

Community is important. I have found this to be true throughout my life – especially when things get hard. Whether it's found among family or friends, at church or work, through sports or social clubs, or even online – community can be a literal lifesaver.

I remember, as a child, I had a difficult time among friends whenever I tried to explain the relationship I had with folks from church. I could be sharing a story from Sunday School or

coffee hour, or maybe I saw someone from church while I was at the mall with my friends. I would end up fumbling for words, as I tried to explain why this person from my congregation mattered. They were my mom's friends, my grandma's friends, or the parents of my church friends. They helped teach me about God and about life, they called me out when I was misbehaving, they celebrated my achievements, they pretended my clarinet solo during worship was PERFECTION, and they showed support when they knew something difficult was happening in my life. They felt like bonus family – people who weren't related to me by blood but acted as a close-knit network of support and encouragement.

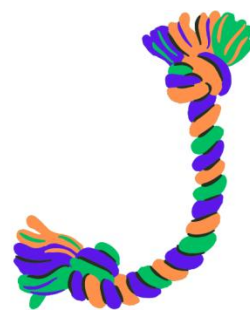
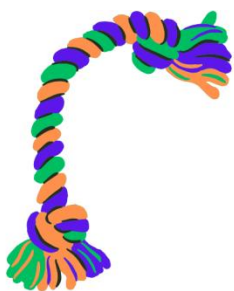
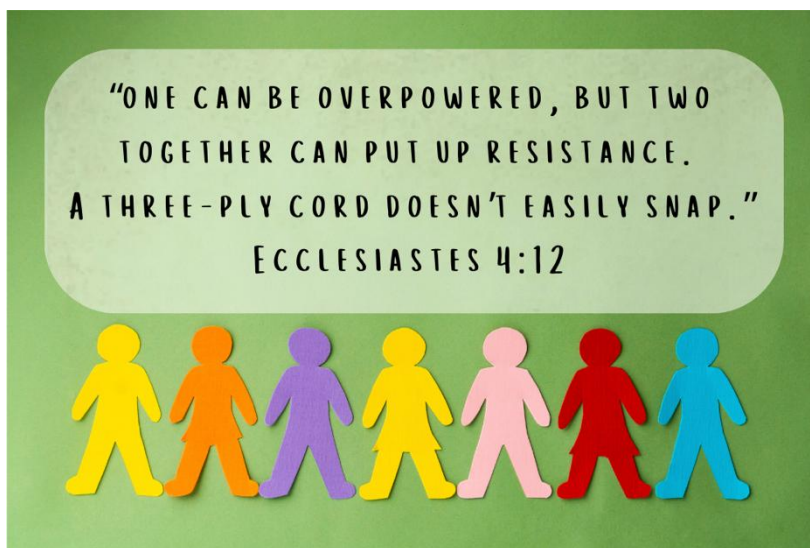
Now, as an adult, I have the vocabulary for this, and it's something we talk about often. It's the church family. There is something wonderful and mysterious and healing about the community that comes together to form a congregation. It is a community that is delighted to see you whether you come to church once a year or every week. It's a group that cares about what is happening in your life and wants to know how they can support you. It is a place that transcends the social groups we find in the world. Whether you are sporty, creative, musical, talkative, quiet, curious, logical, intelligent, scatterbrained, or shy, there is a place for you at church. This hasn't always been the case at every church in every time and place...but it is something many churches (ours included) have been striving towards.

This scripture from Ecclesiastes speaks to this power of community. Whether it is a community of 2 or 2000, having a community you can reach out to can greatly improve your quality of life. It fosters a feeling of belonging, combats loneliness, offers opportunities for personal growth, benefits mental health, and cultivates a sense of identity and purpose.

The author of this scripture tells us, "A three-ply cord doesn't easily snap." I've used this scripture at weddings before to illustrate the power of partnership, but it is true for communities of all types. When we cultivate those connections and nurture our community bonds, we are weaving together cords that cannot easily be severed. These cords help to hold us together when the world feels like it is falling apart. They provide a safety net that promises to catch us when we stumble

or fall. They connect us like a tapestry and create something truly beautiful to behold.

You receive this monthly newsletter because you are a part of our community. You have, over the years, been woven into the fabric of our church family, and your thread adds to the strength and love we have today. You may have grown up at St. John, been confirmed or married here. You may have stepped in our doors as an adult, bringing a rich





*With love and hope,  
Pastor Christy*

Special Services in May

- **Sunday, May 4: Star Wars Worship – “May the Fourth Be With You (And Also With You)”**
- **Sunday, May 11: Mother's Day – Honoring the women who nurture and care for us**
- **Sunday, May 18: Feldmann Baptism – Welcoming a new member into the community**
- **Sunday, May 25: Graduate Sunday – Recognizing those who have accomplished their educational goals**

Do you have someone in your family who is graduating this year from kindergarten, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, college, university, graduate school, or trade school? If so, send in their name, what school they're graduating from, and where they're planning to go next.

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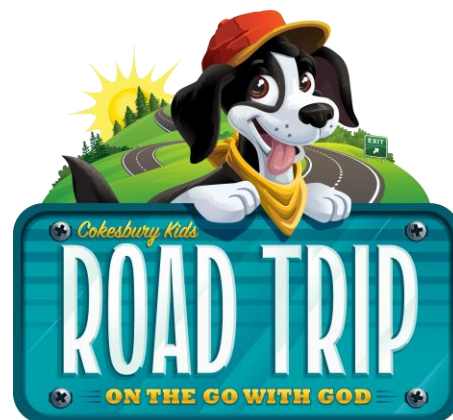
**What? Vacation Bible School**  
(sponsored by Trenton FUMC & St. John UCC)

**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 ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶
- 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  | Mickey Williamson |
| 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](mailto:stjohntrenton@gmail.com) or call 224-9828.



