

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



**St. John United Church of Christ
204 Seventh Street
Lincoln, Illinois 62656**

November 2021 Newsletter

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

204 Seventh Street ~ Lincoln, Illinois 62656

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"Letting God's love shine through us to the Community we Serve"

Rev. Laurie Hill

Darlene Begolka

Volume 52, No. 11

Pastor

Office Manager

November 2021

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

**Totenfest
Sunday**

**Thanksgiving
Food
Drive**

**Stewardship
Campaign**

**Men's
Fellowship
Group**

**Hanging
of the
Greens**

**Children
of Lincoln
Offering**

**Toys for
Tots**

**Celebrate
Life Birthday
Group**

**St. John
Diners**

**Diaper
Project
Offering**

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Scientists say that all matter on earth is made up of the atoms that have always been here on earth for the billions of years. And also, that everything is made up of the stardust. So, they say, all of the atoms are just recycled into animals, fish of the sea, rain, spatulas and frying pans. That is an interesting thought. I'm not sure if we are all recycled stardust or not, but one thing I do know is that everything on earth, whether breathing or mechanical is fallible. Nothing on this earth is exactly perfect. Animals, machines, internet, and most of all people, make errors, break, fall apart eventually, and die to become something else created from stardust, (Dust to dust, ashes to ashes).

Since Covid hit, tempers have been on the rise! Some of us believe we have the common sense that tells us the right way of being in this pandemic. It's just that the opposite point of view will also be expressed. The pandemic has caused multiple changes and ways of life. We have to wait longer in lines for "fast food". We have to wait longer for service in stores. Prices of food and other goods are going up. Some say an inflation is looming. Blame and defensiveness have been rampant but now it seems it has skyrocketed. We may think we are good people, but then we hear ourselves blaming others. Frustration breeds this animal called blame, which breeds defensiveness. So, what do we do when we feel so angry or frustrated that our technology isn't working or Comcast is down or too much rain has fallen or prices are going up too high or we are in a lot of pain due to a physical problem or we still have to wear masks everywhere we go? We can lament: Why, God, why?

Well, dear stardusty friends, your stardusty pastor would like to invite you to first, when you're frustrated, take a few very deep breaths. This is

not just a time out, but it also helps regulate cortisol and adrenal releases. So, BEFORE YOU SPEAK, breathe. Do a breathing prayer, breathing in kindness, out frustration, in peace, out uncontrol anger. Pray that serenity prayer we are so known for! It helps put things into perspective because we know we cannot control everything. Third, if you speak to someone about a frustration they have caused you, try your hardest to speak with kindness and love in your voice, not anger and blame. Find a way to say to that person you love them and at the same time, would like them to do something differently. Please rehearse in your mind what you will say before you say it.

And my last word of advice for frustration is to be still and know that God is God! If something doesn't work, look for the lesson. If someone isn't doing something you want them to do, perhaps there's a good reason. Stop, be still, and if you cannot change something, give it into the hands of our God. If you can change something, do it with kindness. Especially in anger, breathe! Pray! Be Kind! Easier said than done, but it's one of the way Jesus is real and palpable in our broken world.

Peace,

Pastor Laurie



**ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 18, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Warren Goetsch, Carolyn Pech,
Jack Leich, Troy Meinershagen,
Bill Gosda, Kent Paulus, Tricia Pineda,
Jan Hahn, Darlene Begolka (Office
Manager, Pastor Laurie Hill

Absent: Edna Mara

President Goetsch called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2021. Pastor Laurie opened the meeting with prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

President Goetsch inquired if there were any items up for removal or discussion as it related to the Consent Agenda items. No issues were raised. President Goetsch made a notation that there was a transfer of funds; \$65,000 from Special Funds and \$15,000 from the Farm account for a total of \$80,000 into the current funds. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as is All voting aye, the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORT

President Goetsch turned the meeting over to Jan Hahn for committee updates. Jan indicated that Veterans Ministry held a meeting on October 12, 2021 and signed cards for all St. John's veterans. She indicated there would be two fundraisers held to support Veterans Ministry. She indicated the funds would go to help with the cost of the Veterans Celebration Dinner as well as the needs of local veterans. First fundraiser would be held on November 10, 2021 which will be an all-day fundraiser at the Country Aire Restaurant. The second fundraiser would be held November 18, 2021 and will be held by the Joyful Painting business which would be a painting party.

