

# St John United Church of Christ

*"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"*

April 2017



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*Christmas gets more coverage in the news and on TV, but it is Easter that is THE Christian "Holy Day." Without Easter, there would be no church. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, the disciples would have scattered in fear, and the claims of Jesus would be forgotten.*

*If the story of Jesus ended with his death, his commands to "turn the other cheek" and to "pray for those who persecute you" would be seen as foolishness. Jesus' healings, his acts of compassion and his offers of forgiveness would be cast as the actions of an idealistic, but deluded man.*

*However, if Jesus is risen, then we have confidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the one who gave his life as "a ransom for many," for the forgiveness of our sins. No matter how strong the forces of darkness and death may be in our personal lives and in our society, we have faith that in Christ God has conquered sin and death. God's will SHALL be done on earth—and in our lives, as it is in heaven.*

*In Christ's love,*

*Pastor David – 630-747-8181*

## Discussion of Same-sex Marriage and Congregational Vote

Pastor David will lead a second discussion of same-sex marriages this Sunday, April 2, at 11:45 am, and will focus on New Testament passages that deal with the topic. A vote by the congregation on this topic will be held on Sunday, April 23, in the sanctuary at 11:45 am. St John has received requests for same-sex marriages, and it is up to the congregation to decide this matter. This will be a secret ballot vote by member of St John UCC.

## Organist Erik Matson

Erik Matson will join us for the summer as our organist. Erik will graduate on May 21 as an organ major at Valparaiso University. He plans to work on a master's in organ this fall. He is presently the organist for a Lutheran church near Valpo.

We are impressed with Erik's playing, and he will be our organist for the summer, starting on May 28.

*"Thank you, Lord!"* for leading us to a good musician—and for the organists who have been playing for us since Seth resigned.

We look forward to a summer of joyful hymns to Praise our Lord.

## Chili Cook-off Winning Pot

Laura D'Argo and Greg Leifel won the Chili Cook-off with their **"Four B"** chili. **B**ison, **B**lack beans, **B**acon and Greg's secret ingredient that came to all as a surprise was **B**lueberries!

**Save the Date: May 7!! A special "Family Day" with storyteller Ben Rosenfield, games for the kids and a tour of Mt Hope Cemetery by Jim Frost and our very own Gary Hartfelder will be giving tours of our Church.**

**Our Facebook Page** has been updated. It has the look of our new website and links to it. Help by posting a comment about what's going on at St John. Share with your friends. Visit it often and "like" the posts and "like" the PAGE. This all helps to get the word out about all we have to offer. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnUCCPalatine>.

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St John United Church of Christ- Palatine

ST JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Serving the Lord since 1846  
All are welcome.

## 1885 Our Bell Rings Out

All across the Plum Grove area the bell would ring for farm families to come for church services. The new church bell was recast by the Henry McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, MD, and is still in use today.

**Ringings of the Bell** When Herman Kolle, a farmer and officer of the church, lived across the road, he volunteered his service to ring the church bell. Every Saturday evening at 6 o'clock the bell would be rung for about 15 minutes to remind the people that tomorrow was the Sabbath Day, a holy day. Again, on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, the bell would be rung for about 15 minutes when the Sunday School would begin, and again to remind the people that church services were at 11 o'clock. At close of the service, while the Lord's Prayer was being recited, the tolling hammer would strike once on each of three words: "Father, bread, and Amen." (This was a signal for the children that soon their parents would return home from church and to have lunch ready.)

Whenever a member of the church died, it was the custom to ring the church bell for a half hour, then the tolling hammer would strike the bell a number of times equal to the age of the deceased, followed by another half hour of ringing. When the person was 20 years or younger, the bell was rung for half an hour, then the tolling hammer gave that person's age, but no ringing after that. This ringing of the bell for death was done by one of the kin of the deceased. Members of the church coming in from the field for lunch at noon would just about know who died by counting the number of times the tolling bell was rung.

