

St John United Church of Christ

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

December 2019



Time for the Season

December is a very busy month for most of us. There is shopping and baking to do, holiday parties to attend, gifts to wrap and homes to decorate. Families with children are preparing for winter break. Some of us are preparing to host relatives and friends who are coming to town for a visit; or preparing to visit our loved ones out of town. In all the busyness and excitement of these activities, it is easy to forget the real meaning of the season.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

– Pastor Sandy Kolar

Advent is a time when we wait in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah into the world. But which coming? The obvious answer is the birth for Jesus in Bethlehem. In this sense, then, we can think of Christmas, the culmination of the Advent season, as a “looking back” in gratitude for the gift God gave us in His Son.

But Advent is not just about looking back in time to the incarnation of God’s Son in Bethlehem. It is also about looking forward with eager longing for the second coming of God’s Son to establish the fullness of God’s kingdom on earth. For some of us, memories of past Christmases bring sadness and loneliness; but it is the promise from God of His second coming that brings us the true JOY of the Christmas season. It is this promise that will get us through the silent nights into His holy night.

So even as we find ourselves overwhelmed by the obligations and opportunities of December, let us take time to ponder the wonders of this season of Advent as we await with great expectation the coming of our Lord.



Ladies Night Out



The Ladies of St John went out to Chandler's in Schaumburg for some good food and good company. Eleven ladies were able to join us. Here is Kathy, Pastor Sandy, Margo, Jenny, and Sue raising a toast to the rest of the St John Ladies. We missed the rest of you.

It was a snowy night and we still had a great turnout. Also joining in that night was Sandy S., Laurie B., Laura D., Lynn, Ginny, and Adeline. It was a fun relaxing evening just hanging out, so much so there is a request to hold another outing soon. We know so many more of you wanted to attend but needed a different week night. Next time a new night and perhaps a new restaurant.



Children's Ministry

— by Robin Turpin

In November the Children's Church proudly assisted Pastor Sandy in blessing the five baskets that will be donated to the Palatine Food Pantry for Thanksgiving.

The children then drew beautiful Thanksgiving cards to include with the baskets, blessing the families who will receive them. What a wonderful lesson they learned in the power of generosity and kindness!

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9



Pictured to the right are Darren and Tiffany Cooley coloring their beautiful Thanksgiving cards.



Children's Ministry Wins Art Award for the Second Year

The Children's Ministry has once again won the Insurance Board fire safety award. This year it was Jasmine and Tiffany who won. Sunday November 24th the awards were presented along with their artwork framed up by the Insurance Board. The winning church received \$1,000 on behalf of each winner, totaling \$2,000. The photo to the right shows how the Children's ministry spent last years award on a new fun children's space for the Children's Church lessons. This years \$2,000 will be donated to a mission work of the children's choice.



Silent Night Holy Night

Join us for our Candlelit Service
Christmas Eve 10:00 pm
St. John United Church of Christ

FAITH IN ACTION



There are under-resourced families in our community. We are helping TWO of these Palatine Township families by “adopting” them for the holidays to help them experience a joy-filled holiday season. The **“Adopt-A-Family Program”** provides new clothing, toys and gifts families within the Township. Gift tags for the items to be purchased are available at the church. Please purchase the item you select and gift wrap it with BOTH TAGS on the **outside** of the package. Do not wrap gift cards or put them in gift bags. Just attach BOTH TAGS to the gift card envelope. **The last Sunday for drop-off at church will be 12/8/19!** See Sue Jacobs if you have any questions. Instructions for the program will be available with the gift tags.



*Merry
Christmas
from St John
United Church of Christ*



– by Sue Jacobs

Council Report 11/20/19

PRESENT: Jared Cooley, Sue Jacobs,
Lori Neumann, Pastor Sandy Kolar

Future planning for cemetery management was discussed. Jim Frost will be consulted for assistance and guidance.

Hard copy printing and distribution of newsletter to those without e-mail was discussed and solutions will be investigated.

Year to date income vs expenses was discussed and a format for reporting to the congregation will be researched in the updated Power Church program. Budget figures for 2019 actual vs budgeted were reviewed in detail for the beginning of the 2020 budgeting process.

SOME ADDED INFO

The blanket fund raised \$290 for 29 Blankets!

The downstairs piano was tuned up thanks to Margo Moore, just in time for the hymn sing. Thanks Margo

December 1st is our Hanging of the Greens service. Come for this joyful service.



