



2024 APRIL NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Are you a person who “likes” to worry? I saw this devotion from the UCC when Lent started in February. I’ve been saving it to share with you. Perhaps you can identify with the message.

Worry Wart

by [Marilyn Pagán-Banks](#) | published on Mar 17, 2024

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. – Psalm 121:1-2 (NRSV)

I am what you would call a “worry wart.” I worry. A lot. So, instead of giving up chocolate for Lent (which is hard for a chocoholic like me), I decided to give up worrying.

But not worrying is hard!

I mean, come on, there is so much to worry about every single day. Families facing hunger and poverty, veterans living on the streets, loved ones gunned down, community members struggling with mental illness, addiction and trauma ruining lives and wiping out dreams. The list is endless.

Even as I write this devotion, my phone won’t stopped buzzing with frantic texts from my daughter fighting with a customer that is giving her the run around for work they haven’t paid her for, while she is desperately trying to make plans to travel to be with her dying father.

How can I not worry? I care too much not to!

If I stop worrying will people start to think I don’t care? Should I be worried about this? Agh! It is so easy to spiral out of control.

Maybe this is why the psalmist starts with a moment of perspective outside of herself. Not expecting answers from the hills, but finding clarity in asking the question out loud. The bold beauty of the hills reminding her of God's power and presence around her and within her.

Prayer

Gracious God, I turn to you this Lenten season seeking to be delivered from the lie that caused me to believe that if I don't worry it means I don't care. You are the source of my peace. I trust you and I rejoice in knowing that you are with me even when life is hard. Amen. Peace and blessings, Pastor Rosemary



About the Author

Marilyn Pagán-Banks (she/her/ella) is a queer womanist freedom fighter gratefully (though not always gracefully) serving as executive director of [A Just Harvest](#), Senior Pastor at [San Lucas UCC](#), and adjunct professor at [McCormick Theological Seminary](#). She is a joyful contributor to [The Words of Her Mouth](#).

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|----------------|
| 4/1 | Trisann Underwood | 4/18 | Tom Miller |
| 4/2 | Brenna Cohlmeier | 4/24 | Stacie Pickens |
| 4/11 | Madison Brown | 4/27 | Becky Riess |

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

4/26 Tiffani & Brad Eisenhauer



PRAYER LIST: Becky Ballard, Urban and Mary Lou Baum, Ronald Bopp, Jackie Canterbury, Carson Edwards, Amy Iverson, Josh Mueller, Marilyn Paul, Syd Safriet, David Seneczyn, Amy Smith, Yvonne Weber, Joan Williams, Rosemary Williams.

SHUT – INS:

Becky Ballard
1211 Moreland Apt 12
Belleville IL 62223

Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Rd
Fairview Heights IL 62208



Ivy Schneider
213 Merriweather Ln
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Rosemary Williams
201 S Belt W Apt 110
Belleville IL 62220

Yvonne Weber
200 St Clair Dr
Fairview Heights IL 62208

APRIL USHERS

Sunday, April 7 Judy Schmitt, Chuck Kistler
Sunday, April 14 Ginny Ganschietz, Sue Ganschietz
Sunday, April 21 Tom and Jan Miller
Sunday, April 28 Lew Thomasino, Nancy Eisenhauer

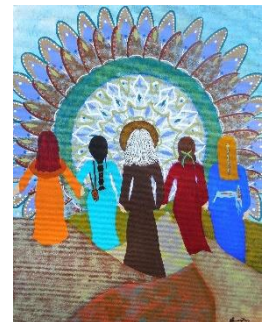


CHOIR

First of all, thanks to granddaughter Madison for providing the prelude on March 10. Grandma was thrilled to accompany her! Easter will bring Grandson Aaron to accompany the choir on his trumpet. You don't want to miss this! Hope to see all of you on Easter! Nancy

EVENING CIRCLE

Our weather has really been up and down; we will see what surprises April brings!
I hope many of you have a chance to see the eclipse on April 8th. God's world is always exciting.



We will be having a rummage sale in the L-Room Sat. April 27th from 8:00 am. - 1:00 p.m. If you have anything you would like to donate, please bring it to church by Sunday April 21st. **NO CLOTHES AND PRE-PRICE ITEMS.**

We will have our regular meeting on Sunday April 28th after church and members will be bringing finger foods for a light lunch since this will be our last meeting until Fall.

April Showers

April showers bring new life,
Washing away the winter strife.
With each drop, the earth revives
and nature's beauty again arrives.

Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

FROM THE COUNCIL

The Church Council is working at being good stewards of your gifts to St. John.

- Our new custodians, Carol and Joe Bulva, are working fewer hours than the previous custodians, but are working efficiently and the church looks great!
- St. John has paid commercial rates for trash pick-up for years. We often don't even generate one full bag of trash per week. Carol and Joe have offered to take the trash and include it with their own, so we have discontinued trash pick-up.
- We have contracted lawn care that will cost us less than maintaining our mower, gas, and paying our former custodians.
- We are currently working on keeping our insurance payments as low as possible.

We appreciate your gifts to St. John, and are doing our best to use them wisely. Thanks for your support!

PENNIES FOR MISSION

Thank you for your donations:

January	DuBois Camp - <u>\$69.54</u>
February	Fairview Heights Food Pantry - <u>\$86.36</u>
March	One Great Hour of Sharing -
April	Uni-Pres Kindercottage -



As always mission work and your donations are important. Please continue to help and Spread the Love to All.



PROM DRESS EVENT

Thanks to all the ladies who helped with the Free Prom Dress Day on March 2. We only gave away 4 dresses but it is good to know those girls were happy! Special thanks to our secretary, Lisa for emailing the area high schools and to Joe & Eric Bulva for setting up.

A **BIG SHOUT OUT** to Nancy Eisenhauer for selling 18 dresses to one of her quilter friends after that day!

The remaining short dresses will be available for \$10 each at our rummage sale on April 27th Thank you. CAROL BULVA

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

We would like to thank you again for prayers and for your special funeral service for our Mother, Barb Moran. We will miss having her with us in Church and each and every day!
Love, The Riess & Moran Families

43rd ANNUAL ST John UCC - QUILT SHOW – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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

Admission: \$3.00

Featuring:

- 200+ quilts on display
- Hand Quilted and Machine Quilted
- Queen size and Baby Quilts for sale

9:45 am Bed Turning

4 Generations of Quilts by the Dyar Family

Lunch Available – Homemade Pie, White Elephant Sale and Bake Sale

We invite everyone to exhibit quilts or wall hangings in our show. Please bring display items to St John UCC on Friday, April 5 between 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

April

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	5	6 Quilter Show <u>Over 200 quilts on display</u> 9 am to 2 pm St John UCC 55 W Church St Mascoutah IL
7 Service of Word 10 am Fellowship time after worship	8	9	10	11 Bible Study 6:30 pm Quilters 10-2 pm AA Meeting	12	13
14 Service of Word & Communion 10 am	15	16	17 Church Council Meeting at 7 pm via Zoom	18 Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	19	20
21 Choir rehearsal 9 am Service of Word 10 am Choir sings at service	22 Earth Day	23	24	25 Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting	26	27 Rummage Sale 8:00 am-1:00pm
28 Service of Word 10 am Last Evening Circle meeting after service until Fall.	29	30				