



John Omerod, Pastor

## THE PARISH VISITOR MAY 2023

### A Letter From The Desk of Pastor John



#### 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

Visit us on Facebook for  
current information .

**Mother’s Day is rapidly approaching. Here are some wonderful quotes I found to share with you. Jodi Picoult is an American fiction novelist. Author William Thackeray wrote his novel *Vanity Fair* in 1848. Maya Angelou, poet and author, who died in 2014, was well-known for her book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Gilda Radner, actress and comic, died from cancer in 1989 at the age of 42. All of these authors knew mothers worthy of deep appreciation:**

**“My mother: She is beautiful, softened at the edges, and tempered with a spine of steel. I want to grow old and be like her.” ---Jodi Picoult**

**“Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.” ---William Thackeray**

**“To describe my mother would be to write about a hurricane in its perfect power.” ---Maya Angelou**

**“Motherhood is the biggest gamble in the world. It is the glorious life force. It’s huge and scary—it’s an act of infinite optimism.” ---Gilda Radner**

**Motherhood is the exquisite inconvenience of being another person’s everything.” ---Unknown**

**A mother’s hug lasts long after she lets go.” ---Unknown**

**Of these quotes, my mother was a Jodi Picoult-kind of woman. She was soft at the edges. She laughed, cried, gave advice, and worried over the welfare of her three sons. She possessed that “spine of steel” too! Her sons couldn’t get away with a thing. She regretted parts of her childhood that she carried with her into adulthood—her distant relationship with her father, and her strict upbringing in a religiously conservative family. As a little girl she was denied the opportunity to attend a classmate’s birthday party nearby because the family belonged to the “wrong” church. I listened to that story several times over the years, things she needed to say in her words that needed to be heard. She died of breast cancer in 1991, far too soon.**

(Continued on next page...)

**Mother's Day is the celebrated day of motherhood, as it should be. But one thing has bothered me for a very long time. Some women are quietly left out. There are mothers who lost young or adult children at an early age, others who wanted to be mothers but were physically unable, others who lost children to war, violence, or calamity, and still others, women who chose not to have children. For some women, motherhood may carry regrets. For others, immeasurable pain. When we celebrate Mother's Day on May 14, let us hold in our prayers current mothers, childless mothers, and mothers who have lost children. Let us remember and celebrate all. In this way, we listen to each other and, too, become "softened at the edges."**



**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING  
PENTECOST SUNDAY  
MAY 28th**

**The Strengthen the Church Offering supports the work of our conference and the national United Church of Christ to become a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all. The offering funds leadership development, youth and young adult ministries, and new and renewing congregations.**

**The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.**

## Volunteers are needed for Coffee Hour



Coffee Fellowship

If you are able to volunteer for coffee hour, please see the sign up sheet on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. Help is need for May 21st and beyond. Thank you.

## PIZZA NIGHT



Our monthly Pizza Night with our friends at Lifespring Women's Shelter will be on Friday, May 5th at 6:00 p.m. If you can help out with salads, drinks or desserts, and if you are interested in attending the dinner, please contact Melissa Peters.



The **Hinckley Area Food Pantry (HAFP)** serves the communities of Big Rock, Hinckley, Maple Park, and Waterman and provides food assistance to our neighbors in these communities.

Thank you for your continued support and donations to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry! The Hinckley Food Pantry wish list: kidney beans, chili beans, Ramen noodles, pasta sauce, canned pasta, macaroni, noodles, sugar, flour, Bisquick, baking supplies, canned meats, Jell-O, pudding, lunch box stuff (individual serving sizes fruit, desserts, chips, etc.), toilet paper, Kleenex, toothpaste, laundry soap, bath soap, ketchup, mustard, mayo, juice.

If 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 send a tax donation letter at the end of the year to those that choose to make a monetary donation. In addition, they are actually able to buy MORE food with cash donations, but every donation is important to those in our community that need assistance.

# Volunteers for May

May 7th  
Sunday School at 9am  
Worship at 10:15 am  
  
Communion Sunday  
Change Up Sunday

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery: Volunteers needed  
Flowers: Volunteers needed  
Coffee: Mary Knobloch and Clara Babel  
Communion Servers: Operations, Nurture, T/L  
Lock Up: Operations



May 14th  
Last Day of Sunday School  
at 9am  
Worship at 10:15 am  
  
Mother's Day

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery: Volunteers needed  
Flowers: Volunteers needed  
Coffee: Sunday School Class  
Lock Up: Outreach



May 21st  
Worship at 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery: Volunteers needed  
Flowers: Volunteers needed  
Coffee: Volunteers needed  
Lock Up: Nurture

May 28th  
Worship at 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery: Volunteers needed  
Flowers: Volunteers needed  
Coffee: Volunteers needed  
Lock Up: Teaching and Learning



# May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am LifeSpring Pizza Night at 6pm in Aurora 	6
7 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am  Sacrament of Communion Change Up	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Last Day of Sunday School Worship 10:15am  	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Worship 10:15am	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:15am	29  Church Office Closed	30	31			

## "Everything Mom"

How did you find the energy, Mom  
To do all the things you did,  
To be teacher, nurse and counselor  
To me, when I was a kid.  
How did you do it all, Mom  
Be a chauffeur, cook and friend?  
Yet find time to be a playmate,  
I just can't comprehend.  
I see now it was love, Mom  
That made you come whenever I'd call,  
Your inexhaustible love, Mom  
And I thank you for it all.

— Joanna Fuchs



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