

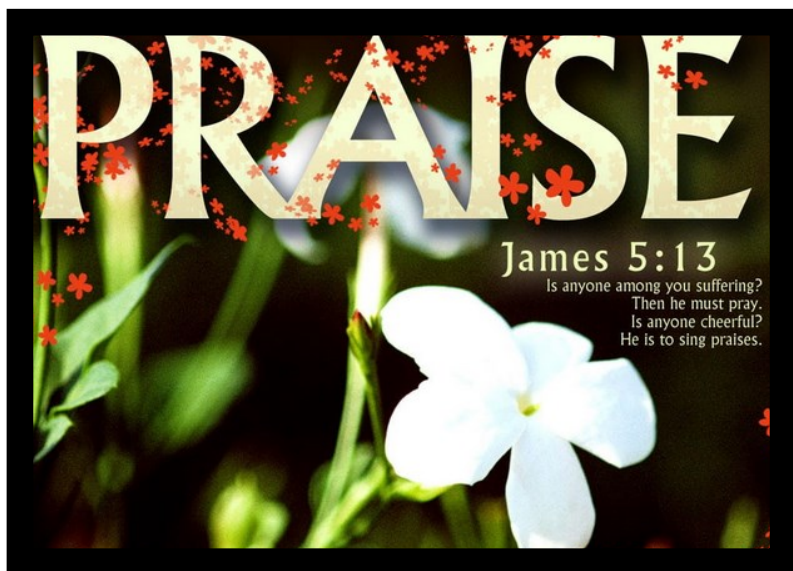
MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



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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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Vincennes, IN 47591

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stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com

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Pastors Ponderings March 2023

The season of Lent has begun. The theme for this year's Lenten services focuses on transformation. We will be on a Journey of Transformation looking first at the story of Jesus' Journey in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).

Then, we will spend four Sundays with wonderful stories from the Gospel of John. The first story, on March 5 (the Second Sunday in Lent), is about the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus as told in John 3:1-17. On March 12 (the Third Sunday in Lent) we learn about the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well found in John 4:5-42. On the Fourth Sunday in Lent (March 19) we hear the story of the Man Born Blind from John 9:1-41 and then on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we hear the final story from John 11:1-45 (March 26) where we learn about and encounter between Jesus and Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha. The story on Palm/Passion Sunday (April 2) comes from Matthew 26 and 27 about Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem.

Consider the opportunity of reading those main texts before the designated Sundays in Lent

A Congregational Meeting has been called by the Church Board for Sunday, **March 5** following worship. This is a very important meeting. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) will be collected beginning Sunday, March 19. This special all-church offering of the United Church of Christ has traditionally been a strong offering here at St. John's. This congregation has been historically recognized as a significant contributor to OGHS. This year's theme is "It's Time to Share."

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12. Will this be the last time? Who knows. Please remember to change your clocks forward.

The Governance and Structure Team is a new team that will evaluate

and make recommendations on how the church's decision-making process can become more efficient and effective. The team has met once and has another meeting scheduled for March 5. Those who are participating are: Natasha Coomes, Brenda Cummings, Jill Lopez, Larry Marchino, Renn Simmons, and Pastor Dennis.

Good Samaritan Hospital Meal Distribution Site. St. John's has been asked to be the second host site for the Good Samaritan Hospital Meal Disbursement event on Wednesday, April 26. Cheryl Bahr, Director of Health Information, wrote in an email "We feel like it is a central location that those in need would be able to come to." St. John's continues to be blessed by opportunities to serve the community of Vincennes.

Blessings,

Pastor Linda and Pastor Dennis





Church Board Highlights from February 20, 2023

The minutes from January 23, 2023 and the treasurer's report were reviewed. The minutes and the treasurer's report were accepted. It was moved and seconded that the board move \$30,000 from the endowment fund to the operating fund. The motion passed.

Head usher duties were discussed and reviewed.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Dennis stated that the Governance and Structure Team has met one time and have another scheduled meeting on March 5th. He also said that Pastor Linda and he continue to work with schedules to hold confirmation classes for four of our young people. The board offered appreciation for their efforts.

Committee Meeting Highlights

Music & Worship - Ash Wednesday service was to be held on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 pm.

Christian Education - The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 8th at St. John's.

Outreach and Benevolence - Requested the following contributions be made: OCWM - \$1000, CUE - \$1000, Merom - \$1000, BABE - \$500, LAM - \$500; Phoebe's Mission - \$500, and Laundry Love - \$500 for a total of \$5000. The board approved.

Technology - Two of the outdoor cameras broke and were replaced using house expense funds in the amount of \$490.00.

