



MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Global climate change is on the thoughts of many in the last few years. I'd like to share with you a reflection on Psalm 32, our Psalm for March 1.



Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson writes the Psalm for Sunday, Psalm 32, for the UCCWorshipWays Living Psalms project. Karen Georgia is the Associate General Minister of Global Engagement and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, the common overseas ministry of the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This psalm weaves both Confession and the happiness of the Assurance of Grace that the original prayer holds so tenderly.

Psalm 32 The Joy of Creation Care

“Happy are the people of God who are connected to the earth and who have repented of the sin of environmental injustices.

Happy are those who center Creator and the created, in whose spirit there is no duplicity in caring for the earth.

While I kept silent, the earth wasted away, groaning from the weight of polluted skies and unclean waters all day long.

Night and day creation groaned, the earth heating up, ice caps melting, seas rising, homes and lives washing away.

Then I acknowledged the sins committed against the earth, I did not hide my complicity;

I said, "I will confess the deforestation of the earth, the extinction of species, the oceans we abused."

Let all who are faithful offers prayers for the earth, at the time of distress, the rush of mighty waters coming with the heavy rains devastating the earth taking away the mountain sides.

The earth is a refuge for me, healing me and keeping me from trouble, surrounding me with the glad cries of the birds and the whispers of the trees.

I will instruct the masses, and teach of the way of creation justice, I will bring wise counsel to defending the earth.

Do not be stubborn, without understanding of the ways in which untempered use of resources must be curbed with bit and bridle, else the beauty of the earth will not stay near you.

Many are the sufferings of the earth, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Creator and care for all creation.

Be glad in the Creator and rejoice for the healing of the earth, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you who seek justice for creation."

LET ALL THE PEOPLE SAY, AMEN!!

AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

3/1	Dee Schott	3/9	Jan Miller
3/3	Hayden Myers	3/9	Barb Whitaker
3/8	Nancy Eisenhauer	3/12	Carol Bulva
3/8	Donna Isselhard	3/19	Terry Kissel
3/8	Tiffany Baldwin	3/20	Mary Lou Baum
3/9	Ardella Morris	3/30	Ruth Ogles

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

- 3/11 Pat Bregen & Larry Cates # 15
- 3/14 Mary Lou & Urban Baum # 56
- 3/16 Amy & Cody Brink #18
- 3/17 Tiffany Baldwin & Lew Thomasino #19
- 3/20 Jan & Tom Miller # 49



PRAYER LIST: 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, Cherie Klostermann, Shari Hamilton, Bill Underwood, Hunter Brink, Charlotte Watson

PRAYERS during his deployment, AIC Gabriel Alvarez.



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

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED:



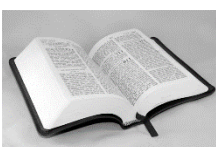
Becky Ballard, Roger Fox

Becky is presently at Mercy Rehab Center, previously called Rosewood, in Swansea, for rehab. Roger is on Hospice Care at home.

WORSHIP LEADERS

USHERS:

- 3/1 Tom & Jan Miller
- 3/8 Sue Williams & Judy Hartmann
- 3/15 Ginny Ganschietz & Tyler Underwood
- 3/22 Christina & Cindy Hardin-Weiss
- 3/29 Lew Thomasino & Wayne Schlosser



LITURGISTS AND READINGS:

3/1	Anne Brown	Genesis 2:15-17	Romans 5:12-19
3/8	Sue Williams	Genesis 12:1-4a	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
3/15	Judy Schmitt	Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-11
3/22	Sharon Banjavcic	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Ephesians 5:8-14
3/29	Eileen Gammon	Ezekiel 37:1- 14	Romans 8:6-11



PENNIES FOR MISSION

March pennies will be going to Heifer Project.

WOMENS' EVENING CIRCLE:

The Evening Circle met Monday, February 17 for our regular meeting. We would like to thank everyone for buying sub sandwiches and turtles in January. These were our last projects for the year and we are looking forward to sharing the funds raised this year with various groups in our community. February was our annual movie night and a big thanks to Carol for picking out a great movie to share with the group. Next month Ruth Ogles will have the devotion and Jackie Canterbury will provide dessert.



The Evening Circle meets the third Monday of the month and all ladies of St. John are welcome. We hope to see you **March 16th**!



