August always seems closer to the end of the year than to the beginning. But August 1 is Day 213 of 365—just sixty percent of the year behind us. And even August 31, Day 243, leaves us with a good thirty-five percent to go.

At church, August is a month of rest and planning. Our Worship & Education Leadership Team is preparing for Rally Day and the start of the faith formation programs. The Godly Play and Kids’ Worship rooms are ready to engage our youth in a mixture of worship, music, storytelling, and creativity.

Our Property Management Team is working on the annual tasks, as well as working closely with the Green Team. The roof repair on the south-wing areas of Fellowship Hall and Chapel Hearth will soon begin, and the Solar Energy Project installation will follow on its heels.

Our Care & Community Leadership Team is busily planning an ice cream social and a back-to-church picnic; reviewing our lists of friends; and continuing to provide visits with our elders in resident care facilities and their homes.

Our Mission & Outreach Team spent July evaluating our relationships with our mission partners. They are also looking at ways that we can be better advocates for our core mission concerns: Gender and Reproductive Justice, LGBTQIA+ advocacy, Anti-Racism and Racial Justice, Immigrant Rights and advocacy, and interfaith tolerance and inclusion.

In the meantime, I’ll be away for a few weeks of study leave and vacation—reconnecting with family and God’s creative Spirit. We each need a time like this to prepare for September’s speedy arrival and the sprint to the end of the year.

When we stand on August’s threshold and look out towards Christmas, there’s still 117 days before the Feast of the Nativity. That’s a lot of time to listen for God’s Still-speaking voice. As the year counts on, we know that God continues to have great things in store for us as we live our faith out loud!

Happy Summer, folks! See you in Church,

Pastor Hans
Some updates: the lighting conversion is complete in the Fellowship Hall. The next project will be conversion of the fixtures in the classrooms of the Education Wing. This is more than putting in new energy efficient bulbs. The current fixtures have served their purpose, but limit the spread of light. As a result, rooms are dimmer than would otherwise be effective. Property Management is evaluating the fixtures recommended by IKON Electric, and conversion will begin when that decision is made.

You might take a look at the garden planted outside the North Wing. Lots of rain and warm sunshine are working nature’s magic.

Now that we are moving forward with the Solar Energy Project and continuing our efforts to reduce our electricity consumption with lighting conversion, we’ll look for ways to track our progress in reducing Kilowatt hours and dollars saved and report them here in the TIDINGS.

### JUNE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges/Gifts</td>
<td>$16,378</td>
<td>$20,833</td>
<td>(-$4,455)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$20,768</td>
<td>$7,816</td>
<td>$12,952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>37,146</td>
<td>$28,649</td>
<td>$8,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>$32,679</td>
<td>(-$2,983)</td>
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<td>Month Total</td>
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<td>(-$4,029)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Income</td>
<td>$156,959</td>
<td>$171,900</td>
<td>(-$14,941)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Expenses</td>
<td>$175,719</td>
<td>$196,074</td>
<td>(-$20,355)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Total</td>
<td>(-$18,760)</td>
<td>(-$24,174)</td>
<td>$5,414</td>
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The deadline for submitting articles for the September TIDINGS is Tuesday, August 13th.
Global Ministries is a partnership ministry between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For more information, please visit: www.globalministries.org
**SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

On June 11, 2018 the Church Council named the Search Committee for our associate pastor position, the Pastor for Faith Formation. The team worked diligently over last summer, producing our local church profile. They gathered in discernment on the type of ministries the position would serve, and the qualities of the candidates. They interviewed candidates for the position, listening for God’s gentle nudging. And they found several pastors who they felt qualified to join in our congregation’s ministry.

But God has not sent the person to be our next Pastor for Faith Formation our way. Yet…

After a year of work, the Committee will be taking a break, putting the search “On Hold.” In the short term, the Church Council will pursue an interim pastor for a designated term (9-12 months) to cover the duties of the Associate Pastor position. This would be a contracted (not called) ministry position, and this person would be eligible to submit their profile for the permanent position.

**From my seat with the group:** Our Search Committee has worked hard, done it all “the right way,” and deserve our thanks and praise! Each meeting was centered in listening for God’s voice, as we sought the person to share in our ministry.

As they rest, refuel their Spirit center, and we all wait with great expectation, let us be one in prayer. God is doing great things in our community of faith, and the right person will come to help us do even greater things! On this, I have faith! -HEF
Paint the Port is a family-friendly community beautification event held over the “Destination Freeport” weekend every September. A stretch of Chicago Avenue from West Douglas Street to West Spring Street will be closed and marked into 4-foot-by-4-foot sections that become creative canvases for local street art.

Members of the Freeport and Stephenson County community will have the opportunity to turn their dreams into amazing works of art! This event grew to 300 painted squares and 800 participants and spectators last year.

All supplies (chalk, brushes, washable tempera paints, and “palettes”) are provided thanks to the generosity of community sponsors, along with extra goodies. And the best part is that proceeds from the event go to a matching grant to help downtown business owners improve the facade of their businesses. To date, they have been able to help fund up to 5 facade renovations, which will be completed by the event date.

St. John UCC is excited to announce that it is a sponsor of this year’s third annual Paint the Port event in downtown Freeport. Sponsors help provide supplies and funds to support the event, as well as scholarships for canvases. They’ll also be featured on Paint the Port’s Facebook page, so if you’re on Facebook, watch for St. John to make an appearance there!

With our sponsorship, St. John has received 20 canvases and t-shirts, on which our logo will be featured. So come and join in the fun! This year’s Paint the Port takes place on Friday, September 13 from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

You don’t have to be there the whole time, so you can show up any time and create as large and abstract or as fine and detailed a painting as you’d like. And you can sign up for a canvas as an individual or a group.

SIGN UP DETAILS:

- Email Christina Fairman at cmafairman@gmail.com by SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 with your FIRST AND LAST NAME (or the first and last name of one of your group members, if you’re signing up as a group) and the NUMBER OF CANVASES you are reserving. Also, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR IDEA FOR THE SQUARE. While we love the church’s Rainbow Window, we don’t want to end up with 20 interpretations!

- Include the size of t-shirt you would like. Your options are: YOUTH size small, medium, large, or extra-large; or ADULT size small, medium, large, extra-large, 2XL, or 3XL.

- If you would like more than one t-shirt per canvas, extra shirts can be ordered for $12 each. Include the number of shirts and their sizes. Checks may be made payable to St. John UCC and dropped off in the church office.

We can’t wait to see you out spending time with our friends and neighbors in the community at Paint the Port.
LEARNING OUR FAITH (LOF)  
Is on Summer Break

LOF will be on summer break until September 8th.

ADULT FORUM  
Sunday Mornings, 10:15 am

Come discuss the week’s topics, current events, and how our faith guides us in action and witness.

Wednesday Mornings, 9:00 am

Enjoy a mid-week break with an incredible group of thoughtful Christians. This month, we will continue reading and discussing Ken Gire’s book, *The Divine Embrace*. Anyone is welcome to join at any time.

RESOURCE GROUP-Thursdays, 9am  

Coffee, treats, friendship, and more!  
We will assemble the September TIDINGS on 8/29

PING PONG  
Every Tuesday, 9am, Room S 6B

MEN’S MINISTRY

First Saturday of the Month, 8:00 am

Come join the next gathering of the Men’s Ministry. Join the lively group in the Chapel Hearth Room as we share a few jokes and cover any number of topics in the spirit of good fellowship. Coffee and donuts are provided.

First and Third Mondays, 6:30 pm

PRISM is a facilitated group, providing a safe space and confidential community group for LGBTQ youth, adults, and those who love and support them. PRISM meets on the first and third Mondays.

For more information on PRISM, our outreach to the LGBTQ community, please visit our webpage:  
stjohnuccfreeport.org/open-affirming/prism

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING  
Every Wednesday, 6:00

St. John UCC is pleased to welcome the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group to our building. AA is a fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. Their stated purpose is to enable “members to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.” The group is led by Michael Linck.
THANKS AND CELEBRATIONS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/04 Dorothy McGregor  8/16 Faye Hughes
8/05 Lyle Krug          8/17 Donna Polhill
8/06 Rachel Bicksler    8/17 Jeff Richardson
               Shawn Killingbeck
               Ed Orde
               Gary Polhill
               Ron Slade
8/06          8/18 Anita Bicksler,
               Shawn Killingbeck
               Ed Orde
               Gary Polhill
               Ron Slade
8/10 Clyde Fruth,      8/20 Dorothy Ditsworth
               Pam Manus
               Karen Salter
8/12 Tom Campbell-     8/21 Perry Cowan
               Outcault
               Jacob NewKirk
8/13 Stephen Kreeger   8/23 Carla Meyer
8/14 Jim Summers        8/24 Greg Ware
8/15 Betty Mathews      8/29 Diana Fox,
                        Debra Rockey

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/02 Robert & Barbara Luedeke
8/02 Dave & Deb Rockey
8/02 Carl & Ellen Roderick
8/05 Lynn & Deb Zimmerman
8/11 Ray & Jeri Nieman
8/13 Dan & Pam Wessel
8/14 Bill & Lisa Condie
8/14 Shan & Vicki MacAdam
8/15 Jeff & Dana Williams
8/18 Stan & Carol Smith
8/20 Andrew & Laura Hartman
8/23 Shawn Killingbeck & David Crowell
8/31 Roger & Deb Swanlund

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The following is a list of our friends who cannot leave their residence and may love a visit or a card from those thinking of them.

Oakley Courts: Betty Mathews
Manor Court: Dorothy Ness
Hawthorne Inn: Jack & Marge Criddle
Parkview: Claire Biesemeier
Walnut Acres: June Nagel, Betty Remmers
Heritage Woods: Betty Carpenter
Provena: Jackie & Jerry Watson, Joyce Bloyer
In their homes: Shirley Durrstein, Karen Salter, Shirley Fritzenmeier, Arlene Kreeger, Ben Lee, Stan Bomgarden, Carolyn Moyer

PRAYER CHAIN

Please Pray For:
Dwight Peterson, Gretchen Wallander, Carolyn Moyer, Betty Carpenter

Thank you for your visits, phone calls, cards and prayers. God and I talk frequently, and amazing as it may seem, I am getting much better at hearing Her/Him.

I am blessed beyond my understanding in the humor, joy, and love you share.

Thank you again,

Betty Carpenter
SERVING IN AUGUST

**USHERS**

8/04  Tim Ebbers, Jim Drew, Dale Priewe, Shan MacAdam
8/11  Tim & Tom Campbell-Outcault, Mike Smith, Shirley Ifert
8/18  Ray & Jeri Nieman, Brett & Michele Piefer
8/25  Jack & Diana Fox, Dan King & Robert Mayfield

**GREETERS**

8/04  Jane Lehman & Edith Rosenstiel
8/11  Ray & Jeri Nieman
8/18  Carl & Ellen Roderick
8/25  Ulan & Cindy Price

**WELCOMERS**

8/04  David Crowell & Shawn Killingbeck
8/11  Donnley & Sandy Dutcher
8/18  Mary Frazee & Mary Spencer
8/25  Jeanne Koch & Linda Heidenreich

**INFANT AND TODDLER ROOM**

8/04  Jill Kuntz
8/11  Carla Meyer
8/18  Pam Wessel
8/25  Need Volunteer

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

8/04  Sarah Knapp, Bill Condie, Lisa Schubert, Brett & Michele Piefer, Ray Nieman, Jacob Priewe, Galen Bertram
8/04  Marilyn Underwood, Patty Weik, Pam Wessel, Dee Agnew, Carl Ahrens, Terry & DeLeana Atz, Galen & Carole Bertram
8/11  Regina Bertram, Greg & Anita Bicksler, Marsha Boll, Sylvia Bomgarden, Thompson Brandt, Tim & Tom Campbell-Outcault
8/18  Don & Ronnie Clock, Bill Condie, Phil & Barb Copus, David Crowell, Shawn Killingbeck, Marvin & Sandy DeBoer, Marilyn Devries
8/25  Jim & Gwen Drew, Donnley & Sandy Dutcher, Colin & Kathryn Ebbers, Tim & Lisa Ebbers, Arnold & Mary Eder, Kim Evans, Karen Ewing

**AUGUST HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS**

On Sunday mornings, we gather for coffee and treats in the Narthex area and Fellowship Hall to socialize. If you would like to find a place to sit and talk, there is plenty of room in the Chapel Hearth.

