



Are you...

“Spiritually Shrewd”?

St. John's Chapel
United Church of Christ
4344 S. Fremont Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804-7306
www.stjohnschapel.org

September 26, 2010

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:30 A.M.

(Denotes when all who are able to please stand.)*

Gathering

Meditative Prelude

played by Kyle Aho

As we gather for worship we invite you to observe silence and enter into reflection.

The theme of today's worship will focus on our possible response to life's adversities. You might want to read and reflect on Luke 16: 8.

Space to write down your thoughts: _____

Or you may wish to light a candle at the Communion table to symbolize the concerns or joys you carry with you to worship, or whatever is in your heart and mind. Or you may wish to reflect on this where you are on your faith journey, or if you reflect better walking, please walk around the sanctuary and reflect upon images you encounter.

Lighting of Candles, Ringing of Bells

Acolyte: Ashley Blackwell

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Celebration**

Lay Pastor: Though our hearts may be grieving, we come risking joy:

All: God is our balm.

Lay Pastor: Though we weep over the woes of the day, we are here seeking hope:

All: God soothes our discomfort.

Lay Pastor: Though our lives are often difficult, we gather for strength:

All: God restores our souls and cares for us; God calms our anguish and dries our tears.
Let us call on the Holy One, and rejoice in God, ever our source of solace in our daily journey, ever our comforter in times of trial.

***Hymn of Celebration** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" No. 65

Call to Confession

Lay Pastor: In time of trouble, change, challenge or sorrow, we yearn for God's healing presence. Yet so often we settle for medicine that does not keep its promise of relief. Be merciful, O God, as we lift up our thanks and hopes, our hurts and anguishes, to You.

All: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for You, O living God.

Silent Meditation and Personal Confession

During this time of inward reflection and repentance, you may want to use "Examen," which simply means an examining of our lives in a prayerful way. It is different from a prayer of confession in that it reviews both the good and the bad of our lives. You pause to look back over your week, or as many days as you wish to examine, and notice where you have partnered with God. In other words, when were you trying to do it alone and when did you ask God to assist you? You can also remember the events, encounters or insights that felt like gifts from God and those that did not. Or remember the times in the day when you gave and received love, and when you did not give or receive love. Once your days are reviewed and examined, you may journal what you have uncovered, or simply imagine offering your insight up to God to let God love you just as you are.

***Words of Assurance**

***Gloria Patri** ("Glory Be to the Father" No. 9 in *Sing to the Lord*)

Children's Time

(Children may exit after for Children's Choir)

Anthem "The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee" Jean Berger

Reading of Holy Scripture Jeremiah 8: 18-9:1 p. 696
Luke 16: 1-13 p. 953

Sermon

“How Shrewd of You!”

The Rev. Becky Hebert

***Hymn**

“He Touched Me”

No. 348

Prayers of the People (silence will be observed for us to listen)

& Lord’s Prayer (using debts & debtors)

God, we begin our prayer this morning praying for the secular world, for the people in the workplace and in the halls of government who dishonestly manage, and who have totally separated themselves from the sacredness of life—the worldly people from whom Jesus says, we have something to learn. We pray especially for the President of the United States, Congress, governors, county officials, mayors, and councilpersons. We pray for their good physical and mental health, and ask that you give them a double dose of wisdom. We thank You for the devoted, honest stewards that serve both us and You faithfully—who often get lost amidst the dishonest ones who crowd the news.

Silence

Dear God, as You well know, Your people live in a world beset by major losses from which there is no returning. People die. Children die. Countries are reduced to rubble. Violence is bred into families and passed from one generation to the next. People sell their souls to the pursuit of greed. When we find ourselves in periods of bewilderment, show us the highway to Gilead. When we find ourselves in situations where all is lost and will never be again, teach us the shrewdness game with which to replace our stupid games that keep us from moving into a future filled with possibility.

Silence

O God, our God, who would have everyone know the glories of an upward climb into the realms of Your being, we pray Thee teach us ways to mend the brokenness in our world, teach us how to minister to cruelty with love. There is so much we do not understand of Your ways, but we do so yearn to learn—or we would not be here.

