



Dearest Church Family,

As I write this, I’m in the midst of packing and getting ready for our vacation to Texas. You know how it is in the days leading up to a trip...there is a seemingly unending list of things that need to get done before the day arrives - do laundry, pack, tidy up, set up pet and plant care, etc. Once you finally have everything packed and you’re pulling out of the driveway, there’s a sense of relief. It’s a good feeling to know all the hard work of packing is behind you and the days of rest lie ahead.

Rest is something we often associate with laziness. Every once in a while, we allow ourselves the luxury of rest, but even then, it can feel like there’s something we could or should be doing instead. In our society that values output and achievement, it’s easy to feel like any time devoted to rest is essentially wasted. It’s time we could have done something, checked off something, or achieved something. We know logically that there are things we achieve by resting...but the benefits aren’t immediately tangible. Because of this, when we rest, it can feel like we have nothing to show for it.

We’re told in the story of creation that God rested on the 7th day. After creating the heavens, the earth, and everything that populates them, God set aside a day of rest, blessed it, and hallowed it. It doesn’t say that God rested God’s eyes for 20 minutes and called that rest. It doesn’t say that God set about ticking off items on God’s other to-do lists on this day of rest. Instead, it says, “He rested on the seventh day from ALL the work he had done.” Of course, we aren’t going to literally sit still in one spot for a whole 24 hours. But, we do need to reorient how we relate to rest so that we can follow God’s example and experience the peace that comes with true rest.

Thankfully, this is something I was able to focus on during my sabbatical last summer. Because we know that it is difficult to allow ourselves rest, I’m very lucky to have a Spiritual Director who was able to help me lean into the practice. She gave me a couple points I could turn to when I was struggling with the spiritual practice of resting.

- When you are resting, you do not need to have something to show for it. You don’t have to achieve anything measurable.
- You do not need to do something to “earn” the right to rest. Everyone needs and deserves times of rest.
- It can be helpful to schedule rest times on your calendar. This can mean setting alarms on your phone or putting in regularly scheduled appointments for rest in your calendar.
- Place a high value on rest. Often, we’ll give up plans for rest for things that aren’t pressing just so we can feel more productive.

Rest isn’t just about sleep (although sleep IS a valid option). Rest is about refreshing and recharging yourself. That could mean spending time with God in prayer, going for a peaceful walk, reading a book, watching a show/movie you love, spending time with loved ones, or spending time alone. The list is endless, but the point is the same. Find the things that bring you rest, and be purposeful about making time for those things. God thinks it’s important, so we will strive to make it an important part of our lives, too. May you all have a blessed and restful July!

With Love and Hope, Pastor Christy Smith

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)



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 may vary. Contact her at stjohntrenton@gmail.com or call 224-9828.



Shane Nollau July 2	Ollie Bair July 20
Jo Ann Turner July 3	Diane Marsh July 24
Barbara Szpila July 5	Cathy Ostrander-Biggs July 27
Taylor Fisher July 7	Kim Nollau July 28
Lois Winkler July 15	Shirley Niggli July 15
Margie Bopp July 18	Collins Gerstner July 31



Hank & Laurie Henderson July 18
Gary & Carol Schwend July 29



**JULY COUNCIL
 MEMBER ON DUTY**



Elaine Hoffmann

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 everyone who helped with VBS in June*
 - *To all who signed up to help with the Brown Bag Lunch Program*
 - *To the council for working with the office staff during vacation time off*
 - *To all St. John members who took the time to fill out the Mutual Ministry surveys*
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BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will be meeting July 10th at 1:00 PM 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.

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Trivia Corner

We are going to turn to the New Testament with questions about the life of Jesus.



(From WhatChristiansWantToKnow.com)

1. Who ordered the census which brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem?
2. Where did Joseph, Mary and Jesus live?
3. What type of work did Joseph do?
4. How old was Jesus when he first taught in the temple?
5. How long was it before Joseph and Mary discovered Jesus was missing?
6. Where was Jesus baptized and by whom?
7. What were the three temptations that Satan gave to Jesus?
8. Who was the first disciple to come to Jesus in John 1?
9. What was the first recorded miracle of Jesus?
10. Whom did Jesus call the "generation of vipers?"

Answers are on page 5

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Congratulations



To Pastor Christy and Zach Bugger who were united in marriage on June 22, 2024! A reception will be held in their honor on Sunday, July 7 from 2-4 PM. We hope you can join us as we celebrate their union.

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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: 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!

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♥♥♥♥ Women's J.O.Y. Fellowship ♥♥♥♥

There was no run to Kindercottage in June as ***we won't go deliver anything 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.



On June 18 Margie and Pehg packed 36 lunches for the Brown Bag Lunch Program using homemade cookies from Marian Nelson plus some cookies and fruit Margie brought along. We doubled up on Jesus in the bags because we found some stickers left from VBS last year. Once again, John Zeller was the delivery person. On June 25 Lois and Pehg hit a new record for this year by packing 45 lunches. Lois baked a double batch of cookies and Margie supplied juice boxes as well as the Jesus moment in the lunches. John stopped by to haul everything up to the car and made the delivery to Base 215.

❖❖❖❖❖❖ Vacation Bible School ❖❖❖❖❖❖

Vacation Bible School was Camp Firelight this year with many from St. John helping in various roles. Thanks to: Marie Bair, Margie Bopp, Tyler Davis, Cathy Haller, Laurie Henderson (as the voice of Lumin "Lu" the Firefly), Bella Johnson, Gracie Johnson, Heather Johnson, Billie Rinderer, Jo-Allison Rogers, Pastor Christy Smith, Kaeden Tobin, Lana Tobin and Kim Tremmel. There were a total of 27 children who registered for VBS. Special thanks to the two co-chairs, Pehg Zeller and Virginia Schoene. Next year St. John will host!



Trivia Corner Answers



1. Caesar Augustus. Luke 2:1
2. Nazareth. Luke 2:3
3. He was a carpenter. Matthew 13:55
4. Twelve years old. Luke 2:42-47
5. After one day they knew he was missing, but it took a total of three days to find him. Luke 2:42-47
6. In the Jordan river by John the Baptist. Matthew 3:13-17
7. Satan asked him to turn the stones into bread. Matthew 4:3
To prove that he was invincible. Matthew 4:5-6
To worship Satan for the purpose of having the kingdoms of the world given to him. Matthew 4:8-9
8. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother and one of John's disciples. John 1:40
9. Turned the water into wine and the marriage of Cana of Galilee. John 2:1-11
10. At various times the Scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Matthew 3:7; Matthew 12:34; Matthew 23:33.

Rainbow Preschool News

Rainbow Preschool is on summer vacation right now although we do have a Tuesday summer program for any child ages 3-5 years. Times are 8 to 10 AM and 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM.



We are also 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.

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

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Christy will be out of the office during the week of July 15-19 as she volunteers at DuBois Center as the chaplain to campers during that week. Call the office if you have a pastoral emergency so we can contact DuBois Center.

She will also be on vacation from July 22-29. Call the office at 224-9828 or Ron Tremmel at 224-7004 for any pastoral emergencies so we can direct your call to a UCC minister.

