim Eisenhower #51



PRAYER LIST: Urban Baum, Donna Isselhard, Joe Knapp, Agnes Doctolero, David Seneczyn, Cathy Ganschietz, Warren Neff, Jack Harris, Doris Moody, Lynn Hursey, Robert Uhrig, Carol White, Rich Schmitt, Dan Ragen.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR ALL the medical care givers, EMT's, Fire Fighters, and soldiers who cannot be with their families on Christmas. They keep us safe so that we can celebrate the birth of Jesus knowing they are there.

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

12/5 – Cheri Schutzenhofer & Carol Bulva
12/12 – Tom & Jan Miller
12/19 – Chuck Kistler & Sue Williams
Christmas Eve - 12/24 – Ginny & Sue Ganschinetz,
Amy Brink
12/26 – Judy Schmitt & Nancy Eisenhauer



EVENING CIRCLE



December is upon us. Please bring any presents for our Kindercottage child to church by Dec. 5th or contact the office for any other arrangement. They should be pre-wrapped with a sticky note of contents.

Our next meeting will be Dec. 19th; after church in the L-Room. There will be a short meeting and small Christmas Party. It was decided at the last meeting everyone would bring a dessert to share.

Please remember to bring your envelope with Sept. thru Dec. printed on it for your normal meeting offerings.

Also please bring your Christmas Offering envelope which will take the place of the Bake Sale and Food Pantry Offering.

Thank you for your donations in advance! Eileen Gammon

On the program for December

December will be filled with music, as Advent and Christmas should be!

On **December 5**, Lisa Cleveland will return to St. John to sing a duet with Nancy Eisenhauer. "O Magnify the Lord" is a beautiful piece.

On **December 12**, the choir will sing "O Come, O Come Emanuel".

December 24, Christmas Eve, will be an evening for "A Carol Fantasia", a cantata with beloved carols. The congregation will have the opportunity to sing along with us. Should be a beautiful experience. Be there at 7:00!

2022 CALENDAR RAFFLE

The Evening Circle will be raffling a 2022 calendar. This one is extra special. Dorothy Ovelgoenner, one of our members is an avid and talented quilter. Her queen size quilt "Clamshell" was chosen to be included in the American Quilters Society Wall Calendar (Miss June). It is an amazing honor to have a quilt included. We will be selling raffle tickets Dec. 5th, 12th, and 19th with the drawing on the 19th. Be sure to get yours!

\$1.00 = 1 ticket \$5.00 = 6 tickets.



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS THAT WE CAN'T VISIT AGAIN THIS YEAR. SEND THEM EACH A CHRISTMAS CARD SO THEY KNOW THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

Ardella Morris
1201 Hartman Lane Apt. 235
Belleville, IL 62221



Darlene Bax
220 Fieldcrossing Drive Apt. 40
Highland, IL 62249

Terry Kissel
429 South Main Street Room 228
Shiloh, IL 62269

Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Road
Fairview Heights, IL 62208



December

2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|---|---|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Church Council 7 pm Via Zoom AA Meeting | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Worship at 10 am Choir rehearsal at 9 am and again after worship | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 AA Meeting | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Worship at 10 am Evening Circle meeting after worship | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 AA Meeting | 24 Christmas Eve Service with Cantata at 7 pm | 25 |
| 26 Worship at 10 am | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 AA Meeting | 31 | |