

Beloved Church Family,

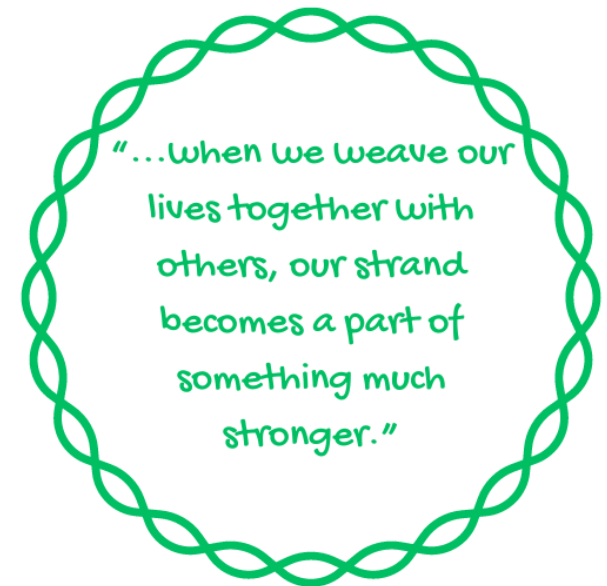
For the last few months, I've been reflecting on some of the spiritual practices, blessings, and lessons I was able to lean into while on my sabbatical last summer. So far, I've talked about organization, balance, nature, and breath. I have two more areas I'd like to share with you, so this month I will be focusing on connection, and next month, I will wrap up with a reflection on rest.

It is fitting, I believe, to focus on connection for the month of June, as Zach and I will be formalizing our connection to one another when we are married on June 22nd.

At the top of this article, I reference a small section of scripture from Ecclesiastes 4 that reads, "A threefold cord is not quickly broken." This, to me, speaks to the importance of nurturing the connections in our lives that are healthy and life-giving. The scripture speaks to how going through life separated from others can leave you vulnerable - emotionally, physically, mentally, and even spiritually. Like a single strand of twine, we cannot withstand much pressure before we snap. However, when we weave our lives together with others, our strand becomes a part of something much stronger. Unlike one strand of twine, when we wrap ourselves up in the support of loved ones and the strength of God, we become a part of a cord that is not so easily broken.

Nurturing the connections in our lives is a way of building up that cord and strengthening the fabric of our shared community. Two important areas of connection for me over the summer were reconnecting with myself and reconnecting with God in ways I hadn't nurtured as much as I would have liked. I've touched on these two topics in my other articles, and I will be focusing on both more in my July article. For this month; however, I want to focus on how I was able to nurture connections with family and friends.

Family was one area of connection I was able to lean into last summer, and the most important aspect of that to me was spending time with Cora. Since her dad and I separated in October of 2021, I have wanted to do whatever I can to mitigate the burden of that decision on her. In any family who experiences divorce, the children involved often feel a LOT of mixed emotions as the process unfolds. Children can feel shame, anger, sorrow, confusion, relief, fear, and many other emotions swirling around within themselves. So many changes take place in the family, and the child(ren) involved have very little say in any of it. As her dad and I each struggled and adapted in the aftermath of our separation, Cora faced struggles of her own. Some of them stemmed from our divorce, and others came from different sources. Either way, her experiences and struggles aren't mine to share here, but I will say that the time I was able to focus on her, pour love into her, and connect with her over my sabbatical was a blessing for which I will always be grateful.



Over the course of the summer, I was also able to get to know Zach's friends and family. On a float trip, I was able to get to know friends from his youth that are basically family to him. In July, we traveled down to TX along with his sister, nephews, and their significant others. There, I was able to get to know his dad, step mom, and little sister. At the end of July, my side of the family went on our National Parks trip, and Zach was able to spend time connecting with my family, too. Throughout the summer, he and I were able to continue getting to know one another, learning shared values and hopes, and finding out how our strengths and weaknesses compliment and balance each other. On top of all this, sabbatical also allowed me the space and time to RE-connect with my closest friends. I was able to reacquaint myself with people who have been woven into my support system for years and really invest time in nurturing those important relationship cords again.



