

## APRIL 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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## Pastors Ponderings April 2023

April has arrived. Spring is here, the daffodils are blooming, the trees are budding and the songbirds are returning.

Holy Week begins on April 2 with Palm Sunday when we remember and celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday will be on April 6 with worship at 7 pm when we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples and celebrate Holy Communion.

On Saturday, April 8 the annual Easter Egg Hunt will occur from 4-6 pm at the church. Children, from preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come and hunt Easter Eggs. In addition, there will be food, crafts, and games. Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends and neighbors. Bring a bag or a basket to collect your eggs. Older children need to bring a flashlight as well.

Worship on Easter Sunday, April 9 will be at 10:30 am as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and join together in Holy Communion.

April means the Spring meeting of the Wabash Valley Association of which we are a member congregation. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 23. It will be held at St. John's UCC, Centerpointe, Indiana. Registration is at 2:30 pm and the meeting begins at 3 pm. Following the meeting people are encouraged to remain and help make prayer shawls for use at General Synod.

Speaking of General Synod, the gathering will be in downtown Indianapolis from June 29-July 4. Volunteers are needed to help host thousands of UCC brothers and sisters from across the United States and from around the world. Please read the article in this newsletter and register to be a volunteer.

May your April days be sunny and bright.  
May your April skies be blue.  
May your April showers be gentle and  
may your April days be blessed.

Pastor Dennis and Pastor Linda



## **Church Board Highlights**

### **March 20, 2023**

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

#### **Committee Report Highlights**

**Christian Education** – Youth lock-in was to be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> and KFC lock in to be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. June 5<sup>th</sup>-June 9<sup>th</sup> will be Mission Week for both groups and a cabin at Qubache Trails Park has been reserved for overnights. Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Church Facilities/Improvements.** Continue to work on the damages from the electrical issues. All items that were damaged and need replacement/repairs will be turned into insurance. Mark Schutz and Mike Lankford are checking into temporary heating for the preschool until everything is fixed.

**Congregational Life.** Discussed various dates for the annual Church picnic. The picnic will be at Gregg Park so the youth/adults could go swimming at Rainbow Beach. Elaine, Cindy, and Betsy will coordinate a date and work on the details for this outing

**Pastor Search Committee.** Have had two interviews with a potential pastor and have requested a third.

**Unfinished Business.** The congregational meeting was held on March 5<sup>th</sup> to affirm new Board members and a proposed change to the Constitution. The change to the Constitution was approved to reduce the percentage to constitute a quorum of active members to 15%.

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

The next meeting will be on April 17,, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Betsy Marchino, Church Board Secretary

### St. John's Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	
3/5	72	
3/12	47	
3/19	41	
3/26	63	

### February Finances

Contributions \$13,086

Expenses \$14,6332

(Outreach/Missions) : \$2,310



### **A Note From The Choir**

Singing in the choir allows us to hear and sing many meaningful songs. From practices and Sunday mornings, the songs seem to be ingrained in our minds. I would say no one goes home from practice without some song still going on in their heads. One song we recently sang had a very simple yet powerful word.

The song was "I Love You Lord" and the line that followed was "and Lift My Voice", which has special meaning also. The church gives us many chances to lift our voices that start with church attendance Sunday mornings where we lend our smiles to each other and have a chance to come face to face with those we care about. We lift our voices so many ways that are connected with the church. From affecting children's lives long term by teaching Sunday school or on Sunday morning, to working the missions the church offers during the month. The list of opportunities to lift our voices is endless in our church there is something for everyone. Later in the song the words are "Take Joy, My King, I What You Hear", I must say how could he not! Also in the song are the words, "May It Be a Sweet, Sweet Sound in Your Ear". Understand that Sunday morning may be hard to always do, but, we believe it is important that we dedicate one morning a week to (remind ourselves,) to lift our voices and make a sweet sound in his ear. AMEN



## Easter Flowers

The Worship Committee invites you to participate in the Sanctuary decorations for Easter Sunday.

We will once again welcome live Easter Lilies, Daffodils or other spring flowers to be given in memory of or in honor of the special people in your lives. We ask that all flowers be potted and placed on the tables in Memorial Hall by Wednesday, April 5. Mark your flowers with your name. In addition, please notify Angie in the church office, with the following information, so your gift may be acknowledged correctly in the bulletin.

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

or

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

We asked that you pick up your flowers following church on Sunday.



## **April Birthdays**

Donnie Black II  
Paul Meyer  
Donna Hall  
Chris Sanders  
Janet Newell  
Carson Sanders  
Cindy Deckard  
Trista Goodman  
Andrea Williams  
Mitchell Cooper  
Vera Mattingly  
Reid Schotter  
Chas Culp  
Michael Lankford  
Marcy Meyer  
Henry Holka  
Miles Holka  
Lynne Simmons

## **April Anniversaries**

Bruce & Cindy Deckard  
Conway & Arlene Wilson  
Brad & Joanna Laughers

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



March did come in like a lion! We had wind, rain, and storms!

The preschool are weather watchers and enjoy deciding if we are having lion or lamb weather!

We celebrated Dr. Seuss by dressing wacky and reading Dr. Seuss books. Everyone is doing so good rhyming different words.

Our Classes are working on preparing for kindergarten round-up. We have very smart Kiddos!

The preschool would like to thank Brian Fillingim and Jana Vieck for coming and checking on us during the wind storm/power outage. We appreciate your kindness and concern.

Also, thank you to Mark Schutz & Mike Lankford for putting together the new preschool nap cots! You guys are the best!

