



# *THE MESSENGER*

**St. John**  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**  
Wood River, Illinois

**November 2011**

No matter who you are...or where you are on life's journey,  
**YOU are welcome here.**



# **Official Call**

## **To the St. John UCC**

### **Annual Meeting**

#### **Nov. 13, 2011**

**Immediately following worship**

The following items will be e-mailed to those on the  
Monthly Messenger e-mail list by Nov. 6.  
Printed copies will be available for those who want one  
at worship on Sunday, Nov. 6

- Proposed Agenda for the Annual Meeting
- Minutes from last year's AM
- Proposed Budget for 2012
- YTD financial report
- Proposed changes to the Constitution

Available at the Annual Meeting if not before:

- Annual Reports from Teams

#### **What's Inside**

**Mission 1**  
11/1/11-11/11/11

**Annual Report**  
from the Pastor

**Prayer list**

**Thank you**

**Kids Klips**

**Calendar**

**Birthdays**

## Annual Report from the Pastor

Wow, it has been a year already! I continue to be excited by the dedication of so many diverse members and friends at St. John UCC. We have accomplished a great deal this year—quite honestly, more than I expected to be able to accomplish this first year of my time as your pastor.

The financial reports have been completely reformatted. What was an accurate but sort of confusing consolidated report will now be divided out into a General Operations Fund Report (the one that tells us if we are on budget and solvent); the Fund Raising Report (so we can track fundraisers separately and honor those times when they are designated for a specific purpose); the Memorial and Designated Funds; and a separate Capital Fund. Having these separate reports will help us track our tithing and budgeting as well as our other activities and give us a better snapshot of how we are doing financially.

We will be voting on some proposed changes to the Constitution and By-laws. In the process of reviewing that document, the Ad Team has also begun the task of updating various policies in the church. It has been a fruitful conversation and is ongoing. The Constitution reflects our understanding about discipleship, what it means to covenant with each other as members of the church, how we hold one another accountable both for our participation and our welcoming others into participation. How do we discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our life together? How do we respond to our Still Speaking God in our life in the church?

The Constitution is a summary of our traditions and our hopes for how we might live into being the congregation we hope to become. The Ad Team provided a framework for the work, an ad hoc committee reviewed the document in great detail, had some of those fruitful conversations and then the Ad Team reviewed their work and endorsed the proposed changes. I can report it has been a dynamic and a faithful process.

A stalwart and dedicated group led by Janet Blair has sorted, culled, corrected and updated our membership files, memorial records and other records. God bless them one and all!

We've begun a "scrip program" we call "Manna Money" that has raised over \$600 in about 5 months and continues to grow.



The Building and Grounds report will have more detail about the new windows and air conditioners, the plaster patching and painting so I will simply note the dedication of the Building and Grounds Team and thank them for their labors.

Our VBS set new records for attendance while maintaining the status quo of exhaustion for the adult leaders.

We raised over \$1,200 for services for people with disabilities with a spaghetti dinner through Push America.

Throughout all of that, we continue to try to be faithful to the day to day work of the church. Worship is central to the life of this congregation. With our membership stretching across at least 6 school districts, our time in worship and Sunday School is paramount to our life as a church. I very much appreciate comments about our worship experience together. Is it a transforming experience? Do you feel comforted, challenged, energized and empowered for faithful discipleship (at least some of the time, I am writing this after the 5<sup>th</sup> game of the World Series so understand that even the Cardinals' bats fall silent once-in-a-while)?

Donita Crockett has once again agreed to direct the Bell Choir and Children's Choir as well as explore the possibility of a Choir for some worship music from time to time. It will be a slow process as we rebuild the music program of the church and I trust your support, understanding and prayers for this process. We have a brilliant musician in Jared and I know we have inspirational talent among us, we just need to nurture that talent together.

Just as important as all of this work, however, I am getting to know all of you. I marvel at the dedication I see in all of you and am inspired by your generosity to St. John UCC and our missions in this last year. Dr. Beebe reinvigorated our discussions about faithful stewardship of time, talent and treasure and we continue to build on that foundation.