By Sandy Stoops – Acting President

The Women's Guild met on November 6 for the fourth time in 2019. Kathy Reuter was our hostess. We were delighted to have Barbara Njaastad join us after a very long absence. This was our first meeting taking advantage of the new and improved kitchen. We will be having our Christmas lunch celebration on Wednesday, December 11. It will be held at the church. Rather than our usual routine of going to a restaurant, we will be ordering (in advance) Chinese carry-ins. We welcome all of you to join us in the spirit of the season. I'll have the menu selection and order forms available the week in advance. Everyone will have an individual choice of their favorite lunch Chinese entree which comes with one egg roll and fried rice. All of the lunch choices will be \$10 per person. We will have it delivered.

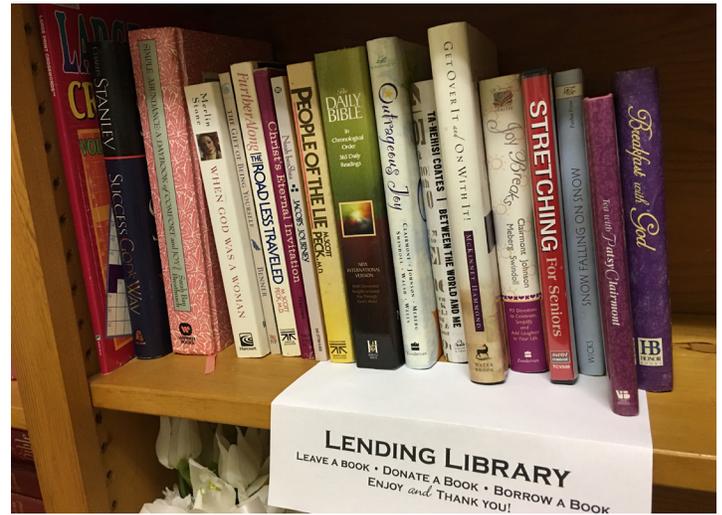
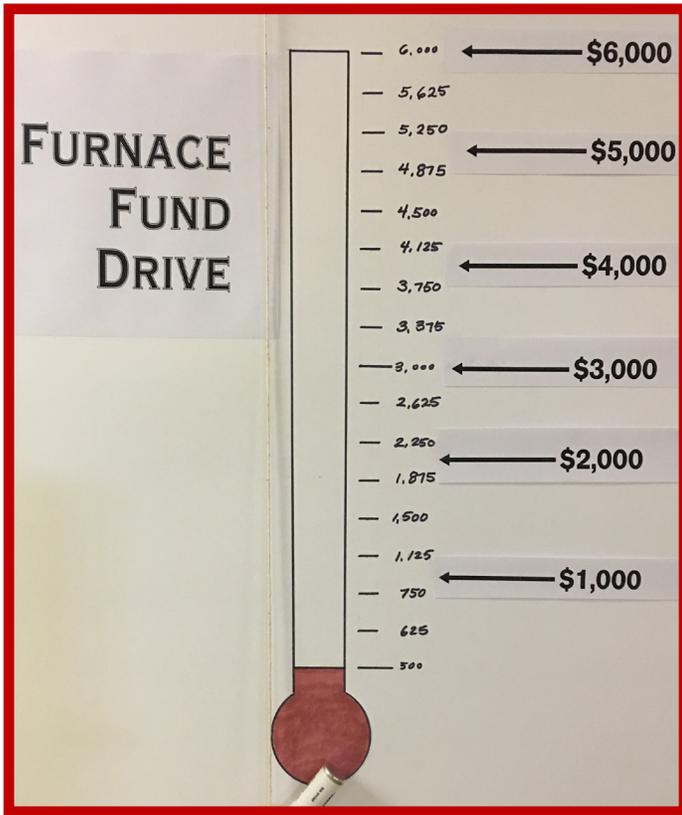
Again, all are welcome to join the Guild that day to celebrate in fellowship. Pre-order and payment must be done ahead of time. Please see me for the selection form and any questions you might have.

The first two meetings of 2020 year will take place on March 4 and April 1st (No Fooling).

The Guild voted to make a \$1,000 donation toward the Furnace Fund Donation.

SUPPORT THE FURNACE FUND DRIVE

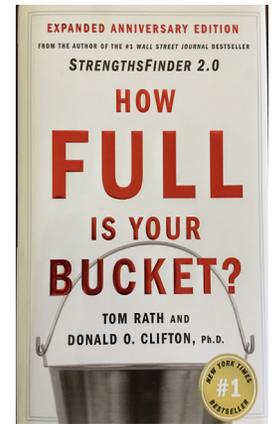
Support the Drive and watch the thermometer rise.



LENDING LIBRARY

LEAVE A BOOK • DONATE A BOOK • BORROW A BOOK

Did you know we have a lending book library, located in the pass thru? Participate and grow our library. If you read a book from our library and you want to recommend it. Let Laura D. know she would love to include a recommendation in the news. A highly recommended book in our library is "How Full is your Bucket?" Winter is here, time to curl up with a good book.



