

## THE PARISH VISITOR OCTOBER 2023



John Omerod,  
Pastor



### NEED TO CONTACT US?

Church Office:  
630.556.3986

Pastor's Cell:  
815.761.3910

Pastor John's email:  
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's  
email:  
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Church website  
[www.ecucc.org](http://www.ecucc.org)

Check us out on  
**FACEBOOK**

### A Letter from Pastor John

There are times when I am at home and comfortably seated in a straight back chair, and I imagine my monthly pastor's page for the church newsletter to be a poetic construct of theological and pastoral gravitas. That is until I am shaken back to reality by someone else's published work that so gently dominates the page of the writer's book. The poem below, though not pastoral, is appropriately occupied with life's questions, such a fitting composition of poise and ecological grace. Ginny and I attended a poetry reading recently held at an Episcopal church sanctuary in DeKalb. Nearly all of the local poets were there, all published, and they took turns reading their own superb poetry or the poetry of famous writers.

The Summer Day is one of the poems that touched me, especially the final line, posed as a question that came to me none-to-soon. The question could be a nudge for us, a wakeup call, even for us who are up there in years. The writer, Mary Oliver, was an American poet. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1984, along with other awards over the years. Unfortunately, she passed away from cancer in 2019 at the age of 83, much too soon. A national newspaper described her as "far and away, this country's best-selling poet." So enjoy, and let me know what you think!

*The Summer Day* by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean—  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Volunteers are needed to provide pastries/donuts for our weekly fellowship coffee hour following the worship service. The sign up sheet is on the counter in the kitchen. Please help if you can.



## PIZZA NIGHTS— October 6th, November 3rd, and December 1st

Our upcoming Pizza Nights with the Lifespring Women's Shelter are scheduled for Friday, October 6th, November 3rd and December 1st. We always appreciate donations of salad, soft drinks and desserts. If you can provide any of the items needed, please see Melissa Peters.

## October 7th History Presentation at the Big Rock Library: The Significance of the Underground Railroad Quilt Codes



You are invited to a presentation by Connie Martin from North Aurora, on the codes that quilts signified during the Underground Railroad era. This is an authentic account from her family Bible and documents how enslaved people escaped Northwards.

She brings 18 quilts to demonstrate the codes. Program will be on Saturday, October 7 at 2 pm at the Big Rock park district. It's sponsored by the Big Rock Library and the park district and there is no need to register.

## HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY



**Thank you for your continued donations to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry. They provide a much needed resource for those less fortunate in our community.**

**If you wish to make a monetary donation to the Pantry, you can send it to:  
Hinckley Area Food Pantry, PO Box 463, Hinckley, IL 60520**

**Monetary donors will receive a tax donation letter at the end of the year and the Pantry can even buy more food with monetary donations.**

**Thank you again!**

## CAN WE DO IT AGAIN?

The annual turkey drop and food drive at Plowman's Park will be here soon. While Pastor John is on vacation, Mike and Jim have offered to have their cars filled with our generous donations on Sunday, Nov. 5th. Bring your donations to church and they will be taken to the park after the Worship Service. Please see below for list of requested items.

Thank you to everyone for your generous support of this event!

13TH ANNUAL

HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY'S  
LARGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!



# TURKEY DROP & FOOD DRIVE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH**  
**11AM UNTIL 1PM**  
**PLOWMAN'S PARK**

(48W508 HINCKLEY ROAD, BIG ROCK)

HOSTED BY JENN SCHLACHTER & HBR CUB SCOUTS

### ITEMS NEEDED

**12-14 lb. Frozen Turkeys**

Stuffing Mix

Instant Potatoes

Canned Yams

Canned Veggies

Gravy

Cranberry Sauce

Dessert Mixes & Frosting

Monetary Donations  
Appreciated!

Make Checks Payable to:

Hinckley Area Food Pantry  
PO Box 463  
Hinckley, IL 60520

HAVE QUESTIONS?  
NEED MORE INFORMATION?

CONTACT:  
JENN SCHLAC  
630-926-57  
JSCHLACHTER4@GI



# Volunteers for October

**October 1st**  
**Worship 10:15am**  
**Communion**  
**Change Up Sundaes**

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Roger Hatfield  
  
Lock-up: Teaching and Learning  
Communion Servers: Operations, Nurture, T/L



**October 8th**  
**Worship 10:15 am**

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Volunteers Needed  
  
Lock-up: Worship

**October 15th**  
**Worship 10:15am**

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Volunteers Needed  
  
Lock-up: Youth



**October 22nd**  
**Worship 10:15 am**

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Jim and Amy Ashby  
  
Lock-up: Moderator

**October 29th**  
**Worship 10:15 am**  
**Nick Ashby**  
**Memorial**  
**Collection**

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Worship Ministry Group  
  
Lock-up: Vice Moderator



# October 2023

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<i>1</i> Worship at 10:15 Communion Change Up Sundae	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> LifeSpring Pizza Night at 6pm in Aurora 	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> Worship at 10:15	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> Worship at 10:15	<i>16</i> Executive Council Meeting 6:30pm	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> Worship at 10:15	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> Worship at 10:15 Nick Ashby Memorial Collection	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>				



## A Message Of Thanks From Arlene Wold

"I want to say "thank you" to all my friends at Big Rock Church for all the cards, flowers, and healing wishes during my recovery from knee surgery. You certainly are wonderful friends and I missed playing the organ and piano for the church services. I understand Stephanie and Mary W. did a very capable job of substituting for me and thank you so very much! A word of thanks to Pastor John for his uplifting calls and visits. God willing, I shall plan on serving as your organist for several blessed years to come."



Oct. 6th—Darla McCann  
Oct. 11th—John Adlington  
Oct. 13th—Ric Rodriguez  
Oct. 17th—Mary Welton  
Oct. 17th—Ton Berliner  
Oct. 31st—Kaylee Haehnel

ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Big Rock IL 60511

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630.556.3986



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Church Secretary's email:  
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Like us on  
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**"SEEKING JUSTICE, LOVING  
KINDNESS, AND WALKING HUMBLLY  
WITH OUR GOD."  
VISION STATEMENT**

Visit our website at  
[www.ecucc.org](http://www.ecucc.org)