



**SEPTEMBER 2018
NEWSLETTER
St. John United Church of
Christ
10207 Lincoln Trail
Fairview Heights, Illinois**

Office 397-6323

email: stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.com

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-3

Pastor Rosemary Captain

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



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The other day I was searching for words to express what I was thinking and, behold, I thought of the Psalms. The writers of the Psalms were not shy about expressing their emotions and every day ups and downs with God. There are Psalms of joy, happiness, thanksgiving, grief, anger, sadness, and love. They took these feelings and shared them with God, which is something I need to do more often.

I found the words I was looking for in Psalm 133:1. It is subtitled “The Blessedness of Unity” “¹ How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” (NRSV). That is how I feel when we are gathered in worship and any other time I spend with all of you, the congregation of St. John United Church. Even in the ups and downs of life, we have a blessedness of unity between us and with God. We help each other. We pray with each other. And we celebrate with each other. God gives us life, the good and the bad, and God gives us each other to go through the good and the bad together. Thanks be to God.

Blessings for a September with more good days than bad.

Pastor Rosemary

OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

Christine & Aaron Drake on the loss of Christine's mother.
Nancy Eisenhower on the death of her uncle, Wayne Heckert
The family and friends of Vicki Kruta
Wayne Schlosser on the death of his uncle, Clark Whitely
LaVerne Kistler and her family on the death of her grandson,
Ben Kistler



DIRECTORY CHANGE:

Rich Williams
600 S. Horner Apt. 230
Lebanon, IL 62254



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

9/4 Barbara Moran	9/16 Jo Fox
9/7 Sue Sharp	9/18 Dorothy Ovelgoenner
9/9 Wayne Schlosser	9/23 Carol Randle
9/10 Sheri Bryant	9/23 Jennifer Hackbarth
9/14 Louise Cohlmeier	

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

9/10 Sharon & Chuck Kistler # 35
9/17 Cindy & Clay Harris # 41
9/25 Carol & Joe Bulva # 42
9/30 Cassie & Edgar Myers # 7



PRAYER CONCERNS FOR SEPTEMBER:

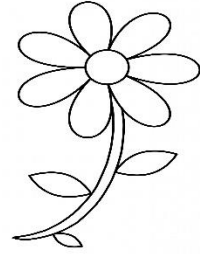
Ted Bauer, Kenneth Case, Eileen Cox, Roger Fox, Amy Iverson, Thomas Jolley, LaVerne Kistler, Don Krieg, Ardella Morris, Tom Petroff, Dave Seneczyn, Alice Stidham, Eric White.



NOTES AND THANK YOU'S

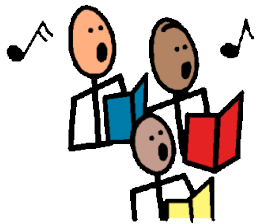
THANK YOU! I wanted to take a minute to thank the congregation for the very generous donation. With the many needy families in the district, this money will go to good use. We appreciate all of your support!

Sincerely, Travis Klein, Principal Illini Elementary School



THANK YOU to the entire congregation on your patience, care, and lovely cards you sent me during my hospitalization and recovery this summer. You are amazing people and I am so grateful to be in your presence.

Blessings, Pastor Rosemary



CHOIR

Choir will start once again in September. We will begin rehearsals and sing on September 23. Looking forward to seeing **you** there! We practice at 9:00 on Sunday mornings.

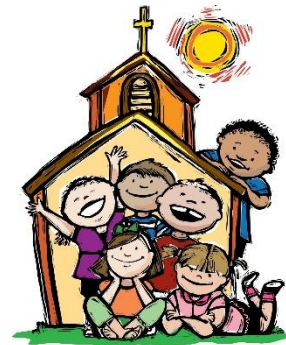
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ALUMINUM RECYCLING on September 9, the Sunday after Labor Day.

Pennies for Mission for August went to FOOD PANTRY with a total of \$179.97.

Pennies for September & October will go to the "Noisy Auction" at our Conference Annual Meeting October 27.

Adult Sunday School every Sunday morning 8:45 – 9:30 am



RALLY DAY!!!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Lets Rally together to start the new school year with a "Blessing of the Back Packs" for all students (what ever their age). Then please stay after worship for a small luncheon and fellowship..

