



St. John United Church of Christ Newsletter April 2018



April Birthday Blessings

- 1 Angel Riezinger
- 2 Jason Bleyle Sr.
- 5 Allison Bauer
Diane Campbell
- 6 Stephanie
Lohrbach
- 8 Jady Brown
- 11 Larry Lambert
- 12 Kellie Lafavor
- 13 Amber Ramirez
- 15 Taylor Boudreau
- 20 Phyllis Tatro
- 22 Ryland Bedell
- 24 Madison Long
- 25 Casie Campbell
- 26 Mary Maass



Church Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9am – 3:30pm
Church email address:
stjohnkan@gmail.com
Pastor Barbara's
email address:
revlohrbach@gmail.com
Pastor Barbara's day off
is Monday

First Loaves & Fishes Event in Peace Hall



These are just a few of the caring people who were a part of the trial run of the Loaves & Fishes meal in Peace Hall. Those who came, enjoyed a delicious meal, while Mark Noller accompanied a silent movie on the piano. Thank you to all who participated in this event. You are not only a blessing to St. John but also to this community.



Easter Morning Celebration



It may have been usually cold outside, but Easter morning was a celebration full of warmth and love at St. John. Thank you to the Hospitality Team for all your work on Easter Breakfast and to the teachers of J.A.M. who showed creativity for our indoor egg hunt and to all those who helped make worship a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus which brings us all new life!

Prayer List

Sandy Adams,
 Rhonda David,
 Charlene Dybedock,
 Dewana Eckstein,
 Terry Fortino,
 Annemarie Hays,
 Art Huffines,
 Krystal Rehberg,
 Harold Schriefer,
 Sheryl Schriefer,
 Donna Yarno,
 Jim Yohnka,
 Jean Zak,
 Ministry of St. John

Please know that not everyone is in the same situation, or is praying for the same outcome. Lift them up to God and ask that the best that God intends, the best that the healing hearts can give, and the best of our self-care and care

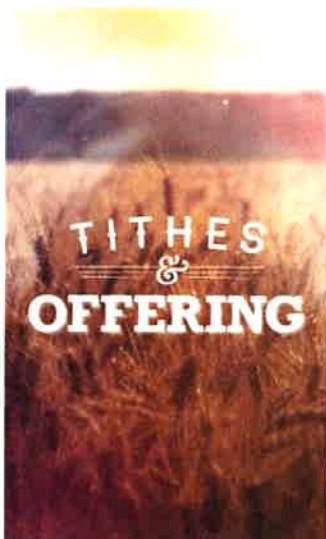


WITH SYMPATHY

Our Heartfelt Condolences to:
 Gary & Kathy Dahn, Jason & Brayden
 Dahn at the loss of their mother &
 Grandmother
 Fostine Schwark
 on March 10, 2018

Our Heartfelt Condolences to:
 Janelle Hindman & Kate Harvell
 At the loss of Janelle's Father
 Rev. Larry W. Hindman on
 March 22, 2018

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.



General Fund Contributions to date. 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month also include online giving totals.

Feb. 25	\$1,935
March 4	\$7,981
March 11	\$2,265
March 18	\$3,337
March 25	\$1,433

February Blessing Bucket Total
College Care Packages \$148



Pastor Barbara's Musings

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believe all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

“Christian life begins and ends with love. Every worship gathering, every spiritual practice, and every season should root us more deeply in the love of God and send us out in the name of love.” These words by The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. We are now on the other side of Lent, and we are ready for the new life that Easter brings—so ready!

The last few devotions of Living Well focused on I Corinthians 13. We most often hear this passage at weddings, but it wasn't written for a wedding. It was a part of a letter Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, a church who was having a hard time loving one another—just as we struggle to do that in our day. What we learned in the devotional is that love is a decision, not just a feeling. These words describe how love acts, what love does and does not do.

Did you read it as suggested? “I am patient; I am kind; I am not boastful; I do not insist on my own way....” I did, but got to that part and was reminded how difficult that is even on my best day. But then, we are all a work in progress, so I will hope all things believing that I can do better!

The most powerful devotion for me was Holy Saturday when we thought about the emotional space the disciples found themselves in the day after Good Friday. We can't understand that because we know how the story turns out. Yet I'm sure we have all experienced our own “Holy Saturday” moments—those times when we had a devastating trauma, made a terrible mistake, betrayed someone or been betrayed, filled with fear and uncertainty, unsure of the way forward.

Whenever this is the case, the writer finds comfort in the Quaker saying, “way will open” which is grounded in I Corinthians: “believes all things, hopes all things.” So many with whom I share this ministry and life are waiting for the way to open. I pray in this Easter season of new life that you will be able to trust God will open a way forward even in the midst of all life brings.

Peace be with you, O my friends!

