



AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

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CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!!!

Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear brothers and sisters of faith,

Perhaps you have been affected by the smoke coming to our area recently. I have heard little league and soccer games have been canceled because of it. Our UCC colleague had thoughts on the issue. I'm sharing it with you.

"WE BREATHE THE SAME AIR" A Meditation by Rev. Cameron Trimble July 22

Over the past couple of weeks, smoke from wildfires in Canada spread across the United States. The skies are orange and gray, and millions of people find it hard to breathe. The political reaction has been striking. Instead of recognizing the smoke as a sign of climate change that impacts everyone, the US administration blamed the Canadian government. We accused Canada of letting smoke "invade" the United States, and as punishment, we declared 50% tariffs on our northern neighbor. Madness.

Smoke does not care about borders. It does not know where one country ends and another begins. It does not have a passport or stop at lines on a map. The atmosphere has never worked like that. Maybe this is the real lesson of climate change. It keeps showing us that one of our oldest beliefs, that we are separate from each other, is not true. Throughout history, people have organized themselves by boundaries: nations, borders, property lines, and political identities. These things can be useful, but they do not define who we truly are.

The air we breathe belongs to all of us. The water that falls as rain has traveled across continents. The carbon released in one place changes life somewhere else. The choices made by one generation shape the world inherited by another. We are connected whether we acknowledge it or not. Our wisdom traditions have been reminding us of this for centuries. In the Hebrew Scriptures, God breathes life into humanity. The breath that animates us is not something we create. It is something we receive.

The Qur'an says that people were made into different groups and tribes "so that you may know one another." Our differences were never meant to be reasons for division or control.

Buddhist teachers speak of *interbeing*, the recognition that nothing exists by itself. A tree contains the rain, the soil, the sunlight, and the countless relationships that made its life possible. Many Indigenous traditions have long understood the earth not as a collection of resources to manage, but as a living community of relationships to which we belong.

Science tells us the same thing: we are all part of one living system. The smoke is not the enemy. The smoke is a reminder. It reminds us that we cannot separate ourselves from one another, no matter how many walls we build or borders we draw. The great spiritual challenge of our time is learning to live according to the truth that creation already knows: we belong to one another. The real question is whether we will finally start living that way.

We are in this together, Cameron

Thank you, Cameron, for that reminder, Pastor R



Thank you to all who have given and supported the food pantry.

The **FOOD PANTRY** is still in need of donations, both food and cash. With our current economy, families are struggling to put food on the table. Everyone is affected. If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated. Food donations can be brought to the church or the Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry at 10025 Bunkum Rd (rear) Fairview heights. Any help that you offer will be used to its full potential.

- Breakfast items
- Canned meats
- Hardy soups
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pancake, Syrup and Pancake mix

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

Learn to love yourself, to forgive yourself...for only as we have the right attitude towards ourselves can we have the right attitude towards others ♥

PENNIES FOR MISSION for August will go to **Our Church's Wider Missions**

USHERS

August 2 Tom and Jan Miller

August 9 Sue Williams, Jim Eisenhauer,
Tom and Jan Miller

August 16 Chuck Kistler, Lew Thomasino

August 23 Chuck Kistler, Carol Bulva

August 30 Chuck Kistler, Judy Schmitt

OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP

Becky Ballard
1211 Moreland Apt 12
Belleville IL 62223

Jeanette Brown
5904 Perrin Rd
Fairview Heights IL62208



Jackie Canterbury
105 W Julie St Apt C
Shiloh IL 62269

Ivy Schneider
213 Merriweather Ln
Fairview Heights IL 62208

Yvonne Weber
200 St Clair Dr
Fairview Heights IL 62208

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

8/3	Jeanette Brown	8/12	Joe Bulva
8/4	Bill Underwood	8/13	Donald Krieg
8/5	Eric Moayer	8/23	Amanda Hamilton
8/7	Brad Eisenhower	8/23	Cindy Harris
8/9	Mike Stidham	8/23	Rebecca Kistler



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

8/26 Gary & Carla Warning # 48



It will soon be September, and choir will once again be singing. It will be so good to have a group together again!

YOU are welcome to sing with the choir. My goal is to fill the sanctuary with sound! We sing once a month, so I'm not asking for a weekly commitment. We'd love to have you.

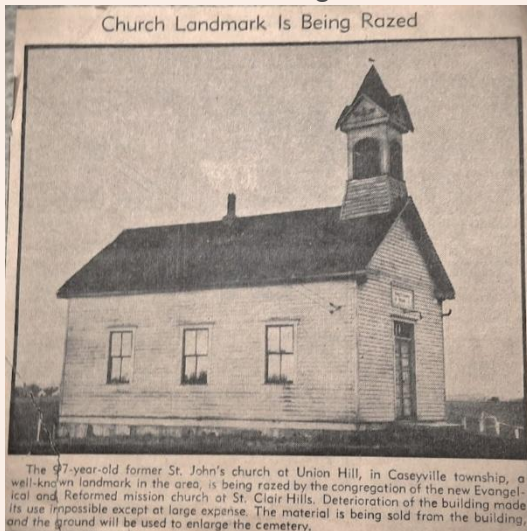
Nancy Eisenhower

St. John UCC Fairview Heights - 75th Anniversary

St. John UCC Fairview Heights - Invitation

History- Do you know how old your congregation really is? St. John, Fairview Heights has a rather interesting history. The original St. John was on what is now Union Hill Road. Back then it was called "Poor House Road". Perhaps you have seen the St. John Cemetery on the hillside, about a quarter mile south of Lincoln Trail. The original church stood next to it, beginning in 1854. It was a one room frame building. It shared pastors with other area congregations. There were 28 charter members, all men of age.

