

BUT LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN LIKE WATERS,



AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE AN EVER-FLOWING STREAM.

Amos 5:24 (CEB)

Beloved Church Family,

As we enter the month of March, we also begin our walk through the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we enter this season of the Christian church that is often equated with self-reflection, fasting, and repentance. Historically, though, it has also been a time when the faithful have studied and prepared themselves to receive the sacrament of baptism or to reaffirm their baptism through the rite of Confirmation. This year, we will be combining these two areas of focus, as we take a deep dive into our baptismal promises. We will reflect on what our vows ask of us and how we might realign how we live out our faith with what God asks from us.

During baptism, we promise that we will “follow in the way of our Savior, resist oppression and evil, show love and *justice*, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ.” Our 2025 Lenten series, named “Roll Down, Justice”, pulls from these promises and connects them to the teaching of the prophets and Jesus. As we remember the waters of baptism and what Amos called the rolling waters of Justice, we will journey through the 6 weeks of Lent together with open hearts and minds that are ready to be nourished in these waters. Hopefully, when we arrive at Easter, we will have a better understanding of what our Christian faith requires of us and how we might live that out in our world today.

Here is a road map of the Lenten journey that lies ahead.

Ash Wednesday – Make Me an Instrument of Peace: Re-cognition

- Repenting (turning around) from apathy and praying to be active instruments of peace.

Week One – Child of God: Naming Each One

- Through baptism, each one of us is named as a child of God.

Week Two – How Long?: Renouncing Evil

- Through our baptism, we are given the freedom and power to resist evil in all its forms as we put our whole trust in God.

Week Three – I Dream of a Church: Christ’s Representatives

- We are reminded of our call to love others live as representatives of Christ in the world.

Week Four – I Choose Love: Communities of Forgiveness

- When someone is baptized, the whole community makes vows, too. We promise to be a community of love and forgiveness.

Week Five – God Has Work for Us to Do: Faithful Disciples

- Baptismal waters continue to feed the streams of justice when we allow the Spirit to work through our hands and feet, as we set about the work God has for us.

Week Six (Palm Sunday) – The Day is Coming: We Are One

- God's power is displayed through love and justice – not military might. We are called to love one another, not tear one another down.

Maundy Thursday – Traveling Companions: Journey to the Water

- We mourn when love is crucified on the cross of fear and hatred. (But, we know it is not the end of the story. There is hope.)

Easter Sunday – Welcome: The New Jerusalem

- We proclaim that justice does indeed roll down in a stream of love that cannot be stopped. No matter what, we will continue to work towards God's beautiful kin-dom!

I look forward to embarking on this journey with the church family of St. John UCC, and I hope we might all be renewed, refreshed, and re-inspired to let our hearts be tuned to the message of the Gospel.

*With love and hope,
Pastor Christy*

Ash Wednesday Events - Wednesday, March 5th

Women's J.O.Y. Program - at 9:00 AM

The Women's JOY Fellowship invites all the ladies of St. John to its annual Ash Wednesday program. Dr. Jamie Truscott, Pediatric Oncologist at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital will be the guest speaker. This year's topic will be "Helping Families Deal with Traumatic Diagnoses and their Aftermath". A light breakfast will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex to attend the program and to help out at the reception. Please sign up by Monday, March 3rd.

Service - at 7:00 PM

We start our Lenten journey with the series "Roll Down, Justice.
We hope you will join us.



