



# 2026 MARCH NEWSLETTER

**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**

**10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL 618-397-6323**

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Website: [www.stjohnfairview.org](http://www.stjohnfairview.org)

**Pastor Rosemary Captain**

Dear Sisters and Brothers of faith,

Now and then I think it's a good idea to remind ourselves that we are members of the United Church of Christ. What exactly does that mean? It means we have no creeds or doctrines. The UCC does not dictate rules; you are free to search, ask questions, discuss with others, and explore your relationship with God. The main thing to remember is that Jesus is the Head of our church. Below I have a list of what we believe in the UCC as published on the UCC website. If you are comfortable with these beliefs, then you are one of us.

## Our Beliefs

We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belongs to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who – no matter what – no matter where we are on life's journey – notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed – we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized – past, present and future – are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We

baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized – and we promise that we won't take it back – no matter where your journey leads you.

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' – our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials–unity, in nonessentials–diversity, in all things–charity," These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking,...

You are welcome here at St. John UCC in Fairview Heights, IL

Peace, Pastor Rosemary



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- |     |                  |      |               |
|-----|------------------|------|---------------|
| 3/1 | Dee Schott       | 3/9  | Jan Miller    |
| 3/3 | Hayden Myers     | 3/9  | Barb Whitaker |
| 3/8 | Nancy Eisenhauer | 3/12 | Carol Bulva   |
| 3/8 | Donna Isselhard  | 3/20 | Mary Lou Baum |
| 3/8 | Tiffany Baldwin  |      |               |



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

- 3/14 Mary Lou & Urban Baum #62
- 3/16 Amy & Cody Brink #24
- 3/17 Tiffany Baldwin & Lew Thomasino #25
- 3/20 Jan & Tom Miller #55

## USHERS:

- March 1 🍀 Jim and Nancy Eisenhauer
- March 8 🍀 Tom and Jan Miller
- March 15 🍀 Sue Williams, Judy Schmitt
- March 22 🍀 Lew Thomasino, Eileen Gammon
- March 29 🍀 Tom and Jan Miller



**PRAYER LIST:** Grandson Landon, Becky Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Nikki Chatman, GERALYN GAMMON, Sue Ganschinietz, Russ Hartmann, Lynne Knecht, Marilyn Paul, Pam and Syd Safriet, Cheri Schutzenhofer, Terry Thorpe, Yvonne Weber.

## CHOIR



Time for Lenten music. The choir will be singing a beautiful anthem on March 15. Be with us to worship with music. There is room in the choir for you!

## COUNCIL

We had an interesting event during February. A guest at church detected the scent of gas by the back door of the church. We called Ameren and they verified that we had a very small pipe leak in one of the furnaces just inside the back door. That has been repaired. The workman also detected a larger leak coming from the underground pipe that brings gas into the building. That service pipe will have to be replaced, probably above ground. We are waiting to hear about a bid for that. Stay tuned — and say a prayer!

## CIRCLE

We are MARCH ING into 2026. Each day seems to be a surprise of extra cold or extra warm weather.

Circle members were able to sign 95 valentines to be distributed to assisted living seniors.

On March the 3rd we will meeting at 9:00 A.M. to price more items for the rummage sale. Join the circle for a meeting after church on March 8th in the L-Room. We will be discussing our April meeting and rummage sale. Our current plans are to have the rummage sale on April 18th from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M.

I just wanted to say  
It's a joy to address you  
As Irish folks do  
"MAY HEAVEN BLESS YOU" Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

### THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The dog is loved by old and young: he wags his tail and not his tongue. Carol Bulva

**REMEMEBER 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

Jackie Canterbury  
105 W Julie St Apt C  
Shiloh IL 62269

Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Rd  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Yvonne Weber  
200 St Clair Dr  
Fairview Heights IL 62208



**CONDOLENCES** to Sue Ganschinetz, Brian, friends and family of Gene Ganschinetz, who passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, February 3. Funeral was held at Kurrus Funeral Home  
1773 Frank Scott Parkway W Belleville IL

**Memorials** may be made to St. John United Church of Christ or the St. Clair Genealogical Society of Belleville, IL.

Individual contributions made to St John United Church of Christ on behalf of Eugene Ganschinetz, Jr.  
Date of Death: 02/03/2026

F NAME	L NAME
Steve & Sharon	Banjavcic
Robert and Louis	Bilzing
Amy & Cody	Brink
Joe & Carol	Bulva
Jim & Nancy	Eisenhauer
Eileen	Gammon
Terry & Linda	Lickenbrock
Tom & Jan	Miller
Frank & Jo Ann	Nadler
K	Oplt
Dorothy	Ovelgoenner
Carol	Price
Leslie & Lisa Kathryn	Sanders Ganschinetz
Judy	Schmitt
Mary Lynn	Thies
Sue	Williams

**MARCH 17, 2026 – GENERAL PRIMARY**

**EARLY VOTING**  
**February 5, 2026 thru March 16, 2026**  
**Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm**  
**St. Clair County Clerk's Office**  
**Election Department, 2nd Floor**  
**10 Public Square, Belleville**

**PERMANENT EARLY VOTING SITES**  
**1. St. Clair County Clerk's Office, Election Department, 2nd Floor, 10 Public Square, Belleville**  
**2. The Rec Complex, 9950 Bunkum Rd., Fairview Heights**  
**3. O'Fallon Township Office, 801 East State St., O'Fallon**  
**4. Jerome Early Childhood Center (Gym), 1825 Jerome Ln., Cahokia Heights**  
**WEEKDAYS:**  
**March 2 thru March 6: 9 am to 5 pm**  
**March 9 thru March 13: 9 am to 7 pm**  
**March 16: 9 am to 7 pm**  
**WEEKENDS:**  
**Saturday, March 7: 9 am to Noon/Sunday, March 8: 10 am to 4 pm**  
**Saturday, March 14: 9 am to 5 pm/Sunday, March 15: 10 am to 4 pm**

