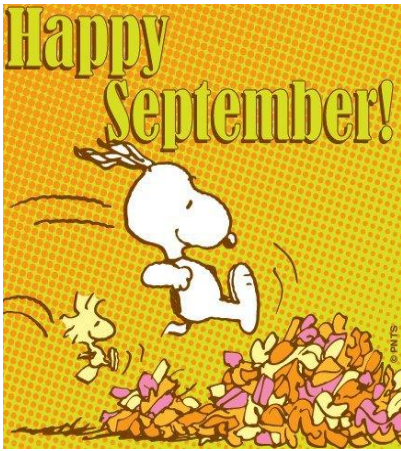




SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

Church Office Phone: 618-397-6323

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Email address: stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com

Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Faith,

Recently someone asked me about the Pastor/Writer Max Lucado. He has written hundreds of books and meditations. Here is an example of his work.

AN ENCOURAGING WORD from Max Lucado

O SWEET EXCHANGE

"You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!"

(Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) ([Luke 23:14-19](#) NIV)

Like Barabbas, we sit on the floor of the dusty cell, awaiting the final moment. Our executioner's footsteps echo against stone walls. Head between knees, we don't look up as he opens the door; we don't lift our eyes as he begins to speak. We know what he is going to say. "Time to pay for your sins." But we hear something else.

"You're free to go. They took Jesus instead of you."

The door swings open, the guard barks, "Get out," and we find ourselves in the light of the morning sun, shackles gone, crimes pardoned, wondering, What just happened?

Grace happened.

Christ took away your sins. Where did he take them? To the top of a hill called Calvary, where he endured not just the nails of the Romans, the mockery of the crowd, and the spear of the soldier but the anger of God.

Saturate your heart in this, the finest summary of God's greatest accomplishment: "God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. *For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us.* We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us" ([Rom. 3:24-25](#) NLT, emphasis mine).

God didn't overlook your sins, lest he endorse them. He didn't punish you, lest he destroy you. He instead found a way to punish the sin and preserve the sinner. Jesus took your punishment, and God gave you credit for Jesus' perfection. *Pastor R*

CIRCLE

I would like to "THANK" all Circle members and friends of the Circle that provided the treats that were served at our 75th Church Anniversary after church.

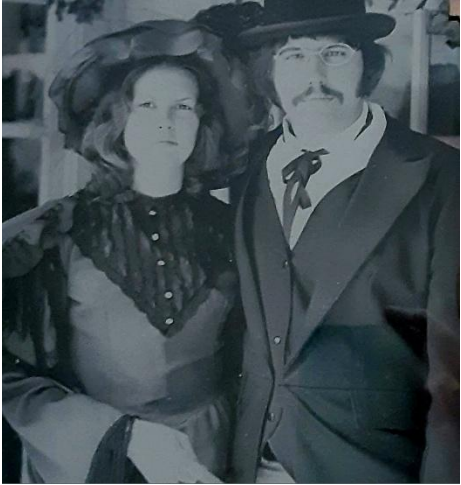
Also a "Thank you" to everyone that helped me set up, serve, or clean up before, during, and after the celebration. Of course, all treats were delicious!!!

Eileen Gammon
Circle Co-Chair

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER:

A smile is a curve that can straighten out a lot of things 😊

CAROL & JOE'S ANNIVERSARY INVITATION



Carol & Joe would love for you to help them celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary by staying after church on Sunday, September 20th for a dinner of lasagna and cake!

The happy couple were married here at St John UCC, by Rev Paul and Father Scherrer on September 25, 1976.

No gifts please!

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

9/10 Sharon & Chuck Kistler #43

9/17 Cindy & Clay Harris # 49

9/25 Carol & Joe Bulva # 50



CHOIR WILL BEGIN OUR 2026-2027 SEASON IN OCTOBER



Join the Choir...

**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**



COUNCIL NOTES

First of all, and most importantly, thank you to all of you who came from near and far to St. John's 75th anniversary! We had a wonderful crowd and I think everyone enjoyed our time of celebration, giving thanks, and reminiscing.

The Council was recruited for planning and preparing:

Jan Miller wrote the history.

Sharon Banjavcic prepared the slide show and music.

Lew Thomasino was the photographer.

Ginny and Sue Ganschinietz, Sue Williams., and Judy Schmitt made some tasty goodies.

Circle ladies Carol Bulva and Eileen Gammon decorated tables and organized the food.

Pastor Rosemary prepared the bulletin, and served as Master of Ceremonies.

Lisa, our church secretary, did the printing and assembly of the bulletin and history.

Special thanks to honored guests:

Illinois South Conference Minister, Shana Johnson, for sharing the scripture and message Rev. Tim Paul, for sharing memories of growing up in the congregation
Former pastor, Rev. Jim Nolan and his wife, Cami Nolan, for coming from Columbus, Ohio, and celebrating with us. What a wonderful day! Nancy



:



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

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



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



PRAYER LIST: Becky Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Jackie Canterbury, Geralyn Gammon, Russ Hartmann, Wayne Huss, Marilyn Paul, Pam and Syd Safriet, Yvonne Weber, our Beloved Country.

NOTE:

Russ Hartmann is now at the following address:

Russ Hartmann
Rosewood Care Ctr
100 Rosewood Village Dr
Swansea IL 62226

USHERS

September 6 - Judy Schmitt, Eileen Gammon
September 13 - Tom & Jan Miller
September 20 - Ginny Ganschinietz, Sue Ganschinietz
September 27 - Sue Williams, Lew Thomasino

August, 2026



Dear Members of St John UCC Fairview Heights,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift of \$336.44 for our Mission Funds. Your commitment to our mission has a meaningful and far-reaching impact, helping ensure children and families across our community receive the care, stability, and support they need to heal and thrive.

Members of St John UCC Fairview Heights, we appreciate the faith you have in Hoyleton Youth and Family services, and again, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Meghan Seipp
Director of Philanthropy
Hoyleton Youth and Family Services

August 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 is overwhelmed with the generosity of your congregation. It is very clear that your congregation is devoted to helping the less fortunate. We can never adequately thank you for all 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.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Nadler Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry Board



Happy 75th Anniversary!

*We're thrilled to be celebrating you and the many lives you've touched.
Your kindness, faith, and service bring hope and healing to so many.
Thank you for being such a bright light in your community.*

Chris Cox
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Meghan Seipp
DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

*Thank you for making
a difference in my life*

- Jason



September

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	LABOR DAY			Quilters 9 -4 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Service of Word 10 am			Church Council meeting 6:30 pm	Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Service of Word 10 am Joe & Carol Bulva 50 th Anniversary Celebration		AUTUMN BEGINS		Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
27	28	29	30			