*A heartfelt  
Thank You ♥*

Dear St. John's UCC Family,

David and I have found ourselves on a frightening and unexpected journey. You are our dear and longtime friends who have shared your own faith and prayers with us. We are humbled and blessed by your continued care and kindness. You have renewed our own faith and hope.

Life brings many changes. You have reminded us that God's love remains constant, guiding us through the hard times and giving us a sense of hope and peace no matter what we are facing. We have been blessed in so many ways and are eternally grateful. Thank you for being a part of this journey. We are eager to be with all of you again soon.

Carole and David Culp

# April

# 2023

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1
2 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	3 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm  Evangelism & Membership 7pm	4	5  No Choir	6  Maundy Thursday Service 7pm Choir Following Service	7 Good Friday Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm  Youth prep for Unbeatable Egg Hunt	8 Unbeatable Easter Egg Hunt 4-6pm
9 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10 am Easter Service Worship 10:30 Children's Church	10 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Outreach & Missions 6:30pm	11	12 Choir 7pm  Christian Education 6pm Friends 5:45 at Ader Auditorium	13 Girl Scouts 4:30	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	17 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Worship 6pm Church Board 7pm	18	19 Choir 7pm	20	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	24 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm	25  Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	26  Laundry Love 6-8pm	27 Technology 10 am Girl Scouts 4:30pm (Kitchen Project)  Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Special Sunday Children's Church						





## 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.
- Mary Gezon, Lynn Simmons sister, is nearing the end of her journey with her battle with cancer. She now has 2 types, serous ovarian and skin cancer with very painful lesions.
- Prayers for continued healing for; Peggy Meyer, Janet Goodman, Dan Coulter, and Vern Houchins who are doing well after their recent procedures.

### **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, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue, Vincennes, IN. 47591**

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

### **Home**

**Etta Snyder  
Korbin Alexander  
Bruce Deckard  
David Culp**



*"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*

St. John's is a member church of the Wabash Valley Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ. That means we are in a covenantal relationship with all the churches and entities of the United Church of Christ. From June 29 to July 4, 2023 General Synod will meet in downtown Indianapolis for this biannual meeting. Several thousands of our covenantal brothers and sisters from across the United States and around the world will gather in the Indianapolis Convention Center.

As the host conference, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference needs your help. There are many volunteer positions that need to be filled. Copy this link into your browser to see what volunteer positions are needed. <https://www.volgistics.com/od/391390>

If you are interested in volunteering there is a two step process. First paste this link into your browser to apply to be a volunteer. <https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1930921960>

After the application is completed, you will receive an email with a code that you use to register for General Synod and receive a discounted registration fee of \$65.00. see this link to register for General Synod. <https://generalsynod.org/>

If you would like to learn more about what will be happening during General Synod paste this link into your browser. <https://files.constantcontact.com/8206d75f001/746b6084-e42f-45cc-8abe-6600449f32c2.pdf>

Watch for more information and please consider volunteering to help at General Synod and share some Hoosier Hospitality.



Saturday, April 8, 2023

St John's United Church of Christ

606 N. Fifth Street, Vincennes

4:00-6:00 pm

For Preschool-6th grades

Designated hunting areas for pre/k, 1st -3rd,  
4th - 6th

Egg Hunt, food, crafts and games!

Bring your baskets or bags

Also bring flashlights for the older kids



***Wabash Valley***  
***Spring Association Meeting***  
***Sunday, April 23, 2023***  
***St. John UCC, Centerpoint***  
***3:00 p.m. (Registration open at 2:30)***



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

**No sewing experience needed!**

**Following our business meeting, we will gather around tables to create prayer shawls for General Synod, being hosted in Indianapolis this summer!**

**If you have a pair of sewing scissors, bring them along. We will make fleece shawls and share lively conversation as we create connections to the wider church.**

***Also on the agenda:***

***Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2023-2024.***

***Special offering and Reports***

***News on how to volunteer for General Synod and assistance doing so for those who need help navigating the Internet!***

**St. John United Church of Christ ~3456 IN-42,  
Centerpoint, IN~**



## Children and Family Ministry

The Children and Family Ministry had many opportunities in March. The youth (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) had a lock-in on March 10 and the KFC (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) also had a lock-in at church on March 17. Both evenings started off with the group making their own small pizzas. At the event some of the activities the group did was a movie and group games.



On Good Friday (April 7), from 2-4 pm, the youth will help prepare the church for the Unbeatable Egg Hunt the next day. The youth can be dropped off/come a any time during the activity. If there are any questions please let Will know.



The Unbeatable Egg Hunt is Back!!! On Saturday, April 8, starting at 4pm to 6pm the Children/Family Ministry and Christian Education will be having an Unbeatable Egg Hunt at church. There will be an

Egg Hunt for designated hunting areas for pre/k, 1st -3rd, 4th - 6th with special eggs mixed in with opportunities of prizes. Weather permitting, this younger group will have the hunt outside. For 4th-6th graders the Easter egg hunting will be upstairs with flashlights since the windows will be darkened with new features this year and new prizes. Food and arts/crafts will also be at the activity. Please bring your baskets or bags to get the eggs and flashlights for the older children.



On Saturday, May 6, the Children and Family Ministry and any church member will have an opportunity to do the Vincennes City Cleanup. The groups will clean up the area around the church from 8:30am-11:30am. Individuals can bring gloves for the cleanup but some will be provided. The money made will go to the Children and Family Ministry account for future activities. This is also a great opportunity for service hours for school clubs/organizations! Helpers will meet at the church parking lot at 8:30am. Hope to see you there!



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 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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