



DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

618-397-6323

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Email address: stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com

Pastor Rosemary Captain 618-660-8894

revrosemarycaptain@gmail.com

Dear Fellow members of St. John,

As of the day this is written, Pastor is awaiting a time for her heart procedure. (Don't ask me for details. I don't know any.) I am writing this in her stead. That is the thing about a church family. No matter who is in need, someone will step up to do what needs to be done. That is what it means to be a person of faith in a family of faith. By the same token, we are never alone when we need help. In this season of Thanksgiving and then Advent and Christmas, we remember those who could use some help. You can help by giving to the Fairview Heights Food Pantry, the Justice 100 Campaign (don't recall what it is? See the November newsletter), St. John itself, or other organizations who serve those in need.

I have spoken to folks who will be spending a holiday or two with those who have different views on a lot of things, especially involving our country. Remember – we have been given the command to love one another. Jesus said it at least 16 times, as recorded in the Bible. I imagine he spoke those words many more times than that.

I pray that all of you will enjoy a season of love, joy, and fellowship with your family and friends.

Blessings from Pastor Rosemary, Jim and me to all of you!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT WILL BE AT 7 PM DECEMBER 24



We promise there will be lots of music and singing of Christmas carols, including the candle light singing of "Silent Night".
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

12/3 Rosemary Williams
12/3 Gene Ganschinetz
12/6 Abbey Cohlmeier
12/14 Barron Arbeiter
12/14 Jakob Arbeiter
12/15 Marilyn Paul

12/15 Aaron Drake
12/16 Becky Ballard
12/26 Abby Stewart
12/30 Pat Bregen



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

12/1 Carol & Terry Randle #58
12/19 Nancy & Jim Eisenhauer #54



PRAYER LIST:

Becky Ballard, Mary Lou Baum, Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Ray Bopp, Sandy Bopp, Terry Bopp, Jackie Canterbury, Lisa Captain, Glen Case, Marilyn Paul, Syd Safriet, Yvonne Weber.

AND to all caregivers who perform the work of God to those who need help.

USHERS FOR DECEMBER:

December 1: Tom and Jan Miller
December 8: Chuck Kistler and Carol Bulva
December 15 Tom and Jan Miller
December 22 Eric Moayer and Eileen Gammon
December 24 Ganschinietz Family
December 29 Jane Cohlmeier and Chuck Kistler



CHOIR

My favorite singing month of the year! Choir will sing on December 15 and for the Christmas Eve service on December 24. You are welcome to join us anytime!

Hope to see many of you for worship this month!

CHURCH COUNCIL

- The Council approved an updated schedule of rental fees for use of the church building for weddings, funerals, showers, etc.
- Hanging of the Greens on **Sunday December 1**, after church. Join us to decorate the sanctuary and narthex. We will have a pizza lunch before we go to work. Maybe drop in to the craft fair (elsewhere in the newsletter) and then come and help decorate!

CIRCLE

CIRCLE HOLIDAY MEETING: Dec. 8th, 2024-in the L-room after church
We will have a short business meeting, games, and light lunch!

Here is a list of reminders for our **Dec. 8th** meeting:

1. You may still bring your "Thank Offering" for OCWM
2. Bring Oct.- Dec. offering
3. Our annual Food Pantry offering will also be collected
4. Please bring and share an item or dish for our light lunch.
5. BRING YOUR GIFTS FOR OUR KINDERCOTTAGE CHILD, RYDER. WRAPPED, HIS NAME ON A GIFT TAG, AND POST-IT STATING WHAT TYPE OF GIFT IS INSIDE

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: Don't forget to bring 1 1/2 dozen cookies EARLY Sunday, Dec.15th to be sold at \$6.00 for a plate containing a dozen cookies.

ALSO, anyone may browse a couple small craft tables on Dec. 1st and 15th.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Each one of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.

Carol Bulva

ATTENTION BAKERS



Once again the Circle will have cookies for sale for \$6 a dozen on **Sunday, December 15** after service. The dozen cookies will be home baked and donated by church friends and family. You will receive 12 different cookies!!

Now BAKERS – please everyone that can---bake and donate a batch of 12-18 cookies before church that Sunday. If you need someone to pick up your cookies, let me know. I know I sure enjoyed tasting everyone else's cookies and look forward it to again. Ginny Ganschinetz

Mission Moment

November was the month we collected for Neighbors in Need, a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry and the other two-thirds for the Justice and Witness Ministries.

The theme this year for Neighbors in Need is “**Mental Health Justice For All!**”

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey.

In 2015, the General Synod of the UCC passed a resolution affirming a covenant to become Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged (WISE) for mental health, AND in 2022 our Illinois South Conference at the annual meeting unanimously reaffirmed the same covenant.

We can strive to be:

WELCOMING and practice hospitality, recognizing patterns that promote stigma and the silencing of people with mental health challenges.

INVITING and encourage all people to participate in the work of the congregation, regardless of any mental health challenges.

SUPPORTIVE to lay members and clergy who have mental health challenges and those who love them.

ENGAGING with other organizations as Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, UCC Mental Health Network, UCC Disabilities Ministries, and the UCC Council for Health and Human Services Ministries. We would follow the Holy Spirit as it leads us to create spaces where people living with mental health challenges

- can feel that they belong,
- can be seen as people first,
- can sense the holy worth of their lives,
- can receive the love of God that is extended to all without partiality, and
- can have their voices affirmed as they offer their sacred gifts.

Judy Schmitt

**PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US IN WORSHIP
AND SEND THEM EACH A **CHRISTMAS CARD**
LETS SHOW THEM THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.**

Becky Ballard
1211 Moreland Apt 12
Belleville IL 62223

Ivy Schneider
213 Merriweather Ln
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Road
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



Searching for something to do this weekend?

Visit Carol Bulva's craft table at the Candy Cane Lane Christmas Bazaar located at

Faith Hall – St John UCC - 307 W Clay St Collinsville IL

Saturday, November 23 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, November 24 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Carol will dazzle all with her crafts. Maybe you will find a special gift for someone OR something for yourself.

December

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service of Word & Sacrament @10am Fellowship time Mini Craft Sale Hanging of the Greens	2	3	4	5 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7pm	6	7
8 Service of Word @ 10 am Circle Holiday meeting	9	10 Quilters 9 – 2 pm	11 Church Council Meeting via Zoom @ 7 pm	12 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	13	14
15 Service of Word @ 10 am Choir rehearsal @ 9 am and after worship Mini Craft Sale Christmas <u>Cookie sale</u>	16	17	18	19 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	20	21
22 Service of Word @ 10 am	23	24 Choir sings at Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 pm	25 Merry Christmas!	26 AA Meeting 7 pm	27	28
29 Service of Word @ 10 am	30	31				