

FEBRUARY 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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Pastor's Ponderings February 2023

We are in the midst of the Epiphany Season. We “bask” in the light of God that was revealed to the world on Christmas day. We celebrate the light as we remember the arrival of the Magi, the giving of gifts and solemn worship of the Christ Child by the “wisemen” from the East.

The month of February holds the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 22. On that day we begin the season of self examination and penitence. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *penitent* as feeling or expressing humble or regretful pain or sorrow for sins or offenses. *Penitence* is, the quality or state of being *penitent*.

On Ash Wednesday we receive the ashes as an expression of our repentance. It is an act of penitence. The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to search out of our experiences...out of our actions...out of our behaviors... those times when we have gone against the will of God. If sin is the separation between us and God, then there are sins of commission and omission in each of our lives. It is hard enough for us to follow God's commandments in all that personally touches our lives, yet we must realize that we are also complicit in the sins of the world.

While the church did not pull the triggers of the guns used in the more than 40 mass shootings that have already occurred in 2023, our unwillingness to participate in meaningful dialog around reasonable gun laws makes us complicit. While the did not bully the young person who committed suicide because they were bullied because of their physical appearance, their learning disability or their struggles with sexual orientation, we are complicit when we do not advocate against such activity in our schools and step up when we see it in our neighborhoods.

I write these words not to depress or brow-beat, but for two reasons. The first is to remind us of the many responsibilities we have as Christians who follow a Christ who gave us two great commandments: Love God and Love your Neighbor.

Secondly, to lift up a God of grace and mercy who forgives the sins of all who confess with truly repentant hearts. Our acts of penitence should not be reserved just for the season of Lent, but every day. God loves us for the sinners we are. God wants us to unburden ourselves and to move forward following in the footsteps of Christ. And as we follow in the footsteps of Christ we are to take up something...take up a cause...take up a ministry...live as Christ wants us to live.

Shalom,

Pastor Dennis





BOARD MEETING

Church Board Highlights January 23, 2023

The December minutes and Treasurer's report were reviewed and approved.

Board approval of New Board Members: The Church Board confirmed the approval of the nominees, Ed Cummings, Mark Schutz, Jake Alexander and Cindy Deckard (1 year term) for Church Board. Many thanks given to those retiring from the Board, Mark Lange, Ray Piper, Sheri Stodghill and Tony Riley.

Election of Officers for 2023 Church Board: President – Jana Vieck; Vice President – Jake Alexander; Secretary – Betsy Marchino; and Treasurer – Ed Cummings

Committee Report Highlights

Music and Worship. Ash Wednesday service will be February 22, 2023 in Memorial Hall.

Church Facilities/Improvements. The air conditioning unit is being taken care of hopefully in the next month or two.

Congregational Life. Thanks to Sheri Stodghill for all she does in organizing the bereavement dinners. She does a great job!

Pastoral Search Committee. We have received two profiles for review.

New Business

A congregational meeting will be held on March 5th to affirm the new Church Board members and to vote on reducing the current required percentage (25%) of active voting members present to constitute a quorum.

Committee/Church Board Liaison Assignments were completed.

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

Next meeting will be February 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

What Is The Blessing Box Mission?

Located in St. John's rear parking lot. The Blessing Box contains non-perishable food donations from our church members. These food items are available for any family living in the blocks surrounding our church campus. Residents are able to pick up a few items to help "get them through" until they receive their next check.

HOURS OF OPERATION Open 24
Hours Contact : Elaine Workman

The Blessing Box



How can I help? **The Blessing Box relies on the support of individuals from St. John's UCC.**

Non-Perishable Food Donations Are Collected The 1st and 3rd Sundays Of Each Month And Placed In The Designated Shopping Cart In Memorial Hall
An Extra Donation In Your Pledge Envelope Marked "Blessing Box"
Cash Donation Dropped Off In The Church Office Marked "Blessing Box"

St. John's Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	
1/5	71	
1/12	82	
1/19	49	
1/26	88	

December Finances

Contributions \$10,936

Expenses \$25, 052

(Outreach/Missions) : \$2220



February Birthdays

Daniel Goodman
Mark Lange
Derek Daniels
Connie Coulter
Peggy Meyer
Kyle Doggett
Dan Coulter
Brenda Fillingim
Ann Riley
Garry Hall
Caleb Schlag

Ellery Miller
Don Black
Allison Cummins
Mark Schutz
Jeffrey Watts
Harper Coomes
Rylan Coomes
Donna Klein
Delaynee Coomes
Taylor Fuller

If your birthday or
anniversary is not listed,
but should be, PLEASE



We rang in the New Year 2023 with noise makers! We wrote the numbers in the new year and decided one thing we would do better this year.