Search Committee - Received two more profiles. They will be interviewing both candidates.

Unfinished Business - The congregational meeting will be held on March 5 immediately following worship service. Please encourage fellow members to attend to vote for a needed quorum change and for affirming new board members.

New Business - The board approved use of the kitchen and Memorial Hall for April 26, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm by Good Samaritan. This is for a community meal distribution.

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

The next meeting is March 20, 2023 @ 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Lopez, substitute for Betsy Marchino, Church Board Secretary

St. John's Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	
1/29	50	
2/5	45	
2/12	55	
2/19	51	

December Finances

Contributions 12,752
Expenses \$26495

(Outreach/Missions) : \$9419



March Birthdays

Zoe Gilmore
Fred Klein
Jean Wells
Mark Meyer
Shawn Brown
Brian Fillingim
Kynzlie Brown
Lucas Doggett
Jennifer Cole
Dean Newell
Kim Vieke
Olivia Lange
Henry Joseph Lopez III
Krisi Mattingly
Mackenzie Jones
Dustin McCrary
Carla Schmidt
Denise Hendrix
Patrick Schutz
James Simmons
Lisa Hartig
David Culp
Calvin Doggett
Adelynn Lange

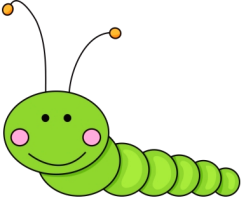
March Anniversaries

Mark & Marcy Meyer
Mark & De Etta Welte
Ish & Hope Clausman

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

Thank you

Preschool News



February is full of hearts and flowers and LOVE! WE celebrated Valentines Day with sweet treats, cute cards and fun games. Everyone enjoyed sharing Valentines with their preschool friends. We are working on rhyming words. Saying nursery rhymes helps us to find rhyming words.

These kids have never heard some of the mother goose nursery rhymes before! The butterflies are enjoying a day with grandparents with songs, crafts, and snacks at the end of the month! Grandparents are getting to see what preschool is all about,

Enrollment for 2023-2024 school year has begun. Our Butterfly class roster is full and we are working on the caterpillar classes. If you have a newborn to preschool age you need to get them on the waiting list by filling out the form.



March

2023

Sunday

Monday

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 Annual Congregational Meeting (following service)	6 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Evangelism & Membership 7pm Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm	7 Emotions Anonymous 7pm Girl Scouts 4:30pm	8 Choir 7pm Christian Education 6pm	9 Youth Lock-In 7pm - 9am	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	13 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends Outreach & Missions 6:30pm	14 Emotions Anonymous 7pm Youth Group weekly lesson 7:15-8:15pm	15 Choir 7pm	16 KFC Lock-In 7pm- - 9am	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	20 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Worship 6pm Church Board 7pm	21 Emotions Anonymous 7pm	22 Choir 7pm	23 Technology 10 pm	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	28 Emotions Anonymous 7pm Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	29 Laundry Love 6-8pm	30 Girl Scouts 4:30pm Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	31	



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Continuing Prayer Requests: **Marge Beamon, Don Osborne, Jr., Mark Lange, Bruce Deckard, Nora Grabbe (Friend of Janet Daniels), David Grayson, (friend of Eric Meyer), Kennedy Alexander and family, Lt. Colonel Aaron Lange and 300 men/women of the 1st Battalion 163rd Field Artillery, family of Kathryn Cole, Family of Hank Lopez, family of Kenny Kixmiller**
For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying lets include all in our prayers.
- David Culp is now at home recovering , please keep him in your prayers for a speedy recovery.
- Prayers for Korbin Alexander as her arm fractures heal.



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, -requested correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes, IN

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

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 -
Korbin Alexander
Bruce Deckard
David Culp**

Dear Church Family Member,

As you may be aware, we were not able to hold our Annual Congregational Meeting as scheduled in January since we did not have a quorum present. The Board has scheduled a Congregational Meeting for March 5 immediately following worship in the hope that we can complete the business of the Church. A quorum requires 45 active members present. In addition to the regular committee reports and budget approval, we have 2 important items that will need your vote. First, we will be voting on the new members of the Church Board so they can officially be installed. Second, the Board has proposed the following change to the St. John's UCC Constitution, reducing a quorum from 25% to 15%:

"Article VII: Governance

B. A quorum to do business at such a Church meeting shall consist of ~~twenty-five~~ fifteen percent (25 15) of the active members of the Congregation."

To change the Constitution requires a 2/3 majority of voting members present.

