



# THE MESSENGER

**St. John  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

Wood River, Illinois



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



## **The Empty Vase And Full Hearts in Lent**



Many churches do not allow flowers in the sanctuary during Lent. When the chancel remains empty of flowers, the greenery on Palm Sunday and then the burst of Lilies and color on Easter Sunday are much more striking. The lack of flowers contributes to our awareness of the barrenness of our lives

without a strong relationship with Jesus.

We can still remember our loved ones or celebrate special days in the bulletin and on the screen, however, with a donation to Kindercottage in lieu of flowers. Just sign up on the "flower chart" in Berry Parlor, write a check for \$20 to the church to be forwarded to Kindercottage and we will list your memorial or celebration in the Weekly Messenger for 2 Sundays and project a picture on the screen during the announcements.

## **A Mission and Outreach Opportunity for St. John UCC**



We have started our Free Soup Lunch (11:30am to 1pm) for ANYONE beginning Fridays in March. Various teams, families and individuals have signed up to sponsor the meals; others have signed up to serve the meals. Thank you ALL!

**Now, come and enjoy!** We hope that church members will come and enjoy a soup lunch and some fellowship and we

hope to serve needy individuals from the community with cheerful hospitality and a hearty bowl of soup. The meal is free. For those who wish to pay, we'll have a free will plate set out. See the bulletin board or talk to Pastor Mike, Ande Yakstis or Jim Stille for more information.

### **What's Inside**

**Prayer list**

**Kids Klips**

**Birthdays**

**Getting to Know  
You**

**Ministry & Mission  
Opportunities**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
Dinner Out  
March 18**



Our children are doing some very adult things this Lent. Kathryn and Eli narrated a power point presentation drawing our attention

to the need at Lisa's Angels Day Care Center for new playground equipment. They and others have been standing at the doors collecting our loose change for that mission.

In Sunday School our children will be learning about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

They are also wonderfully hospitable. They invite visiting children to fully participate in whatever they are doing that Sunday, escort them up to the steps of the chancel for our divine interruption and make sure the visitors know there is candy in the basket.

We had youth and children on hand during the pancake and sausage supper, clearing tables, helping folks carry their plates to their seats, refilling drink cups and helping cook and clean up.

Did you see how well the acolytes Ali and Josie adapted to the candles being in a different spot on the altar, and a Christ candle at the foot of the cross?

They all seem driven to help out—help those in need, help our mission and ministry efforts and help out here at church in worship and fellowship times.

Best of all, if you look at their faces when you ask them to help with something you will see satisfaction, excitement and joy. They are eager to help and they are very capable of the tasks.

They are working together to help Jeannine Burk and the conference's Ecuador Partnership have a great mission trip. They are part of Christ's mission in this congregation and stretching to another continent, bridging differences of language, culture, history and even worship style. A big mission for such young disciples.

And they are leading the way for us as they do all this with such eagerness and joy. As we go through this Lenten season practicing our spiritual disciplines—our prayers, whatever fast we may set for ourselves, our alms giving and our work here at the church—let us follow their

example and practice these disciplines with eagerness and joy.

We practice these spiritual disciplines to grow closer to God—so we ought to be joyful in the practice. We forget that sometimes. Thank God for our children and the lessons they teach us. Have a joy-filled Lent!

*Pastor Mike*

### Book of Timothy



### *Some Irish Proverbs for St. Patrick's Day*

- A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor's book.
- Better to be quarrelling than lonesome.
- All happy endings are beginnings as well.
- A man is no more encumbered by his soul than the steed by his bridle or the lake by the swan.
- A man who holds good cards would never say if they were dealt wrong.
- God is good but never dance in a small boat.
- You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind.

# More Mission, Ministry & Fellowship Opportunities:

Wednesday, March 7, 9am-Noon  
Sorting and Packing  
At St. Louis Food Bank  
Leave church parking lot at 8:15am



**New Date:  
May 18**

Preparing & Serving Dinner  
To the families at Ronald McDonald House  
(Park Ave. location)  
4:30-6:30pm  
Leave church at 3:45pm



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
Dinner Out  
March 18**

After worship on  
March 18, join the fun  
with a dinner at Sweet  
Tomatoes on Olive just

west of Lindbergh. We can car pool to this  
salad, soup, potato, bread, pasta and dessert  
bar.



The print copy of the Messenger  
will have a OGHS insert and  
envelope in it. For those  
receiving the e-mail copy,  
envelopes will be available at  
church or you may indicate

“OGHS” on your mailed in offering envelope.  
Check out [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs) for information  
on One Great Hour of Sharing, videos, annual  
reports and inspirational stories of our mission  
funds at work in the aftermath of disasters and  
violence.



## Easter Choir

Please see Donita Crockett if  
you are interested in providing  
some special music for our  
Easter morning worship.

## Praying Together

All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
the Lord God made them all. Amen.

– Cecil Frances Alexander

Biblically speaking, to repent doesn't mean  
to feel sorry about, to regret. It means to turn, to  
turn around 180 degrees. It means to undergo a  
complete change of mind, heart, direction. Turn  
away from madness, cruelty, shallowness,  
blindness. Turn toward the tolerance, compassion,  
sanity, hope, justice that we all have in us at our  
best.

– Frederick Buechner  
from *Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*

Love is unselfishly choosing for another's highest  
good.

– C.S. Lewis

To see a world in a grain of sand  
and a heaven in a wild flower,  
hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
and eternity in an hour.

– William Blake from “Auguries of Innocence”

You say grace before meals. All right.  
But I say grace before the play and the opera,  
And grace before the concert and pantomime,  
And grace before I open a book,  
And grace before sketching, painting,  
Swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing,  
dancing;

And grace before I dip the pen in the ink.

– GK Chesterton from an early notebook



*Who's got a birthday?*

### **March**

- 2 - Emily May
- 4 - Janice Farrell,  
Mary Jo Ringering
- 6 - Laura Howard
- 7 - Nancy Coates
- 10 - Jeanne Abert
- 13 - Mary Robertson
- 15 - Marie Bantz
- 17 - Jason Heeren, Kaci Twichell,  
Pat Westerhold
- 19 - Ed Tohill
- 20 - Adam Noble
- 21 - June Tucker
- 24 - Jack Helmkamp, Dave Kibler, Donnie Ott,  
Brian Gebelein
- 25 - Allison Frank, Madisyn Sheraka, Ed Gowin
- 26 - Becky Manescalco, Scott Tomlanovich,  
Sue Southcombe, Julie Bauer
- 28 - Bob Hall
- 29 - Carol Tweedy
- 30 - Linda Weller, Laura Hill
- 31 - Janet Blair



### **Sunday School News**

During March and April we will be learning about "Jesus' Death and Resurrection" in our Come Join the Circle workshops:

- March 4: Storytelling
- March 11: Making Music
- March 18: Fun and Games
- March 25: Time Out
- April 1: Palm Sunday, everyone in worship
- April 8: Easter, everyone in worship
- April 15: Show and Tell
- April 22: Hands On
- April 29: Food and People
- May 6: Community Life
- May 13: Brain Teasers

### **Thank you!**

Thank you to the Worship Ministry Team and everyone who made my ordination such a wonderful and blessed event. God bless you all.

In Christ's Love,  
*Ford Frazar*



### **Hospitalized since the last Messenger:**

Joyce Gholson, Marilyn Tohill, Sarah Napoli, Cathi Austin, Norine Bassett

### **Staying Close to Home/Health Concerns**

Eleanor Kohlmeier, Pat Westerhold, Margaret Rowden, Betty Wiegand, Chuck Ursprung, Lucille Aubin, Tim Coates, Paul Harris, Ed Hamlin

### **In Nursing Homes**

Henrietta Hughes, VIP Manor  
Ruth Jones, The Gardens, Springfield  
John Niehaus, Jerseyville Manor  
Mary Jo Ringering, Willow Rose, Jersey  
Hugh & Shirley Thatcher, VIP Manor

### **Serving in the Military**

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



### **For those who mourn:**

We pray for the family and friends of Marie Pearson who died Feb. 7. Services were Feb. 12 at the church. Marie was St. John UCC's longest serving member, having joined the church through confirmation on April 13, 1930 when she was 12.

### **Thank you.**

The family of Marie Pearson thanks all of her church family for prayers offered, memorials donated, cards sent and kind words spoken upon her recent death. She was a kind woman who died just 12 days shy of her 94th birthday. A special thank you to the women who delivered communion to her, the secretaries who sent the bulletins, and the ministers who visited her at Rosewood Care Center. Your support has meant so much to our family.

Thanks,  
*Rosalie (Pearson) Barabas*

## Getting to Know You



Hello, I'm Joe Hanfelder.

