



## ✠♥✠♥ *A Word from the Pastor* ♥✠♥✠

*“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

*Psalm 73:26 NRSVUE*

Beloved Church Family,

November is a month that is widely associated with gratitude. Not only is it when we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving in the United States, but it is also a time of harvest and abundance, a time of changing leaves and autumn beauty, a time of cooling weather that moves us in from the warmth of the sun outside to the warmth of cozy fires and fuzzy slippers inside. It is a nostalgic time when we draw close to family and friends once again.

However, this is also a season of grieving. It feels odd for us to admit that we feel sad while the whole world around us seems to be gearing up for the “most wonderful time of the year”. Even if it is difficult to admit, it is something we all have experienced at one time or another. When you are in a season of grieving, the hype around the holidays and the joy we see projected everywhere can feel like a stab to the gut. We might wonder how anyone could feel such happiness when grief dwells so heavy in our hearts. At times, it might even bring up feelings of anger alongside the sadness we feel. It’s important to know that these feelings are a valid and “normal” part of the grieving process. It is not a sign that you are broken or beyond hope...instead it is a sign that your grief is tapping you on the shoulder and saying, “I’m still here.”

This November, there are several reasons we might not be feeling the spirit of the season all the time.

- *It could be the coming of Totenfest (our annual remembrance of those who have recently died). Are you grieving someone who has passed on in the past year?*
- *It could be a loss that is not so recent. As the holiday season comes, it brings up with it the bittersweet memories of years gone by. Are you grieving someone or something that was lost long ago?*
- *It could be the daylight that will start waning as we “fall back” an hour. Many folks live with Seasonal Affective Disorder, a depression that comes with the darker days of fall and winter. Are you grieving the emotional lows brought on by this upcoming season?*
- *It could be the results of the election. As I write this, we are still 11 days away from the day of the 2024 presidential election, and so I do not yet know who our next president will be. However, I know that our emotions have been running high throughout this whole process, and I know that no matter which candidate comes out on top, there will be a great number of folks in our community who will be in deep mourning. Are you grieving the results of our presidential election?*
- *It could be something unrelated to the season that has been weighing on you. Are you grieving something that has been heavy on your heart or mind recently?*

No matter what you might be grieving in this season of life, know that you are not in this wilderness time alone.

We are in good company as wilderness wanderers. Our scriptures are filled with stories of men and women who spent time in a physical or metaphorical wilderness. These stories usually take place in the desert - a place that feels inhospitable and dangerous from its lack of resources. These places are not coveted vacation spots. These are not places we long to frequent. But, these places *are* familiar, as we have all been there at one time or another.

Grief can feel like a wilderness, too. It can feel lonely and uncomfortable. It can feel spiritually dry and physically exhausting. It can feel like there is no safe shelter, no life-giving water, and no end in sight. Just like when we find ourselves in the heat of the scorching desert, grief, at its worst, can even make it hard to breathe.

However, it is also a place where God provides the greatest provision. The wilderness is where our ancestors, such as Moses, Jacob, and Elijah experienced miraculous encounters with God. The wilderness is where Abraham and Sarah received God’s blessing, and it was dark enough there for them to see the countless stars scattered across the sky. The wilderness is where angels were sent to minister to Jesus after his temptation. In the wilderness, we cannot rely on our own wisdom or our own power. In those places of deep vulnerability, we are called, instead, rely on God’s wisdom and God’s power.

This does not mean that God has caused you pain and grief in order to bless you. Instead, it means that God draws particularly close to those who are in times of hardship, and it means that it is in our times of deepest grief and sorrow...when we are least capable of relying on our own strength...that we are most likely to lean on the presence of God that is always there.

And so, beloved one, whatever grief you are experiencing in this season of life, I pray that you are able to feel the powerful presence of God surrounding you. And I pray that you remember to lean on the community of faith around you, for as a part of Christ's you never have to face the wilderness alone. I want to end with a blessing I found in a book entitled, "Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons". It is labeled as a blessing to use at the beginning of Lent, when we hear the story of Jesus in the wilderness, but, I hope its blessing is able to find a landing place in your heart as we draw nearer and nearer to the coming autumn holidays.

✝️❤️✝️❤️✝️❤️ *With Love and Hope, Pastor Christy* ✝️❤️✝️❤️✝️❤️

*Where the Breath Begins:*  
*A blessing by Jan Richardson*

Dry  
and dry  
and dry  
in each direction.

Dust dry.  
Desert dry.  
Bone dry.

And here  
in your own heart:  
dry,  
the center of your chest  
a bare valley  
stretching out  
every way you turn.

Did you think  
this was where  
you had come to die?

It's true that  
you may need  
to do some crumbling,  
yes.

That some things  
you have protected  
may want to be  
laid bare,  
yes.

That you will be asked  
to let go  
and let go,  
yes.

But listen.  
This is what  
a desert is for.

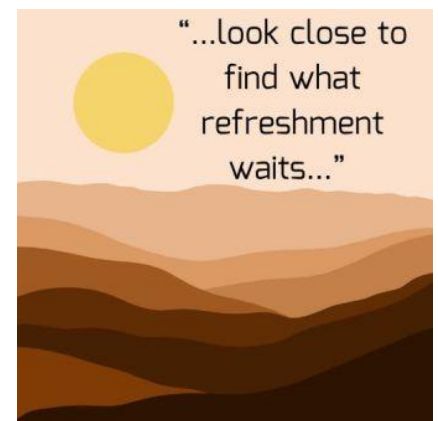
If you have come here  
desolate,  
if you have come here  
deflated,  
then thank your lucky stars  
the desert is where  
you have landed—  
here where it is hard  
to hide,  
here where it is unwise  
to rely on your own devices,  
here where you will  
have to look  
and look again  
and look close  
to find what refreshment waits  
to reveal itself to you.

I tell you,  
though it may be hard  
to see it now,  
this is where  
your greatest blessing  
will find you.

I tell you,  
this is where  
you will receive  
your life again.

I tell you,  
this is where  
the breath begins.

© Jan Richardson. *Circle of Grace*



## St. John Prayer List

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)
Angie Jones	(Pehg Zeller's friend)
Kurt Joseph	(Pastor Christy's friend)
Wendy Patterson	(Pastor Christy's cousin)
Tammy Press	(Marian Funk's niece)
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](mailto:stjohntrenton@gmail.com) or call 224-9828.



### NOVEMBER Birthdays

<b>Larry Biggs</b> Nov. 1	<b>Frank Kunz</b> Nov. 15
<b>Dwight Faitz</b> Nov. 3	<b>Kathryn Klein Schultz</b> Nov. 24
<b>Samuel Lucas</b> Nov. 6	<b>Tim Stempel</b> Nov. 26
<b>Bonnie Arentsen</b> Nov. 8	<b>Del Lurtz</b> Nov. 28
<b>Anthony Robison</b> Nov. 8	<b>Shelby Atwood</b> Nov. 30
<b>Darrell Bair</b> Nov. 15	<b>Marie Bair</b> Nov. 30

### NOVEMBER Anniversaries

**Deb & Dan Athmer** Nov. 7  
**Lana & Jarrod Tobin** Nov. 14  
**Tish & Christopher Bates** Nov. 15  
**Justin & Shannon Groennert** Nov. 25

### NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEMBERS

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 Pehg Zeller, Jo-Allison Rogers, and Margie Bopp for co-chairing the Wurstmarkt
- To all of our wonderful workers, runners, pie cutters and awning set-uppers at the

Wurstmarkt

- To Tim Bair and Beverly Adams for coordinating on the accounting
- To everyone who attended the Wurstmarkt follow-up meeting
- To those who helped with the blood drive
- To Pastor Christy and Elaine Hoffmann for being delegates and representing St. John UCC at the Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting

## APPLESAUCE – YUM!



We are still selling applesauce at \$5 per pint and \$10 per quart. You can pick up and pay on Sunday or on days the office is open (please call ahead to make sure someone will be here).

Our Wurstmarkt wrap up meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> was long but productive. We had many ideas about how to make next year better for the workers and for our customers. Mark your calendars for next year's Wurstmarkt on Sunday, October 5, 2025!

## 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: 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!



**Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3rd so set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night**



**The church office will be closed on November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday**

## Snack Pack News



Jenn Thompson, from The Trenton Council of Churches, would like to report that during this past summer 1,594 lunches

were distributed from Base 215, averaging 30 per day for the children of the community. During the school year, the Weekend Snack Pack Program serves 193 children in 10 schools. We give thanks for those who take the time, money and skills to organize and head up this important program. If you would like more information, you can talk to Jenn Thompson.



## POINSETTIA ORDERS

Help decorate the church by purchasing red poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one. Price will be \$9.00 per plant.

Checks can be made out to St. John UCC with "poinsettia" in the memo. Order forms are in this newsletter and also in the narthex. **Please place your order by Sunday, November 26.**

# Totenfest

We will be observing Totenfest on Sunday, November 3rd at the 9:30 worship service. We will be remembering Leon Jones, John Bohn, Janet Heck, and Dennis Stevenson who passed on this year, with the lighting of special candles. Join us honoring the saints among us.



## ♥♥♥♥ Women's J.O.Y. Fellowship ♥♥♥♥

The October request for undershirts and T-shirts was fulfilled with 59 shirts going to Kindercottage on Wednesday. Some pajamas had also been dropped off but they will wait until December. They look very snuggly! In addition to the T-shirts, St. John sent 400 paper napkins, a box of new crayons, some snacks, and a box of educational toys which had been donated to Rainbow Preschool but which were too advanced for the three and four year olds.



A request has come from Kindercottage for our traditional "Pajamas for the Kids." The kids get presents from other churches but we always give pj's so they can go to bed the night before Christmas and wake up in new pajamas in time to greet Christmas Day. **Our delivery day for the pajamas will be December 18.** Boys and girls sizes 18 months to 6X are needed this year. We deliver them the week before so there is time for them to be sorted and sent home. Let the generous spirit of Christmas guide you as you consider this worthy mission. Thank

you once again for your generosity.

## OFFICE NEWS

Beverly Adams, our office administrator will be having surgery on November 7<sup>th</sup> and will be out of the office to recover for two weeks until November 22<sup>nd</sup>. After that time her office hours will vary as she continues her recovery. During her absence, some people have stepped up to help. Pastor Christy will be monitoring the phone and the emails during this time, so please contact the office through phone or email. The office will be closed November 11, 14, 15, & 18, the days when Pastor Christy is not here, so please note them on your calendar. The council will be taking care of the donations deposit and the bills that come in by mail. We also have two volunteers, Kimberly Tremmel and Lana Tobin who will be updating the announcements in order to email them on Wednesday and to print them on Friday. Thank you for your understanding as we work through this process.



## Hanging of the Greens

The Worship Committee invites everyone to help decorate the church on Sunday, November 24th following the worship service. To make things easier, boxes will need to be pulled out from under the stairwell and placed in the areas to be decorated. Pulling out the decorations can be done anytime during the week of November 17-23. If you can help with that task, please let the church office know. Thank you for your help in making the church festive!



## Advent Begins

December 1st is the start of Advent when we ask members and their families to help with the lighting of the Advent candles. If you want to participate, please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Dates for lighting: December 1 (Hope), 1 candle

December 8 (Peace), 2 candles

December 15 (Joy), 3 candles

December 22 (Love), 4 candles

December 24 (Christ), 5 candles.



## Thanksgiving Service

The Trenton Council of Churches will be sponsoring the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service/Appreciation Award service on Sunday, November 24th at 3:00 PM hosted by St. Mary Catholic Church. The Sugar Creek Ambulance Service will receive this year's Appreciation Award. We hope you will be able to join others in the Trenton community as we give thanks to God, recognize the helpers in our community and appreciate all of the abundant blessings given to us.



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The Trenton Council of Churches is asking for bell ringers for the Salvation Army at the Trenton IGA. St. John has two days again this year: *Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM both days.* Please sign up for a 1 or 2 hour shift (or team up with a buddy and split it for 1 ½ hours each) on the Bell Ringing sheet in the narthex. We appreciate any and all help. Thank you!



## Thanks So Much!

The organizers of the Wurstmarkt would like to thank everyone for the tremendous amount of support shown on Sunday. We had 60 people working that day - outside, upstairs and down in the kitchen. That number does not include the many people who made applesauce, baked pies, worked on advertising, sold raffle tickets, made items for the Country Store or the raffle or donated apples, canning jars, pies, sugar and anything else which was on the "needs list". Our teenagers were great runners, and with the help of everyone else, kept everything working smoothly. The 74th Wurstmarkt was an unqualified success.

