



FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

618-397-6323

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Email: stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com

Pastor Rosemary Captain



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Faith,

I'd like to share with you a letter sent out recently by our UCC President, Rev. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, reminded all of us that the kingdom we strive for is the kingdom (or kin-dom) of God. To worship anything else would be to worship false gods.

"Cherished members of our churches in the Americas and the Caribbean, we send you greetings of peace and hope from Hannover. Scripture reminds us that trusting in weapons and violence is a form of idolatry, calling us instead to place our faith in the Lord (Psalm 20:7). In these times of turmoil and unrest, we are invited to turn away from doctrines of power and might and to abandon reliance on violence, choosing instead to trust in God's steadfast love.

"The recent invasion of Venezuela by the United States, a clear violation of international law, has sown fear and turmoil not only in Venezuela but across the entire region. We are deeply concerned that similar actions may threaten Colombia, Mexico, and even Greenland, as we observe what seems to be a reconfiguration of the Monroe Doctrine and a rise of neocolonialism and fascism. Our hearts are grieving as we witness and acknowledge the distress which has manifested this early in the calendar year.

"Even as the United States leadership exhibits external aggression towards other countries, we are also grieved by the ways in which residents and citizens of the US are experiencing life under this administration. The escalation of raids by ICE, the recent killing of Rene Nicole Good in Minneapolis, shootings in Portland, and other acts of harm and violence perpetuated by ICE are appalling.

"We are witnessing churches and clergy responding in protest and by supporting those who are being disenfranchised by this militarization of US cities. In our world today, the shadow of militarization grows ever larger—whether it's the bombing of alleged ISIS camps in Nigeria,

naval conflicts in the Caribbean, or internal militarization within nations. Echoes of violence ring around the globe: the bombings in Yemen, conflicts between India and Pakistan, and the ongoing crises in West Asia extending beyond Israel and Palestine to Lebanon and Syria.

"Let us renew our calling to walk in communion and justice, remembering that although we are divided by nationality and ethnicity, our deepest allegiance is to the king-dom of God, and to loving our neighbors as ourselves. We are one family—members of one body—called to serve with loyalty not to any nation, but to the Lord and to one another. In the face of rising militarization, we invite you to pray earnestly for one another, to support each other with compassion, and to discover the joy that comes from our shared life in Christ's one church. May we find strength in our unity and hope in God's everlasting grace.

"We pray for you and your congregations God of peace and justice, we come before you in a world wounded by violence and fear. We confess how easily nations trust in weapons and power. Forgive us, and turn our hearts again toward your ways of peace. God of peace and justice, We come before you in a world wounded by violence and fear. We confess how easily nations trust in weapons and power instead of your mercy and love. Forgive us, and turn our hearts again toward your ways of peace. Be near to those who suffer, protect the vulnerable, and strengthen all who work for justice and dignity. We lift before you all places marked by conflict and oppression, and all who resist violence with courage and compassion. Unite us as one body in Christ, loyal not to any nation, but to your **king-dom** of justice and peace. By your Spirit, make us faithful witnesses to hope, steadfast in love, and bold in seeking peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, Amen.

Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, President World Communion of Reformed Churches Rev. Philip Vinod Peacock, General Secretary **AMEN. Pastor Rosemary**

FEBRUARY USHERS

February 1  Tom & Jan Miller

February 8  Chuck Kistler, Nancy Eisenhauer

February 15  Chuck Kistler, Carol Bulva

February 22  Sue Williams, Lew Thomasino

SPECIAL NOTE:

The 2025 giving statements have been mailed out. If you have not received yours, please let the office know, we will generate another one for you.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:



2/2 Christopher Captain
2/4 Tyler Underwood
2/5 Elisabeth Kistler
2/10 Conner Brink

2/11 Ivy Schneider
2/23 Sue Ganschinetz
2/27 Aaron Eisenhauer



REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO WORSHIP WITH US

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



CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Lew and Tiffany Thomasino on the passing of Maria Thomasino, Lew's mother.



CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Barbara Channer on her passing. Barbara was the sister of Mary Lou Baum.

COUNCIL NOTES

I hope this finds you warm and safe. As I write to you it is currently 12 degrees – and the sun is out! You can certainly count on a warm welcome at St. John. We have postponed our annual meeting until February 1. Hopefully, we have had the worst of winter weather and can look forward to something a bit warmer.

Do you have trouble hearing in church? We have the solution! There are earphones to wear with or without hearing aids. Just check out a set as you enter the sanctuary from the narthex. Join us this Sunday! Nancy Eisenhauer

CHOIR

The choir is keeping warm by singing! We will be singing on February 15. You are welcome to join us any time. We have lots of spare robes, and I am sure one of them will be a perfect fit for you. Nancy

CIRCLE NEWS

As I write this article, it has been snowy and COLD! I hope you all have been safe and warm. January's meeting was short but sweet with the hopes of writing out a few valentines for February distribution.

We will try to meet on Tuesday Feb. 3rd, at 9:30 a.m. to price some of the rummage sale items already at church.

Our Feb. meeting is scheduled for Feb. 8th after church. Hopefully weather will cooperate.

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19 Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

PRAYER LIST:

Grandson Landon, Becky Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Nikki Chatman, Geralyn Gammon, Gene Ganschinietz, Russ Hartmann, Lynne Knecht, Marilyn Paul, Ella Perez, Pam and Syd Safriet, Cheri Schutzenhofer, Terry Thorpe, Yvonne Weber, Sue and Dave in Florida.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

All people SMILE in the same language. Happy ❤️ Day!



As the date for the rummage sale (specific date TBD) gets closer **PLEASE HELP US OUT** with your donations.

Along with donating to the sale we are needing large empty boxes you might have. All empty boxes brought in can be placed on the benches by the water fountain. Thank you.

January 2026

Dear St John members,



Thank you so much for thinking of the needy in our area by providing donations and food to our pantry. The Food Pantry board is overwhelmed with the generosity of your congregation. It was very clear that your congregation is devoted to helping the less fortunate. We can never adequately thank you for all that you do for us. You are making the lives of many of our clients a little less desperate. Please accept our thanks and gratitude to each and every person in your congregation. Thanks again! Sincerely Jo Ann Nadler, Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry Board

January 27, 2026

Dear Members of St John UCC Fairview Heights,

As 2025 closed, we want to pause and say one simple but powerful thing: **THANK YOU.**

Thank you for your generous support during the past year. Your commitment helped advance our mission and allowed us to continue providing essential services to children and families in our community to their fullest potential in every way possible.

We are sincerely grateful for your support over the past year.

Chris Cox
President and CEO
Hoyleton Your and Family Services

Meghan Seipp
Director of Philanthropy
Hoyleton Your and Family Services

February

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship Rescheduled annual meeting from 1/25/26	2 Groundhog Day	3 Pricing of rummage sale items 9:30 a.m. Everyone welcome to come	4	5 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30pm AA Meeting	6	7
8 Worship 10 am Circle after worship	9	10	11 Zoom Council Meeting 7 pm	12 AA Meeting Quilters 9 - 3	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINES DAY  Quilters 9 - 3
15 Worship 10 am Choir rehearsal 9 am Choir sings at worship	16 HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY Quilters 9 - 3	17	18	19 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30pm AA Meeting	20	21
22 Worship 10 am	23	24 Quilt Show Mtg 7 pm	25	26 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30pm AA Meeting	27	28