

# The Visitor

## AUGUST 2025

### TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Volume 108 Issue 7

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

#### *A Message from J. Martin Westermeyer*

We have made it through June and July – I am writing this after cancelling my right knee surgery and taking off the month of July for the cellulitis to heal before surgery can occur. Many thanks to all of you who remembered me with cards, emails, texts – as well as all the thoughts and prayers which were being offered. ALL are most appreciated!! THANK YOU! Will keep you apprised when surgery will be scheduled. I plan on being back on Sunday, August 3rd to preach and preside at Communion.

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I have been reading about St. Francis of Assisi and ran across this story, which I had forgotten about. I decided to share it with you for this month's Visitor.

Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you deal bountifully with me. - Psalm 142:7 (NRSV)

Francis of Assisi died on the night of October 3, 1226, just as the brothers were reciting the last verse of Psalm 142. He didn't go easily. I'll spare you the medieval details; but suffice it to say, it was unrelieved agony. Well, almost unrelieved. For as he lay dying, a dear friend arrived, a noblewoman named Jacoba Settesoli. Francis used to stay at her estate when he was in Rome. He got sick there once, and she made him an almond confection. He loved it. Francis had written her a note advising her to hurry if she wanted to say goodbye: time was running out. And would she please bring him some of that almond cake? Now, legend says she was on the road before he'd even finished writing.

When she arrived, the brothers didn't know what to do with her. Francis was notoriously strict about boundaries with women. They were afraid to open the door. But for Jacoba, Francis made exceptions. He declared her a brother, and they let her in.

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She'd brought a shroud and some candles for his burial. And the pastry. Francis could manage only a crumb. No matter. She'd come. With cake. For one shimmering moment, everything was sweet.

After reading that, I began ruminating:

- If you could do only one thing in your life, wouldn't you want it to be this?
- To sense a suffering somewhere, and hurry there?
- To arrive with cake?

And with a vast love and affection and with the presence of God, be present to help another through a transition (loss of loved one, change of job, disillusion, even transitioning towards God).

As a community of faith, individuals committed to following Jesus, this is what we should be about. Being aware of others, lifting them in prayer, and making them aware they are not alone on the path.

Hope to see you in church – Pastor Marty

(full disclosure, I have an affinity to St. Francis since his October death day is the same as my birthday.)

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### **PRAYER MINISTRY-AUGUST BLESSINGS**

The best things in life are free.  
Hugs, smiles, friends, family, sleep, love,  
laughter and good manners.

If someone makes you happy, make them happier.



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### **LIVE STREAMING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ST. JOHN'S**

St. John's is excited to announce the start of our new option for online worship: live streaming. Join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on our church Facebook page to join our service live as it happens. This is a great option if you are ill, out of town, or are unable to come to church but still want to experience our in-person worship. Can't attend at 10:00 a.m.? no problem! The service will be available to watch at any time on our Facebook page and will be uploaded to our YouTube page and website. We hope you can join us for worship in any format that works for you.



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

## HENRY HOSEA HOUSE VOLUNTEER DAY

On May 30th, a group of volunteers from St. John's took time out of their day to volunteer at the Henry Hosea House. These volunteers helped serve food to those in need in the local community that came to the center that day. We are so grateful for all of the work our volunteers do in the local community.



## HENRY HOSEA HOUSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Good News! We have secured the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month as our church's time to volunteer at Henry Hosea House. **The 5<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month for the rest of the year are Friday 8/29/25 and Friday 10/31/25.** We are looking for 7 volunteers for each of these nights from **3:30-6:00 PM** to help serve dinner. If you and/or friends and family would be able to help on either or both of these nights, please text or call **Pat Goins at 859-250-2830**. We would like to make this an ongoing relationship with Henry Hosea House and really need your help to make this happen. Thank you in advance for helping with this important community outreach venture.



