



# NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Depending on when you read this, Halloween is passed or is still in the future. I'm not a fan of "horror" movies. Why spend money to have your socks scared off of you? As you can tell, I'm a big fraidy-cat.



Have you ever had the experience when you are reading a book or watching a TV story that has you mesmerized, so much so that you don't even hear someone enter the room behind you. They sneak up and yell BOO!! How long did it take for you to get your breath back long enough to say "you startled me!" I'm sure you were annoyed.

Have you ever been startled by God? There you are pulling into a parking space at the grocery store. Before you get out of the car, a friend comes over and tells you someone you both know from your Sunday School class has been placed in Hospice care. You are startled! You didn't even know she was ill. How did you miss that? I guess you just weren't paying attention until this sad news sneaked up on you. Immediately you can think of a dozen things you could do to comfort your friend. It was as if God came to you and said, "Hey you! Pay attention! I need you!"

Have you noticed the elderly man who lives next door has not mowed his grass in weeks? He's usually very particular about his lawn. "Hey you! Pay attention!" God says to you, almost out loud, "I need you." There it is. God has startled you again. Have you figured it out yet? You have been too busy and preoccupied to take the time to look for those in need; do something or at least intently pray for them. Look around. Do you see anyone or any situation that could use your help? You might be surprised and maybe startled.



Peace, Pastor Rosemary

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/2 Charlie Harris

11/4 Henry Captain

11/11 Jackie Canterbury

11/15 Jim Eisenhower

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



**PRAYER LIST:** Becky Ballard, Mary Lou Baum, Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Kim Campbell-Miller, Jackie Canterbury, Leah Captain, Glen Case, Marilyn Paul, Syd Safriet, Terry Thorpe, Yvonne Weber.

**CONDOLENCES TO THE** family and friends of Luz Captain who passed away on Friday, October 11 at the age of 96.

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

Becky Ballard  
1211 Moreland Apt 12  
Belleville, IL 62223

Ivy Schneider  
213 Merriweather Ln  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Rd  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Yvonne Weber  
200 St Clair Dr  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Jackie Canterbury  
105 W Julie St Apt C  
Shiloh IL 62269

Rosemary Williams  
201 S Belt W Apt 110  
Belleville IL 62220

**ADDRESS UPDATE:** Below see the new address for David Schmisser if you would like to reach out to him.

David Schmisser  
1 Clairemont Cir Tullahoma TN 37388



## TOTENFEST

Sunday, November 24, 2024 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. Gratefully, we have not lost anyone in the last 12 months. This year we will celebrate any and all our family and friends we have lost throughout our lives.

## CHOIR



The choir sang for the first time this season in October. They showed up and sang beautifully! In November we will sing one of Pastor's favorites: "How Great Thou Art". Join us on November 17 to sing or to listen. Either way, you will be worshipping in song.

## COUNCIL NOTES

A small group of us got a lot of cleaning and upkeep done at church on October 12. We polished the pews and chancel furnishings, doors in the hallway were polished, grass was planted where the shed used to be, the sign out front and some guttering were cleaned and the area around the front of the building was weeded. Thank you to all who worked: Carol and Joe Bulva, Ginny and Sue Ganschietz, Sharon Banjavcic, Judy Schmitt, Lew Thomasino and Jim Eisenhauer. Job well done!  
Nancy



## USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

November 3: Sue Ganschinietz, Ginny Ganschinietz  
November 10: Jim and Nancy Eisenhower  
November 17: Judy Schmitt, Sue Williams  
November 24: Lew Thomasino, Jane Cohlmeier

## CIRCLE

November 10, 2024 after church in the L-Room.  
Bring your Thank Offering!  
Craft activity? To Be Announced.  
This is the month to find at least one  
thing to be thankful for every day!!!!