Pauline Kraemer May 1  
 Sherman West May 1  
 Lynn Kunz May 1  
 Alex Von Bokel May 5  
 Mary Lou Lurtz May 5  
 Ian Henderson May 13  
 Patrick Robison May 14

Dan Holloway May 14  
 Courtney Davis May 18  
 Max Wesselmann May 18  
 Jo-Allison Rogers May 21  
 Marc Hoffmann May 22  
 Benjamin Lucas May 24  
 Jim Atwood May 25



Bryan & Nicole Wernle May 20  
 Barbara & Jeral Szpila May 21  
 Raymond & Morgan Feldmann May 21  
 Shelby & Jim Atwood May 24



**MAY COUNCIL MEMBER**

Elaine Hoffmann





## 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 the Worship Committee (Pastor Christy, Bonnie Arentsen and*

*Laurie Henderson) who met and coordinated to bring us the Mid-Lenten meal, the Maundy Thursday service and decorations for Easter Sunday*

- *To those who helped set up and volunteer for the Blood Drive*
- *To all who ordered Easter flowers and brought beauty into the sanctuary*
- *To all who took left over rummage sale clothes for donations and left over cardboard for recycling*

On the second Saturday of this month,

**May 10, 2025,**



Trenton letter carriers will pick up any bags (paper or plastic) of healthy, non-perishable food items that are placed near your mailbox. All

donations picked up will stay in our community.



## 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: 5/6, 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.

## BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, May 28 at 1 PM to discuss their newest picks, "The Women", by Kristin Hannah and "The Girls Who Went Away" by Ann Fessler.

"The Women" is a novel about women who served in Vietnam as combat nurses and "The Girls Who Went Away" is a non-fiction book about girls who were sent to "homes for unwed mothers" before Roe v. Wade. Everyone is welcome to attend Book Club!

# Women's J.O.Y. Fellowship



We will still collect for Kindercottage for one more month before taking off for the summer. The kids would love to have some bubbles and some sidewalk chalk. The kitchen ladies need dish drops in order to keep all the pots and pans clean. We will send them to East St. Louis in mid May. That trip will be the last until August when we collect and send school supplies. We will do that trip in early August so things can be sorted and distributed before school opens in mid August. The vestibule will be open on Tuesdays for these donations.

## **Volunteers Still Needed For VBS**

We still have a few slots to fill for VBS. We need someone to oversee snacks AKA The Snack Leader. We have two volunteers from FUMC but we need someone from St. John who knows the kitchen to be in charge. We need an energetic person or two to be Recreation Leaders - someone who can adapt the suggested games in the guide and collect the necessary materials and have FUN with the kids. We still need a storyteller or two and a few people who will herd kids around. AKA Kid Herders. VBS is about a month away so this is the time to pick your favorite activity and make a difference for the kids of this community. There are registration forms for kids available in the narthex this morning. Please return them to the office.



## **Rainbow Preschool News**

I cannot believe another month has quickly buzzed by us. It's hard to believe in just a few weeks our school year will be coming to an end and summer vacation will start. This is both exciting and scary at the same time as we prepare our students in the M/W/F for the next chapter in their life, Kindergarten.

By the time you read this we will have completed our alphabet box and homework. Our students did a great job listening and saying the letters, bringing in items each week for the letters we were learning about, and completing homework and turning it in.



Pastor Christy stopped in and read the books "Twas The Morning of Easter" and "The Invisible String". Both classes shared who their invisible string was linked to and what they like to do at Easter with their families. We always enjoy having Pastor Christy in class and enjoy the wonderful books she brings into read.

Students of our younger class have completed many alphabet, coloring, cutting, counting, and craft projects this month. They have been working hard on writing their name on their own and some have started to learn to write their last name. It is an amazing feeling to see them writing their names on their own with little to no help from us.

Our older students have been busy as well as they have been working hard on their addresses and telephone number and preparing for kindergarten screenings. They have completed numerous projects this month ranging from writing letters of the alphabet, adding and subtraction, writing words, spelling words, and a few craft projects. Both classes have had a busy month of learning.

Happy April birthdays to Ms. Lisa on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and Ashton P. on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for bringing in delicious treats to share with your classmates.



Please mark your calendars for our end of the year program. The program will be held on Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Students need to be in the classroom by 6:30 pm that evening. If your child will not be attending the program, please let me know. MWF students will need to attend school on Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> and will need to be at school by 8:30 am and we will dismiss students at 11:30 am.

We are still enrolling students for the MWF and TU/TH classes for the 2025/2026 school year. If you know anyone that is interested in our program, please have them email us at [rainbowpreschooltrentonil@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowpreschooltrentonil@gmail.com), message us on our Facebook page, or by calling the office at 618-224-9828.

## Just a few reminders for the month of May



-Tuition is due by Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>



-End of the year program Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.



-Last day of school Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup>



-If anyone would like a summer workbook they are \$10. If you would like one please let me know.



-I will be holding summer class on Tuesday's starting June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Class is open to children ages 3-5 and cost is \$20. Class time is 8-10 and 10:30-12:30. If you would like to enroll your child please send me a message on our Facebook page or by emailing me at [rainbowpreschooltrentonil@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowpreschooltrentonil@gmail.com).

Ms. Misty

*Rainbow Preschool would like to invite the St. John congregation to our end of year program to recognize our students as they graduate into Kindergarten and into our Monday/Wednesday/Friday class.*

