



NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHER OF FAITH,



Did you ever wonder why sometimes Jesus is referred to as the “Son of Man” and sometimes as the “Son of God”? Jesus is given many titles in Scripture. What does it mean that He is the “Son of God” and the “Son of Man”? Here is a brief explanation from Rev. R.C. Sproul, a Presbyterian minister, who reveals that these two titles actually signify something different than what we might expect.

The words of Rev. Sproul: “Let me ask you to pay particularly close attention, when you read the Gospels, to the use of the phrase or the title “Son of Man.” It’s one of the most important titles for Jesus in the New Testament and yet, at the same time, one of the most frequently misunderstood.

“Part of the reason is we see the difference between the title “Son of Man” and “Son of God.” And given the church’s confession, historically, of the dual nature of Jesus—that He has a divine nature and a human nature—the tendency is for folks to assume that when Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man, that He was speaking of His human nature, and when He’s referred to as the Son of God, He was being referred to vis-à-vis His divine nature. Well, it’s not as simple as all of that, because both of these titles have within them elements that refer to His deity and to His humanity. But if anything, the emphasis on the two is just the opposite of what we would normally expect.

“The title “Son of God” is given, in the first instance in Scripture, to those who manifest obedience to the Father. Sonship is defined predominately, not in biological terms here, but in terms of being in one accord or submissive towards, and so on. Remember Jesus Himself, in His discussions with the Pharisees, who claimed to be

“sons of Abraham,” Jesus rebuked them and said, “You are the children of Satan. You are the children of the one whom you obey.” Now, don’t get me wrong. The “Son of God” also contains, in certain references in the New Testament, clear indications of Jesus’ eternal sonship and His deity. So, we don’t want to overstate the case.

“But this title, “Son of Man,” is the one I want you to really pay attention to when you’re reading the Gospels, because it’s used so often in the New Testament, and all but three times that it occurs in the New Testament, it comes from the lips of Jesus. And it refers back to the Old Testament vision that was written down by the prophet Daniel, where Daniel had a vision into the interior of the heavenly court of God, where he saw the Ancient of Days enthroned, and the judgment was set. And to the Ancient of Days comes “one like unto a son of man,” who then is given the authority to judge the world. So that in the first instance, the Son of Man is a heavenly person—a heavenly person who descends to this world, whose principal role in His visitation to this earth is that of the heavenly judge. And then He returns to the presence of God in His ascension. We remember that Jesus says, “No one ascends to the Father except He who has first descended from Him.” Again, we tend to think that Jesus’ calling Himself the Son of Man was an expression of humility, when, in fact, it was a claim to divine authority. That’s why I want you to notice this. When He heals on the Sabbath day and is rebuked by His enemies, He said, “I did this that you may know that the Son of the Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” And when He forgives sins and creates an uproar from His contemporaries, saying, “Only God has the authority to forgive sins,” Jesus said, “I did this that you might know that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” And again, and again, and again, you will begin to see that this title, “Son of Man” that Jesus uses for Himself, is a highly exalted title.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/2 Charlie Harris

11/4 Henry Captain

11/11 Jackie Canterbury

11/15 Jim Eisenhower

11/17 Jessica (Riess) Kilian

11/19 Mark Stern

11/22 Ellen Taylor

11/27 Steve Banjavcic

11/27 Chris Brown

11/29 Chris Arbeiter



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO Louise Cohlmeier who turned 92 on September 14, 2025!



PRAYER LIST: Ingrid Alexiou, Becky Ballard, Mary Lou & Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Ben Boyle, Geralyn Gammon, Neal Holliday, Amy Iverson, Marilyn Paul, Pam Safriet, Syd Safriet, Yvonne Weber.

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Jan Trospers, our bookkeeper, who passed away Sunday, September 28, 2025.

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Rosemary Williams, who passed away October 8, 2025 at the age of 96. Funeral was held at Kurrus Funeral Home October 17, 2025, with interment at Walnut Hill in Belleville.

In honor of Rosemary, memorials may be made to:

St Clair County Animal Adoption Center

1250 11th St – Belleville IL 62226

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO WORSHIP WITH US

Becky Ballard
1211 Moreland Apt 12
Belleville, IL 62223

Ivy Schneider
213 Merriweather Ln
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Rd
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Yvonne Weber
200 St Clair Dr
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Jackie Canterbury
105 W Julie St Apt C
Shiloh IL 62269



TOTENFEST

Sunday, November 23, 2025 is the last Sunday of the Church Year and, in the old German tradition, is the day for remembering those who have passed and whose funeral service was held during the last Church Year. Totenfest, literally, the festival of the Dead, is the time set aside in the 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 candle, and to offer special prayers of thanksgiving for their

journey with us on this earth. Unfortunately, we have lost some cherished members in the last 12 months. This year we will celebrate any and all our family and friends we have lost throughout our lives.

Thought for the Month:

Memory is a wonderful treasure chest for those who know how to pack it.
Carol Bulva

CHOIR



We have once again started our choir season. We sing for worship one Sunday a month. We are looking for more voices, so come and join us!

In December we will have our usual Christmas Eve service and music. If you are interested in that, now is the time to come to choir. We will start rehearsing those selections in November.

COUNCIL NOTES

As you may be able to tell, most of the wood from our tree in back has been removed. It's a good time of year to plant grass, so that has been done.

Don't forget that Advent will start the last Sunday in November. Now is a good time to recommit to regularly attending worship on Sundays. Hope to see you soon! Nancy

CIRCLE

November is a time to enjoy the cooler weather and to remember to be "Thankful for All that is Good in our Lives".

Also be THANKFUL for friends and family. Make an extra effort to contact someone you haven't seen or spoken with for a while.

Our meeting will be November 9th after church in the L-Room. We will discuss our December projects (always a busy time of year) and don't forget to bring your "THANK OFFERING".

See you soon! Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

November 2:	Tom & Jan Miller
November 9:	Judy Schmitt, Chuck Kistler
November 16:	Carol Bulva, Chuck Kistler
November 23:	Sue Williams, Ginny Ganschinietz
November 30:	Tom & Jan Miller

Thank you

October 2025

Dear Church family at St John's UCC,

Thank you for allowing us to come visit this past Sunday for the worship service.

The service was lovely and we especially appreciated the prayers for those that do not receive compassion or those that face injustices. These prayers are so needed in these trying times as we all need to emulate Christ's love and care for others.

Again, thank you for letting us join you in worship and may God bless you all,

In Christian Love,

Philip & Amanda Gray

FOOD PANTRY IDEAS

Most people buy what they think food pantry users want, but have never asked them. If you help families, single people, foster youth and the homeless, this list can help better tailor your donations! Some tips and guidance if you donate to food pantries derived from feedback by those who use them:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.

FOOD PANTRY (CONT'D)

4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dish Soap / Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Also, please consider donating dog and cat food. Some people have hit a temporary low point and don't want to give up their pets but find they have to choose to feed themselves or their pets.



November

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	3	4	5	6 Quilters 9 - 4 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	7	8
9 Service of Word 10 am Circle Meeting after worship	10	11 Veteran's Day	12 Council Meeting	13 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Quilters 10 – 2	14 Quilters 9 - 2	15
16 Choir rehearsal 9 am Service of Word 10 am Choir sings at service	17	18	19	20 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	21	22
23 Service of Word 10 am Totenfest 10 am	24	25	26	27 AA Meeting 7 pm HAPPY THANKSGIVING	28	29
30						
Service of Word 10 am						

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