

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

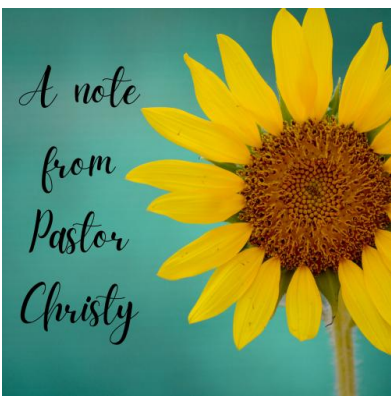
Colossians 3:14-15



Beloved Church Community,

There is no more appropriate way to start this letter than with thanksgiving. I know that it's only October and that November, the month of gratitude, is still several weeks away, but I have so many reasons to be thankful, and I want to share those words of thanks with you here.

First of all, I want to say a HUGE thank you to Rev. Nancy Brooks. It was surely a “God Moment” that made her coming here possible. We were both at a clergy retreat, and she overheard me sharing that I was going on sabbatical and I was feeling nervous about it. Later that day, she told me she was looking to cover a sabbatical the same time I was going to be taking one, and the rest is history. Her being here over the summer gave me peace knowing that this congregation was in good and faithful hands while I stepped away to rest. For this reason, and for all the care and leadership she provided during sabbatical, I lift an enthusiastic “thank you!” to Pastor Nancy.



Second (in word only), I'd like to extend a note of gratitude to the church council, who walked with me as we all prepared for Sabbatical time. This was something none of us had experienced before, and so it was a work of faith and hope beginning the fall of 2022 that allowed our leadership to organize, budget, and discern their way through this process. I have so much gratitude in my heart for each and every one of them and for all the behind the scenes work they do for the good of our church.

Next, as an extension of my thanks to the leadership, I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every person who makes up the community of St. John – whether you are a member or not. If you volunteer, worship, work, or attend fellowship activities at St. John UCC, I want to share my gratitude for you, too. You make my work here a true joy. I am not only thankful for the opportunity to have taken this sabbatical, but I'm also so grateful that you are the community that welcomes me back. I feel rested and excited to continue walking this journey of faith beside you, and I am thankful for the gift of being your pastor.

God has indeed gathered us together here, binding us together in love and fellowship. As we move ahead together into the fall months, let us clothe ourselves in the love of God and allow Christ's peace to rest in our hearts. And above all, let us remember to be thankful – for God's faithful presence, for the worship and fellowship that we enjoy, for the people that make up our community, for the sabbath God models for us, and for the ministry we are blessed to share in together.

*In Love and Hope,
Pastor Christy Smith*



St. John Prayer List

Sandy Booth	Lois & Stan Clark	Greg Erdmann	Marian Funk
Haller Family	Denise Hamilton	Leon Jones	Walter Kunz
Pauline Kraemer	Marian Nelson	Orville Rinderer	Rogers Family
Connie Zimmers			

Mike Conley	(Friend of the community)
Ken Erdmann	(Greg Erdmann's brother)
Ken Fritz	(Cathy Haller's brother)
Rich Fritz	(Cathy Haller's father)
Richard Haller	(Cathy Haller's brother-in-law)
Roik Hockenberger	(Heather Netemeyer's father)
Bob Marsh & Family	(Friends of the community)
Logan Miller	(Ron & Kimberly Tremmel's son)
Tammy Press	(Marian Funk's niece)
Connie Shildt	(Marian Funk's sister)
Gary & Carol Weshinsky	(Laura Wesselmann's father & mother)



Pastor Christy will be in the office Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM but will make appointments if needed. Contact her by calling her cell phone at 618-973-3040. To contact Bev Adams, the church office administrator, please email her at stjohntrenton@gmail.com or call 224-9828 Monday through Friday.

OCTOBER Birthdays



Birthday Blessings

David Kraemer Oct. 2	John Groennert Oct. 18
Jessica Schaeffer Oct. 4	Brandy Sells Oct. 20
Tom Kuhn Oct. 6	Fred Lucas III Oct. 22
Chris Bates Oct. 8	Abigayle Haller Oct. 23
Emily Von Bokel Oct. 11	Don Bair Oct. 24
Christy Eckert Oct. 11	Adam Brichler Oct. 24
Olivia Wuebbles Oct. 11	Rod Schaeffer Oct. 25
Ryan Von Bokel Oct. 13	Dorothea Loudon Oct. 28
Curt Wesselmann Oct. 15	Jorja Wernle Oct. 28
William Koentz Oct. 18	

OCTOBER Anniversaries

Steve Feldmann & Lonna Patton Oct. 6
John & Lisa Groennert Oct. 12
Ollie & Marie Bair Oct. 27



**OCTOBER COUNCIL
 MEMBER ON DUTY**



Mary Lou Lurtz

Virtual Worship Services

Virtual services continue for those wishing to attend. We want to make worship as convenient as possible for our members and the community. Please see our website or our Facebook page for the Zoom link.