## CELEBRATING A FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

I am happy to announce that at the beginning of July, St. John's had met the goal of \$25,000 as part of our buildings and grounds campaign. This campaign has been going on for 13 months and I am very proud of the work that St. John's was able to accomplish on this task in such a short period of time. We not only accomplished this task, but we went over our goal and raised \$25,605.



Thanks to you all, we were able to accomplish our tasks of the repainting/reglazing of the church sanctuary windows, replacement of upstairs classroom lights that were broken and unsafe for children, and reseeding of the church lawn.

This is a cause of celebration, but the work does not stop here. Our church is always in need of maintenance and repairs to keep it in the beautiful conditions that we have. I challenge everyone to continue giving as they can to the buildings and grounds fund.

We will hold a celebration for this cause on Sunday, September 21, 2025 with more details to come and I invite everyone to join us in the festivities. Again, congratulations to everyone and thanks for all the hard work.

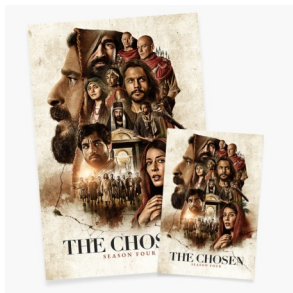
Kyle Taylor, President of St. John's UCC

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## THE CHOSEN

You are invited to join a "watch and discuss" group for *"The Chosen"*. We will gather on the Saturdays listed below from 10-11:30am in the church parlor. If you have already seen this season, nothing can be better than watching it again and discussing it with others. If you haven't seen previous seasons of *The Chosen* it will be easy for you to follow and enjoy the season. All are welcome and we welcome your family and friends too! Contact Laura Haas for more information.

- Saturday September 6, 10-11:30am
- Saturday September 13, 10-11:30am
- Saturday September 20, 10-11:30am
- Saturday September 27, 10-11:30am
- Saturday October 04, 10-11:30am
- Saturday October 11, 10-11:30am
- Saturday October 18, 10-11:30am
- Saturday October 25, 10-11:30am





**LUNCH BUNCH**  
**Wednesday, August 13th**  
**12:00 p.m.-2:00p.m.**  
**Bring Your Own Lunch**  
**Drinks & Desserts Provided**

**JOIN US**  
**For**  
**LUNCH!**



### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

St. John's is excited to announce the return of our Back-to-School Supply Drive benefiting the Newport Independent School District and Washington UCC.

This year the schools are looking for any of the following items: Crayons, Colored Pencils, Markers, Folders, Pencils, Pens, Glue Sticks, Erasers, Pencil Boxes, Spiral Notebooks, and Backpacks.



If you can't make it out to shop, no problem! We will collect monetary donations and send them to the organizations to help them get the supplies they need. This donation drive will kick off on **Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>** and run through **Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Boxes will be located at each of the entrances to the sanctuary to drop off supplies. Please contact the church office with any questions.

### **2025 MID-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

The 2025 mid-year contribution statements were mailed on **Friday, July 11th**. If you have not received a financial statement and feel that you should have, you can contact our financial administrator Chris Baker at: [Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org](mailto:Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org) or you can call the church office at (859) 431-1818 Option 7 for more information.



# **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

## **August Birthdays**

August 2nd: Fred Haas, Jr.

August 6th: Erma (Sammie) Deslongchamps

August 10th: Tara Connley & Brooks Morris

August 13th: Mike Boyers

August 19th: Betty Hasse

August 20th: Carol Peper & Judy Slater



## **August Anniversaries**

August 1st: Sue & Tom Williams (72 years)

August 5th: Betty & Bob Hasse (64 years)

August 7th: Elizabeth & John Robson (49 years)

August 12th: Alison & Matthew Morris (19 years)

August 19th: Betty Jo & Fred Haas (64 years)

August 25th: Laura Haas & Jim Breyer (13 years)

August 25th: Darlene & Jan Knepshield (63 years)



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

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## **AUGUST HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK**

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

August 3rd: Pam Maloney

August 10th: Betty Hasse-Birthday August 19th

August 17th: Judy Adams-Birthday August 26th

August 24th: Marcia Schmidt

August 31st: Robert Hasse

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## **NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025**

If you would like to submit an article or receive *The Visitor* via email please contact [StJohnsUCC@StJohnsUCCNewport.org](mailto: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](http://StJohnsUCCNewport.org) under our "News Section."