I am number 11 of a family of 13 children. There were 8 girls and 5 boys. Bill and Josephine were our parents.

My

grandpa is Frank Hanfelder who was a charter member of St. John. I graduated from Roxana High School.

I was confirmed here at St. John UCC, married Judy Tuttle here on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1963. We had three daughters, Michelle, Melissa and Mandy. We also have six grandchildren, Adam, Dennis, Nathan, Noah, Allie and Josie. I have worked and owned three convenience stores: Melville Dairy Store, Handy Pantry, and Meadowbrook Dairy Store. I also owned a 7UP soda distributorship in south St. Louis, started a company that sold items like Slim Jim's, Jack Link Meat Sticks, lighters, sunglasses, aspirin, etc. Finally I owned Joe and Judy's Food and Drink in Bethalto, IL. As you can see we worked seven days a week, a lot of help came from Judy and the girls.

After retiring I was able to come back to church and was elected to the Ad Team in 2008 and was Moderator my last year and enjoyed it. Some of my hobbies are: fishing, playing cards, gardening and spending time with my grandchildren. Nathan moved in with us this past year and is currently finishing High School here to go to college in the area.

Needing money for a new roof here at St. John UCC, with the help of Dr. Beebe, the Barnabas Team was born. Help came from everywhere, volunteers, team members, donations, ticket sales. Hoping to continue this we will be able to take care of many needed things here at St. John UCC.



Bill & Josephine Hanfelder

## A Getting to Know You Quiz

The following clues are taken from the last 10 months of **Getting to Know You** columns in the *Messenger*. Can you fill in the blanks?

\_\_\_\_\_ Worked for the Army Corps of Engineers before starting a business with his brother.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lived near Tacoma, Washington while her husband was stationed at Fort Lewis.

\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteers at Senior Services Plus, has donated blood and won a gold medal in Special Olympics.

\_\_\_\_\_ Her future son-in-law was one of her first grade students at Lincoln School.

\_\_\_\_\_ One of 7 children, worked for the Department of Defense; enjoys volleyball, camping and boating.

\_\_\_\_\_ Has a younger brother named Ringo and enjoys wearing his "God Is Still Speaking" bandana to church.

\_\_\_\_\_ Has skied on two continents and in four countries including 27 of the top 30 ski areas in Western North America.

\_\_\_\_\_ Has worked for IMPACT for 16 years and has a love/hate relationship with running.

\_\_\_\_\_ Raised chickens in their backyard and is still horrified by the memory of her sweet grandma wringing a chicken's neck and serving it for dinner 2 hours later.





\_\_\_\_\_ A journeyman carpenter, he married his high school sweetheart.





# MARCH



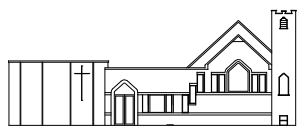
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30a Fellowship Breakfast @ Red Apple	2 11:30a-1p Soup  World Day of Prayer March 7, 2003	3 9a-3p Day of Discipleship @ St. Paul UCC, Nashville  5:30p AA
4 9:30a Worship Communion 10:30a Coffee	5 12p WR Rotary  7p Boy Scouts	6 9:30a Stewardship Mtg  7p Cub Scouts	7 8:15a Leave church 9a-12p STL Food Bank  4:30p Outreach 7p Bible Study 8p NA	8  7p Pastoral Relations	9 11:30a-1p Soup	10  5:30p AA
11  9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee CE Team mtg.	12 12p WR Rotary  6:30p Finance Tm 7p Heartland Quilters 7p Boy Scouts	13  6:30p Pinochle 7p Cub Scouts	14  5p Sheltered Reality 7p Bible Study 8p NA	15 12p Region 4 Mtg @ Golden Corral  4:30p WMT	16 11:30a-1p Soup	17  5:30p AA
18 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee  <u>OGHS Offering</u>	19 12p WR Rotary  7p Boy Scouts	20  Polling Place 7p Cub Scouts	21  7p Bible Study 8p NA	22  6p Ad Team 6p Tinarwo Rehearsal Dinner in F.H.	23 11:30a-1p Soup	24  4p Tinarwo Wedding  5:30p AA
25 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee	26 12p WR Rotary  7p Boy Scouts	27 9a Heartland Quilters  4-9p Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet 6:30p Pinochle	28  5p Sheltered Reality 7p Bible Study 8p NA	29	30 11:30a-1p Soup	31  5:30p AA Banquet



## ***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](mailto: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**