After closing in 1936, the church sat abandoned. The building was razed in



1951. That same year, on January 10, a group of 40 people met at a store front and home, which later became Moody Drug and Dr. Rashet's office. With the encouragement of the Evangelical and Reformed Board of Missions, two weeks later the store had been transformed into a worship space. On the last Sunday in January, 1951, the first worship and Sunday School were held. By Palm Sunday that year, 59 charter members joined the church. Rev. Paul Schnake was called to be pastor.

By 1953, the congregation had bought land for and approved plans for a new church along Highway 50. The church was dedicated on June 5, 1955. That sanctuary served the congregation until 1970, when it was enlarged and a narthex was added to the front of the building.

The parsonage was built in 1956. An educational wing was added to the building in the 1950's.



Since then, St. John has served Fairview Heights and surrounding communities. **We are blessed to celebrate 75 years of St. John's ministries on Highway 50 (Lincoln Highway) on Sunday, August 9, with worship at 10:00 a.m., followed by fellowship hosted by "The Circle". We hope to see past members, confirmands, and friends of the church. All are welcome!**

Summary our 2026 Prison Ministry Efforts

May 18 delivered collected books from the congregation to SW Correctional Facility.

June 17 delivered calendars and alter cloth made by Nancy Eisenhower to SW Correctional Facility.

July 9 used money collected from June “Pennies for Mission” to order and deliver new books requested by chaplains of SW IL, Menard, and Centralia Correctional Facilities. All but two are in large print. The cost was \$501.04

To Menard: 1 New Revised Standard Version Bible
4 The Message Bibles
1 Quran

To Centralia: 1 Systemic Theology, Second Edition
4 The Message Bibles
1 Quran

To Southwest: 4 The Message Bibles
1 King James Version Bible
1 Common English Bible
2 Quran

Thanks to all for their support on this project,
Judy Schmitt

A Thank You to the ISC Justice & Mission Team -from St. John UCC, Fairview Heights

Since the ISC Justice and Mission Committee offered an updated version of a guide for Prison Ministry in October 2025, it motivated St. John UCC in Fairview Heights, to take action.

After contacting Menard, Centralia, and Southwest Illinois Correctional Facility chaplains, we accomplished the following:

Thank you to the ISC Justice and Mission Committee for their very helpful publication!



July 17, 2026

Dear Members of St John UCC Fairview Heights Evening Circle,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift of \$50 for our Back-to-School Drive. Your commitment to our mission has a meaningful and far-reaching impact, helping ensure children and families across the community receive the care, stability and support they need to heal and thrive.

Members of St John UCC Fairview Heights Evening Circle, we appreciate the faith you have in Hoyleton Youth and Family Services and again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chris Cox
President and CEO
Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.



TIME TO CELEBRATE!!!

Plan on joining us for worship on Sunday, August 9, at 10:00 for the St. John 75th anniversary. Worship will be followed by a reception at church. We are trying to contact as many past members and confirmands as we can. **If you know anyone who went to St. John in the past, please let them know and let us know, also. We need email addresses for as many folks as possible.** If you can help us find email addresses for anyone, we would appreciate it. We hope to see many old friends and make some new friends on August 9!

Nancy Eisenhower

BACK TO SCHOOL – DONATIONS REQUESTED

Help us ensure that every child in care has the supplies they need to be successful in school. Donating back-to-school supplies to youth in care is a beautiful way to help kids begin the school year with confidence, dignity, and hope. It's more than just giving notebooks and backpacks- it's sending a message that their future matters and they are not alone. Your generosity can spark a fresh start filled with encouragement and possibility.

- 3 Ring Binder
- Dry Erase Markers
- Ink Pens
- No.2 Pencils
- Pocket Folders
- Pencil Bags

Drop off supplies or mail checks to 8 Executive Dr in Fairview Heights. For more information Contact Meghan at 618/688-4727 or mseipp@hoyleton.org



PRAYER LIST: Becky Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Jackie Canterbury, Amber Forrester, GERALYN GAMMON, Russ Hartmann, Wayne Huss, Marilyn Paul, Pam and Syd Safriet, Yvonne Weber, Our Beloved Country.

August

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship				Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Service of Word 75 th Anniversary Celebration 10 am Fellowship time after worship			Quilters 9am – 4 pm	Quilters 10am-2pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Service of Word				Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Service of Word				Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm		
30	31					
Service of Word						