If your name is on the list below for this month, please bring in a treat to share. Some ideas are: 3 dozen cookies, treat bars, mini muffins, fruit, etc. Also, please plan to help share in clearing the hospitality station at the end of the hour.

To ensure everyone has an opportunity to share, dates are assigned alphabetically from the members and friends directory. If you are unable to help at this time, please let the church office know.

8/04  Marilyn Underwood, Patty Weik, Pam Wessel, Dee Agnew, Carl Ahrens, Terry & DeLeana Atz, Galen & Carole Bertram
8/11  Regina Bertram, Greg & Anita Bicksler, Marsha Boll, Sylvia Bomgarden, Thompson Brandt, Tim & Tom Campbell-Outcault
8/18  Don & Ronnie Clock, Bill Condie, Phil & Barb Copus, David Crowell, Shawn Killingbeck, Marvin & Sandy DeBoer, Marilyn Devries
8/25  Jim & Gwen Drew, Donnley & Sandy Dutcher, Colin & Kathryn Ebbers, Tim & Lisa Ebbers, Arnold & Mary Eder, Kim Evans, Karen Ewing
St. John UCC
Annual
Summer Ice Cream Social

Wednesday,
August 14, 2019
4:30 ~ 7:00 p.m.

$5 for Pie or Cake, Ice Cream & Drink

$5 for Sandwich, Pasta Salad, Chips & Drink

Tickets available in advance in the church office or at the door that night.
ST JOHN UCC COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JUNE 24, 2019


Rev. Hank Fairman opened with prayer.

Financial Reports: Vanessa reported on adjustments of line items in the budget and explanation of current expenses. In general, we are still behind in pledged giving for the year.

Search Committee: The Search Team has a candidate for the Pastor of Faith Formation position and have extended a call. Judy made a motion to call a congregational meeting for either July 14th or July 21st 2019 to extend the call if the candidate accepts. Mike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE: The candidate has ended their search. The Committee has elected to suspend the search until January 2020.

Solar Energy Project: After the meeting on June 9th, 2019 regarding the Solar Energy System project; Iconic Electric of Rockford was contracted to perform the necessary structural engineering evaluations to begin the work. We have been informed that some of the panels will have to be placed on the pitched roof to provide the number of units required to meet our electrical use. More information will be forthcoming, including financing and fund raising. There is a program through the Treasurer of Illinois that partners with Interfaith Power & Light too, for loans for projects such as ours.

175th Anniversary: St. John was founded in 1848 and is within three years of its 175 year anniversary, and planning has begun as to how we will celebrate our long history.

Reports

Pastoral & Staff Teams: Rev. Hank attended the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration, 6/6-8 at Elmhurst College. St. John received the Lily Award for its LGBTQ work and specifically for PRISM’s hosting of the first Freeport PRIDE Picnic. We have also been accepted for the Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations program funded by the Lilly Endowment. Rev. Hank and the Leaders Team will attend a training in Peoria, 9/13-14. Rev. Hank will be on study leave and vacation 7/22-8/11. Carl Cole will preach on 7/28; Carol Ahrens will preach 8/4; and Colin Ebbers will preach 8/11.

Administration & Resources: The staff is stable and working well. Rachel Bicksler will complete her time with us on 8/2.

Care & Community: We are again participating in Paint the Port on 9/13. Sign up for a block soon! The membership committee continues to look over the membership rolls. The annual Ice Cream Social is 8/14.

Mission & Outreach: The first “Pride Weekend” was a great success. Many attended the picnic we hosted on the front lawn. Another large group participated in the Dairy Days Parade in downtown Freeport. Groups from Freeport High and Highland College joined them in marching in the parade. Becky Hebert and Tom Cunningham met with Mission & Outreach with a proposed project to clean up area neighborhoods, this is just the beginning, more to follow.

Worship & Education: Summer Church School has had good attendance and excellent volunteer leadership! The music ministry has a lot of special music planned for the summer, stay tuned!

Adjourned at 8:00. Respectfully submitted, Lisa Schubert.

NOTE: The Council will meet on 7/15 if necessary. The next scheduled meeting is 8/26
## AUGUST 2019

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>9:00 AM Worship</td>
<td>9:00 AM Staff Meeting - Pastor's Off.</td>
<td>9:00 AM Bible Study - CH</td>
<td>9:00 AM Resource Group - CH</td>
<td>9:00 AM Resource Group - CH</td>
<td>8:00 AM Men's Group - CH</td>
<td><strong>8:45 AM Choral Society--In Case Of Rain At St. John 11:30 AM Baby Shower</strong></td>
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<td>9:20 AM Summer Church School</td>
<td>9:00 AM Ping Pong</td>
<td>9:00 AM TOPS - FH</td>
<td>9:00 AM TOPS - FH</td>
<td>9:00 AM TOPS - FH</td>
<td>8:00 AM PEO Chapter LI</td>
<td><strong>9:00 AM Choral Society Concert--In Case Of Rain At St. John 11:30 AM Baby Shower</strong></td>
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<td>10:15 AM Adult Forum</td>
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<td>10:15 AM Adult Forum</td>
<td>5:45 PM Choral Society</td>
<td>10:00 AM Retired Clergy Group</td>
<td>6:30 PM Cub Scouts #839</td>
<td>6:30 PM INDIVISIBLE Freeport</td>
<td>7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #4</td>
<td><strong>7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #4</strong></td>
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<td>3:00 PM Music Staff Meeting</td>
<td>6:00 PM Cub Scouts #839</td>
<td>9:00 AM TOPS - FH</td>
<td>6:00 PM Camera Club - CH</td>
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<td>5:45 PM Choral Society</td>
<td>6:30 PM PRISM LGBT Outreach</td>
<td>1:30 PM Liberty Estates Monthly Communion</td>
<td>6:00 PM BSA Troop #4 Patrol Leaders Council</td>
<td>6:30 PM Property Management</td>
<td><strong>6:00 PM CareerTEC HOYA Orientation</strong></td>
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<td>5:45 PM Choral Society</td>
<td>6:30 PM PRISM LGBT Outreach</td>
<td>4:30 PM Culinary Orientation (CareerTEC)</td>
<td>7:00 PM BSA Troop #4 Troop Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>12:00 PM PEO Chapter LI</td>
<td>6:00 PM Cub Scouts #839</td>
<td>9:00 AM TOPS - FH</td>
<td>5:30 PM S.O.S. Rehearsal</td>
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<td>5:45 PM Choral Society</td>
<td>5:45 PM Finance and Development Team</td>
<td>11:30 AM CareerTEC: Yoga</td>
<td>6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>1:00 PM CareerTEC: HOYA Class</td>
<td><strong>6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 AM Worship</td>
<td>9:30 AM Staff Meeting - Pastor's Off.</td>
<td>9:00 AM Ping Pong</td>
<td>9:00 AM Bible Study - CH</td>
<td>9:00 AM Resource Group - CH</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:20 AM Summer Church School</td>
<td>3:00 PM Music Staff Meeting</td>
<td>6:00 PM Cub Scouts #839</td>
<td>9:00 AM TOPS - FH</td>
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<td>10:15 AM Adult Forum</td>
<td>5:45 PM Choral Society</td>
<td>6:30 PM PRISM LGBT Outreach</td>
<td>4:30 PM Culinary Orientation (CareerTEC)</td>
<td>7:00 PM BSA Troop #4 Troop Committee Meeting</td>
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Have a safe and happy Summer!

Get Ready for Rally Day—9/8
**CHURCH STAFF**

Ministers: Members of the church

Senior Pastor:  
Rev. Henry E. “Hank” Fairman  
Hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org  
815-616-5626

Pastor for Faith Formation  
Coming Soon!

Director of Congregational Life  
Pam Wessel  
Pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Administrative & Creative Assistant  
Lisa Elsner  
Lisa@stjohnuccfreeport.org  
Madison Riddell

Youth Ministry Assistant:  

Choir Director: Gina Bertram

Church Musicians: Randy Cook and Carole Bertram

Pastor Emeritus: Donnley Dutcher

**OUR CALLING STATEMENT**

To be a Sacred Place to Inspire Faith and Nurture Compassion

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday 9:00am—2:00pm  
Church office (815) 235-2824  
www.stjohnuccfreeport.org  
www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport