



THE PARISH VISITOR AUGUST 2023

A Letter from Pastor John

John Omerod,
Pastor



NEED TO CONTACT US?

Church Office:
630.556.3986

Pastor John’s Cell:
815-761-3910

Pastor’s email:
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary’s email:
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Church website –
www.ecucc.org

Visit our Facebook page
at: [BigRockECUCC](https://www.facebook.com/BigRockECUCC)

Books are our friends, even the dusty ones. As children, someone was likely to have read to us at home. We had required reading in school and reading assignments to complete at home, as well. Public libraries were frequented for the shelves-upon-shelves of fascinating facts and ideas, things to learn about our natural surroundings and cultures all over the world. Then, advent of computers often displaced trips to the library, those brick and clapboard structures that struggled to stay alive in much the same way ordering things online became a hardship for brick-and-mortar stores. I’m a bit old-fashioned when it comes to books. I would much rather hold a book in my hand and be able to turn its pages. There is just something about them that brings back a lot of memories, and makes my reading enjoyable.

Church libraries endure hardships, too, so they are no different than town libraries. They suffer much more than their community equivalents, perhaps because the selection is so much smaller. One can rationalize, “Why go to a church library when Google holds a bottomless pit of information for casual reading or research, as often as needed and at any hour of the day?” Good question, although it is also a question that depends on the IT expertise of each individual: *Can you manipulate the computer keys to find books and articles online? No? Well, do I have a good book for you!* It’s perspective, but skill too.

Church libraries have been on the downswing for quite a number of years. At least half the churches don’t have one or had one at one time, and of those remaining, only about half of them are still active, roughly 25%. What a shame. Recently, I visited the library in our Big Rock church to discover the richness and diversity of the shelved books. Many of them appear to be new, as if they have never been checked out. Is it time to change minds?

To wet your whistle, I found a selection of books with interesting titles:

Between Heaven and Ground Zero
The Bible As History
How Good Do We Have To Be?
For Men Only
Chocolate For a Woman’s Heart
Mere Christianity
Where Does a Mother Go To Resign?
Every Day Deserves a Chance
And my favorite: Religion for Dummies

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*For the younger ones:

Christmas ABC Book

Room For a Little One

Cat In the Manger

I Love You to God and Back

Turkeys Never Gobble

The Flood, the Ark, and the Rainbow

So Long, Grandpa



The oldest Bible I discovered in the library was printed in Welsh, copyright 1867. (Handle carefully.) The library also has a copy of *The Story of the Bible*, copyright 1884. The library contains boxes of misc. arts and crafts, poster paper, and a few pieces of artwork on display on the very top shelf. There is no shortage of old hymnbooks. The oldest hymnbook on the shelf is dated 1907, a yellowed paperback book filled with fragile pages of old gospel hymns, two reproductions which I plan to use the next Communion Sunday, August 6.

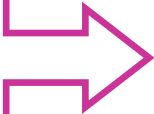
Each book in the library has been, or will be, a treasure for someone to discover. Church libraries are a type of ministry, not unlike other church ministries of music and service. Ours is staffed by a devoted librarian who is more than willing to help you.



Volunteers for August



August 6th
Worship
10:15am
Communion
Change Up Sundae

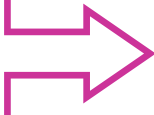


Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Nursery:
Coffee: Volunteers Needed

Lock-up: Worship
Servers: Moderator, Treasurer, Worship

August 13th

Worship
10:15 am



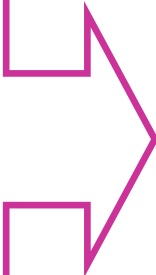
Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Nursery:
Coffee: Jim and Amy Ashby

Lock-up: Youth

August 20th

ANNUAL
COMMUNITY
PICNIC

Worship at
10:30am



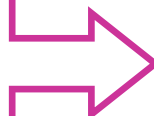
Community Picnic at
Plowman's Park

- Worship at 10:30
- Roast Pork Dinner
- Raffles and Games



August 27th

Worship
10:15 am



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Nursery:
Coffee: Brian and Sharon Wolbers

Lock-up: Vice Moderator

August 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am Pizza Night at Lifespring in Aurora at 6pm 	5
6 Worship at 10:15 am Sacrament of Communion Change Up Collection	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship at 10:15 am	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Picnic at Plowman's Park with Worship at 10:30 followed by pork dinner, raffles and more	21 Executive Council Meeting 6:30pm	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship at 10:15 am	28	29	30	31		



We will hold our Church Picnic at Plowman's Park on Sunday, August 20th. A pulled pork lunch with all the fixins, prepared by Roger Hatfield, will be served along with homemade desserts. Tickets for the pork dinner are \$10.00 per person (\$30 maximum for immediate family for pork dinners), and hot dog dinners are \$4 each.

A raffle of donated items will also be held, organized by Jeri Covelli. Please submit any contributions for the raffle to the office. Worship will begin at 10:30am at the park with lunch and fun to follow.

A COLLECTIVE "THANK YOU"

Thank you to anyone and everyone that helped with our recent Food Drive. It was a huge success, with 2 pickup trucks full of food and \$175 in cash donated to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry.



Please Note: The food pantry has relocated to Waterman. Their address is:
190 W. Lincoln Highway

Their mailing address has not changed.
PO Box 463 Hinckley, IL 60520
Phone or Text to 815-286-7275



Pizza Night at Lifespring

Pizza Night at Lifespring will be Friday, August 4th at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to provide salad, desserts and drinks. If you would like to help, please contact Melissa Peters.



ENGLISH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST

301 Rhodes ~
PO Box 156
Big Rock IL 60511

Church Office:
630.556.3986



Pastor John's cell:
815-761-3910

Pastor John's email:
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's email:
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com



"SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND
PEACE"
2023 VISION STATEMENT

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