

The Visitor

June/July 2024

TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Volume 107 Issue 6

A publication of St. John's United Church of Christ

A Message from J. Martin Westermeyer

This version of the Visitor is what could be called the “summer issue”. It will cover information at St. John’s UCC for the months of June and July. Like many organizations, there are “down times” in the scheduling during the summer.

June will be busier than July for Sunday morning Worship:

June 2nd, Holy Communion will be Celebrated.

June 9th, we will be recognizing Graduates from the church. (details elsewhere).

June 16th, we will recognize the men in our lives, as we acknowledge Father’s Day.

On Sunday, June 16th, there will be other events taking place (more details to be found elsewhere). My 40th Anniversary of Ordination will be July 1st, 2024. Since I will be in the middle of rehab for my knee surgery, it was decided to recognize this event on June 16th. There will be recognition during Worship, as well as food to follow.

My knee surgery is scheduled for June 18th, the Tuesday after Father’s Day – and Worship will continue every Sunday in my absence until I return (hopefully the middle of July). I would hope that you will continue to be faithful in your attendance during this time. We may take time off from many things, but God does not, and we need to be present and acknowledge the presence of God.

As I think about all that is going on in my own life and the life of the Church and this particular congregation, I would like to address the changes we sometimes have to address.

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How is your life going? Is it going smoothly or are there rough spots along the way?

There are many times when things aren't going the way we would like them to be going in our lives. We know that there has to be a better way of living but we don't know how to achieve it or we are afraid to try something new and different.

I recently read the story of Jesus calming the storm and was thinking about "storms". The disciples had to go through the storm to understand the presence of God and who Jesus really was. There are times when we, too, have to go through a "storm" in our lives for the change we desire to take place.

These "storms" in our lives take many different forms but none of them are easy at the time. One such "storm" is the death of someone near to you, with all the changes that take place in our lives after a death. Some of these are better than others. Another "storm" is the changes in one's family: marriage, births, children leaving home, major surgery & recovery, etc. All of these alter our lives to some degree or another. Another "storm" is a change in our employment situation. These are always difficult and at times rather traumatic.

We need not fear these "storms" because the changes they make in our emotional environment are often for the better. We need to learn to ride out the "storms" for the better sailing that lies ahead for us.

God, we must remember, is always present in the midst of these "storms". We need to learn to put our trust in God for all of our lives knowing that God is always there to support us.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ORDINATION FOR PASTOR MARTY WESTERMEYER

On Sunday, June 16th, St. John's will be hosting a celebratory service and luncheon honoring 40 years of ordination for Pastor Marty. Join us for a service that recognizes the work Pastor Marty has accomplished throughout his ministry career. Then, join us for a luncheon in Fellowship Hall as we continue to celebrate Pastor Marty. RSVP's will be requested and can be found at the church office or in your weekly bulletin. Please contact the church office if you have any other questions and we hope you can join us for this joyous celebration.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON

As another choir season has come to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated choir members, along with our Choral Scholars for bringing us another wonderful season of music. We had many wonderful Sundays this year, as well as another outstanding Christmas concert.

Our choir members meet every Thursday evening from 7 until 8:30 pm to prepare the music for our Sunday worship. During the Christmas season they meet for two hours a week to prepare for worship as well as the annual Christmas concert. We are grateful for the commitment these folks make to our church.



Our Choral Scholar program continues to be the backbone of our music ministry. These music students allow us to raise our choir to a higher level which in turn raises our worship to a higher level. We continue to be indebted to Mrs. Connie Haas for her tremendous support of this ministry. Without her faithful support, this ministry would not be possible. Our Choral Scholar ministry helps these music students with their school expenses, while in return, their voices inspire us in worship each and every Sunday.



We lost three wonderful Scholars at the end of this season.

Aaron McKone, who was with us for four years, has graduated and is moving to Salt Lake City to join an opera company there. He will have a wonderful career ahead of him. Isabel Lee, along with her fiancée, moved to New York City where he took a new job. Sadly, we also lost Jisoo Bae who has been with us for seven years. She feels the call to return home to Korea and teach at an International school in Japan. Without our Choral Scholar ministry we would never have benefited from such amazing and talented students.



