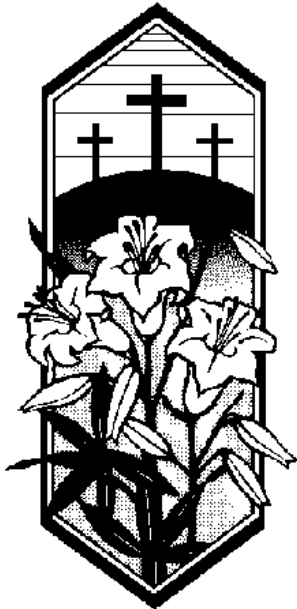


THE CALLER



St. John's UCC
216 North St.,
P.O. Box 418
Brighton, IL 62012
(618) 372-3737 fax: same
www.stjohnsucc-brighton.org

Ministers:
The Congregation
Worship Leader
Irene Gulovsen
618-208-7134
igulovsen@hotmail.com



GRACE AND GREETINGS TO ALL:

Lent is the time that we in the church are invited to remember with gratitude, reflect with honesty, repent for our shortcomings, and revision who we might become in the future as we seek to faithfully follow Jesus in this time and in this place.

As your supply pastor during this season – and during the next step in this congregation's "transition" - I am blessed to share this journey with you as you begin anticipating new leadership and the new future that God is calling you toward, and I, with your help, learn a new way to serve. While I am not trained to be an intentional interim, I hope that I can be of help to you during this transition period by offering both stability and breathing room as you begin to think through the "what next?"

While my designated duties are primarily that of being responsible for certain elements of Sunday worship and making sure that shut-ins and hospitalized members are visited, I am quite happy to attend important church meetings and other church functions as well.

My phone number is 618-208-7134 and my email address is igulovsen@hotmail.com. I look forward to our growing friendship.

Blessing and peace, Irene

FROM THE MODERATOR

St. John's has been very busy during the period since our last Caller. At the Annual meeting in January, Anne McCoy was elected to replace Jason Oertel on the Administrative Team. I, Ken Orban was elected to replace Dennis Orban, as Trustee on the Bott Cemetery.

Reverend Jack Spratte extended his stay with us in order to teach a 8 weeks "Called to Care" course of instruction. We now have 6 people who have been commissioned to make calls on shut-ins, hospital patients and nursing home residents. Please let us know if you know of someone who would like this new pastoral service.

We have also been blessed with Irene Gulovsen, who has agreed to be our Worship Leader for the near future. Irene has been very busy getting to know everyone (and also helping at the Fish Fry's) She possesses a heart for Christ that is evident in everything she says and does, and we look forward to hearing more of the insight she has to share. Welcome Irene!

We are in the beginning stages of organizing a Search Committee for St. John's future Pastor. We have requested recommendation from the congregation at the last two Sunday services. We now have 16 recommended members for consideration to be on the Search Committee. The Administrative Team will make the final selection to include a Committee Chairperson. We will keep you informed in the future as of the results.

Fish Fry's are in full swing and at the top of our list right now. We could use additional help if you are available. Call and let Melinda, the church secretary know when you are available. Or leave a message for Melinda on the office answering machine and she will return your call.

Last but by far not the least, we are approaching Holy Week. We have joined with the First Presbyterian Church and St. Paul United Methodist Church. See the schedule of services in this caller.

As a side note, the Easter Offering this year will be designated to the DuBois Camp Center. St. John's remains dedicated to God and welcomes everyone to join with us.

“Serving God by Welcoming All”

Ken Orban
Moderator

Our Prayer List

Hal Hogan, Dennis Orban, Miki Seaborn, Esther Weaver, Bill Oertel, Duane Waggoner, Don Gray, Dwight Westfall, Barb Schafer, Rick Piper, Ray Watson, Emil Watts, Valerie Roach, Debbie Creal, Kenneth Rothe, Georgia Wyman, Lois Lorsbach, Glenda Hubbard, Barb Thielen, George Bredemann, Tina Baker, Dora Wild, Roseanne Stice, John Bott, Mary Jane Lippert, Rose Cruthis, Tom Hickey, William "Buddy" Fisher, Bob Brenner, Willard Hausman, Tilly and Jim Weaver, Dan Koslosiecke, Terri Wreath, Sandy Dunnagan, Alta Acord, Dorothy Ashlock, Jean Richards, Charlie Dehaan, Chris Acord, Donna Elam, Pam Grove, Betty Pattillo



Building and Grounds

Our Parsonage has been cleaned and painted and the bathroom updated. Many minor repairs and improvements have been made inside the house. The shrubs outside have been trimmed ready for the spring. We still have a few items to do, including the garage door. The total cost of materials and labor to date is \$4,150.47.

