

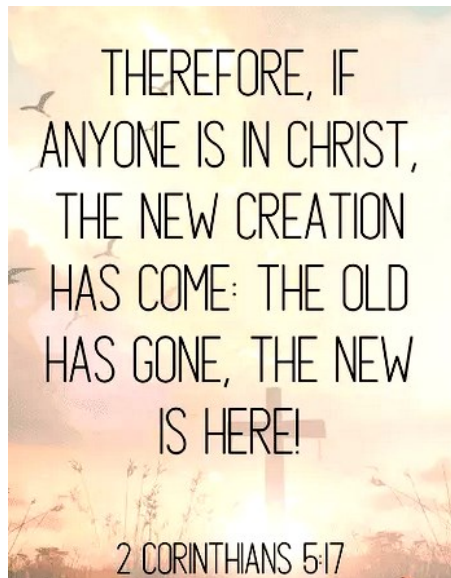
# JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



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### **Mission Statement Adopted March 12, 2000**

*We are a family of many hearts and voices faithfully worshiping God. We encourage one another in our living, learning, and growing as God's people. Led by the Holy Spirit, we joyfully promise to serve others as we share the love and hope of Jesus Christ.*

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## *The Pastors' Ponderings*

As we turn the pages of the calendar to a new year and this first newsletter of that new year the song “I Am the Light of the World,” which is one of our favorites, comes to mind. The song was written by Jim Strathdee and is based on a poem by Howard Thurman. Thurman, a writer, theologian, teacher, and civil rights leader, was born in 1899 and was raised by his grandmother who was a former slave.

The beginning of the song reminds us of the proclamation in John’s Gospel that Jesus is the Light of the World:

*“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”  
If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.”*

The first stanza then reminds us of the transition from the celebrating of Christmas to the *living* and *doing* of Christmas:

*“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun...”*

That work, as described by the poem-song, includes many tasks:

*“to heal the broken soul with love, to feed the hungry children...  
to free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see all God’s children everywhere...  
to bring hope to every task you do....”*

There is more to the song and surely many more stanzas could be

added with what it means to begin and continue the work of Christmas.

We may put the ornaments and decorations of Christmas in a box not long after December 25, but the challenge for us as followers of the Christ is to let the Christ-Spirit live in and through us throughout the coming year so Christ's mission of love might ever more become a

reality in this world. As Alan J. Roxburgh & M. Scott Boren have said in one of their books:

*"God is up to something in the world that is bigger than the church even though the church is called to be sign, witness, and foretaste*

*of God's purposes in the world.*

*The Spirit is calling the church on a journey outside of itself....*

*the church is to be God's hands and feet in accomplishing*

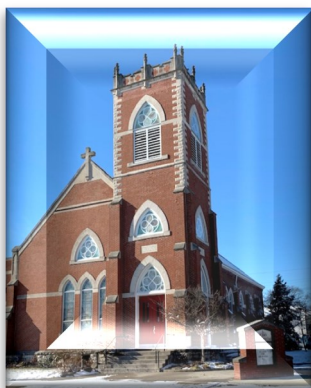
*God's mission."*

Each one of us has the opportunity to participate in the fullness of the meaning of Christmas in the coming year by being involved in the working out God's purposes here and in the world beyond!

As you *live* and *do* Christmas may you know many and abundant blessings!

Blessings & Peace,

Pastor Linda and Pastor Dennis





## Church Board Highlights

December 2022

### BOARD MEETING

The November minutes and treasurer's report were reviewed and approved.

**Pastors' report** - Pastors Linda and Dennis will be gone from December 28 through January 7th.

### **Unfinished Business**

- On Sunday, January 15, 2023 the annual congregational meeting will be held. Reports are due by Jan. 2, 2023.

### **New Business**

- A committee for the church's 175th anniversary will be formed. Contact Sheri Stodghill if you are interested in serving.

Complete Church Board minutes and treasurer's report are available after approval at the next month's board meeting.

The next meeting will be **Monday, January 16, 2023 @ 7:00 PM.**

Thanks to Betsy Marchino for recording the December Board minutes!

