

1 John 1:5-2:2

Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all[a] sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.



Hello Everyone!

I hope all of you had a safe and happy Fourth of July celebration last week! This year was extra special, as it was the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. There were celebrations and fireworks all over the country, as John Adams predicted in 1776. President Trump flew in the new Air Force One over Mt. Rushmore, then celebrated the next night at the Washington Monument. There were a number of World War II Veterans at the Washington Monument, including two soldiers who were 104 years old and the other 107! Quite a tribute to the Greatest Generation. Then what followed was the largest fireworks display in history!

It is a wonderful time of celebration and we can thank God for the Blessings of living Also, the first Sunday in July is when many United Methodist ministers begin their new appointments in their new churches. I have been reappointed to Countryside and Ogden for the coming year, and Jill and I are blessed to continue serving in our current appointment! The first Sunday in a new church can be very nervous and scary. The congregation doesn't know you, you don't know them. One church on the first Sunday gave us a potluck dinner after services. That was very welcoming and heartfelt. One church gave us a basket filled with gift cards to local businesses. We used the Casey's gift card a lot. Great pizza!

I remember our first Sunday down at Grafton and Rosedale.

It was my first appointment, July of 2003. We had lived in Urbana for many years, now it was time to move. I had lived in my Grandma's house since 1990, Jill and I had lived there since 1995. It was strange leaving everything that was familiar and going to a new town, with a new house and a new church. The people down at Grafton and Rosedale couldn't have been more friendly or welcoming. My first Sunday I wore my dark suit. Rosedale church didn't have any air conditioning; it was hot! One of the dogs that lived nearby was sitting on the front steps with the church door open. I thought, "Buddy, you've got the right idea!" Buddy wanted to come and hear the new preacher! I asked the congregation, "Do you mind if I take off my coat?" They said, "Of course you can!" I preached in shirt sleeves the rest of the summer! At the potluck that day, both congregations gave us a "Pounding". They filled a gift basket with a pound of sugar, a pound of flower, coffee, gift cards, all sorts of stuff. They did everything they could so that we would feel welcomed and loved. Plus they were all Cardinal fans, living only about 40 miles from St. Louis! We had a wonderful time serving there.

So as you welcome your new pastor this Summer, be open and friendly and let them know that you appreciate them being there.

God Bless all of you!

Pastor Jeff Stahl

Countryside and Ogden United Methodist Churches

Something for Everyone at the Tolono Public Library this Week

We often hear about the "Founding Fathers" of our nation, but rarely do we learn the stories of the women who certainly played a role in the birth of the United States. We still see the effects of their influence today. From soldiers to artists to spies, women were pivotal for our county's creation. On July 20th at 6:30, Laura Keyes from Historic Voices will be giving an illustrated lecture that focuses on the women who had a front row seat to our nation's founding. She will share stories of their bravery and surprising legacies. Laura Keyes graduated from UW-Madison with a master's degree in library studies and is a lifetime member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters. Laura recently won the Excellence in Performing Award from that association. Register today so you don't miss this compelling presentation 250 years after these women helped found the United States. You can register on our website at tolonolibrary.org.

org/events or by calling the library at 217-485-5558.

If you're in an artistic mood this week, artist and clerk Megan Rice is hosting an Adult Paint Class at the library on Saturday, July 18th from 1:00-3:00. She will be demonstrating her "Light up the Night" painting. Follow along and learn how to create this festive canvas of fireworks. This event does require registration as space is limited! To register and see a sample of what you'll be painting, visit the events page on our website.

If you like games of strategy, be at the library on Thursday, July 16th from 4:00-6:00. A "Oregon Trail: Choose Your Own Adventure" game will be set up throughout the library. In this escape room-type program, you will follow the map from stop to stop completing different challenges at each one to see if you will survive another day on the Oregon Trail. Hopefully, you don't "die of dysentery" along the way.

And, as always, toddler Story Time and Sensory Bins is Friday at 10:00, and Teen Make Lab is Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00. For more information on ALL of our upcoming program visit our website or subscribe to our Programs + e-newsletter.

