

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Corner

“I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord.” —Romans 8:38

I don’t expect you not to grieve. I remember the night my mother returned from a board meeting at church with the devastating news. Our minister had announced his resignation. Prior to my eleventh birthday, my mom and dad didn’t attend church. They went church shopping once every few months dragging my younger brother and I into Baptist churches, Nazarene churches, and Methodist churches. There was always something that they disliked, so we just drifted.

Then, we discovered St. John’s UCC, Newport, Kentucky. Finally, mom and dad settled on this church. The people were very friendly, there were programs for all ages, and they liked the worship services and the Pastor’s sermons. We attended for a few months and mom was asked to serve as a Sunday school teacher. That’s when the Sunday regiment of going to church really started for me. But when mom came home that night with the news that our minister was leaving, she thought about doing the same thing too.

“The rumors are already flying around the community,” my mom said. “People are saying he is too liberal, and boring.”

“Really? When is he leaving?” my dad asked.

“I think it’s going to be rather quick. Someone said he’s going back to someplace in Michigan where he has family and friends.”



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Dad said, “So, should we stay? Or, do you want to start looking again for a new church?”

“I don’t think anyone can replace Rev. C, but I really don’t want to start over either. I just feel stuck. Disappointed.”

Mom didn’t care for the interim minister much (thanks mom!). But soon enough a new settled pastor arrived and with the help of her close friends at St. John’s, mom gradually grew to accept the changes and continue to remain active in the church. But it wasn’t easy.

So, here I am. I’m not the new settled pastor, nor am I the ghost of Christmas past. I’m kinda like a middle relief pitcher in baseball. I don’t have the blazing fastball to be a great closer. I’m not the young left-handed ace just called up from the minors. I’m the one who comes into the game when most people are heading for the exits, or getting their last beer. But that’s okay, I don’t mind. You need time to grieve.

There’s nothing I can do to erase your pain and loss. The only thing I can really do is pitch a few innings and wait for the coach to send someone else to you from the bullpen. But I love this job nevertheless because I get to point your attention, perhaps more so than others, to the real star of the church, the one you’ve been waiting for... Jesus of Nazareth, our risen Lord and Savior! In him, and him alone, you’ll find all that you need to get you through these difficult days.

Pray for our church leaders. Pray for those who are in mourning. Pray for Pastor Todd, his wife, and their family. Pray for this middle reliever sent to pitch a few innings. And never forget where our hope really comes from because, “I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord.” —Romans 8:38

(Note: If you need to just unload, get some feelings off your chest, or otherwise express your grief, please know you can call me and schedule a time for a Zoom visit, or a conversation over the telephone.)

Sincerely,
Pastor David Poe

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor David Poe’s office hours will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-Thur. Other times are available by appointment. **Note:** Church Office Hours remain the same: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FEMA to Help Pay Funeral Costs for COVID-19-Related Deaths

WASHINGTON -- In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized today, and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide.

"At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters," said Acting FEMA Administrator Bob Fenton. "The COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense grief for so many people. Although we cannot change what has happened, we affirm our commitment to help with funeral and burial expenses that many families did not anticipate."

To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance, [the policy states](#):

- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19.
- If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant. FEMA will also consider documentation from other individuals not listed as the applicant and co-applicant who may have incurred funeral expenses as part of the registration for the deceased individual.
- An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals.
- The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.
- This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application.
- Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

In the coming weeks, a dedicated 800 number will be established to help individuals who apply. In the meantime, potential applicants are encouraged to start gathering the following documentation:

- **An official death certificate** that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States. The death certificate must indicate the death "may have been caused by" or "was likely the result of" COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are considered sufficient attribution.
- **Funeral expense documents** (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant's name, the deceased individual's name, the amount of funeral expenses and dates the funeral expenses were incurred.
- **Proof of funds received from other sources** specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

For more information about this assistance, visit [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov](#).

Mission & Caring Ministry

F.I.S.H. NEEDS FOR MAY

St. John's UCC supports F.I.S.H. food pantry of St. Charles County by contributing food and financial contributions made by our members and friends. Items can be left in the shopping carts. You can find out more about FISH at www.fishofstcharles.com or by calling 636-447-5482. Here are the items FISH is especially in need of this month:

- Dry Beans
- Snacks
- Apple Sauce
- Pears
- Tomato Soup
- Peas
- Pineapple
- Tomatoes

PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer shawls, made by our members, are available. If you know of someone that could use a prayer shawl, please contact Suzanne Weaver or the church office.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING

Fifty-one pairs of eyeglasses have been collected so far this year. Old eyeglasses are being collected and can be dropped off at the shopping carts during drive-in services.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

Three pounds of soda tabs have been collected. Soda tabs may be dropped off at the shopping carts during drive-in services.

