



JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers in faith,

While I was doing research for my message on the Ascension of Jesus, I found a paragraph written by Rev. Carl R. Holladay that seems to fit this time in the church life. It describes the “in-between” time when Jesus was resurrected and before he returned to his Father.

“The disciples are now with the risen Lord, but their attention is directed toward a time when he will no longer be with them in the same way. He will be absent but present with them through the Spirit. The power they now feel in his presence they will experience even when he is absent. They are thus instructed to stop gazing into heaven and be about the business at hand – waiting for the renewal that will begin in Jerusalem.”

Jesus may seem absent from us, also, but he is always with us in the Holy Spirit if we just learn to spend quiet time waiting for it.

Peace be with you all, Pastor Rosemary

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER:

By its upward struggle, the fountain creates its own beauty. Carol Bulva

MISSION MOMENT

Sue Williams and I plan to attend the General Synod #35, July 11 through 15, in Kansas City, MO.

Our *Illinois South Conference* will be sending 15 delegates. Seven are ministers from various congregations. The other 8 are lay people from our conference. I have their names in case anyone is interested.

During the General Synod, delegates will be voting on 3 *Prudential Resolutions* and 5 *Resolutions of Witness*. Two of the *Prudential Resolutions* have to do with joining in “full Communion” with certain Christian churches in Germany and Puerto Rico. The third *Prudential Resolution* is from “The Small Town and Rural Coalition” of the UCC, and they wish to be recognized as a formal group. From what I can tell, these resolutions are probably not controversial.

The Resolutions of Witness can bring on a lot of interesting discussion and maybe different opinions. These resolutions must pass with 2/3rds of all delegates being in favor.

Even if resolutions pass, they are simply “**expressions** of Christian conviction concerning moral, ethical, and religious matters, and they are merely a way for the **General Synod #35** to be a Christian witness to the world on that issue. But most important: the General Synod only speaks **to** congregations but **never for congregations**. It can be said that the resolutions passed at the General Synod might urge, invite, encourage congregations to also witness to these resolves, **but General Synod never requires congregations to do so**.

From a UCC webinar, as one of the speakers explained, there are different **settings** of the UCC, and **they** speak for **themselves**. Each **congregation** is a setting, General Synod #35 is a setting, our Illinois South Conference is a setting, and the Advocacy Branch of the UCC is another setting. And each setting speaks **for itself**. Each member of our congregation can speak for themselves. We are in covenant to **listen** to one another from different settings.

The Advocacy Branch of the UCC in the Washington DC office, relies entirely on the resolutions of witness approved by Synods to determine what to advocate for. When we as individuals, receive action alerts to suggest we contact our congress people, these alerts are based upon past General Synod resolutions. Again, we are not **required** to act, we are in covenant to **listen** and pray and pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit guide us in all we do, and may the Holy Spirit fill and guide the hearts of our delegates as they attend the gathering. From Judy Schmitt



COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME: Have you volunteered to host a Coffee and Fellowship time? Currently July through December are open.

USHERS:

- 6/1 Tom and Jan Miller
- 6/8 Chuck Kistler, Carol Bulva
- 6/15 Eric Moyer, Nancy Eisenhauer
- 6/22 Judy Schmitt, Lew Thomasino
- 6/29 Jane Cohlmeier, Nancy Eisenhauer



Congregational Meeting



SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING June 22 after
worship for an update on finances

Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, June 22, for our semi-annual meeting. The congregation will be given a financial update. Hope to see you there!

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

June Birthdays:

6/1 Hunter Brink	6/18 Judy Schmitt
6/4 Vicki Hartmann	6/23 Earlene White
6/6 Elle Heiligenstein	6/29 Lily Brown
6/9 Olivia Captain	
6/9 Scott Ganschietz	



June Anniversaries:

Chris & Anne Brown	19 years
Aaron & Christine Drake	11 years
Michael & Ashley Schmitt	11 years



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Hats off to Urban Russel Baum and Luke William Baum who are graduating from Middle School and are Twin grandkids of Urban and Mary Lou Baum. Congratulations to both of them! Good Luck on your next journey!!

THOSE WHO COULD USE A CHEERFUL GREETING CARD.



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

COUNCIL NOTES



We had a beautiful day on May 10 to do some spring clean-up work outside. Leaves were raked from the ground and from under bushes, as well as gathered from the flat roof and gutters. The sign area was cleaned and weeded, the front door was brightened, downspouts were repaired and weeds along the east side of the building were taken care of. Amazingly, with the help of a few people, it didn't take all that long. Thanks, Carol, Joe, Tom, Jim, Lew, Sharon, and Judy!

There are always reasons to pray. It seems that we have even more reasons nowadays. The United Church of Christ publishes a "Prayer for Peace" daily. Anyone can submit a prayer to be published. They represent all of us in the UCC. You can access them here:

<https://www.ucc.org/peoples-prayers-for-peace/>

There is one published every day to your email address when you subscribe. You can also access Facebook and Twitter through the website. Nancy



April 2025

Dear Members of St John UCC Fairview Heights,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift of \$125 for our Mission Funds. You are making a tremendous difference in the lives of the youth and families we serve.

We provide shelter and safety for a child with nowhere else to go, counseling to a developmentally disabled teen struggling to understand the world around them, an education for a child with severe behavioral issues, and a number of community outreach programs for several another at risk groups.

Members of St John UCC Fairview Heights, we appreciate the faith you have in Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, than you for your support!

Meghan Seipp – Director of Philanthropy – Hoyleton Youth and Family Services



May, 2025

Dear St John United Church of Christ,

On behalf of the children, families, and dedicated staff at Uni Pres Kindercottage, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support and continued commitment to our mission. Your investment in our center is more than a donation – it is a powerful affirmation of the importance of nurturing and educating our community's youngest learners.

Please know that your support is making a meaningful difference. You are helping to build strong foundations for children who might otherwise be overlooked, and creating lasting change in a community that deeply needs it.

With sincere appreciation,

Aimee Washington-Hart, Executive Director Uni Pres Kindercottage

JUNE

2025

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