

# JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On May 26 we had the interesting scripture text regarding the visit of Nicodemus to Jesus. Among other lessons Jesus gives him is this line. “Unless a man is born of water **and the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” Is Jesus talking about two baptisms, I wondered. Did I miss something?

Before I tell you the answer I found, I want to point out that these conclusions are mine. I don’t know everything. You don’t have to believe a word I say. All of you have great wisdom and experiences to back them up. The only reason I stand in the pulpit is because you and God chose me to read, research, and find reason in the passages in our Bibles. So that’s my disclaimer.

If you are like me, you might want to know more about this spirit-baptism mentioned in this passage. I searched for an answer and found lots of different answers. Some denominations consider receiving the Holy Spirit as a sacrament. The UCC does not. The UCC has two sacraments; water baptism and the Lord’s Supper, (Holy Communion).

You are welcome to research this subject yourself if you like. And again, I don’t



know if I have the correct answer as for as belonging to the United Church of Christ. But here’s a try. When we are baptized with water, the water itself is blessed and the Pastor calls for the Holy Spirit to enter the water. The words the pastor uses include, “I baptize you in the name of God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

This Photo by

When we celebrate Holy Communion, the Pastor prays for the Holy Spirit to enter into the elements. (Next time, listen for those words.) So, when we partake of the elements, the Holy Spirit and Jesus himself comes within us. As often as we participate in communion, we receive the **spirit-baptism over and over and over again.**

In the UCC Statement of Faith it reads, “We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.”

IN other words, whenever we **receive communion**, we are reenergized with the Holy Spirit; **WE AREN'T MISSING ANYTHING.**

So, according to our denomination’s statement of faith, which I believe we all adhere to, as long as we are baptized and participate in Holy Communion, we have met “the requirements” for membership in God’s kingdom. **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Thanks be to God. Amen Pastor Rosemary



**COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME:** Have you volunteered to host a Coffee and Fellowship time? There are lots of dates available.

## USHERS:

- 6/2 Judy Schmitt & Jane Cohlmeier
- 6/9 Ginny Ganschinetz & family
- 6/16 Nancy Eisenhower & Carol Bulva
- 6/23 Lew Thomasino & Tiffany Baldwin
- 6/30 Tom & Jan Miller



# Congregational Meeting



**SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING June 23**  
**after** worship for an update on finances

## AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### June Birthdays:

6/1	Hunter Brink	6/16	Juliana Drake
6/4	Vicki Hartmann	6/18	Judy Schmitt
6/6	Melanie Wilhelm	6/21	Kim Turnbull
6/6	Elle Heiligenstein	6/23	Earlene White
6/9	Olivia Captain	6/29	Lily Brown
6/9	Scott Ganschinietz		



### June Anniversaries:

Chris & Anne Brown	18 years
Aaron & Christine Drake	10 years
Michael & Ashley Schmitt	10 years



### RETIREMENTS:



**Tami Hughes** is retiring from being an English Professor at Southwestern Illinois College.

**Kristi Mueller** is retiring as a Health and Drivers Ed instructor at O'Fallon High School.

The parents of these ladies are Urban and May Lou Baum.



## **CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**

**Claire Grace Boyle** – Our granddaughter is graduating from Webster Groves High School Class of 2024. She will be attending the University of Missouri!

Tom & Jan Miller

**Lucy Rose Fredrickson** – My granddaughter graduated from Evanston Township High School on May 19. She will be attending the University of Pittsburg studying nursing. Pastor Rosemary

**Noah Christopher Captain** – My grandson graduated from Mascoutah High School on May 19. He will be attending Eastern Illinois University for Jazz Studies.

Pastor Rosemary

*PS – Be sure to come to worship on Father's Day. Noah will be sharing his musical talents with us.*

**PRAYER LIST:** Becky Ballard, Urban Baum, Pastor Rosemary Captain, Ronald Bopp, Sue Ganschinietz, Marilyn Paul, Syd Safriet, David Senieczyn, Yvonne Weber.

### **THOSE WHO COULD USE A CHEERFUL GREETING CARD.**

Becky Ballard  
1211 Moreland Apt 12  
Belleville IL 62223

Ivy Schneider  
213 Merriweather Lane  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Rosemary Williams  
201 S Belt W Apt 110  
Belleville IL 62220

Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Rd  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Yvonne Weber  
200 St Clair Dr  
Fairview Heights IL 62208



## EVENING CIRCLE

It is summer and the heat has been turned UP.

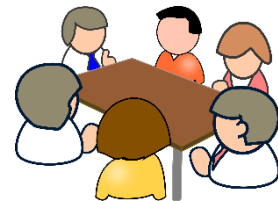
Here is some information about the Evening Circle Church Rummage sale. Thanks to all to people that contributed items, their time, and physical labor toward the rummage sale; we considered it a large success. Special thanks to Joe and Carol Bulva for their extra time setting up tables and organization skills.

We were able to distribute money to the following charities from our treasury: OCWM, Kinder-Cottage, Food Pantry, and DuBois. We also ear-marked funds for any future special church project.

We will announce later when our first fall meeting will be held.

Everyone have a Blessed and Safe summer!!! Eileen Gammon, Co-Chair

## COUNCIL NOTES



A couple of items of business from our May Council meeting may interest you.

