



# MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

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

Website: [www.stjohnfairview.org](http://www.stjohnfairview.org)  
Pastor Rosemary Captain

Secretary Office Hours:  
Mon, Wed, Fri. noon – 3 pm

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have a problem with language and I'm not talking about a "foreign language". I'm talking about English. For example, in Matthew 18:18 in the New Revised Standard Version (written before our CEB translation) we can read, "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be **loosed** in heaven." **WHY DON'T THEY JUST SAY LOOSENED?** I understand that better than loosed.

Sometimes the meaning of some words change over time. We used to say "we had a gay old time." (That's actually a lyric from the theme song for the Flintstones.) Now we use the word "gay" in a different way.

When I was a child my "old-maid" school teacher Aunt used to babysit for me. She had a room in the house next door to us, one room with all she needed; a radio but no TV, a sewing machine, an iron board, a bed, and bookshelves filled to the brim. She shared a bathroom with the children of the owners and she ate all her meals with us next door.

To keep me busy while she sewed her clothes and many of mine, she would have me sit on her bed and, using the **King James Version**, she had me memorize the **23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm**. Yes, it was in English however with all those thee's and thou's it sounded foreign to me. I just didn't understand it. I think that can happen even in our most modern Bible translations. We can pronounce the words but we may not know what it means. It sounds "foreign" to us.

Judy Schmitt has shared a version of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm written by Sister Mary Kemen, Order of St. Francis. My spirit receives much from this version. I share it below for you.

May you receive peace from these words, Pastor Rosemary

## TWENTY-THREE

God of life's journey,  
You are ever present with me.  
From Your abundance, I have all I need.  
You lead me to quiet places to rest;  
To refreshing waters that  
strengthen my spirit.  
You guide me on the path that gives life.  
Though I may pass through times  
of hardship and struggle,  
I do not fear; for You are there at my side  
to give me courage and comfort.  
You feed me at Your table in the presence  
of those who wish to harm me.  
You anoint me with fragrant oil.  
My cup overflows with Your blessings.  
Your goodness and compassion will be with  
me all the days of my life.  
And I will dwell in Your loving presence forever.



### May Birthdays:

5/3	Sue Williams	5/17	Michael Schmitt
5/4	Jane Cohlmeier	5/18	Sharon Kistler
5/7	Jennifer Riess	5/21	Sharon Banjavcic
5/9	Larry Riess	5/24	Urban Baum
5/14	Ginny Ganschinietz	5/25	Bob Puckett
5/15	Brian Ganschinietz	5/26	Polli Allen
		5/26	Noah Captain
		5/29	Anne Brown
		5/31	Cody Brink

## ARE THERE GRADUATES IN YOUR FAMILY?

Call the office and let Ginny know who, what, and where so we can include them in the June newsletter.



## PENNIES FOR MISSION:



April pennies went to the Uni Pres Kindercottage. MAY pennies will go to **“Strengthen the Church”** one of the UCC Five-for-Five missions. (For more information, see below.) Thank you to everyone who puts money in the square tin each week to help support these mission projects.



Due to your generosity, once again St. John has received a certificate for sending offerings to Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) and the four special offerings of the UCC. I thought I would share a little bit about those offerings.

***Our Church’s Wider Mission*** When we give to Our Church’s Wider Mission, 25% of your gift goes on to support the work of the national setting and 75% of your gift is retained here in the Illinois South Conference to support the ministry and resources we extend to our church and all the UCC member churches of our Conference.

***One Great Hour of Sharing*** channels resources for international programs in health, education and agriculture development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic response.

***Strengthen the Church*** re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. **Shared between our conference (Illinois South) and National** levels of the denomination, Strengthen the Church largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for the existing church’s new initiatives.

***Neighbors in Need*** supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries.

**The Christmas Fund** (formally known as the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund) is a special mission offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas “Thank You” gift checks. Many of these workers served before there were adequate pension plans. Now that they are no longer able to serve, they have little money to live on. That’s why the Christmas Fund is so important.