My concern in all of this is that we not fall prey to the trap of thinking that if we get all of this "right"—our processes, policies, budget and programs—that all of that will somehow magically cause the church to grow. There is simply no substitute for the discipline of our own spiritual growth which leads us to talk about our faith and our congregation with others and invite them to join

us. The most well-constructed constitution in all of Christendom will not bring one more person to Christ or one more searching person to a pew.

As we look at all of the activity around here, however, we see a lot to talk about. We can invite friends and strangers alike to become part of a congregation that deeply cares for the hungry and hurting among us and responds with both donations and volunteer efforts. We can invite folks to join in a dynamic Sunday School program and feel their faith grow as they see the energy and curiosity of our children. We can invite people to become part of a new choir that doesn't have old traditions to break through or learn—God is doing something new here, do you not perceive it?

We can invite youth to join in Sheltered Reality, join in a walk for cancer awareness; participate in a food drive; begin a “facebook” ministry for the church or simply fellowship together and cultivate a renewed youth group.

We can invite people of all ages to expand their understanding of scripture by using our library; nurture their faith by going on a retreat at DuBois Outdoor Ministry Center; learn about the mission work we are doing in Ecuador; participate in transforming the lives of families by volunteering at Kindercottage, sponsoring a child through the UCC child sponsorship program or hosting an activity day at Hoyleton Children's Home.

We have a great deal to celebrate in our life together, in the Spirit's presence and in Christ's love made real in this congregation. As a friend of mine says, “In our work together we put skin on the presence of Christ.” We put a lot of skin on the presence of Christ and make God's love real and tangible for people in this church and community.

Finally, I appreciate your understanding when I miss a special tradition or do something a little differently than you are accustomed. I continue to be somewhat amused that you think I know what's going on around here. And I am inspired and humbled by your trust in me as your Pastor. May God continue to bless our work together and may St. John UCC be a source of blessing to us all and to the wider community.

*Pastor Mike*



## St. John UCC Prayer Concerns

### **Hospitalized/Health Concerns since the last Messenger:**

Tim Coates, Home  
Darleen Gowin, Christian  
Bev Thomas, Home

### Staying Close to Home

Eleanor Kohlmiller Pat Westerhold  
Margaret Rowden Betty Wiegand  
Chuck Ursprung

### In Nursing Homes

Lucille Aubin, Rosewood (Edw)  
Henrietta Hughes, VIP Manor  
Ruth Jones, The Gardens, Springfield  
John Niehaus, Jerseyville Manor  
Marie Pearson, Rosewood (Alton)  
Mary Jo Ringering, Willow Rose, Jersey  
Shirley Thatcher, VIP Manor  
Mary Tickner, VIP Manor

### Serving in the Military

Alex Frazar, Tyler O'dell, Dan Roberts, Blake Sabolo, Brandon Sabolo and Brandon Southcombe

### **Praying Together**

Give us this day our daily bread,  
O Father in heaven,  
and grant that we who are filled with good  
things from Your open hand,  
may never close our hearts to the  
hungry, the homeless, and the  
poor;  
in the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
— from the Abbey of New Clairvaux,  
Viña, California



