



# FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Pastor Rosemary Captain**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
**Ahhh! February! The month of love!**



February 14 is Valentine's Day. A day when the sale of chocolates and flowers exceeds the rest of the retail year. And we can't forget greeting cards and love notes. What a happy day it is?!

You know what else is happening this year on February 14?

**It's Ash Wednesday.** There went the smiles and kisses. Did I just let the air out of the balloons?

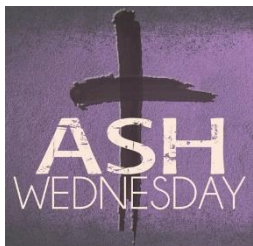
So, what is **Ash Wednesday**? According to Webster, "It marks the beginning of the Lenten season and takes place 46 days before Easter. The concept behind Ash Wednesday is penance. It is a day to confess sins, ask forgiveness from God, and ponder the transitory nature of our physical bodies."

**Ash Wednesday** is the beginning of **Lent**. "Lent signifies a solemn 40-day period preceding Easter. Commencing on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Saturday, Lent is characterized by fasting, prayer, and repentance as believers prepare for the celebration of Easter Sunday. This season of reflection and self-discipline involves practices such as abstaining from certain indulgences, fostering a deeper spiritual connection, and commemorating the sacrifice of Jesus Christ."

To some people Ashes and Lent bring images of gloom, darkness, and sadness. They don't know if they are "allowed" to smile or laugh. Why? Yes, we know that in 6 weeks Christ will be crucified. **So, can we find any love in Ash Wednesday and Lent?**

Perhaps you heard when you received ashes on your forehead or hand, these words: **Repent** and believe the **good news**. Repentance may seem sad but it's actually a good thing. We recognize our faults and we confess them to God. The best part is that God **forgives** whatever we confess. **Why does God do that? LOVE! That's where the Love is in Ash Wednesday and Lent. GOD LOVES US.** And we don't have to send chocolates or flowers. **We should give thanks and praise to God for all that love and forgiveness. Amen.**

Peace and blessings, Pastor Rosemary



This year Ash Wednesday is on February 14. We will have services with imposition of ashes at 12 noon and 7 pm in the sanctuary.

## AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:



2/2 Christopher Captain  
2/4 Tyler Underwood  
2/5 Elisabeth Kistler  
2/10 Conner Brink

2/11 Ivy Schneider  
2/23 Sue Ganschietz  
2/27 Aaron Eisenhauer

# REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO WORSHIP WITH US



Yvonne Weber  
200 St Clair Dr  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Becky Ballard  
1211 Moreland Apt 12  
Belleville IL 62223

Rosemary Williams  
201 S Belt W Apt 110  
Belleville IL 62220

Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Road  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Ivy Schneider  
213 Merriweather Lane  
Fairview Heights IL 62208

## Memorial Donation:

Memorial Donation made in

Loving memory of: **Janice Lohman**

With deepest sympathy, Jim & Nancy Eisenhauer



## A Special Note of Thanks

Hello,

I would like to thank my parents, relatives and my St. John's church family for teaching me the love of Jesus Christ. I recently got married in September to such a wonderful and godly gentleman and we are now attending church together where we live.

Again, thank you for your guidance, love and support over the years.

Blessings to you all! Love, Mrs. Jennifer Hern (Riess)

## **FEBRUARY USHERS**

February 4 - Judy Schmitt, Jim Eisenhauer

February 11 - Sue Williams, Chuck Kistler

February 18 - Ginny Ganschinietz, Sue Ganschinietz

February 25 - Jan and Tom Miller

## **Council Notes**

As you may know if you were at the congregational meeting on January 21, some new Council members were elected to replace those who have finished their terms. Many thanks to Sue Williams and Eric Moayer for serving our church faithfully.

New members who were elected to Council are Sharon Banjavcic and Lew Thomasino. Other members who remain are Jan Miller, Ginny Ganschinietz, Russ Hartmann, Judy Schmitt, and Nancy Eisenhauer. Each Council member will have the following responsibility: Nancy Eisenhauer -- president; Jan Miller -- vice president; Sharon Banjavcic -- secretary; Ginny Ganschinietz -- treasurer; Judy Schmitt and Russ Hartmann – financial secretaries; Lew Thomasino – building and grounds.

We are looking forward to being good stewards of St. John and bringing God's love to the community of Fairview Heights. We will continue to welcome all who come into our congregational life, and build a firm foundation where we have been planted.

My dad, Ed Warning, was on the first Council when St. John was started as a mission church in 1951. He helped build not just the physical building we have, but the church family within it. A few years later my mom, Bernice also served on the Council. I have been thinking about them and St. John a lot since the congregational meeting. I believe it is up to us to continue to support and sustain St. John. I look forward to hearing any ideas you may have to keep and enhance our presence in this community.

Blessings to you all. Nancy Eisenhauer

## EVENING CIRCLE NEWS

The BIG question is "What will arrive in February; rain, sleet, snow, or unusually warm weather?"

February WILL bring our next Circle meeting on Feb. 18th after church.

At our Jan. meeting, we signed valentine cards for St. John shut-ins and signed 60 valentines for community seniors.

We are planning to help Carol Bulva with another Prom dress give away on March 2nd from 8:00 A.M. till 12:00.



The circle is also planning a Rummage Sale for April. Anyone may donate your old housewares, knick-knacks, craft supplies, toys, holiday, or any other item no longer needed in your household.

Pre-price if possible. NO CLOTHES PLEASE!

Information on date and time will be announced later.

From a Holiday Cookbook

4 small kisses                      5 tsp. of happiness

6 giant hugs                         2+ caring hearts

3 cups of Love

Mix together and spread the Love.

by Artsy Momma

Eileen Gammon, Co-Chair

**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.

# February

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30pm AA Meeting	2	3
4 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	5	6	7	8 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30pm AA Meeting	9	10
11 Worship 10 am	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Services at noon & 7 pm	15 Zoom Council Meeting 7 pm No Bible Study AA Meeting	16	17 Quilters Workshop 9 am – 4 pm
18 Worship 10 am Choir rehearsal 9 am Choir sings at worship Evening Circle after worship	19	20	21	22 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30pm AA Meeting	23	24
25 Worship 10 am	26	27	28	29 Zoom Bible Study @ 6:30pm AA Meeting		