

# St. John's United Church of Christ **December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent**



[\* = Those who are able may stand, L = Leader, P = People and A = All]

RINGING OF THE BELL THE PRELUDE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETINGS

THE INTROIT "Emmanuel" No. 134

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

- L. Make ready a pathway for our God.
- P. Clean out the debris in our hearts and our closets.
- L. Clear out a space in our calendars.
- P. Put aside any sense of unworthiness
- L. And focus on the One who comes to love us.
- P. Prepare a place in our homes and hearts.
- L. Set the table and light the candles,
- P. For Christ is coming.

\*THE OPENING HYMN "O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" No. 119 vs. 1, 2

### \*THE INVOCATION (In Unison)

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come into our midst. Come into our hearts. Come into our homes and our community, into our schools and workplaces. May we welcome you everywhere, making room for you, preparing for you, anticipating your arrival with joy and reverence. We commit this season of Advent to becoming ready. Shine your light in those nooks and crannies we keep in the shadows. Sweep the cobwebs from our long-hidden doubt and fear. Repair our torn and wounded places. We long for your arrival. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI No. 35

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world with out end. Amen. Amen.

THE ANTHEM "O. Come to Set Us Free" -McDonald

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE Someone

**RESPONSE** A Candle is Burning (Tune: Away in a Manger)

> A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright, A candle of peace in December's dark night. While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky, Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

### **ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN**

THE SONG "Away in a Manger" (words below)

(Please join in singing as the children return to their seats.)

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

### THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY No. 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Advent comes with the promise of light and love to come. Advent comes with the promise that, if we just wait, the Prince of Peace will arrive. Advent comes with the expectation that the best is yet to be. As we offer our gifts, let it be with thanksgiving and joy that we are able to bring the light of Advent into another's dark world. Amen.

Special Music, Jonathan Clark, Guest Soloist "In The First Light"

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

Kauklin

**SERMON** Prepare the Way of the Lord

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

\*THE HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" No. 129 (1,2)

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*THE HYMN "Go in Peace" No. 445

**POSTLUDE** 

### **Worship Notes**

ww Care: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay,

Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

St. John's United Church of Christ

email:

stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com Worship Notes

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of Christ

Please consider supporting St. John's United Church of Christ so we can continue to do God's work and mission here and throughout the world. Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office in person or by mail.

Many hearts. Many voices. One church.



# THE CHRISTMAS FUND: "GRACE UPON GRACE"

"From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

John 1:16

race is truly at the center of everything for us humans. Grace shapes our faith, our family, our friendships, and our identity. Grace is not just being given the benefit of the doubt, or God bestowing favor on the less than worthy. Grace is also the root of gratitude and thankfulness. It is at the heart of our thanksgiving/eucharistic meal. "Grace upon grace" is a reminder of the great gifts of God to us, and an expression of our grateful response to that fullness.

Your gifts to the Christmas Fund allow the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance to provide grace, hope, and joy through financial relief to UCC pastors, lay church leaders, and their families. Thanks to you, no request goes unfulfilled. Your graceful response to the Christmas Fund appeal ensures the flow of loving support will not be interrupted.

### In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)

# THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund Give online at www.christmasfund.org.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Continuing Prayer Requests Bruce Deckard, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, Dan Roark & Family. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying let's include all in our prayers.
- Peggy Meyer has asked us all to please pray for her husband, Gary Meyer. He has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer, and will begin treatments soon.

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

Norma Meyer, Colonial Assisted Living- Room 142, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Susie Milligan, Colonial Assisted Living- 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591 Joy Tooley, Willow Manor - 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591 Leona Conway, Willow Manor - request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

Marge Beamon, <u>Remains in rehab</u>. Please send cards and notes to, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

Franklyn Schroeder, Oak Village Health Care Center – 200 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Oaktown, IN 47561 Dan Roark—Gentle Care - 1202 S. 16th St., Vincennes, IN 47591.

# Home Alexander Family 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 (chairman 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! <a href="St.John's UCC Caregivers">St. John's UCC Caregivers</a>- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard, Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.



Pastor Debbie Atkins will be our minister toady, lets all welcome Pastor Debbie!



