

St John United Church of Christ

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

May 2018



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

– Pastor Sandy Kolar



Behind the Hymn

Summer is a good time to explore our faith from different perspectives to see how God's message surrounds us in many different ways. So this summer we will have a sermon series that will explore the stories, lyricists and composers of our most cherished hymns. Each week, during June, July and August, our service will focus on the story of how a beloved hymn came to be written or life of the composer. There are many fascinating stories that surround the hymns, their creators and their effect on generations of worshipers.

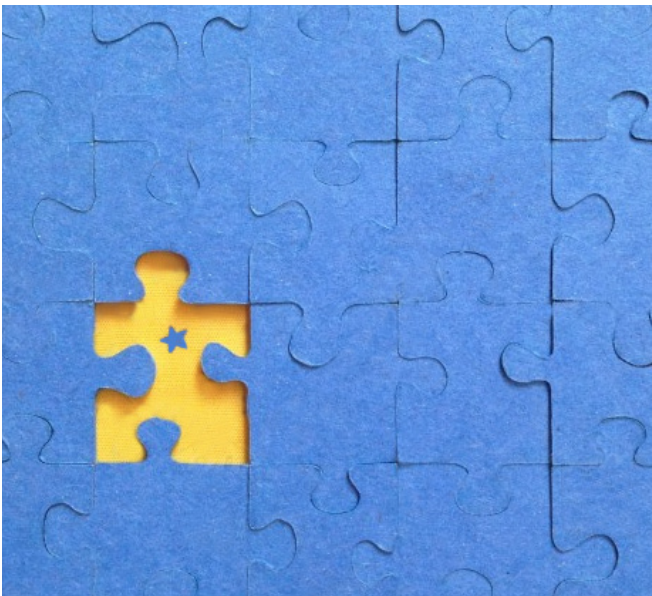
To help with the series I would like suggestions on your favorite hymns. Some classic hymns such as Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art, etc. will be included; but I would like to include some of your favorites. Please send me an e-mail with the name of a hymn, a composer or lyricist you enjoy for possible inclusion. Sometimes there is not a special story behind a hymn, but often the circumstances help us to more fully understand and appreciate it.

I am looking forward to exploring the role of music in our worship of God, the evolution of the music and the stories behind the songs and hope you will as well.

– Pastor Sandy

PastorSandy500@gmail.com

The Missing Piece



Star stickers were given to church attendees by Pastor Sandy on Sunday April 22nd. These little stickers were to be placed in our homes, work, car, or any place we chose as a reminder. Each time these little stars caught our eye we are to remember ***"You are a beloved child of Christ and you are enough."***

I have placed them around my house and on my computer monitor. As many of you know I have been working on a Christian children's book, for a very long time. Much of the struggle is the need for it to be perfect for God. My star now reminds me, God equips me for what He has called me to do. God is the missing piece and with Him I am enough for what He has called me to do.

Thank you Pastor for the wonderful sermon.

–Laura D'Argo

Stars are still available if you missed the service.



The Seminarian Says

—by Intern, Alex Wolf

'Tis the season...to celebrate!

A lot happens in the month of May. We celebrate mothers and women that are like our mothers, we celebrate the culture and people of Mexico, and we remember those who have died while serving in the military. This year, the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in May. But, May is also the month that is closely associated with graduations. And that is another reason, for me at least, to celebrate.

I had a chemistry and physics teacher in high school who called tests and exams "Celebrations of Knowledge." We students didn't appreciate that label. I remember our teacher also calling our graduation the "Best Celebration of Knowledge."

Lady Wisdom cries out, "Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her" (Proverbs 8:10-11). Wisdom and knowledge are so valuable that nothing compares with them. And Lady Wisdom makes clear that true wisdom and knowledge come from God, who is the Maker of heaven and earth.

This May, let us celebrate the wisdom and knowledge that God has given us. Let us rejoice in knowing God and his ways. But may our learning never cease. Let us continue to study and seek the wisdom and knowledge to better understand who God is and what God asks of us at St. John UCC.

(By the way, my seminary graduation is Friday, May 11 at 6 PM on the campus of Trinity International University. Unfortunately, seating is limited, so please join me in celebration Sunday, May 13 at church.)



April 28th - Spring Clean-up at 9:00 am



— by Lori D. Neumann — Trustee/Council Clerk

Beautification is the theme of Spring

With the arrival of Spring (finally) our thoughts turn to love and beauty - what better way to show your love than through beautification of our church?

April 28th - Spring Clean-up starts at 9:00 am

Bring your family and friends, and your love of St.

John to help out in the clean-up after the too long winter. We are hoping for great weather to go along with our great attitudes!

