

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

**St. John United Church of Christ
10207 Lincoln Trail
Fairview Heights, Illinois**

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

email: stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-3
Office 397-6323



Pastor Rosemary Captain

**We are an Open and Affirming congregation,
where all are welcome.**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“For Jesus, there are no countries to be conquered, no ideologies to be imposed, no people to be dominated. There are only men, women and children to be loved.” - the words of Henri Nouwen

Sometimes I believe we feel immune to blatant experiences of hate. After all, we’ve had no school shootings around here. No local Kroger stores have had shootings. No pipe bombs have arrived. No church or synagogue has been attacked, at least not lately. Some of us remember when the pastor at a Baptist church in Maryville was killed in the sanctuary. **BUT THAT WASN’T HERE IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY.**

Don’t get me wrong. I am glad I live, worship, and shop in places that have never had bad experiences. **YET OTHERS HAVE NOT BEEN SO LUCKY.** Yes, we have homeless people and mentally ill people in our midst. We do the best we can for them. So far, none of them have expressed **HATE** so violently as in other places. **YET OTHERS HAVE LOST LOVED ONES BY GUNFIRE BECAUSE OF HATE.**

What are we to do about hate? I struggle for answers.

***“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13***

I will start by reading Matthew 5:43-48 over and over again and praying harder. I have no more words.

Since I have no more words, in this newsletter I have included the **UCC leadership statement concerning Saturday's massacre**. I invite you to read it. I pray you somehow find peace in your hearts. Pastor R.

UCC leaders reach out with love as they condemn attack on Jewish community in Pittsburgh shooting

October 27, 2018

UCC leaders release this statement after a mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue ended eleven lives and wounded six other people during services on Saturday, October 27.

This morning, during Shabbat prayers, the sanctity of a temple was violated. This morning, as babies were named and people gathered with love, hate invaded their joy. This morning a lone gunman, armed with an assault weapon, several guns, and hate, entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Penn., and opened fire on a gathered community who had every right to expect they were safe in the temple.

But they were not.

We are not.

This morning, eleven people were killed, six more were physically wounded, and a community has been changed forever. Hate takes a lot from us. Whether that is hateful rhetoric, or hateful policies, or hateful actions, hate demands a high price. And when hate enters our sacred worship spaces as it did today, and as it did at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church two years ago, and as it did earlier this year at The Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City, hatred never compromises and always consumes.

In moments like these, when we are grieving so deeply the lives that have been taken and the people who have been wounded, we realize how we have all been made to feel a little less safe. In moments like these, when anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and racism and xenophobia and transphobia are on the rise, sanctioned by policies and political and religious rhetoric designed to instill fear of

one another in our hearts and minds, we must remember that God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind. And as difficult as it may be in this moment to see beyond our loss, our collective strength is in what remains. “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

Not love simply as an emotional response, but love as a collective resolve.

Love that refuses to be consumed by hate. Love that removes the barriers between our faiths and our fears. Love that causes us to see the Divine in one another and, having seen what is holy in the other, refuses to let hate win. Love that demands accountable and respectful speech from those in authority. Love that demands sensible gun control in a country that has lost its way. Love that says when one hurts we all hurt, when one grieves, we all grieve, when one is unsafe, we all are unsafe. Love that gives life and refuses to let hate breathe.

The United Church of Christ stands with our Jewish siblings today in that love as we mourn this terrible tragedy in our midst. And we will not run. We will not hide. We will not shy away from confronting the toxic, white Christian supremacy that is masquerading as faith. We are here with you. We are praying with you. We are mourning with you. And we are loving with you until every street and every synagogue and every mosque and every sanctuary is free of hate. We are with you until love wins, and this is a just world for all. This is our collective faith. This is our collective hope. This is our collective love. And the greatest of these is love.

