



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Happy New Year/ Epiphany Blessings

It's the time of year to take stock – to look back at the past year and make plans for the coming year. Some years it is easy to see the path ahead. Perhaps you have plans for 2026 – education goals, retirement adventures, starting or continuing healthy habits, renewing or supporting friendships, and don't forget family. The list may be long. Or it may be very short: just pay the bills and make it through the next month. We each have our own path.

You have a guide, a beacon, that shines for you to follow. That guide will offer support at all times. It will be there to celebrate your victories, both large and small. It is also there to pick you up when you stumble.

The bottom line is that God is there for you. To hold you, to encourage you, to grieve with you and to celebrate with you.

I encourage you to include a daily prayer or a few moments to thank God for blessings and to ask for help with whatever is bothering you. It is time well spent.

Just as the wise men followed a star to find their way, you have a guiding light that keeps your pathway before you. Let the star of the Epiphany light your way into God's love.

Nancy

Dear Brothers and Sisters of faith,

Due to a very generous anonymous donation, your church council has approved a purchase of hearing enhancement devices for our sanctuary. There will be headsets that a person can pick up in the narthex and wear while sitting anywhere within the sanctuary. They should not interfere with any hearing aids. Exact instructions will be given once they are purchased. If we don't purchase enough headsets to begin with, we will purchase more. Many thanks to Lew for researching and presenting the perfect hearing devices for our church.

THANK YOU!

I also want to give thanks to those of you who gave me lovely gifts of gift-cards, cookies, candy, aroma candle, and more. Thank you all and special thanks to your church council for their generous gift. I feel very blessed to be your pastor. It is a true honor and an inspiration to worship with all of you every chance I get. Peace be with all of you in this new year of 2026.

Pastor Rosemary



AN OPPORTUNITY- There are opportunities to host the Fellowship Time following communion on the 1st Sunday of each month. A list of open Sundays is posted in the fellowship area.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1/4 March Ganschinietz
1/4 Job Ganschinietz
1/21 Eileen Gammon

1/24 Cheri Schutzenhofer
1/27 Shari Hamilton
1/28 Amy Brink
1/28 Trenton Pickens

JANUARY USHERS

Jan 4 Tom & Jan Miller
Jan 11 Jim & Nancy Eisenhauer
Jan 18 Ginny Ganschinetz, Sue Ganschinetz
Jan 25 Judy Schmitt, Lew Thomasino



REMEMBER THOSE WHO CAN NOT JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Becky Ballard
1211 Moreland Apt 12
Belleville IL 62223

Ivy Schneider
213 Merriweather Ln
Fairview Heights IL 62208



Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Road
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

Russ Hartmann is home now so, please feel free to send any well wishes to his home address:

Russ Hartmann
144 Big Bend Blvd
Swansea IL 62226

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of June Vandiver on her passing.

CONGRATULATIONS: Welcome to our world, Hendrick Kilian, baby born of Scott and Jessica Reiss Kilian, on December 21, grandparents Becky and Larry Riess, Brother of Otto.

CIRCLE



Greetings to all and a "Happy 2026":

December was a roller coaster ride of warm and COLD temperatures, but the circle group still accomplished our Christmas activities.

Our members were so generous with presents for Kindercottage that gifts were delivered to two children instead of one. Kacelynn and Valore were the two little girls receiving presents. Some of the presents included baby dolls, blocks, story books, winter coats, jogging suits, blue jeans, t-shirts, underwear, socks, dress-up clothes, little purses, and dresses.

A big "Thank You" to Tom & Jan Miller that delivered the packages to Kindercottage.

We had our Christmas meeting, some Christmas activities, and then a delicious lunch. Our members always bring lots of goodies and good conversation.

We also sold variety cookie plates after church. Thanks to everyone that supplied the cookies and Ginny G. for organizing the sale. I am sure all the cookies were quickly devoured.

Last but not least the members signed 173 Christmas cards and Carol Bulva delivered many of them to Grand Manor residents.

January meeting is scheduled for January 11th 2026.

Stay Warm, Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

**AS WE BEGIN THE NEW YEAR, DON'T LIMIT YOUR CHALLENGES.
"CHALLENGE YOUR LIMITS!"**

CAROL BULVA

COUNCIL

If you are interested and willing to serve on the church council, please contact a current council member (Nancy Eisenhauer, Jan Miller, Sharon Banjavcic, Judy Schmitt, Ginny Ganschinetz, Russ Hartmann, or Lew Thomasino) and let them know. Meetings are on the second Wednesday evening of the month at 7:00 via zoom. We look forward to hearing from you!

Our annual meeting will be on January 25 after worship. Please plan to stay and attend.

CHOIR

The choir, with some supplemental singers, did a beautiful job of singing the Christmas message on Christmas Eve. Special thanks to Stacie Pickens, Shannon Banjavcic, Lily Brown, Madison Brown, Sean Banjavcic and Trenton Pickens. And thanks for brotherly support from Alister and Garrett Pickens. Sharon Banjavcic did her usual superlative job on the piano and organ! It was my pleasure to work with these musicians.

Choir will sing for worship on January 18th. I hope you are there to hear them. Also, if you have any interest in joining us, please let me know. We would be happy to have you!

Nancy



PRAYER LIST: Camille Abboud, Becky Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Private Ben Boyle, Lorraine Brown, Geralyn Gammon, Sue Ganschinetz, Russ Hartmann, David Jacknewicz, Lynne Knecht, Marilyn Paul, Ella Perez, Pam and Syd Safriet, Gloria Stephens, Terry Thorpe, Yvonne Weber, Sue and Dave in Florida, Grandson Landon.

**CHRISTMAS GARDEN OF MEMORIES
POINSETTIAS**

FOR

FROM

Luz Captain

Pastor Rosemary

Joe

Ginny Ganschinetz

Loved Ones

Sue & Gene Ganschinetz

Loved Ones

The Riess Family

Loved Ones

Sue Williams

CHRISTMAS GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIALS

FOR

Mom, Dad & Rich

Alvin & Verna Koch
Emil & Dorothy Banjavcic,
Janice Lohman

Family

Alan & Loved Ones

Parents Ed & Bernice
Warning, Walter &
Agnes Eisenhauer

Judy Hartmann

Loved Ones

Rich Schmitt

Olen, Arlene & Jim
Hagebusch

Loved Ones

In memory of
Clarence

Virginia & Edgar Thilman
Anna & Otto Hesse

FROM

Paulette Allen

Banjavcic's & Pickens

Urban & Mary Baum

Jackie Canterbury

Jim & Nancy Eisenhauer

Russ Hartmann

Tom & Jan Miller

Judy Schmitt

Stuart & Beth Schneider

Cheri Schutzenhofer

Dorothy Ovelgoenner

Lynn Thilman and
Mark Stern

January

2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|---|---|--------|-------------------------|
| | | | | 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY! | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Service of Word and Communion 10 am Fellowship time after worship | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Circle after worship | 12 | 13 | 14 Church Council Meeting at 7 pm via Zoom | 15 Quilters 9 – 3 PM Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting | 16 | 17 Quilters 9 – 3 pm |
| 18 Service of Word 10 am Choir rehearsal @ 9 am and Choir sings at service | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Quilters 9 - 3 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Service of Word 10 am Annual congregational meeting after worship | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |