

PASTOR'S P O S T S

Beloved Church Family,

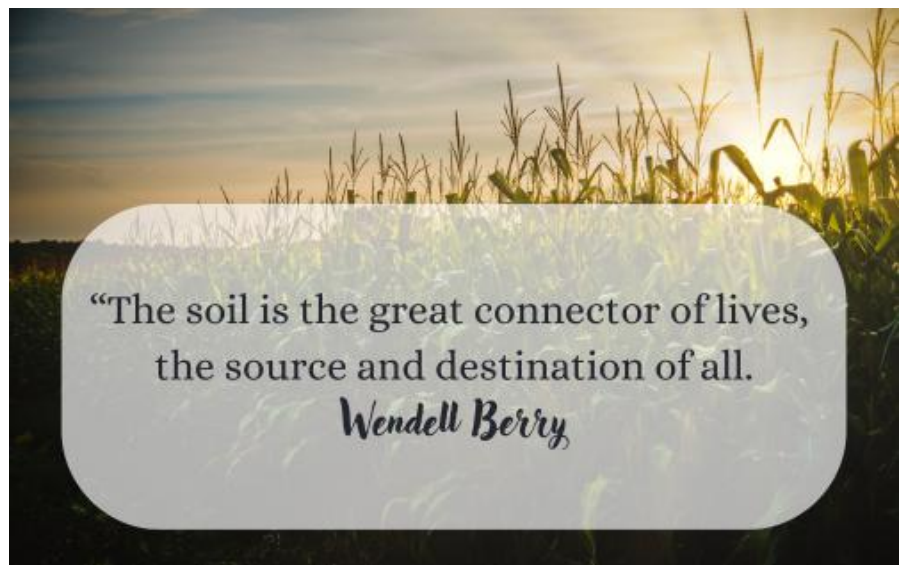
This past Sunday, I talked about a little-known church holiday known as “Rogation Sunday”. The word “rogation” comes from a Latin word that means “To ask”, and so it is a day in the life of the church when we ask for God to bless our fields and gardens, so that the work of our hands and the faith of our hearts might work together to bring a good harvest.

My grandpa, Kenneth, was a farmer. He grew up in a farming family in a small town in Wisconsin called Star Prairie, and after graduating, he joined the air force and moved to Scott Field, where he met my grandma, Doris, and got married. The two settled here, near my grandma’s family, bought a farm between O’Fallon and Lebanon, and built their life together there. My mom grew up on the farm, and eventually I got to go there and spend time with my grandparents, sister, and cousins while my parents worked. In my earliest years, I was able to play hide and seek in the corn fields, pick wild blackberries, and “help” check the soybeans to see when they were ready to harvest.

My grandpa passed away in the spring of 1990 when I was about 4 and a half. But still, every year, neighbors would come and farm the ground for grandma. Every year, we got to watch the meticulous and intensive work that went into growing crops. Every year, we said silent prayers over the crops and the farmers. Every year, we held our breath as we waited for the crops to sprout, grow, and ripen.

Some folks might think it’s rather bland living here in the Midwest. We don’t have mountains, oceans, red rock arches, glaciers, or canyons, and goodness knows those things are breathtakingly beautiful to see. However, when I’m right here at home, and I catch a glimpse of the sunset over a field, I find myself pulling over, taking a deep breath, soaking in the beautiful work of God and his farmers.

And so, Creator God, we ask you to bless farmers, gardeners, field workers, and all who work alongside you to bring food from seed to plant and from harvest to table. Bless the water, sun, and soil that will feed and sustain each plant, and bless the harvest that will come. Thank you, God, for the beauty of fields, the faith of farmers, and the blessings they bring. Amen.



*With love and hope,
Pastor Christy*

2025 Graduates



- Amy (Koch) Dial will be graduating from SIUE with a degree in teaching/education. Her plans are to move to Farina, IL to take a teaching position. Amy is the daughter of Keith & Kathy Koch and the granddaughter of Donna and Ken Gaul.
- Kameron J Fisher will be graduating on June 27, 2025 from the Department of Combat Medic Training at Joint Base San Antonio - Fort Sam Houston, as an Army 68-Whiskey Healthcare Specialist (commonly called a combat medic). Kameron is the son of Kassie and Tim Fisher and grandson of John and Pehg Zeller.
- Gregory Alan Von Bokel is a graduate of Kaskaskia College. He received his Associates Degree in Computer Science. Greg is the son of Jeff and Teresa Von Bokel of Breese, IL and is the grandson of Margie and the late Carl Bopp of Trenton, IL.

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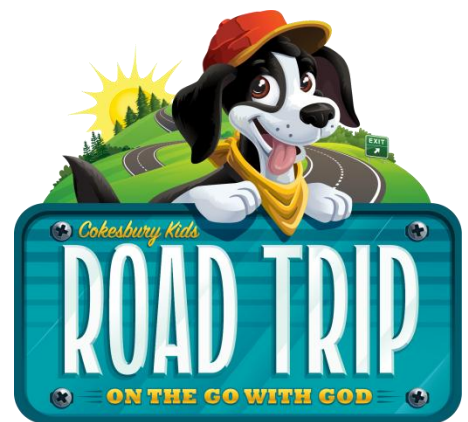
**What?** Vacation Bible School  
(sponsored by Trenton FUMC & St. John UCC)

**Where?** St. John UCC  
21 N. Walnut St., Trenton

**When?** June 2, 3, 4, 5

**What time?** 6:00-8:00 pm each evening  
6:00-7:00 pm June 5

**Who?** Ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
(grade completed this year)



**Participants are asked to bring a non-perishable item for the Green Bean Food Pantry.**

Different ways to register for VBS  
(pick what works best for you)

- Use the QR code below
- Link at Trenton First UMC Facebook page
- Link at St. John UCC Facebook page
- Call First UMC @ 618-224-7364
- Call St. John UCC @ 618-224-9828
- Email [office@trentonfumc.com](mailto:office@trentonfumc.com)
- Email [stjohntrenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohntrenton@gmail.com)

Registration deadline is May 30



## 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          | (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)             |
| Wendy Patterson        | (Pastor Christy's cousin)            |
| Antoinette Sudholt     | (Curt Wesselmann's aunt)             |
| Gary & Carol Weshinsky | (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 [stjohntrrenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohntrrenton@gmail.com) or call 224-9828.



**Harrison Truscott** June 1  
**Mia Heuberger** June 2  
**Jacob Holloway** June 4  
**Owen Henderson** June 5  
**Ron Tremmel** June 5  
**Jacob Klein** June 6  
**Ron Becker** June 10  
**Greg Von Bokel** June 10

**Callie Szpila** June 10  
**Hal Wehrle** June 12  
**Kelsey Wesselmann** June 14  
**Eliza Wernle** June 15  
**Natalia Bair** June 16  
**Bryan Marsh** June 17  
**Lisa Groennert** June 29  
**Stacy Heuberger** June 30



**Jamie & Clinton Truscott** June 5  
**Chris & Ron Becker** June 14  
**Christy Smith & Zach Bugger** June 22  
**Laura & Curt Wesselmann** June 23  
**Cathy Ostrander & Larry Biggs** June 25  
**Diane & Bryan Marsh** June 30

### JUNE 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 all of the VBS volunteers who have been busy getting things ready. Special thanks to Pehg Zeller of St. John and Virginia Schoene of First United Methodist Church for their dedication to the VBS program*
- *To Misty Straeter and Lisa Netemeyer for another successful year with the Rainbow Preschool Program*

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

The STC Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC to strengthen and renew congregations, fund leadership development, and provide programs for youth and young adults. 50% stays regionally in the conference and 50% supports National Ministries. Envelopes are in your newsletter if you would like to contribute.

### CAMP FUND

On June 30<sup>th</sup> we will have a special Fifth Sunday offering for our Camp Fund. We have two campers going this year and the church provides half of the fee for campership. Thank you for your generosity!



## FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



The Fellowship Breakfast is the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM and we will be at **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: 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4 & 12/2.**

## 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!



## GREETING CARDS



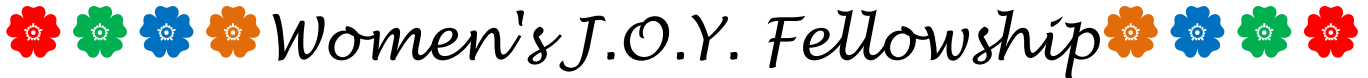
Don't forget to sign the greeting cards in the vestibule when you come to worship service on Sundays. The Sonshine Ministry appreciates your help in keeping connected with members.

## CONDOLENCES



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Mickey Williamson who passed away on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was celebrated on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at St. John UCC, with Rev. Christy Smith officiating. Memorials may be made to St. John UCC and can be sent directly to the church.





For May we delivered 478 pieces of sidewalk chalk to the children at Kindercottage. In addition to that stash, the kids also received 80 bottles of bubbles and 4 large refill bottles so they can spend hours outside having fun in the shade. We sent along 3 large bottles of dish drops for the kitchen and 48 rolls of toilet paper for the bathrooms at Kindercottage.

There will be no more deliveries to East St. Louis until early August when we will take school supplies. Anything your children or grandchildren need at school is needed by the kids at Kindercottage. The vestibule will not be open on Tuesdays until July which will coincide with the set up for the next Rummage Sale. It has been a generous year of giving toward the children who rely on Kindercottage for preschool, day care, and a safe place before and after school.

## BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

St. John is once again participating in the Brown Bag Lunch program which is every Tuesday, at 10:30 AM starting June 3<sup>rd</sup> and going through August 5. We supply a meat and cheese sandwich, a bag of chips, a drink, a fruit or veggie, and a sweet treat. We also pack a little something as a reminder that the children are loved by Jesus and by our congregation. It takes about 30 - 45 minutes to complete the lunches and then they are delivered to Base 215 for distribution. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please indicate if you can supply a sweet treat the day you help pack lunches. It is not necessary but it is special to have homemade cookies or brownies. Please have them individually wrapped. You will be called the day before with the number of lunches we are packing the following morning. If you are not able to supply a sweet treat, don't worry, there will be treats on hand.

Finally, we are asking for monetary contributions to the BBL program. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent directly to the office. Please indicate that your donation is for Brown Bag Lunches. Thank you.

## Rainbow Preschool News

Happy May! It is impossible to express all the emotions that I am feeling with the school year coming to an end. Our students have really blossomed into young men and young ladies the past few months. Students have learned to be more independent and highly creative during center time; while others have become artists and creating art projects and drawings that they take home or give to their classmates. It is a great feeling to look back and see how far everyone has grown and learned so much this year.

Pastor Christy came in to read to both classes. She read "Ted and Dolly's Submarine Surprise" which was one of her favorite books as a child and "This Little Light of Mine" We would like to say thank you to Pastor Christy for coming in and reading to our students. We look forward to having her come back in the fall to read to both classes again.

We had a few dress up days to celebrate the end of the year. We had mismatch day, crazy hair day, jersey and sports day, hat day, and pajama day. Students also enjoyed playing some of their favorite games: musical chairs, the floor is lava, bingo, snatched, and singing and dancing to one of their favorite songs, Tooty Ta. We celebrated our last day of school by bringing in our favorite blankets and stuffed animals to snuggle with and watched the movie Home.

Happy May birthday to Gavin R. 5/13 and Rowan W. 5/17. Happy summer birthday to the following students Blair R. 6/5, Eliana P. 6/7, Wade K. 6/7, Henry G. 7/21, Shae H. 8/9, Piersyn K. 8/27.

We hope that all the moms had a wonderful Mother's Day and loved the gifts our students made. We sent home Father's Day gifts that are to be hidden somewhere until Sunday June 15th. We would like to wish all the wonderful fathers a Happy Father's Day!

We held our annual closing program on Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Our students did a great job performing their favorite songs for their families. Thank you to everyone that came to see our students perform.

Congratulations to our graduates who will be entering Kindergarten in August. Our preschool graduates are Ashton P., Aubrey K., Emerie O., EZlynn B., Hazel E., Kinsley E., Naomi R., Piersyn K., Reese L., Steven B.R., Wade K., Walter B., and Warner K.! We wish all our students moving onto kindergarten the best of luck in your future. Remember to have fun and to challenge yourself to try new things and always strive to do your best! We will miss you all!

We are proud of the rest of our students who attended Rainbow this year. Those students are Bailey K., Eliana P., Floyd B., Gavin R., Grayson D., Henry G., Ivrey B., Kora Z., Oliver S., Remi K., Rowan W., Shae H., Trevor L., Violet H., and Wrenleigh R.. We hope you all have a wonderful summer.

I would like to thank Ms. Lisa Netemeyer for everything she has done this year and for being a part of the Rainbow staff, I could not have made it through the school year without you. Thank you to Morgan Clark, Rachel Netemeyer, and Norah Lampe for stepping into help when we needed an extra hand.

A huge thank you goes out to the Rainbow Preschool Board, Pastor Christy, Kim Tremmel, Laurie Henderson, Pehg Zeller, and Steve Wallace for their continuous support and guidance. A huge THANK YOU goes to our Rainbow families for allowing us to be a part of your child's education. Thank you to everyone for making this year a wonderful year. We look forward to seeing our students on August 11<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>.

We are still 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](mailto: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 2025-2026 school year.

We still have room in our Tuesday summer program for any child ages 3-5. Times are 8-10 AM and 10:30 AM-12:30 PM. Cost is \$20.00. Summer workbooks are still available for \$10.

Everyone please have a safe and healthy summer! We will see everyone on Monday August 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday August 12<sup>th</sup>.