Your input and vote on these items are essential. The Congregation makes all important decisions in the life of our Church, so I am asking that you make every effort to attend worship and the Congregational Meeting on March 5. Every voice is important. Please contact me or any member of the Board if you have questions or concerns.

sincerely,



Jana Vieck

President

Board Members:

Continuing members: Hope Clausman, Janet Daniels Jill Lopez, Betsy Marchino, Cheryl Meyer, Jana Vieck, and Elaine Workman

New members (to be voted on at the Congregational Meeting): Jake Alexander, Steve Cooper, Ed Cummings, Cindy Deckard (filling a 1-year vacancy), and Mark Schutz



BLESSINGS ABOUND for Sandy's Pantry

As the new year started, VU had a Food Drive for Sandy's Pantry. Many food items were donated by faculty and employees of VU, as well as a generous monetary donation. We are so appreciative of VU's participation in supporting our mission to their students. In the past few

years it has been a regular activity at the beginning of every semester. VU has this drive by asking everyone to bring an item at opening meeting for Sandy's. That really amounts up to a lot. Our deepest gratitude to everyone at VU, especially Laura Carie, Director of University Events, who co-ordinates these drives, and all the college Deans who encourage participation. The students are told that many of our items are donations that come their professors. It lets them know that VU faculty and staff really care about students success and well-being.

Another unexpected blessing in January was receiving \$500 through a sweepstakes entered by one of our students. A nation wide sweepstakes was offered through Sodexo called "Dishing out Dreams". (picture courtesy VU, PBS) of The entrant was asked to nominate his/her favorite charity.

VU student, Daylynn T., nominated Sandy's Pantry as her favorite charity. Her entry was chosen along with 18 others nation wide to be the winners. She received a gift card to Best Buys. Thank you, Daylynn! What a pleasant surprise for us all. We are so grateful and proud of you! God works in mysterious ways! We are so thankful, also, to everyone at St. John's who donates to us through items into the Sandy's shopping cart and offerings.



(picture courtesy VU, PBS)

Sincerely,
Brenda & Brian Fillingim



Potted spring flowers, in memory of and in honor of, for Easter sanctuary decorations are requested by the Worship committee again this year. Please place your plotted flowers on the tables in Memorial Hall by Wednesday, April 5. Labels will be provided in church office to fill out and place on flowers.





*"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

On June 30, 2023, the United Church of Christ will gather in downtown Indianapolis for worship, fellowship, and the business of the wider church. Delegates and visitors will converge at the

Convention Center from across the nation and from around the world. Each Conference of the United

Church of Christ will send delegates for the purpose of passing resolutions and electing a new President and General Minister to lead the United Church of Christ.

Delegates, visitors, and staff persons will gather for worship, and a variety of fellowship activities, including a concert with Carrie Newcomer.

More than 300 Indiana-Kentucky Conference volunteers are needed to greet and assist the more than 3000 delegates and visitors. The Local Arrangements Committee is in the process of raising \$70,00 to support the activities they are responsible for including the Newcomer concert which will be held at the White River Park Pavilion.

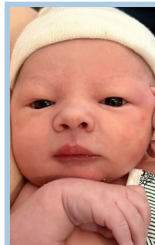
A list of volunteer positions that need to be filled is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office in addition to information on how to volunteer.



Larry and I want to thank our Church family for all the cards, prayers, and words of comfort and sympathy on the passing of my brother, Bill May. St. John's is a family that truly cares about each other and we are very blessed to be a part of this family!.

Larry & Betsy Marchino

Congratulations to Janet Daniels on the birth of her grandson, Beckett, born Tuesday, February 21. He was welcomed by his father, Jordan, (Janet's son,) mother, Nicole Daniels, and big brother Rowen. Prayers of blessing to the family!





Children and Family Ministry

The Children and Family Ministry had many opportunities in February. On February 5, the Children and Family Ministry enjoyed a night at church with their church family and a game night. The M&M group had a Winter Fun Afternoon with games and arts/crafts on February 11.

The youth (7th-12th grade) will have a lock-in at church on March 10 and the KFC (3rd-6th grade) will also have a lock-in at church on March 17. Both lock-ins will start at 7 pm and end at 9 am the next morning. The children can be dropped off any time during the night after coming from other activities. If a child is being dropped off/picked up after 7 pm please text Will (812-887-5303) to make arrangements. Both evenings will start off with the group making their own small pizzas. A 22-23 medical information form will need to be on file for the activity. The medical forms are located on the bulletin board by the nursery and on the Facebook group in the file tab.



The Unbeatable Egg Hunt is back on Saturday, April 8. Please be looking for announcements in the bulletin and Children and Family Ministry mailboxes for future information for the Easter activity!

Save The Date

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 Groups

FM (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

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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