### Details, details, details

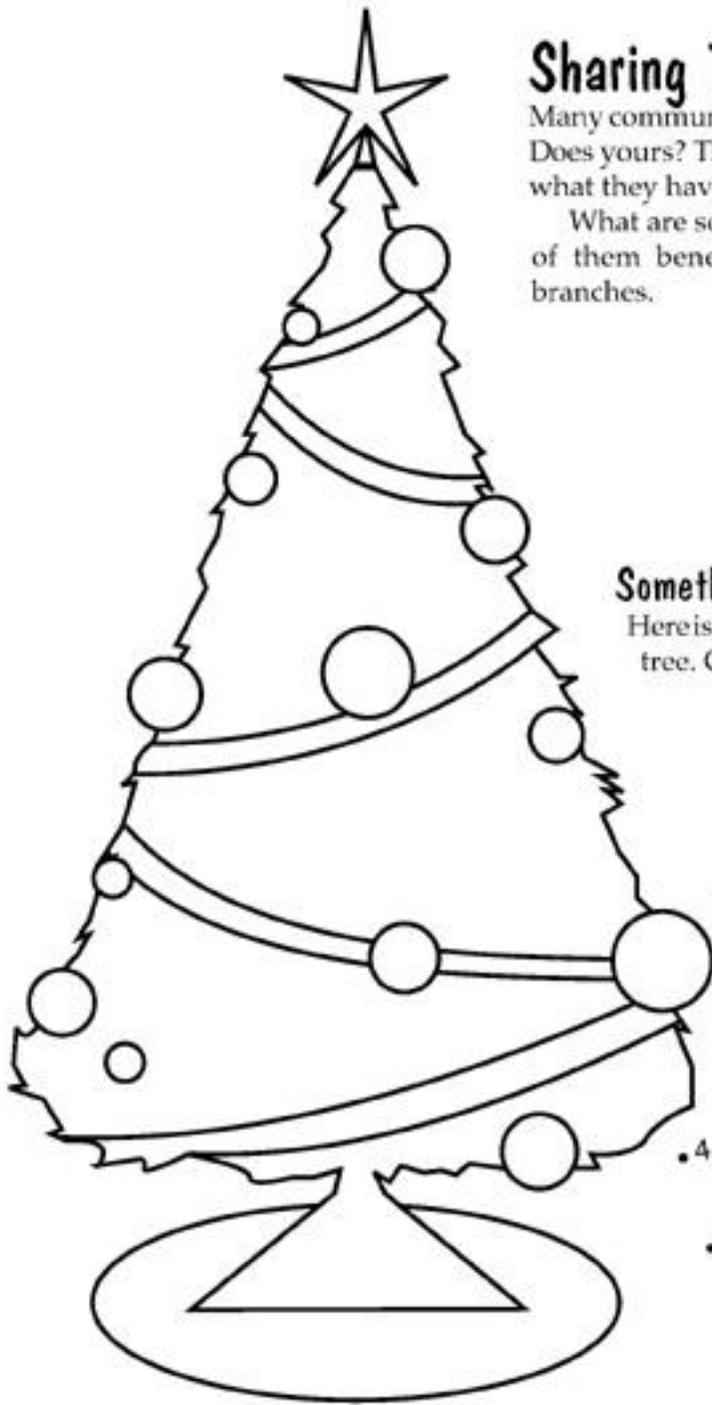
I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific.

— Lily Tomlin

## Sharing Trees

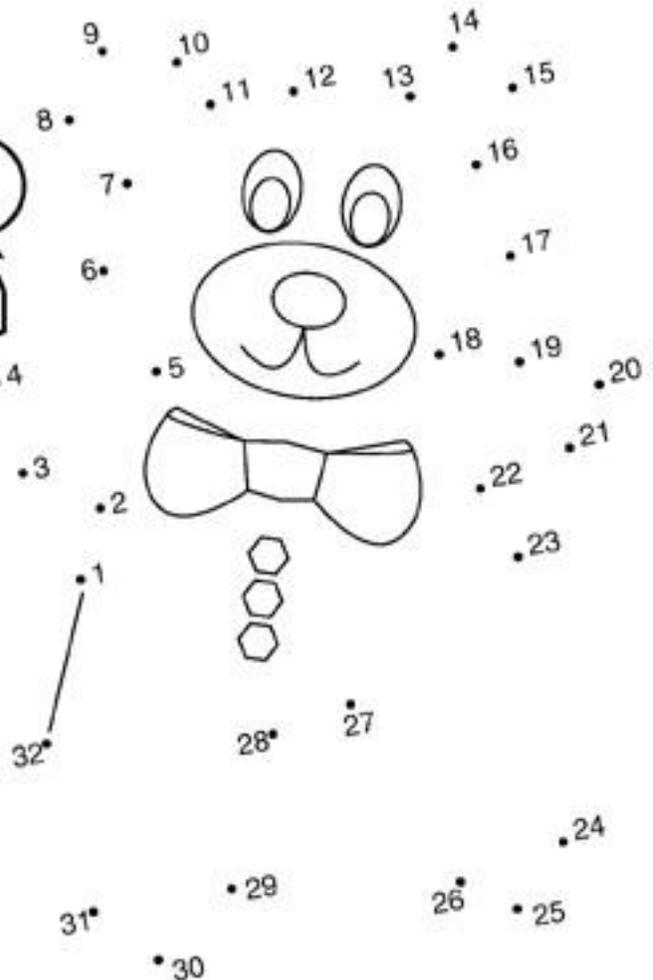
Many communities have "sharing trees" during Advent. Does yours? These are opportunities for people to share what they have with others.

What are some things you can share? Draw pictures of them beneath the sharing tree and decorate its branches.



### Something to Share

Here is something you could place under a sharing tree. Connect the dots and find out what it is.



# So Much to Do, So Little Space to Fit it All In



Bring in 1,111 items of non-perishable food for Operation Blessing by Nov. 6 and Pastor Mike will conduct the entire service on Nov. 13 in a purple hippopotamus suit!

Volunteer (there are still some spaces left) to help at the St. Louis Food Bank on Nov. 2 from 9am-Noon. Leave from church at 8:15am

Give generously to Neighbors In Need and the African Famine Relief Offerings on Nov. 13.

Fill the special "Can Offering" with spare change and a bill or two. We hope the Can Offering brings in an extra \$111.11 for African Famine Relief over our usual Neighbors In Need Offering.

## Help out Kindercottage



Please save proof of purchase labels from Campbell's products and Box Tops for Education labels to benefit Uni-Pres Kindercottage.

Drop your labels into the can on the table in the Narthex and we'll send them on to Kindercottage!



## "Totenfest" Memorial Sunday November 20

- Remembering those who have died since last Memorial Sunday
- Remembering those Memorial Funds used in the last year
- Remembering those newly listed on the Memorial Plaque



Hanging of the Greens  
Saturday, Nov. 26, 10am

&

During Worship Sunday, Nov. 27

"Station Style Worship"  
With activities, songs, refreshments,  
a special message and Communion  
Sunday, Dec. 4

It is time that Christians were judged more by their likeness to Christ than their notions of Christ.

– Lucretia Mott, Quaker abolitionist  
and women's rights advocate (1793-1880)



**Sunday                      Monday                      Tuesday                      Wednesday                      Thursday                      Friday                      Saturday**

<p>What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving? – Erma Bombeck, <i>No One Diets on Thanksgiving</i></p>		<p>1 9a Stewardship  7p Cub Scouts</p>	<p>2 8a St. Louis Food Pantry Trip  8p NA</p>	<p>3 8:30a Fellowship Breakfast  6p Bell Choir 6:45p Christmas Choir</p>	<p>4  6-8p Birthday Party in F.H.</p>	<p>5  5:30p AA</p>
<p>6 <b>Friend Raising Sunday</b> 9:30a Worship Communion 10:30a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>7 12p W.R. Rotary  7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8  6:30p Pinochle 7p Cub Scouts</p>	<p>9  4:30 Outreach Mtg 5-6:30p SR Practice 8p NA</p>	<p>10  6p Bell Choir 6:45p Christmas Choir 7p Pastoral Relations</p>	<p>11  1-10p Scrapbooking Event</p>	<p>12 9a-4:30p Scrapbooking Event  5:30p AA</p>
<p>13 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>14 12p W.R. Rotary  6:30p Finance Tm Mtg 7p Quilters 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15  7p Cub Scouts</p>	<p>16  8p NA</p>	<p>17 12p Region 4 Mtg  4:30p WMT 6p Bell Choir 6:45p Christmas Choir</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19  5:30p AA</p>
<p>20 <b>Memorial Sunday</b> 9:30a Worship Baptism Anniversaries 10:30a Special Reception</p>	<p>21 <b>MESSENGER DEADLINE</b> 12p W.R. Rotary  7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22  6:30p Pinochle 7p Cub Scouts</p>	<p>23  5-6:30p SR Practice 8p NA</p>	<p>24 Office closed   <b>THANKS GIVING</b></p>	<p>25 Office closed</p>	<p>26 10a Preparing for Hanging of the Greens  5:30p AA</p>
<p>27 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee Fellowship <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b></p>	<p>28 12p W.R. Rotary  7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>29 9a Quilters  7p Cub Scouts</p>	<p>30  8p NA</p>	<p>A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes . . . and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer</p>		

## Getting to Know You



My name is Missy Kichline. My husband is Brian Kichline and my children (young adults) are Leigh-Ellen, Samantha, and Grace. We have attended St. John since about 1991. My mother, Mary Ellen (Woody, Stumpy, Shorty Woodmansee) Johnson grew

up in this church and returned to St. John shortly after my father died. Her only sister, Jane, also grew up in this church. Mom is the connector for our family joining St. John UCC.

