



Prepared for the members & friends of:

St. John's United Church of Christ (Huntersville)

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From the Pastor . . .

My son's Cub Scout troop talked the other day about Random Act of Kindness Day. (It is apparently in February.) As you might expect, this is a day designed to encourage people to seek out ways to care for and serve our neighbors, care for people around them. Not because you expect anything in return, not because they are close friends or best buds, but just because you can. The acts are meant to be done because the person next to you deserves to be shown kindness... and if you can show that kindness, you should.


I mention this because I believe this is exactly what we are called to do as Christians. Jesus invited us to love our neighbors and this takes many forms. Sometimes it means using our voice politically in support of policies that reflect God's love for all. Sometimes it means praying for our neighbors, or sending cards, or giving money to charities that do good work. But sometimes, it means doing actual acts of service, acts of kindness, towards those around us. This is bringing food for the food pantry. This is going to work at the soup kitchen in Greensburg. (Watch this space for an invitation to do just that in the coming months.) Sometimes that means giving to the homeless person on the street. And sometimes it means helping that person find food or shelter for the night instead of cash. The call to care for our neighbors, to care for others, will look different in every situation and from each one of us. But it, at its heart, is honestly still making every day "Random Act of Kindness Day". Perhaps especially during Lent.

By the time you get this newsletter, we will be mere days (maybe mere hours for those receiving it in the mail), from the beginning of Lent. It is a long tradition within portions of Christianity, including our own portion, to "give up" something for Lent, to have some sort of Lenten fast. This is a good tradition and well worth doing, especially if we allow such a fast to focus us on God. But maybe this year instead (or in addition) to that, we can add something. What if we all sought during Lent to do one random act of kindness each day? What might 40 days of extra kindness (not counting Sundays) look like in our lives? How might it transform or touch our community? I think the possibilities are tantalizing. And I will be striving this Lent to live into this idea. I invite you to join me.

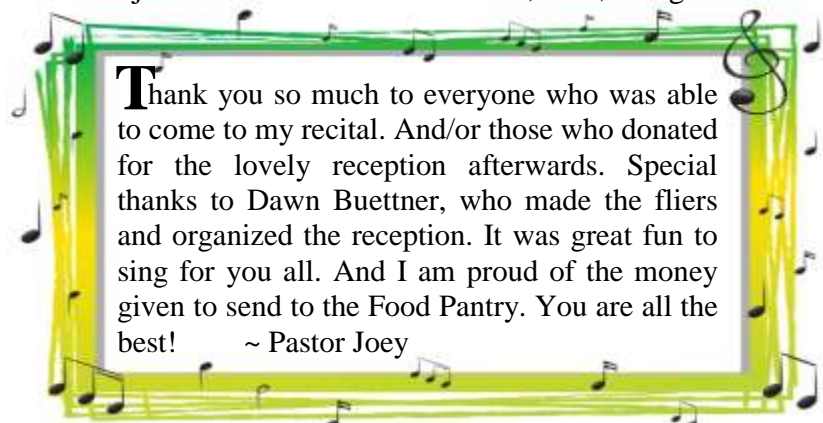
Random Act of Kindness Day was in February. But for us as Christians, being kind, being loving and serving our neighbors are meant to be everyday things. Let us this Lent do just that. Let us show kindness, love, and grace each day.

Shalom, *Pastor Joe*

Monday Morning With Pastor Joey



Amack's Well, Monday from a little after 9am until noon. (You can find him upstairs.)



Thank you so much to everyone who was able to come to my recital. And/or those who donated for the lovely reception afterwards. Special thanks to Dawn Buettner, who made the fliers and organized the reception. It was great fun to sing for you all. And I am proud of the money given to send to the Food Pantry. You are all the best! ~ Pastor Joey



“LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING”

#49

This hymn, written in praise of the God of majesty and power, was authored in 1633 by George Herbert, and is based on Psalm 96:11; *“Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout His praise!”* Herbert was born on April 3, 1593 at Montgomery Castle, Wales. A contemporary of Milton and Shakespeare, Herbert studied at Westminster School and graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1611. He was a priest in the Church of England, orator and poet and also served in Parliament from 1624 - 1625. He was Bishop of Lincoln between 1626 and 1629, when illness forced him to retire. The text is from a larger work, “The Temple,” published after his death by John Wesley. Herbert died of tuberculosis in Bremerton, Wiltshire, England on March 1, 1633 at age 39.

