

St John United Church of Christ

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Winter 2020



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Taking a Step

Sometimes we get so focused on our challenges that we forget to appreciate our strengths. Over the last couple of years I have fallen into the trap of not stepping back and being grateful for the many strengths that St John has.

During a phone conversation with Rev. Chuck Maney, St John's mentor for the Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations (TPIRC), he reminded me of the many positives/strengths that are the foundation for our growth. I would like to share some of them with you:

Finances – we are not in a financial crisis. We have financial goals, such as growing our pledges and offerings, investment of some of the church's money, etc. However, unlike some of our sister churches we have done a very good job of managing our financial assets, while being actively involved in our missions. And we have a significant asset in our land.

Location – St John is in a growing area. We have growth just east of us on the former Motorola property, and vibrant community college and businesses across the street. While we may not be in a residential area, we are not in a declining location.

Unity – we agree that we need to transform St John to do vital ministry. We have dealt with challenges and new ideas in a positive way. We do not experience the dissension that often occurs when churches undergo changes.

These were just a few of Chuck's comments, which reminded me that we are fundamentally in good shape. Thank you for your effort, time and financial commitments – we would not have the solid basis from which to move forward without you!

I ask that you join me in taking a step back, take a deep breath, and reflect with appreciation on everything we have accomplished in the last couple of years. And then let's get back to moving St John forward!

-Pastor Sandy

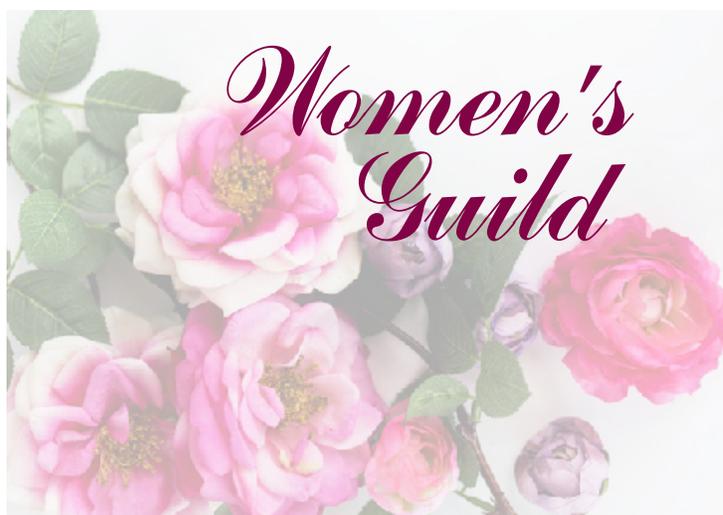




Children's Ministry

– by Robin Turpin

The month of February the Children's Church is working on a very special surprise for the congregation shhhhhhhh. . . it is a secret! Please be sure to attend services on February 9th to take part! "Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13



Women's Guild

By *Sandy Stoops – Acting President*
Wednesday, March 3rd the Guild will have their first 2020 meeting at 10:30 a.m. At this time there is not a hostess on tap. Perhaps we can have Chinese again. It's much simpler in the long run and a tasty alternative. Hopefully, when winter is almost over in March we can all gather together.
Please join us if you can, we look forward to catching up with everyone.

THE NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter will be changing to a quarterly newsletter. Issues will be coming out each season starting with this one – Winter. We will continue our frequent e-blasts as news comes up and keep you updated on information and opportunities to share with you.

CELEBRATE 2021

Be a part of the brainstorm to how St John will celebrate our 175th Anniversary. We are looking for as many who would like to hang out for an outing and have a little fun exploring all ideas. There is no expectation for you to be a committee member and the goal is to come up with practical and crazy ideas alike. All suggestions will be entertained and we should be in for an entertaining evening or afternoon, whenever we decide to meet.

St John has much to celebrate and we want to get this underway so there is more time to plan and promote the celebration.

Even if you have never been on a committee or served, we would love to hear from you.

Think of our get together as the kick-off of the CELEBRATING!

Let us know if you are interested by emailing to stjohnuccpalatine@gmail.com

Let the party begin.





– by Lori Neumann

Council Report January 2020

In attendance – Jarod, Lori, Pastor Sandy
Sue - on vacation

Changing things up a Bit . . .