St. John's "Gamers" was held on October 10, 2021 in which 8 people attended. St. John's Diners was

held on October 16, 2021 at the Chestnut Family Restaurant. Eleven people were in attendance. The next "Diners" will be on November 20, 2021 with a trip to Elkhart. On December 10, 2021 "Diners" will travel to see the "Lady of the Snow" exhibit in Belleville. Pastor Laurie Hill will be hosting a "Cup of Christmas Tea" on December 4, 2021 for all women of the church, relatives and friends.

PASTORS REPORT

Pastor Laurie indicated that in 2022 she would like to propose we focus on Prayer. She referred Council to look at the handout provided and then discussed various prayer programs. Several different methods and ideas were outlined and presented to Council such as (but not limited to), prayer partners, meditation stations, prayer shawls, etc. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to adopt 2022 as a year to focus on prayer and pursue various prayer practices. All voting aye, the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Security System: Darlene indicated to Council that Senergy did not have the capacity to take over the fire/smoke system. Prior to the Council meeting the church received an updated proposal from Tech Electronics which could maintain the system. However, President Goetsch indicated he has not had a chance to thoroughly review the proposal and we would address later. He indicated progress is indeed being made on this matter.

Nominating Committee: President Goetsch indicated he would work with Troy Meinershagen to get a list of positions that need covered and two members from the congregation for the nomination committee. No further update was available.

NEW BUSINESS

Stewardship: Pastor Laurie asked Council to review the handout issued for the Stewardship campaign 2022 "Rooted in Love". Pastor indicated a proposal to focus on three ministries:

1) Small Groups, 2) Technology and 3) Hospitality, Abundant Welcoming (RAW). Pastor indicated that she would like to have a special speaker lead the worship service while sharing the pulpit with Pastor Laurie on that date and have a catered meal after service playing bingo and having the speaker say a blessing for the future of St. Johns. She would also recommend a taskforce being appointed by Council to research issues such as fundraising projects, reviewing the budget structure, research what other churches may be doing regarding their growth, etc. She also indicated she planned on sending out a "Save the Date" notice to the congregation.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to plan on a Stewardship Campaign and to finalize and end CPR. The guest Speaker would be left up to Pastor Laurie to determine. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Christmas Eve Service Time: Council pursued a robust conversation on the pros and cons of moving the current service time from 11:00 p.m. During discussion, it was decided upon that December's Council meeting would be moved to December 13, 2021. After much deliberation, it was moved and seconded to move the service time for Christmas Eve to that of 10:00 p.m. All voting aye, motion carried.

Hanging of the Greens will take place on November 22, 2021 with the assistance of the Boy Scouts if they are willing. The remainder of any unfinished decorating will take place after church on November 28, 2021. After the group is finished, anyone wishing to participate can go to Culver's for lunch.

Annual Congregation Meeting Date: The annual Congregational meeting will be held on January 30, 2022. All annual reports are due by January 7, 2022. 2021 Treasurer's books close at 12:00 noon on December 31, 2021.

Other – Pay Pal: Carolyn Pech confirmed it is up and running but no donations have come


in. Pastor Laurie indicated she would like to have donation capability via Facebook.

IDPH has made contact with St. John's that they are in need of a location for a vaccination site. Upon discussion it was agreed upon for Pastor Laurie to reach out to IDPH and let them know they can utilize our church as a designated vaccination site.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

With no further business to discuss a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting concluded at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tricia Pineda,
Church Council Secretary



TOTENFEST
Sunday, November 7th

This is the Sunday when we remember those from our "Church Family" who have passed away during the year.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
Sunday, November 14th



ST. JOHN 160th ANNIVERSARY

Recap #2 - Highlights 1868-1890

The early members of this new church followed their heritage in Germany of 'societies' (now would be organizations) within the church that stimulated special programs and work of the church. The wife of Rev. Ludwig Austmann in 1874 founded St. John's "Frauenverein" (Women's Society) with sixty-six members. As was common in the history of the Evangelical churches, the women were the first to organize and respond to the challenges and needs of specific causes within the church.

Having a parochial school in the church with classes taught by the pastor, it was decided in that year, 1874, to hire a full-time German teacher. In August with new pastor, John Ade, plans were continued so that in October 1877 a one-room wooden schoolhouse was built on corner of Fifth and Union facing Union St. This property of 4 lots were acquired with a trade from the parsonage and lot at corner of Decatur & McLean for the house for future church to be built. The house at 112 Fifth Street became the parsonage and plans for the new church were immediately set in motion. Cornerstone was laid on September 28, 1884 for a "House of God with artistic discernment and spiritual dignity" a place that the schoolhouses they had been using as a place of worship.

True to European style – the new church featured a steeple of one hundred fifteen feet – pointing "The Way". Two bronze bells were shipped from I.T. Verin Company Bell Foundry, Cincinnati, Ohio in October 1884 one weighing sixteen hundred twelve pounds and the other seven hundred twenty-two pounds (both which grace our church to this day). The bells first rang to call the members to worship as the church was dedicated on January 18, 1885. This practice continues to this day with those same bells.

With the building of the church on the acquired lot, the frame schoolhouse was taken down. The basement of the church was divided into two

areas. One was for the Junior and Senior departments of the Sunday School and the other space for the classroom for the parochial weekday school. Another house on the northeast section of the lot was home to the deaconess.

In 1887 Reverend Hermann Schmidt became pastor. Many of the practices that began with the new House of worship became a 'tradition' that carries through today. The tolling of the bell during the congregation's recitation of the "Lord's Prayer" has since ceased but the tolling of the bell in respect of the life of the deceased member continues, following the decedent's funeral. Ringing of the bells and the tolling requires training so bells are not dislodged from their framework in the tower.

During the late 1880's, the forerunner of The Youth Fellowship was organized, as was a "Mutual Sick and Benefit Society" which provided certain financial benefits to St. John members (or some other Christian church) in times of illness. Dues were \$4 per year. Records show fifty-one members in 1910 with benefits for illnesses and death all prior to any other agency available for this assistance. This became a catalyst for the upcoming decade for St. John's service to the community and area.





SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance	\$18,268.08
Income	\$21,988.88
Expenses	\$30,128.14
Ending Balance	\$10,128.82

ATTENDANCE

September 26th

22 In-Person, 58 on Facebook, 16 bulletins mailed and website = 96+

October 3rd

45 In-Person, 94 on Facebook, 16 bulletins mailed and website = 155+

October 10th

30 In-Person, 67 on Facebook, 17 bulletins mailed and website = 114+

October 17th

33 In-Person, 68 on Facebook, 17 bulletins mailed and website = 118+

October 24th

28 In-Person, 17 bulletins mailed = 45

ALTAR FLOWERS

November 7th:
 November 14th:
 November 21st:
 November 28th:

PROTOCOL

Sadly, we are having to take a step back due to Covid risk in Illinois. CDC declares Logan County as a "substantial risk". Let's keep each other safe from this enemy: The Delta variant of Covid!

SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO BE "HYBRID": (a combination of online and in-person).

MASKING: Is required of everyone, vaxxed and unvaxxed.

SINGING: We will be back to humming or very softly singing 1 hymn.

OFFERING: The Offering Plates will still be in the back of the sanctuary, but the usher will be bringing the plate forward during the offering time in the service. Another offering plate will remain in the back

COMMUNION: Communion sets will remain in the back for you to pick up as you come in. If you wish to bring your own, of course, that's fine. Darlene has "smidget" Tupperware containers if you wish to use one for your own juice/wine.

FOOD: ALL food still needs to be prepared in a commercial kitchen.



LET'S REMEMBER OUR FACILITY and HOMEBOUND.....

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Dave Armbrust
 Steve Aue
 Evelyn Fulkerson
 Susan Webb
 John Wilmert

CASTLE MANOR

1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Leola Dowling
 Carol Turner

CENTENNIAL POINT SENIOR LIVING

3440 Hedley Road, Springfield, IL 62711

Patty McCann

AT HOME

Jean Cummings

1114 Pekin Street, Lincoln, IL 62656



The Flower Chart is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. You are encouraged to sign up for flowers in memory of loved ones or for a special occasion.



WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

We extend our deepest sympathy to Pastor Laurie and her family at the death of her aunt, June Hurd.

Carolyn Pech and Randy and Betsy Pech and family at the death of their aunt, Ruth Opperman.



Articles for the **December** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **November 19th**.



