



2025 APRIL NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As a reminder:

WHAT DO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BELIEVE?

(As printed in the UCC website)

What We Believe

We believe all are welcome and united by God's love. For The United Church of Christ, Justice and Jesus are inseparable. Our daily worship is anchored by the belief that God is still speaking.

Our Beliefs

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.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belongs to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who – no matter what – no matter where we are on life's journey – notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed – we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized – past, present and future – are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized – and we promise that we won't take it back – no matter where your journey leads you.

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' – our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials–unity, in nonessentials–diversity, in all things–charity," These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking . . .

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

4/1 Trisann Underwood
4/2 Brenna Cohlmeier
4/11 Madison Brown

4/18 Tom Miller
4/24 Stacie Pickens
4/27 Becky Riess

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

4/26 Tiffani & Brad Eisenhauer



PRAYER LIST: Urban & Mary Lou Baum, Ronald Bopp, Jackie Canterbury, Jan Miller, Don Mueller, Dorothy Ovelgoenner, Marilyn Paul, Pam Safriet, Syd Safriet, Yvonne Weber, Rosemary Williams.

SHUT – INS:

Becky Ballard
1211 Moreland Apt 12
Belleville IL 62223

Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Rd
Fairview Heights IL 62208



Jackie Canterbury
105 W Julie St Apt C
Shiloh IL 62269

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



LILY SALE



You will be able to order Lilies April 6th and April 13 at a cost of \$10 each.

You may also give a Memorial for a loved one for the Garden of Memories.

APRIL USHERS

- April 6 Chuck Kistler, Carol Bulva
- April 13 Tom Miller, Lew Thomasino
- April 20 Ginny Ganschinietz, Sue Ganschinietz
- April 27 Chuck Kistler, Carol Bulva



CHOIR

First, I want to thank Tami Hughes and Mary Baum for enriching worship on March 9 with their music. Tami was on the piano and Mary on the accordion. It was great to hear both of you!

April – and Easter will finally be here! We will have brass, organ, choir – and praises to sing! Be sure to join us to celebrate our risen Lord. Nancy

UCC's "Fifth Stream"

Traditionally, since the formation of the UCC in 1957, we have declared our church as formed from the combining of 4 denominations: the Evangelical and Reformed from Germany and Switzerland, and the Congregational church from England and lastly the Christian denomination, new in southern United States. It was **unacknowledged** that the **Afro-Christian Convention** was part of the merger. The Afro-Christian Convention had its first beginnings in 1619 when human cargo landed in Virginia. It evolved strong and vibrant, in spite of the sin of slavery and racism.

In 2022, the Historical Council of the UCC passed a resolution affirming the "*Afro-Christian Convention*" as the fifth denomination that made up the UCC. The book, "*Afro-Christian Convention, The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ.*" explains the history. UCC offered a 3-part Webinar this year on the topic, available on You Tube.

The Rev. Yvonne Delk, now about 85, is the editor of the book and she is involved in the webinars. In 1974, Yvonne was the first African American woman to be ordained as clergy in the UCC, in Chesapeake, VA. She grew up within the *Afro-Christian Convention* denomination, and in 1957, she had no idea that her church was part of the **predominantly white** denomination.

Rev. Delk says the Afro-Christian Convention was made up of people that had not come to the United States, they were **brought** to the United States. And to paraphrase from a webinar of 2021, she would describe the Afro Christian church bearing five characteristics:

1. They worshiped the God of their African ancestors—unique and distinct
2. Believing the **Spirit** of God was **alive**—and they worshiped God on Sunday mornings through preaching, singing, shouting and praise! The same **Spirit** that came to them in the motherland of Africa.
3. Their church was **strategically** organized beginning in 1871. 150 churches, 25,000 members (primarily in Virginia and North Carolina), and 185 ordained ministers. Many of the newly freed slaves could not read, so education was a priority, and in 1871, Franklinton Christian College at Bricks, North Carolina began. This institution has evolved and remains strong today.
4. Rooted in Christ.
5. Mission minded, planting churches in Trinidad, British Guiana, Barbados, British West Indies, and missionaries to Liberia.

Today, these churches still affirm an active commitment to the UCC. We can learn much from them about our faith, justice, spirit, community, freedom and liberation.

Thank God for their service. Judy Schmitt



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10 am
Maundy Thursday Service, April 17, Light supper in the L-Room at 6 pm
Easter Sunday, Service of Word and Sacrament **April 20** at 10 am

CIRCLE

April 13, 2025 in the L-Room after church.

Ladies, please bring your offering envelope and the envelope for your "31 day jar" if you haven't turned them in yet.
I hope you have enjoyed reading your daily thought.

We will be dispersing money to different missions at this April meeting.
Offerings and fundraisings always go to good causes.

This is our last meeting until next fall; therefore, it was decided to have a light lunch to end our year at the April meeting. Please bring something to share with our small but mighty group!

April 20th is Easter Sunday. Remember the cross and the events of that day. Hope you will be able to attend church. Eileen Gammon - Co-Chair

Thoughts to Remember:

Your greatest possessions are the 24 hours directly ahead of you. Carol Bulva



COUNCIL

After surviving a late winter snow or two, Council members are glad to have that behind us!

Everything was calm this month and we may have set a record for the shortest Council meeting ever. Let's hope that keeps up! Nancy



PENNIES FOR MISSION

Thank you for your donations:

January	DuBois Camp - <u>\$81.13</u>
February	Fairview Heights Food Pantry - \$105.97
March	One Great Hour of Sharing -
April	Uni-Pres Kindercottage -



As always mission work and your donations are important. Please continue to help and Spread the Love to All.

44rd ANNUAL ST John UCC - QUILT SHOW – APRIL 26, 2025

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

St John United Church of Christ – 55 W Church St Mascoutah IL 62258 Admission: \$3.00

Featuring:

- 200+ quilts on display
- Hand Quilted and Machine Quilted
- Queen size and Baby Quilts for sale
- **9:45 am** Bed Turning

Clinton County Challenge Quilts. Demonstrations 11:00 am and 12:15 pm

Lunch Available – Homemade Pie, White Elephant Sale and Bake Sale

We invite everyone to exhibit quilts or wall hangings in our show. Please bring display items to St John UCC on Friday, April 25 between 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

April

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2	3	4	5
6 Service of Word & Communion 10 am Fellowship time after worship LILY SALE \$10	7	8	9 Quilters 9 - 3 pm Church Council Meeting at 7 pm via Zoom	10 Quilters 10-2 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	11	12
13 Service of Word 10 am PALM SUNDAY Last Circle meeting until fall LILY SALE \$10	14	15	16 Quilter Show Meeting 7 pm	17 MAUDY THURSDAY 6 pm	18 GOOD FRIDAY	19
20 Choir rehearsal 9 am Service of Word & Communion 10 am Choir sings at service HAPPY EASTER!	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	25	26
27 Service of Word 10 am	28	29	30			