



THE MESSENGER

St. John
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Wood River, Illinois



2014

Get Ready for VBS!



Monday, July 21 to Thursday, July 24
6-8pm

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Kids Klips

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Stewardship Moment

From the Pastor

Hoyleton Golf
Classic

Exploring Parables
of God's Reign

It is the season for county fairs and town homecomings with every imaginable fried food—from candy bars to cheese curds—along with funnel cakes, bb-q turkey drumsticks, pork steaks and lemon shake ups. Many towns and counties have their own notable attraction such as burgoo soup, turtle soup, cake walks, beauty pageants and teachers in the dunk tanks.

They are like stepping back in time for a bit, the old traditions juxtaposed to the dress, language and music of today.

Those subtle traditions are the most fun. The older folks complain about the new bands and the new music and the way the young people are dressed.

When the featured band starts playing, they move their lawn chairs back to a safe distance so they can keep talking while the youngsters gyrate and dance and hang all over each other.

And the youngsters laugh and giggle about all the old folks sitting around listening to the guy in the cowboy hat sing another song by Gentleman Jim

Reeves and wonder who in the world he is talking about.

The food tent is a gathering place where people agree to meet up and have dinner before they let the kids try out the rides with dangerous sounding names and safety inspection stickers scotch taped to a clip board hung with a twisty tie on a nail on the side of the operator's perch. The operator, in turn, grabs a ball peen hammer whenever he hears a squeak or a clicking sound from the cross-pieces of the ride, lets the last riders off, struts around and bangs on a few metal joints, flicks the ash of his cigarette off and nods approvingly as he unfastens the chain and lets the next group of riders into the circle.

We were at one last year even more interesting than the rides, however, where I saw a sign at the entrance to the food tent, "Free Wi-Fi."

I thought that was interesting. The steam powered threshing demonstration was in the afternoon, as was the blacksmith demonstrations and the broom making booth for the children to have fun at. The tractor pull was later in the evening and you could hear the square dance caller and music off on the other side of the row of game trailers. And "Free Wi-Fi" in the food tent.

This was not a town homecoming either the Ingalls or the Waltons would understand.

That is the beauty of these summer traditions. The old ways melding almost seamlessly with the new. The 4-H and FFA displays, the town history museum display, the civic minded people who spend hours volunteering to organize and sign contracts with vendors, line up insurance and food booth workers, BINGO callers and cashiers.

There will be cobblers and pies and cotton candy and someone selling radio controlled helicopters at a booth on the way back to the parking lot.

And there in a corner of the food booth one of those youngsters has their laptop signed into the free WiFi with a dozen of the older folks laughing and crying and staring at the screen as they talk to their grandson and a few of his buddies over in Afghanistan. One of the soldiers shouts from the computer speaker, "Hey, let me see that funnel cake again!" and the gray haired man in the wheel chair waves the funnel cake in front of the screen, unsure of where the camera actually is.

One of the gray haired ladies reaches out and touches the screen and says, "We love you," and some of the guys on the screen jovially push the guy in the center, "You said you didn't have a girlfriend back home!" and there is laughter from half way around the world filling the food tent at the old fashioned home coming festival.

Sometimes, progress is good. Maybe the future that God has planned for us won't be so strange after all. Happy 4th of July.

Pastor Mike



Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation

But a lot of kids who get school lunches during the school year are left without that nutritional safety net through the summer. Families depend on food pantries like Operation Blessing even more during the summer months.

Please support Operation Blessing by bringing donations to the church or use a St. John Mission Giving envelope and check "Operation Blessing." We'll forward all gifts to them.

July



Who's got a birthday?

- 3 - Tyler O'dell
- 7 - Marlene O'dell, Marion Skundrich
- 10 - Renee Rhodes
- 11 - Reygan Rider
- 12 - Linda Gebelein, Oscar Crockett
- 13 - Lynn Bassett, Ashley

Niehaus

- 16 - Dana Gowin
- 17 - Jim Jones, Jas Sullivan, Kim Wiegand
- 20 - Ford Frazar
- 21 - Kaleigh Rider, Jordan Sheraka, Blake Sabolo
- 22 - Caleb Lenhardt
- 23 - Eric Noble
- 24 - Grace Kichline, Fred Gowin, Ryan Helmkamp
- 27 - Adalyn Nicole Baron, Margone Hardester

Book of Timothy



If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans.
– James Herriot

The number one problem in our world is alienation, rich versus poor, black versus white, labor versus management, conservative versus liberal, East versus West ... But Christ came to bring about reconciliation and peace.
– Billy Graham



Hospitalized or Health Concerns since the last Messenger:

Darleen Gowin	Bev Thomas
Vickie Roberts	
John Niehaus	

Staying Close to Home/Chronic Health Concerns

Lucille Aubin	Eleanor Kohlmiller
Freda Frizzell	Margaret Rowden
Darleen Gowin	Betty Wiegand
Ed Hamlin	Bob Hall

In Nursing Homes

John Niehaus, Jerseyville Manor
Margaret Hinkle, Hitz Memorial N.H.
Brad Bailey, Edwardsville Nursing & Rehab

Serving in the Military

Dustin & Ashley Richards, Caleb Roberts, Blake Sabolo, Brandon Sabolo and Brandon Southcombe

Overseas Teacher/Diplomatic:

Leigh-Ellen Kichline
Amy Tohill-Stull



Our prayers continue:

For Merle and Norine Bassett and family.

Praying Together

(Sing echo style to the tune of Frère Jacques)
God, we thank you
for our food.
Help us to remember to
share your love.
Amen.

Grace is available for each of us every day – our spiritual daily bread – but we've got to remember to ask for it with a grateful heart and not worry about whether there will be enough for tomorrow.

– Sarah Ban Breathnach

Parables of God's Reign

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells a number of stories to his followers called parables. One of the best-known – the parable of the mustard seed – reminds us that great things come from small beginnings. We also learn that God is always with us and that God's presence gives protection to those who ask for it.

Parables also help us to understand something called the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is not a place – it is a way of living. Like a seed, God's kingdom is often hidden. Like a mustard seed, it comes in surprising ways, and in surprising packages. Like a mustard tree, it can grow large and offer great protection, like a tree that offers safe nesting for small birds. Like yeast, it can transform everything with which it comes in contact. Like a treasure or great pearl, it is worth more than anything in our lives.

When we ask for God's kingdom to come, we are really asking for God to open us up to recognize and receive the kingdom as it breaks in on us in surprising ways. We also ask that it will come when we feel hidden or lost. Often, the kingdom comes through other people, who show us God's rule and will for our lives.

Hidden potential

Jesus' parables used everyday things that would be important to people of his day. The mustard seed reminded farmers about the power of a seed. Pearls were highly prized gems for trading, so perhaps a pearl merchant is one with a discerning eye. Yeast connected to the family's main food source – bread. And the hidden treasure would be a wonderful surprise for anyone to find!



Each object is unique, but the most important thing they have in common is that they each have hidden potential. Each can change the world in one way or another. God's reign is like that. It is happening here and now –

and it is changing the world!

Reread Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46. If Jesus was teaching about the power of God's reign today, what things might he use as examples instead of a seed, a pearl merchant, yeast, and hidden treasure? Think of things that make a big difference in your life; then draw pictures or write about the way these things could bring change to the world, just as God's kingdom does.

The science of yeast

Yeast is used as an everyday example in the kingdom parable found in Matthew 13:33. Yeast is the active ingredient that causes most kinds of bread to rise, rather than remain flat.

Yeast is fascinating to watch! To do this, you'll need a magnifying glass, a thin slice of yeast cake, and a bead of dry yeast. Look at each type of yeast with the magnifying glass; then add warm water to each and give it about five minutes to start changing. Look at the yeast again and write down the changes every five minutes.

Wonder jar

The world is full of wonderful things! Some of them are big and some are small. You can make your own wonder jar and use it to stir up your imagination. Each person will need these materials: baby oil or mineral oil, food coloring, glitter and small sequins, small glass jar with a tight-fitting lid, masking tape, and a shallow tray.

Set your jar on a tray to catch any spills. Pour oil into the jar to about one-third full. Sprinkle in a pinch of glitter and a few sequins; then add water until the jar is almost full. Choose a color and add a few drops of food coloring; then add more water to fill the jar. Securely screw on the lid and seal with tape. Slowly turn the jar over, then back again to right side up. Sit quietly and allow your thoughts to flow as you watch patterns form. You can use your wonder jar to help you sit in stillness and silence as you talk to God and listen for God to speak to you.

– by Christy Olson, reprinted with permission from
Crossings for Kids, © Logos Productions.

Idolatry is the practice of ascribing absolute value to things of relative worth. Under certain circumstances money, patriotism, sexual freedom, moral principles, family loyalty, physical health, social or intellectual preeminence, and so on are fine things to have around, but to make them the standard by which all other values are measured, to make them your masters, to look to them to justify your life and save your soul is sheerest folly.

– Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

Word Fun

Circle the word in each square that does not belong.

chair table heart

2

friend run walk

6

flower love tree

1

speech pen pencil

4

car gracious truck

3

valley mountain king

5

In the blanks below, write the word you have circled from each box, matching the numbers.

Those who _____ 1 _____ a pure _____ 2 _____ and are _____ 3 _____

in _____ 4 _____ will have the _____ 5 _____ as a _____ 6 _____.