As we move through this next month, I encourage you to join me in taking a look at the cord that binds you to family, friends, God, church, community, and beyond. In what ways are you nurturing the strands of your cord? In what ways might certain parts be fraying or pulling away? Are there parts of the cord that might need more or less attention? If you are a visual learner, it might be helpful to make a braided cord to remind you of the community into which you are woven. You could draw a cord or write down the names of different people or groups in your cord so that you remember to pray for them and nurture those bonds. I hope that each of you is able to name and nurture the sources of strength in your lives, and I pray that each of us is able to lean into the strength of our cord here at St. John as we grow together in our connection with one another and with God.

With Love and Hope, Pastor Christy Smith

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (sponsored by Trenton FUMC & St. John UCC)

Where? Trenton FUMC,

When? June 3, 4, 5, 6

What time? 6:00-8:00 pm June 3, 4, & 5 *and* 6:00-7:00 pm June 6

Who? Ages 4 through 5th grade (grade completed this year)



Registration forms can be obtained in several ways for your convenience:

- Online at St. John's and First United Methodist's website at <https://stjohnucctrenton.org/> and <https://trentonfumc.com/> and on their Facebook pages
- Pick up in the Narthex (turn in to the office or hand to Pehg Zeller)
- Print last page from this newsletter to fill out and send to St. John, 21 N. Walnut, Trenton or First United Methodist, 3324 Old US Hwy 50, Trenton
- Contact either church to request forms – First United Methodist Church at 618-224-7364/email office@trentonfumc.com or St. John UCC at 618-224-9828/email stjohnrenton@gmail.com.

☞ Registration deadline is May 31 ☜

Participants are asked to bring a non-perishable item for the Green Bean Food Pantry.

St. John Prayer List

Chris Bates	Tish Bates	Lois & Stan Clark	Greg Erdmann
Cathy Haller	Denise Hamilton	Pauline Kraemer	Mary Lou Lurtz
Marian Nelson	Billie Rinderer	Orville Rinderer	Rogers Family
Connie Zimmers			

Ken Erdmann	(Greg Erdmann's brother)
Ken Fritz	(Cathy Haller's brother)
Richard Haller	(Cathy Haller's brother-in-law)
Kurt Joseph	(Pastor Christy's friend)
Logan Miller	(Ron & Kimberly Tremmel's son)
Wendy Patterson	(Pastor Christy's cousin)
Tammy Press	(Marian Funk's niece)
Connie Shildt	(Marian Funk's sister)
Gary & Carol Weshinsky	(Laura Wesselmann's father & mother)



OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES to the family of Leon Jones who passed from this life to life with Christ on Sunday, May 19th. Funeral service was on Thursday, May 23rd with Rev. Christy Smith officiating. Please keep them in your prayers as they mourn their loss.



Pastor Christy is usually 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. Beverly Adams, office administrator, will usually be in the office 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday, but her schedule June vary. Contact her at stjohntrenton@gmail.com or call 224-9828. **Please note: in June both the office administrator and the pastor will be on vacation. Beverly from 6/17 through 6/24 and Christy from 6/18 to 6/28. If you are in need of pastoral care or administrative assistance, please call Ron Tremmel at 224-7004.**



JUNE Birthdays

Mia Heuberger June 2	Callie Szpila June 10
Jacob Holloway June 4	Hal Wehrle June 12
Owen Henderson June 5	Kelsey Wesselmann June 14
Ron Tremmel June 5	Eliza Wernle June 15
Jacob Klein June 6	Natalia Bair June 16
Ron Becker June 10	Bryan Marsh June 17
Greg Von Bokel June 10	Lisa Groennert June 29
Stacy Heuberger June 30	



JUNE Anniversaries

Chris & Ron Becker June 14
Laura & Curt Wesselmann June 23
Cathy Ostrander & Larry Biggs June 25
Diane & Bryan Marsh June 30



**JUNE COUNCIL
MEMBER ON DUTY**



Ron Tremmel

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**

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- *To Bonnie Arentsen who continues to fill in as organist when needed*
 - *To Misty Straeter and Lisa Netemeyer for another successful year with the Rainbow Preschool Program*
 - *To Tom and Mary Jane Campbell for their generous donation of a bench by the driveway in memory of Ken and Pat Campbell*



BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will be meeting in July to discuss their newest pick, "Under the Whispering Door" by T.J. Klune which is available for check out in the church library.

