

# THE VISITOR

O'Fallon United Church of Christ  
ofallnucc.org August 2019

**Come One, Come All**

**Rally Day!**

**September 8th!**

**Worship in Sanctuary at  
9:45am!**

**Bagel Brunch in  
Fellowship hall at 10:45am!**



### The Mission of O'Fallon United Church of Christ

“We are called by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to experience the stillspeaking God through worship and study of scriptures, and to respond to the cares of our neighbors near and far, for whom we seek justice and peace. We welcome the diversity of traditions, spiritual gifts and understandings among us. We encircle all with Christian love and support each other through all seasons of life. Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

UNITED IN CHRIST'S LOVE,  
WE SEEK A JUST WORLD  
FOR ALL.



#### MEMORIALS FOR MAY 2019

Hilda Hamm Vernon Hamm, Sr.  
Carolyn Thierheimer William Thierheimer

**Total: \$142.00**



#### AGAPE FUND



Agape contributions for March = \$15.00  
Agape contributions sent to St. Vincent DePaul = \$50.00



**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

The Consistory has requested that we begin volunteer scheduling via a sign-up book in the church narthex. Please take a moment or two the next time you are here for worship to sign-up for a volunteer position. Many hands make light work for all!!

Volunteer positions include: Greeters/Ushers, Layreaders, Sound/Projection System Operators and Refreshment Hosts. If you have any questions or need assistance with signing up, please speak with Phil and he will be happy to help you.

Date	Layreader	Greeter/Usher	Sound/Projection	Refreshment Host
9/1/19				
9/08/19	Lisa Thompson-Gibson		<b>Get Involved</b>	Rally Day Bagel Brunch
9/15/19	<b>Who, Me? Yes, You!</b>			<b>Will we have refreshments?</b>
9/22/19	Janet Smith		<b>Who, Me? Yes, You!</b>	Lynette Schaeffer
9/29/19				
10/6/19	Lisa Thompson-Gibson	<b>Get Involved</b>		



All that's missing is !

**MATCHED GIFT CHALLENGE TO THE CONGREGATION****By Clyde Bossler, Consistory Treasurer**

I am delighted to report that the matching gift fund challenge is almost complete. As of 8/5 we have matched \$20,572.04 of the \$20,000 needed. On behalf of the consistory, I want to extend our most grateful appreciation for the extraordinary efforts put forth by this congregation to meet the challenge of supporting the physical needs of the church. By offering up financial support when needed, you also expressed a heartfelt love of your church.

And of course, the anonymous angel that got the ball rolling cannot be forgotten. To you, we symbolically shake your hand.

Christ Brothers has completed the paved parking lot and the parsonage driveway. The gravel parking lot is currently being worked on and is scheduled to complete in week or so. A big shout out of thanks to Allen Garner, Bob Kueker and Ted Lewis who spearheaded this effort and all the hours put in to get this to where it is today.

*Clyde*

Clyde Bossler  
President

**HELP NEEDED WITH FERAL CATS by Pastor Martha**

The neighborhood around the church is overrun with feral cats. For the last several years, I have been live-trapping feral kitten litters found on the church property and around the parsonage. Adult feral cats have eluded trapping and since neighbors are not being responsible to get their outdoor cats spayed/neutered, it is an ongoing problem. Once I trap the kittens or cats, since I have severe allergies I am not able to house them or handle them directly. Sometimes after they are neutered/spayed the cats need to be kept indoors for a week or more for recovery. I am looking for volunteers who may be able to assist in any way--with live-trapping, getting them to vet/clinic to get spayed/neutered, housing them during recovery, helping find permanent homes or getting them to adoption agencies. It takes a network to help save the cats and also solve the feral problem around here. If you are willing to help in any capacity, please let me know.



**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION by Pastor Martha**

Confirmands and their parents are invited to a Confirmation Orientation on Sunday, September 15 at 8:30am. We meet in the southeast classroom (on other side of church office). The schedule of assignments and expectations will be discussed. Confirmation class will begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**BIBLES FOR 3RD GRADERS**

If your child is entering 3rd grade this fall, please contact the church office by August 11th or notify Sunday School Superintendents Ruth Hundley and Beni Bowman, to make sure their name is on a list to receive a Bible during presentation in worship on Rally Day, September 8th.