Jill Lopez

Church Board Secretary

## St. John's Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	
12/4	71	
12/11	82	
12/18	49	
12/24	88	
12/25	43	

## October Finances

Contributions \$11,187

Expenses \$22,472

(Outreach/Missions) \$2179



Not everyone is privileged to own a washer and dryer. Think about how many loads of laundry you do in a month and how much that might cost if you had to go to the laundromat. Out of a sense of thanksgiving consider volunteering for Laundry Love on the last Wednesday of every month. Talk with Jana Vieck to see how you can help. Contributions are always welcome.



*"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert!" Isaiah 43:18-19*

**General Synod 34**  
**June 30-July 4, 2023**  
**Signup to be a Volunteer**  
**Only 9 Months to Go**



## HELPFUL FOLKS!

The spirit of Christmas was evident on Thursday, December 8, inside the Save-A-Lot grocery store. Bells were ringing and the red kettle was manned by enthusiastic volunteers from St. John's United Church of Christ to benefit the annual Salvation Army campaign from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Despite hearing this a lot, my personal observation too this holiday season was that Salvation Army posts around town were often without kettles and bell ringers. So, it was a good thing to be able to allow those shopping at Save-A-Lot that day (and perhaps even some of you who just stopped by) the opportunity to donate for those in need in our community via the Salvation Army. In fact, one store clerk even commented to me that she was so glad we were there!

Many thanks to our volunteers: Peggy & Gary Meyer, Jerri Johanningsmeier, Betsy & Larry Marchino, Linda Gilbert, Elaine Workman, Bill Lathrop, Liz Emmons, Sarah Lowe, Hope & Ish Clausman, and Ed Cummings.

May the time offered by our church and the money dropped into the red kettle that day help bless the lives of others!







This stable was built by Paul Schuckman in 1989, a longtime member of St. John's, and recently found its way back to our church. On November 27, 2022, the children of St. John's, created the figurines to complete the nativity scene during an advent activity.

# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:15 <a href="#">Worship 10:30</a> Children's Church	2 Evangelism & Membership 7pm BABE Store 12-5:30pm  Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm	3 Emotions Anonymous 7pm	4	5	6 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	7
8 Sunday School 9:15 <a href="#">Worship 10:30</a> Children's Church	9 BABE Store 12-5:30pm  Friends 5-6:15pm	10 Emotions Anonymous 7pm	11 Choir 7pm  Christian Education 6pm	12  Girl Scouts 4:30pm	13	14 CFM Luncheon preparation 10am-12pm
15 Sunday School 9:15 <a href="#">Worship 10:30</a> Children's Church <a href="#">Annual Congregational Meeting following service</a>	16 BABE Store 12-5:30pm <a href="#">Friends</a> Worship 6pm <a href="#">Church Board 7pm</a> Office Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17 Emotions Anonymous 7pm	18 Choir 7pm	19 100 Woman Who Care 5:45  Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm	20	21 Mini Marvels Winter Activity 4-6pm
22 Sunday School 9:15 <a href="#">Worship 10:30</a> Children's Church	23 BABE Store 12-5:30pm  Friends 5-6:15pm	24 Emotions Anonymous 7pm	25 Choir 7pm  Laundry Love 6-8pm	26 Technology 1pm  Girl Scouts 4:30pm	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:15 <a href="#">Worship 10:30</a> Special Sunday Children's Church <a href="#">Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm</a>	30 BABE Store 12-5:30pm	31 Emotions Anonymous 7pm  Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm				





December is a month of hustle and bustle. We made “what we want for Christmas letters” Our tree is filling up with cute ornaments. Christmas stockings were decorated and hung by the fireplace.

Our Butterflies presented the Christmas concert “Waiting For Christmas”. With a visit from Santa!

All our preschoolers exchanged Christmas gifts, played Christmas games and enjoyed yummy treats!

The morning Caterpillar class would like to thank the secret Santa who paid for everyone in the class tuition for the month of December! This is what Christmas is all about, helping others and sharing joy!