Share a Photo

The photo board has been cleared for new photos. Did you take any at the Turkey potluck, coffee hour or other event? Do you have a pic from visiting a member? Do you have an old historical photo? Just clip it up with a clothespin and share. We love seeing photos.



All Saints Lutheran Church hosts a Living Nativity

Sunday, December 14th, 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm
 Come see a reenactment of the Christmas story and celebrate the Reason for the Season.
 Refreshments provided between shows inside.
 All Saints Lutheran Church, 630 S. Quentin Rd, Palatine
 847-991-2080



2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January

February

February 10 Annual Meeting postponed

February 14 Valentine's Day♥

March

March 2, 4:00 pm Chili Cook-off

Laura and Greg – Chairpersons

March 4th 6:00 pm Feed My Starving Children

March 6, 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday

March 10 Daylight Saving Time – Spring ahead!

March 16 St Patrick's Day Parade – Palatine

Pastor Sandy Chairperson

Parade kicks off 11:00 am

March 31 Annual Meeting - After worship

April

April 6 9:00 am Church Grounds Cleanup

April 14 Palm Sunday 10:30 am

April 18 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm

Potluck Soup/Salad Service

April 19 Good Friday

Open for prayer, Noon – 3:00 pm

April 21 Easter

Easter breakfast 9:15 am

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am

Easter Worship Service 10:30 am

May

May 11 Flower Sale 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Committee: Jody Moody, Laurie Biesterfeld, Ellen Kayler, Dodie Kayler, , and Judy Hartfelder, Ginny Lint, Paula Kayler

May 15 Women's Guild Luncheon -11:30 am

June

June Semi-Annual Meeting canceled due to the delayed Annual meeting earlier in the year.

July ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

July 6th Palatine Independence Day Parade.

September

September 21 Craft Fair/Flea Market

Committee: Jody Moody, Robin Turpin,

Jenny Cooley,

September 29th

Kitchen Dedication and Coffee Hour resumes.

October

October 19 Ham Supper

Third Saturday in Oct 5:00 and 6:30 pm seatings

October 27th Totenfest

November

November 3 Daylight Saving Time ends - 2:00am fall back.

November 3 Legacy Planning Service

November 10 Art Awards Presented

November 24 4:00 pm Turkey Hymn Sing

December

December 1 First Day of Advent

Hanging of the Greens Service – a special service for everyone looking to begin the Christmas season.

Monday – December 24th Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 pm

WANTED - SIGN CHANGER

Anyone willing to help out and change the Church sign please let Lori Neumann know you can help.

No worries about what to put on the sign, you will be supplied with something to say. Also, only one side will most likely need to be changed every couple of weeks. Thank you in advance for your help.

St John

United Church of Christ



Staff & Community

Pastor – Sandy Kolar

Communications Director – Laura D'Argo

Council

President – Jared Cooley

Treasurer – Sue Jacobs

Clerk/Trustee – Lori Neumann

Children's Church

Robin Turpin

Lori Neumann

Wedding Coordinators

Jody Moody

Laurie Biesterfeld

FAITH IN ACTION

We partner with the Palatine Food Pantry. The last Sunday of each month food items are collected and Sue Jacobs drops them off at the Palatine Township Food Pantry.

Keep in mind they are always in need of baby care items, such as diapers, and baby wipes. – Thank you to all who give.

Women's Guild

Officers

Acting President

Sandy Stoops

Treasurer

Dodie Kayler

Accounts

Dodie Kayler

Secretary

Kathy Reuter

No Meetings

January & February

Meetings at St John Church

March 6th – 10:30 am

May 1st – 10:30 am

July 10th – 10:30 am

September 11th – 10:30 am

November 6th – 10:30 am

December – TBD

Church Info you need to know

Services Sunday 10:30 am – All Year

Children's Church every Sunday, following the Children's Message

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Enjoy refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall after worship. When able please bring a dish to share.

Pastor Sandy

PastorSandy500@gmail.com

Please email her to make an appointment.

St. John UCC

1475 W. Algonquin Rd, Palatine, IL 60067

Phone 847-358-7620

email – stjohnUCCpalatine@gmail.com

website – www.StJohnUCCPalatine.org

Keep our Church in prayer.



Last Sunday of the Month

- Communion
- Food Pantry donation



ACTION BOX

Make use of our "ACTION BOX". Make a helpful suggestion, suggest a solution or an idea. We want to hear from you.

Kudos are also accepted.

Our Paypal Donate button is under construction.

Thank you for your Patience