

Beloved Church Family,

Since the birth of the Church over 2,000 years ago, communities of Christians have delighted in gathering together to celebrate their faith through worship and fellowship. We, at St. John UCC, are blessed to carry on this tradition in our own little corner of the Body of Christ. This April, in addition to our regular Sunday worship services and coffee hour, we have two special opportunities to be together as a church family. I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite each one of you to gather with us for both of them.



LENTEN WORSHIP

The first opportunity is a **Mid-Lenten worship service and meal**. In previous years, we had tried to hold small Lenten worship services each Wednesday during Lent, but with busy schedules and smaller turnout, last year, we decided to try something new. Instead of six, small, weekly services, we'd have one, larger gathering in the middle of Lent. We had such a great time, that we're excited to hold it again this year. We will gather in the chapel at 6pm on April 2nd for a meal hosted by your worship committee (Bonnie, Laurie, and myself), and towards the end of the meal, we will join in a short service with some singing and prayers. It will be a great opportunity for everyone to take a night off in the kitchen, let someone else worry about cooking, enjoy the company of your church family, and re-center yourself spiritually in the midst of busy lives and demanding schedules.

The other opportunity will be our Maundy Thursday service. We will be gathering at the church on Thursday, April 17th at 7pm, for a worshipful and meaningful journey through the story of Holy Week. Our worship will take place in three parts, and each part will tell the story of a different day in Holy Week. While we will be moving to a few different locations, we will allow plenty of time for each transition period, and there will be chairs at each place, so everyone can sit.

We will begin in the chapel, gathered in chairs around the altar. Here, we will experience the elements of Holy Week associated with Maundy Thursday. We will hear the story of the Last Supper and partake in the sacrament of Holy Communion together. We will also lift up Jesus' new commandment, as he said, "Love one another as I have loved you."



For the next part of the story, we will move outside the front entrance where we will hear the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion, which are all associated with Good Friday. Weather permitting, we will have a bonfire at this station, and we will each have the opportunity to put a dried palm leaf (representing our own mistakes and regrets) into the flames.

For the last part of the service, we will enter the sanctuary as we take a flame from the bonfire and light a candle on the altar. Here, we will remember the elements of Holy Week associated with the Saturday Vigil. It will be a quiet time for remembering our baptism and reflecting in prayer. It is sure to be a powerful service that will add meaning and depth to your Holy Week experience.

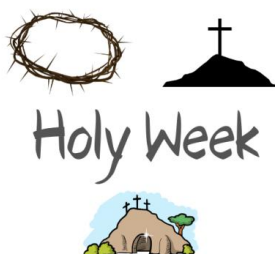


As we are told at the end of the second chapter of Acts, after the birth of the church on Pentecost, the believers devoted themselves to learning the teachings of Jesus, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. Today, on the other side of the world and years away from that first Pentecost, we continue this tradition in our little town of Trenton, IL. Thanks be to God for the continued opportunities we have to carry this torch of faith in the world today.

*With love and hope,
Pastor Christy*

Palm Sunday – Maundy Thursday – Easter Sunday

March 13 – March 17 – March 20



St. John Prayer List

Our Local Church Family

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

Our Extended Family and Friends

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 Sudholt	(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)



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.



APRIL Birthdays

Jennifer Rogers April 2
Kimberly Tremmel April 2
Aria Szpila April 5
Lainey Johnson April 6
Ken Graul April 7
John Roach April 7
Justin Groennert April 7
Lesley Koentz April 10

Erin Klein April 15
Karen Kunz April 16
Karen Krueger April 20
Mark Peters April 24
Zachary Miller April 25
Garrett Wesselmann April 26
Joey Feldmann April 29
Sydney Bair April 30



APRIL Anniversaries

Tim & Cheryl Bair April 16
Deb Sherman West April 16
Alex & Brenna Von Bokel April 17