Pastor Barbara





Dear St. John Family,

It is my great honor and privilege to inform you that Pastor Barbara was selected as a recipient of Chicago Theological Seminary's 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. This award honors those who are visionaries; those who are resilient; and those whose work is transforming church and society toward greater justice and mercy.

Pastor Barbara was nominated for the award earlier this year due in large part to the ministry she has done along side the wonderful people of St. John. It is through her partnership with the members and friends of St. John that she has been able to do such transformative ministry in our community. This award recognizes the ministry that Pastor Barbara has done in our church and in our unity, but it is also a reflection of the work of the people of St. John.



This is an occasion for us to celebrate Pastor Barbara and to celebrate the ministry of this congregation. Chicago Theological Seminary would like to join us in celebrating this honor. The president of the seminary, Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., will be joining us on Sunday, April 15th to preach and host a reception to honor pastor following worship.

I hope you can be here to celebrate with us on this wonderful day.

With love and thanks,
Stephanie Lohrbach
St. John Council President

SUMMER CAMP NEWS

www.il-outdoorministries.org

It is time to sign up for camp! The dates for Worship & Wonder (grades 3-10) are July 8-13 and Worship & Wonder Tenderfoot (K-2) are July 11-13. Youth who have attended 50% of J.A.M. Sessions (Sunday School) are eligible for a Jason Benjamin camp scholarship from St. John. Spiritual Formation can let you know if your child qualifies for a scholarship.

Don't let a lack of funds keep you from camp! There are also scholarships through the Illinois Conference Outdoor Ministries. See Pastor Barbara in order to apply for Illinois Conference scholarships.



Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 6

Immediately following worship



Thank you for all the Birthday cards!
~Helen Bess

Island from Old Kitchen



We are looking for a new home for the old kitchen island that was in the downstairs kitchen. If you are interested in having it, we are asking for a donation which will be given to Loaves & Fishes. For more information please call the church office or talk to Gary Dahn.

**Replenishment Items
Needed at Church**

Toilet Paper
Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags

Thank you helping replenish items for the church. It is very much appreciated.

Let's Fill the Barrel!!

On **Sunday, April 8**, you are invited to bring non-perishable food items, personal care products for the **Asbury Community Outreach Ministries Food Pantry** in Kankakee. There is a barrel in the entryway for you to place your items.

**NO GLASS
CONTAINERS
PLEASE!**

*Altar
Flowers*
April



- 1 Easter Lilies
- 8 Joe Offenbecher
*Available
- 15 David Grant
- 22 Charlene Dybedock
*Available
- 29 *Available

*Available as of print date. Please contact the church office 815/932-3336 for current information.

Your flower donation (**\$23.00 for 1 vase and \$44.00 for 2 vases**) can be left with our Office Manager or placed in the offering plate with your name on the envelope.

**Our Opening and Affirming
Mission Statement**

All people are welcome to worship at St. John United Church of Christ and become members of our congregation. No one is excluded from enjoying fellowship with us because of age, gender, race, color, challenge, or sexual orientation and/or affectional preference, gender identity and expression.

Our Christian congregation appreciates differences in people and encourages diverse views. We worship God with one another. All are welcome to participate fully in the life of our church.

www.stjohnucc-kan-il.org

Kudos and Many Thanks!

We extend our kudos and thanks to many who offer their gifts and talents to our Lenten and Easter worship and activities and to those who do the day-to-day work of congregational life.

- For those who provided music during Lent and Easter, especially Mark Noller and Jennie Emery, Chancel Choir and Praise. You lift our spirits and help us sing our praise.
- For those who provided readings during Lent and Easter which includes Brock Harring, Judy Tompkins, Lee Fadeley, Diana Linn, Debbie Dodt, Sarah and Stephanie Lohrbach.
- For those who planned and prepared a wonderful Easter breakfast and provide coffee time each week, especially our Hospitality Team of Sheryl Roesemeier, Jody Brown, Debbie Dodt, Diana Linn, and Kathy Maisonneuve along with all those who share their cooking skills with us.
- For those who purchased Easter lilies to beautify our Easter worship.
- For J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) teachers and helpers who lead our children and who executed a great Easter Egg Hunt for the children despite winter's last grip.
- For Katie Campbell who provides the Young People's Time.
- For Brandon Merrill for sharing his talent as the Easter Bunny!
- For those who provided a bounty of Easter eggs and candy for the children.
- For our custodian, Dwayne and our office manager, Pam, who did extra work in these weeks of Lent and for Easter Sunday.
- For the congregation who participated fully and well in a different worship experience during Lent.
- For the baking of bread for communion by Charlene Dybedock
- For the work of Council, Deacons, Elders, Committees, the counting teams (Verna Jensen, Maggie Memenga, Sheryl Bacon, Phyllis Tatro, Diane Campbell) and Treasurer, Ken Fox, who keep track of the day-to-day finances and upkeep and provide leadership for St. John.
- For those who pray daily for those on the prayer list and other prayer requests that come to us during the week.
- For the work of the Loaves & Fishes Team on our trial run. Watch for the next Loaves & Fishes Lunch.