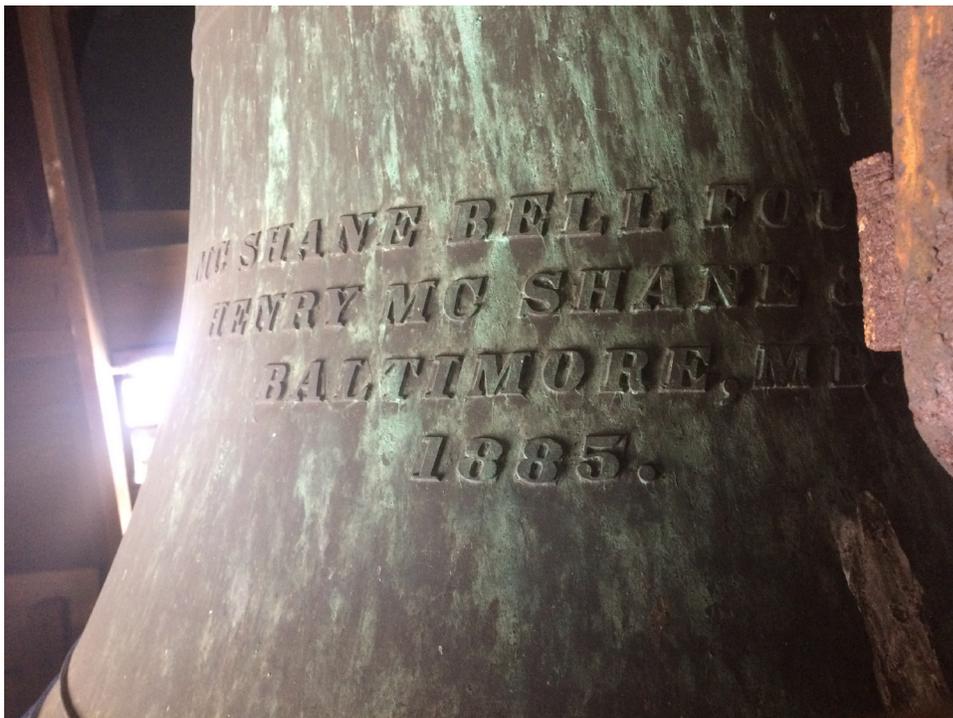


Photo by Doug Moody

## We welcomed the Agape Community to our worship service.

40 people from the Agape Community worshiped with us on March 19th, and then joined us for refreshments after the service. The Agape Community people are from the Palatine area, and describe themselves as "an intentional Eucharistic community rooted in the Catholic tradition."

We plan to have several people from our church meet with people from the AC to discuss worshiping together again—possibly in June and then in September. A service in the fall could focus on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the faith that Catholics and Protestants have in common.

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## Harper Ensemble Theatre presents

The ensemble, at the request of St John, will hold a food drive. Please bring a canned or non-perishable food item for donation to the Palatine Food Bank to the performance. Tickets are expected to sell out so purchase your ticket in advance.

*PERFORMANCES: April 21-30, 2017  
Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays,  
2 pm COSTS: \$12 Harper students, faculty/staff, seniors; \$15 general admission*

**DOUBT**  
A PARABLE

*Join the ensemble at 1 p.m. prior to our Sunday performances and enjoy complimentary coffee and a special pre-show conversation with Director and Dramaturg. Ticket Box Office, 847.925.6100 for more info: <http://calendar.harpercollege.edu/cal/event/showEventMore.rdo>*

# *Don't Miss the Flower Sale*

This Sunday, April 2nd is the deadline to hand in pre-orders. Why do you want to pre-order? Because these items are specially ordered just for you to be sure we don't run out. Also the order pickers gather up your order and it is awaiting your arrival for pickup the day of the Flower Sale. Pre-order or shop the day of. Do you still need an order form? Click here:

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/364d60\\_f82ac5ce012c49859bcf36c89b68c644.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/364d60_f82ac5ce012c49859bcf36c89b68c644.pdf)

***Come on out  
to support this  
annual event.***

Help set up,  
pick orders or sell  
beautiful flowers  
and veggies to  
the community.



**May 13th, 8:00 am to Noon**





**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*

**April 2** – Same Sex Discussion / Vote on April 23  
**April 6th** – Council Meeting 7:00 pm

## *Holy Week Schedule*

**April 9** – Palm Sunday with the Rejoice Singers

**April 13 – Maundy Thursday**

5:00 pm Supper in the lower level

7:00 pm Communion and Tenebrae

(Service of Darkness)

**April 14 – Good Friday** Noon to 3:00 pm

The Sanctuary will be open for prayer.

**April 15 – Easter Sunday 10:30 am**

“Christ is Risen!”

*Music by organist Marsha Foxgrover and  
Carl Johnson playing trumpet.*

**May 7th** – Family Day

**May 13th** – Flower Sale

**May 17th** – Women’s Guild Luncheon

**June 25th** – Semi-Annual Meeting

**September 16th** – Craft Fair/Flea Market

Contact Lori Neumann

**October 21st**– Ham Supper

**November 19th**– Turkey Pot Luck and Hymn Sing

**December 24th** – Christmas Eve Service 10:00 pm.

## **Lenten Bible Study continues**

**Saturdays, April 1 and 8 at 9:00 am**

**“Living Stones in a Living Temple”**

Jesus made the startling claim that the Temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed and that in three days he would rebuild it! The religious leaders ridiculed him, but Jesus was referring to his resurrection, three days after his death. The claim is that Jesus is “God’s Temple,” where God dwells and where forgiveness is offered. Join us as we look at the Scriptures that declare this truth.

## **Palm Sunday, April 9**

**The Rejoice Singers & Sallie Gutt Confirmation**

**The Rejoice Singers**, directed by Roxane Abbate, will present four songs from the cantata, “On a Hill, Too Far Away”: “Lift High the Lord,” “Sing Hallelujah!”, “My Father’s House” and “I Come to the Cross.” Sue Jacobs, Adeline Lint and Paula Wix from St John are among the singers.

**Sallie Gutt** will confess her faith in Christ as Lord and Savior, after studying what it means to be a Christian with Pastor David for the past year. Sallie will be “confirming” the vows made by her parents, John and Sabine, when Sallie was baptized at St John.

Sallie will be able to add her name on the wall of the belfry to those who have been confirmed at St John.

**DONATIONS FOR EASTER LILIES NEEDED, \$16**

**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHAX FOR A POTTED LILY.**



## **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](http://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**

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