APRIL COUNCIL MEMBER

Lonna Patton



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 all who donated to and helped with the rummage sale which is a low cost but labor intense fundraiser. To all those who helped sort and organize before the actual sale, we give our sincere thanks. Special thank you to Pehg Zeller and Lonna Patton for being the constant wind beneath our wings. Shout out to Laurie Henderson for her organizational skills and Dustin Atwood and Hank Henderson for putting together the new big (somewhat windproof) signs and Tim Bair for strategically placing the smaller signs around the town. This was a church-wide effort and many stepped up!*
 - *To Margie Bopp and Marian Funk for always making sure cards go out to our church family and friends for birthdays, get well sentiments, condolences and whenever they think someone needs a little hello or pick-me-up. We appreciate their dedication to the Sonshine Ministry.*
 - *To all who ordered St. John T-shirts. We had 32 shirts ordered and they were distributed in time for the rummage sale so bargain hunters could see who was available to ask questions.*
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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 calendars for these dates:** 4/1, 5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4 & 12/2.

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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!

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YOU'RE INVITED to gather in the chapel on April 2 at 6:00 PM for our 2nd annual Mid-Lenten Meal & Worship Service. This event is hosted by the Worship Committee. Come, as we share together in food, fellowship, and faith. You don't need to bring anything but yourself, just as you are. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

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Rummage Sale News

The first day of the rummage sale was very busy with many people coming in to shop and look around. The sale was still ongoing after the newsletter was printed so we will have the final tally of how it went in the announcements and the next newsletter.

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Women's J.O.Y. Fellowship



For March we were asking for liquid hand soap, paper napkins, pens, and potting/garden soil. The soap was to keep germs at bay and the napkins helped keep the kids tidy while eating. The potting soil was to teach the children about environmental stewardship with some hands-on learning. And pens are always needed. Delivery will be the 1st week in April and we will put in the announcements what will be next month's donations. Thank you for all you contribute as it does make a difference.

Rainbow Preschool News

Another month has quickly passed by, and the school year is almost over.

By the time you read this we will have completed the letters A through R of the



alphabet. Our students continue to do a great job listening and saying the letters after their classmates share what they brought for the letters we are doing for the week. Our younger students continue coming in each morning and trace their first and/or last name. They have been working hard on their cutting skills and completed numerous cutting projects, counting projects, and more. Our students in the M/W/F class have been working hard on learning their addresses and telephone numbers, beginning and ending sounds, identifying and spelling the days of the week, adding and subtracting numbers.

In the weeks to come, I will be doing an assessment with our students that will be attending kindergarten in the fall. This helps us to find out what our students know and what they can work on

at home over the summer to prepare them for the next chapter, Kindergarten.

Thank you to Renee Steinmann from RMS studio for coming in and taking pictures.

Pastor Christy came in and read "The Prince, and the Witch, and the Thief, and the Bears" and "Pictureface Lizzy". Students loved both books and were excited to share what they liked about the books. We are looking forward to the month of April and to see what stories she will be reading to our classes.

Happy March birthday to Kinsley E. on March 6th and Wrenleigh R. on March 14th. Thank you for bringing in the delicious snacks that they shared with their classmates. If your child has a summer birthday, an email will be sent with a date that we will be celebrating your child's birthday.



We are still enrolling students for the 2025-2026 school year. If you know anyone looking to enroll please have them reach out to us at

rainbowpreschooltrentonil@gmail.com, by calling the church office, or via Facebook.



Reminders for April

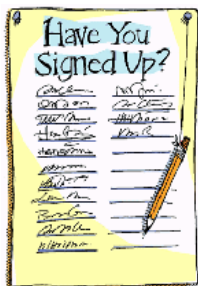


- Tuition is due Thursday April 3rd and Friday April 4th.
- Spring Break- Thursday April 17th, Friday April 18th, and Monday April 21st.
- End of the program is set for Thursday May 15th at 7 pm.
More information will be sent home at a later date.
- The last day of school is still TBD.
- If you have not turned in your enrollment form for next year please do so ASAP



Ms. Misty

BLOOD DRIVE



St. John UCC will be hosting a spring blood drive for the American Red Cross on Monday, April 14, 2025 from 12 noon to 5:00 PM. If you would like to schedule a time to give blood, go to RedCrossBlood.org to register. A sign-up sheet is out in the narthex if you can help with the registration table or the snack table that day.



Easter Sunrise Service

April 20, 7:00 AM

**First United Methodist Church
3324 Old US Highway 50
Trenton**