



JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Secretary Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri. 9am – 3 pm

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's the year 2020!! It will probably take me 11 months to say it correctly and more importantly, to write the correct date on my checks.

Many people talk about making resolutions at New Year's. I would rather think about the New Year as an opportunity to start over: to try again, to begin again. God promises that opportunity to us all.

[2 Corinthians 5:17 Common English Bible \(CEB\)](#) ¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

[Lamentations 3:22-24 New Revised Standard Version \(NRSV\)](#)

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,^[a]

his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,

"therefore I will hope in him."

[Philippians 1:6](#) ⁶ I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus.

[Isaiah 42:9](#) ⁹ The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened, but I'm declaring new things.

[1 Corinthians 1:9](#) ⁹ God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isn't that refreshing and reassuring?! No matter how much we messed up in 2019, God calls us to start again. How do we



know this year we will behave better? God says, (paraphrased) “if you take me with you on your journey, I will help you.” God did not create us to be alone or to journey alone on our quest to be better people. God says, (paraphrased) “let me help. Let’s talk about your struggles. I promise to send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who will be with you to lift you up every time you fall down.”

Let’s try things “**God’s way**” for a change. **Our way** didn’t work so well.

Blessings on your faith journey in the New Year. Pastor Rosemary

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1/2	Judy Hartmann	1/22	Kendra Clark
1/4	March Ganschinietz	1/24	Cheri Schutzenhofer
1/4	Job Ganschinietz	1/27	Shari Hamilton
1/6	Chris Taylor	1/28	Amy Brink
1/14	Jim Turnbull	1/28	Trenton Pickens
1/21	Eileen Gammon	1/29	Ensley Turnbull

PRAYER LIST: The Petroff Family, Dave Seneczyn, Roger Fox, Eric White, Lori Riess, Charles Chamberlin, Donna Isselhard, Mitch Nallie, Becky Ballard, Candy Pearce, Greg Talley, Carol Meyer, Leah Williams, Pat Holtgrave, Jane Riess, DeAnne Weiss, Rich Schmitt, Les Sattery, Judy Hartmann, Cherie Klostermann.

PRAYERS during his deployment, AIC Gabriel Alvarez.



SHUT – INS: Darleen Bax, Terry Kissel, Ardella Morris, and Alice Stidham.

CONDOLENCES: Our condolences to Darlene Bax on the death of her son, Robert Feldman and to the family and friends of Jacquie Mantel.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED:  Judy Hartmann

MEMORIALS FOR SEDA BALDWIN:

Eileen & Jack Gammon, Carol & Joe Bulva

WORSHIP LEADERS

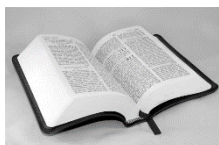
USHERS:

1/5 – Lew Thomasino and Sue Williams

1/12 – Christina and Cindy Hardin-Weiss

1/19 – Ginny and Sue Ganschietz

1/26 – Tom and Jan Miller



LITURGISTS AND READINGS:

1/5	Sue Williams	TBD	
1/12	Christina Hardin-Weiss	Isaiah 42:1-9	Acts 10:34-43
1/19	Ginny Ganschietz	Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
1/26	Jan Miller	Isaiah 9:1-4	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
2/2		Micah 6:1-8	1 Corinthians 1:18-31

WOMENS' EVENING CIRCLE:

The Evening Circle met Wednesday, Dec. 18th because of bad weather on Monday. We would like to thank everyone who brought a gift for the child we sponsored at Kinder Cottage. Because of your generosity she should have a wonderful Christmas. We would also like to thank everyone for bringing and buying items for the bake sale.



In January be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet for sub sandwiches for Superbowl Sunday. And don't forget turtles will be coming in February to celebrate Valentine's Day.

The ladies also enjoyed our annual Christmas Party after our meeting adjourned. Carol and Eileen had fun games for us to play and all the ladies brought delicious snacks to share. When you see Carol ask her about her red nose and antlers.

The Evening Circle meets the third Monday of the month and all ladies of St. John are welcome. Hope to see you all January 20th !

CHOIR



Thank you to all the choir members and extras who sang at the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. We had a beautifully balanced choir that evening. Regular choir members Anne Brown, Jackie Canterbury, Vicki Hartmann, Tami Hughes, and Lew Thomasino were joined by Scott and Shannon Banjavcic, Kim Christ, Stacie Pickens, and Mike Stidham. A special thank you to Sharon Banjavcic for her work on the organ and piano! And, thanks, Anne for being willing to sing with Mom.

SPECIAL MUSIC

On **Sunday, January 12**, we will welcome Tom Hanson, an accomplished trombonist, to worship on Baptism of Christ Sunday. He and Nancy Eisenhauer will be doing a duet of Mark Hayes' arrangement of "Deep River", a traditional spiritual.

Tom grew up on the West Coast and had a career playing trombone for some of the large shows in Las Vegas and playing for the movie industry in Los Angeles. He also was a chart writer for the music used in movies. He is now a resident of Fairview Heights and participates in community orchestras in the St. Louis area. His first love is jazz.



FOOD PANTRY

On **JANUARY 5**, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE **FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS FOOD PANTRY**, as we do the first Sunday of every month. Their supplies are down from last year, even with the Scouting for Food campaign. There is much need, so be generous.



**Feeding the
Community**



PENNIES FOR MISSION

January pennies will be going to the **Belleville Christian Center**.

Our aluminum recycling amount was \$18.00 and went to the Food Pantry.



THE PARKING LOT is done and the bill of \$11,784 has been paid. To date we have received donations towards the parking lot of \$2,345, leaving a balance due ourselves \$9,439. Please continue to remember the parking lot. Please also continue to think about increasing your general giving if it is possible. **Our bills continue to out distance our offerings.**



NOTES AND THANK YOU'S

Thank you all so much for your help, concerns and prayers. Hope next year is a better one. Becky Ballard

Thank you for all the cards, calls, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital and as I recover at home. Especially thank you to Ginny for coming in and covering in the office for me (especially this month leading up to Christmas). I'm still not fully recovered and Ginny is still helping me. Thanks to everyone. Judy Hartmann

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

As pretty as they are, the Advent/Christmas decorations will need to be taken down after Epiphany. We will do that on **Wednesday, January 8, at 10:00 a.m.** As always, many hands make light work. You are welcome to come and help.



January

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year Office closed	2	3	4
5 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Followed by fellowship time	6	7 Boy Scout meeting	8 Take down decorations 10 a.m. Church Council 7	9	10	11
12 Worship at 10 am Guest musician in worship	13	14 Boy Scout meeting	15	16	17	18
19 Worship at 10 am	20 Evening Circle meeting 7 p.m.	21 Boy Scout meeting	22	23	24	25 Fellowship hall rented in evening.
26 Worship at 10 am Followed by the Annual Meeting	27	28 Boy Scout meeting	29	30	31	