



DECEMBER

2022 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

618-397-6323

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Email address: stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com

Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently I was reflecting on what our Advent Candles represent; Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. Do you have a favorite? There is no wrong answer. Each of these four words have very deep meanings. You could put them together to say "We hope that there will be peace on earth that will bring us joy because it comes from the love that Jesus brought into the world."



Right now I think "hope" is what is needed in our crazy, divided, complicated world. If we don't hope and pray for more love to and from every person in the world, nothing will ever change. Our world will remain broken. If we hope for better days, at least we have a chance to look forward to a world that has been restored from despair to brilliance. And that all begins with the birth of baby sent from God.

Have a blessed Christmas, Pastor Rosemary

THE HISTORY OF ADVENT

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin “adventus”, which is a translation of the Greek word parousia, which means “arrival.” Today, most people associate Advent with the celebration of Christ’s birth. Advent, on the other hand, originated as a season of fasting and prayer for new Christians in the 4th and 5th centuries. The Council of Saragossa, a gathering of church leaders in the 300s A.D., was the first to mention Advent. It eventually grew into a season that included the entire month of December. Advent is a four-week period building up to Christmas. The waiting for Christ’s birth, as well as his eventual return, is symbolized by the Advent season.



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 candle light singing of “Silent Night”. BRING YOUR FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS.



We will NOT have our usual worship service on Sunday, December 25.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

12/3 Rosemary Williams
12/3 Gene Ganschinetz
12/6 Abbey Cohlmeier
12/6 Wyatt Vance
12/14 Barron Arbeiter
12/14 Jakob Arbeiter

12/15 Marilyn Paul
12/15 Aaron Drake
12/16 Becky Ballard
12/20 Emily Whitaker
12/26 Abby Stewart
12/30 Pat Bregen



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:



12/1 Carol & Terry Randle #56
12/19 Nancy & Jim Eisenhauer #52



PRAYER LIST: Urban Baum, David Seneczyn, Warren Neff, Carol White, Cheri Schutzenhofer, Theo Mally, Jane Riess, Sandy Fort, Beckett Ballard, Rosemary Williams, Larry Wagner, Floyd Lorenz, Alister and Garrett Pickens.

USHERS FOR DECEMBER:

12/4 – Tom & Jan Miller
12/11 – Chuck Kistler & Sue Williams
12/18 – Tom & Jan Miller
Christmas Eve - 12/24 – Eric Moayer & Ginny Ganschinetz



CHOIR



Choir will be singing twice in December: On Sunday, December 11, we will sing a medley of my favorite Advent carol, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Emmanuel Has Come". Sounds like plea and the answer all in one! (Choir: don't forget we will practice for Christmas Eve after church on that day.) Join us for worship. The choir sounds great!

On Christmas Eve, we will be singing selections from "Praise Noels". The music and readings are beautiful. I hope you and your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone you know will be at church for our annual Candlelight Service of music and communion on Saturday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas season from the choir!

Nancy Eisenhauer

THANK YOU!

If you have been in church the last several months, you may have noticed something missing: the banners that usually hang on the front wall of the sanctuary. Yes, I went on strike. The brackets that were used to support the rods and banners would no longer keep the banners hanging straight. Even when our custodians pushed them so they were level, by Sunday morning they were sagging. That was a sight I couldn't bear!

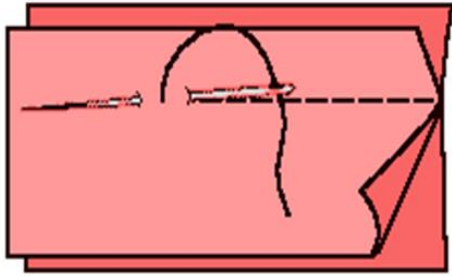
Fortunately, Tom Miller figured out a way, using pulleys, to support the banners. And --- the banners can be hung from the floor! No more climbing up the extension ladder to put up and take down the banners. We can put them on the rods and pull them up and fasten them with cords.

Installing the new hanging system required some scaffolding. We were able to rent some that could be assembled in the sanctuary. Jim Eisenhauer and his truck got all the pieces to church and together, he and Tom got the job done! Many, many thanks, guys! (This is going to cost me a dinner, or two!)

Sincerely, Nancy Eisenhauer

Poinsettias will be for sale December 4 and December 11. Red, White and Pink will be available to order at a cost of \$11 each. You may also give a Memorial for a loved one for the Garden of Memories.





