

St John United Church of Christ

May 2017

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"



PASTOR'S MESSAGE – GOD'S LOVE

Dear Friends in Christ,

John's first epistle says that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). But what do we mean by the word "love"? In The Four Loves, C.S. Lewis describes different types of love. First, there is "romantic love," eros or "erotic love." If you have ever been "in love," you know what Lewis means.

Another love is "friendship" or philia (as in Philadelphia): a bond of love between two people (or more) who share the same interests and experiences. You can discuss any topic with a true friend.

A trait shared by romantic love and friendship love is their "mutuality"—the giving-and-receiving that keeps the "love" alive. If there is no mutuality, no reciprocity, the love will die.

When John says that God is "love," he uses the word agape (ah-GAH-pay). This is self-giving love which continues even when there is no reciprocity. When Jesus, on the cross, prayed "Father, forgive them," he was expressing agape love—not romance or the warmth of friendship. Even though Jesus did not receive love from his executors, he "loved" them.

When John writes, "This is love: not that we loved God but that God loved us and gave us his Son to atone for our sins," he is speaking of agape love. If we do not love God, God still loves us. To love even when you are not loved in return, that is love! That is agape love. That is God's love. That is God's unrelenting love for you and me!

In Christ's agape love,

Pastor David – 630-747-8181

Women's Guild Salad Luncheon

Wednesday, May 17th 11:30 am



The Ladies of the church outdo themselves every year with home-made salads, breads and desserts. Come support the Women's Guild and the ladies who do so much for our church.

Yes men are welcome too!

You can help by offering to make a salad or dessert, or you can donate to the purchase of items. Help is always appreciated for serving, preparing or clean up.

Tickets \$10. Contact Barbara Njaastad or a women's guild member for tickets. You can also email the church at stjohnuccpalatine@gmail.com

Congregation Votes to Approve Same-sex Marriages

At a meeting on Sunday, April 23, following the worship service, the congregation voted to approve same-sex marriages at St John UCC. The vote was 11 Yes, 7 No, and 2 abstentions. We thank everyone for their votes on this matter.



Organists at St John UCC

We are grateful to the organists who have played for our services since the beginning of this year. Jean Lyles and Joe Yeager, who substitute at several area churches, have played many Sundays and will play in May as well.

Thank you, too, to Jody Moody and Marsha Foxgrover. Most recently, Joseph Abbate played for our service. Joseph is the husband of Roxane who directs The Rejoice Singers.

Beginning on May 28, our organist for the summer is Erik Matson, who will graduate from Valparaiso U. on May 21, as an organ major. Please extend a warm St John "welcome" to Erik.

We treasure our History

Colin Moody will be scanning our old historical records and books. This will preserve their information for our history and allows us to share them online or with other historians.

Harper College Partnering with St John

The Harper Theatre Ensemble's play Doubt and food Drive are going well. Our St John Council speaks highly of the success of our St John community and the Harper community working together. The food drive will benefit many in our local area with all donations going to the Palatine food pantry.

There will be a drive thru collection in our parking lot, April 29th 9:00 am to Noon.

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

Considering Our Relationship with the Agape Community

The Agape Community held an Easter Vigil Mass in our sanctuary on Holy Saturday, April 15, and the AC would like to worship in our sanctuary throughout the year on Saturdays at 5 pm. The AC is a "Eucharistic community" of Roman Catholic people from our area.

The Council is considering several issues: liability insurance, the amount of a rental fee, a letter of agreement and, if an agreement is approved, a 90-days probationary period.

An important issue—more important than the rental income in my opinion—is whether, and to what extent, St John sees an agreement with the AC as a means of expanding our ministries at St John. For example: would we worship together on a regular basis? Work together on mission projects? Develop a program to reach out to people in our immediate area who do not worship anywhere?

Please pass along your thoughts to the Council members via a phone-call or an email or in conversation during the refreshments time. We are eager to make decisions about our relationship with the AC.

— Pastor David

Congratulations Sallie

Sallie Gutt confirmed her vows of faith in Christ as Lord on Palm Sunday. She is here signing her name in the historical St John registry of those who were confirmed in our community.



Flower Sale – Saturday, May 13th

29 varieties of Hanging Baskets including Dragonwing Begonias, Bridal Veil, Fuchsia and Ferns.

Specialty Plants and Geraniums – Ivy, Spikes, Vinca and Fountain Grass and more.

Flats of Bedding Plants. Herbs and Vegetables – Peppers and tomatoes.

Proven Winners

Color Choices Galore: coral, yellow, blue, orange, purple, pink, salmon, burgundy & lavender.

***Come on out
to support
St John UCC
at this
Annual Event.***

Exceptional
quality
and prices!



***Shop for
Mother's Day.***



May 13th, 8:00 am to Noon



St John UCC

Family Day – May 7th

The fun starts just after the worship service.

Event Times

10:30 to 11:30 – Worship
11:30 to 12:15 – Refreshments in the Church Lower Level
12:15 to 1:15 – Storytelling in the Gazebo *Bring a lawn chair or blanket.
1:15 to 2:15 – Cemetery Tour
2:15 to 3:30 – Church Tour meets in front of church.
RAIN LOCATION – Inside the church.
Children's Games ongoing 12:30 to 3:30



Storyteller

Ben Rosenfield PhD

The Frog Guy

Ben Rosenfield is a storyteller with a proven ability to spin tales that capture the imaginations of listeners of all ages.

Ben's Storytelling Programs include World Folktales, American Tall Tales, Ghost Stories and Campfire Stories. His themes touch on Environmental Education, Cultural Diversity and Bridging the Generation Gap.



Cemetery Tour by Jim Frost

Jim has helped us maintain our historic roots connecting us to the local and personal history of the farmers and settlers who lived, worked the land, and now rest in our cemetery. Hear the stories of their lives.

A Coloring Table for Kids by The Coloring Company



Kids (and adults) are invited to color a special page to enter in our coloring contest. All supplies provided.

Historic Church Tour by Gary Hartfelder

Our History goes back to 1846, the current building was built in 1885, but do you know the stories of how we got here? Who were the pioneers who started our community for Christ? Here about the architecture and the spirit of those who came before us.



Be a part of our Family Day.

St John United Church of Christ • 1475 W. Algonquin Rd, Palatine
The southwest corner of Algonquin and Roselle Roads
847-358-7620 • stjohnuccpalatine@gmail.com • StJohnUCCPalatine.org



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

May 7th – Family Day

SEE FLYER on PAGE 4

Volunteers needed to help with children's games. See Lori Neumann

May 13th – Flower Sale

SEE FLYER on PAGE 3

Volunteers needed for day of sales. See Jody Moody to help.

May 17th – Women's Guild Luncheon

SEE PAGE 1 for info

Volunteers needed.

See Barbara Njaastad to help.

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.

Fran Pribyl Memorial



Reverend and Mrs. Ronald E. Pribyl

The beloved wife, Fran Pribyl of former Pastor Ron Pribyl was memorialized on April 28th.

"Fran Pribyl was a great lady. Always friendly and remembered everyone's name. She was a friend to all. She loved to come to St John's dinners and the ladies luncheon. It was a great time to visit with old friends."

– Adeline Lint

Weddings at St John

May 13th, 2:00 pm – Erik Babcock and Kim Foster

May 20th, 10:00 am – Yen-ti Li and Cheng Chien Wen

May 21st, 1:30 pm – Nigel Gillett and Faye Belarmino



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

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