



# NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

## Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It seems like there is always turmoil in the world. Many times we feel helpless to make a change in the brokenness of our world. We are not alone in this feeling of desperation. What can we do? Recently I read an article about a retired Bishop of the Episcopal Church who is also a citizen of the **Choctaw Nation**. **Bishop Steven Charleston** offered his observation about this exact feeling of helplessness.

“I wish I could do more. So much of my spiritual life is haunted by that feeling. I feel helpless against the great disasters of my age. I feel inadequate when confronted with the scope of human need. I want to help and try to help, but I always wish I could do more. That’s when I reach out to the Spirit – the power that can do infinitely more than I will ever be able to imagine. I do not have to do it all. I only have to do my part the best I can.” - **Bishop Steven Charleston**

In response to Bishop Charleston’s words, **Rev. Frederick Schmidt** wrote a prayer that appears below, with an eye to Bishop Charleston’s words of wisdom and he is grateful for the Bishop’s work. Perhaps this prayer will bring some hope to our hearts.

## A PRAYER IN TIMES OF TURMOIL

“Holy Spirit, gift to your Church and manifestation of the Kingdom’s presence, I confess that all too often I am overwhelmed. My knowledge of the world’s needs exceed my ability to respond. The news is filled with tragedy, violence, loss of life, and pain. There is so much beyond my control. In those moments that I feel overcome and I am adrift in grief and despair, save me from the temptation to measure my gifts against the world’s needs. Deliver me from the cynicism that might lead me to live for myself. Help me to trust your prompting and your presence. Strengthen my witness and remind me – always – that the lives of your children are depending upon you, the Son, and the

Father. Together, you are one God, sovereign, wise, and sufficient. Amen.” – **Rev. Frederick Schmidt**

**Prayers for peace to all, Pastor Rosemary**

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11/2	Charlie Harris	11/19	Mark Stern
11/4	Henry Captain	11/22	Ellen Taylor
11/11	Jackie Canterbury	11/27	Steve Banjavcic
11/15	Jim Eisenhower	11/27	Chris Brown
11/17	Jessica (Riess) Kilian	11/29	Chris Arbeiter



(no anniversaries)

**PRAYER LIST**

Carson Edwards, Yvonne Weber, Marilyn Paul, Syd Safriet, Ronald Bopp, Rosemary Williams, Becky Ballard, David Seneczyn, Urban Baum, Amy Smith, Family of Dawn Cipponeri, Jackie Canterbury.

Sympathy to the family of Tom and Jan Miller on the passing of Tom’s brother Steve Miller.

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE  
UNABLE TO WORSHIP WITH US:**

Darlene Schaperkoetter  
1258 Larkspur Drive  
Mascoutah, IL 62258

Becky Ballard  
1211 Moreland Apt. 12  
Belleville, IL 62223

Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Road  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Ivy Schneider  
213 Merriweather Lane  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Yvonne Weber  
200 St. Clair Drive  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

**ADDRESS UPDATE:** If you would like to send anything to Wayne Schlosser, he has a new address.:

Wayne Schlosser  
1400 Zillock Rd  
Lot OL-310  
San Benito, TX 78586

618-540-8390  
[Cubber9@gmail.com](mailto:Cubber9@gmail.com)

**CELL PHONE NUMBER CHANGE:** Carol Bulva 618-578-2529



## **TOTENFEST**

Sunday, November 26, 2023 is the last Sunday of the Church Year and, in the old German tradition, is the day for remembering those who have passed and whose funeral service was held during the last Church Year. Totenfest, literally, the festival of the Dead, is the time set aside in the service to name our sisters and brothers who no longer answer the call in this life, to commemorate their passing with a rose and a candle, and to offer special prayers of thanksgiving for their journey with us on this earth. This year we will remember Darleen Bax and Nancy Kay (Schamberger) Smith.

## **Report on The ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21, 2023**

Nancy Eisenhower and I represented our church as delegates to the Illinois South Conference annual meeting held at St. Peter's UCC in Red Bud, Illinois.

The business of the meeting included reviewing and accepting revisions of the Conference's Constitution and By Laws. The issues dealt with clarifications regarding the conference minister's position as well as downsizing the required members on Conference Teams and Committees. Also, all of the nominees for the various Conference committees and teams were approved, including some nominations from the floor. As a result, all positions on the committees and teams were filled.

The "Noisy Offering" was collected for Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, for which our church contributed over \$100.

There were testimonials about the benefits of belonging to the Conference—being part of a greater whole. All working in covenant throughout the Conference, country and world. Support from our conference is always available. Shana Johnson, our Conference minister, was given high praise.

The entire meeting was intermingled with worship, prayer and song. An absolute highlight was the keynote musician, Rev. Monty Jackson: singer, songwriter, and music arranger, as well as minister at Christ UCC in Maplewood, Missouri

All in all, it was an inspiring day being in fellowship with many Christians of the U.C.C.

Judy Schmitt

## **EVENING CIRCLE**

Time is moving fast. Our next meeting is on Nov. 12, 2023. It will be held in the L-room after church services.

Thank offering envelopes were handed out to members and will be collected at the Nov. meeting. The monies will go to OCWM. We will also sign Christmas cards to be given to veterans in the hospital at our Nov. meeting.

Hopefully, we may have some news about sponsoring a Kindercottage Child for Christmas.

So everyone; please join us!!!

A Thanksgiving Meal Prayer:

God we thank you for the blessing and joy of family.  
Thank you for those who are gathered with us today and  
those who are far away. May we all see the many ways  
you provide for us and protect us. Bless this food to make  
us healthy and strong. Amen

**Eileen Gammon Co-Chair**

## **USHERS FOR NOVEMBER**

November 5:	Jan and Tom Miller
November 12:	Sue Williams and Chuck Kistler
November 19:	Eric Moayer and Nancy Eisenhauer
November 26:	Mike and Melinda Stidham



# November

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Quilter Workshop 9-5	2 Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm AA Meeting	3	4
5 <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</b> Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	6	7	8	9 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	10	11
12 Choir rehearsal 9 am Service of Word 10 am Choir sings at service Evening Circle Meeting after worship	13	14	15	16 Quilter's Daytime Meeting Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	17	18
19 Service of Word 10 am	20	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Service of Word and Totenfest 10 am	27	28	29	30 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting		

## Choir

We started our 23-24 choir season with a spiritual called "Order My Steps." In November we will sing another spiritual, "Keep Your Lamps!". This spiritual is a kind of prelude to Advent, reminding us to be ready for Christ's coming.



I am happy to have the following people participating in choir this year: Jackie Canterbury, Vicki Hartmann, Shara Toennies, Jamie Wilson, Anne Brown, Kim Miller, Lew Thomasino, Oxby Thomasino, and Adam Reynolds. There is always room for more! Come and join us

Nancy Eisenhauer

## **CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS NOVEMBER 4 FALL BACK ONE HOUR**



**DON'T BE LATE FOR CHURCH!!**