- A professional cleaning of our hard-working stove - due to a need for a thorough cleaning, there has been a faint gas smell - the gas company came by and recommended a thorough cleaning. Council is scheduling that based on availability of the Contractor and this should be complete by early May.
- The installation of the battery back-up sump pump and water sensor Mid-May.
- Carpet repair on the 1st floor of the sanctuary and re-stretching on the second floor.
- A professional measurement of the cabinets in the kitchen was taken and the next steps are cabinet selection and paint selection.
- Efforts continue to clean-up and organize the church - Boxes of old photos have been pulled from on top of cabinets, for all to go through as we add to the several photos that have been enlarged and framed. You may notice that Harold's (Bergman Family) tile is now framed and proudly hangs in the Narthex. Beautification continues throughout.
- The repair and painting of the Fellowship Hall is coming to a close. Many thanks to Allen Ghimenti, Jr. (Friend of St. John) for his tireless efforts to bring our meeting area back to life.

Sincerely, Lori

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Lori too for all her time and energy restoring our Fellowship Hall to a beautiful meeting place once again. A heartfelt thank you from the congregation for all you do. ❤

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Women's Guild** meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am
- **Church Council** meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm



January

Annual Meeting after service

February

February 14th Ash Wednesday

February 22nd Feed My Starving Children

March

March 3 5:00 pm Chili Cook-off

March 17 St Patricks Day Parade – Palatine

March 25 Palm Sunday 10:30 am

March 29 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm
Potluck Soup and Service

March 30 Good Friday
Open for prayer, Noon – 3:00 pm

April

April 1

Easter breakfast 9:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt 9:45 am

Easter Worship Service 10:30 am

April 28th 9:00 am 🌱

Spring Clean-Up

“Many hands make light work.”

ACTION BOX

Have you noticed that little box downstairs on the table during coffee hour? It is marked “ACTION BOX”. You can make a suggestion you feel would help our church. Do you have a skill you would like to use at church? Got an idea? Have a solution? We want to hear from you. *Kudos are also accepted.*

May

May 12th Flower Sale 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Committee: Ellen Kayler, Samantha Wheeler

Julie Heiderman, Judy Hartfelder

Laurie Biesterfeld, Jody Moody

June

June 25th Semi-Annual Meeting after service

September

September 15 Craft Fair/Flea Market

Committee: Jody Moody, Gary Hartfelder, Jenny Cooley, Robin Turpin

October

October 22 Ham Supper

Lori Neumann - Chairperson

November

November 18th 5:00 pm Turkey Hymn Sing

Robin Turpin – Chairperson

November 25th Totenfest

December

Monday – December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 pm.





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 Sandy has church office hours weekly.

Please email her at PastorSandy500@gmail.com to make an appointment.

Lending Library is Back!



Some time ago St John UCC had a lending library, now it is back and can use some books.

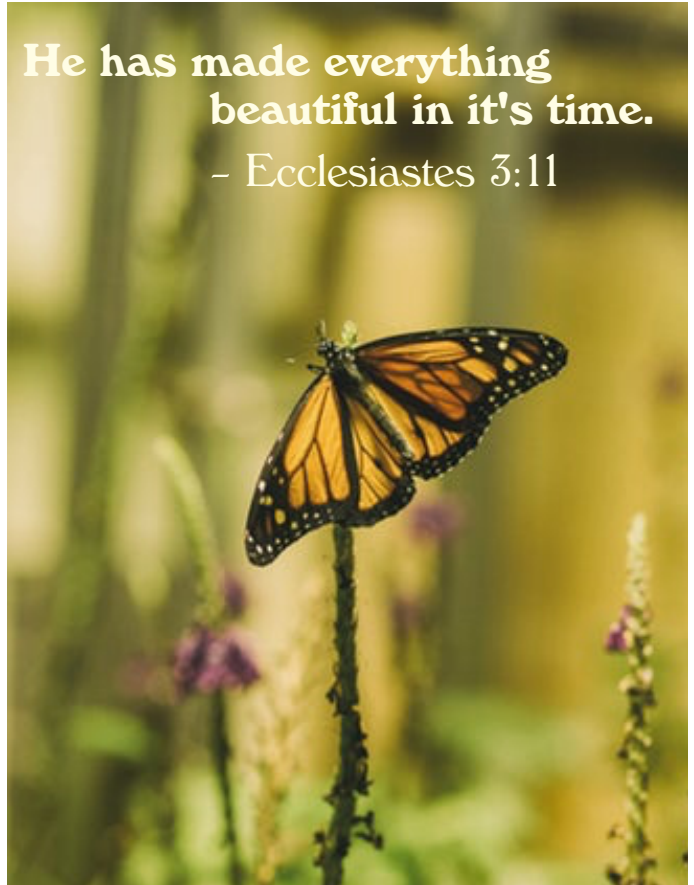
You will notice the pass thru where the bookshelves and coat rack resides has been cleaned up. There are several shelves dedicated to the new Lending Library.

How does it work?

Bring in books to donate and/or take one to read. Return the book when you are done and take another. The books you donate should be clean and in good reading condition please. They do not have to be Christian reading material. We can even accept children's books, no encyclopedias please. Frequent the library often as we hope to keep a good circulation of books.

** Please leave the wedding shelf for the bridal visits.*

**He has made everything
beautiful in it's time.
– Ecclesiastes 3:11**



Tithing Report

Year to date 2017 \$13,962

Year to date 2018 \$13,082

↓\$880



Please remember your pledges.

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.

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

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