I grew up in East Alton graduating from East Alton Wood River Community High School. I then attended Blackburn College for one year finishing an Associated Degree at Lewis & Clark Community College. In 1981 I graduated from SIUE with a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems. In 2005 I graduated from Greenville College with a Master's of Art in Teaching.

In 1986 I was lucky enough to marry my soul mate and life partner, Brian. After SIUE I went to work for McDonald Douglas Automation Company, MCAUTO. I worked for MCAUTO eleven years in different jobs supporting Fortune 500 companies. As a young person this was a wonderful opportunity. Eventually the company was sold to EDS. I worked for EDS for one year.

Sam being born with Down Syndrome and Grace being born with a significant growth issue caused me to realize I needed to acquire different knowledge, skills and a new perspective to raise all of our girls. This recognition brought me to associate with IMPACT CIL, first serving as a board member and ultimately being offered a position. I have worked for IMPACT for 16 years. I currently serve on the board of directors for The Arc of Illinois and the Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives (IAMC). Brian and I are involved in a start-up human services cooperative (SEEC) in Edwardsville.

I enjoy camping, boating, crocheting, reading, dancing, volleyball, swimming, biking and music. Currently, I have a love hate relationship with running.

**Maio** **Xie** Arigato  
**Thanks** **Grazie**  
**Danke schön**

Thanks to Brad Pulaski for installing and setting up the new modem, office network and router when they needed replacing.

Thanks to Phyllis Noble and Janet Blair for finishing updating all of our membership files.

Thanks to John Gebelein for installing new "bleeder valves" on our heaters, firing up the boiler and making sure we have heat in all our rooms.

Thanks to Jim Stille, Lynn Marsh and the WMT for changing the paraments for our weddings and special Sundays.

Thanks to Marlene O'dell for changing the message on the sign and keeping Wood River amused.

Thanks to Donita Crockett for organizing the special music for Advent and Christmas.



### November:

- 1 - Kent Barnes
- 2 - Kathryn Butler
- 3 - Peg Ellis
- 5 - Robin Fultz, Ray Maendele
- 6 - Zachary Tomkinson
- 8 - Bonnie Tyler
- 9 - Merle Bassett, Darren Helmkamp
- 10 - Byron Farrell, Tad Gowin
- 11 - Shelly Jones
- 13 - Christi Counton, David Heeren
- 14 - Tim Coates
- 15 - Norine Bassett, Joe Hanfelder, Susan Woelfel
- 16 - Martha Woelfel, Robert Cotton
- 17 - Matthew Bailey
- 18 - Brad Farrell
- 20 - Sadonna McMillen
- 21 - Lin Cox
- 22 - Pat Nuernberger, Adam Hosto
- 23 - Brad Pulaski
- 25 - Ford Frazar
- 26 - Peg Dubbelde
- 27 - Josh Bantz
- 28 - Phyllis Noble
- 29 - Lynne Marsh
- 30 - Ruth Jones

### ***Mission Statement for St. John UCC***

St. John United Church of Christ, Wood River, Illinois  
is a Christian Community:

- ♣ Worshiping the Triune God
- ♣ Claiming the historic faith of the church
- ♣ Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ
- ♣ Nurturing for Christian discipleship
- ♣ Ministering to one another through fellowship and caring
- ♣ Serving our community and the world
- ♣ Connecting with other Christians for witness and service



The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. John United Church of Christ, 228 N. Sixth St., Wood River, IL 62095; phone 618 254-6682. E-mail @sjucc@sbcglobal.net

Access our home page at [www.stjohnucc.net](http://www.stjohnucc.net). Worship is at 9:30 a.m.

Our Pastor is Rev. Mike Southcombe, cell phone (618) 558-5014

The Messenger editorial staff includes, Evalena O'dell and Marlene O'dell.

All guests are welcome.

**“always caring, always sharing”**

## **St. John United Church of Christ**

228 N. Sixth St.

Wood River, IL 62095

**Return Service Requested**