



# JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You might have noticed that I have been preaching from the Gospel passages since I came to St. John. I think its time to explore passages from the First (Old) Testament. I've always been confused about the different kings and prophets. I know some of the stories but I can't remember who did what where? So as suspected, I bought some books. I was looking for resources to help us learn the stories in plain English. I won't call it "the bible for Dummies" but you get the idea.

The first book I purchased is "The Whole Bible Story; Everything That Happens in the Bible in Plain English" by Dr. William H. Marty. This book is only 300 pages long and goes from Genesis in the Old Testament to Revelation in the New Testament. What little I've read so far, it is an easy read.

On the other hand, the second book I ordered is actually 4 books, 4 volumes, and just on the Old Testament. Nothing about the New Testament. Each volume is 435 pages. It was written by David J. Ridges. Since I just picked it on my door step, you'll have to wait a little while to hear my opinion of the volumes.

Looking at our Common Lectionary for July, the first one is a continuation of the 2 Kings scripture we read last Sunday, when we were introduced to Elisha, the successor of the prophet Elijah. This week, July 3, we will read about how Elisha cures the leper, Naaman, a general for the king of Aram, a gentile country.

Who were these two prophets, Elijah and Elisha? Both of them concentrated their efforts on the particular needs of the people around

them. The fiery Elijah confronted and exposed idolatry, helping to create an atmosphere where people could freely and publicly worship God. Elisha then moved in to demonstrate God’s powerful, yet caring, nature to all who came to him for help. He spent less time in conflict with evil, as Elijah had done, and more in compassionate care of people. The Bible records 18 encounters between Elisha and needy people. Elisha saw more in life than most people because he recognized that with God there was more to life.

On July 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> we will read from the book of Amos. Amos was a man of God, a person whose life was devoted to serving the Lord and whose lifestyle reflected his devotion – but he was a layperson. He herded sheep and tended sycamore-fig trees. He was not the son of a prophet or a priest. Amos was a humble shepherd but God gave Amos a vision of the future and told him to take his message to Israel, the northern kingdom. Amos obeyed and thus proved he was a man of God.

The last two Sundays in July we meet the prophet, Hosea. This book is not your usual “bible story”. It is a love story – real, tragic, and true. God told Hosea to find a wife and revealed to him ahead of time that she would be unfaithful to him. Although she would bear many children, some of these offspring would be fathered by others. In obedience to God, Hosea married Gomer. What do you think we can learn from this book? It sounds like a soap-opera to me. I guess we’ll just have to wait and see!

The more we read the words in the Bible, the closer we can be to God, especially when we search for inspiration, ask questions, and think about each story we read. I look forward to searching with you.

Have a safe and pleasant summer. I’ll talk to you again soon.

Pastor Rosemary

## JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- 7/8 Darlene Schaperkoetter
- 7/10 Tiffani Eisenhauer
- 7/23 Yvonne Weber
- 7/26 Clay Harris
- 7/28 Sherry Hackbarth



**JULY ANNIVERSARIES:**

7/14 Kim & Jim Turnbull # 38

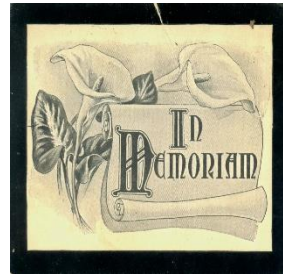
7/15 Sharon & Steve Banjavcic # 44

7/17 Trisann & Bill Underwood # 23

7/30 Stacie & Tim Pickens # 6

**MEMORIAL FOR RICH SCHMITT**

Jeanette Brown, Donna Isselhard



**SHUT – INS:**

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



Terry Kissel  
Colonnade Senior Living  
700 Weber Road Apt. 105  
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Road  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
Mrs. Cheri Schutzenhofer  
58 Frank Scott Pkway E. Apt.  
Swansea, IL 62226

Mrs. Elaine Whitney  
120 Lynnhaven  
Belleville, IL 62223

Mrs. Polli Allen  
19 Whiteside Drive  
Belleville, IL 62221

## **SUNDAY, JULY 3**

**Special music will be a quartet:**

Nancy Eisenhauer, Shara Toennies, Kim Miller, Adam Reynolds

**PRAYER LIST:** Urban Baum, Donna Isselhard, David Seneczyn, Warren Neff, Carol White, Dennis Franklin, Cheri Schutzenhofer, Dorothy Wagner, Theo Mally, Leah Horner, Dan Gouge, Jane Riess, Judy Hartmann



# July

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship	4	5	6	7 AA Meeting	8	9
10 Worship at 10 am	11	12	13	14 AA Meeting	15	16
17 Worship at 10 am	18	19	20	21 AA Meeting	22	23
24 Worship at 10 am	25	26	27 Quilt Guild meeting 7 pm	28 AA Meeting	29	30
31 Worship at 10 am						