Our Caterpillars are starting to write their names on their papers. Keep watching us as we improve every day!

The Butter flies are moving to writing their first and last names on their papers. We are all getting so good at our names!

We enjoyed ice skating, ice melting, and ice cream sundaes in January! Our month ended in Healthy Week, food, exercise and how to take care of our body. Re-enrollment has begun. Our current preschoolers are enrolling for the next school year beginning in August. Then we enroll all the children on our waiting list. Reminder to fill out a waiting list form when your child is born! Our list becomes very long! Our deepest sympathy to the family of Hank Lopez. Miss April and Miss Lori enjoyed chatting with Hank when he would drop the grandkids off at preschool. We are very saddened by his passing.

Time is precious!

A Word From Our Evangelism and Membership Committee

We all have lots of commitments & meetings on our schedules, but sometimes we still want to have an input into what's going on in the church. We the **Evangelism & Membership** committee would like to extend an invitation to you to give your input and attend meetings, when possible, but most of all we want your thoughts. We want to hear from you!!!

The E&M committee serves 2 purposes:

Evangelism - How are we getting the word of God to others? Testimony? Building Relationships within our neighborhood? Invitations to church? or Service to our community?

Membership - What does being a member of a church look like? How are we engaging current members? How are we enlisting new members into our church? How are we engaging non-members, but important in the life and mission of our church?

If you have thoughts on these important issues but cannot commit to meetings once a month, we would like to open the door to you and engage you in other ways, Zoom, email, etc. **Contact me, Janet Daniels at 812-891-3035 phone or text or email at jdjdaniels7210@yahoo.com if you are interested or have some ideas.** Fresh minds mean fresh ideas!! I would love to hear from you.

Our next E&M meeting is Monday, 2/6/2023 @ 7:00 p.m.



Sunday

Monday

February

2023

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1	2 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	3 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	4
5 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Winter Fun Game Night 5pm-7:30pm (CFM)	6 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Candy Making w/ Elaine Workman Evangelism & Membership 7pm Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm	7 Emotions Anonymous 7pm	8 Choir 7pm Christian Education 6pm	9 Girl Scouts 4:30pm	10	11 M&M Winter Activity 4pm-6pm
12 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	13 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends Valentine Dinner/ Dance Green Auditorium Outreach & Missions 6:30pm	14 Emotions Anonymous 7pm Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm	15 Choir 7pm	16 LAM Banquet Highland Woods Community Center 6pm	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	20 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm T-shirt Party Worship 6pm Church Board 7pm	21 Emotions Anonymous 7pm	22 Choir 7pm Laundry Love 6-8pm Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm In Memorial Hall	23 Technology 10 am Girl Scouts 4:30pm Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Special Sunday Children's Church Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm	27 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Bowling Party	28 Emotions Anonymous 7pm Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm				



MUSIC & WORSHIP

The Music and Worship committee would like to thank everyone who helped with decorating and taking down of decorations through the holiday season.



LAM Banquet: St John's UCC is again sponsoring a table at the LAM (Life After Meth) banquet which will be held on February 16th at Highland Woods Community Center. This is an opportunity to learn about an important local ministry that we support and includes a

meal. We encourage members who have never attended to consider attending. Doors open at 6:00 PM, dinner at 6:30. Please place your name on the sign-up sheet in the back hallway no later than Sunday February 12th if interested in attending. Any seats not used by church members will be donated for LAM program participants. Contact Larry Marchino or the church office with any questions.

A Note From the Bereavement Committee:

Thank you to all church members who donated food and /or volunteered in the kitchen for the many bereavement dinners in the last 2 months. We could not have done it without you. Thanks again.

The family of Kathryn Cole would like to thank the church family for all their thoughts, prayers and support for her! We appreciate all the cards and visits to see her, she was very blessed! Thank you so much. We also want to thank Becky Brockman and Pastor Dennis for helping with the funeral service. It was much appreciated! A thank you goes out to thank Sheri Stodghill, Brenda Roark and Elaine Workman for the funeral dinner, it was much appreciated. Thank you everyone from the Cole and Blemker families.