- To call in with phone audio only, call
- **1-312-626-6799** and then the meeting ID:
- **8436488110** followed by the pound sign.
- Password, if needed, will be: **62293**



- *To Hank Henderson for putting on the final, necessary touches to the new fence. It now looks and is complete.*
- *To Mike Williamson for repairing the lights in the Rainbow classroom. It really does take a village to keep everything moving along.*

- *To those who organized the Wurstmarkt: Pehg Zeller, Mary Lou Lurtz, Margie Bopp and Jo-Allison Rogers*
- *To those who helped the bottom line with donations of apples, beef and money*
- *To those who helped cook and can applesauce*
- *To those who donated raffle items, sold tickets, and bought tickets*
- *To those who prepared the food and worked at the Country Store*
- *To those who worked during the drive thru and cleaned up afterwards*

Please note that a Wurstmarkt follow-up meeting will be in the chapel on Sunday, Oct. 8 after service.

COUCH FOR GIVEAWAY

A couch is downstairs in the Sunday School room and is available for anyone who wants it. It's a fabric print with a fitted cover over it. If you would like to have this very serviceable couch or know someone who is in need of a couch, please contact the office at 224-9828 or at stjohntrenton@gmail.com to arrange to pick it up.



Trivia Corner

Questions this month continue with the story of the exodus from Egypt. When the Israelites escaped, there was singing and rejoicing. But as Moses leads them through the wilderness, times are hard and people are getting angry even after all the miracles they had just witnessed.

1. What did God provide to the Israelites at twilight and in the morning when they were in the wilderness? Bonus: Why did God provide these things?
2. How many days did God first provide and what day did he not? Bonus if you know why God didn't provide on the one day and what the Israelites were supposed to do instead.
3. What did the Israelites call these provisions from God? Bonus if you can say why it was so good.
4. What did Moses tell Aaron to do with God's provisions and what was the reason to do that?
5. How long did God provide these things for the Israelites?

Answers are on page 6

Congratulations



to Jordan Groennert and Katherine Pickerill! They were married on Saturday, September 16 in Pleasant Plains, Illinois. Jordan is the son of Lisa and John Groennert and the grandson of Betty Sappington and the late Rich Sappington. The couple is living in Highland, Illinois.



5th Sunday Offering

October 29th we will be taking a special offering for OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission). Envelopes will be in the narthex for this offering.

BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, November 8, to discuss the book, "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah which will be in the library after the Wurstmarkt for check out.



Women's J.O.Y. Fellowship

On September 19, the SUV was loaded for a trip to East St. Louis. We took 28 containers of disinfectant, 15 bottles of hand soap (mostly large to refill other bottles), 384 paper plates, nine packages of personal wipes, 2,259 napkins, and four backpacks loaded with school supplies. In addition to all of that, children's books from the rummage sale were traded for books from the Little Free Library at the park and the library books went to Kindercottage. It was a swap that gives the children of Trenton new books and the ones at Kindercottage are new to them. Kindercottage has a free book exchange in the building. We also took along a generous check that was donated for the children at Kindercottage. We were not able to get an answer as to what is needed for October. The staff had received a donation of a small bus and everyone was too excited about this wonderful addition to think ahead a month. We will have something in the newsletter next week. The bus can only be a main attraction so long.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be Tuesday, October 3 at 8:00 AM at Good Ol' Days in New Baden. Come join us for an enjoyable breakfast with others. It's a time for great conversation, food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!



ISC Annual Meeting

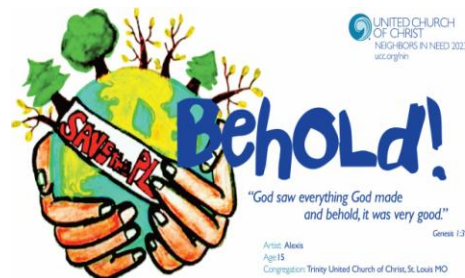


The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Illinois South Conference will be on Saturday, October 21, 9:30 am to 5 pm at St. Peter's UCC in Red Bud. The theme is: "Doing a New Thing: Connection, Collaboration, and Creativity" and will be featuring Rev. Monty Jackson--singer, songwriter, arranger, and record producer as the keynote musician. Pastor Christy will be attending as an ISC pastor along with St. John voting delegates, Lonna Patton and Mary Lou Lurtz. Lay visitors (non-voting members) can also attend with a registration fee of \$30.