Faithfully yours,

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries

The Rev. James Moos, Executive Minister, Global Engagement and Operations

The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ



AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Prayers for healing: Tom Petroff, Dave Seneczyn, Roger Fox, Ardella Morris, Eric White, Eileen Cox, Alice Stidham, Amy Iverson, Sandy Fort, Darlene Bax, Stacy Bunetic, Terry Kissel, Becky Harrison

Memorials:

For LaVerne Kistler

Sue & Gene Ganschinetz, Eileen Gammon, Judy & Rich Schmitt

November Birthdays

11/11 Darleen Bax
11/11 Jackie Canterbury
11/12 Cassie Myers
11/12 Ed Myers
11/15 Jim Eisenhower



11/17 Jessica Riess
11/22 Ellen Taylor
11/27 Steve Banjavcic
11/27 Chris Brown
11/29 Chris Arbeiter

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle met Oct. 15th. We have several events before the end of the year. At our November meeting we will have special Thank Offering that will go to OCWM and Eileen will have a Christmas craft for us. We will have our **BAKE SALE December 9th** so get your ovens ready for baking some goodies. Our next meeting is November 19th. Judy Schmitt will have the devotional and Yvonne Weber will provide dessert.

We have also received our child from Kindercottage for Christmas. She is a 12 month old little girl named Kaleah and she wears a size 24 month and size 5 shoes.

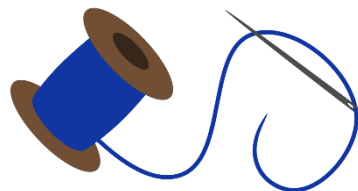
The Evening Circle meets the third Monday of the month and all ladies of St. John are welcome. Hope to see you all there! (Please note our invitation and the end of the newsletter.)

FEMININE HYGIENE KITS

Our next work day for the feminine hygiene kits that we are sending to Peru will be on **Tuesday, November 6**. Be sure to vote before or after you come to help that day!

We will start at 10:00 a.m. Stay as long as you like. Come later in the day as you like or are able. The church will be open until 4:00 p.m. Here are the jobs that need to be done:

- sewing/serging
- turning/pressing
- tracing/cutting
- installing snaps
- installing ribbon



Hopefully you can spare some time on Nov. 6. We will have additional monthly work days, on the first Tuesday of the month, until we reach our goal. If you can come and have any of the following, please bring it with you that day:

- sewing machine and usual sewing supplies
- serger
- scissors that will cut fabric
- cutting mat, ruler and rotary cutter

You do not have to have sewing skills! Just bring a sharp scissors and come. We will train you.

There is also a way you can help with supplies. Here is what we need:

- cotton fabrics, laundered and pressed, preferably medium to dark tones.
- Look through your scraps. Anything bigger than a 4 1/2" square can be used.
- flannel, laundered and pressed, preferably dark yardage.
- girls' underwear, sizes 10 – 14
- gallon zip-loc bags
- money to purchase waterproof lining, snaps, etc.

FALL WORK DAY

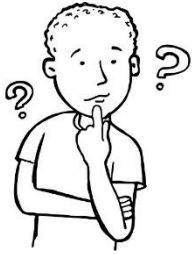
You may have heard a rumor that we are going to work at church on November 3. Don't believe it! Since most of the leaves have yet to turn and fall, we are postponing the work day until **Saturday, November 17**. There will both outdoor and indoor work to be done. We will start at 9:00.

If you plan to work outdoors, please bring a leaf rake.

If you plan to work inside, please bring furniture polish, if you have it, and some rags. Most of our work will be in the hallways.

CHOIR NEWS

No matter who shows up or who is missing, we can make a choir out of the talent at church on any given Sunday morning! Thanks to the ladies of the choir who took an SATB anthem and managed to make it into an SSA anthem last Sunday. You never know how we will have fun next! Come and join us. We practice on Sunday mornings when we sing in church. Advent and Christmas are coming up so you will want to be in on the fun! See Nancy at church or call her at 233-5894 for more details.



