

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



945 Wolfrum Rd., Weldon Spring, MO 63304 stjohnsweldonspring.org 636-926-8995

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

News from Your Church Council

PROCESS FOR FINDING INTERIM PASTOR

As noted at the congregational meeting, we have formed a search committee for the interim pastor. The conference process is being followed to select this individual, whose primary function is to help prepare the church for the permanent (or "settled") pastor. We expect the process of working through concerns from the church and establishing our vision moving forward with the interim pastor will take 18 months to 2 years (which is relatively normal). Folks that were here during the last search will recall we had interim pastors for close to two years before Pastor Todd took over. Once the interim pastor is found, s/he will want some time to evaluate the church's situation and get to know everyone. After a few months of having the interim pastor in place, s/he will help us build the search committee for the settled pastor.

UPDATE ON INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH

As of Thursday, January 27, the committee has received applications from six candidates for the interim pastor position. We have determined one was not suitable and one has already found another position but the remaining four are still viable candidates. One is being interviewed Thursday evening. Two others are being contacted immediately for more information and/or interviews and the fourth candidate is still being considered. Once we find a suitable candidate, the process calls for the council to approve and the conference to approve. We also intend to ask the selected candidate to provide a recorded sermon example and/or short video about themselves that we can share with the congregation.

COUNCIL TRAINING

Many members of the council attended a training webinar on Saturday, January 30 to ensure we have adequate knowledge of roles and responsibilities and better serve our congregation, church and Lord. We are checking to see and hope that the webinar will be available via recording for those council members unable to attend.

Continued on page 2

Council News Continued

NOTES FROM JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

- The church will remain closed because of COVID-19 until at least March. We are aware of guidelines from the conference and will review those and in February we will discuss the possibility of reopening. Now that the state's case counts are coming down, we are hopeful!
- A motion was made by Dennis Davenport and seconded by Roy Boschert to establish a Communication Committee that will help insure timely and transparent communications come from the council to the congregation and once a pastor is selected, may also help the pastor with communications to the congregation if desired. The motion passed. Kristy Kniest will lead this committee and along with other committee members will provide inputs to the office for various communications.
- A motion was made by Vera Villa and seconded by Roy Boschert for Dennis Davenport to continue to be the Security Officer for the church. The motion passed.
- The Valentine's Breakfast has been cancelled because of COVID.
- We only have two people that know how to run the sound booth well and one will be moving so there is a large need to have volunteers for the sound booth. Please let Jewell Nadler or the church office know if you are willing to serve and learn about some cool technology!

2021 Church Council Members

Brad Rehm – President

Vera Villa – Vice President

Suzanne Weaver – Secretary

Roy Boschert

Dennis Davenport

Greg Hale

Kristy Kniest

Loire Kroeger

Polly Wagner

Mission & Caring Ministry

EASTER BAGS FOR KIDS! CANDY DONATIONS REQUESTED

St. John's congregants will make Easter Bags for the children of F.I.S.H. (Friends in Serving Him) food pantry again this year! We are in need of individually wrapped Easter candy, as well as plastic Easter eggs. There will be an Easter collection container on the cart as you enter the parking lot on Sunday mornings. The final date to bring the candy is Sunday, March 7. Candy donations are very much appreciated, as some of these children may not receive any Easter candy if we do not do this for them. FISH very much appreciates receiving these bags!



F.I.S.H. NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

Collections for the FISH food pantry will continue throughout the year. There will be a cart down by the driveway where the bulletins are given out at the drive-in service each week.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Tuna and Hamburger helper | Canned chicken |
| Green beans | Applesauce |
| Corn | Quick oatmeal—small and large containers |
| Mixed vegetables | Dish soap |
| Any kind of soup | Body lotion |

EASTER LILY/GERANIUM FLOWER SALES COMING MARCH 14 AND MARCH 21!

As a project of our Mission Committee, we ask our members and friends to purchase potted lilies and geraniums to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday on April 4! Proceeds from this sale will benefit the annual *Shower of Love*, a baby care drive serving families in St. Charles County. Learn more at showeroflovestc.org.



