



JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST

10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL
618-397-6323

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Email address: info@stjohnfairview.com

Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The story of the three kings or magi that visited Baby Jesus can only be found in the Gospel of Matthew. Who were these men? Inquiring minds want to know, so I looked it up. Here is what I found out from my present favorite theologian, Rev. William Barclay.

“When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, there came to do him homage wise men from the east. The name given to these men is *Magi*, and that is a word which is difficult to translate. The Greek historian Herodotus has certain information about the Magi. He says that they were originally a Median tribe. The Medes were part of the empire of the Persians. They tried to overthrow the Persians and substitute the power of the Medes. The attempt failed. From that time, the Magi ceased to have any ambitions for power or prestige and became a tribe of priests. They became the teachers and instructors of the Persian king. In Persia, no sacrifice could be offered unless one of the Magi was present. They became men of holiness and wisdom.

“These Magi were men who were skilled in philosophy, medicine and natural science. They were soothsayers and interpreters of dreams. In later times, the word Magus developed a much lower meaning, and came to mean little more than a fortune-teller, a sorcerer, and a charlatan. But at their best the Magi were good and holy men, who sought for truth.

“In those ancient days, everyone believed in astrology. People believed that they could foretell the future from the stars, and they believed that a person’s destiny was settled by the star under which he or she was born. The stars pursue their unvarying courses; they represent the order of the universe. If then there suddenly appeared some brilliant star, if the unvarying order of the heavens was broken by some special phenomenon, it did look as if God was announcing some special thing.



“No one knows what brilliant star those ancient Magi saw. Many suggestions have been made. About 11 BC, Halley’s comet was visible shooting brilliantly across the skies. About 7 BC, there was a brilliant conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter. In the years 5-2 BC, there was an unusual astronomical phenomenon. In those years, on the first day of the Egyptian month Mesori, Sirius, the dog star, rose heliacally, that

is at sunrise, and shone with extraordinary brilliance. Now the name *Mesori* means *the birth of a prince*, and to those ancient astrologers such a star would undoubtedly mean the birth of some great king. We cannot tell what star the Magi saw, but it was their profession to watch the heavens, and some heavenly brilliance spoke to them of the entry of a king into the world.”

I don’t want to bore you with more information, but I did find this very interesting. On January 2, I’m going to talk about the gifts they brought and why they were significant. I believe information is helpful to belief. The story of Jesus was not just a fictional person that someone invented. The more we know, the deeper our faith is.

Peace, Pastor Rosemary



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/2 Judy Hartmann | 1/24 Cheri Schutzenhofer |
| 1/4 March Ganschietz | 1/27 Shari Hamilton |
| 1/4 Job Ganschietz | 1/28 Amy Brink |
| 1/21 Eileen Gammon | 1/28 Trenton Pickens |
| 1/22 Kendra Clark | 1/28 Elaine Whitney |

JANUARY USHERS

- 1/2 – Ginny Ganschietz & Sue Ganschietz
- 1/9 – Sue Williams & Chuck Kistler
- 1/16 – Christina Hardin-Weiss & Eileen Gammon
- 1/ 23 – Tom & Jan Miller
- 1/ 30 – Tom & Jan Miller



PRAYER LIST: Urban Baum, Donna Isselhard, Joe Knapp, Agnes Doctolero, David Seneczyn, Cathy Ganschinetz, Warren Neff, Jack Harris, Lynn Hursey, Robert Uhrig, Carol White, Don Ragen, Dennis Franklin, John Biehl.

(If you know of someone's name which can be removed from this list, please let the secretary know.)

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS:

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



PENNIES FOR MISSION

Thanks to Becky Riess, we have restarted the pennies for mission. Since we cannot pass the basket, Becky put the basket in the narthex, with a sign. The present mission is relief for those affected by the recent tornado. Empty your pockets on the way in or out. All that heavy change can tear a hole in your pocket or purse. Relieve the problem by donating to Pennies for Mission.



It's that time of year again. We need two people to volunteer to join the Church Council. The council meets once a month via zoom or telephone. The meetings usually last less than an hour. The term is for two years with the opportunity to volunteer for an additional two years. The council is the eyes and ears of the congregation. The council communicates with the Pastor as to the needs of the congregation. Likewise, the Pastor makes suggestions to the council on issues and needs that come to her attention.

The council members will be voted on at the January 23 Congregational Meeting after worship. **If you might be interested in joining the council, speak to Judy Hartmann, or the Pastor.** Thank you for your participation.

Evening Circle

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Hope everyone had a good Christmas and let us pray for a better 2022. I want to "Thank everyone" that bought Christmas presents for our Kindercottage child, Carlei. Here is an approximate list of the presents she received: dress, 2 outfits(pants & tops), 4 tops, shoes, stocking cap, extra clothes, 3 stuffed animals, 2 dolls, hand puppet, floor puzzle, toy pancake set, pop-pops, story books, coloring books & markers, plus gift card for the mother. A total of 21 packages.

We had a short business meeting and then a small Christmas party. I am pleased to announce our raffle made \$115. The winners of the raffle follows:

Calendar - Mary Baum

Snowman Wall Quilt - Jan Miller

Christmas Pot Holders - Sharon Banjavcic

Mason measuring jug - Judy Schmitt

Thank you to everyone that bought raffle tickets.

Our next meeting will be January 9, 2022 right after church in the L-Room. See you on the 9th.

Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

January

2022

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