A prolific composer of hymns and anthems, the tune, CONRAD, was composed by Paul Liljestrang in 1970. Born in Montclair, NJ, on May 5, 1931, Liljestrang received his BA and MA from the Juilliard School. He taught at Northeastern Bible College, Nyack College, and served as organist and choir director at Calvary Baptist Church in New York City for 30 years. Liljestrang died on February 17, 2011 in Thomasville, GA.

“Let all the world in every corner sing: My God and King!”

David W. Hanson, Organist/Choir Director
St. John’s (Huntersville) UCC

Anniversaries This Month

- 4 Tim & Kathie Pohlman
- 20 Carol & Steve McPherson
- 30 Jim & Vicky Wintz

Birthdays This Month

- 1 Lindsey Rynn
- 2 Janice Brougher, Claire Fullenkamp, Kyle Wirth
- 3 Bob Wilhelm
- 5 Andy Brebberman
- 7 Sarah Dobson
- 8 Linda Kanning, Luke Sarringhaus
- 9 Josh Pohlman
- 10 Sarah Bryant, Sandy Weberding
- 11 Willow Davis, Derek Davidson
- 12 Irvin Harmeyer, Sharon Wessel
- 13 Serenity Feldmann, Greg Hellmann
- 14 Nikki Sarringhaus, Janet Schumacher, Mike Vonderheide
- 18 Joe Volk
- 19 Gwen Haakinson, Kathie Pohlman
- 20 Chad Emsweller
- 22 Colt Narwold
- 24 Marla Placke, Austin Wilhelm
- 25 Ruby Gardner, Becky Schutte
- 30 Gabe Kuykendall
- 31 Danette Oswald, Shari Westerfeld

Thank you

No family is ever prepared for the loss of a child or grandchild. But through the love and support of family and friends and a strong belief in God’s loving embrace we persevere.

Josh Erik Bieker (33) passed away January 5, 2025. His mother is Kim and his grandmother is Phillis (Fodder) Hoy. Josh has two sisters and one brother. He will be missed by all who knew him.

St. John’s has always held special memories for Kim . . . “the people of St. John’s are the most caring and kindest in the world.” She sends her appreciation to you all and says *“thank you”*.

*T*hank you so much to everyone who sent cards to Georgia for her 90th birthday and to us for our 71st wedding anniversary. Some of you visited and some of you called, and we hope you know how much that means that you went out of your way for us.

Thank you again and God Bless You All.

~ Don & Georgia Haarman



A big *thank you* to all who helped provide the delicious variety of food, drinks, paper goods, and more for Pastor Joey & Co.’s Recital reception. Thank you also to those who helped serve, come early to set up, and stay afterward to clean up.

It’s because of you St. John’s ministry of caring for our community and extending a warm welcome our guests, families, new and old friends, continues to thrive and deepen within and beyond our walls.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 19th. A light breakfast will be provided at 9:30am with the hunt starting at 10am. Please feel free to invite family and friends to this longstanding tradition. Hope you can make it!



SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD NOTE:

We are asking to please be mindful and respectful when you are in the building whether it is for events or if the building has been rented or signed out by someone within the church or outside of the church. When you are in the building please be only in the place where you are supposed to be and not enter into other parts of the building. We have recently experienced some issues in our Sunday School rooms where papers, supplies have been strewn about on the tables. This is not noticed until the teacher enters the room to teach the class that day. The re-organization of the rooms then takes time away from our children and their Sunday School lesson. We hope that we will not have further issues. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to a member of the Sunday School Board or Church Council.

**BE RESPECTFUL
AND
RESPONSIBLE**

St. John's March Liturgist Schedule

- 3/2.....Sam Sitterding.....Safe Passage
- 3/9.....Kristina FryeSt. John's Music Fund
- 3/16...Myron Kanning...OCWM (UCC)
- 3/23...Anna Mauer.....St. John Membership Services

Join us this March 5 as we begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday service. As usual, it will be a service of prayer and reflection and include both ashes and Communion. Come to worship as we begin our journey through the wilderness towards Easter.



LOADS OF LOVE!!

Last fall our congregation was soooooo generous in filling the washing machine with quarters to distribute to the local laundromat. During the month of "love," we were able to distribute 73 "bags of love" to people who might need just a little help with a load of wash. The congregation collected 949 quarters!! Thank you so much for your generosity!



