



JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Secretary Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri. 9am – 3 pm

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Ah, June!! Summer is officially here. Sunshine, swimming, out-door picnics, vacations, camping, . . . sun burns, mosquitoes, ants, sweating . . . but I digress.

In the mist of all our summer activities, we should not forget about Memorial Day celebrations on May 28, as we honor the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. These people were not all Christians, nor were they all Jews, nor were they all Muslims, nor atheist, yet God was with all of them in their time of peril. We remember, honor, and give thanksgiving for all of them.

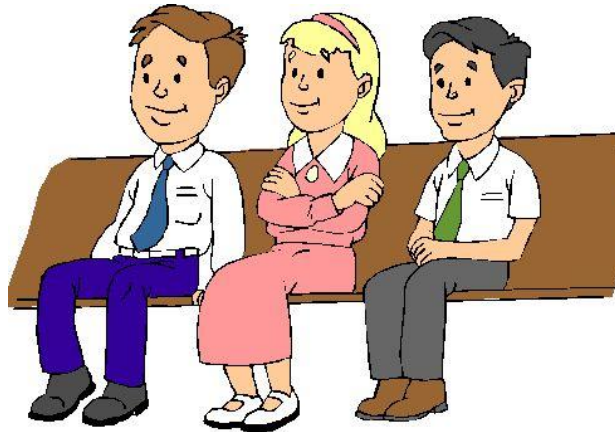
HAVE A SAFE SUMMER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Peace & blessings,

Pastor Rosemary



BY THE WAY . . .
if you enjoy sitting in an air-conditioned church,



continue your offerings, even when on vacation!!



Bills don't go on vacation.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

BAPTISM:

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Trenton Alexander Pickens, born January 28, 2018, was baptized on May 13, 2018. Trenton is the son of Stacie & Tim Pickens and grandson of Sharon & Steve Banjavcic.



Memorials:

For Dennis Ford

Urban & Mary Lou Baum, Jim & Nancy Eisenhauer, Jack & Eileen Gammon



June Birthdays:

6/1	Hunter Brink	6/18	Judy Schmitt
6/4	Vicki Hartmann	6/21	Kim Turnbull
6/6	Melanie Wilhelm	6/23	Earlene White
6/9	Scott Ganschinietz	6/29	Lily Brown
6/17	Jack Gammon		

June Anniversaries:

6/14 Aaron & Christine Drake # 4
6/14 Michael & Ashley Schmit # 4
6/17 Chris & Anne Brown # 12



Recently Hospitalized:

LaVerne Kistler

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Jackie Canterbury NEW PHONE # 334-7353

NOTES AND THANK YOU'S

Thank you very much for supporting the Postal Workers Food Drive which was held on May 12. We really appreciate your allowing us to place a sign in front of your church. The postal workers collected 2,100 items from the community. Thanks again for supporting the Fairview heights Area Food Pantry.

Sincerely, Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry Board

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and well wishes as I recover from foot surgery. I don't think the Women's Soccer Team wants me back.

Peace, Pastor Rosemary

PENNIES FOR MISSION the month of June will go to the Food Pantry.



CHOIR NOTES

Once again, choir has provided anthems for worship and celebration this season. The highlight of the year was Pastor's installation. We combined forces with the choir from St. Paul, Lebanon, to celebrate and officially install Pastor Rosemary Captain. It was truly a joyous worship experience!



Many thanks to the voices who faithfully provide music for worship: Jackie Canterbury, Stacie Pickens, Anne Eisenhauer, Lew Thomasino, Vicki Hartmann, and Jennifer Reiss. Sharon Banjavcic makes us sound even better and keeps us together. This is not just a group of musicians, it is a group of friends who praise and worship God together. You are welcome to join us anytime!

Nancy Eisenhauer, Choir Director



SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY AFTERNOON JULY 29

The churches in Region 9 will be gathering for fun, fellowship, and an ice cream social on Sunday, July 29 at 3 pm at St. John UCC in Fairview Heights. The gathering will feature music from the B Street Band at 3:00 with an ice social to follow at 3:30. **Please** save the date. We are looking forward to opening our church to the other churches in Region 9. The churches include St. Paul, Trinity, and Christ from Belleville, Concordia, Smithton, O'Fallon, Good Shepherd of E. St. Louis, and our very own St. John from Fairview Heights.

WORK WEEK

You may have noticed that there is a lot of work happening on the roof lately. This much needed roof replacement will keep us dry and perhaps even warmer for years to come. However, as old roofs are removed from the church, black grit has filtered down into the building -- everywhere that there is a flat roof.



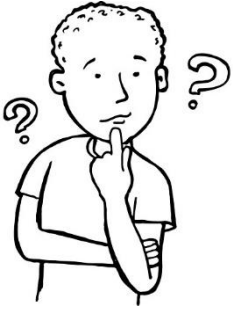
This provides us with an opportunity to deep clean the building! As soon as we know that there will be no more residue falling into the building, we will have a **Work Week**. The church will be open daily. You may come and choose from a list of jobs to be done. When your task is complete, simply cross that job off the list.

Please bring a bucket, rags and perhaps a mop for the job you choose. Other cleaning supplies will be provided. Church will be open at 9:00 each morning.