- St. John will be switching insurance companies for our building and liability insurance. Our current company raised our premiums by 30%. Ginny did some research and found another company that provides more reasonable, cost-effective coverage.
- Lew is examining possible sealing/repair work for the parking lot. He and our custodians, Joe and Carol Bulva, are watching for potential problems in the building.
- Jan Miller is always looking for ushers to serve on Sunday mornings. If you haven't ushered in a while, contact Jan at [mjansmill@aol.com](mailto:mjansmill@aol.com)

## COUNCIL NOTES



If you have taken a walk to the back of the church building, you may have noticed that closets, and some rooms are looking less cluttered. The rummage sale was a great success, and the clean-out continues. Carol is relentless about clearing out things we don't use anymore -- and selling them!

The shed has been largely cleaned out. We have sold the riding lawn mower and other items from the shed, as well as the shed.

We are collecting used crayons! We have found a non-profit that will recycle them and offer them to children's hospitals. They will de-paper and melt them down. If you would like to add to the crayons found in the Sunday School rooms, please bring them to church by July 1. If you are interested in more information about this organization, go to [www.thecrayoninitiative.org](http://www.thecrayoninitiative.org)



Thank you, St. John congregation, for all your prayers, cards and calls during my hospitalizations and recovery. I deeply appreciate your encouragement and support.

**Sue Ganschietz**

I need to express my deep thanks not only for the prayers and cards from my recent hospital stay, but also for the surprise gifts for my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thanks all for your generosity. To say that I was surprised is an understatement.

Thank you, thank you!

**Ginny Ganschietz**

Thank you for all the prayers, concerns, and patience with all my varied illnesses lately. I miss you when I'm not in worship, but I know God hears your prayers.

**Pastor Rosemary**



Dear St John

Your generosity demonstrates a commitment to ensuring the warmth and well-being of the little ones we serve in the haven of Uni-Pres Kindercottage Childcare Center. Your ongoing support for our children is deeply appreciated and provides much-needed support for the families we serve.

**With Sincere Gratitude – Aimee Hart**

### **FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:**

Have you ever wondered why Jesus seems to have “issues” with Pharisees and all the laws they want the people to follow, but make it difficult for them to do so? Here’s how Dr. William Barclay explains it.

“In many ways, the Pharisees were the best people in the whole country at the time of Jesus. There were never more than 6,000 of them; they were what was known as a *chaburah*, or brotherhood. They entered into this brotherhood by taking a pledge in front of three witnesses that they would spend all their lives observing every detail of the scribal law.

“What exactly did that mean? To the Jews, the law was the most sacred thing in all the world. The law was the first five books of the Old Testament. They believed it to be the perfect word of God. To add one word to it or take one word away from it was a deadly sin. Now if the law is the perfect and complete word of God, that must mean that it contained everything that anyone needed to know for the living of a good life, if not explicitly, then implicitly. If it was not there in so many words, it must be possible to deduce it. The law as it stood consisted of great, wide, noble principles which people had to work out for themselves. But, for the later Jews, that was not enough. They said, ‘the law is complete; it contains everything necessary for the living of a good life; therefore, in the law there must be a regulation to govern every possible incident in every possible moment for every possible individual.’ So, they set out to extract from the great principles of the law an infinite number of rules and regulations to govern every conceivable situation in life. In other words, they changed the law of the great principles into the legalism of by-laws and regulations.



The best example of what they did is to be seen in the Sabbath law. In the Bible itself, we are simply told that we must remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy and that on that day no work must be done, either by a man or by his servants or his animals. Not content with that, the later Jews spent hour after hour and generation after generation defining what work is and listing the things that may and may not be done on the Sabbath day. The *Mishnah* is the codified scribal law. The scribes spent their lives working out these rules and regulations. In the Mishnah, the section on the Sabbath extends to no fewer than twenty-four chapters. The *Talmud* is the explanatory commentary on the Mishnah, and in the Jerusalem Talmud the section explaining the Sabbath law runs to 156 double folio pages.

“The kind of thing they did was this. To tie a knot on the Sabbath was to work; but a knot had to be defined. ‘The following are the knots the making of which



renders a man guilty; the knot of camel drivers and that of sailors; and as one is guilty by reason of tying them, so also of untying them.’ On the other hand, knots which could be tied and untied with one hand were quite legal. *THIS IS THE BEST PART.* Further, a woman may tie up a slit in her shift and the strings of her cap and those of her girdle, the straps of shoes or sandals, of skins of wine and oil. Now see what happened. **SUPPOSE A MAN WISHED TO**


**LET DOWN A BUCKET INTO A WELL TO DRAW WATER ON THE SABBATH DAY. HE COULD NOT TIE A ROPE TO IT, FOR A KNOT ON A ROPE WAS ILLEGAL ON THE SABBATH; BUT HE COULD TIE IT TO A WOMAN’S GIRDLE AND LET IT DOWN, FOR A KNOT IN A GIRDLE WAS QUITE LEGAL.** That was the kind of thing which to the scribes and Pharisees was a matter of life and death; that was religion; that to them was pleasing and serving God.”

If you need some more examples, I have them. As crazy as some of these rules were, that was the life of Jews in the time of Jesus. (And still today with very orthodox Jews.) Now perhaps we can better understand why Jesus would get upset. It was a sin for him to heal on the Sabbath but he could use his mother’s girdle to get a drink of water from a well. However, I bet you and I have some strange rules and regulations in our homes that would be shocking to others. Peace, Pastor R.



# June

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	3	4	5	6 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	7	8
9 Service of Word 10 am	10	11	12 Quilters Workshop 8-4	13 Hearts & Hands daytime Quilters 10-2 pm Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7pm	14	15
16 Service of Word 10 am FATHERS DAY Special Music	17	18	19	20 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7pm  Welcome Summer	21	22
23 Service of Word 10 am Semi-Annual congregational mtg. following worship	24	25	26	27 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	28	29
30						