Book synopsis: When the frankly awful Wallace dies unexpectedly, he comes to the attention of Hugo, a teashop owner who ferries the dead to the other side of life. Wallace is a difficult case, but gentle Hugo gives Wallace a chance to come to grips with his predicament, opening up his eyes to love, beauty, and the absurdities that make every moment special.

✠✠ CONGRATULATIONS ✠✠

Our best wishes to Hannah Thompson on her confirmation on Sunday, May 12th and also to Kimberly Tremmel for her "adult confirmation." St. John is thankful for the dedication and faithfulness of Hannah, her family and Kimberly.

Trivia Corner



We continue our story of Moses in the final chapters of Exodus with God's instructions for the making of the tabernacle, a very elaborate tent to cover the ark which held the 10 Commandments.

1. After the tabernacle is made, God commanded that special clothing be made for the priests. Who were these priests?
2. When the Israelites finished their work on the tabernacle and the clothing, what did Moses do?
3. What did God want Moses to do with the tabernacle?
4. What did God want Moses to do with the priests?
5. Why did God want this done to the priests?
6. When Moses finished all his work with the tabernacle and the priests, what did God do next?

Answers are on page 6

CAMP FUND



On June 30th we will have a special Fifth Sunday offering for our Camp Fund. We have three campers going this year and the church provides half of the fee for campership. Thank you for your generosity!

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



The Fellowship Breakfast is the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM at Good Ol' Days in New Baden. Breakfast dates: June

4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3. Come join us for an enjoyable breakfast with others. It's a time for great conversation, food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Farewell

The council and the congregation of St. John UCC would like to give a heartfelt farewell to Heather Netemeyer who has been our dedicated musical director and pianist since September of 2017. We appreciate all of the knowledge, energy and spirit she has given to our music ministry. Heather's last Sunday was May 19th and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

♥♥♥♥ Women's J.O.Y. Fellowship ♥♥♥♥



John Zeller made the run to Kindercottage in May. The request was for cleaning supplies and we sent two bottles of toilet bowl cleaner, a bottle of dish detergent, a gallon of bleach, 6 bottles of multi-purpose cleaner, two bottles of glass cleaner and a refill bottle, two packages of disinfectant wipes, and two bottles of liquid cleaner. In addition, some plastic utensils which didn't make it on time last month were included and a box of children's books from the rummage sale went to the Lending Library at Kindercottage. ***We won't go to East St. Louis until the second week of August. That delivery is for school supplies.*** You can drop off school supplies on Tuesdays when the vestibule is open or on Sundays. Any kind of school supply needed by your children or grandchildren is needed at Kindercottage.

Brown Bag Lunches

It is time again for packing lunches for children who might otherwise go without a lunch time meal. St. John's day is Tuesday, and we started off the program on the day after Memorial Day. The lunch menu is set: a sandwich with meat and cheese, a bag of chips, a drink, a fruit or veggie, and a sweet treat. We always pack a little something as a reminder that the children are loved by Jesus and by our congregation. Our dates are May 28 through August 13 and we begin at 10:30 in the morning. It takes about 30 - 45 minutes to complete the lunches and then they are delivered to Base 215 for distribution. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please indicate if you can supply a sweet treat the day you help pack lunches. It is not necessary but it is special to have homemade cookies or brownies. Please have them individually wrapped. You will be called the day before with the number of lunches we are packing the following morning. If you are not able to supply a sweet treat, don't worry, there will be treats on hand.