JUBILANT FEET,
 is the church's walking group and they meet on **Monday mornings** at **8:00 a.m.** at **Kickapoo Creek Park** **Everyone is welcome!**

GREETERS

November 7th: Verdeen Ingram
November 14th: Randy Pech
November 21st: Alice Paulus
November 28th: Wayne Mara

OUTREACH AND PUBLICITY NEWS

Jim and Leslie Wilmert and
Tonita Reifsteck, Co-Chairs

Tonita Reifsteck, 160th Anniversary Planner

Outreach/Publicity has cancelled ALL PLANS for the Potato Bar for this year.

Notice several contributors to the Anniversary display in the entryway – filling out a Cross and placed around the silhouette of St. John UCC. On the side table will be a basket of ‘Praying Hands’ for everyone who wants to highlight a memory to note it on the hands and use a ‘dressmakers pin’ to affix it to the ‘CHURCH’ let’s everyone who wants to be a part of the anniversary memories. A monthly article in the Chimes will be featured in segments of 15-20 years each.

A note to each of our college students along with a check to show our support was voted to be initiated this month. We have 5 students and 2 in advance degree studies.

CHRISTIAN CHILD CARE – does NOT need any more plastic milk jugs. Recycle through your own container. The rest of the items remain in the ‘needs’ list. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING you share.

HUMANE SOCIETY welcomes prescription and/or over the counter drug containers WITH THE LIDS ON. Remove personal information please. They also welcome newspapers and plastic bags!

Central School and Lincoln Junior High School reported that they are ALWAYS in need of #2 pencils. Also, constant need is Kleenex! Include these in donations under “The Giving Tree”.

CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP and CHARITY GUILD MEETING

The Celebrate Life Birthday Group met at the Kickapoo Park shelter on Friday, October 8th on a beautiful fall day. There were 17 in attendance.

Several people from the group brought items for the picnic: hot dogs, condiments, buns, chips, and makings for s’mores. We all enjoyed the hot dogs that Danny prepared for us.

Norma led us in an old camp time prayer song, “Johnny Appleseed”. After the meal we had fun singing camp songs from our much younger days at various church, 4-H, and Girl Scout camps. We looked back on memories of simpler days gone by.

The group decided to hope for another nice fall day to meet again at the park on Friday, November 12th at 11:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in Fellowship Hall. Dress warm and join our Celebrate Life Group.

Discussion will be held concerning meetings in the winter months.

A brief Charity Guild meeting will be held at conclusion. We need to elect officers for 2021-2022 and decide on possible charitable donations.

Karen Birnbaum, President





To my church family,

Thank you so very much for all the thoughts, prayers, calls and cards that you have sent to support us in these last months. Greg enjoyed and appreciated all the cards that he received during his brief illness. He looked forward to the mail coming each day. Your continued support since his passing has uplifted me personally and seemed to arrive when I needed that support the most. Thank you, also, for your continued prayers and support for Alissa. God has blessed us with a wonderful church family.

With Christian Love,
Carla and Family



The family of Gina Marie Fuller Lockenvitz want to say "Thank You" to our St. John United Church of Christ family and our many friends for their beautiful, heartfelt sympathy with cards, phone calls, food and memorials. We also appreciated all who attended Gina's visitation and funeral.

A **SPECIAL THANKS** to Sandy Wilmert, Tonita Reifsteck, Pastor Laurie and Darlene for their support, comfort and love.

May God Bless Each One of You Every Day for being there for our family during this difficult time with words of encouragement, strength and peace. The white rose on the altar at church was a special tribute to honor Gina.

Gratefully: Mary, Greg and Sarah Fuller



The following is a note from Rev. Dr. Charlotte Nold, Pastor at our sister church St. John United Church of Christ in Chicago:

Dear members of St. John UCC,

What a blessing you continue to be to us here at St. John church here in Chicago. Our food pantry is growing every week and it is a blessing for us to be able to feed the families in desperate need of food so that their children do not need to go to be hungry. We also have many people who live along who need and receive food.

Thank you again for the wonderful blessing of much needed financial support that you are giving to us.

You truly are a blessing to us.



Yes, it will soon be time to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

We will be pre-decorating on Monday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. with helping hands from our Boy Scout Troop.

We will then finish the decorating on Sunday, November 28th following the morning worship service.

This will be an excellent opportunity for the congregation to get to know the boys in the Boy Scout Troop that meets here.

Sound like fun? Come when you are available to help. Remember many hands make light work. Mark your calendars and join the fun.