Continued on next page

Our Choral director Dobin Park also received his DMA in piano from CCM, something that we are very proud of. Congratulations Dr. Park!



So you see, we've had quite a full and exciting year. We thank each and every one of you for your kind words and financial support of our music ministry. We hope that we can continue to have the same quality music in the years ahead.



Blessings,
Michael

Prayer Ministry-June/July Blessings

Walk with God when your heart needs company.
Turn to God when you need someone to lean on.
Take His hands when you feel alone
He is there when you need him most.
Never give up, never back down, never lose faith.
Trust God. He can do the impossible.



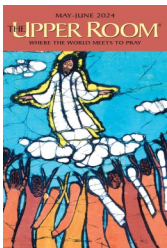
Sometimes you have to remind yourself to step back and let God be God.

Hope is never lost because God is Hope.

The phrase “do not be afraid” is written in the Bible 365 times. That’s a daily reminder from God to live every day being fearless.

Kind words are like honey—
Sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL GROUP

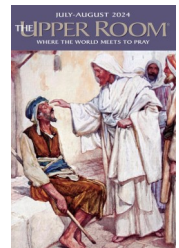


Saturday, June 22nd
10:00 p.m-11:00 a.m.
Chapel Area

Study sheets are available by the Baptismal Font

Saturday, July 27th
10:00 p.m-11:00 a.m.
Chapel Area

Study sheets are available by the Baptismal Font



MESSAGE FROM JISOO BAE

Dear Church Family,

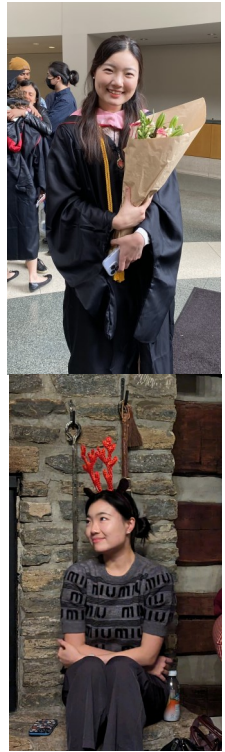
This is Jisoo, and I wanted to share a heartfelt message with you as I prepare for my departure. As some of you know, I will be joining the International School of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo, Japan, as a music teacher. It's an all-girls Catholic school where I'll be teaching middle school drama classes, high school music classes, and directing the orchestra. I'll also be collaborating with various church and community choirs in the region.

Having spent about six years in Japan during my secondary education, I feel a deep connection to the country. My aunt lives there too, which adds to my sense of familiarity. While my ideal scenario would have been to return to Korea to be closer to my family, no opportunities were available there. Choosing Japan felt like the next best thing given my past experiences and its proximity to Korea.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your love and support. St. John's has been my home and community, nurturing me through my Bachelor's and Master's studies and supporting me as I began working at Highlands. Your prayers have been a source of strength at every new chapter of my life. I trust that God has a plan for all of us, and I sincerely hope our paths will cross again soon. Thank you, my friends—you will always hold a special place in my heart.

I would love to stay in touch with everyone and I can be reached at jisoobae613@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Jisoo Bae



THANK YOU EAST ROW GARDEN CLUB

Thank you to the East Row Garden Club members for all of their hard work, time and effort to make our lawn and garden areas here at St. John's beautiful. The Garden Club worked on Saturday, May 11th to beautify our place by planting flowers, mulching and weeding. Thanks again to the East Row Garden Club!!

*Thank
you*

THANK YOU TO THE DAN GREY FAMILY

On behalf of the Memorial Committee, I want to thank the Family of Daniel W. Grey for donating the beautiful funeral pall with a cross emblem in memory of Dan. Contributions made in Dan's name to the Memorial Fund were used to purchase this and it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Flo and Vickie.

Blessings,

Darlene Knepshield
Chairperson Memorial Committee

*Thank
you*



FLORENCE COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S



On **Sunday, July 14th** the Florence Community Band will be here at St. John's for a concert on the lawn. The concert will be from 6-7pm here at St. John's on the side lawn of the church. Bring a lawn chair and come on down and listen to some wonderful music for the evening. Hope to see you at the concert!



Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, June 12th
12:00 p.m.-2:00pm
Bring Your Own Lunch
Drinks and Dessert Provided

**JOIN
US
For
LUNCH**

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, July 10th
12:00 p.m.-2:00pm
More information to come



PLANNING FOR ST. JOHN'S FUTURE STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATION TOGETHER

Do you have ideas for the future of St. John's? Do you want your voice heard on what direction St. John's should take? Then you would be perfect for the St. John's Strategic Planning Team. The Leadership Team is looking for members to serve and help plan the future of St. John's for the next 5 years. Reach out to a member of the Leadership Team if you are interested.

LT Members: Kyle Taylor, David Stamm, Pat Goins, Vickie Kennedy & Laura Haas

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CAMPAIGN FOR ST. JOHN'S

St. John's is setting a goal of raising \$25,000 to use for buildings and grounds work at the church. The church is in need of some work like cleaning the air ducts in the sanctuary and repairing the windows in the sanctuary. Members and friends can place their donations to the campaign in the offering but it is in addition to their regular offering not a replacement. The Leadership Team will put on a celebration for the church once the goal is met. Please join us in this goal and work together to strengthen our foundation.



Upcoming Events at St. John's

Saturday June 1st & Sunday, June 2nd: East Row Garden Walk
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 9th: Graduate Recognition Sunday. We will recognize our graduates on this day.

Wednesday, June 12th: Lunch Bunch 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 16th: Father's Day (Every dad in attendance will receive a special gift) & Pastor Marty's 40 years in ministry celebration luncheon

Wednesday, June 19th: Juneteenth—Church Office Closed

Thursday, July 4th & Friday, July 5th: Independence Day—Church Office Closed

Wednesday, July 10th: Lunch Bunch 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 14th: Florence Community Band Concert-6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. St. John's side lawn

PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 19th following worship, we had a Pentecost reception under the North entrance canopy. There were lots of yummy goodies including Pentecost cake pops!! Thanks to all who helped with the reception. Also, thanks to Rev. Andrew Bierkan for his inspirational message, and we're always thankful to our Chancel Choir for their beautiful music. It was a wonderful Pentecost Sunday!



SPRING CLEANING EVENT

On Saturday, May 18th seven church members and friends joined forces to do some spring cleaning and sprucing up our church entry ways. We would like to thank Jan & Darlene Knepshild, Bonnie Hoffmann, Mike Hanson, Kyle & Kelli Taylor and Carol Fickenscher for all of their hard work on that day.

Once again thank you to all of our volunteers!!



WELCOME BABY CHARLOTTE GRACE-MARIE

Karen Liden became a grandmother again as she and her daughter and son-in-law welcomed Charlotte Grace-Marie Pecora on May 2, 2024 at 7:01 p.m. weighing 7lbs 11oz. Charlotte joins her older brother Chase. Congratulations to Karen and the entire family!!



GRADUATE RECOGNITION 2024

During worship on **Sunday, June 9th** St. John's will be recognizing the graduates in our midst.



Please join us as we honor these hard working graduates and celebrate their accomplishments.

Congratulations to the class of 2024!



GRADUATE RECOGNITION 2024



Paige Barber graduated from Highlands High School and plans to attend Western Kentucky University and major in Pre-Physical Therapy. Her parents are Tim and Tracy Barber and her grandmother is Joann Winstel.

Claire Joy Coppage graduated from Notre Dame Academy and plans to attend Clemson University in the fall. Her parents are David and Kristen Coppage and her grandmother is Barbara Coppage.

Winston Palmer Haas graduated from Trinity High School in Louisville and plans to attend the University of Kentucky and major in engineering. His mother is Joanna Haas and his aunt and uncle are Laura Haas and Jim Breyer.

Tanner Lawrence graduated from Thomas More University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business. He is continuing his education and is pursuing a Master's Degree. Tanner is the grandson of Karen Kiefer.

Dobin Park graduated from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano.

Mike Penrod graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering. His parents are Jim and Patricia Penrod.

Grace Southard graduated from St. Henry High School and will attend the University of Kentucky. She is the daughter of Amy and David Southard and granddaughter of Gary and Patty Wagner.

Alisa Jo Stamm graduated from Ludlow High School with the Distinguished Scholar Diploma (High Honors). She will be attending Thomas More University and cheering for the Saints. Her grandparents are Dave and Diana Stamm.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! We wish you great happiness and success!



