



John Omerod,
Pastor



NEED TO CONTACT US?

Church Office:
630.556.3986

Pastor’s Cell:
815.761.3910

Pastor’s email:
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary’s email:
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Church website –
ECUCC.org

THE PARISH VISITOR JUNE 2023

A Letter From Pastor John

For this Pastor’s Page, I couldn’t pass up the Pentecost article below. Enjoy, then let me know what you think about this reflection written during Covid by UK writer Helen Keighley.

“Who likes a quiz? I used to, but lockdown has somehow changed my enjoyment of quizzing! I used to enjoy being among friends in a lively environment and rising to the challenge of remembering little-known facts. Quizzes on zoom have been plentiful over the last year. I can’t say it’s enjoyable for me. Sitting at home on my own isn’t the same as being able to work in a team. There have been quizzes galore on TV but it’s not great watching on your own. Questions can be helpful and sometimes annoying.

How many questions do you suppose you ask in a day? I wonder how that compares to how many questions children ask in a day. They always seem to be asking..... WHY? When I was teaching, I had to introduce the children to report writing as part of their literacy lessons. We always began by thinking about the words.... WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY AND HOW. These are the words that set up the questions we need to ask. And that’s true for Pentecost.

Jesus told His disciples that he was about to leave them. How would they have been feeling? It must have been hard, scary even, knowing you were about to lose your friend and leader, the one you had given everything up to follow. They must have had many questions, but time was short and often the disciples didn’t fully grasp the things that Jesus was telling them. Jesus tells us they were so filled with grief that they didn’t ask where he was going. As Jesus was about to return to His Father, He explained that He would not leave them alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to be with them. They would have someone on their team to guide them. All they had to do was listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Still, they wondered what they would do without Him.

(continued on next page...)

The Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. There was a sudden violent wind. How would that feel? Then tongues of fire came to rest on each one of them. Surely, they were scared. They must have thought... What's happening? It is interesting that those receiving the Spirit then began to speak in different languages. It occurs to me that this is significant. People who heard them could understand them, despite coming from many different regions. Each heard in their own tongue. It speaks to me of the need for effective communication.

We, as modern-day disciples of Christ, are called to spread the Gospel and grow God's Kingdom on earth. To do that we have to reach out to others from different cultures and backgrounds and communicate His word in a form they can understand. It transforms the relationships between humans, as the fire of the Spirit transforms our inner life, and the wind of the Spirit blows through the community bringing us together. Pentecost was the beginning of the Christian church, and we are called to continue the work.

Jesus did not travel alone. He took his followers with Him. And when He sent the disciples out, he sent them in pairs, never alone. We then also need each other, and we need the Holy Spirit. It's like the difference between doing the quiz on your own or being able to confer. We cannot go it alone. Jesus gave us the greatest gift that any Christian could imagine; the Holy Spirit, the counsellor, the Spirit of God himself; the spirit of truth who came to guide the disciples and all Christians. The Advocate promised by Christ enters the believing community to guide and protect it until the second coming. The day of Pentecost is a celebration of God's hand guiding the Christian community through the trials and decisions that are presented to it. And be comforted because when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, it will silence every fear and answer every question and dispel every fear of impossibility. We need only have faith.

So ask yourself... Is the Holy Spirit in you? Are you transformed? Are you growing in the fruits of the Spirit: In love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Do you feel the rush of the wind and the warmth of the fire? Do you hear the quiet voice? Do you listen for it in prayer? And are you led by the Holy Spirit?

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. (Romans 8:14)"





PIZZA NIGHT AT LIFESPRING

This month's Pizza Night at Lifespring will be held on Friday, June 2nd at 6:00 p.m. July 7th will be the next Pizza Night. We welcome donations of soft drinks, salad and desserts. Please contact Melissa Peters if you wish to donate or need further information.



Thank you for your continued support and donations to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry!

Your continued gifts of items such as: kidney beans, chili beans, Ramen noodles, pasta sauce, canned pasta, macaroni, noodles, sugar, flour, Bisquick, baking supplies, canned meats, Jell-O, pudding, lunch box items, toilet paper, Kleenex, toothpaste, laundry soap, bath soap, condiments, and juice are greatly appreciated.

Do you wish to make a **direct monetary donation to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry**, without going through ECUCC? Their address is: Hinckley Area Food Pantry, PO Box 463, Hinckley IL 60520. They will also send a tax donation letter to you at the end of the year for monetary gifts. And, they can often buy MORE food with your cash donations. Every little bit makes a big difference. Thank you!



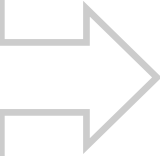
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS BIKE-A-THON REST STOP

The Multiple Sclerosis Society has requested the use of our parking lot as a rest stop for their bike riders raising funds to help fight this terrible disease. This year they are going to utilize the large parking lot on the west side of the church.

The event is being held on Saturday, June 24th and they plan to use the lot from approximately 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

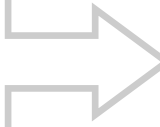
Volunteers for June

June 4th
10:15 am Worship
Communion Sunday
Change Up Sunday



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
 Nursery:
 Coffee: Brian and Sharon Wolbers
 Lock Up: Worship
Communion Servers: Vice Moderator, Youth, Outreach

June 11th
10:15 am Worship



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
 Nursery:
 Coffee:
 Lock-Up: Youth

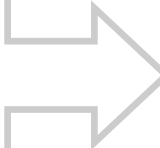
June 18th
10:15 am Worship
Father's Day

PROVIDER FATHER DAD POP PA
 DADDY PADRE
 STRONG ELDER
 FATHER KNOWS BEST
 patriarch
 fun-loving hardworking sweet
 nurturing
 care-giver wisdom
 Any man can be a father,
 but it takes a lot to be a
 papa
 Daddy babba
 apu papi
 hero patient
 comforting happy
 awesome
SUPPORTER

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
 Nursery:
 Coffee: Roger Hatfield
 Lock-Up: Moderator



June 25th
10:15 am Worship



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
 Nursery:
 Coffee:
 Lock-Up: Vice Moderator



June 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am Lifespring Pizza Night at 6pm in Aurora	3
4 Worship Service at 10:15am Communion Change Up Sundae	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship Service at 10:15am	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship Service at 10:15am	19 Executive Council Meeting at 6:30 pm	20	21	22	23	24 Memorial Service for Larry Goodin (more info to follow)
25 Worship Service at 10:15am	26	27	28	29	30 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am	

The GOOD STEWARD



STEWARDSHIP — Sharing Our Gifts from God

Summer vacation time will be here soon and many of us will be going away with our families to enjoy fun and relaxation.

Unfortunately, the bills at English Congregational UCC never take a vacation. Salaries still need to be paid, electric bills need to be paid, etc. There are several ways you can continue to support your church even though you might be away:

1. Mail your Sunday Offering to the church office;
2. Double-up on your offering before you go away or when you return.

Are we being good stewards of what God has given us?

Thanks to everyone in advance for your support.

Summer Office Hours

Please note that the office hours for our secretary, Pam, will be changing as of this week. Pam will be in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 8am (end time can vary based on the work flow). Pastor John will be here on Mondays as usual (from 9am to 4:30pm).

ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

301 Rhodes ~ PO Box 156
Big Rock IL 60511

Church Office:
630.556.3986



Pastor's cell: 815.761.3910
Pastor's email:
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's email:
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Like us on
Facebook



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