SUNDAY SCHOOL will also begin on the 9th.

EVENING CIRCLE



It's that time of year again. The Evening Circle will hold our first meeting of the year **Monday, Sept. 17 at 7:00pm**. We will be electing officers and planning our projects for the coming year. As usual we will have fun and fellowship along the way as we raise money for various causes. Ginny Ganschietz will have the devotion and dessert. **The Evening Circle** meets the third Monday of the month and all ladies of St. John are welcome. Hope to see you all there!

The Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting will be October 27 at the Knights of Columbus in Collinsville. Nancy, Sharon & Pastor Rosemary will be our delegates.

DAYS FOR GIRLS KITS



If you were in church on July 29, you heard Barb Whitaker share her experiences as a nurse in Peru. I think each one of us was touched by the abject poverty there and the gratefulness of the people for everything the nurses did for them.

There is a way we can help! Barb shared with the congregation the plight of adolescent girls in that part of the world. They have no sanitary supplies for their menstrual cycles; thus they are unable to go to school during those days. **We can help.**

We are going to make 200 kits for Barb to take to Peru when she returns there next April. We plan to have a sew/work day on **Tuesday, September 4**. 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 8:00 p.m. Here are the jobs that need to be done:

- sewing/serging
- turning/pressing
- tracing/cutting

- installing snaps
- cutting/installing ribbon

Hopefully you can spare some time on **Sept. 4**. We will have additional monthly work days, probably 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:

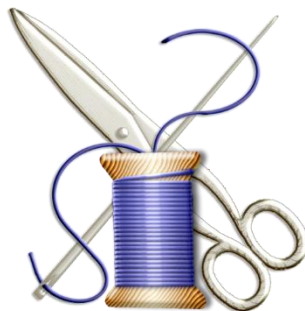
- sewing machine and usual sewing supplies
- serger
- scissors that will cut fabric
- cutting mat, ruler and rotary cutter

You do not have to have sewing skills! Just bring a 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 4" x 4 1/2" can be used.
- flannel, laundered and pressed, preferably dark yardage.
- wash cloths
- girls' underwear, sizes 10 – 14
- gallon zip-loc bags
- small bars of soap
- money to purchase waterproof lining, snaps, etc.

**The sign at the back of the sanctuary says, "Be the Church".
What better way to be just that.**



**SEPTEMBER 3 IS THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED!!**

OUR CHURCH WORKERS FOR SEPTEMBER

USHERS

9/2– Wayne Schlosser & Jackie Canterbury
9/9 – Sue Ganschietz & Eileen Gammon
9/16 – Ginny Ganschietz & Melinda Stidham
9/23 – Lew Thomasino & Mike Stidham
9/30 – Nancy Eisenhauer & Cheri Schutzenhofer

LITURGISTS

9/2 - Sharon Banjavcic
9/9 - Eileen Gammon
9/16 - Judy Schmitt
9/23- Wayne Schlosser
9/30- Sue Williams

**LITURGICAL READINGS FOR THE NEXT 6
WEEKS:**



September 2	James 1:17-27	
September 9	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	
	James 2:1-10, 14-17	
September 16	James 3:1-12	
September 23	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	
September 30	James 5:13-20	
October 7	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	World Communion Sunday

WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF JAMES?

In the month of September, the liturgists will be reading from the Book of James. Personally, I am not all that familiar with this book of scripture. I don't think we talked about it in seminary. So, I did a little research in order that all of us understand the texts a little better. Who wrote the book of James and who was he writing it to?

After looking through several study Bibles, most agreed that the book of James was written by the brother of Jesus, but not all theologians agree. There are three other men mentioned in the New Testament with the name "James". However, the

dates of their deaths and their believed abilities to write such a document, do not match up with this book that made it into the canon.

However, the book of James is remarkable how little explicit Christian teaching it contains. For example, it contains only two references to Jesus. The letter bears many similarities to the Jewish wisdom tradition. It could almost be classified as a Christian wisdom book.

