

St John United Church of Christ

October 2017

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

At our last Council meeting, we agreed to participate in "Listening to the Spirit," a survey-and-plan offered by the Center for Parish Renewal. One of the Center's directors is Dale Ziemer, who resides in Palatine.

*When I spoke with Dale about "Listening," I commented that I had told people at St. John that I did not have a **"5-point plan"** that would automatically reverse St. John's decline. I was thinking of actions that the congregation could take to increase attendance, giving etc.*

After our conversation, it occurred to me that I DO have a "5-point" plan—a plan for individual spiritual renewal, which in turn will bring renewal to the congregation.

*Point 1. **Worship**—every Sunday! 2. **Pray**—every day for spiritual growth for yourself and for St. John. 3. **Read the Bible**. Renewal in the church has always begun with the study of scripture. 4. **Give and serve**. Become a consistent "tither" (10% of your income to the Lord's work). 5. **Invite**. If a friend senses that you are enthused about your walk with Christ, he or she will be glad that you invited them to worship with you.*

Good things are happening at St. John! But most important of all is spiritual renewal—and that begins with you and me following the "5-point plan"!

*In Christ's love,
Pastor David
630-747-8181*

*Make a Joyful Noise!
Make a joyful noise
unto the Lord, all the
earth: make a loud
noise, and rejoice, and
sing praise.
— Psalm 98.4*



Our Church Organ

St John is a congregational church. That means the congregation has a say in how we do things around here.

This is what the congregation decided.

This 1885 organ treasure had some very worn out bellows that had been patched down thru the years. We received three quotes, all within the same repair cost. The council decided on a repairman that showed a love for the organ and a repair that honored its heritage and would last. Now there will be a breath of new life into it's old pipes with new bellows.

The organ repair is estimated to cost approximately \$5,000.

It was voted by the members of the congregation on Sunday, Sept. 24th to proceed with the repairs.

The vote was unanimous to make the needed repairs. It was announced to the congregation that there were benefactors who had stepped forward with generous donations to aid in the repairs. Thank you to all who have donated proactively to the organ repair fund. *If you would like to add your donations to the cost of repairs, simply send a check with "organ fund" in the memo OR place it in the "my offering" envelope and mark the envelope "organ repair".*

We look forward to hearing a "joyful noise" from our organ soon.

Water Test Results

The council thought it prudent to test the well water since there were some water leakage issues. I am glad to report we passed with flying colors testing for bacteria, copper, iron, nitrate, lead, chlorine, pesticides, and ph/hardness. The ph/hardness was the only factor to show slightly higher levels, that is normal for well water.

Speaking of the well . . . There is an old water line that runs the church water from the well near the parsonage. A leak has developed by the church causing the water flowing into the basement.

It was voted unanimously by the members of the congregation on Sunday, Sept. 24th to run a new line rather than repair a very old line and risk future repairs for the remaining line. The new line is quoted at \$5,000.

The Seminarian Says

— from our intern Alex Wolf

October brings two images to my mind: harvesting and the Reformation. *On farms around the Midwest, farmers will be starting up their tractors and combines and harvesting the crops they've been growing all summer. And in many parts of the world, Protestant Christians will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther sending out his 95 Theses, which started the Protestant Reformation.*

*At the end of Matthew 9, Jesus sees the crowds that had gathered around him, and he had compassion on them for they were "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (9:36). Jesus then turned to his disciples and said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest" (9:37-38). One of the main theological convictions that came out of the Protestant Reformation was the idea of the priesthood of all believers. **We all have equal accessibility to God through Jesus Christ and we all are to act as ministers to one another. The United Church of Christ upholds this truth as well.***

There are many people in the world that are looking for something more in their lives, something or someone that would guide them and help them. We know that someone is Jesus. And we are Jesus' disciples. In this harvest time, may it be our prayer here at St. John UCC to pray to the Lord to send us to someone, minister to them, and share the Good News that Martin Luther helped the church refocus upon. The harvest is plentiful. May we become the workers!

PERMANENT PASTOR SEARCH

There is a candidate the search committee is impressed by. Someone who is excited about coming to be a part of the St John community. The search committee continues to follow the UCC steps and will be notifying the Church members when their consideration and approval is needed.

We thank the search committee, Lori Neumann, Sabine Gutt, Jared Cooley, and Dodie Kayler for all their hard work on this very important task.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Who serves on our council?

We would like you to join Jared Cooley, Lori Neumann, Doug Moody, Gary Hartfelder, Judy Hartfelder and Dean Tyska. These members have served our community and can use your help.

What is involved in serving?

There are some emails during the week and a monthly council meeting as part of the commitment. Every effort is made to respect your volunteer time.

We thank the council for their service as we could not function without them.

If you would like to help out this team and your church, contact Pastor David or one of the Council members to inquire.

LITTLE CITY

Ben Mapes, son of Lillian and Bruce is working for **Little City and has a program to transition some of the residence of Little City to be a part of the workforce.**

The students have been training on the Little City grounds and are now practicing their work skills at St John. This partnership will hopefully grow and become fruitful for Little City members and St John as they volunteer to clean and do work around St John. We will post updates as this vital program progresses. As a member of St John, I am honored to be a part of helping the disadvantaged youth feel a part of contributing to our society.

What joy when one of the team enjoyed his work so much he wanted to stay and continue working beyond his schedule. Look for photos in the next issue.

Donate any clean rags to aid the clean up by dropping them off on the secretary office desk. THANKS!



Service 10:30 am – All Year

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

Older kids from 9:30 to 10:15 am, before the service

Pastor David has church office hours weekly. Please call 630-747-8181 to make an appointment for a visit.

Calendar Events

October 21st– Ham Supper

Contact Jared Cooley

November 19th– Turkey Pot Luck and
Hymn Sing

Christmas Services

Sunday – December 24th

Christmas Sunday Service 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 pm.

JANUARY 2018

Look Here for next years events.

Email:

stjohnuccpalatine@gmail.com
with any suggestions for new events

Volunteer

**Many hands make
light work.**

Ham Supper Serve: **Friday 20th** – help in the kitchen. **Saturday** morning help with the awesome potato salad, peeling and slicing potatoes. Sign up to help!

Ham Supper – October 21st

If you have never attended one of our ham suppers, you have missed out. Juicy tender ham, homemade warm german potato salad, green beans, creamy fruit salad, freshly baked desserts and sharing in that joy with your friends and family. Personally the german potato salad is worth the ticket price alone. I have never tasted better anywhere!

Tickets are \$10. Times are 4:30 for carry out • 5:00 first seating and 6:30 second seating. There are a limited number of tickets for each seating. So get your ticket early. Tickets go on sale on October 1st. You can get a ticket from any member of the congregation or contact the church at stjohnUCCpalatine@gmail.com or 847-358-7620

Please express your willingness to help Jared Cooley who is the head of this fund raiser.

It is never too early to invite a friend. Buy a ticket or two and gift them to someone to come, they will thank you!



Fellowship

Come to the lower level after worship to enjoy refreshments and conversation. Please bring a dish to share whenever you can.



Last Sunday of the Month

- Communion
- Food Pantry donation pick up.

Did you know you can donate to St. John Church via paypal? Go to stjohnUCCpalatine.org and click on the Donate button on the home page OR click on the link below to go directly to giving <http://stjohnUCCpalatine.org/giving>

St. John Church

1475 W. Algonquin Rd, Palatine, IL 60067

Phone 847-358-7620

email: stjohnUCCpalatine@gmail.com

website – www.StJohnUCCPalatine.org