MISSION COMMITTEE

by: Verdeen Ingram, Co-Chair

SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAYS...The Mission Committee has designated the following Sundays:

- **Second Sunday of each month** a special offering will be taken following church for the **Children of Lincoln project**.
- **Fourth Sunday of each month** a special offering will be taken following church for the **Diaper Project for Head Start at Community Action**.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Thank you to all of you who donated school supplies and money to our Mission project during July, August and September!!

On October 1st, I delivered two big boxes of school supplies to Central School. The boxes were full of book bags, Kleenex, pencils, crayons, glue, notebooks, erasers, markers and other small items. They were happy to get all of these goodies for their students.

A box of pens, markers and other items for older students will be delivered to Lincoln Junior High School. Also delivered to LJHS were earbuds that we purchased with money you donated to the school supply fund.

We still have some money left in this fund. It will be used throughout the year as needs arise at these two schools.

Once again, thank you for supporting our local students as they grow and learn!

HOLIDAY (THANKSGIVING?) FOOD DRIVE



As I write this, Larry is working in the farm shop. Harvesting and field work are on hold because of the rain. But we farmers will soon be out there again 'bringing in the sheaves'. Afterwards will come a time of rejoicing and giving thanks for a successful harvest.

The folks at Community Action (CAPCIL) are also looking forward to a time of rejoicing. They and their clients hope that St. John will soon be bringing a big load of groceries to the food pantry.

The pantry is now set up as a co-op. Clients do volunteer work at the agency to earn the right to shop at the pantry. This plan has worked out so well that it is now used in all six counties that CAPCIL serves. Of course, food is also available from the pantry in emergency situations.

The Mission Committee will be passing out grocery bags beginning on Sunday, November 7th. Please take a bag, fill it, and bring it back to the church by November 21st. We will display your goodies during worship that day. Then, as we deliver the food to the pantry, we will rejoice and give thanks for a bountiful harvest!



It seems like everything is in short supply these days. It is a lucky day when I can find a package of canning lids at the store. The car lots are almost

bare. And many parts for farm machinery are on back order. Now we learn (from the TV of course), that toys will also be scarce this holiday season.

Certain popular toys might be scarce, but there will still be a lot of great toys available. And we don't want any Logan County kids to discover on Christmas morning that there is a toy shortage in their house.

To make sure this doesn't happen, St. John will be helping Toys for Tots by collecting all kinds of toys. There will be a toy box and a donation can in the entryway from November 1 until December 5. Please go shopping and bring your donations to the church during that time.

Donna Gaydosh heads up the Logan County Toys for Tots. She strives to give each child a book as well as a toy, so books are always welcome. Also, she wants us to shop not only for those kids who are 4 years old, but also for those who are 14.

Our fundraising events of past years can no longer happen, so the Mission Committee is depending on you to fill the box with toys!

SEASONS GREETINGS!

Mark your calendars!



During the first week of December, the Christmas card tree will go up in the St. John entryway. Be the first to extend holiday greetings to your church family by placing your card on the tree!

In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving!



*You are invited to a Christmas Tea!
Saturday, December 4th
4:00 p.m.*

*You need not bring one single thing
except an open heart and
a warm smile.*

*Pastor Laurie will be presenting
a program called,
"A Cup of Christmas Tea"
and tea, coffee, and dessert will be
provided.*

*Please RSVP to the office
or sign up in church.
Bring friends and family!*

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

*"a rope that is woven of three strings is hard to break."
Ecclesiastes 4:12*

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
57th Annual Celebration
November 16-20, 2021
ilucc.org

 **UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

November

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Brenda Kurtz
- 3 Dan Row
- 6 Lisa Conrady
Cale Costello
Karen Pecoraro
- 7 Pastor Steve Hill
- 8 Sandy Sanders
- 9 Twila Muhlach
- 10 Matthew Goetsch
Becky Semple
Scott Semple
John Wilmert
- 11 Randy Paulus
- 13 Rich Joseph
Wayne Semple
- 15 **David Armbrust**
- 18 Tami Pagel
- 22 John Larson
- 25 **Evelyn Fulkerson**
Larry Ingram

Names in **red** are members of our church who are on the visitation list. Let's fill their mailboxes on their birthdays.

Eat at the
COUNTRY AIRE RESTAURANT
in Atlanta, Illinois
Wednesday, November 10, 2021
All Day



10% of the sales
that day will go to the
**2022 Logan County
Veterans Celebration.**
(The Logan County Veterans Celebration
is hosted by St. John United Church of
Christ.)

