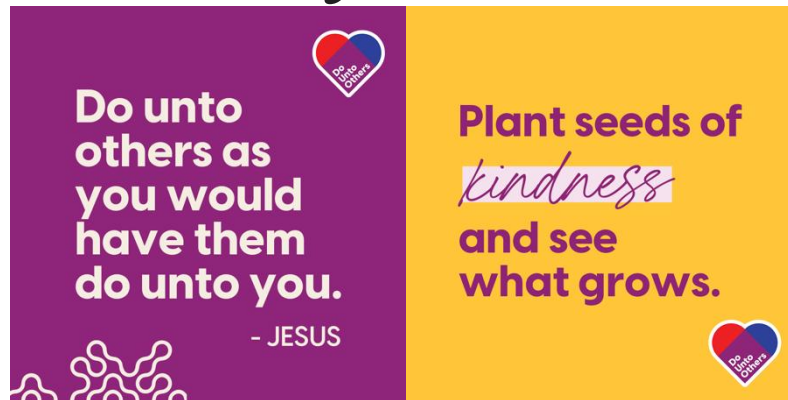


✝️❤️✝️❤️✝️❤️ *A Word from the Pastor* ✝️❤️✝️❤️✝️❤️



Beloved Church Family,

With just over a month left before our nation chooses its next president, it's more important than ever for the church to lift up a message of hope. That is why St. John UCC has joined churches across the United States in a campaign for kindness. It was started by a Methodist congregation called "Resurrection" in the Kansas City area, and it was born from the radical idea that we can choose to be kind to one another, even if we don't agree. As they state on the campaign's website, "A vote for kindness is a step toward overcoming the polarization in our country through civility and respect."

In this moment, when we are in the thick of political campaign ads, division and polarization are the daily bread we have been offered by society. As a country divided into "red" and "blue", we are told that those on the other side of the political spectrum are, at best, gullible, and at worst, evil. However, the vast majority of us share the same ideals (eg: safety, freedom, justice, and peace). We may have different ideas of how to realize those ideals, but the desire behind them is the same. If we talk to each other and expect to find polarizing differences, we will find them. Similarly, when we expect to find common ground, we will be successful. We, the everyday people of the US, are not nearly as divided as it feels.

The red/blue division is blurred further when we realize how interconnected we already are. Like many communities, families, and churches in this nation, we cannot be labeled as ALL red or ALL blue. Instead, at St. John, we exist as a beautiful and dynamic shade of purple. This is not a new phenomenon, as the Body of Christ has been purple from the very beginning. Even Jesus' original disciples spanned the political spectrum from Simon the Zealot on the far left, to Matthew the Tax Collector on the far right. Jesus did not expect his followers to shape themselves into carbon copies of one another. Instead, he called them to be united through their love of God, while using their unique perspectives, histories, and talents to continue his ministry in the world.

As his disciples in the world today, this is the privilege and challenge Jesus extends to us, too. It is our continued call, as we serve as the Body of Christ in the world, to find common ground on which we can stand together. It is a tall order, to be sure, but we are blessed to have the solid foundation of God's hand supporting us, the Spirit's power strengthening us, and Christ's love connecting us as one.

Healing isn't something that happens quickly, and we shouldn't expect to achieve it without a LOT of hard work and determination. However, as with any large goal, it is best to take it one day, one hour, or even one moment at a time. And, we cannot wait for someone else to take the first step. Leaning on Jesus' instruction to "do unto others as you would have them do to you", we are called to treat others with the goodness we hope to receive in return. So, as we prepare to exercise our hard-won right to vote on November 5th, let us also exercise our faith in Jesus Christ by choosing, day by day, to plant seeds of kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love. There's no telling what goodness might grow in this fertile, purple ground beneath our feet.

✝️❤️✝️❤️✝️❤️ *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	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)
Logan Miller	(Ron & Kimberly Tremmel's son)
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 or call 224-9828.

OCTOBER Birthdays



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

OCTOBER Anniversaries

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



OCTOBER COUNCIL MEMBERS

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**

- *To everyone who has been helping with the Wurstmart*



- *Our organizers*
- *Our ticket sellers*
- *Our pie donators*
- *Our volunteer workers*

We will have a Wurstmart wrap up meeting on Sunday, October 13th after service.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will be meeting October 9th at 1:00 PM to discuss their newest pick, "James" by Percival Everett which will be available for check out in the church library starting October 8.



Book synopsis: A reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

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: 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!

RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

Our final bills for the August Rummage Sale came in September so we wanted to inform everyone that the final amount made was \$5,057. Thank you again to our organizers and all the volunteers who made it happen!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is "Mental Health Justice For All!" A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey. October 13th will be the day it's taken. Envelopes will be available in your bulletins that Sunday.

The "Do Unto Others" worship series will continue into October. You can see the sermons at <https://vimeo.com/stjohnucctrenton>



- Sept 15** | Week 1 - "Blue and Red Make Purple: **Kindness**"
- Sept 22** | Week 2 - "The Polarization Within: **Compassion**"
- Sept 29** | Week 3 - "Listen More: **Humility**"
- Oct 6** | Annual Wurstmart! Drive through open from 11-3pm.
- Oct 13** | Guest preacher, Rev. Don Wagner, celebrating Holy Communion.
- Oct 20** | Week 4 - "Living Together on Uncommon Ground: **Respect**"
- Oct 27** | Week 5 - "Malice Toward None: **Love**"
- Nov 3** | Totenfest (All Saints) and Communion.

♥♥♥♥ Women's J.O.Y. Fellowship ♥♥♥♥

The paper supplies that were collected last month were delivered to East St. Louis on September 24th. St. John donated 60 rolls of toilet tissue, four rolls of paper towels, 2020 paper napkins, 6 boxes of tissues, and 143 paper plates. All of those paper napkins will wipe a lot of little faces after a meal. There was also a bag of school supplies that had been donated.

For October, the director has asked for undershirts, or plain colored t-shirts, or hoodies in sizes 24 months to 6X. Many of the children are without simple jackets for when the weather cools off and undershirts are always cozy. This collection will be for the week of October 20th. Thank you once again for your generosity.

Blood Drive



St. John will be hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Tuesday, October 8th 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 11:45AM 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 stjohnkentron@gmail.com or calling 618-224-9828.

ISC Annual Meeting



The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Illinois South Conference will be on Saturday, October 19, from 9:30 am to 5 pm at Evangelical UCC in Highland. The theme is: "Jubilee Joy, Celebrating 60 Years". Pastor Christy will be attending as an ISC pastor along with St. John voting delegate, Elaine Hoffmann. *We do have an opening for another delegate. If you would like to go and represent St. John UCC, please let Pastor Christy know.*

The annual meeting is a time to share information about Illinois South Conference churches, DuBois Center, our ministry partners, along with discussion of the 2025 budget, voting on the 2025 slate of nominees for committees and celebrating our 60th anniversary as a conference. It promises to be a very full day which will close with a Jubilee Joy Worship Service.



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 writing their names. We have completed many projects over the last month ranging from alphabet, colors, cutting projects, numbers, and painting. 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" and "You Are Special." Everyone enjoyed both of the books she brought in to read. We are excited to see what books she brings in to read for the month of October.



We had our first share day of the year. Students brought in their favorite farm animal to share. We had chickens, cows, horses, pigs, and rabbits. Students did a great job sitting still and being great listeners when their classmates came up front to share what they brought. A big thank you to Luke L. and his mom for bringing in their baby rabbits to share with our Tu/Th students.

Happy birthday shout outs to Hazel E. on 9/9, Aubrey K. 9/15, Trevor L. 9/17, Violet H. 9/17, and Emerie O. on 9/21. Students enjoyed the delicious snacks they brought in to celebrate their birthdays.



• A few notes for October



- October tuition is due by Thursday 10/3 and Friday 10/4
- No School Monday October 14th- Columbus Day
- Fire Department will be stopping by to visit on Thursday 10/17 and Friday 10/18
- Pajama Day/Movie Day is Thursday October 31st and Friday November 1st 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!

Misty



Last Minute Wurstmarkt Checklist

- If you haven't paid for your pies that were ordered from Berkemann's, please do so as soon as possible
- If you have Country Store items to offer, please deliver them to the narthex at church by noon on Friday. Pricing those items will be a huge help.
- If you have raffle items to donate, please have them in the church library by noon on Saturday.
- Raffle tickets and money can be brought to church on Sunday when you come to work. Please take those things to the library.
- If you purchased your pies elsewhere or are making your own, please have them in the church basement by 8:30 AM on Sunday.

The response for workers has been phenomenal. Here are some reminders for workers.

- Pie cutters please arrive by 8:30 AM
- Men setting up the outside area, plan to start at 8:30 AM also.
- If you are working outside, or upstairs, please arrive by 10:15 AM so we can go over the various procedures.
- The cooks already know their hours.
- Clean up people, please come no later than 3:00 PM.

Many thanks to everyone for all the help and various donations.

*We will have a Wurstmarkt wrap up meeting on
Sunday, October 13th after service.*