## January Birthdays

Cheryl Meyer  
Susie Milligan  
Kenny Kixmiller  
Tony Riley  
Zack Gilmore  
Kelly Alexander  
Brenda Cummings  
Jeff Newell  
David Grube  
Jana Wirth  
Ryan Vieke  
Keaton Summers  
Don Hoffhaus  
Carmen Horton  
Daxton Lawrence  
Will Vieke  
Rodger Hobson  
Ryan Watts  
Conway Wilson

**If your birthday or anniversary  
is not listed, but should be,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH  
OFFICE! Thank you**

## Sandy's Pantry



Sandy's Pantry was gifted and blessed on December 8th with a donation of \$ 640 from a combined effort of Vincennes University students from the Culinary Arts Department and Ceramics Club. Under the direction of Karen Query, these students made soup and ceramic bowls for a fund raiser called The

Empty Bowls Project where they sold home made soup in the bowls they made. What a great idea! The proceeds from their endeavor were divided between Sandy's Pantry and Red Door Food Pantry at St. James Episcopal Church. Present at the acceptance of their donation to Sandy's Pantry were: Mrs. Query, a student from Culinary Arts, a student from Ceramics Club, Pastor Dennis, Pastor, Linda , Brian & Brenda Fillingim and Carole Culp. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you so much VU students and Mrs. Query, for helping support our mission, in such an unique and loving way, for VU students who are food challenged.



## The Kids Hope USA Program

The Kids Hope USA Program in partnership with Riley Elementary presently is actively servicing five students with a matching five mentors and corresponding prayer partners. On

Sunday November 20th , the Kids Hope USA team was commissioned into service for the ensuing school year with blessings and prayers for a successful nurturing bond with their assigned students. Thank you Pastor Linda and Pastor Dennis for conducting this service. To date, stories of hope remain evident and noteworthy for the program's continuing integrity.

A special note of thanks to Linda Clinkenbeard for making fleece Disney blankets for each student, Brenda Roark for sending treats for teachers and staff, and all the mentors for purchasing a gift for their student for Christmas. To introduce our mentors and prayer partners once again with great appreciation for their involvement: Larry Marchino/ Betsy Marchino, Eric Meyer/Cheryl Meyer, Linda Gilbert/ Linda Frische-Mouri, Jill Lopez/Janet Goodman and Brett Summers/Pam Summers. Our volunteers Brenda Roark, Brenda Cummings, and Linda Clinkenbeard, appreciation extended as well. There is always room for new mentors to serve students at Riley. Please contact us if you might be interested in becoming a mentor, training available.

Contact

Jerri Johanningsmeier



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Continuing Prayer Requests: **Kennedy Alexander, Marge Beamon, Don Osborne, Jr., Mark Lange, Bruce Deckard, Nora Grabbe (Friend of Janet Daniels), David Grayson, (friend of Eric Meyer), Becky Brockman, Kennedy Alexander and family, Vernon Houchins**, Lt. Colonel Aaron Lange and 300 men/women of the 1st Battalion 163rd Field Artillery
- **For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying lets include all in our prayers.**
- Prayers please for Mark and Saundra Lange's son, Lt. Colonel Aaron Lange and 300 men/women of the 1st Battalion 163rd Field Artillery deployed from Evansville National Guard Post to Iraq for the next 9 months.
- Please pray for the family of Don Osborne Sr., he is the brother (brother-in-law) of Marilyn and Vernon Houchins. Don passed on to be with Jesus this week. Prayers of comfort for the family and friends.
- Kathy Clinkenbeard informed us that her father, Dick Schroeder, passed away. Prayers for Marilyn and the family.



### **Beverly Tussey** **May 7, 1936~December 19, 2022**

ST. FRANCISVILLE, Illinois — Beverly Ann Tussey, 86, Vincennes, Indiana, died Dec. 19, 2022. She was a retired nurse and member of St. John's United Church of Christ. Survivors include her children, Jeff Tussey, Brian Tussey and Terri Frizzi; her brother, Larry Joe Ice; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held on Tuesday at St. John United Church of Christ, 606 N. Fifth St., Vincennes, with the Rev. Dennis Frische-Mouri officiating. Burial was at Oak Lawn Cemetery in St. Francisville. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. CST until the service time Tuesday at the church.

Arrangements were handled by Cunningham Funeral Home.

Condolences can be sent online at [www.cunninghamfuneralhomes.com](http://www.cunninghamfuneralhomes.com).