The annual meeting is a time to share information about Illinois South Conference churches, DuBois Center, our ministry partners, along with discussion of the 2024 budget and ISC Constitution and Bylaw changes. It promises to be a very full day which will close with an "After Glow" event for those who wish to attend. Register online at www.iscucc.org. Deadline for registration is October 9, 2023.

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. We will be taking this offering on Sunday, October 8. You can also mail a check to St. John UCC, 21 N. Walnut St., Trenton or go to our website www.stjohnucctrenton.org.



Artist: Alexis Age 15 Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO Green 137

Blood Drive



St. John will be hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Tuesday, October 10th from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We will need help to sign people in and to help with the snack table during three shifts: 11:45 AM to 1:45 PM, 1:45 to 3:45 PM, and 3:45 to 5:45 PM.

The first shift needs to be at the church at 11:45 before the doors open to ensure paperwork and snacks are ready when the doors open at 12:00 noon. The third shift ends at 5:45 PM as we need church representatives to keep the building open while the Red Cross staff packs up and takes equipment out to the vans. One late shift volunteer will need to be able to lock up after the Red Cross staff leaves.

Volunteers won't need to move any tables, chairs or equipment during their shifts. The area will be set up and taken down by church staff. If you can help out during any of these shifts, please let the church office know by emailing stjohntrenton@gmail.com or calling 618-224-9828.



Council Meeting Highlights – September 26, 2023

- Crosses on the front lawn of the church are finished being repainted. Thanks to Samuel Lucas for doing that as part of his Eagle Scout project.
- Conference delegates will be Lonna Patton and Mary Lou Lurtz and will be going to the ISC Annual Meeting in October. The council encourages anyone who would like to see what the annual meeting is all about to register as a visitor.
- Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday, November 26th after worship service. More information will be in the November newsletter.
- Next council meeting date is Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 PM.

Trivia Corner Answers

1. God provided meat at twilight and bread in the morning. Bonus: God heard the Israelites complaining. Exodus 16:12
2. God provided food for six days but not on the seventh. Bonus: God made the seventh day the Sabbath, as a day when the Israelites were supposed to rest. Exodus 16:26, 29
3. The Israelites called the bread that God provided "manna." Bonus: It was good because "the taste of it was like wafers made with honey." Exodus 16:31
4. Moses told Aaron to put manna in a jar and keep it throughout the generations in order that everyone may see the food God fed them in the wilderness. Exodus 16:32, 33
5. God provided manna for 40 years until the Israelites came to a habitable land. Exodus 16:35



Rainbow Preschool News



Happy Fall everyone! It's hard to believe that we have completed our first month of school already. Our classes have had a busy month of learning and settling into a routine. They are doing a great job walking into the classroom and hanging up their backpacks by themselves. Thank you parents for helping make drop offs and pickups run smoothly and being patient with us as we walk our students out at the end of the day.

Both classes have been busy working hard on learning their alphabet letters, colors, counting, cutting, shapes, learning Classmate's names, and working hard on writing their own names. We have completed many projects over the last month ranging from alphabet to colors and numbers. The kids have been doing great on completing their projects and turning in their assignments that have been sent home.

Pastor Christy came in and read "Where the Wild Things Are". Both classes really enjoyed the book and look forward to seeing what stories Pastor Christy will read to us next month.

We had our first share day of the year. Students brought in or drew a picture of their favorite transportation. We had trucks, racecars, dump trucks, airplanes, and a few other types of transportation that students brought in to share. Students did a wonderful job sitting still, being patient, and listening to what their classmates had to say.



Happy birthday shout outs to Jett L. on 9/14, Aubrey K. on 9/15, Maren K. on 9/20, and Emerie O. on 9/21.



A few notes for October

- October tuition is due by Thursday 10/5 and Friday 10/6
- No School Monday October 9th- Columbus Day
- Fire Department will be stopping by to visit on Tuesday October 10th and Friday October 13th.
- Pajama Day/Movie Day Monday October 30th and Tuesday October 31st.
 - Students can bring in a stuffed animal and blanket to use when watching the movie. Items must fit in their backpack.
- With the weather changing we ask that you please pack a light jacket in your child's backpack. We will go outside weather permitting.

We are looking forward to another great month of fun and learning! Ms. Misty