THE GREEN TEAM

Don't forget that Pastor Joey is currently putting together a "Green Team." The role of this group will be to continue exploring the possibility of solar panels on the church roof, as well as to watch for other ways we as a congregation can be more environmentally and financially friendly. If you are interested in being on this team, please call or text Pastor Joey.

BOOK SALE

WHEN: March 14 & 15 from 9am-5pm

**WHERE: 108 N Elm St, Batesville
The Library Annex**

**WHAT: BOOKS (Hardcover/Paperback)
CDs, DVDs and more!**

Cash or Check ONLY.

EVERYTHING IS PRICED AT \$1.

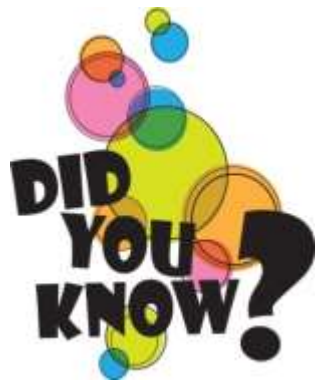
We are accepting donations of gently-used books, tapes, CDs, DVDs, etc. at the library.

**FROM OUR SUNDAY
SCHOOL BOARD
WITH FACTS YOU
MAY OR MAY NOT
KNOW ABOUT THE
CHURCH PICNIC.**

**HOMEMADE MOCK
TURTLE SOUP**

DID YOU KNOW.....

- Before we had our own soup cooker, we used to haul all the containers and ingredients for 100 gallons of soup to Enochsburg to use their cooker. After it was all done it had to be hauled back to church in the back of a truck and then put in our refrigerators. We also went to St. Louis to do it a few years.
- Not sure when our current 50-gallon cooker was purchased but Rev. Dave had a lead on a used one in a restaurant supply house. Rev. Dave, Floyd and Janet and Irvin Placke drove there to see it and purchased it!
- For our picnic we make a total of 75 gallons. 50 gallons are made on Friday before picnic that is used for selling in quarts, gallons, etc. The other 25 gallon is cooked on the morning of the picnic to sell for bowls at the picnic. Very fresh!
- For 75 gallons of soup, it takes 23 dozen of eggs, 75 pounds of ground beef and 115 cans of tomato juice plus all the other vegetables that go in it. If you think you want to make it on your own at home, the recipe is in the Blue church cookbook but it is for 100 gallons!!
- The recipe calls for brown flour. Have you seen it in the stores? Nope, Sheryl Voss makes it at home and brings with her. Very time consuming to do this without burning it!
- It takes 8-10 people to make the soup. About 7 hours on Friday and about 3 hours on Saturday.
- Want to learn how and have a great time doing it, stay tuned for picnic sign-ups in early June!



Attention All Singers!

Practice for the 41st Easter Ecumenical Choir Cantata has begun. Singers of all ages are welcome. Practice is on Mondays at 6:30pm in the church sanctuary.



This year's cantata, *Come To The Cross and Remember*, promises to be a stirring and beautiful telling of the Easter story and Christ's journey to the cross.

Performance dates are Easter Sunrise Service, **Sunday, April 20th**, at 6:30am, with a second performance on the following **Sunday, April 27th** at 7:00pm.

For more information call the church office or see Marilyn, Kimberly, or Dawn. Hope to see you there!

2025 Lent/Easter Schedule

As previously announced, we will be having something different for each night of Lent. Here are the weeks of Lent and what kind of service we will have.

March 12 @ 7pm: Join us for a sermon with a few hymns.

March 19 @ 7pm: Prayer service with worship and will focus solely on prayer. We will say prayers for ourselves, our community, our nation, and our world. Just a chance to pray together.

March 26, 6-8pm: Prayer stations: Come and pray on your own anytime between 6pm and 8pm. A quiet, peaceful setting will be established for prayer.

April 2 @ 6:30pm: Dinner and Bible Study: Join us for dinner provided by Church Council (spaghetti!). Then, as we wind down our table fellowship, we will have a brief Bible Study led.

April 9 @ 7pm: Standard service with dialogue sermon: We will end our five weeks as we began, gathering to worship as we so often have.

April 13 @ 9am: Palm Sunday Service

April 17 @ 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service/Communion.

