

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2024

PASTOR'S REPORT for 2023

At the beginning of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he wrote, beginning at verse 4, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

That is how I feel about the congregation of St. John UCC in Fairview Heights. I feel very privileged to be your pastor. Thank you all for inviting me to walk with you on a journey to the heart of God. It's an amazing gift.

Thank you for taking care of me during my illnesses in 2023. I strive to remain your pastor as long as my health endures, however if or when you feel its time for me to "go out to pasture" I will understand. Until then, let us together sing the praises of our Lord God Almighty who cares for each and every one of us. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Rosemary Captain

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Rosemary continues to send out weekly bulletins containing the sermon via US mail and email. This year was a quieter one than last year. We had no major repairs to the building. Our major expenses were the repair of the bell and the lawn mower.

A new secretary was hired in June unfortunately due to a family issue she left and a new secretary was quickly hired. In November our custodians retired. Church members will do the cleaning until a new custodian can be hired.

We had a clean-up day in October and several areas in the building and outside were taken care of.

The Christmas Eve service was well attended and the sanctuary looked beautiful.

Sue Williams

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES - January 22, 2023

18 Members Present

St. John United Church of Christ

Annual Meeting Minutes

President Sue Williams called the meeting to order at 11:00. 18 members were present. The minutes of the January 23, 2022 Annual Meeting, the June 12, 2022 Semi Annual Meeting and the July 17, 2022 special meeting were reviewed. Nancy Eisenhauer made a motion to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Dorothy Ovelgoenner. Motion passed unanimously. Ginny Ganschietz reviewed the financial report for 2022. Plumbing repairs, new furnace & A/C, tree removal and lawn mower were the major expenses. Donations in December helped us financially. Expenses exceeded income by \$180 which was better than expected. Ginny's volunteer services in the office have helped us financially. Jim Eisenhauer and Sharon Banjavcic audited the books and found everything in order. Jim Eisenhauer made a motion to accept the report and the motion was seconded by Sue Ganschietz.

Ginny Ganschietz presented the 2023 budget. The budget is similar to the 2022 budget and the staff received a %5 increase per the Illinois South guidelines. Expenses are projected to exceed income by \$17,289. Nancy Eisenhauer moved to accept the budget and Sharon Banjavcic seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

We have 3 members leaving the Council this year - Becky Riess, Chuck Kistler & Tom Miller. Nancy Eisenhauer, Jan Miller and Russ Hartmann have agreed to a 2-year term on the 2023-2024 Council. Eric Moayer moved to accept the new slate of Council members and Ginny Ganschietz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Eisenhauer moved to adjourn the meeting and Chuck Kistler seconded. The motions passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Sue Williams, Secretary

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month after worship from September through April.

We met in October for election of officers. Eileen made envelopes for our regular donations and special envelopes for the Thank Offering and Christmas donations. This year we gave special offerings for OCWM and the Fairview Heights Food Pantry.

This year the group held a Prom dress sale in March and a Homecoming dress sale in August. In February we signed Valentines to be given to Veterans and Senior through the PSOP. The Circle also made birthday bags for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry.

In May we donated funds to the St. John building fund, Hoyleton, DuBois, KinderCottage and OCWM.

In December we sent Christmas cards to church members over the age of 75 and sent cards to Veterans also. For a fundraiser we held a Christmas cookie sale. We also sponsored a child at KinderCottage with Christmas gifts. In December we held our annual Christmas party.

All ladies of the church are welcome to join us. We would love to see you there.

PENNIES FOR MISSION

Adopt a Horse	\$325.00	January
Belleville Christian Center	\$ 79.27	February
One Great Hour	\$450.50	March
KinderCottage	\$160.00	April
Strengthen the Church	\$156.00	May
Ukraine	\$ 63.60	June
Deaconess Faith Com	\$ 64.88	July
Maui Relief	\$481.82	August & September
Neighbors in Need (NIN)	\$508.14	October
Open & Affirming Coalition	\$262.26	November
Christmas Fund	\$361.31	December

ST. JOHN CHOIR

St. John choir sang once a month during 2023, with the exception of the summer months. We have three paid choir members to supplement our small numbers. Those who participated during the year are Anne Brown, Kim Christ, Jackie Canterbury, Shara Toennies, Vicki Hartmann, Lew Thomasino, Oxby Thomasino, and Adam Reynolds. Scott and Shannon Banjavcic also sang with us on Christmas Eve. We were accompanied by Sharon Banjavcic and once by Lisa Cleveland.

It is my pleasure to work with all of these musicians. Not only do they show up extra early on the Sundays we sing, but they also use performance videos at home to help with learning their parts. We may be small in number, but we are big and beautiful in sound!

As in all efforts, we need someone who understands us and is the perfect complement to our personality and goals. I am so fortunate to have Sharon Banjavcic faithfully in that position. She is always prepared and knows just how to help the choir sing their best. Thanks, Sharon!

Nancy Eisenhauer, Choir Director

2023 FOOD PANTRY RECAP

Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry saw a big increase in Fairview Heights' residents in need of food assistance in 2023. The pantry served 1278 households (3770 people). There were 127 new families who sought help meeting their food needs. The pantry also serves emergency food to homeless people and non-residents who are referred to the pantry.

St. John UCC did an incredible job of supporting the pantry. The congregation brought more than 850 food items and more than \$1500 which were placed on the altar on Communion Sunday services. Noisy Offerings were collected. Evening Circle made cash donations. Other members of the congregation made donations directly to the pantry. The number of Fairview Heights' residents in food crisis continues.

Thank you all for helping meet the needs of others. May our giving spirit continue in 2024.

Susan Ganschinietz