



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Faith,

In my personal search for hope in our present world, I receive Rev. Cameron Trimble's daily meditations. This one was particularly helpful. I hope it might be helpful for you?
Peace, Pastor Rosemary

ONE DROP AT A TIME A meditation by Rev. Cameron Trimble

"A long time ago—so the Quechua elders say—the forest caught fire.

It spread quickly, flames leaping into the trees and thick smoke curling into the sky. The animals fled in every direction. Some ran. Others flew. A few froze in place, unsure what to do. Eventually, they gathered at the edge of the woods, watching as everything they knew and loved was consumed. They were helpless in the face of the destruction.

"All except for one.

"A tiny hummingbird flew to a nearby stream, picked up a single drop of water in its beak, and returned to release it over the fire. Then it turned back, flew again to the stream, gathered another drop, and returned. Over and over, the hummingbird made its journey.

The other animals watched in disbelief. They called out to the hummingbird, "What are you doing? You can't stop the fire with just a few drops of water!"

"The hummingbird paused in the air and replied, "I'm doing what I can."

Cameron continues, “I first heard this story at the launch of the 2023 United Nations World Water Day Campaign. I’ve been thinking about this story lately. There is something quietly profound about the hummingbird’s choice. She didn’t wait until it had a better plan. She didn’t pause to calculate the odds of success. She didn’t look around for approval. She simply began.

“Right now, many of us are standing at the edge of our own burning forests. We are watching the systems we trusted unravel. We see political institutions falter, environmental collapse, accelerate, and communities torn apart by division, fear, and disinformation. The scope of suffering can feel overwhelming.

“It’s tempting to believe we are too small to make a difference. This story invites us to rethink what it means to respond in times of crisis. The hummingbird did not act because she believed her effort would be enough. She acted because integrity required her to do something.

“It’s easy to become paralyzed by the scale of the world’s need. But we don’t have to fix everything to be faithful. We are each called to offer what we can—to take our drop of water and carry it toward the fire.

“Your voice matters. Your effort matters. Your care matters. Not because it will stop the fire on its own, but because the world is held together by people who refuse to stand by and watch it burn. We are in this together. Rev. Cameron Trimble



PENNIES FOR MISSION for September will be going to the **Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministries**

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER:

Every day may not be good, BUT there's something good in every day! 🌻 Carol Bulva

CHOIR WILL BEGIN OUR 2025-2026 SEASON IN OCTOBER



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

Choir will begin singing on October 19. I am looking forward to seeing all the present faces and hopefully some new ones, too! Rehearsal will be at 9:00 on October 19. See you soon! Nancy



COUNCIL NOTES

After time off during July, the Council met in August. This month's project is taking down the large tree in back of church. All of our power lines pass through the tree and it was decided that the tree needed to come down before a storm took the tree and the power lines down together! We also discussed having an outdoor service followed by a potluck sometime during September. Stay tuned!



On Sunday September 21, we are planning an outdoor service followed by a potluck. The council will provide meat and we are asking the congregation to bring side dishes and desserts.

We encourage everyone to bring lawn chairs, and will have folding chairs available , also. In case of inclement weather, we will move worship inside and still enjoy a potluck meal together.

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

9/7 Sue Sharp
9/9 Wayne Schlosser
9/14 Louise Cohlmeier
9/18 Dorothy Ovelgoenner
9/18 Julie Captain
9/23 Carol Randle
9/23 Jennifer Hackbarth



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

9/10 Sharon & Chuck Kistler #42
9/17 Cindy & Clay Harris # 48
9/25 Carol & Joe Bulva # 49



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS:

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: Ingrid Alexiou, *Becky Ballard, Mary Lou & Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Geralyn Gammon, Marilyn Paul, Pam Safriet, Syd Safriet, Yvonne Weber*



USHERS

September 7 Ginny Ganschinetz, Sue Ganschinetz

September 14 Nancy Eisenhauer, Jane Cohlmeier

September 21 Lew Thomasino, Judy Schmitt

September 28 Tom and Jan Miller

Member update:

Ivy Schneider -213 Merriweather Ln, Fairview Heights IL 62208 has updated her cell phone number. Please update your personal records so she will never miss your call.

Cell phone: 618-920-5330

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy Labor Day!	2	3	4 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship			Quilters 9-4	Quilters 9 -4 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Service of Word 10 am				Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Outdoor Service of Word 10 am Service followed by a potluck.	AUTUMN BEGINS			Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
28	29	30				