In the words of our Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, “Through your generosity and commitment to supporting Our Church’s Wider Mission which completely funds the work of our conference and the special mission offerings we promote in the United Church of Christ, we are able to do so much work and good in our community, both locally and globally. **YOU** are an integral part of the life-giving work of being united in transforming lives through Christ’s love. Thank you for being such a powerful witness and blessing.”



The choir will finish its season on Sunday, May 14, Mothers' Day. It has been my pleasure and blessing working with this group of singers to bring a message in song to you. In addition to faithful singers from our congregation -- Jackie Canterbury, Vicki Hartmann, Lew and Oxby Thomasino, we had friends of St. John sing with us: Shara Toenjes, Anne Brown, Kim Miller, Mary Waite, Adam Reynolds and Mike Stidham. Thanks to all of you for sharing your voices!

As always, Sharon Banjavcic supported the choir with both her voice and at the piano. Thanks, Sharon! We also had Lisa Cleveland accompany us.

Finally, thanks and blessings to all of you! Your compliments and encouragement are most appreciated. Nancy Eisenhauer

**PRAYER LIST:** Urban Baum, David Seneczyn, Theo Mally, Becky Ballard, Rosemary Williams, Jack O'Day, Ronald Bopp, Syd Safriet, Mary Holcomb, Beth Sheldon, Marilyn Paul, Gloria Coble



-Please pray for **Marilyn Paul** who is dealing with health issues. Marilyn is the widow of the Rev. Dr. H. J. "Jack" Paul, who served at St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville, St. John UCC in Fairview Heights, and the Well UCC in Glen Carbon, and mother of Rev. Tim (Rev. Janet) Darmour-Paul, who serves as pastor at Grantfork UCC. Cards may be sent to Marilyn at **200 S. Station Rd #9330, Glen Carbon, IL 62034.**

**LET'S SHOWER HER WITH CARDS  
SO SHE KNOWS ST. JOHN IN FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS STILL  
REMEMBERS HER AND HER HUSBAND  
WITH GREAT FONDNESS**



**USHERS**

5/7 Nancy & Jim Eisenhauer  
5/14 Carol Bulva & Eileen Gammon  
5/21 Eric Moayer & Tom Miller  
5/28 Judy Schmitt & Sue Williams



## SHUT – INS:

Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Road  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

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

Becky Ballard  
1211 Moreland, Apt 12  
Belleville, IL 62223

Ivy Schneider  
213 Merriweather Lane  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208



## EVENING CIRCLE:

Hope everyone had a pleasant April. May is approaching and so is our last Evening Circle meeting. Circle May 21st after church in the L-Room on your calendars. We will be disbursing our mission monies at this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please give us your thoughts on Charities to support. Many people have turned in their Daily Jar donations and their spring/summer offering envelopes. If you haven't, there is still time.



**ATTENTION:** We will also be having a POTLUCK luncheon after our meeting to enjoy some food and conversation

**MAY BIRTH FLOWERS:** Hawthorns & Lily-of-the-Valley. Lily-of-the-Valley has many Symbolisms. One is: Lily-of-the-Valley came to be from Eve's tears after she was expelled from the garden of Eden. It has also been said the Lily-of-the-Valley sprouted from the tears of Mary at the site of Christ's Crucifixion.

Lily-of-the-Valley is also the National Flower of Finland.



Hope to see many smiling faces! Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

# May

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting	5	6
7 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship  Art group	8	9	10 Church Council Meeting at 7 pm via Zoom	11 Hearts & Hands daytime Quilters 10-2 pm Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting	12	13
14 Choir rehearsal 9 am Service of Word 10 am Choir sings at service	15	16	17	18 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting	19	20
21 Service of Word 10 am Evening Circle after worship	22	23	24	25 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting	26	27
28 PENTECOST Wear red Service of Word 10 am and sacrament	29	30	31			