Our church basement ceiling and walls has been painted. Material and labor at completion was \$849.34. The Kruse family purchased all new curtains for the basement in memory of George Kruse.

Thank you to all who worked donated or helped in any way to improve our parsonage and church.

Allen Jones



Loyal Daughters

St. John's Loyal Daughters is busy with a variety of activities, including planning and organizing the annual *Girls Night Out*, a spring garage sale, and participation in the Village of Brighton Parks Department's Spring Lawn and Garden Show.

Girls Night Out is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 at 6:30. Plans for the evening include a fabulous meal—we always have good food at St. John's—photos, games, movies, and more! That's *Amore tickets* can be purchased from any of the Loyal Daughters—Anne, Barb, Beth, Chris, Lu Ann, Rhonda, or Tammy. Tickets are \$6 for girls 13 and older, \$4 for girls aged 5 to 12, and free for younger girls.

The Village of Brighton Parks Department's Spring Lawn and Garden Show is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 at Schneider Park. Loyal Daughters plans to have a game booth for kids at this event.

The garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, from 8 to 12 at the parsonage. All proceeds from the sale will be used to help purchase items for holiday food baskets and Christmas gifts for children whose families could use a little help during the holidays.

St. John's Loyal Daughters meets on the third Wednesday of each month, from 6 to 7 pm., from September through May. We enjoy sharing dinner, meeting, and fellowship. Our purpose is to help with the activities of our church and the church's wider missions. We would love to have more members in our group, if you'd like to join us! If you can't attend meetings, feel free to volunteer to help with our activities!

Chris Dawdy

Facebook

St. John's is now on Facebook! If you're a Facebook participant, be sure to drop by our page and give us a "thumbs up" and/or post something on our wall. To find the St. John's page, simply do a search for "St. John's United Church of Christ Brighton, Illinois" or drop by the church web site at stjohnsucc-brighton.org and follow the link.

Maundy Thursday:

St. John 's United Church of Christ
April 21st at 7:00 pm Communion Service

Good Friday: St Paul United Methodist Church
April 22nd at 7:00 pm



St. John's United Church of
Christ
Email:
info@stjohnsucc-
brighton.org

*Easter Church
Service
10:15 am*

**"Serving God
by
Welcoming
All"**



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship group is getting smaller in numbers, however we continue to do what we can for the church and community. We welcomed Irene to our group and church. She would like for each of the women's fellowship group to bring an item to the meeting that is important and sentimental to them to share with our fellow members.

The Women's Fellowship continues to collect loose change each second Sunday during our church service. We collect an average of \$50.00 plus, monthly for Kindercottage through the generosity of the church members.

The Women's Fellowship members are all busy baking pies for the weekly fish fries. This year we are sponsoring a drawing for gift baskets. For every 3 non perusable food items you bring to the weekly fish fries you may enter your name for a drawing on the last week of the fish fry. The food collection is for the community food pantry. We have 3 interesting gift baskets for the drawing.

Personal grooming items are being collected for the Oasis Women's Center in Alton to help women and children when they need to leave their home for personal safety. The collection ends April 3rd.

We were unable to have the Birthday Party at Robings Manor this year in February, however we delivered a Birthday cake for the residents.

The April meeting will be April 7th with Irene giving the program. Dorothy Schroeder will serve refreshments. Come join us at 1:00 pm

The Loyal Daughter's will be hosting the Girls Night Out (formally known as the Mother Daughter Banquet) on April 27th at 6:30 pm Get your tickets from any member of the Loyal Daughters.

Helen Schafer

Sunday School at St. John's UCC starts and ends the same way--We sing our prayer!

*Oh, the Lord is good to me
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need
My friends and church and family,
Oh the Lord is good to me
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.*

Our youth currently meet on Sundays at 9:15 am-10:00 am, prior to the 10:15 am worship service. Our meeting areas include the Amazing Grace Showplace, which is a wonderfully designed media room complete with REAL movie theatre stadium seating! We also have the Gathering Area, which has comfy pillows for a relaxed circle time moments, but enough open space for our less-than-quiet rambunctious activities! The Art Gallery is equipped with ample supplies for creativity and crafty inventions. We also use Cook's Corner for food-related projects. The church basement provides space for other youth activities, including an enormous wall-mounted game board. Coming soon—the Gospel Lights Museum, which will highlight the various creations related to our weekly studies for the entire church family to enjoy! The Gospel Lights, our group for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade, A ". A new hero (or heroine!)

is introduced every few weeks- Esther, Noah, Daniel, Elijah, Jonah, Moses and Miriam are some examples. During this time, we learn a Bible verse related to the message of the hero's story. We also learn a 'Cookie Bite', which is a short statement that the kids can take with them throughout the rest of the week as a reminder of what we've learned. Some of our recent Cookie Bites include, "We can show love to our family members.", "With God we can do important things." and "We can believe in God's promises." We frequently break into pairings or small groups that we call Bible Buddies. During this time we work together to explore the Bible and become familiar with the testaments, books, chapters and verses related to our unit in a hands-on way. While our focus on a particular hero can span several weeks, the variety of activities allow the kids to experience the story on many levels through many modalities, such as art, cooking, music, physical activity, games, etc. No matter if a child has experienced a unit consecutively for a few weeks or is new to the unit's message on any given week, our program is designed so that EVERYONE can take part and learn something new that will apply to relationships with other people and with God.

The Peoples class, our youth who are in 6th grade or older, has a mission, and that is to do good deeds. Each Sunday, we find something that needs to be done around the church--whether it's cleaning up pews, fixing the communion trays, or straightening the tables in the basement after an event, we keep busy with our good deeds and learn a bit about what it takes to keep a church going physically. We also read and discuss Bible stories, talk about the "moral of the story" and how it affects our lives, then make questions to be answered in our very own Bible game.

While our groups often work independently of one another, we do incorporate them for our Sunday School opening time and also periodically to participate in group activities together, like our recent Valentine's card-making for local nursing home residents. We select a monetary mission for a period of several months. Sunday School offerings go toward these missions. Our youth recently were able to purchase several flocks of baby chicks through Heifer International. Our goal is to create an environment where the kids can feel connected...to their God and Savior, each other, the St. John's church family, the local community, and people all around the world. We are a tight-knit group that is always excited to welcome a new friend. Please come join us as we celebrate the many ways that the Lord is good to us!

Chris Dawdy



Worship Team

We'd like to say a special thank you to all of you who've been helping with the duties involved in keeping the sanctuary ready for worship. Anne McCoy has assumed the task of dressing the altar and chancel. Lonnie Gamble has been seeing that the candles are filled with oil.

Melinda Austin came up with a wonderful idea to cover the altar, communion table, podium and pulpit surfaces with Lucite to keep the paraments clean and in place. Ken Orban took the time to measure and cut the Lucite to fit. Other unknown angels have been helping straighten the sanctuary before and after service... none of your stewardship goes without notice. Thank you!

Gary Schafer has been learning the ins-and-out of the audio/visual set-up and helping Thom Kolosieke up in the balcony on Sunday mornings. Evan Kolosieke helps out up there on the mornings the Praise & Worship team sings and fills in for his dad on occasion. Many of our youth have also been seen up there chipping in. With enough hands, the tasks of pushing the right buttons, turning the right knobs and tugging on the bell rope are made easier. Thank you all!

The Chancel Choir and the Children of Praise (COPs) will be ending their season in the next month or so, and we'd like to thank Rhonda and Roberta and everyone else involved for sharing your time and talents that have added so much to our time of worship. We look forward to your return this fall!

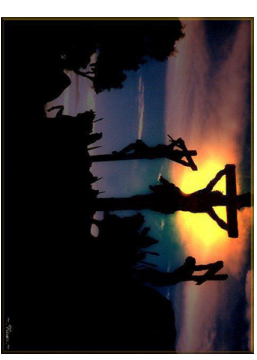
We'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome Irene Gulovsen into our midst. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to meet Irene, she is a [soon-to-be] Licensed Minister with the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ who will be acting as a supply pastor and leading us in worship during the coming months.

As we make plans for Eastertide and the warm summer months ahead, we continue to prayerfully discern ways in which to blend contemporary and traditional into a worship time that best meets the needs of our diverse church family. We remain secure in the assurance that God is in control, as long as we keep our hearts and minds open to the possibilities of the Spirit.

Kathi Kolosieke



April 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Fish Fry 11:00 t to 6:30	2
3 Communion	4	5 Children of Praise 7:15 pm	6 Praise Practice 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	7 Women's Fellowship Meeting 1:00 pm	8 Fish Fry 11:00 t to 6:30	9
Choir						
10	11	12 Children of Praise 7:15 pm	13 Praise Practice 6:30 pm Choir Cancelled	14 Worship Team Meeting 7:30 pm	15 Fish Fry 11:00 t to 6:30	16
Praise Music						
17 Palm Sunday	18	19 Children of Praise 7:15 pm Ad Team Meeting 7:00 pm	20 Loyal Daughters 6:00 pm Praise Practice 6:30 pm Choir 7:30	21 St. John's Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm	22 United Methodist Good Friday Service 7:00 pm	23
Children of Praise Music						
24 Easter	25	26 Children of Praise 7:15 pm	27 Loyal Daughters Girls Night Out! 6:30 pm	28	29	30
Choir 