St. John Prayer List

Our Local Church Family

Chris Bates	Tish Bates	Lois & Stan Clark	Greg Erdmann
Cathy Haller	Denise Hamilton	Pauline Kraemer	Mary Lou Lurtz
Marian Nelson	Lonna Patton	Billie Rinderer	Orville Rinderer
Rogers Family	Lois Winkler	Connie Zimmers	
Elaine Dupuis		(Mickey & Mike Williamson's friend)	
Ken Erdmann		(Greg Erdmann's brother)	
Ken Fritz		(Cathy Haller's brother)	
Richard Haller		(Cathy Haller's brother-in-law)	
Sylvia Hoerchler		(Curt Wesselmann's aunt)	
Jocelyn Newkirk		(Pehg Zeller's cousin)	
Wendy Patterson		(Pastor Christy's cousin)	
Antoinette Sunholt		(Curt Wesselmann's aunt)	
Gary & Carol Weshinskey		(Laura Wesselmann's father & mother)	
Craig & Lori Wheeler		(Kimberly & Ron Tremmel's friend)	
Dean Zurliene		(Curt Wesselmann's uncle)	



We ask for prayers for Jenn & Hannah Thompson as they mourn the loss of Jenn's uncle Perry Pendroy who passed away February 19th.



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.

Birthdays



Lauren Holloway March 4
Bev Rogers March 6
Rick Nelson March 9
Owen Szpila March 9
Miller Gerstner March 10
Mike Williamson March 15
Cheryl Bair March 15
Jedediah Bates March 15
Chris Becker March 19
Jeral Szpila March 19

Laura Wesselmann March 19
Kris Schaeffer March 20
Tish Bates March 21
Pehg Zeller March 24
Harper Gerstner March 24
Lonna Patton March 25
Stan Clark March 27
Nicole Wernle March 27
Lucas Haller March 27
Gracie Johnson March 29

Deb Athmer March 31



Anniversaries

Billie & Orville Rinderer March 1
Mike & Mickey Williamson March 3

MARCH COUNCIL MEMBER

Hank Henderson



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 everyone who helped out with the Chili & Soup Drive Thru*

- *To Ron Tremmel who removed snow from pathways and steps*
- *To members of our congregation who are part of the Trenton Council of Churches board*

- *To everyone willing to sort all the rummage sale items on Tuesdays and Thursdays*



Don't forget that St. John's Book Club will be meeting on **Wednesday, March 12**, to discuss their newest pick, *Between Two Kingdoms* by Suleika Jaouad.



Daylight Saving Time begins March 9! Set your clocks ahead 1 hour. Time to Spring Forward!



EASTER FLOWERS: An order form for Easter flowers is included in this newsletter. If you would like to help decorate the church by purchasing a plant in honor, memory or celebration of a loved one or occasion, please fill it out and put it in the offering plate along with a check or cash for the amount. Lilies are \$13 while tulips and hyacinths are \$12. Orders are due by March 30th.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



The Fellowship Breakfast is the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM. We will be switching venues from Good Ol' Days in New Baden to **Hank's Bowl in Trenton**. We hope you can join us for an enjoyable breakfast with others. It's a time for great conversation, food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome! **Mark your 2025 calendars for these dates: 3/4, 4/8, 5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4 & 12/2.**



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY to Marian Nelson on February 12th and to Stan Clark on March 27, 2025. If you wish to send either of them a card, Marian's address is 429 Galen Drive, Trenton and Stan's is 980 E. Broadway, Room 123, Trenton, IL 62293

GREEN BEAN PANTRY DONATIONS



Donations that are collected for the Green Bean Pantry are taken to West Gate **on the 1st Wednesday of the month**. The Pantry donation tub is in the narthex under the quilt rack. If you wish to drop off donations on Tuesdays when the vestibule is open, please make sure you mark that they are for the pantry. Thank you for thinking of others!

DuBois Work Day



On Saturday, March 1st DuBois Center will be having a "Service Saturday" spring clean up. Possible projects include splitting and stacking wood, weeding and mulching the labyrinth, moving bunk beds and working on program installations. They will provide lunch for all who come! Pastor Christy will be going and would love to have a carpool or caravan down to DuBois. If you are interested in riding with her, just let her know.

Rummage Sale News

A handwritten sign on a yellow background with a black border. The title "Have You Signed Up?" is at the top in large, black, cursive letters. Below the title are two columns of names written in cursive. The left column lists: Caroline, Quinn, Heather, Heather, Stephanie, Jennifer, Lisa Ann, Rachel, and Kristina. The right column lists: Nicky, Heather, Heather, and Kait. To the right of the names is a drawing of a yellow pencil with a pink eraser and a sharpened lead tip, pointing towards the bottom right.

Have You Signed Up?

Caroline
Quinn
Heather
Heather
Stephanie
Jennifer
Lisa Ann
Rachel
Kristina

Nicky
Heather
Heather
Kait

everyone! Thank you for taking the time to help.

BE THE LIGHT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DAYLIGHT HOUR

"There's hope for the light, bringing and giving that shines in the darkness." www.ucc.org/light

ISC DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

2025 Day of Discipleship

BECOMING
BOLD
 PEOPLE
 OF
 GOD'S
 WILL

Welcome as Christ has welcomed you. Romans 15:7

Rainbow Preschool News

Goodbye February and Hello March!

Our students have been very busy bringing in items for the alphabet box and sharing what they brought for the letters we are working on for the week. If your child forgets to bring something we always remind them to bring it the next day they are in class, or we can help make something. Both classes have been doing a fantastic job bringing their homework back. By the time you read this we will have completed the letters A thru J.

Pastor Christy stopped by and read “God Gave Us Love” and “When God Made The World.” Students enjoyed both stories and love having Pastor Christy come in to read.

Our MWF students have been working on learning their address, birthdays, and telephone numbers. They’ve been working on writing their letters and numbers, beginning and ending sounds, and more. Tuesday/ Thursday students have been working on writing their names, completing many alphabet projects, cutting projects, number projects, same or different worksheets, and coloring projects. We are very proud at how hard both classes have been working and learning

Happy February birthday to Ezlynn B. on February 20th and Kora Z. on February 24th.

Over the next few weeks, we will be doing assessments with the M/W/F class to see how they are doing and to see what things they need to work on before heading off to kindergarten in the fall.

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is in full swing. If you have not turned in your registration form for next school year, please do so as soon as possible. If you know anyone that would be interested in sending their child to Rainbow, please have them contact us. Our first day of school is still to be determined.



Reminders for March



- Tuition is due Thursday March 6th and Friday March 7th.
- MWF students will be performing at the J.O.Y. Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday March 5th at 9 a.m.
- Please make sure your son/daughter brings a jacket. Weather permitting, we will try to go outside.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me!

Ms. Misty



Order Your Easter Flowers

*Please use this form to order plants for the altar on Easter Sunday.

***Forms MUST be turned in no later than March 30!**

I/We would like to order the following plant(s) for Easter:

Lilies at \$13.00 per plant

Tulips at \$12.00 per plant

Hyacinths \$12.00 per plant

I/We would like the plant(s) to be listed in the bulletin as follows:

Your Name:

Given by (Individual or Family):

In Memory/ Honor/ Celebration of:

Amount to be paid \$ _____

(Put "Easter Flowers" on the memo line of your check)

**You may place your order form and check in the collection plate at church,
or mail it to the office with your order.**

Thank you for sharing the beauty of your flowers with us!



St. John UCC T-Shirts

We've put together a new t-shirt design to help us represent St. John UCC. Whether you're volunteering at a fundraiser, attending a fellowship or ministry opportunity, or hanging out with family and friends, you can show your love for our church family.

Use the link below to choose from 3 different shirt styles - **Men's, Women's, and Dri-fit** (pictured below). All shirts will ship to the church (this means free shipping for you!), and they will be delivered in time that we can wear them while volunteering at our spring rummage sale!

The sale will be open through Sunday, March 9th.

We know that some folks are not comfortable ordering online, and so, Pastor Christy will also be available to help with any orders during Fellowship Hour for the next two weeks.

Order online at

<https://www.customink.com/g/pys0-00cw-fjyj>

