



John Omerod,  
Pastor



**NEED TO  
CONTACT US?**

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BigRockECUCC

## THE PARISH VISITOR SEPTEMBER 2023

### *A Letter From Pastor John*

Pam passed this poem on to me, and I want to share it with you. The imagination of this creative 17-year-old from Brooklyn, Chanie Gorkin, is astounding. Once you have completed reading it through from top to bottom, reverse the order and read it again, but from bottom to top.

Today was the absolute worst day ever  
And don’t try to convince me that  
There’s something good in every day  
Because, when you take a closer look,  
This world is a pretty evil place.  
Even if  
Some goodness does shine through once in a while  
Satisfaction and happiness don’t last.  
And it’s not true that  
It’s all in the mind and heart.  
Because  
True happiness can be obtained  
Only if one’s surroundings are good  
It’s not true that good exists  
I’m sure you can agree that  
The reality  
Creates  
My attitude  
It’s all beyond my control  
And you’ll never in a million years hear me say that  
Today was a good day

**NOW READ FROM BOTTOM TO TOP**



## PLOWING MATCH WORSHIP

The churches of Big Rock will once again hold a Community Worship Service at this year's event. The Service will take place on Sunday, September 17th beginning at **10am** at the stage. As in previous years, we will join with the First Baptist Church and Rev. Steve Schroeder for the service. All loose offerings will go to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry while church offering envelopes put in the offering plates will be returned to their respective churches. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office or Pastor John.



**HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY**  
"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"

The pantry has moved to Waterman at 190 W. Lincoln Hwy.  
The Hinckley Area Food Pantry (HAFP) is open by appointment only.  
Clients may visit the pantry twice each month.

The mailing address of the pantry remains that same, and  
every dollar donated can provide approx. 20 meals for the hungry!

Financial donations can be mailed to:  
HAFP, PO Box 463, Hinckley, IL 60520

For more information or an appointment, please call or text 815-286-7275  
or visit their website at: <http://www.hinckleyareafoodpantry.org>



## PIZZA NIGHT

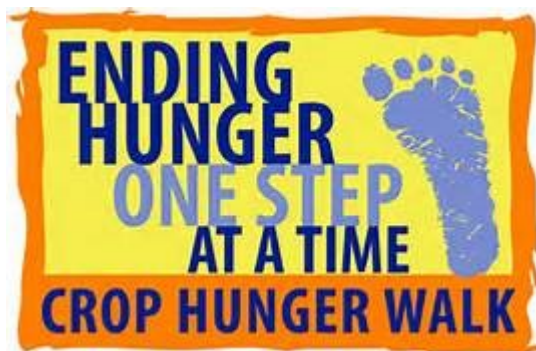
Our upcoming Pizza Nights at Lifespring Women's Shelter will take place on Friday, October 6th, November 3rd and December 1st.

We can always use donations of drinks, salads and desserts. If you can help with any of these, or would just like more information, please contact Melissa Peters or the church office.

## 2023 Crop Hunger Walk

The 2023 Interfaith Community CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 1st. The event this year will take place at St. Paul's UCC in Hinckley beginning at 2pm. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds from the Walk will go to Church World Service for their hunger relief programs around the world. The remaining 25% will be split between the Our Sharing Pantry in Somonauk and the Hinckley Area Food Pantry in Waterman. The Hinckley Pantry serves the communities of Hinckley, Waterman, Maple Park and Big Rock.

If you would like to participate in the Walk and help solicit donations, please see Mike or Melissa Peters for a Walker Envelope and information. If you would like to donate, you can make your check payable to "CWS/CROP" and send it directly to the church, drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, or give it directly to Mike or Melissa Peters. Thank you for your support of this essential fundraiser to combat hunger.



Change Up Sunday



Just a quick reminder of our upcoming  
Change Up Sundae dates.

Sunday, September 3rd

Sunday, October 1st

Sunday, November 5th

Sunday, December 3rd

We appreciate everyone's support of this program!



**HAPPY LABOR DAY**

The Church Office will be closed on Labor Day.  
Have a happy and safe holiday with your family and friends.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Artist: Alexis  
Age: 15  
Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO



"God saw everything God made  
and behold, it was very good."  
Genesis 1:31

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2023  
[ucc.org/nin](http://ucc.org/nin)

We will be collecting our Neighbors In Need Offering on Sunday, September 10th. This is one of our Five-For-Five offerings with the United Church of Christ. In 2023, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" theme continues. This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

## OUR DONATION OF CHANGING STATION SIGNS

In addition to our donation of baby changing stations to Plowman's Park last year, we have now donated changing station signs to the park as well. These signs will be displayed on the doors of both the men's and women's bathrooms.



## ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SESQUICENTENNIAL HOUSE OF WORSHIP AWARD

Since 2010, the Illinois Historical Society has recognized Illinois houses of worship that have served their congregations continuously for 150 years or more.

The ISHS Sesquicentennial House of Worship Awards Committee invites potential sesquicentennial houses of worship to complete an application to be recognized. And, this year, English Congregational United Church of Christ in Big Rock will be one of the churches receiving this recognition! As such, we will be receiving a certificate from the Illinois State Historical Society recognizing its sesquicentennial anniversary and have the history of the church recorded at the Society and the Illinois State Library for the use of future researchers.

The ISHS will be hosting a luncheon on Saturday, September 23rd in Springfield in recognition of this honor. If you are interested in attending, the cost is \$60 per person. Please let Mike Peters know if you would like to attend. We look forward to receiving our certificate from the Illinois State Historical Society!

From the Hinckley Area Food Pantry



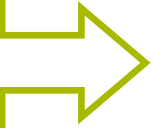
Thank You!

Thank you for your recent donation to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry from the town-wide food drive. We appreciate the donation and for you sponsoring and organizing this event.

Sincerely,  
Hinckley Area Food Pantry

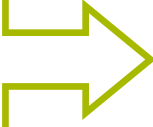
# Volunteers for September

September 3  
 Change Up Sunday  
 10:15 am  
 Communion  
 Change Up Sundaes



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
 Nursery:  
 Coffee: Volunteers Needed  
 Lock-up: Treasurer  
 Servers: Vice Moderator, Youth, Outreach

September 10  
 Worship at  
 10:15 am



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

September 17  
 Worship Service at  
 Plowman's Park  
 10 am



Worship at the Big Rock Plowing Match



September 24  
 Worship Service  
 10:15am  
 Followed by  
 Annual Meeting



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
 Nursery:  
 Coffee: Roger Hatfield  
 Lock-up: Nurture



**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on September 24th after a shortened worship service.**

# September 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					<p>1 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am Pizza Night at Lifespring at 6pm</p>	2
<p>3 Worship at 10:15am Communion Change Up Sundae</p>	<p>4 WE WILL BE CLOSED ON LABOR DAY</p>	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10 Worship at 10:15am</p>	11	12	13	14	<p>15  <b>THE BIG ROCK</b> Plowing Match</p>	16
<p>17 Worship Service at Plowman's Park begins at 10 am</p>	<p>18  <b>Church Council</b> Meeting at 6:30 pm</p>	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24 Worship Service at 10:15am followed by:  ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</p>	25	26	27	28	<p>29 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am</p>	30



The Executive Council has called the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on **Sunday, September 24th**. Please mark your calendar with this date. Everyone is urged to attend.

### DUE DATE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

If you are submitting a report for your Ministry Group, please email or bring it in to the office by Monday, September 18th. Thank you!



ENGLISH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

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"SHARING GODS LOVE AND PEACE"  
2023 VISION STATEMENT

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