**GERMANY TRIP MEETING by Pastor Martha**

The O'Fallon Weekly featured our group photo in Budapest in the July 11th paper. Our next meeting is September 22nd at 11:45am for lunch. We will share the photos and discuss a presentation to share with the church family during worship in October. Please RSVP by September 19th if you can come to lunch.



Attention Schnucks shoppers! Blue Light special now happening at ALL grocery checkout lanes! O'Fallon UCC is now a registered and participating member of the eScrip program at Schnucks grocery stores! All you have to do is pick-up a Schnucks eScrip card in the check-out lane, register it online, choose O'Fallon UCC as your designated non-profit organization, and present your registered card when checking out at each shopping trip. A percentage of what you spend on your groceries will come back to the church! It's "free money" for our church! We currently have 54 supporters signed-up and the earning potential is unlimited! You can also sign-up for a card through the church office. Please speak with Gracelynn if you have any questions. Happy shopping!

**Such Little Effort Can Make a BIG Impact Financially by Lois Brasel**

Thank you all who placed scrip orders in the month of July. It was our second-best month this year with a profit of \$218.23. Total profit for the year is now \$1,047.75. The goal for this year was set at \$2,400. We already half way through the year and we are behind schedule to meet this \$2,400 goal.

We had several new people place orders last month. I know they can tell you how easy it was. These are the steps.

1. Pickup your scrip order form in the Narthex.
2. Fill out the order form. In the example below you would enter the quantity of cards, so if you wanted \$100 worth of Panera Bread you would enter 4 under quantity with the total being \$100.

Product	Rebate %	Quantity	Total
O'Charley's \$25.00	13%		
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		
Starbucks \$25.00	7%		

4. The next Sunday after you placed your order your gift cards will be available for pick up in the Narthex at the beginning of the service. For this example, you would be getting four \$25 Panera Bread gift cards. You get EXACTLY what you pay for. The church profits \$8 from your order.

5. Go out and enjoy spending your gift cards.  
That's it!

Let me explain the POWER that this program could have. Let's use the example from above where an order for four \$25 (\$100 total) Panera Bread gift cards were ordered each month by a family. Monthly that profit to the church would be \$8 (\$100 X .08 scrip rebate %). Yearly that would be \$96. Now think about this, what IF we had 10 families do that a month, that would be \$960 profit per year. Oh wait, let's go out on a limb and say 20 families, \$1,920 profit per year!!!

This program does NOT work without participation. We are not asking you to go out and solicit, we are not asking you to volunteer to do anything other than just place an order and receive the same amount in return for what you pay.

The order dates for the remainder of the year are:

Order Due Date	Available for Pickup
8/18	8/25
9/22	9/29
10/20	10/27
11/17	11/24
12/8	12/15

I am VERY passionate about this program because I know the potential it can have on our church financially and it is one of the easiest fund raisers the church has ever had. Please see me (Lois Brasel) or call me if you have any questions (618-540-9196).



### Music Notes by Dr. Phil

The kids will be back to school, which means our ensembles will be back to weekly rehearsals. If you have thought about singing or ringing, then this is a great time to join. Chancel Choir rehearses most Sunday mornings from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Bell Choir rehearses immediately following worship. Please let Dr. Phil know if you are interested.

Here is the upcoming schedule or rehearsals and special music performers:

August 18

Christopher and Maddie Koester will play in church

August 25

HymnFest in Worship - Pick out your favorite hymn and we'll sing a verse or two

8:30 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal Begins

10:45 a.m. - Bell Choir Rehearsal Begins

September 1

Labor Day Weekend, no Choir or Bell rehearsals

Praise Band will practice and play in worship

September 8

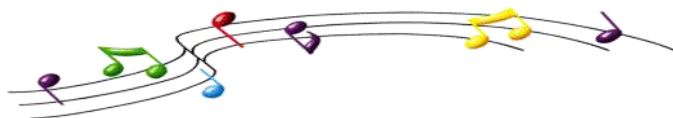
Rally Day

8:30 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal Begins

10:45 a.m. - Bell Choir Rehearsal Begins

### Kindercottage

As you may know Brenda is stepping back as Executive Director of Kindercottage after 50 years of service. This East St. Louis preschool could use your prayers during this transition time. The board of directors typically meets every other month throughout the year. We are currently seeking new board members to begin in 2020. O'Fallon UCC has a long tradition of having church members serve on the board. This year will be a big transition year so we are actively seeking new people to serve. If you are interested, please let Dr. Phil know.



