



PLAY BALL!!

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL
618-397-6323

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Pastor Rosemary Captain

Secretary Office Hours:

Wed, 9 AM – 1 PM

Fri. 8 AM – 1 PM

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all had an inspiring. After all, it's not every day that our Savior is raised from the dead. It's as if God is giving us a second chance. (Tongue in cheek.)

Coming up the next few weeks our Gospel lesson will come from the Gospel of John. John writes differently than all the other Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Let's take a look at why I say John is "different." (All this information came from the introduction to the Gospel of John as written in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.)

"It has long been recognized that the Gospel According to John differs significantly from the other Gospels. It has characters and events that the other three do not mention, and it lacks stories that are prominent in them. It uses language rich in symbolism and subtle shades of meaning such as irony and paradox.

Of all the New Testament Gospels, John presents by far the most hostile picture of relations between Jesus and the Jews. It is important to remember that when John speaks of "the Jews," it does not refer to the Jewish people as a whole. It seems the ultimate referent seems to be the synagogue authorities of a particular time and place who were inimical to the Christian movement. John states in chapter 20 verse 31 his reason for writing this Gospel. That purpose was to encourage its readers to believe that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. At one time it was believed that Joh the son of Zebedee wrote this Gospel. Second century tradition places the date in the last decade of the first century or in the first decades of



the second century. In other words, if Jesus died around 35 AD, John wrote either at 90 AD or 100 AD – quite a gap and a doubtful eye witness.

I look forward to sharing more with you as we explore the Gospel of John.

Pastor Rosemary



May Birthdays:

5/3 Sue Williams
5/4 Jane Cohlmeier
5/9 Larry Riess
5/14 Ginny Ganschinietz
5/15 Brian Ganschinietz
5/17 Michael Schmitt
5/18 Sharon Kistler

5/21 Sharon Banjavcic
5/24 Urban Baum
5/26 Polli Allen
5/26 Noah Captain
5/29 Anne Brown
5/31 Cody Brink



ARE THERE GRADUATES IN YOUR FAMILY?

If you have a graduate in your family, please let us know. Call or email the office. Either Kindergarten, Middle School, High School, College, GED or Trade School. ANY GRADUATION.

We would love to share it with others and note it in our Newsletter.

PENNIES FOR MISSION:



April pennies went to the Uni-Pres Kindercottage. As of this Newsletter, total collections is \$110.40

MAY pennies will go to **“Strengthen the Church”** one of the UCC Five-for-Five missions. Thank you to everyone who contributes each week to help support these mission projects.

COUNCIL NOTES

At our monthly Council meetings, we open with a short meditation or prayer. Before our meeting in April, I used a prayer from Mother Teresa that I found on the internet (where else?) A couple of Council members suggested that I share it with you here.

"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do -- what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I pray for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things." Food for thought -- and action!

Mark your calendars: On **Saturday, May 10**, we will have an outdoor work day at church, starting at 9 am or whenever you can make it. Bring rakes, gloves, and whatever other yard work tools you think you may need. As always, many hands make light work!



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

CHOIR

We will finish our choir season on Mothers' Day, May 11. It has been a delight to work with talented singers and instrumentalists. All of them are invited back in the fall! The choir still has room for YOU! Talk to me for more information. Nancy

AN OPPORTUNITY AWAITS



There are still opportunities OPEN to host Fellowship Time following communion on the 1st Sunday of each month. Currently there are openings from June through December. Please remember the list of open Sundays is posted in the fellowship area.

CIRCLE:

May Circle:

Circle will NOT meet until next fall; however, our April meeting was very productive. Because of all the support of our members and church members, we distributed \$1000. Food pantry, Kinder Cottage, Hoyleton, DuBois and OCWM all received a portion of the money. Thanks to everyone.

It was decided to try and have a Rummage Sale in April 2026 as a fundraiser. So, as you clean out that drawer, closet, or basement, start saving items you would like to donate to a rummage sale. NO CLOTHES PLEASE!

We had a wonderful luncheon after our April meeting!

We hope everyone has a great summer and a wonderful May that is full of celebrations: May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and any graduations, etc. Eileen Gammon, Co-Chair

MAY THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Human beings, like plants, grow in the soil of acceptance, not in the atmosphere of rejection. Carol Bulva



Thank you, Pastor Rosemary, for your prayers and calls after my knee replacement surgery. Thank you St. John friends for your many acts of kindness. We are thankful to be a part of such a kind and caring congregation! Jan Miller



A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM A PERSON IN THE COMMUNITY.

A message was left for the Church on Monday, April 28th stating " Beautiful message, I live in Fairview and drive by the Church every day and just want to say THANK YOU. I look at the flag, it gives me comfort. Thank you.

USHERS

5/4 Lew Thomasino and Eileen Gammon
5/11 Tom and Jan Miller
5/18 Ginny and Sue Ganschinietz
5/25 Judy Schmitt and Sue Williams



EASTER GARDEN OF MEMORIES LILIES

FOR

Loved Ones

Joe

Judy

Rich Schmitt

FROM

Nancy Eisenhower

Ginny Ganschinietz

Russ Hartmann

Judy Schmitt

EASTER GARDEN OF MEMORIES

FOR

Alvin & Verna Koch,
Emil & Dorothy Banjavcic,
Janice Lohman

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Alan & Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Olen, Arlene, & Jim Hagebusch

Loving wife, Judy

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Jack

Lawrence & Mary Schlosser

Loved Ones

Clarence

FROM

The Banjavcics
& Pickens

Urban & Mary Lou Baum

Sue Ganschinietz

Jackie Canterbury

Judy Schmitt

Stuart & Beth Schneider

Russ Hartmann

Tom & Jan Miller

Sue Williams

Eileen Gammon

Carol Bulva

Cheri Schutzenhofer

Dorothy Ovelgoenner

SHUT – INS:
Those who could use a cheerful greeting card.

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

PRAYER LIST: DL, DSB, Becky Ballard, Urban and Mary Lou Baum, Ronald Bopp, Jackie Canterbury, Dorothy Ovelgoenner, Don Mueller, Marilyn Paul, Pam Safriet, Syd Safriet, Nancy Weber, Yvonne Weber.

May

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am</p> <p>Fellowship time after worship</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Outdoor workday, weather permitting, at 9:00 AM</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Service of Word 10 am</p> <p>Choir sings – final performance until fall</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 9 am</p> <p>HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Church Council Meeting at 7 pm via Zoom</p> <p>Quilters Workshop 9 - 4</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Service of Word 10 am</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Quilt Show Mtg 7:00 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Service of Word 10 am</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Memorial Day</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>