Mark your calendars and come out to
support this great project.

**"Letting God's love shine through us to the
Community we serve"**

November ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Pastors Laurie and Steve Hill
- 5 Dave and Marge Hansen
- 12 Kevin and Angie Kurtz
- 23 John and Amy Tabor



PAINT PARTY
Thursday, November 18th
6:00 p.m.
St. John UCC Fellowship Hall

Come join the fun when Jody from Joyful Painting is here to guide the group through painting this picture. Cost is \$35, which \$10 will be going to the Veteran Ministry for the 2022 Veterans Celebration. Call the church office (217-732-6957) to reserve your seat. This is open to the entire community.



NEW LOCATION

MEN'S BREAKFAST



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6
8:30 a.m.

MAMA'S ARCADE in Lincoln

All Men of the Church are WELCOME.

ST. JOHN'S DINERS



The St. John Diners will be going to the Wildhare Café in Elkhart, Illinois for lunch on **Saturday, November 20th**. The bus will leave at 11:30 a.m. Signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary.

ST. JOHN'S GAMERS



Sunday, November 14th



Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 10th** when the group will travel to Belleville, Illinois to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snow for the Way of Lights. The group will eat dinner somewhere in Belleville area. Watch for more details.

In Loving Memory



Gina Marie Lockenvitz, 58, of Normal, passed away on Friday, September 24, 2021 at her home.

She was born February 15, 1963 in Lincoln, daughter of Col. Chan and Mary Louise Levi Fuller. She married Jeffrey T. Lockenvitz on June 29, 1991 in Bloomington.

Surviving are her husband, Jeff, Normal; her three sons, Michael (Jessica) Lockenvitz, Edwardsville, Mitchell (Megan Rainwater) Lockenvitz and Thomas Lockenvitz, both of Normal and one grandson, Liam T. Rainwater, Normal. Also surviving are her mother, Mary Fuller and one brother, Greg Fuller, both of Lincoln.

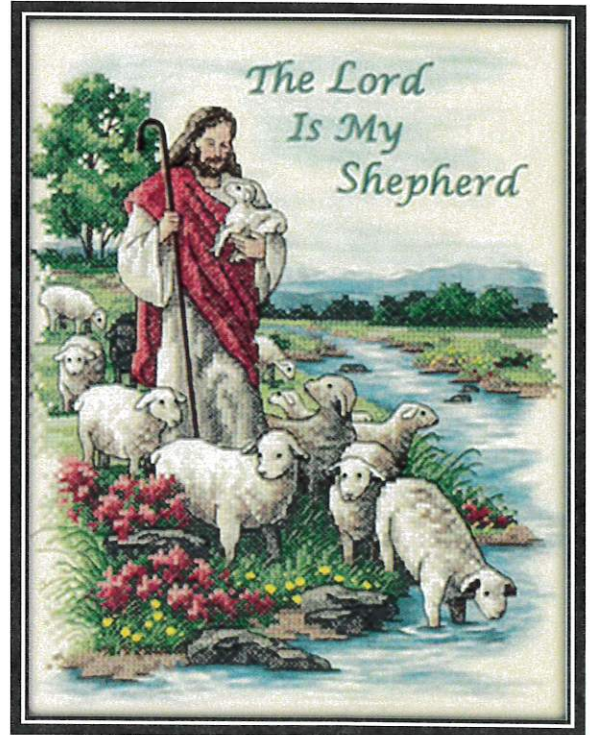
She was preceded in death by her father.

Gina was a 1981 graduate of Lincoln High School. She received her Bachelor's degree in elementary education and her Master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Illinois State University. She taught first grade for Unit 5, first at Brigham School and then at Prairieland School. She loved her students and those she worked with over the years. She had an affinity for the kids who struggled the most or who needed extra care and support.

She loved music and in her younger years enjoyed playing the flute, piccolo and the piano. She was also raised as a "tough farm girl" and was a member of 4H, where she won several awards and ribbons for her painting, macramé and straw weaving at the Logan County and State Fairs.

Gina battled MS for 26 years and did whatever she could to not let it define her or let it interfere with her caring for others. She was the planner of the family and always made sure that the family experiences and memories would last a lifetime. She was fun! Her favorite song was "Live Like You Were Dying" which was her motto and what she lived by, especially when she planned the sky diving adventure. Her greatest joy came with the love she had for her kids and her grandson.

Everyone she met cared about her and loved her. Gina will be greatly missed.



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Monday, November 1st

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 2nd

Stewardship meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chorale at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 3rd

Rotary at 12:00 noon

Worship Team meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 4th

Outreach and Publicity at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 6th

Men's Fellowship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 7th

Totenfest Sunday

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service
with Communion at 10:00 am

St. John Ringers rehearsal after church

Chancel Choir rehearsal at 11:30 a.m.

Western Association Zoom meeting at 2:00 pm

Monday, November 8th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 9th

Creative Delights at 3:00 p.m.

Chorale at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10th

All-Day Fundraiser at Country Aire Restaurant
for the 2022 Veterans Celebration

Rotary at 12:00 noon

St. John Chimers rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, November 11th

Blood Drive from 11:0 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday, November 12th

Celebrate Life Birthday Group at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 14th

Stewardship Sunday

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service
at 10:00 am

Children of Lincoln Special Offering Sunday

Catered Meal

Monday, November 15th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 16th

Creative Delights at 3:00 p.m.

Chorale at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17th

Rotary at 12:00 noon

St. John Chimers rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, November 18th

Paint Party Fundraiser at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 20th

St. John Diners at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 21st

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service
at 10:00 am

It's Birthday Sunday – Time to celebrate
November Birthdays

Thanksgiving Food Drive Sunday

Monday, November 22nd

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Pre-Hanging of the Greens at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 23rd

Chorale at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 24th

Rotary at 12:00 noon

Thursday, November 25th

Happy Thanksgiving!

Church office closed for holiday

Friday, November 26th

Church Office closed

Sunday, November 28th

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service
at 10:00 am

Diaper Project Special Offering Sunday

Monday, November 29th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 30th

Chorale at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER LIST

John Barrick
Linda Barrow
Wayne Bowns
Harold Boyer family
Ron Brandy
Esther Burge
Jan Collins
Marsha Fernandez
Mary Fuller
Alta Gehrke
Ruth Gordon
Perry Groves
Cindy Hansen
Dave Harding
Marianne Ingram
Emily Jewsbury
Kris Lucas
Kyle Lucas
Sammy McClure
Mary Francis (aka Franny)
Lynn Price
Kayleigh Reifsteck
Mercedize Reyes
Diane Roschnafsky
Bob Sanders
Bonnie Sanders
Sandy Sanders
Alissa Smith
Chris Sprague
Kathy Staten
Karen Sutton
Kent Tangman
Fred Wiseman
Jason Yates

Caryn
Kenneth
Jo
Joyce
Kyle
Nathan
Elizabeth
Gunner and family
B. J.
Tony
Donna
Bethany
Cheryl
Kate
Jeff
Chris
Sherri
Lisa
Scott
Allen
Fred
Lynn
Pam
Regina



- The Residents at the Christian Village and St. Clara's Rehab and Senior Care
- All those from our "Church Family", Community, State and Nation working in the Medical Field
- Illinois Conference/Wester Association

MILITARY

Wyatt Conrady

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND

David Armbrust, Steve Aue, Jean Cummings, Leola Dowling, Evelyn Fulkerson, Patty McCann, Carol Turner, Susan Webb, John Wilmert

Staff of St. John United Church of Christ

Members and Friends of St. John UCC

Rev. Laurie Hill
Darlene Begolka
Carolyn Pech
Dana Denny
Steve Spaulding
Laura Lee
Darlene Begolka
Calob Pluhm

Ministers

Pastor
Office Manager
Financial Manager
Custodian
Maintenance Person
Organist
Chime Choir Director
Bell Choir and Chancel Choir Director

Church Council for 2021-2022



Warren Goetsch (Elder), President
Kent Paulus (Elder), Vice President
Tricia Pineda (Elder), Secretary
Jan Hahn, Current Fund Treasurer
Troy Meinershagen, Special Funds Treasurer
Bill Gosda, Jr., Financial Secretary
Jack Leich
Edna Mara
Carolyn Pech

Contact us:

Email: stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com

Website: stjohnucclincolnillinois.com

St. John United Church of Christ
204 Seventh Street
Lincoln, Illinois 62656
217-732-6957

Pastor Laurie's cell phone number: 217- 521-7747
Pastor Laurie's email address: pastorlauriehill@gmail.com

"Letting God's love shine through us to the Community we serve"