



# JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

Office Phone: 618-397-6323

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

Email: [stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com)

Secretary hours: Wed. & Fri., 8 am-1 pm

Pastor Rosemary Captain

When studying the story of Jairus's daughter and the woman with the hemorrhage, I came across an article that explained Jewish mourning customs at the time of Jesus. You may think this is kind of a gruesome subject to discuss, but in today's world there are still some mourning customs that we may find odd too. So here goes. This was written by Biblical scholar and historian **Dr. William Barclay**.

"Jewish mourning customs were vivid and detailed, and practically all of them were designed to stress the desolation and the final separation of death. The triumphant victorious hope of the Christian faith was totally absent.

"Immediately when death had taken place, a loud wailing was set up so that all might know that death had struck. The wailing was repeated at the graveside. The mourners hung over the dead body, begging for a response from the silent lips. They beat their breasts; they tore their hair; and they rent or tore their garments. (The tearing or renting of one's clothes is an ancient tradition among the Jews, and it is associated with mourning, grief, and loss.)

"This renting or rending of garments was done according to certain rules and regulations. It was done just before the body was finally hidden from sight. Garments were to be rent to the heart, that is, until the skin was exposed, but were not to be rent beyond the navel. For fathers and mothers the rent was on the left side, over the heart; for others it was on the right side. A woman was to rend her garments in private; she was then to reverse the inner garment, so that it was worn back to front; she then rent her outer garment, so that her body was not exposed. The rent garment was worn for thirty days. After seven days the tear might be

roughly sewn up, in such a way that it was still clearly visible. After the thirty days the garment was properly repaired.

“Flute-players were essential. Throughout most of the ancient world, in Rome, in Greece, in Phoenicia, in Assyria and in Palestine, the wailing of the flute was inseparably connected with death and tragedy. It was laid down that, however poor a man was, he must have at least two flute-players at his wife’s funeral.

“The wail of the flutes, the screams of the mourners, the passionate appeals to the dead, the rent garments and the torn hair must have made a Jewish house a poignant and emotional place on the day of mourning.

“When death came, a mourner was forbidden work, to anoint himself or to wear shoes. Even the poorest man must cease from work for three days. He must not travel with goods; and the prohibition of work extended even to his servants. He must sit with head bound up. He must not shave or ‘do anything for his comfort’. He must not read the law or the prophets, for to read these books is joy. He was allowed to read Job, Jeremiah and Lamentations. He must eat only in his own house, and he must abstain altogether from meat and wine. He must not leave the town or village for thirty days. It was the custom not to eat at a table, but to eat sitting on the floor, using a chair as a table. It was the custom, which still survives, to eat eggs dipped in ashes and salt.

“There was one curious custom. All water from the house, and from the three houses on each side, was emptied out, because it was said that the Angel of Death procured death with a sword dipped in water taken from close at hand. There was one peculiarly moving custom. In the case of a young life cut off too soon, if the young person had never been married, a form of marriage service was part of the burial rites. For the time of mourning, the mourner was exempt from the keeping of the law, because he was supposed to be beside himself, mad with grief.

“The mourner must go to the synagogue; and when he entered the people faced him and said, ‘Blessed is he that comforteth the mourner.’ The Jewish prayer book has a special prayer to be used before a meal in the house of the mourner.” (I did not include this prayer in this report.)

It was certainly good that Jesus brought Jairus’s daughter back to life, because these rules and traditions if she had died seem laborious.

Have a safe holiday. Peace, Pastor Rosemary

## USHERS:

7/7 Jane Cohlmeier, Nancy Eisenhower  
7/14 Lew Thomasino, Eileen Gammon  
7/21 Judy Schmitt, Ginny Ganschinietz  
7/28 Tom and Jan Miller

## JULY BIRTHDAYS:

7/8 Darlene Schaperkoetter  
7/10 Tiffani Eisenhower  
7/12 Luke Doctolero  
7/19 Abby Captain Doctolero  
7/23 Yvonne Weber  
7/26 Clay Harris  
7/28 Sherry Hackbarth



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

7/15 Sharon & Steve Banjavcic # 46  
7/17 Trisann & Bill Underwood # 25  
7/30 Stacie & Tim Pickens # 8

## OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP

Becky Ballard  
1211 Moreland Apt 12  
Belleville IL 62223



Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Rd  
Fairview Heights IL 62208



Ivy Schneider  
213 Merriweather Ln  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Yvonne Weber  
200 St Clair Dr  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Rosemary Williams  
201 S Belt W Apt 110  
Belleville IL 62220



**PRAYER LIST:** Becky Ballard, Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Jeeney Captain, Pastor Rosemary Captain, Sue Ganschietz, Stan Kampwerth, Josh Mueller, Marilyn Paul, Syd Safriet, David Seneczyn, Charlotte Watson, Yvonne Weber.

## DO YOU ENJOY FELLOWSHIP TIME ON COMMUNION SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP?

If so, would you be willing to provide the snacks on one Sunday? We have a volunteer for July, but the sign-up sheet is empty after that.



**IT MAY BE VACATION SEASON FOR SOME,** but bills do not take a vacation. Please remember your offerings this summer.



## Council Notes

The shed that housed our lawn mower and other outdoor equipment has been sold. It should be removed from the church property before you get this newsletter. We are happy with our arrangement for having the lawn cut and trimmed. Thus, we no longer have a need for the shed.

We have had a generous offer to seal the front portion of the parking lot. The gentleman who is doing it is quite busy and will do it when he can. We will keep you posted in case we need to block part of the lot on a Sunday morning.

If you have an issue or concern about the church, please contact me or another Council member to see what we can do.



Happy Fourth of July! Nancy

# JULY

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 AA Mtg 7 pm  HAPPY 4TH	5	6
7 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	8	9	10 Quilters Workshop 8-4	11 Quilters 10-2 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:00 pm AA Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting VIA Zoom 7 pm	12	13
14 Service of Word 10 am	15	16	17	18 Quilters 10 – 2 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7pm	19	20
21 Service of Word 10 am	22	23 Show Committee meeting 7 pm	24	25 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7pm	26	27