NEXT MEETING OF THE MISSION MINISTRY: Monday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Dana Fehr or the church office if you would like to be part of this committee so we can add you to the email for Zoom.

Council Update

The council approved reopening the church on June 1, with our first in-person service on June 6! The task force has many details to work out between now and then, but we are so excited to be back TOGETHER! One detail we can share now is that the indoor service will return to the 10 a.m. time that was voted on and agreed to prior to the pandemic, but virtual options will still be available for those not quite ready. We want everyone to have an option with which they're comfortable.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SAYS

Thank You!

To the members of

St. Johns UCC – Weldon Spring

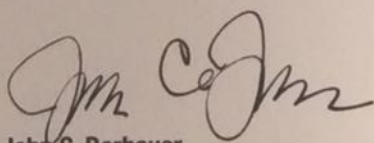
For your 2020 contribution of

\$15,059.39

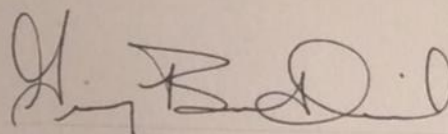
For Basic Support of

Our Church's Wider Mission

Changing Lives



John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ



Conference Minister



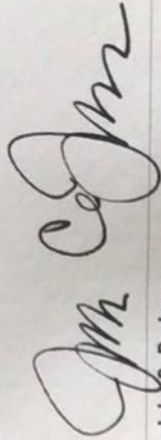
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Thank You!

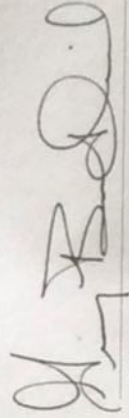
To the members of
Saint John's UCC

for being a 5 for 5 Congregation of
the United Church of Christ in 2020 .

5 for 5 Congregations support Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the
Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen
the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ.



John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ



Conference Minister



News & Notes

MAY SOUND BOOTH VOLUNTEERS:

May 2—Jeff Kolkmeier May 9—David Carr May 16—Jeff Kolkmeier May 23—David Carr May 30—TBD

SOUND BOOTH HELP

We are in need of more people to run the Sound Booth on Sunday mornings. I am not sure why but until recently we have only been recruiting men but now we are CALLING ALL WOMEN that may be interested. You will receive training and help before being asked to run the booth alone. If you are interested or have any questions about this position, call Jewell Nadler at 636-373-1860.

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council wants to remind members and friends to please refrain from contacting Church Office & Communications Manager Cassandra Langley's personal cell phone after-hours via phone calls or text messages. This request also applies to the office phone (which is 636-926-8995 for reference) as it forwards to her personal cell phone while the building is closed and she is working from home. Please contact her/the office only during church office hours (via the office phone or email). If you need immediate assistance outside office hours, then you can contact Pastor David Poe on his cell phone (via voice or text) at 636-667-2541. Email to the church office is always available and we will respond to your emails (or voicemails left during office hours) as quickly as possible during our normal office hours. The church office hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you!

Brad Rehm,

Council President

DON'T MISS IMPORTANT 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. 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.

May 4, 2021—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.

The church building will reopen on Tuesday, June 1 and indoor worship services will resume Sunday, June 6 at 10 a.m. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Currently: Drive-in Worship Service Every Sunday – Ongoing

- Sundays at 9 a.m.
- Remain in car
- Tune in on 88.9FM
- Bathrooms available for emergency use only
- Broadcasted live on the St. John’s Facebook page

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
Mary Ellen Dieckmann	Pat Honaker	Rita Marcum
Jack Fredrick	Don Howell	Chris Savage
Bob Greeley	David & Dorothy Kapeller	Rick Weaver
Val Gumper	Ginnie Loika	
Janett Heitert	Marian Lonning	

Birthdays

Emma Kolkmeier	5/3	Shawn Finklein	5/20
Justin Anstedt	5/4	Marlinda Ireland	5/21
Hank Kroeger	5/4	Shirley Hahn	5/24
Stephanie Orler	5/6	George Schlie	5/25
Cyndi Pahuski	5/6	Lisa Markel	5/26
Matthew Freant	5/7	Mary Lue Buescher	5/28
Sandra Weber	5/10	Don Hartman	5/28
Penny Ambrose	5/11	Jerry Aker	5/30
Elizabeth Myers	5/12		
Bernice Dodge	5/14		
Kayla Finklein	5/14		
Val Gumper	5/15		
Sue Hartman	5/15		
Pat Albrecht	5/18		
Denny Freant	5/18		
Rick Weaver	5/19		

Anniversaries

Jerry & Margot Volding	5/2
Chris & Michele Skornicka	5/3
Greg & Gina Hale	5/7
Jason & Jenna Marco	5/8
Jerry & Linda Martin	5/16
Bob & Georgia Myers	5/16
Todd & Joy Kappeller	5/21
Ken & Ann Lippincott	5/26

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.