**This information is also provided on our website at:**  
<https://www.stclaircountylv.gov/departments/countv-clerk>

**NOTE: Voting in-person at the County Clerk's Office is also available on March 17, 2026 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The County building is closed on February 16, 2026, for President's Day.**

**THOMAS HOLBROOK**  
**ST CLAIR COUNTY CLERK**  
 10 PUBLIC SQUARE BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

For Office Use Only:  
 App Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION FOR VOTE BY MAIL**

Below you will find your application to Vote by Mail in a single election or permanently in all elections you select. Your application must be completed, signed and returned to the County Elections Office prior to receiving a ballot. Applications can be sent back via mail, email [elections@stclaircountylv.gov](mailto:elections@stclaircountylv.gov), fax 618-277-8783 or in person.

OPTION 1		OPTION 2	
APPLICATION VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT, THIS ELECTION ONLY 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION		APPLICATION PERMANENT VOTE BY MAIL STATUS	
(Circle one)		I am currently a registered voter and wish to apply for Permanent Vote by Mail Status	
DEMOCRAT		Voter's Initials _____	
REPUBLICAN		Status _____	
I understand that this application is made for an Official Vote by Mail ballot or ballots to be voted by me at the election specified in this application and that I must submit a separate application for an Official Vote by Mail ballot or ballots to be voted by me at any subsequent election.		<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to vote in all subsequent elections that DO NOT require a party designation OR: <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to vote in ALL subsequent elections AND I wish to receive the following ballot in elections requiring a party designation: <input type="checkbox"/> Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Partisan (Only if referendum is available)	
Applicant's Name: _____		Date of Birth: _____	
Residence Address: _____		City: _____ Zip: _____	
Email: _____		Daytime / Cell Phone #: _____	
Mailing address for Vote by Mail Ballot (if different from Residence Address): _____			
Number and Street Name _____			
City _____		State _____ Zip Code _____	
I certify that I reside at the address specified above, in the stated precinct in St. Clair County, that I have lived at such address for 30 days or more preceding this election, and that I am lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at said election to be held therein. I hereby make application for an official ballot to be voted by me at such election, and I agree that I shall return such ballot to the election official issuing the same prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election or, if returned by mail, postmarked no later than election day, for counting no later than during the period for counting provisional ballots, the last day of which is the 14th day following election day. Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/29-10, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this application are true and correct. NOTE: The applicant MUST sign below. No one may sign on applicant's behalf.			
<b>Please use the enclosed postage paid envelope to return your application</b>			
Voter Signature _____			

## IMPORTANT POSTMARK CHANGES

### What Vote by Mail Voters Need to Know

**Mail Postmark Rules Have Changed**

**Previously:** Mail was postmarked the day you mailed it

**Now:** Mail is postmarked **the day it is processed**, which can result in **at least a 1-2 day delay**

## VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS

**Must be Postmarked by Election Day to be Counted**

**A late postmark will NOT be counted**

**Mailing Your Ballot Close to Election Day?**

If you are returning your ballot within a week of or on Election Day:

**Go to the post office counter & request a manual postmark**

**Use a secure drop box (if available)**

**Deliver your ballot directly to your election authority's office**

## DON'T RISK A LATE POSTMARK

**Take one extra step to make sure YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

**Check with your election authority for drop box locations and office hours**





Dear St John United Church of Christ,

As we reflect on the past year, thank you for your generous support of Deaconess Nurse Ministry. Your kindness helps our nurses provide compassionate care, comfort, and hope to individuals and families throughout our community. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this meaningful work.

Thank you again for your commitment to this important work.

With appreciation,  
Tameka Brown, Executive Director

February 20, 2026

Dear St John UCC,

I forgot to make my memorial out at Kassly's last week for George Lanxon. He loved Fairview Heights, and your church is where I think he would like my memorial to go. Please put this towards Building Maintenance. Thank you, Sandy Bopp

## **RUMMAGE SALE**

Remember, as you begin to clean out closets and rooms for spring, bring in your rummage sale items to the Church. The sale will be held April 18, 2026 – 8 am – 2 pm

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ST JOHN UCC QUILT SHOW APRIL 11, 2025**

St John United Church of Christ  
55 W Church St, Mascoutah IL 62258

Admission: \$3.00

We invite everyone to exhibit quilts or wall hangings in our show. Please bring display items to St John UCC on Friday, April 10 between 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

# March

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	2	3 Rummage Sale Pricing ALL WELCOME 9:00 am	4	5	6	7
8 Service of Word 10 am  Circle after worship  Don't forget <b>Daylight Savings</b>	9	10	11 Church Council Meeting at 7 pm via Zoom  Quilters 9 am – 3 pm	12 Bible Study at 6:30 pm via Zoom  AA Meeting	13	14
15 Service of Word 10 am  Choir rehearsal 9 am Choir sings at service	16	17 HAPPY ST PATRICKS DAY! 	18	19 Bible Study at 6:30 pm via Zoom  AA Meeting	20 Let Spring Begin	21
22 Service of Word 10 am	23	24	25	26 Bible Study at 6:30 pm via Zoom  AA Meeting	27	28
29 Service of Word 10 am  PALM SUNDAY	30	31				

Don't forget **Daylight Savings** time begins 2 AM on Sun., March 8, 2026 ("spring forward")



You don't want to be late for church!