Proverbs 22:11

Answers: love, heart, gracious, speech, king, friend



Loving Ways

Read each word in Group A. Then look for a word in Group B that is the exact opposite attitude.

1. Draw a line to connect these two words.
2. Circle the word that describes the attitude that is most loving.
3. Cross out the word that is not loving. (The first one is done for you.)

Group A

~~rude~~
selfish
humble
bored
kind
forgiving
deceitful
lazy
cheerful
annoyed
stubborn

Group B

mean
patient
honest
resentful
grumpy
flexible
generous
respectful
prideful
helpful
interested

Answers:
rude - respectful
selfish - generous
humble - prideful
bored - interested
kind - mean
forgiving - resentful
deceitful - honest
lazy - helpful
cheerful - grumpy
annoyed - patient
stubborn - flexible

A Stewardship Moment

By Missy Kichline



A few weeks ago I was asked by the Stewardship Team to interview two good stewards who are members of St. John UCC. I was asked to interview Cory Fry and Sam Kichline. Both women are long-time members of St. John UCC. Cory, 36 and Sam, 23 soon to be 24, are both active in their own interests and activities. Both have competed at the state level for the Illinois Special Olympics. Both women also happen to have Down Syndrome.

The morning we sat down to talk we started with talking about what does stewardship mean? That is a big word!! From there we talked about what the church means to them. What follows is a summary of our discussion.

Cory said “it is important in my heart” to give regularly to the church. The night before church her mother assists her; “my mom helps me write a check each week”. Cory believes it is important to give to church.

“The church has given to me. Pastor Mike speaks of God and love and your relationship to God. Pastor Mike talks about Luke and Mathew and stuff like that. The church has taken care of me by allowing me to handout bulletins, lighting candles before service and helping with offering. That makes me feel better.”

“When my grandma died (June Ogilvie), I was very sad. That’s why I came to this church. I’m a member of this church and I’m glad. I love my friends from church.”

Sam said “I grew-up in St. John church. I feel like I belong here because people know me and know about Down Syndrome”. “In church I feel respected and safe.”

Sam went on to say she donated to church to “help people live”. Sam explained her routine for getting her offering ready happens the morning of church. “I put my money in my envelope. My dad helps me.” Sam shared “church is a family in my heart.”

She likes giving to church. “It makes me feel good to do the puppet at Vacation Bible School and helping at fish fry, pancake and spaghetti dinners.” She also likes music. “I love music. It’s healthy. I like listening to music at church. I like to move it!”

Cory said “I have a driver, Bev Thomas, who brings me to church.”

She closed the interview with a sincere “thank you for interviewing me”, Cory was honored the Stewardship Team asked for her thoughts on what it means to be a member of a church family.

HOYLETON GOLF CLASSIC
2014 Noon Registration
FRIDAY, JULY 25
TAMARACK GOLF COURSE

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZES AND DETAILS

- 4 chances to WIN!!!
- \$10,000 CASH
- Sharp LCD Flat-Screen Television
- Callaway Irons (3-PW)
- 2 Round-trip Domestic Airline Tickets

you could win... \$10,000

FORMAT:

- 4 Person Scramble
- 3 Holes
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Awards
- Longest Drive and Closest-to-the-Pin Contests
- Mulligans, Putter Run and Raffles Available

ENTRY FEE:
\$85 per person \$540 for a team of 4

INCLUDES:

- Lunch AND Dinner
- 18 Holes with Cart
- 1 Sleeve of Golf Balls
- Shirts Game
- Door Prizes and Much More!

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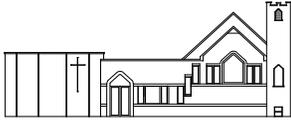


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 8:30a Fellowship Breakfast	4 	5 5:30p AA
6 9:30a Worship Communion 10:30a Coffee	7 12p W.R. Rotary 7p Boy Scouts	8 6:30p Pinochle	9	10	11	12 12-5p F.H. reserved 5:30p AA
13 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee 10:30a Finance Mtg	14 12p W.R. Rotary 7p Quilters 7p Boy Scouts	15	16	17 4:30p WMT 6p Ad Team Mtg	18	19 5:30p AA
20 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee Baptism Anniversaries 5pm Youth Group	21 12p W.R. Rotary VBS WEEK VBS 6-8p No Boy Scouts	22 9:30a Stewardship Mtg VBS 6-8p	23 VBS 6-8p	24 VBS 6-8p	25	26 12-4p F.H. reserved 5:30p AA
27 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee	28 12p W.R. Rotary No Boy Scouts	29 9a Quilters	30	31		

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 Christian 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. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school is during worship. 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

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Return Service Requested