## **THANK YOU TO THE EAST ROW GARDEN CLUB**

Dear East Row Garden Club

Thank you all so much for the generous donation to the landscaping of our church. The donation allowed the grounds of the church to be spruced up cleaned of all the weeds and receive new mulch as well. We are so grateful for all of the support your club gives our church in helping make our gardens look clean and professional for the neighborhood. We could not do everything that we do without the support from you. Again, thank you for all that you do and we are looking forward to many more years of this friendship and partnership.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Taylor  
President, St. John's UCC



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## **THANK YOU TO THE EAST ROW HISTORIC FOUNDATION**

Dear East Row Historic Foundation,

Thank you all so much for your generous contribution to Sue and Peggy's Food Pantry at St. John's UCC. We greatly appreciate your ability to help our mission continue to grow and thrive. The donation from the foundation last year allowed the pantry to start a new thanksgiving basket program and allowed the continuation of our normal food and other goods for our customers. Again, thank you for all of the kindness you show to our program. We truly appreciate being a part of your wonderful neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Taylor  
President, St. John's UCC



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## **THANK YOU ST. JOHN'S**

Pastor Marty and the Church,

Thank you so much for the Amazon gift card and "God's Gift To Graduates." Most of all thank you for your leadership through the church and encouragement to me along the way.

See you in the back row.

Garrett Cutajar



## **THANK YOU MIKE HANSON**



We would like to give a big shout out to Mike Hanson for trimming our bushes here at St. John's. Mike came in and spent part of the day trimming up those overgrown bushes so that the doors to get in were no longer blocked. Thank you Mike for all of your hard work!!



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## **THANK YOU NOTE FROM ROBERT PETTUS**

I want to thank all those who sent me cards and other expressions of sympathy on the occasion of the recent passing of my father, Jerry Robert Pettus. All of these were precious to me. I also want to thank Rose Wendling for "running sound" during my 4 weeks of absence and the 2 weeks of my performing the duties of liturgist. While I was not there for those 4 weeks, all indications from the tape recordings of those services is that she did an excellent job. It was an especially notable accomplishment because she wasn't trained for this particular type of duty, but she did it well. Her service is such a blessing to me and to the Church. Thank you all.



Robert A. Pettus

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## **THANK YOU NOTE FROM THE PETTUS FAMILY**

Thanks you very much for the beautiful flowers and the Rose Wendling plate. I will hang it in a special place and read it often.

You must be a great church. My son loves it.

Many blessings,  
Betty Pettus



## **DETERMINATION & SIX SCREWS**

Since St. John's began the Sue and Peggy's Pantry in 2014 there has been an inconvenient step. What? Yes, the folks who come each month for help have to navigate one last step. The southeast door into the parking lot has a step. And for those of us who know something about tripping and falling, steps are not to be taken for granted. Monday, July 7th, Jim Breyers, inspired by Laura Haas, installed the hand bar seen in the photo. Secured into brick by six screws using a DeWalt cordless power drill, it will give a very secure place to grab as folks depart. A food pantry volunteer is always present to bid good-bye and to caution "mind your step." This installation gives a bit of peace of mind.



Blessings,  
John Robson



## **THANK YOU DAVID STAMM**

We would like to give a big shout out to David Stamm for trimming, pulling and managing our weeds and lawn here at St. John's. David came in and spent a part of several days pulling up weeds and overgrown vines so that our church would remain beautiful and free of weeds and vines. Thank you Dave for all of your hard work!!