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

This month I'd like to share with you the last few pages of a book I would like to recommend to you. It's called "Making Sense of Scripture", written by Rev. Dr. David Lose. It is written in "conversation style" between a pastor and a lay friend who has questions. The bold print is the friend and the print that is not in bold is the pastor. We are "listening in" to their "conversation" which began 193 pages ago. This excerpt is near the end of the book.

Friend: "And so when you say the Bible works, you mean . . .?"

Pastor: "I mean that reading the Bible – and even more, studying the Bible and hearing it preached – encourages me in faith. And I see that happen with other people, too.

Friend: But not always?

Pastor: No, not always. You can't determine ahead of time the way it will affect some people or not affect them. To put it in the terms of the Christian story, you can't control the way the Holy Spirit works. All you can do is tell the story and see what happens. But in my own life, and in a lot of other people's lives, when the Bible is read, studied, and preached, people often come to faith or have their faith renewed.

Friend: So the two reasons you think people should read the Bible are because it tells us the Christian story and because when people hear it they sometimes come to faith?

Pastor: Yup. You sound a little disappointed.

Friend: Well, no, not disappointed, just . . . Okay, so maybe it's not quite what I thought you'd say. It's just, it's just . . .

Pastor: Yes? I don't mind; go ahead.

Friend; It's just that I thought it would be more concrete, more tangible, more . . .

Pastor: More something you could prove, or point to, or count on.

Friend: Well, yeah, I think so

(For Your Consideration, continued, page 2)

Pastor: Don't worry you're not alone in that wish. A lot of people want what I'd describe as external proof or validation. If there were just some standard, or some test, that we could administer to the Bible to make sure it was worth believing, things would be a lot easier.

Friend: But then it wouldn't take faith.

Pastor: That's right.

Friend: So it sounds as if you're saying you believe Scripture because it has worked in your life. That is, the biblical story rings true for you. It seems compelling, convincing, or persuasive to you.

Pastor: Yes, that's what I'm saying. In this sense, we might say that the Bible is self-validating. We believe it not because someone outside the Bible has told us to, but because of what the Bible itself has done in our own lives.

Friend: And you don't need any external evidence, not even a little bit?

Pastor: I think once the biblical story has become your story you see all kinds of evidence. That is, you see the truths of the story all around you. You start interpreting life on the terms of the biblical story. And in this way it makes sense of your life and this sense-making-ability is a chief, maybe *the* chief, reason you read and trust the Bible.

Sometimes this happens immediately. A certain story or passage helps you make sense of something going on in your life. And sometimes it takes longer. You might even have to test it out. For example, what the Bible says about forgiveness or about sharing what you have with others might cut across the grain of what you've been taught in your culture. But then you try it out and discover a more rich experience of God and the world.

Ultimately, though, that's all the "evidence" you get – it either helps you make sense of your life or not. And even if you wanted external evidence, where would you look?

Friend: This sounds a lot like our conversation about whether the Bible is true.

Pastor: Yes, it's very much like that. Essentially, you either want to be able to prove the Bible is true – and you have various ways of trying to do that – or you take it on faith. As I said before, I think the Bible is a book of faith.

OUR CHURCH WORKERS FOR NOVEMBER

USHERS

November 4 – Ginny Ganschinetz & Jim Turnbull
November 11 – Chris & Ellen Taylor
November 18 – Sue Ganschinetz & Nancy Eisenhauer
November 25 – Wayne Schlosser & Chuck Kistler

LITURGISTS

11/4 Ginny Ganschinetz
11/11 Dorothy Ovelgoenner
11/18 Judy Schmitt
11/25 Wayne Schlosser

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

November 4: Ruth 1:1-18
November 11: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
November 18: Hebrews 10:11-25
November 25: Revelation 1:4b-8



NOTES ON SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

November 4 is a service of Word and Holy Communion

November 18 we will be celebrating Thanksgiving

November 25 is our annual celebration of Totenfest,
honoring those who have passed to life eternal
in the last liturgical year.