### **Addresses for Shut-ins and Others**

**Norma Meyer**, Colonial Assisted Living, Rm 142, 1622  
S. Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Kenny Kixmiller**, Freelandville Community Home, 310 W. Carlisle St.  
Freelandville, IN 47535

**Joy Tooley**, Willow Manor, - 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Leona Conway**, Willow Manor, -3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN  
47591

**John Jackson**, The Villages at Oak Ridge, - 1694 Troy Rd, Rm. 511  
Washington, IN 47501

**Kathryn Cole, Jean Wells** Lodge of the Wabash, 723 Ramsey Rd, Vincennes,  
IN 47591

**Marge Beamon**, - Remains in rehab. Please send cards and notes to her  
home address.

**Robin Root**— The Villages at Oak Ridge, - 1694 Troy Rd, Rm. 511 Washington,  
IN 47501

### **Home**

**Etta Snyder**

**Kennedy Alexander**

**Bruce Deckard**



If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (chairperson of Caregivers) or any caregiver listed below. We would appreciate your help and want to make sure everyone is blessed by St. John's when you need it!

St. John's UCC Caregivers- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard, Connie, Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino .



ST. JOHN'S UCC  
CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## Children and Family Ministry Age Groups



The display at Gregg Park during "Christmas In The Park" December 2 and 3. The CFM group also decorated a lamp pole next to the Pickle ball court for the month of December.

The Children and Family Ministry families are asked to help prep for the Annual Meeting soup luncheon on Saturday, January 14, at 10am in the kitchen and will be done by noon. The families are also asked to help on Sunday with serving and cleaning up at the luncheon. Please be looking for announcements in the bulletin and on Facebook group for future



**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**

information. If there are any questions, please let Will know! We are also asking for desserts on January 15 for the Annual Meeting Soup Luncheon . Please have the desserts in the kitchen by 10am on the 15th. The sign up is on the bulletin board by the nursery.

The St. John's Youth Group (7th-12th) meets three times a month for lessons and activities. The meetings will start at 7:15pm and last until 8:15pm. Many of the youth families are busy with sports/afternoon activities and is hard to come on one main day. The youth schedule is designed to work with their activities.

January 2-Monday

January 19-Thursday

January 29-Sunday

### Children and Family Ministry Age Groups

**CFM** (Children and Family Ministry)- Age 3-High School and their family

**M&M** (Mini-Marvels)-Age 3-2nd Grade

**KFC** (Kids For Christ)-3rd-6th Grade

**Youth**-7<sup>th</sup> Grade- High School

**KFC/Youth**-Both Groups

**Special Sunday**-Children and Youth

## January 2023

January 2-Monday-[Youth Meeting-7:15pm-8:15pm](#) (Youth)

January 14-Saturday-Soup Luncheon Prep-10am-12pm (CFM)

January 15-Sunday-Soup Luncheon-9am-1pm (CFM)

January 19-Thursday-[Youth Meeting-7:15pm-8:15pm](#) (Youth)

January 21-Saturday-Winter Activity- 4pm-6pm (M&M)

**January 29- Special Sunday**-[9:15am-10am/Children's Church](#)

January 29-Sunday-[Youth Meeting-7:15pm-8:15pm](#) (Youth)

## February 2023

February 5-Sunday-Winter Fun Game Night-5pm-7:30pm (CFM)

February 6- Monday-[Youth Meeting-7:15pm-8:15pm](#) (Youth)

February 20-Monday-Service Project-Time TBA (CFM)

February 23- Thursday-[Youth Meeting-7:15pm-8:15pm](#) (Youth)

**February 26- Special Sunday**-[9:15am-10am/Children's Church](#)

February 26-Sunday-[Youth Meeting-7:15pm-8:15pm](#) (Youth)

Please look for announcements in the bulletin and Children and Family Ministry mail boxes for future information. Also, families check out the master calendar posted on the CFM Facebook group for future opportunities.



Children aged 3-12 are invited to go upstairs to the blue classroom for Children Church for stories, games and activities after the children's sermon. Preschool children are welcome to go to the nursery at this time. Although your child may already be attending Sunday school, Children's Church offers these children an opportunity to learn more about God and our church. Volunteers to assist in aspects of Children's Church are always welcomed and needed! If there are any questions, please let Will Meyer know!

Will Meyer

Children and Family Ministry Coordinator



**St. John's United Church of Christ**

**606 North Fifth Street**

**Vincennes, IN 47591**

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