## THE GIVING HEART

The Monday after Pentecost Sunday seems like a time to sum up what the congregation gave to help support the hygiene of folks who come to the Food Pantry. Your Easter hearts and minds led to an amazing assortment of products. The Pantry has a focus on nutrition but, your kindness speaks to other needs for a good life. Thanks to Church Council for leading the drive and Thank You for responding!! We are all disciples!

For the curious here is a list:

Toothbrushes 60

Toothpaste 26

Floss 25

Eyeglass cleaning tissues 16

Bath soap (bar and liquid) 24

Shampoo 8

Hair Conditioner 8

Body lotion 7

After Shave 3

Shaving Lather 2

Deodorant 9

Razors 5

Household Cleaning 12

Other 16

Many Thanks,

John Robson



John Robson & Mike Hanson



## **BELLEVUE HONORS FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE ON CITY COUNCIL**

Bellevue Mayor Charlie Cleves proclaimed June 11th to be Carol Schoulthies Day, honoring the first woman to serve on the Bellevue City Council.

The proclamation, made during the city's June council meeting, honors Schoulthies, a lifelong resident of Bellevue, for 50 years of service to the community. The mayor noted her dedication to the community, serving in city government while also balancing raising five children with her husband of 62 years, Ralph Schoulthies.



Schoulthies was sworn in on December 30, 1977, and served four years in that role. As a council member, she served on the financial, policy, ways and means and safety committees.

She helped usher in several city projects, including the harbor growing initiative, the construction of the Bellevue Flora Gym, the development of UDF and improvements to Berry Street. She went on to serve for 50 years on the city's planning and zoning commission.

"Mrs. Schulthies was the first female member of the Bellevue city council, noted for 'paving the way for women and younger individuals' to join at a time when older men dominated," Celeves said.

Council member Shauna Kruse thanked Schulthies and noted, "With this last election, we have the most women ever on city council." The city has three women on city council — Kruse, Chasity Bothman and Kara Harp.

Schoulthies' father, Stanley Swope, served on the city council before her. Her daughter, Sally Schoulthies Young, who passed away in 2013, will be honored this year with a bench in Swope Park.

Many members of the Swope and Schoulthies family were on hand to witness the city's proclamation and celebrate with her.

Article from LINKNKY  
By Robin Gee



## JUNE COOKIES AND LEMONADE SOCIAL/GOODBYE DOBIN

On Sunday, June 29th St. John's had a very beautiful and emotional service as the time came to wish our Choral Director Dobin Park goodbye. We had a lovely reception for him after church. Dobin has been with us for eight years. During that time he has elevated our Chancel Choir to a new level. Thank you Dobin for everything you've done for us!



## **JULY COOKIES AND LEMONADE SOCIAL**

On Sunday, July 20th St. John's had a cookies and lemonade reception to thank our church staff for their leadership. Thanks to all who joined us in worship that morning and thank you to the church staff for all you do!!



Michael Sullivan & John Robson

## **AUGUST COOKIES AND LEMONADE SOCIAL**

On **Sunday, August 24th** St. John's will be hosting its August and last cookies and lemonade social for the summer following the morning worship service. This will also be a welcome reception for our new Choral Director Tony Burdette as he begins his new journey as our Choral Director here at St. John's. Everyone is invited to meet Tony at the reception and welcome him to St. John's

The social will take place outside underneath the canopy and we are asking our members and friends to make cookies for this event. Please contact the church office if you have a special cookie recipe you would like to make for this event. Thanks in advance for your help.

## **FLORENCE COMMUNITY BAND ON THE LAWN CONCERT**

On Sunday, July 13th we had a fun concert on the lawn featuring the Florence Community Band. The band put on a wonderful show featuring a mix of patriotic and pop songs. We thank the Florence Community Band for coming and providing beautiful music to our East Row Community.