ITTY-BITTY CRAFT FAIR; DEC. 1ST AND 15TH.  
Would anyone like to have their own craft table  
on the above dates or would anyone like to donate  
some items for a church craft table? (no used items)  
Please call the secretary, Lisa, to get further information.  
She is in the office on Weds. and Fridays until 12:00 P.M.

Eileen Gammon, Co- Chair

Thought for the Month:

God always gives his best to those who leave  
the choice with Him.

Carol Bulva

## Mission Moment about the Justice 100 Campaign

**Jesus** advocated for the outcasts, those unloved and those alone. **God** sees into our hearts and souls and **God** calls us to be servants to the whole human family. The **UCC** has always been conscience of witnessing and seeking justice for those

who find themselves unloved, alone or cast out. Individuals in the LGBTQ+ community can fall into this category. They face acts of hatred and violence. Now, trans youth face targeted legislation, healthcare access is under threat, and the fight for full inclusion continues. Some people in today's world are repelled by associating with these beloved people whom Jesus would have welcomed.

More than ten years ago, our congregation chose to be part of the **Open and Affirming Coalition**, by declaring ourselves an **Open and Affirming congregation**. Since all UCC churches are not Open and Affirming Congregations the Coalition receives no funding from the United Church of Christ itself. The Coalition to which **we belong**, is a separate not-for-profit organization having to raise its own funds. The Justice 100 Campaign supports **this organization**. Our "Pennies for Mission" in October was for the Justice 100 Campaign, and we collected \$124.65.

The Justice 100 Campaign is ambitious. It hopes to raise \$100,000 this Fall. As the flyer in our October Newsletter explains, with these funds, the Open and Affirming Coalition, can expand the movement, strengthen networking, build bridges for change, empower advocates, create circles of support and foster safe and affirming spaces for the LGBTQ+ communities. It dreams for the day when 100% of UCC congregations will be Open and Affirming.

St. John UCC belongs to the coalition. We have our flag on the front of the building declaring "Justice for All." How else have we supported this movement? I am not sure if we have ever **financially** supported the Open and Affirming coalition to which we belong.

Could our small congregation possibly raise \$1000 for this movement by the end of the year? I am sure whatever we donate will be appreciated. If you feel you can make an extra contribution for the cause, put it in an envelope marked "**Justice 100 Campaign.**"

Judy Schmitt

## FOOD PANTRY SUGGESTIONS

Most people buy what they think food pantry users want, but have never asked them. If you help families, single people, foster youth and the homeless, this list can help better tailor your donations! Some tips and guidance if you donate to food pantries derived from feedback by those who use them:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dish Soap / Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Also, please consider donating dog and cat food. Some people have hit a temporary low point and don't want to give up their pets but find they have to choose to feed themselves or their pets.

# Prayer for the Election

Holy God, One yet Three,  
reach into the abundance of your companionship,  
bring forth unity and healing in our land.

Cover this election with fairness and dignity.  
Dismantle voter suppression and intimidation.  
Grant simple, safe, equal access to the polls.  
Make the way for all voices to be heard,  
all votes to be counted.

Cover this election with grace and integrity.  
Protect the process from corruption.  
Strengthen all working for an honorable election.  
Make the way for all voices to be valued,  
all results to be trustworthy.

Cover this election with compassion and hope.  
As we await results and move into a new era,  
soften and soothe hard, violent hearts.  
Rain down generosity of spirit  
and a commitment to the common good,  
so all may know blessing and opportunity  
and belonging. Amen.



**CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS NOVEMBER 3  
FALL BACK ONE HOUR**



**DON'T BE LATE FOR CHURCH!!**

# November

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</b> Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	4	5	6	7 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	8	9
10 Service of Word 10 am  Evening Circle Meeting after worship	11	12	13	14 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Quilters 9 - 2	15	16
17  Choir rehearsal 9 am Service of Word 10 am Choir sings at service	18	19	20	21  Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	22	23
24  Service of Word and Totenfest 10 am	25	26	27	28  AA Meeting 7 pm <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b>	29	30