The Sidney Scoop

By Ann Rhoton
Phone 217-688-2812



Look for your correspondent's July 6 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Meeting Coverage and Pre

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
Please take notice Savoy Self Storage located at 116 E Church St, Savoy, IL, 61874 intends to hold an Auction of storage units listed below to enforce its privilege against the following parties at the facility for default of payment of Rent. The sale will occur as an Online Auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 7/28/2026 at 09:00 AM. Khalid Shawkat unit #109; Kotia Fairman unit #433; Dane Hunt unit #522; Momore Koroma unit #Parking 19. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.
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Sidney Fun Daze Feature Article and blast from the past 2025 Sidney Fun Daze kiddie tractor pull photo published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney on Monday, July 20 at 6:00 p.m. Prospective new members are always welcome and encouraged to attend and all monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held at the Post Home.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney. All monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

Have a great week!

If you or your organization have news items you want published drop a line to Ann Rhoton at P.O. Box 491, Sidney, IL 61877 or call (217) 688-2812 between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Don't hesitate to leave a message if there's no answer.

News items must be turned in by 10:00 a.m. each Friday to be published in the following week's paper. Items submitted after the deadline will be published in the following week's column.

OSF Peace Meal Menu

Here is the Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum Peace Meal menu for Thursday, July 16 through Wednesday, July 22.

Thursday, 7/16/26 – Summer rotini/salami salad, beets, fruit cup, Oreo fluff, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 7/17/26 – Biscuits and sausage gravy, egg scrambled with veggies, hashbrown triangles, fruit, and a half pint of milk.

Saturday, 7/18/26 – Chicken bacon ranch wrap, lettuce and tomato, 3 bean salad, diced peaches, tortilla, and a half pint of milk.

Sunday, 7/19/26 – OSF Peace Meal is closed.

Monday, 7/20/26 – Baked manicotti, carrots, V-8 juice, cinnamon apples, bread stick, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 7/21/26 – Pork tenderloin, tator tots, vegetable blend, fruit cup, wheat bun, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 7/22/26 – OSF Peace Meal is closed.

OSF Peace Meal provides seniors, age 60 and older, with a nutritious lunch Monday through Saturday and are closed on Sunday and Wednesday. There is a suggested donation of \$4.00 for each meal, however, no senior will be denied a meal because of an inability to financially contribute. The Illinois Link Card is an accepted form of payment. For more information, please go to <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/osf-peace-meal/> or call 1-309-665-5900.

The Homer Peace Meal congregate site is at the Homer Village Hall located at 500 East Second Street. It is currently carry-out only. For reservations, please call 1-309-665-5900. Home delivery in southern Champaign County is currently available in Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum.

Menu substitutions may occur due to global supply chain shortages, but a nutritious meal is still guaranteed.

The OSF Peace Meal menu is submitted for the OSF Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program by Ann Rhoton.



Southern Champaign County TODAY

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Philo Library News

My apologies for not having a column last week. What with one thing and another, the 4th, 5th and 6th of July were in the rear view mirror before I realized that I had not written an article.

So, I'm starting early on this week's. There are two orders of books which should be coming in as soon as they are hot off the press. Some of the books are "I Love You More: A Novel" by Emily Giffen, "Ransom A Novel" by Daniel Silva. Lisa Scottoline's "This Changes Everything", and Colleen Coble's Large Print "Conspiracy". From another supplier we have David Baldacci's "All In", Book one of a new Nora Roberts' trilogy "Birth of the Witch: A Covenant of Three", "Hollow - A Harry Bosch Novel", by Michael Connelly, Freida McFadden's "Intruder", and "We Chase Shadows -A We Solve Murders Mystery": by Richard Osman. There are a few others, but I didn't want to take up all the column talking about books..

With the exception of the Community Cookbook that Philo Library is planning to put together in time for the holidays. Deadline for submission of recipes is August 1st, not all that far away. Forms are available at the desk and all you have to do is stop in and pick up a couple sheets,, write down the recipe and turn in your submissions. We'll take it from there.

I'd like to say thank you to the kids and adults who weathered the crafts and games this past month and a half. . The kids were tremendous and the adults were most helpful-- thank you. The Summer Reading Program is still going on - August 1 is the last day to turn in your reading log and receive Barnes & Noble gift certificates, a coupon for a free individual pizza at Monicals, and other enticements.. We've had a lot of kids participating in the Reading Program and are proud of how many have already reached their first goal and are working on a second that offers different prizes. Keep up the good work!

Before I go, I'd like to thank each of you who reads the Philo Library column each week. Thanks for reading, and stay tuned for new books and developments.

School Registration has begun!

Don't forget to register!