❖❖❖❖❖❖ Congratulations Graduates ❖❖❖❖❖❖

☞ **Jedediah Bates** is a graduate of his family's homeschool program in Woodbury, TN and hasn't decided on his future plans yet. Jed is the son of Tish and Chris Bates and the grandson of Karen Krueger.

☞ **Owen Ganz** is a graduate of Central High School in Breese, IL and will be going straight into the work force but has plans to further his education to become a DJ. Owen is the son of Megan Finke.

☞ **Emma Haller** is a graduate of Central High School in Breese, IL. Emma has earned a scholarship to Loyola University in Chicago, IL. She plans to eventually study law to become a lawyer. Emma is the daughter of Kayla Berkemann and the late Ryan Haller and the granddaughter of Cathy Haller.

☞ **Benjamin Lucas** is a graduate of Mater Dei High School, in Breese, IL and will be attending Kaskaskia College for a Residential and Commercial Electric degree. Ben is the son of Deanna and Fred Lucas and the grandson of Isabel and the late Ralph Hull.

☞ **Parker Hayes Rinderer** is a graduate from Together We Learn Preschool in Glen Carbon, IL and will be going on to Kindergarten. Parker is the son of Michael and Cassandra Rinderer and the grandson of Orville and Billie Rinderer.

☞ **Margo Rodwick** is a graduate of Village High School in Colorado Springs, CO. Margo plans to go into the cosmetology field and attributes that decision to her mother. Margo is the daughter of Patricia Sue (Bair) and Dan Rodwick and the granddaughter of Don Bair and the late Pat Bair.

☞ **Hannah Thompson** is a graduate of Wesclin Middle School in Trenton, IL and will be going on to Wesclin High School in the fall. Hannah is the daughter of Jenn Thompson and the late Mark Thompson.

☞ **Derek VonBokel** is a graduate of Central High School in Breese, IL. Derek has earned a certificate for welding and will work on the family farm. He is the son of Jeff and Teresa Von Bokel of Breese, IL and grandson of Marjorie Bopp and the late Carl Bopp.

☞ **Emily Von Bokel** is a graduate of Colorado Springs University. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting in December 2023. She's now studying for her Masters and working at Deien Chevrolet in accounting. She is the daughter of Jeff and Teresa Von Bokel of Breese, IL and granddaughter of Marjorie Bopp and the late Carl Bopp.

☞ **Max Wesselmann** is a graduate of Wesclin High School in Trenton, IL and plans to go to Kaskaskia College for Welding in the fall. Max is the son of Laura and Curt Wesselmann.



Trivia Corner Answers

1. Of the blue, purple, and crimson yarns they made...**the sacred vestments for (the priest) Aaron, and the vestments of his sons to serve as priests**...as the LORD had commanded Moses. Exodus 39:1, 41.
2. When Moses saw that they had done all the work as the LORD had commanded, **he blessed them**. Exodus 39:43.
3. Then you shall take the anointing oil and **anoint the tabernacle** and all that is in it and consecrate it and all its furniture, **so that it shall become holy**. Exodus 40:9.
4. Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and **wash them with water** and put on Aaron the sacred vestments, and you shall anoint him and consecrate him, so that he may serve me as priest. ¹⁴ You shall bring his sons also and put tunics on them ¹⁵ **and anoint them**, as you anointed their father. Exodus 40:12-15.
5. That they may serve me as priests; **their anointing shall admit them to a perpetual priesthood** throughout all their generations. Exodus 40:15
6. Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle**.

Rainbow Preschool News

Happy May! It is impossible to express all the emotions that I am feeling with the school year coming to end. Our students have really blossomed into young men and young ladies the past few months. Students have learned to be more independent and highly creative during center time; while others have become artists and creating art projects and drawings that they take home or give to their classmates. It is a great feeling to look back and see how far everyone has grown this year.

Pastor Christy came in to read to both classes. She read "Ted and Dolly's Submarine Surprise" which was one of her favorite books as a child and "Do Dinosaurs Have Good Manners." We would like to say thank you to Pastor Christy for coming in and reading to our students. We look forward to having her come back in the fall to read to both classes again.