**Financial Health of the OUCC** by Lois Brasel, Consistory Treasurer

The balance in the General Fund account as of July 31st was in the **RED** by \$2,576. This deficit keeps getting bigger. Year to date pew giving is down \$5,500 from this time last year. That is a great shortfall to overcome.

We all did a great job in achieving the matching gift fund. The parking lot looks awesome! This month the completion of the back-parking lot will occur along with the tuck-pointing project.

Since many of us found it in our hearts to make the matching gift a reality in such a short amount of time, I am hoping we can now divert our attention to our general fund. Every year for several years now it has been a struggle not to be in the red at year end. Please consider making an extra contribution to the general fund.

**CRAFTERS** by Pastor Martha

This past year the Crafters crocheted and donated several hundred baby caps for the NICU at Cardinal Glennon Hospital. However, the hospital policy changed recently and no homemade items will be accepted anymore from any organization, due to risk of infection. Thanks to all who participated in the project...now we will need to focus on other items. Other options are the sleeping mats for the homeless (made from plastic yarn/recycled bags); crocheted scarves for the homeless; and handmade items for the church's Wurstmarkt Craft Sale on October 17th.

**PROJECTION SYSTEM** by Consistory

The video projector on the north side of the sanctuary stopped working during worship on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Communitronics company has evaluated the system and notified that the projector needs to be replaced, it is not repairable and is obsolete. Pastor Martha is trying to print lyrics to hymns in all the bulletins, if you can't see the screen then please use a printed bulletin during the service. Or if you sit on the pulpit side of the sanctuary and need the screen, consider moving over to the lectern side of the sanctuary. Thank you for your understanding while we work to get this repair issue resolved.



**MARY & MARTHA SOCIETY by Pat Garner**

Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraiser at Cold Stone on July 10<sup>th</sup> both at the store and from the pews. It was a very warm day and the ice cream tasted so good. A huge thank you to Annette Pritchett for setting up the day and time and then for greeting everyone at Cold Stone. We really appreciate your leadership!

Hopefully all of the you have contacted Carolyn for our September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are doing Chalkology with Heather O'Donnell. You have a choice of a tall pumpkin, short pumpkin, or a chalkboard project. One project is \$15 or two projects for \$25. We need to know your choice ahead of time so Heather has time to order for our Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Invite your friends! Time to get creative!

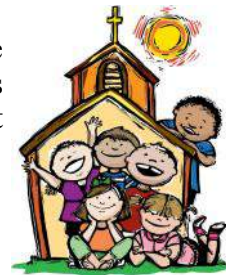
Start working on your favorite BBQ recipe and children work on your favorite cookie recipe! We have scheduled the BBQ Cook Off and Kids Cookie Contest for September 15<sup>th</sup>!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in Gerth Hall!

**RALLY DAY & BAGEL BRUNCH By Ruth Hundley and Beni Bowman**

Rally Day worship will be inside the sanctuary on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School teachers will be introduced, as well as the new Youth Director and Assistant Youth Director.

3<sup>rd</sup> graders will receive Bibles. Confirmands will be introduced. The Board of Christian Education will provide a brunch of bagels, muffins and fruit after worship. Youth group will meet for a fun activity at 11:15am.



### MARK YOUR 2019 CALENDAR

#### Worship schedule

Aug. 31 - Building Closed Saturday - Labor Day Weekend  
 Sept. 2 - Office closed - Labor Day  
 Sept 8 Rally Day  
 Sept 15 Confirmation orientation & BBQ Cookoff  
 Oct 17 Wurstmarkt  
 Oct. 20 Josiah Accola will be preaching  
 Nov. 10 Youth Group leading worship  
 Nov. 17 Mission Sunday & Fish Fry  
 Nov. 24th Thanksgiving Sunday  
 Dec 1 First Advent/communion  
 Dec 8 Christmas Pageant  
 Dec 15th Early Candlelight worship 5pm  
 Dec 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight 10pm