The UCCs One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering

will be received in worship on Sunday, **March 22, 2020**. Through the OGHS offering, seeds of new life are being planted by investments in communities world-wide by providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational

training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their

neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. Please give generously and you can include your gift with your regular offering, just mark which portion is for OGHS, or use one of the special envelopes that will be provided on March 22nd. **This is one of the 5 for 5 collections.**

OUR LENTEN STUDY

From **March 4 – April 1** we will be meeting for five Wednesday evenings to enjoy soup, study, and fellowship. This year we will be reading and watching a DVD on “Simon Peter – Flawed But Faithful Disciple” by Adam Hamilton. We will begin at 6:00 pm with soup and bread followed by our study and discussion, ending at 8:30 pm at the latest. Let me know if you plan to join us so I may order enough books. Pastor R.



CHOIR

Now that we are in Lent, the music of the church tends to become more somber. For some of our choir members, it is the least favorite season of the year. Instead of the joyous “Hallelujahs” that we all love to sing, there are songs of Jesus’ trials as well as our own.



There are still the Psalms that we can look to for hope and peace in our music. We have one of my favorites coming up in March. On **March 8** the choir will be singing “Psalm 121”, by Heather Sorenson. This magnificent anthem requires a few more voices than we have, so I have asked a few of my singing buddies from the **Collinsville Chorale** to join us. This is an opportunity to hear the type of music we do in the Chorale’s March concerts. I hope you will be inspired by it.

Later in March, we will be doing a gospel favorite, “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”. You will want to be in church, not just on these Sundays, but each Sunday to let the message of the music speak to you, as well as scripture and meditations. See you in church! Nancy

DON’T FORGET THE TIME CHANGE ON SUNDAY MARCH 8, WE RETURN TO DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME. You don’t want to be late for church.



SAVE THESE DATES: Also check the bulletin board by the office for more.

CHILI & SOUP LUNCH: Trinity UCC, 5698 Biddleborn Rd., Marissa, is hosting a Chili & Soup Lunch on Sunday, March 1, 2020, 11 a.m.—?? Menu includes chili, various soups, hot dogs, dessert. Cost: Donation. Baked items will also be for sale.

CHICKEN DINNER: Zion UCC, 414 W. Hanover St., New Baden, is hosting their annual Chicken Dinner on Saturday, March 7, 2020, 4—7p.m. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, dressing, corn, green beans, slaw, applesauce, dessert, beverages. Adults: \$11; Children 6-12: \$5. Curbside orders also available.

SAUSAGE & KRAUT DINNER: Friedens UCC, 207 E. Center St., Troy, is hosting their annual Sausage & Kraut Dinner on Sunday, March 8, 2020, 11:20 a.m.—5:30 p.m. Menu includes grilled sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, applesauce, beverages and dessert. Adults & Carry outs: \$10; Children 5-10: \$5.

CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER: Friedens UCC, 207 E. Center St., Troy, is hosting a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Sunday, March 15, 2020, Noon—2:00 p.m. Adults: \$12; Kids 12 and under: \$6. Proceeds benefit their Operating Fund.

FISH DINNERS: Zion UCC, 414 W. Hanover St., New Baden, is hosting their annual Lenten Fish Dinners on Friday, March 20th and Friday, April 10th, 4:00—6:30 p.m. Menu includes cod tail or catfish, mac and cheese, fries or chips, hush puppies, coleslaw, dessert. Adults: \$10; Kids: \$5.

WURSTMARKT: Friedens UCC, 820 N. Main St., Marissa, is hosting their annual Wurstmart on Saturday, March 21, 2020, 3:00—7:00 p.m. Menu features grilled sausage, real mashed potatoes, gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, corn, applesauce, homemade desserts and beverages. Adults: \$10; Children 5-11: \$5. Carry out available. Country store.

CHICKEN DINNER: Immanuel UCC, 5838 Staunton Rd., Hamel, is hosting their annual Chicken Dinner on Sunday, March 22, 2020, 11:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m. All-you-can-eat fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, beverages and a dessert. Adults: \$10; Children 6-9: \$5. Quilt, 32" TV Raffle, Country Store, Basket Raffle.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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FITNESS

March

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service of Word & Sacrament 10 am Followed by fellowship time	2	3 Boy Scout meeting	4 Lenten Bible Study 6 pm	5	6	7 Convocation of Gateway ONA UCC Churches, Parkway UCC, 9 - 3
8 Daylight Savings time begins. Worship at 10 am	9	10 Boy Scout meeting	11 Church Council 5 pm Lenten Bible Study 6 pm	12	13 3/13 – 3/14 Boy Scouts having an overnight	14
15 Worship at 10 am	16 Evening Circle meeting 7 pm	17 Boy Scout meeting	18 Lenten Bible Study 6 pm	19 Region 9 meeting 7 pm	20	21
22 Worship at 10 am	23	24 Boy Scout meeting	25 Lenten Bible Study 6 pm	26	27	28
29 Worship at 10 am	30	31 Boy Scout meeting				