Choral Response

Offertory

Instrumental Interlude

played by Kyle Aho

***Doxology and Dedication Prayer**

(“Praise God” No. 7 in *Sing to the Lord*)

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

“Peace Be Unto This Congregation”



Peace be un - to this con - gre - ga-tion. Peace to ev - 'ry
soul here - in. Peace, which flows from Christ's sal - va-tion. This He
gave, our souls to save. Peace, re - deem-ing all our sin.

Postlude-

“Instrumental Postlude”

played by Kyle Aho

shrewd (shr^{oo} d)

adj. shrewd-er, shrewd-est

1. Characterized by keen awareness, sharp intelligence, and often a sense of the practical.
2. Disposed to artful and cunning practices; tricky.
3. Sharp; penetrating: *a shrewd wind.*

[Middle English *shrewed*, *wicked*, from *shrew*, *rascal*; see **shrew**.]

Synonyms: shrewd, sagacious, astute, perspicacious

These adjectives mean having or showing keen awareness, sound judgment, and often resourcefulness, especially in practical matters.



Our Mission Statement

St. John’s Chapel UCC is called to love unconditionally, seek justice, foster spiritual growth, and embrace diversity of thought and body as taught by Jesus Christ.

You, whether a member or guest, are an important and valuable part of this St. John’s Chapel Community. Your participation in this worship service is a blessing. May you always know God’s gift of unending love.

A nursery is available during worship for children up through three years of age. If you need help locating the nursery, you are hard of hearing.

Hearing-assistance devices are available for use during worship. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher to get one for you.



18th Annual Springfield Area
CROP HUNGER WALK

(Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty)

Sunday, October 3, 2010
2:00 p.m.

(Registration Begins 1:00 p.m.)

1- or 2-mile Walk Beginning and Ending at
Phelps Grove Park
(Bennett St., West of National Ave.)

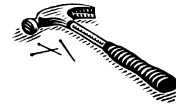
Come, Walk with the World!

Helping Hungry People through:

*Church World Service
Crosslines
Least of These*

www.springfieldcropwalk.com

A Special Invitation
THE HOUSE



United Ministries in Higher Education

September 22 "...just this morning we...purchased the Ecumenical Center property. Over 40 years of Christian ministry was lived-out in the Ecumenical Center building [by] faithful and faith-filled people...it is important to celebrate the ministry that took place in the old Ecumenical Center building. (It will be torn down starting on September 29th.) ...You are invited to attend a service of remembrance..."

Tuesday, September 28th at 6:30 pm
680 S. Florence
BEST WISHES, HOWARD CAVNER

A BUS TOUR TO EMMAUS, ST. CHARLES
Saturday, October 16
In conjunction with St. Peter's UCC, Billings, MO.
Details available in our Chapel Office

Keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Members:

Pete Graham: is beginning to get a handle on a viral infection that manifested itself as a painful body rash, after a trip to the dermatologist.

Family and Friends:

Ralph Datema: continues to recover from surgery that removed cancer from several organs, and doctors say they "got it all", but recovery is slow and Ralph remains in a Denver hospital until he can regain more strength. Ralph would love to hear from you via the web site, www.caringbridge.com. You can log-on by typing **ralphdatema**. And cards and letters may be sent to Dr. Ralph Datema, 11773 W. 76th Lane, Arvada, CO 80005-3362. Ironically Ralph's wife also needed a liver biopsy in the midst of Ralph's surgery, and she is awaiting the results but could use our prayers also.

Randy Jackson: (Grandson of John & Perdy Scafe) has been re-deployed to Iraq and will serve in a communications role vs. his previous combat assignment. Randy will spend six weeks in Mississippi before heading over.

Peggy Gilbert: (Friend of Tona Griggs & friend & colleague of Melissa Burnett) thanks the congregation for our continued prayers as she takes oral chemotherapy during remission of her breast cancer.

Josephine Walker: (Jeanne Kruger's mother) is in Magnolia Square, Room 228.

The Messenger
On-line, October 1st
www.stjohnschapel.org

TODAY...
Worship Committee meets
following worship~

For Our Children

TODAY: Children's Choir following the Choral Anthem
October 3: Children's Church at 10:30 am
October 10: Sunday School following Children's Time

*Thank you Chuck Andrews
& Chris Brammer!*

Congratulations...