We will let you know the dates as soon as we know that the last of the grit is down. Many thanks in advance.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL





FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Have you ever wondered about the line in the Apostles' Creed where it says "Jesus descended into hell"? If so, you are not alone. This question was proposed in a recent Adult Sunday School class. Research was called for. I found an article by Presbyterian Rev. R.C. Sproul written in 2006 and his reflections made sense to me.

"First of all, we have to look at the creed from a historical perspective. We know that the Apostles' Creed was not written by the apostles, but it's called the Apostles' Creed because it was the early Christian community's attempt to give a summary of apostolic teaching. This, like other creeds in the church's history, was partly a response to distorted teachings that were present in some communities; it was a statement of orthodox belief. The earliest reference we can find to that 'descent into hell' element of the Creed is around the middle of the third century. That doesn't mean that it wasn't in the original – we don't know when the original was written – but it seems to be a later addition and has caused no small amount of controversy ever since. The reason for it is theological as well as biblical.

"We see this problem: Jesus, when he's on the cross in his dying agony, speaks to the thief next to him (*in the Gospels of Luke and John*) and assures him that 'today you will be with me in paradise.' Now that statement from Jesus on the cross would seem to indicate that Jesus was planning to go to paradise, which is not to be confused with hell. So, in some sense Jesus goes to paradise. We know that his body goes into the tomb. His soul apparently is in paradise. When does he go to hell? Or does he go to hell?

"In 1 Peter 3:19, Peter talks about 'this Jesus, who by the same spirit by which he is raised from the dead goes and preaches to the lost spirits in prison.' That text has been used as the principle proof text to say that Jesus, at some point after his death, generally believed to be between his death and his resurrection, went to hell. Some people say that he went into hell to experience the fullness of the magnitude of suffering – the full penalty for human sin – in order to give complete atonement for sin. That is regarded by some as a necessary element of Christ's passion.

"But most churches that believe in an actual descent of Jesus into hell do not see him going to hell for further suffering because Jesus declares on the cross, 'It is finished.' Rather, he goes to hell to liberate those spirit who, from antiquity, have been held in prison. His task in hell then is one of triumph, liberating Old Testament saints. I, R.C. Sproul, that the Bible is less than clear on that point because the lost spirits in prison could very well refer to lost people in this world. Peter doesn't tell us who the lost spirit in prison are or where the prison is. People are making a lot of assumptions when they consider that this is a reference to hell and that Jesus went there between his death and his resurrection."

In another reference I found this statement, "a few years back at one Christian college, a series of chapel messages on the Apostles' Creed had to admit this item, because none of the 12 professors of Bible and theology believed it. Actually, the statement is not found in the earliest form of the Apostles' Creed and is not found in the Nicene Creed.

For further consideration, realize that the word *hades* which in the Greek signifies the world of the departed, which is paradise for some, pain for others. When the Apostles' Creed took its English form in the sixteenth century, "hell" meant *hades* as such, rather than the final state of the lost (which Jesus called *gehenna*), as it always is today. So, should those who accept the Bible as their supreme authority for belief hold to the Creed's doctrine on this point?

Some say the 1 Peter 3 passage should not be taken literally – that it is symbolic, conveying in graphic form the idea that redemption is universal in its extent. This, however, involves a more spiritualized interpretation than is usually practiced by evangelicals.

What do you think? Should we omit that item the next time we say the Apostles' Creed during worship? Let's talk about it.

Pastor Rosemary

NATIONAL SUICIDE
PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

OUR CHURCH WORKERS FOR JUNE

USHERS

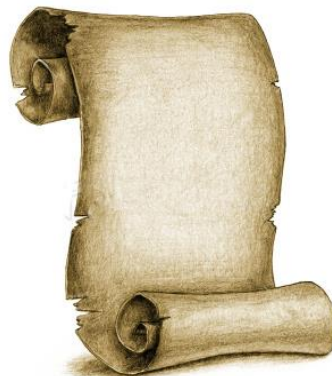
6/3 – Mike & Melinda Stidham
6/10 – Sue Ganschietz and Rosemary Williams
6/17 – Ginny Ganschietz & Chuck Kistler
6/24 – Tom & Jan Miller

LITURGISTS

6/3 Sue Williams
6/10 Dorothy Ovelgoenner
6/17 Judy Schmitt
6/24 Jan Miller

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR JUNE

June 3 1 Samuel 3:1-20
June 10 1 Samuel 8:4-20
June 17 *FATHER'S DAY*
1 Samuel 15:34-
16:13
June 24 The Story of David
and Goliath by the
St. John Thespians
July 1 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27



JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> ● <u>Worship at 10am with Holy Communion and Fellowship Time to Follow</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> ● <u>Worship at 10am</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> ● <u>7pm Church Council</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> ● <u>Worship at 10am</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> ● <u>Worship at 10am</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>



JULY 29 3 PM – 4:30 PM REGION 9 GATHERING

Great Entertainment and Fellowship

The B Street Band will be performing for a gathering of Illinois South Conference Region 9 churches on July 29. The concert will begin at 3:00 with an ice cream social to follow at 3:30 in the fellowship hall of the church. A free-will offering will be taken. Please join us at St. John UCC.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

All Region 9 Churches
invited!

Come one, come all!

Join us for fun,
fellowship, and ice
cream!

PLACE:
ST JOHN UCC
10207 Lincoln Trail
Fairview Heights
(618) 397-6323

stjohnfairview.org