Due to **Ash Wednesday's** lack of attendance and a desire to do something different we will be foregoing Ash Wednesday in favor of **Good Friday**, April 10th at 7 pm. Please look forward to readings and music!

In another area, we are asking Herb to play the keyboard downstairs periodically to mix things up. We love our organ, but Herb has many talents and we'd like to take advantage of his musical abilities!

Business Meeting

We will be providing the **budget packets** and a basic outline of the average cost to make the Parsonage habitable to the congregation on **Sunday, February 9th** for everyone to take home and digest before the **Annual Business Meeting on February 23rd**. Please come prepared on the 23rd to discuss events for the coming year, the budget as well as receive a brief presentation of the average cost to renovate and repair the Parsonage to make it more habitable. We will **not** be making a decision about what to do with the Parsonage on the 23rd, but the Council is looking for direction, so please come ready with ideas.

Also for decision at the business meeting

Fellowship/Coffee Hour

A suggestion was made by a congregant to limit fellowship to the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. The Council feels fellowship time is an important part of our community and we would like to see it continue every Sunday. If there is any difficulty in running the kitchen, please let a Council member know and we can see about shifting some of the responsibility.

Altar Flowers

It was suggested that we discontinue purchasing Altar flowers - this has been an expense to the church when they are not signed up for by the congregation. We have received a few different ideas - 1 large candle that's lit in memory before every service, colorful sand that can be purchased by the congregant and poured into a tall glass vase - this would show the rainbow of our memories over the course of the year. If you have other ideas, please let us know at the Business Meeting!

St. Patrick's Day Parade

We have again signed up for the St. Patrick's Day parade. This is an important event that gets us out in the public eye. If you can join us, great - if you can donate candy, great - any way that you can help and be present as we reach out to the public, is deeply appreciated!

Bible Study This Year

Pastor is offering 2 Bible studies this year and looking for interest! Either after Church at Noon or Thursday evenings at 6 pm. Please sign up on the sheets (or call/email the church) so she can best determine the interest level.

2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January

February

February 9 Budget Packets distributed

February 26 Ash Wednesday - no service

March

March 21 4:00 pm Chili CookOff -Lori Chairperson

March TBD Feed My Starving Children

March 8 Daylight Saving Time – Spring ahead!

March TBD St Patrick's Day Parade – Palatine
Pastor Sandy Chairperson

March TBD Annual Meeting - After worship

April

April TBD Church Grounds Cleanup

April 5 Palm Sunday 10:30 am

April 9 Maundy Thursday TBD

Potluck Soup/Salad Service

April 10 Good Friday 7:00 pm service

April 12 Easter

Easter breakfast 9:15 am

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am

Easter Worship Service 10:30 am

May

May 7 National Day of Prayer

May 9 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 13 Women's Guild Luncheon -11:30 am TBD

June

June TBD Semi-Annual Meeting

July ★★ ★

July TBD Palatine Independence Day Parade.

September

September TBD Craft Fair/Flea Market

Third Saturday in September

October

October TBD Ham Supper

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

November

November 1 Daylight Saving Time ends - 2:00am

November 22 Totenfest & Turkey Potluck/Hymns

November 29 First day of Advent

Hanging of the Greens Service

December

December 24th Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 pm

Please Contribute Photos

What Photos Are Needed. . .

Everyone loves the photos in the news and you can help by sending *useable* photos to:

stjohnuccpalatine@gmail.com.

What makes a photo good for use?

People, smiling, eyes open, looking at the camera. Photos must be sharp and a high resolution. The *News* gets photos submitted but most can't be used. Please check your photos up close and only send good photos.

Subjects: Any event, activity, coffee hour, people in service, weddings, great messages on the sign, your friends at church! Be sure it is ok with them that we publish it.

Thank you in advance for your contribution.

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

Newsletter

Laura D'Argo

FAITH IN ACTION

We partner with the Palatine Food Pantry. The last Sunday of *each* month food items are collected and Sue Jacobs kindly 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.

Fellowship

Coffee Hour & Fellowship

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



Church Info you need to know

Services Sunday 10:30 am

All Year/All weather

Children's Church

Every Sunday

following the Children's Message

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".

Give a helpful suggestion, suggest a solution or an idea.

We want to hear from you. Yes, Your input matters.

Kudos are also accepted.