Congratulations to Andrew Tebbenkamp, son of Gary and Elaine Tebbenkamp, upon earning a PhD in biomedical research from the University of Florida. He will continue post-doctoral study in a laboratory at Yale University, focusing on genetic mapping of the brain as it develops throughout life. Andrew will be moving to New Haven, CT the last of October.

Next Sunday...

Celebrate
**WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

Next Sunday...

Remember your Crop Walk
Pledge Envelope

(Full of donations please!)



Koinonia Get-Together TODAY at 5:00 PM

Mike & Eleanor Berger

6554 N. Deer Lane



Main course and drinks will be provided. Please bring side dish, lawn chairs, & BYOB. RSVP: 833-8796. Directions: North on 13 to Hwy. O; turn left/west at stop light. Go to Farm Rd. 133, turn right; go ½ mile, turn left on Farm Rd. 68; go west about 1 mile; at curve turn left on Deer Lane.

We are at the top of the hill.

THANK YOU!

...For funding mowing in lieu of having to mow.
What a lovely summer we have all enjoyed this year.

Thank you, especially to the following members who generously responded to our immediate need for additional mowing funds~ Lee & Judith Bartell, Charles & Marsha Schatz, and Stephan & Jane Scharf.

And thank you again to the following generous contributors: Ed & Nancy Anderson, Ida Barry, Mary Lou Datema, Tom Davis, The Friendship Circle, Pete & Beverly Graham, Dennis & Cynthia Gromer, Deb Hall, Robert & Eleanor Lockhart, Karl & Jeanne Kruger, Jim May & Donna Harper, Bob & Doris McMinn, Dean & Jan Rund, Norm & Esther Steinhauer, Ken & Loy Swanson, and Richard & Mary Margaret Thompson.



WE WANT YOU! SIGN UP AS LITURGIST TODAY

St. John's Chapel UCC Staff

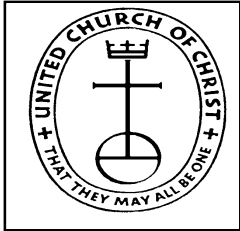
Pastor — Rev. Becky Hebert
Candidate for Ministry — Stephan Scharf

Secretary — Debra Hall

Music Director - Chris Brammer
Organist - Kyle Aho

Pastor's Home - 882-0415
Pastor's Cell - 773-6702
Pastor's E-mail - pastor@stjohnschapel.org
Church Office - 881-5175
FAX - 881-1647
Church E-mail - sec@stjohnschapel.org

Nursery Attendant - Lea Ann Kruger
Custodian - Lee Bartell



Course in Parables — 9:00 AM
Worship — 10:30 AM
Pastor's Day Off — Friday

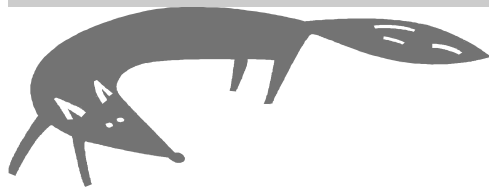
Secretary's Office Hours: 8:30 AM — 1:30 PM Monday-Friday

September 26, 2010

Shirley Datema will open the church for the month of September~

- TODAY: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am
- Worship Committee Meeting..... Following Worship
- Koinonia Group Photo..... Following Worship
- Koinonia at The Bergers 5:00 pm
- Monday: Grace & Weight 5:30 pm
- Tuesday: Board of Christian Education 6:30 pm
- Wednesday: Bells..... 6:30 pm
- Choir Practice 7:40 pm
- Saturday: Bread for the World at Heroes 9:00 am
- Sunday: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am
- World Communion Sunday
- Crop Walk, Phelps Grove Park 2:00 pm

The KOINONIA GROUP PHOTO will be taken immediately following worship, TODAY~.



Creatively creating Much from Little...

August 29 Fundraiser Dinner
\$646.00 to the General Fund

We thank the very clever ladies
of St. John's Chapel~

September 19 Pasta Dinner
\$310.00 to Crop Walk

Our Stewardship for Sunday, September 19, 2010

Worship: 80 Offering: \$2,496.00
Sunday School: 23 Offering: \$19.00

The average weekly offering needed to meet annual budget is \$2,704.00

**This week's "special offering basket" in the Narthex is for
CAMP AURORA~**