Just know how much you are appreciated in so many ways! And if you are looking for something to plug into--let us know or better yet, just show up! We have a place for you too!

Stuffed French Toast Casserole ~ Many requests for this recipe made by Ann Lane for Easter Breakfast

10-12 slices of bread
 8 oz cream cheese
 12 eggs beaten
 1 cup milk
 1 cup sugar
 1/2 cup maple syrup

use 9x13 pan

Take 1/2 of bread amount and pull apart in small pieces. Cut cream cheese into small pieces and place in torn bread pieces. Then add rest of bread torn in little pieces trying to cover your cream cheese.

Take you 12 beaten eggs, add milk, sugar and maple syrup. Mix together and pour over bread mixture, making sure all bread is saturated. Use a fork to push dry parts into liquid. Refrigerate overnight.

Bake 400 degrees for 40 minutes. It will fall after coming out. Let sit 10 minutes. Don't over bake expecting it to brown. It will get dry.

Thanks for sharing Ann!

APRIL MISSION MOMENT

JASON BENJAMIN CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It's that time of year when our children and youth are signing up for camp. Camp is a long standing ministry at St. John and a place where young people are nurtured in their faith. This Camp Scholarship fund is in memory of Jason Benjamin, begun by his mother, Alice, many years ago.

It provides about one-third of the cost of camp for those who have attended 50% of J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) sessions from September-May. Please help us to make camp possible for the young people of St. John. They are not only the future of St. John United Church of Christ—they are St. John United Church of Christ.

Reminders:

All checks should be made payable to "St John Church"

When making contributions to specific Missions, please make sure you have it indicated on your envelope so, that the monies are properly distributed.

The Mission Committee thanks you for your generous contributions to help others in our communities.

April Blessing Bucket KC-CASA

To improve the quality of services for survivors of sexual assault, to assist in their recovery and to work towards the elimination of sexual violence.

In an effort to fulfill this mission, the Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault provides public education and professional training in the area of sexual assault, counseling and psychological support to adult and child survivors and their

significant others, assistance throughout the medical and criminal justice process, 24-hour telephone and in-person response, and partnership with community agencies to improve response to the crime of sexual violence.



Dear St. John Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing financial support and donations of all things necessary from your homes. You are such a generous group, and I am grateful for your adoption of ACOM, Inc. (and of me!)



ACOM, Inc. addresses the needs of people living in poverty in our community. In 2017, ACOM Inc. served 812 families through its various programs. Within those families were 771 children whose wellbeing was enhanced because we provided food, shelter, clothing, coats and other winter wear, and assistance to move families from crisis toward stability and change.

Throughout the year we provided help to 60 adults and 23 children who were homeless. Many needed sleeping bags or blankets, warm clothing. Finding or providing emergency shelter, giving food, clothing, gasoline or bus tokens so people could get to work, all serve to stabilize the current situation. We then work with the family and coordinate with other agencies toward longer-term solutions including housing and jobs.

Thank you for your gifts. Your generosity is a blessing for families in our community who struggle in poverty!

Sincerely,
Deborah Dodt, Director



**When: Wednesday, 4/18
11:30 a.m.**

Where: Beef 'O' Brady's

**Please R.S.V.P. to Sheryl
Bacon by 4/15**

**Please come even if it
isn't your birthday.**



**TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP
GROUP**

**Tuesday, 4/10 & 4/24 at
12:00pm**

On 4/10 bring a lunch and share in
an afternoon of fellowship

On 4/24 bring a lunch and enjoy a
topic led by Pastor Barbara

St. John Book Club
Book Club Meets
at the Home of Charlene Dybedock,
1711 Oak Tree Lane, Kankakee



We will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 10 at 5:30pm.**

We will be discussing the book:

The White Album
By Joan Didion

First published in 1979, *The White Album* records indelibly the upheavals and aftermaths of the 1960s. Examining key events, figures, and trends of the era—including Charles Manson, the Black Panthers, and the shopping mall—through the lens of her own spiritual confusion, Joan Didion helped to define mass culture as we now under-

stand it. Written with a commanding sureness of tone and linguistic precision, *The White Album* is a central text of American reportage and a classic of American autobiography.

Looking Ahead

- 5/08 - *The Rainbow Comes and Goes*
 by Anderson Cooper &
 Gloria Vanderbilt
 6/12 - *The Heroine's Journey* by
 Maureen Murdock

SCRIP CARDS

Mother's Day is May 13th!

Give Scrip Cards as a gift or use to shop for a gift for mom or someone very special while raising funds for St. John



Profits from this program go into the "General Fund" to help with any monthly budget shortfall.

Total for 2018: \$74.71!!

Thank You!

Orders are due on April 8