



# MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL

618-397-6323

Website: [www.stjohnfairview.org](http://www.stjohnfairview.org)

Pastor Rosemary Captain

**Secretary Office Hours:**

**Wed, 9 AM – 1 PM**

**Fri. 8 AM – 1 PM**

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in faith,**

Many years ago a friend of mine noticed that I was very impatient, especially when it came to God's response to my prayers. She gave me a copy of this reflection which has proven to be useful for me. I keep a copy of it handy so I can remind myself to slow down and treasure every minute I have with God.

## **TRUST IN THE SLOW WORK OF GOD by Pierre Chardin**

*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881 – 1955) was a French philosopher and Jesuit priest. This poem speaks to the sometimes-excruciating experience of waiting on God. Do you find yourself often impatient, struggling to trust that God's ways are higher than your wishes? Take a few minutes to reflect upon the wisdom Chardin shares here.*

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.  
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.  
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.  
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.  
Yet it is the law of all progress that is made  
by passing through some stages of instability and that may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow.  
Let them shape themselves without undue haste.  
Do not try to force them on as though you could be today what time – that is to say,  
grace – and circumstances – acting on your own good will – will make you tomorrow.  
Only God could say what this new Spirit gradually forming in you will be.

Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you,  
And accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.  
Above all, trust in the slow work of God, our loving vine-dresser. Amen.

*May much peace and patience be unto you, Pastor Rosemary*



### **May Birthdays:**

- |      |                    |      |                  |
|------|--------------------|------|------------------|
| 5/3  | Sue Williams       | 5/21 | Sharon Banjavcic |
| 5/4  | Jane Cohlmeier     | 5/24 | Urban Baum       |
| 5/9  | Larry Riess        | 5/26 | Polli Allen      |
| 5/14 | Ginny Ganschinietz | 5/26 | Noah Captain     |
| 5/15 | Brian Ganschinietz | 5/29 | Anne Brown       |
| 5/17 | Michael Schmitt    | 5/31 | Cody Brink       |
| 5/18 | Sharon Kistler     |      |                  |



### **ARE THERE GRADUATES IN YOUR FAMILY?**

If you have a graduate in your family, please let us know. Call or email the office. Either Kindergarten, Middle School, High School, College, GED or Trade School. ANY GRADUATION.

We would love to share it with others and note it in our Newsletter.

### **PENNIES FOR MISSION:**



April pennies went to the Uni-Pres Kindercottage. As of this Newsletter, total collections is \$144.03

MAY pennies will go to **“Strengthen the Church”** one of the UCC Five-for-Five missions. Thank you to everyone who contributes each week to help support these mission projects.

# COUNCIL NOTES

## GAS PIPELINE

The contractor who is repairing the gas line outside the church building has ordered parts. They will be ready to proceed with the repair when the pipe comes in. Hopefully that will be soon.

## TIME TO CELEBRATE!!!

Plan on joining us for worship on Sunday, August 9, for the St. John 75th anniversary. Worship will be followed by a reception at church. We are trying to contact as many past members 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 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 Eisenhauer



**Join the Choir...**  
**You'll Be Glad**  
**You Did!**

## CHOIR

It has been my pleasure to direct the choir in the 2025-26 year. After Pentecost on May 24, we will be on summer break, resuming in October. **We can always use more singers! Please join us!** Nancy

## AN OPPORTUNITY AWAITS



There are still opportunities OPEN to host Fellowship Time following communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. Currently there are openings from June through December. Please remember the list of open Sundays is posted in the fellowship area.

## CIRCLE

Thank you to all who contributed, helped, and donated time; along with all the prayers for a successful Rummage Sale, Saturday, April 18. It was a huge success! We made over \$700.00!!

The circle has donated money to several Missions and will supply a list of names in next months Newsletter.

We are slowly going through the leftover items and donating to non-profit organizations for them to sell or use accordingly.

April 12<sup>th</sup> was the last Circle meeting. We will resume in the fall!! Thanks to all involved, we had a delicious light lunch after our meeting. Eileen Gammon, Co-Chair

### THOUGHT TO PONDER – Carol Bulva



## APRIL 2026

“The phrase is simple and the words are few, but behind them is a whole lot of appreciation.”

Thank you for letting us use your fellowship hall and kitchen  
Marion Rud and the Sewing girls.



St John UCC family,

Thank you so much for thinking of the needy in our area by providing donations and food to our pantry.

The Food Pantry board is overwhelmed with the generosity of your congregation. It is very clear that your congregation is devoted to helping the less fortunate. We can never adequately thank you for all you do for us. You are making the lives of many of our clients a little less desperate. Please accept our thanks and gratitude to each and every person in your congregation. Thanks again!

## USHERS

- 5/3 - Judy Schmitt, Eileen Gammon
- 5/10 - Jim & Nancy Eisenhauer
- 5/17 - Sue Williams, Chuck Kistler
- 5/24 - Ginny Ganschinetz,
- 5/31 - Nancy Eisenhauer, Chuck Kistler



**EASTER GARDEN OF MEMORIES  
MEMORIALS**

FOR

FROM

Alvin & Verna Koch  
Emil & Dorothy Banjavcic,  
Janice Lohman

Banjavcic & Pickens families

Loved Ones

Urban & Mary Baum

Loved Ones

Joe & Carol Bulva

Loved Ones

Jackie Canterbury

In memory of and with  
birthday wishes for Ed &  
Bernice Warning

Jim & Nancy Eisenhower

Gene Ganschinetz

Sue Ganschinetz

Loved Ones

Tom & Jan Miller

Loved Ones

Julie Pointer

Clarence

Dorothy Ovelgoenner

Olen, Arlene & Jim  
Hagebusch

Stuart & Beth Schneider

Loved Ones

Sue Williams

**SHUT – INS:  
Those who could use a cheerful greeting card.**

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



Becky Ballard, Roger Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Jackie Canterbury, Nikki Chatman, Geralyn Gammon, Russ Hartmann, Lynne Knecht, Marilyn Paul, Pam and Syd Safriet, Terry Thorpe, Bruce Wagner, Yvonne Weber, our Beloved Country.

# May

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Fellowship time after worship	4	5 	6	7 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm  AA Meeting	8	9
10 Service of Word 10 am <b>HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!</b>	11	12	13 Church Council Meeting at 7 pm via Zoom Quilters Workshop 9 – 4 Into the Kaleidoscope	14 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm  AA Meeting	15	16
17 Service of Word 10 am	18	19	20	21 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm  AA Meeting	22	23
24 Service of Word 10 am  <b>Choir sings – final performance until fall Choir rehearsal 9 am</b>	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm  AA Meeting	29	30
31 Service of Word 10 am						