TOTENFEST – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25

Sunday, November 25, is the last Sunday of the Church Year and, in the old German tradition, is the day for remembering those who have passed from this life into life eternal or whose funeral service was held during the last Church Year. (The Church Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and ends the Sunday before Advent.)

Totenfest, literally, the Festival of the Dead, is the time set aside in our worship 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 ringing of the chime, and to offer special prayers of thanksgiving for their journey with us on this earth.

This year we will be honoring church members who have passed on, Charles Bogner, Dennis Ford, LaVerne Kistler, and Sue Sharp. If you have loved ones who have gone to life eternal since November 26, 2017 and would like their names included, please let the Pastor or the office know.

Please include their date of birth and day of their passing.

We will also offer a table of candles for worshippers to light in memory of loved ones who have passed at any time in the past.



In memory of . . .



THE CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES ARE BACK

If you had the opportunity to attend last year's hilarious musical, you will enjoy their sequel. The members of St. John are once again invited to join the members of St. Paul, Lebanon for an afternoon of fellowship and laughter, Sunday, December 30. The play is at 2 pm and we can car pool from our church. After the musical, for those who wish, we will stop at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine for supper. The tickets for the show are \$32, possibly less if we get a block of tickets. Please RSVP at our church office or with Pastor Rosemary.

**I GUARANTY YOU WILL NEVER FORGET
THE FUN YOU WILL HAVE WITH THESE
CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES**



**We can all relate to one of these characters,
or at least remember a lady just like them.**

Here's a little more information about the musical -

"And out of the basement shall come a Church Basement program of good tidings, great humor and joy! The ladies are serving it up again, This time around it's an all-new holiday show. *Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas* takes us back to 1959 and the day of the Sunday School Christmas Program. In the midst of holiday preparations and sprinklings of love in the air, the ladies in their witty, down-to-earth style are creating their own memories from Christmases past and present. Content to do things the way they have always been done yet pondering new ideas, the reality of everyday life hits home as they plan the Sunday School Christmas Program. As the children rehearse up in the sanctuary, several of the ladies of the kitchen are finishing up the treat bags filled with apples, peanuts and ribbon candy while the others put the final touches on the nativity pieces. As they mend old bathrobe costumes, discuss the politics of who's going to play the various roles, little do the ladies know what surprises are in store for them. Known for their hilarious antics and subtle charm, they are once again called upon to step in and save the day!"

**BY THE WAY – THE PLAY IS NOT JUST FOR WOMEN.
THOSE OF THE MALE GENDER WILL HAVE FUN, TOO!!**

November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> ♦ <u>Time Change- Set Your Clocks Back</u>
<u>4</u> ♦ <u>Worship at 10 am with Holy Communion and Fellowship Time to Follow</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> ♦ <u>Sewing Day 9 am - 4 pm</u>	<u>7</u> ♦ <u>Church Office Closed</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u> ♦ <u>Worship at 10 am</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> ♦ <u>Church Council 7pm</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> ♦ <u>Work Day at Church</u>
<u>18</u> ♦ <u>Worship at 10 am</u>	<u>19</u> ♦ <u>Evening Circle 7pm</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> ♦ <u>Thanksgiving</u>	<u>23</u> ♦ <u>Church Office Closed</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u> ♦ <u>Totenfest ♦ Worship at 10 am</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> ♦ <u>Region 9 Meeting 7 pm</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	

The Church Office will be closed
Thursday, November 22nd, and Friday, November 23rd.
HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

A sad note:

We have learned that Pastor Georgia died on Saturday, October 27 in Oklahoma. (that's where James and Rite are living) There will be a service there on Thursday, Nov. 1 and a memorial service in Fresno, CA. after the holidays. We haven't heard anything else.

