



NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST

10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Jesus brought sight to many blind people he encountered while he was on earth. He continues to open the eyes of many even now, by showing us a better way to live. Jesus brought light into our darkness. Sister Joan Chittister recently wrote about ways to see.

“Life is about learning to see what we’re looking at—if we actually see it at all. It takes a while, but eventually, the really perceptive soul discovers that there are actually five ways of seeing as we go through life.

“At the first level of insight, we see only what’s in front of us. The immediate becomes the center of the world. We do not see beyond ourselves because we have drawn the circle of life too small, too close, too narrowly. The older next-door neighbor, the colleague with the sick child, the friend whose life is careening off the tracks are part of my consciousness—but not part of my heart. Their agendas do not compel me to action. Their lives do not really touch mine.

“At the second level of insight, we see only the obvious, not what drives the obvious. Not what’s under the obvious. We come to see that the other has the same feelings we do and that, like ours, they need to be heeded. We see more of the world suddenly, but find it as lonely and confused as our own.

“At the third level of insight, we see a broader world, but only from our own perspective. Everyone should live in a democracy, we decide. The whole world would be better off if everyone were like us. We are the acme of the universe, we know. Then, all of our efforts go into making the rest of the world like us. Except that never happens and we cannot for the life of us figure out why.

“At the fourth level of insight, we see a changing canvas and realize suddenly that nothing is stable, all things are in flux. The question, of course, is whether we realize that we, too, are in the process of change now—because we have seen that nowhere does life stand still.

“At the fifth level of insight, we learn to truly see beyond the center of the self and find that we are all alike, all trying to find one another, all wishing to be human together.

“At that point, of course, we see our differences and find that they are beautiful—and see our likenesses and discover that they are the stuff of our growth. We do not need to be anyone else now. Instead, we can be everyone else now, understanding them, learning from them—trusting that I can change and become even more myself at the same time.

“The question, of course, is, at what level of insight are we now? What will it take to grow beyond ourselves and discover the rest of life?”

—from *Two Dogs and a Parrot: What Our Animal Friends Can Teach Us About Life* by Joan Chittister (BlueBridge)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

11/2 Charlie Harris
11/4 Henry Captain
11/11 Darleen Bax
11/11 Jackie Canterbury
11/12 Cassie Myers
11/12 Edgar Myers

11/15 Jim Eisenhauer
11/17 Jessica (Riess) Kilian
11/19 Mark Stern
11/22 Ellen Taylor
11/27 Steve Banjavcic
11/27 Chris Brown
11/29 Chris Arbeiter



(no anniversaries)



PRAYER LIST

Urban Baum, David Seneczyn, Warren Neff, Carol White, Cheri Schutzenhofer, Theo Mally, Jane Reiss, Sandy Fort, Becky Ballard, Rosemary Williams, Larry Wagner, Chris Captain, Penny Wagner, Julie Captain

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE
UNABLE TO WORSHIP WITH US:**

Darlene Schaperkoetter
1258 Larkspur Drive
Mascoutah, IL 62258

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

Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Road
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Ivy Schneider
213 Merriweather Lane
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

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

Don Krieg
200 Spivey Lane
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Cheri Schutzenhofer
58 Frank Schott Parkway E Apt
Swansea, IL 62226

Thank
You

THANK YOU ALL for the cards and prayers. A special thank you to Pastor Rosemary for being with me before my surgery and being with daughter, Amy, during my surgery. And it can't go without saying a big thank you to Donna Isselhard for volunteering as my sub while I'm recuperating. Ginny Ganschinietz

TOTENFEST

Sunday, November 20, 2022 is the last Sunday of the Church Year and, in the old German tradition, is the day for remembering those who have passed and whose funeral service was held during the last Church Year. Totenfest, literally, the festival of the Dead, is the time set aside in the service to name our sisters and brothers who no longer answer the call in this life, to commemorate their passing with a rose and a candle, and to offer special prayers of thanksgiving for their journey with us on this earth.



This year we will remember Jim Garrett, Donna Logsdon, Judy Hartmann, Ardella Morris, Esther V. Henry (friend of Pastor Rosemary).

**CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS
NOVEMBER 6
FALL BACK ONE HOUR**



EVENING CIRCLE

Ladies of St. John, After worship join us on November 13 in the "L" room for our monthly Evening Circle Meeting. Members are reminded to bring their "Thank Offerings" for OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission). We will discuss our Christmas meeting and do a small craft project. Lastly, Jackie Canterbury won the prize for our Fall word scramble. See you all soon. Eileen Gammon, Co-Chair

KINDERCOTTAGE CHRISTMAS CHILD



Presents should be prewrapped this year and sticky memo on package so Evening Circle knows what was bought. Please bring gifts to church by Sunday Dec. 4th. Thank you in advance. You can see her picture posted on the bulletin boards in church. Eileen Gammon, Co-Chair

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

- 11/ 6 – Nancy and Jim Eisenhauer
- 11/ 13 – Eric Moayer and Susan Williams
- 11/ 20 – Tom and Jan Miller
- 11/ 27 – Ginny G. and Chuck Kistler

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 15, 2022

Sue Williams and I attended this meeting held at St. John UCC, Collinsville, IL. It was a worshipful and musical event. Inspirational music and lyrics were heard throughout the event, performed by “The Many”, a group from Chicago.

The business of the meeting was introduced in the morning and voted and ruled on in the afternoon. Delegates voted especially on two topics. First, to become a W.I.S.E. Conference for Mental Health (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged). To learn more, go to www.mhn-ucc.org. The second delegate vote was for the conference to gradually discontinue investing in fossil fuels.

The total “noisy offering” for disaster ministries, which our St. John contributed to, came to \$3,463.

The food was great, including 33 dozen cookies! It was good to feel the Holy Spirit moving among us—the Spirit of LOVE!

Judy Schmitt



NEW MEMBER



On Sunday, October 30, 2022 we will receive a new member to our congregation. Her name is Elle Heiligenstein. Please introduce yourselves when you meet her.

November

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm	4	5
6 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	7	8	9 Church Council Meeting via Zoom	10 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	11	12
13 Choir rehearsal 9 am Service of Word 10 am Choir sings at service Evening Circle	14	15	16	17 Quilter's Daytime Meeting Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	18	19
20 Service of Word & Totenfest 10 am	21	22	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving	25	26
27 Service of Word 10 am Advent begins	28	29	30			