This book was written before CE (Christian Era) 50, about 17 years after the resurrection of Jesus. It is distinctly Jewish in nature which suggests that it was composed when the new church of believers was still predominately Jewish. This book is actually a letter written to no specific church, but rather a “general” letter to all Christian communities. The audience was Jewish Christians and perhaps Jerusalem believers scattered after the death of Stephen. In this letter James emphasizes vital Christianity characterized by good deeds and faith that works.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

**Thoughts on the Eucharist/Holy Communion
according to the Book of John**



Throughout the month of August, our Gospel lessons have been from the Gospel of John, Chapter 6. We have read the words of Jesus, “I am the bread of life.” In verse 54 we read “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.”

Many of these verses sound similar to the words we hear in the sacrament of Holy Communion/Eucharist; however, they are not exactly as in the other three Gospels. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the central event of the Last Supper is the institution of the Eucharist, or “Lord’s Supper” (Matt 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-23). In John, the central event of the last meal is the foot washing, and there is no explicit institution of the Eucharist.

Dr. Gail R. O’Day has commented on this in her book “John”.

“This absence does not mean that the Eucharist is unimportant to John or even that John has no institution of the Eucharist. Rather, the evangelist has taken a well-known church tradition and trans-

(For Your Consideration con't)

formed it. The discourse in John 6 is the place where institution of the Eucharist is lodged, because for John, all of Jesus' life "institutes" the sacrament of the Eucharist, not one particular event at the end of Jesus' life.

"In the "I am" sayings of chapter 6, Jesus says that he is the manna, the food that gives life, and it is through eating his flesh and drinking his blood in the Eucharist that the believer is able to share fully in this food. To share in the eucharist meal is not to remember or commemorate one particular event, but is to share in all of Jesus' life, including ultimately his death. Participation in the Eucharist creates a relationship between Jesus and the believer that contains within it the promise of new life.

"It is not just for "special" days nor solely a meal that marks Jesus' death. By moving the theological presentation of the Eucharist into the story of the life of Jesus, John suggests that participation in the flesh and blood, bread and wine, belongs to all the days of Christian life, because it embodies the possibilities of new life with Christ. **The Eucharist is a meal of celebration, of sharing in the abundant presence of God in the world.**"

The Gospel of John certainly gives us something to ponder.

Do you agree with Dr. O'Day's interpretation?

Many blessings on your study and consideration.

Pastor R.





CELTICA IS COMING!

What is Celtica? I'm glad you asked.

"Infectious fun" is the best way to describe Celtica, a session band ten years in the running around the St. Louis Metro East region. The band's name reflects the Celtic musical world – traditional tunes and songs from Ireland; Scotland; Wales; Celtic regions of France, Spain, and Canada; as well as traditional and original music from the United States. Celtica's command of ballads, sprightly traditional tunes, and stories about the music, is guaranteed to engage any audience.

The band has performed with several St. Clair County area musical groups, including the Great Rivers Choral Society and the Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra, at both the Southern Illinois Irish Festival and the Missouri River Irish Festival, Union United Methodist Church's Fine Arts Concert Series, as well as Belleville's Art on the Square.

CELTICA LIGHT WILL BE WITH US IN WORSHIP ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

Celebrate communion and the church around the world with us.
Bring friends. I'm bringing mine!

A special love offering will be taken that day to support this event.





BLESSING OF THE PETS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

10 AM WORSHIP

No lions, tigers, or bears allowed, but practically any domesticated pet is invited to their own blessing, September 30, 2018 in 10 am Worship.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW ROOF

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

10 AM WORSHIP

While we are outside with the pets, we will also dedicate our new roof and all the improvements in our church building that have been made this year.



September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> ♦Worship at 10am with Holy Communion and Fellowship Time to Follow	<u>3</u> ♦Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday	<u>4</u> ♦10am-8pm Sewing Day	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> ♦Worship at 10am-Rally Day - light luncheon will follow the service ♦Aluminum Recycling	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> ♦7pm Church Council	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> ♦Worship at 10am	<u>17</u> ♦7pm Evening Circle	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> ♦Worship at 10am	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> ♦7pm Region 9 Meeting	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u> ♦Worship at 10am-Pet Blessing and Roof Dedication during the service						