We had a few dress up days to celebrate the end of the year. We had mismatch day, crazy hair day, jersey and sports day, hat day, and pajama day. We celebrated our last day of school by bringing in our favorite blankets and stuffed animals to snuggle up and watched the movie Toy Story 3.

Happy May birthday to Ceci H. on May 13th and Oliver C. on May 31st. Happy summer birthday to the following students Blair R. 6/5, Wade K. 6/7, Callie K. 6/11, Andrew D. 7/5, Brycen K. 7/15, Phoebe R. 8/8, and Cam R. 8/9.

We hope that all the moms had a wonderful Mother’s Day and loved the gift our students made for them. We sent home a white bag with a card attached that is to be hidden somewhere until Sunday June 16th for Father’s Day. Happy Father’s Day to all the wonderful dads!

We held our annual closing program on Wednesday May 15th. Our students did a great job performing their favorite songs for their families. Thank you to everyone who came to see our students perform.

Congratulations to all our students who will be entering Kindergarten in August. Our preschool graduates are Addilyn W., Andrew D., Brody D., Brycen K., Callie K., Cam D., Cam R., Charles C., Clare B., Jemma S., Jett L., Oliver C., Phoebe R., Piper R., Rydon K., Shane F., and Trent L. We wish all our students moving onto kindergarten the best of luck in your future. Remember to have fun and to challenge yourselves to try new things and always strive to do your best! We will miss you all!



We are proud of the rest of our students who attended Rainbow this year. Those students are Ashton P., Aubrey K., Blair R., Ceci H., Emerie O., Ezlynn B., Maren K., Naomi R., Reese L., Remi K., Savannah P., Steven B.R., Wade K., Walter B., and Warner K. We hope you all have a wonderful summer.

I would like to thank Ms. Lisa Netemeyer for everything she has done this year and for being a part of the Rainbow staff, I could not have made it through the school year without you. Thank you to Ms. Morgan Clark, Rachel Netemeyer, and Hayden Lampe for stepping in to help when we needed an extra hand.

A huge thank you goes out to the Rainbow Preschool Board, Pastor Christy, Kim Tremmel, Laurie Henderson, Pehg Zeller, and Steve Wallace for their continuous support and guidance. Thank you to the St. John’s UCC council for purchasing a new barricade for the playground and their continuous support. A huge THANK YOU goes to our Rainbow families for allowing us to be a part of your child’s education. Thank you to everyone for making this year a wonderful year, I am looking forward to seeing everyone in August!



Thank you to the church council for purchasing the new barricade that will be used to keep our students safe when they are outside playing. Thank you to Dawn Andell for the generous donation of learning materials, books, toys, and more for us to use.

We are still enrolling students in our Monday/Wednesday/Friday program for children ages 4-5 and our Tuesday/Thursday program for children ages 3-4. If you know anyone that would be interested, please have them contact me via email at rainbowpreschooltrentonil@gmail.com, Rainbow Preschool facebook page or by calling the office at 618-224-9828. Our returning students and new students will receive an email in July regarding open house dates and information regarding the 2024-2025 school year.

We still have room in our Tuesday summer program for any child ages 3-5. Times are 8-10 and 10:30-12:30. Cost is \$20.00. Summer workbooks are still available for \$10.

Everyone please have a safe and healthy summer! We will see everyone on Monday August 12th and Tuesday August 13th.



Camp Firelight VBS Registration 2024

(One form per child) Registration deadline: June 31, 2024

Child's name _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Last School Grade completed _____

Parent/Guardian name(s) _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Phone numbers: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Home church (if any) _____

HEALTH/EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Allergies/Special needs/Medical conditions/Other:

Emergency contacts:

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of person(s) who June pick up this child from VBS

Photo Release: Trenton First United Methodist Church/St. John United Church of Christ VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images June be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian's signature

Return completed form to one of the following:

St. John UCC, 21 N. Walnut Street, Trenton, IL 62293

Trenton First United Methodist Church, 3324 Old US Highway 50, Trenton, IL 62293

Email to vschoene@gmail.com