

St John United Church of Christ

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

June 2018



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

– Pastor Sandy Kolar



– Pastor Sandy

**Pastor Sandy's Column
returns next month.**

PastorSandy500@gmail.com

"The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

–1 Kings 19:11-13

Listening to God's Still Small Voice

at St John Church

Peace, quiet, tranquil, restful and serene. Like an oasis in a noisy, hurried world, St John still stands – inviting the community to come and quiet oneself to hear the still, small voice of God speaking to them.

The ***Listening to the Spirit*** committee has been asking themselves to do just that. We have been inviting God to help us answer, who we are and who we want to be as a church, finding the best way to serve God and His community. Our members have big hearts and desires to help in every way possible, and the committee is seeking what makes us unique in what we can and are able to offer. In looking for our niche as a church we kept coming back to our roots as the peaceful rural church. What may seem as outdated to some, is the very thing that draws people in – a longing for a quiet restful place to be with God.

This is what drew a cyclist to stop by before service last Sunday morning. He told Pastor Sandy he always passes by and this Sunday he wanted to come inside. It is also why a prayer evening was started when someone called looking for an open church to pray. Personally this quiet restful feeling is what drew me to St John several years ago after attending a mega church.

St John is looking for ways to answer God's voice. As we do . . .

Imagine a church that becomes a sanctuary, a place with regular quiet prayer, a nature meditative path, a butterfly garden, yoga classes, "Hearing the voice of God" bible study, plein air (outdoor) art gatherings, along with caring for our earth and wellness programs. As the *Listening to the Spirit* committee continues their work, pray for the team and our church to hear the voice of God and His direction for St John.

– Laura D'Arco



Quiet Meditation Prayer – Last **Wednesday** of each month

Evenings 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

St John Church is open for anyone to come and sit in silent prayer during the evenings of the last Wednesday of each month.

You are invited to this peaceful moment and breathe in the voice of God. Come for a few minutes or stay awhile.



The Seminarian Says

– by Intern
Alex Wolf

***This is Alex's
farewell
column.
We will miss
you Alex.***

Sheldon Vanauken wrote a touching scene in his book A Severe Mercy. After their last lunch together, Vanauken shook the hand of his mentor and friend, C.S. Lewis, in parting. Lewis said, "I shan't say goodbye. We'll meet again." After crossing the street, Lewis called back to his friend, "Besides, Christians never say goodbye." Behind Lewis' saying stands a great truth: we Christians trust that our goodbyes are not permanent; we know we will truly see each other again.

During these last nine months, I've been blessed to get to know and minister to you all here at St. John United Church of Christ. I have enjoyed hearing your stories, serving with you and seeing God at work in, through and among you. I am astounded at the love this church has for God and each other. I've been able to share in both joy and grief as a part of this faith community. I appreciate your wonderful traditions, but also your willingness to listen to and follow Christ's call. I will always remember this community and be grateful for my time of learning here at St. John. I echo the apostle Paul's words to the church at Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5).

Thank you for your hospitality, your love, the community and the experiences you've given me. With the words we sing in worship before we go and serve, I write to you now, "God be with you 'til we meet again."

***Thank you for serving us Alex!
We all wish you all God's best.***



Council's Corner

– by Lori D. Neumann – Trustee/Council Clerk

Council's Corner Column returns next month.

CRAFT FAIR & FLEA MARKET

Donations are now being accepted for the St John Church flea market booth. Bring in any gently used clean clothes and household goods. Any electrical items must be in working condition. The church will price the items.

All proceeds go to St John Church and we appreciate your donations.

Drop off in the back half of the church basement.

Not accepted are TVs, large furniture, or difficult to recycle items.

Craft Fair and Flea Market is set for September 15th.

St John in Palatines "4th of July" Parade

on June 30th this year!

Yeap you read that right. The parade is on June 30th.

We had an awesome turnout for the St Patricks day Parade this year and are looking forward to joining the Independence day celebration in the Palatine Jaycees Hometown Parade. Please let Pastor Sandy know if you are able to help out with preparations or participate in the parade in any way.





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.

Fitness Club a Success!



An impromptu fitness club was started in January after a few people wanted to set some weight loss or fitness goals. Each person set goals for themselves to achieve by May 1st. With group emails we encouraged each other. New habits were formed and bit by bit we lost weight. Some achieved their goals in full and others are still working towards them inspired to do more. A second round has been set and the Fitness Group is working on their new goals to achieve by September 1st. If you want to join the group email Laura via stjohnuccpalatine@gmail.com and put "Fitness" in the subject line.

We welcome you no matter what your fitness goals may be.

Our Coffee Hour Hostesses



Thank you ladies for all you do!

Dodie Kayler and Sandy Stoops have been serving up coffee and treats every Sunday after service. Their smiling faces and faithful serving is enjoyed by everyone who comes to coffee hour. Please assist them by bringing a treat or ask them if there is anything you can do to help out in the kitchen.

Thanks to everyone who brings something delicious to share during our coffee hour.



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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website – www.StJohnUCCPalatine.org

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

Church Clean up

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 24th Semi-Annual Meeting after service

June 30th Palatine Jaycees Hometown Parade



September

September 15 Craft Fair/Flea Market

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

October

October 20 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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 pm.