Dear Church family,

We are indebted to all who have been so amazingly supportive these past few weeks. Those who touched us with so many acts of kindness are too numerous to name. The visitation at the church, the beautiful service conducted by Pastor Dennis, the delicious funeral meal that was provided afterward & all your calls, cards, & messages will never be forgotten. We thank you so very much!

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
& our church family
really mean
to us....

Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

Jill, Hank III, Trisha, Amy, Adam, & Rodney
The family of Hank Lopez, Jr.



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.**
- Continued prayers for David Culp, who suffered a stroke this past month. The doctors also found some blockages in his heart and put in a stent. Family feels lucky that they caught this before any damage was done as he had no symptoms. Rehab is providing a variety of gains. They were starting to see some small movement in his right side. Cards may be sent to: Encompass Health Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital Attn: David Culp Rm 316, 9355 Warrick Trail Newburgh, IN 47630. No visitors at this time please.
- Please keep Betsy Marchino and family in your prayers with the passing of her brother, Bill May. He passed last week after a short illness.

Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

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

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

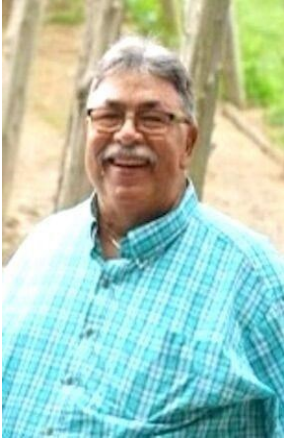
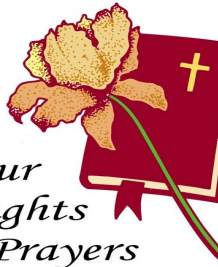
Home

Etta Snyder

Kennedy Alexander

Bruce Deckard

*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*



Our hearts go out to the family of Henry "Hank" Joseph Lopez Jr., 67, of Vincennes, died at his home on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023. Services were held at St. John's United Church of Christ.

Hank's wife, Jill Lopez, along with Hank III and Trisha, Amy and Adam Schotter, and Rodney, and the six grandchildren will remain in our heartfelt prayers for comfort and strength. We also offer our sympathy to extended family, including Hank's sister-in-law in our congregation, Jerri Johanningsmeier.



Kenneth Ray Kixmiller, age 89, of Freelandville, IN, passed away January 24, 2023. He was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ, formerly of Bethel Church. Online condolences may be offered at www.fredrickandson.com.

Children and Family Ministry Age Groups



The Children and Family Ministry thanks all that donated desserts and money for the Soup Luncheon on January 15! The Soup luncheon was a great fundraiser for the Children and Family Ministry and appreciations all that supported the group!



On February 5, from 5-7:30pm the Children and Family Ministry will have an opportunity to enjoy a night at church with their church family. Some of the opportunities will be playing pool, foosball, giant board games and watching a movie. The families can also bring games from home to share with the other families. At this activity there will be a taco bar and other snacks. This will be a great activity to invite friends, grandparents and other family members to come to the fun activity too! Come and go to fit your schedule or stay the whole time.



The Children and Family Ministry will have an in-town mission week from June 5-9. This year there will be many new opportunities and some of the same activities during the week. Just like in the past the group will be staying at a cabin and the kids can come and go for games/practices. Each day is designed for all ages/grades to enjoy the event.

Children and Family Ministry Age GroupsCFM (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-7th Grade- High School

KFC/Youth-Both Groups

Special Sunday-Children and 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 11-Saturday-**Winter Activity**- 4pm-6pm (M&M)

February 14-Tuesday-**Youth Meeting**-7:15pm-8:15pm (Youth)

February 23- Thursday-**Youth Meeting**-7:15pm-8:15pm (Youth)

February 26- Special Sunday-9:15am-10am/Children's Church

March 2023

March 6-Monday-**Youth Meeting**-7:15pm-8:15pm (Youth)

March 10-Friday--**Lock In**-7pm-9am (Youth)

March 14-Tuesday-**Youth Meeting**-7:15pm-8:15pm (Youth)

March 17-Friday-**Lock in** 7pm-9am (KFC)

March 23-Thursday-**No Meeting-Spring Break**

March 26- Special Sunday-9:15am-10am/Children's Church

March 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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