DAYTIME QUILTERS

One Thursday a month, if you happen to drive by church during the day, you may have noticed several cars in the parking lot. We are renting the fellowship hall to Hearts 'n' Hands Quilt Guild Daytime Quilters. It is a new group. Some of our quilters no longer drive at night, and some find our location handier than driving to O'Fallon for the evening meeting.

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US IN WORSHIP
SEND THEM EACH A CHRISTMAS CARD
SO THEY KNOW THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.**

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

Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Road
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Polli Allen
19 Whiteside Drive
Belleville, IL 62221

Ivy Schneider
213 Merriweather Lane
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Yvonne Weber
200 St. Clair Drive
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Elaine Whitney
120 Lynnhaven
Belleville, IL 62223

Rosemary Williams
1432 Christine Drive
Belleville, IL 62226

Darlene Schaperkoetter
1258 Larkspur Drive
Mascoutah, IL 62258

Cheri Schutzenfofer
58 Frank Scott PKWY E Apt 301
Swansea, IL 62226



Don Krieg
 200 Spivey Lane
 Fairview Heights, IL 62208

DECEMBER

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	2	3
4 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	5	6	7	8 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	9	10
11 Choir rehearsal 9 am Service of Word 10 am Choir sings at service Cantata rehearsal after worship	12	13	14 Church Council Meeting via Zoom	15 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting Hearts & Hands Daytime Quilters 10-2	16	17

18 Service of Word 10 am Evening Circle Christmas party after worship	19	20	21	22 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	23	24 Christmas Eve Service with special music and communion at 7 pm
25 Merry Christmas No worship service	26	27	28	29	30	31

Advent unwrapped

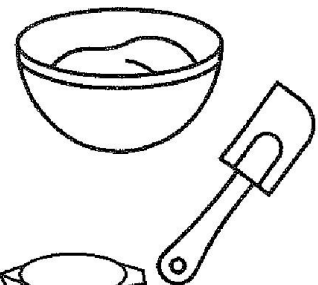
RECIPE PRAYER (BAKING EDITION)

Use this prayer card with your favourite recipe while baking this holiday.

Give Thanks

Gather and prepare your ingredients.

Thank you for these ingredients (name each ingredient) and for every being, every place, and thing that has brought them here. Thank you, Creator of all things.

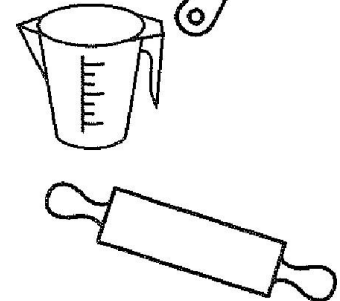


every

Bless and Break

Create your batter.

In the breaking, cracking, sifting, mixing, and kneading, we prepare each ingredient to work together to become something. We give thanks for what the ingredients were, and ask your blessing on what new thing they will become. May it bring joy.

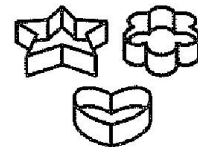


new.

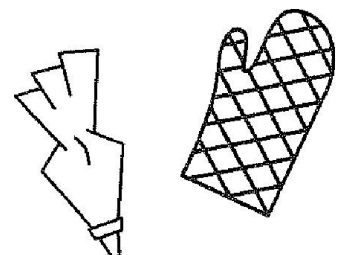
Watch and Wait

Prepare and bake your recipe.

After moulding, shaping, and preparing, we wait with hope, joy, anticipation. Help us to be patient, giving our creations the time space needed to be transformed. And help us to stay alert, trusting instincts and senses.



and
and
our



Decorate package and share your creations.

We marvel, celebrate, and give thanks for how ordinary ingredients from your Creation have lovingly been transformed into something extraordinary. We give thanks for the tradition and privilege of blessing, breaking, and sharing your gifts with your people. May the sharing of these treats be a blessing. Amen.



Illustration 220833192 © Vectorikart | Dreamsstime.com

220034

Share The United Church of Canada / L'Église Unie du Canada

united-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped

EVENING CIRCLE



Happy Holidays Ladies! I hope December brings you some joy and cheer. If stress creeps upon you; close your eyes, say a little prayer and take a couple deep breaths.

Instead of the second Sunday, we will have our meeting on Dec. 18th. We will still meet in the L-Room after church for a brief business meeting and small but joyous Christmas party. Members please bring an appetizer or dessert treat to be shared by all.

We have again sponsored a Kindercottage child: 12-month-old Calvin. I want to thank everyone that bought Calvin presents. We will also have an extra collection for the Food Pantry at our Dec. 18th meeting.

See you on Dec. 18th, Joy to the World! The Lord is come!!
Eileen Gammon, Co-Chair