PRAYER SHAWLS

If you know anyone in need of a prayer shawl, please contact Suzanne Weaver or the church office.

Worship Ministry

The Worship Committee met on January 13 to discuss a conversation Vera Villa and Donna Bleeckert (worship ministry chair) had with Rev. Damien Lake. Rev. Lake's discussion confirmed some titles within St John's Bylaws and Constitution.

The Worship Committee created a letter to be submitted to Council for review and approval. When approved, more information will be forthcoming.

NEXT MEETING OF THE WORSHIP MINISTRY: Monday, February 15 at 6 p.m. on Zoom.



News & Notes

DON'T MISS WEATHER-RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

"One Call Now" is the phone alert system we use to get the word out to our friends and members about important events, weather-related cancellations, meeting reminders, bereavement notices and more. If you miss the voice call, the system will leave a message on your voicemail. If the message gets cut off, simply dial 1-877-698-3261 to retrieve the message in its entirety. If you are not receiving the One Call Now notices and would like to, please contact the church office at 636-926-8995.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study meets on Zoom every Tuesday at 8 a.m. If you would like to join the group, please look for the information you need in the weekly "Ways to Connect" email that is sent on Mondays, or on the website calendar. If you do not receive the email and would like to, please contact the church office..

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study meets on Zoom every Wednesday at 1 p.m. We are currently studying Psalms. Look for the information you need to join the virtual Zoom Bible study in the weekly "Ways to Connect" email that is sent on Mondays. If you do not receive the email and would like to, please contact the church office.

February 1, 2020—WE ARE CURRENTLY IN PHASE 1 of the St. John’s reopening plan approved by the church council. What does this mean?

Suspension of all “in-person” worship and church-sponsored activities due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The church building remains closed. We will continue to provide the drive-in worship service as well as the online worship service.

Drive-in Worship Service Every Sunday – Ongoing

- Sundays at 9 a.m.
- All are welcome
- Remain in car
- Tune in on 88.9FM
- Bathrooms available for emergency use only

Weekly Online Worship Service – Ongoing

Services will continue to be recorded and shared on the St. John’s [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) so you can **watch on-demand**.

Any changes in status will be communicated to members via a One Call, email, Facebook post and on the St. John’s website at stjohnsweldonspring.org/covid19.

Stay in Touch

Please consider visiting, calling or sending a note or card to our St. John’s friends who may not be able to go out. Your expressions of caring and thoughtfulness are truly wanted and your cards and prayers are appreciated! Find contact information for the following members in your church directory or call the church office. If you do not have a directory and would like one, contact the church office.

John & Chris Attaway	Isabel Hess	Jean Mauntel
Jack Fredrick	Pat Honaker	Rita Marcum
Bob Greeley	Don Howell	Chris Savage
Val Gumper	David & Dorothy Kapeller	Rick Weaver
Janett Heitert	Ginnie Loika	

Birthdays

Kim Doerhoff	2/2
Gerri Russo	2/2
David Kapeller	2/9
Kathleen Spangler	2/11
David Carr	2/18
Bob Oker	2/21
Rhonda Hanne	2/26



Anniversaries

Craig & Deborah Lilley	2/4
Ron & Shirley Hahn	2/5
David & Dorothy Kapeller	2/10
Wes & Sharon Kolkmeier	2/17
Hank & Loire Kroeger	2/18

Is there a loved one or friend you would like to remember or honor? A special anniversary, birthday, graduation or other occasion to recognize? If so, please contact the church office at 636-926-8995 or office@stjohnsweldonspring.org to sponsor chancel flowers in their name(s). The cost is \$35 per arrangement.

St. John's United Church of Christ

Our **purpose** is to change the world one person at a time
by sharing the love and power of Jesus Christ
with family members, friends and neighbors.

Our **mission** is to lead our members to become faithful and beloved
friends and disciples of Jesus Christ;
and to equip and support them to minister to others in Jesus' name.