Rev. Deborah J. (Debbie Jo) Atkins was raised in Louisville, KY where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Secondary Education and earned her Master of Divinity degree at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Following graduation, she took a position at St. John's UCC in Southport, IN where she served as Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry for 15 years. During this time, she met and married John Harris and together they raised three children: Hedy (Corey) Bandy of Anderson, IN; Nick (Addison) Atkins-Harris of Indianapolis, IN and Noah Atkins-Harris of Staunton, IL. She has two grown grandchildren Keith Woodcock of Anderson, IN and Nina (Alex) Standlee of Pendleton, IN. She also left the Presbyterian denomination and embraced the United Church of Christ. Following her ordination on June 29, 1997, she took a position in Godfrey, IL. Ten days after arriving at the new church, her husband died suddenly and unexpectedly from a heart attack. She has served churches in Carlinville, IL, Mt. Vernon, IN and has been in her most recent position in Staunton, IL for 17 years. She has completed training as an Intentional Interim Minister and Conflict Management for Churches. She has served as a delegate to General Synod and been a popular workshop leader at every National Youth Event since 2000. Her current ministry includes a number of community outreach programs, creative worship experiences, Bible Studies, and intergenerational events. Pastoral Care is a top priority with monthly home communions for shut-ins, nursing home and retirement community residents. She enjoys participating in the Handbell Choir but only sings occasionally since losing her upper vocal register. She serves as the head of the Staunton Clergy Association, President of the Board of Directors for His Service Station (local Thrift Store) and participates on two Illinois South Conference committees. She is an avid reader and developed a book club with members of her church. She enjoys quilting, writing, word games, baking, and movies. She is in therapy dog training with her Scottish Terrier, Scarlett, and looks forward to taking her along on hospital and home visits after being certified. She also plans to train Scarlett as a "reading companion" dog for local schools and preschools. Scarlett is usually featured monthly during a Children's Moment. Her happiest times are when spending time with family and friends.



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

### ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastors Rev Dennis Frische-Mouri

Rev Linda Frische-Mouri

Head UsherSteve CooperOrganistDeEtta WelteMusic Director, PianistBecky Brockman

Children / Family Ministry Coordinator Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant Darcie Bahr
Projection Jill Doggett

Sound

Church Secretary Angie Robinson
Church Board President Jana Vieck
Pastoral Search Chair Sheri Stodghill



"Thank you to our volunteers from St. John's UCC who will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Wed., Dec. 13. Why not head to Save a Lot that day between 10:00 - 2:00 or 4:00 - 6:00 and drop a donation into the red kettle to help those in need from our community?"



**Attention! Missing! If you have the** black cart that has wheels on it please return to the kitchen by January 1, 2024. It is needed for several events.

**Any items** left out in kitchen after January 1, 2024 will be disposed of. Please help us to keep our facility clean and uncluttered.

### 

Greeters: Two people, one for the ramp entrance and the other from the bell tower entrance, to warmly greet everybody that enters our doors.

- \*Build positive relationships with those that come more frequently or are members.
- \* Take time with individuals that are relatively <u>new guests to our church</u>, letting them know that you are there to be of assistance (finding restrooms, signing red books, access blankets, hearing devices, back rests, wheelchairs etc. Making them aware of our nursery room and staff, if needed, and giving out first time a visitor's bag. If you are interested din serving as a greeter on a Sunday or two. Please sign up on hallway bulletin board or contacting church office at <a href="stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com">stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com</a>.



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, myucc.org Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



# THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's

SUNDAY, December 10

Sunday School 9:15 am Worship w/ Pastor Debbie 10:30 Children's Church

### **MONDAY, December 11**

Babe Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15 pm Outreach & Missions 6:30pm Preschool Christmas Program 7pm

### WEDNESDAY, December 13

Dinner & Conversation Kelso's 5pm Salvation Army Bell Ring Day (Sav-A –Lot)

### LOOKING AHEAD

### SUNDAY, December 17

Sunday School 9:15 am Fellowship 10:00 am Children's Church

### **MONDAY, December 18**

Babe Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15 pm Worship Comm. 6pm Church Board 7pm

### WEDNESDAY, December 20

Dinner & Conversation American Table 5pm Choir 7pm

### FRIDAY, December 22

Newsletter Deadline