April 18 @ 7pm: Good Friday Service

April 19 @ 9:30am: Sunday School Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt at 10am

April 20 @ 6:30am: Sunrise Service, featuring the Ecumenical Easter Cantata Choir

April 20 @ 9am: Easter Service with Communion

April 27 @ 7pm: Encore Presentation of the Ecumenical Easter Cantata Choir





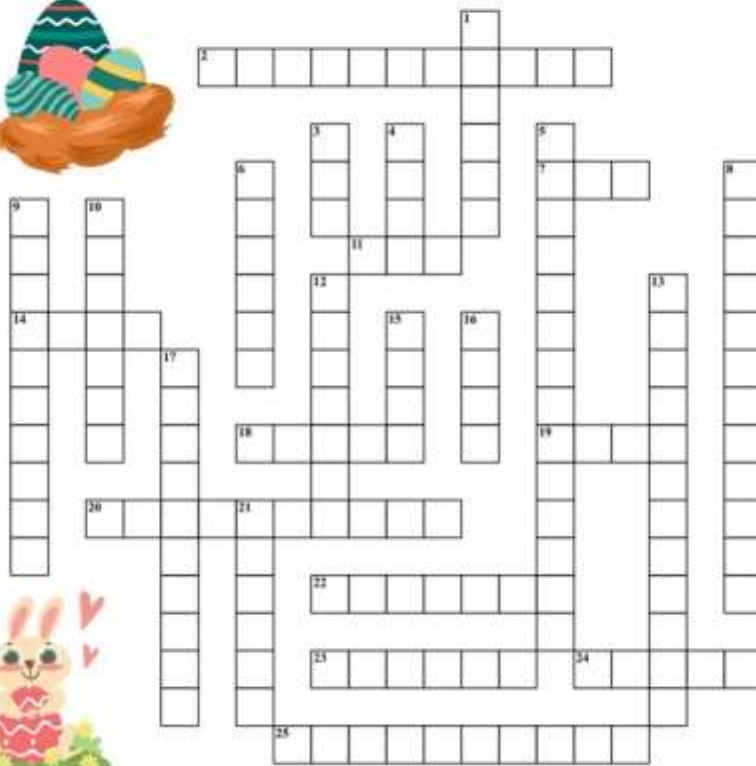
If you would like to place an Easter flower or Heavenly bouquet (*monetary donation to help maintain the beauty of our altar*) in the Sanctuary in memory/honor of someone on Easter Sunday, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering tray or turn in it to the office. All forms **MUST** to be turned in to the office no later than **Sunday, April 13th**. Please have all flowers to the church by noon on Holy Saturday, April 19th. You may pick up your flower after service on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

I would like to place (*circle one*) an Easter flower in the sanctuary or donate a Heavenly bouquet in (*circle one*) Memory of or In Honor of:

Name: _____

Given By: _____

Easter Crossword



Word Bank

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Easter Bunny | Dye |
| White | Moon |
| Lily | Second |
| Million | Red |
| Pennsylvania | Million |
| Dye | Sunday |
| Moon | Ham |
| Second | Great Britain |
| Red | Chile |
| Million | New clothes |
| Good Friday | Golden |
| Jellybeans | Hare |
| Chocolate bunny | Germany |
| Ears | Lamb |
| Twelve | Palm Sunday |



Down

1. What day of the week does Easter fall on
3. The first Easter eggs were dyed what color?
4. What flower is associated with Easter?
5. What is one of the most popular American Easter candy
6. What is color is the grand prize egg
8. Which country has the tradition of eating hot cross buns at Easter?
9. What do Americans consume over 16 million of on Easter
10. The idea of the Easter bunny, originated in what country in the 1700's?
12. There is 90 _____ chocolate bunnies produced each year?
13. In which state did the Easter bunny first appear?
15. The idea of the Easter bunny, which originated in Germany in the 1700s, was not a rabbit originally, but a:
16. Easter is set according to the phase of what?
17. Buying what for Easter is said to bring good luck for the rest of the year?
21. Easter is the _____ largest holiday for eating candy

Across

2. Who hides the Easter Eggs
7. What is one of the Traditional meats in the US for Easter
11. How do we color the eggs
14. Besides bunnies, what animal is considered an Easter symbol?
18. What color of eggs are best for coloring
19. Most Americans bite off what part of a chocolate bunny first?
20. The Sunday before Easter is called what?
22. How many Peeps do Americans eat during each Easter season? 600 _____
23. How many states consider Good Friday a holiday?
24. Easter Island is part of which country
25. What is the Friday before Easter called

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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SO WE
DO NOT
LOSE
HEART.

THOUGH OUR
OUTER SELF
IS WASTING AWAY,



OUR INNER SELF IS

BEING RENEWED
DAY BY DAY.



2 CORINTHIANS 4:16, ESV