#### Regularly scheduled meetings:

Consistory 2nd Thursdays at 7pm  
 BOCE on 4th Mondays at 6:30pm except for July/December  
 Women's Guild on 2nd Thursdays at 11:00am except for Jan/Feb, July/August  
 Bingo on 4th Thursdays at 10am-11:30am  
 Quilters 8am-1pm & Crafters 10am on Wednesdays except Wurstmarkt & Christmas week  
 M&Ms on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday every other month at 7pm  
 Genealogy on 3rd Thursdays at 10am, every other month  
 Scouts every Monday at 7pm



#### OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

The church will be closed over Labor Day Weekend. There will be no custodial hours on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> and the church office will be closed on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### BOOK CLUB by Kathy Scott

The next Book Club will be on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Pastor Martha will host at the parsonage; please RSVP by September 8<sup>th</sup>. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, along with recommendations for books to read. This month's discussion is on "The Road Home" by Richard Paul Evans and "The Bishop's Wife" by Mette Harrison.

**NEW STUDENT PASTOR**

Josiah Accola, who was already hired to serve as our Youth Director beginning in August, will also serve as our Student Pastor from Eden Seminary through May 2020. In addition to his responsibilities in youth ministry, Josiah will also assist with worship leadership and pastoral care. Josiah has been introduced to the congregation on Sunday mornings, and will meet with the youth group for an activity on September 8<sup>th</sup>, Rally Day. Josiah will share more about his faith journey as he preaches during worship on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Please take time to welcome Josiah!

**NEW BUSINESS MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR**

We welcome back Phil Reis to our Church Office. Phil will be our new Church Business Manager and Administrative Director. In this role he will manage the day to day business operations of the church and will directly supervise the office, nursery and custodial staff as well as taking on the some of the daily office tasks.

**GENEALOGY GROUP MEETING**

The September meeting for the Genealogy group will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (Sept 12) at 10:00 AM for this month only. Linda will be out of town on the third Thursday in September. The topic will be a fun one: DNA! If any of you want to understand what this DNA testing is all about, please join us on September 12 for a discussion and webinar.

**WOMEN'S GUILD LUNCHEON & MEETING**

Attention Women's Guild! We will be meeting September 12 at the Colonnade's at 11:00 am for lunch and our meeting. The price will be \$8.00. Please call Janice Lillie at 409-2307 with your reservation by, Thursday September 5th.

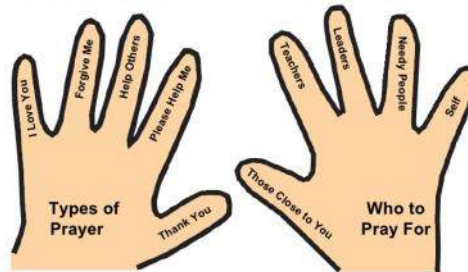
**FISH FRY THANK YOU**

Thank you to Vern Hamm for heading up the Fish Fry event, and to all those who served on the committee: Cathy Hamm, Clyde Bossler, Lois Schmidt, Phil Reis, Allen Garner, Carolyn Weber, Scott & Lois Brasel, Greg Scott, Al Morgan, Bob & Betty Kueker, Pastor Martha. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with all of the tasks for the Fish Fry booth at City Fest and to those who came to buy food.

**CHURCH OFFICE RECEIVED THESE PRAYER REQUEST THIS MONTH:**

Barbara Harrison  
Jim Carroll  
Gayle Ohlemeier  
Armand Bieber  
Phil Richter  
Terry Nichols  
MaryAnn McCollum  
Clara Harrison  
Norm Keller

# Hands For Prayer



## BBQ COOKOFF

The BBQ Cookoff and Cookie Challenge is Sunday September 15, 2019 following Worship. Please let the church office know if you will be providing BBQ or Cookies by Wednesday September 11.



### LOST AND FOUND

**In the church office these items are sitting in lost and found:**

Bracelet with bird charm  
Glasses with black frame (child's)

**Other lost items around the building include:**

Green Shirt hanging downstairs  
Dishes in kitchen

### BACK TO SCHOOL IN STYLE! By Lois Brasel

Send them back to school in style! Make sure to order scrip for all the clothes your kids will need. Some of the school fashion favorites available through scrip are Academy Sports, Aeropostale, American Eagle Outfitters, Champs Sports, Children's Place, Dick's Sporting Goods, DSW, Famous Footwear, Finish Line, Foot Locker, JC Penney, Journeys Kidz, Kids Foot Locker, Kohl's, Macy's, Marshall's, Shoe Carnival, Target, Walmart, etc. With so many brands available, the rebates will roll right in!

