



THE PARISH VISITOR MARCH 2023

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 –
www.ecucc.org

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A Letter From Pastor John

Join A Church by Mary Luti—published on Jan. 30, 2023

Above all, love each other deeply... Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace. — 1 Peter 4: 8-10 (NIV)

I know an old woman who worries about outliving her partner and most of her family and friends. The grief of that anticipated loss messes with her sleep. And the fear. With them gone, who’ll look out for her? She doesn’t want to die alone. She confided all this to a friend. His advise? Join a church. Church people will take care of you, he said. You won’t be alone.

She was taken aback by how crass and self-interested his advice felt. Hi, I’m Sally, I’m old and getting older. I’m joining your church so I won’t be alone. What kind of reason is that? If people knew she’d come hoping for a few visits and a casserole someday, wouldn’t they feel used? She decided he must be kidding. He wasn’t.

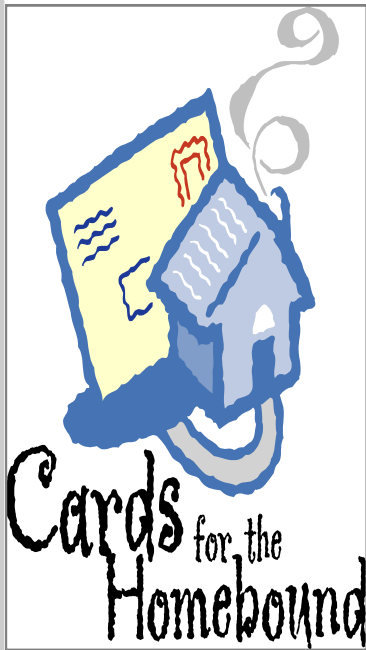
I don’t know whether she’ll do it, but I hope so, because her friend is right. Anyone who’s ever been lucky enough to be part of a loving church knows it. To approach such a community for company and care isn’t selfish. It’s giving that church a chance to be church.

Some Christians think that the church is most fully what Christ intends only when it’s publicly engaged in the struggle against the sinful systems of our unjust world. But the world’s axis also tilts towards God’s dream whenever some random old woman (or anyone at all) comes to us to be accompanied and is met with open arms.

Join a church. They’ll take care of you.

Prayer

Compassionate Christ, open your church’s arms to the lonely and fearful, no matter who, no matter why, no matter when.



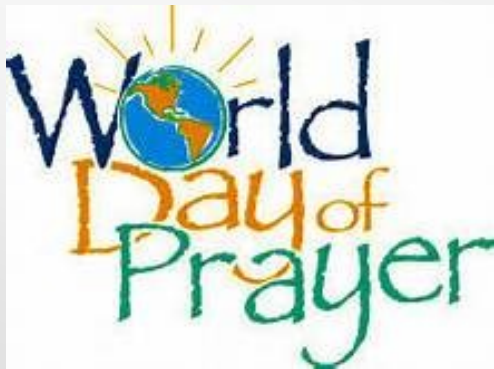
Here is a list of our homebound and their addresses. A card to let them know you are thinking of them would be appreciated by all:

Neva Cooley—Pine Acres Rehab & Living Center,
1212 S. 2nd St., Room 215, DeKalb, IL 60115

Judy Hatfield—c/o Prairie Crossing, 409 W. Commanche Ave.,
Shabbona, IL 60550

Ettamay Imthurn—47W950 Wheeler Rd., Big Rock, IL 60511

Sue Lee—46W028 Granart Rd., Big Rock, IL 60511



Friday, March 3rd



One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 19th

*Please see more information on
the following page regarding
how important and helpful
your support is to those
in their time of need!*

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING COLLECTION

MARCH 19th

Your donation to the One Great Hour of Sharing supports international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response. Your donation on March 19th will help to support relief efforts here and around the world, including helping those in Turkey and Syria affected by the recent earthquakes. The following is a recent article on how the United Church of Christ and your donations are helping:



The United Church of Christ is offering prayers for the region encompassing Turkey and Syria as the death toll continues to climb following one of the strongest earthquakes in 100 years. As of Feb. 13, the number of people killed has passed 36,000. Responders who have worked hard in the cold weather continue to rescue victims from the ruins as the odds of survival begin to wane over a week since the Feb. 6 quake. Many survivors are struggling to find enough food, water and basic amenities.

UCC Global H.O.P.E. has launched the Turkey and Syria Emergency Appeal to direct financial support to partners responding in the areas of greatest need for relief and long-term recovery.

Assessing needs

“We continue to be in regular contact with partners in Turkey and Syria, who are active in the response,” said Peter Makari, Global Ministries team leader for Middle East and Europe. This includes in Gaziantep, Turkey, where the UCC had a hand in establishing and offering a missionary presence at the Gaziantep Hospital. The Health and Education Foundation (SEV), the Turkish partner that runs the hospital, said that while the building has experienced only minor damage, Gaziantep is one of the ten cities that has been badly affected, and many in the area are experiencing shock and fear. The hospital will likely serve as a hub for medical treatment, said Makari.

Volunteers for March

March 5

Sunday School at 9am
Worship at 10:15am
Communion
**CHANGE UP
SUNDAY**

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Nursery:
Coffee: Gary and Mary Hauge

Communion Servers: Operations, Nurture, Teaching & Learning
Lock Up: Treasurer

March 12

Sunday School at 9am
Worship at 10:15am

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

Lock Up: Operations



March 19

Sunday School at 9am
Worship at 10:15am
*One Great Hour of
Sharing special
offering*
**Women's Fellowship
Meeting after Coffee
Hour**

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

Lock Up: Outreach

March 26

Sunday School at 9am
Worship at 10:15am

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

Lock Up: Nurture



March 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



			1	2	3 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am Lifespring Pizza Night at 6pm in Aurora	4
5 Sunday School—9am Worship 10:15am Communion Change Up Sundae	6	7	8	9	10	11  Change your clocks this even- ing. Move for- ward one hour.
12 Sunday School— 9am Worship 10:15am	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 Sunday School—9am Worship 10:15am One Great Hour of Sharing Women's Fellow- ship Meeting after Coffee	20 Executive Council Meeting 6:30pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday School— 9am Worship 10:15am	27	28	29	30	31 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am	

Women's Evening Fellowship Meeting

Sunday, March 19th

After Coffee Hour (around noon).

All women are welcome to attend.

-and-

Mark your calendars for April 23rd when there will be a "Pot Luck"

Luncheon after church. A sign up sheet will be posted soon.

Please contact Mary Dalton with any questions or suggestions.



2am on Sunday, March 12th!!

Turn your clocks forward on Saturday evening so you don't miss our service on Sunday!!

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



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