ST. JOHN'S UCC ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

You will be able to access the worship service by following the link below:

St. John's UCC website

<https://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org>

St John's UCC YouTube Channel

St. John's Newport UCC

St. John's UCC Facebook Page

St. John's UCC Newport



NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE: THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

If you would like to submit an article or receive *The Visitor* via email please contact StJohnsUCC@StJohnsUCCNewport.org.

You may also visit the "News" heading on our website and fill out the appropriate form.



A digital copy of *The Visitor* can be accessed at our website: StJohnsUCCNewport.org under our "News Section."

JUNE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

We would like to celebrate and honor our homebound members of the week for the month of June. We appreciate and celebrate these individuals as our members of the week!

June 2nd: Pam Maloney

June 9th: Marcia Schmidt

June 16th: Henry Marksberry

June 23rd: Betty Hasse

June 30th: Peggy Westlund

JULY HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

We would like to celebrate and honor our homebound members of the week for the month of July. We appreciate and celebrate these individuals as our members of the week!

July 7th: Norrma Biery

July 14th: Phil Hamilton

July 21st: John Westlund

July 28th: Peggy Eckert

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

June Birthdays

June 9th: Beth Gies
June 10th: Tom Haas & Oliver Morris
June 13th: Joanna Haas
June 20th: Betty Jo Haas
June 27th: Stuart Suggs
June 28th: Emily Fussinger



June Anniversaries

June 9th: Patty & Jack Patterson (45 years)
June 13th: Diana & David Stamm (54 years)
June 22nd: Carol & Tom Haas (56 years)
June 25th: Pat & Dan Goins (53 years)



St. John's would like to wish a happy birthday and happy anniversary to our friends and family celebrating during the month of June!

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays

July 2nd: Joan Sheanshang
July 5th: Makenzie Connley
July 9th: Sheila Bogen
July 10th: Macy Morris
July 11th: Zachary Rice
July 12th: Phyllis VonStrohe
July 18th: Tony Albert
July 20th: Jennifer Withrow
July 26th: Stacey Albert, Pat Goins & Garry Miller
July 27th: Bertie Jo Tuerpe
July 29th: Mark Hater
July 31st: Dan Goins



July Anniversaries

July 7th: Amy & Matthew Greenert (12 years)
July 17th: Pam & Paul Schierberg (47 years)
July 23rd: Kelli & Scott Taylor (36 years)



St. John's would like to wish a happy birthday and happy anniversary to our friends and family celebrating during the month of July!

In Loving Memory of, and In Honor of...

General Fund In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ Dr. Michael Hanson
In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ Jim & Carol Thompson
In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ Amy D. Gribbins
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Dr. Michael Hanson
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Jim & Carol Thompson
In Loving Memory of Annette LaCroix ~ Dr. Michael Hanson

Food Pantry

In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ Gregory & Darlene Dawson
In Loving Memory of Sue Wagner ~ Gary Wagner
In Loving Memory of Walter Berkemeyer ~ Joan Berkemeyer

Music Fund

In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ John & Elizabeth Robson
In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ Joan Berkemeyer
In Loving Memory of Bill Seibert ~ Joan Berkemeyer
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Dawn Bowers
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Dawn Bowers
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Bill & Barbara Rowekamp
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Linda Neumaier
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Pat Goins
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Karen Kiefer
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Ronald Malone
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Paul Bergmann
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Steve & Jeri McLane
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Barbara Coppage
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Betty & Robert Hasse
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Kelli & Scott Taylor
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Earnest Brady, Sr.
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Don & Virginia Altevers
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Shirley Schambach
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Laura Haas
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Norma Biery
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Karen Schofield
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Joan Berkemeyer
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Chuck Hawkins
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Fred & Mary Espenscheild
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Jean Nutgrass
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Anna Teichmoeller
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Karen Puffenberger
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Michael Foulks
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Connie Chamblin
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Nancy Barone
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ James Malone
In Loving Memory of Donna Hamilton ~ Jim & Susan Colding

Memorial Fund

In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ Flo Grey
In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ Doug Hils
In Loving Memory of Walt Dauzenberg ~ Bill & Barbara Rowekamp

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