From basics like pencils, to big-ticket items like computers, it's time to stock up on scrip for back to school supplies. Watch the rebates add up as you cross each item of your list! School supply favorites include Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Michaels, Office Depot, Office Max, Staples, Target, Walgreens, Walmart, etc.



### STILL RECYCLING GROCERY BAGS FOR PLARN by Pastor Martha

Thanks to all those who made plarn or crocheted sleeping mats for the homeless. They were dedicated in worship July 28th and Lynn Newsom delivered them to homeless in St. Louis. They were very glad to get them, and commented on the purple and other bright colors. We will continue to collect plastic grocery bags (if you lay them flat, that's much appreciated) and use them to make plastic yarn. Some people may continue using plarn to make more sleeping mats. I have an additional mission idea to make them into pet beds to be delivered to area animal shelters. If anyone would like a pattern to make pet beds out of plarn (or regular yarn), please talk to me or pick up a copy in the narthex.

**BINGO by John Sexauer**

Mark your calendars to play Bingo on the fourth Thursday of every month. We meet in Gerth Hall at 10:00 am and play until 11:30am. There is no charge to play and all are welcome. Chances are you will win a prize, enjoy a treat, and especially the fellowship with church members and friends.

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS**

We rejoice with Kayla Cullen (Sharon Wilmsmeyer's granddaughter) and Kevin Borawski, as Pastor Martha officiated their wedding on August 10<sup>th</sup> in Maryville, IL.



If you have a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, award or honor) you would like to share with the congregation, please submit it to the church office no later than Tuesday, September 2 at noon and it will be included in PowerPoint which runs before worship on September 8th. They are announced at beginning of worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.

**Happy Birthday!**

**August 5 - Larry Hull (80)**  
**August 7 - Betty Woods**  
**August 11 - Jennie Meinkoth (95)**  
**August 16 - Cora Eckert**  
**August 20 - Connor Brant**  
**August 20 - John Sexauer**  
**August 21 - Pastor Martha**



**Kid's Stuff**

**RALLY DAY  
SUNDAY, September 8**



O'Fallon United Church of Christ  
206 W. Adams Street  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
618.632.3496

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*The Visitor* is published once a month for members and friends of the O'Fallon United Church of Christ. Items for the next issue of *The Visitor* should be at the church office or e-mailed to: [oucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oucc@sbcglobal.net) no later than noon on **Wednesday September 11, 2019.**

**O'Fallon United Church of Christ**

206 West Adams Street (Corner of Cherry & Adams), O'Fallon, IL 62269  
Phone: 632-3496    Fax: 632-3488    E-mail: [oucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oucc@sbcglobal.net)    Web site: [ofallonucc.org](http://ofallonucc.org)

**Church Office hours:**

**Phil Reis (Business Manager /Administrative Director) Hours: Monday 9am-12pm, Tuesday 9am-3pm, Wednesday 9am-3pm, Thursday 9am-12pm, Friday 9am-12pm, Saturday 9am-12pm**  
**Colleen Gass (Bookkeeper): Hours Monday 9am-1pm, , Thursday 9am-3pm (Saturday Custodial hours: 8:30am - 11:00am)**

**MINISTRY STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer, Pastor ..... 628-0401; [marthielee@att.net](mailto:marthielee@att.net)  
Dr. Phil Wilhelm, Director of Music ..... 791-6440; [dirphil@dirphilwilhelm.com](mailto:dirphil@dirphilwilhelm.com)  
Josiah Accola, Student Pastor & Youth Director .....806-6955; [josiahaccola@yahoo.com](mailto:josiahaccola@yahoo.com)  
Phil Reis, Business Manager/Administrative Director.....632-3496; [philr.oucc@gmail.com](mailto:philr.oucc@gmail.com)  
Linda Bossler, Administrative Associate ..... 632-3496; [oucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oucc@sbcglobal.net)  
Colleen Gass, Bookkeeper.....632-3496; [oucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oucc@sbcglobal.net)  
Custodian: Nick Bagby  
Nursery: Jennifer Stephenson; Linda Niebruegge, Courtney Ohlemeier, Christy Auld, Lauren Reis and Matthew Reis