Once again Tim Bair was able to get the accounting information together quickly to give us a prompt report. Thanks also to Beverly Adams for assisting Tim in getting the numbers together.

We also have a list of all the baskets and raffle items that were donated, who donated them and who was the winner! It's always very exciting to pull the names out of the tumbler. Thank you to all who donated a basket or raffle item. Calling all the winners and making sure they get their prizes is a monumental task so special thanks to Pehg Zeller for making sure each prize finds itself in the hands of the winner. All of Wurstmarkt is truly a wonderful effort on the part of our church family.

## *Wurstmarkt 2024 Accounting Update*

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Income</b>					
Ticket sales	\$2,479.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carryout sales	\$2,123.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drive Thru	\$1,746.00	\$5,592.00	\$5,824.00	\$6,832.00	\$8,025.00
Quilt raffle	\$1,678.10	\$1,392.00	\$1,877.00	\$1,677.00	\$1,487.00
Donations	\$602.50	\$677.00	\$2,480.83	\$2,392.87	\$3,259.29
Meat sales	\$205.00	\$1,129.00	all in misc	all in misc	all in misc
Country store	\$1,030.50	misc/meat	\$654.50	\$817.00	\$730.00
Misc. food sales	<u>\$532.00</u>	<u>\$664.00</u>	<u>\$1,519.00</u>	<u>\$1,302.25</u>	<u>\$1,207.00</u>
	\$10,396.10	\$9,454.00	\$12,355.33	\$13,021.12	\$14,708.29
<b>Expense</b>	<u>\$5,238.98</u>	<u>\$3,703.18</u>	<u>\$5,114.80</u>	<u>\$4,859.04</u>	<u>\$5,682.07</u>
<b>Profit</b>	\$5,157.12	\$5,750.82	\$7,240.53	\$8,162.08	\$9,026.22
<b>Donations</b>					
Anonymous		\$10.00	\$213.33	\$54.00	\$109.00
Karen Kunz			\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Berkemann's pies					\$834.00
Apples (Grauls)	\$462.50	\$392.00	\$630.00	\$522.00	\$540.00
Teresa Von Bokel (beef)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,497.50	\$1,488.87	\$1,476.29
Lois Roach		\$100.00			\$100.00

## *Wurstmarkt 2024 Gift Baskets*

Item #	Description	Donated By	Recipient
1	Quilt		Rich Klein
2	Yankee Candle Basket	Anonymous	James Corlson
3	Vanity Basket	Margie Bopp	Carol Santal
4	Thanksgiving	Margie Bopp	Linda Coarrison
5	Paw Patrol	Margie Bopp	Elaine Hoffmann
6	Christmas Holiday	Margie Bopp	Jody Mote
7	Popshot Basketball	Margie Bopp	Elaine Hedtkamp
8	St. Louis Blues Tickets	The Tremmels	Jarrod Tobin
9	Trees & Other Green Stuff	Margie Bopp	Edith Fohne
10	Boy's Fun Games	Margie Bopp	Kristen Schmaltz
11	Girl's Crafts	Margie Bopp	Caroline Hamilton
12	Biscuits	Margie Bopp	Beverly Adams
13	Pizza	Margie Bopp	Jane Crawley
14	St. Louis Cardinals	Margie Bopp	Margie Bopp
15	Holiday Stars	Margie Bopp	Mike Rohaley
16	Car Care & Stuff	Elaine Hoffmann	Edith Fohne
17	Mannhard Hardware Gift Card	Susan Heiser	Charlie Meier
18	Mexico On Main Gift Card	Susan Heiser	Beverly Adams*
19	Quilt	Diane Smith	Judy Alberternst
20	Sweet, Tangy & Tart	Margie Bopp	Barb Scheffl

## *Gift Baskets - Continued*

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Donated By</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
21	Shell Gift Card	Anonymous	Keely Frey
22	Shell Gift Card	Anonymous	Mary Lee
23	Casey's Gift Card	Anonymous	Sandy Harpstrite
24	Casey's Gift Card	Anonymous	Kameron Fisher
25	Lighted Cross	Terry Shaw	Carol Alexander
26	Triple Crosses	Terry Shaw	Amy Koch
27	Calvary Crosses	Terry Shaw	Betty Gross
28	Calvary Crosses	Terry Shaw	Todd Rutz
29	Rustic Cross	Terry Shaw	Ursula Smith
30	Rustic Cross	Terry Shaw	Susan Pechenidon
31	Backpack	Anonymous	Elaine Hoffmann
32	Barnwood Cross	Terry Shaw	Jane Crawley
33	Green Pumpkin	Pehg Zeller	Josh Williamson
34	Insulated Bag	Pehg Zeller	Emily Ooten
35	Spooky Spider	Pehg Zeller	Marcy Gonzalez
36	Hidden Figure Cross	Terry Shaw	Betty Sappington
37	Hats & Mittens Box	The Heubergers	June Nothaus
38	Snacks for 1 or 2	The Heubergers	Yvonne Stone
39	Snacks for 1 or 2	The Heubergers	Lynn Brown
40	Snacks for 1 or 2	The Heubergers	Jean Berry
41	Snacks for 1 or 2	The Heubergers	Maddie Henderson
42	Halloween Wreath	Teresa Von Bokel	Bruce Wegman
43	X-mas Wreath	Teresa Von Bokel	Rev. Christy Smith
44	X-mas Sled	Teresa Von Bokel	Mary Klein
45	Fall Basket	Teresa Von Bokel	Pauline Kraemer
46	Fall Basket	Teresa Von Bokel	Shane & Kim Nollau
47	Pamper Yourself Basket	Teresa Von Bokel	Stelie Davidowicz
48	Pamper Yourself Basket	Teresa Von Bokel	Nancy Koelz
49	Good Eatin'	The Grauls	Beverly Adams
50	Good Eatin'	The Grauls	Jo-Allison Rogers
51	Mexico On Main Gift Card	M & M Williamson	Lisa Groennert
52	BBQ Basket	The Kleins	Alex Von Bokel
53	Shell Gift Card	Jo-Allison Rogers	Lana Tobin
54	Shell Gift Card	Jo-Allison Rogers	Mike Rohaley
55	Bag O' Candles	Gail Spicer	Sherry Hesek
56	Send a Letter	Denise Hamilton	Marc Hoffmann
57	Hardy Boys Books	Elaine Hoffmann	Lisa Groennert
58	Nancy Drew Books	Elaine Hoffmann	Maddie Henderson
59	Fall Wreath	Teresa Von Bokel	Judy Zeisset

***Congratulations to the winners!!***



# Rainbow Preschool News

## Happy Halloween!



It's crazy to think that the month of October has come and gone so quickly. We have completed two months of school, and our students have learned so much already.

Students have had a busy month of learning about fire safety, completing numerous alphabet and counting projects, completing a ghost and pumpkin craft project to celebrate Halloween, and many cutting projects. We have read numerous Halloween books to get everyone ready to celebrate Halloween.

Our MWF students are learning how to write their first and last names, identifying numbers to 30, their birthday, identifying upper case and lower case letters, writing the letters of the alphabet and numbers, and so much more. Our Tu/Th students have been working on writing their first names, we continue to work on learning letters of the alphabet, identifying upper case and lower case letters, identifying numbers to 20, and learning birthdays. Both classes continue to work on mastering the skill of cutting by completing different projects.



Pastor Christy stopped in and read the book "Room on the Broom" and "There Was An Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid Of Anything." We always look forward to having Pastor Christy come in to read to our classes and the students always enjoy the books she brings to read.

A huge thank you goes out to Sugar Creek Fire Department for taking the time out of their busy schedule to stop by to visit and talk to both classes about fire safety. The kids listened, answered their questions, and got to sit inside the fire truck. We look forward to having them visit again next fall.



Thank you to Monique Liguori-Weinberg for donating pumpkins to both classes. Each student was able to pick out a pumpkin to decorate and take it home just in time for Halloween.

Happy October birthday to Floyd B. on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Oliver S. on October 21<sup>st</sup>, and Walter B. on October 28<sup>th</sup>

We celebrated Halloween by wearing our pajamas to school and watching the Minion Movie.



## A few reminders for the month of November

- ✓ -With the weather changing please make sure your child has a jacket. Weather permitting, we will continue to go outside.
- ✓ -November Tuition is due
- ✓ -No school Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>- Election Day and Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>- Veteran's Day
- ✓ -Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> is share day- Students are to bring or draw a picture of their family.
- ✓ -Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup>, Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup>, and Friday November 29<sup>th</sup>- No School Thanksgiving break.

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

Misty



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

