



Celebrating 175 years



Our First Church Building 1862

January 2024 Newsletter



Pastors' Ponderings

Once again there is that sense of wow where did the time go? Another year has passed. We are beginning a new year and 2024 promises to be a year to remember. St. John's marks a new era of ministry with the arrival of Pastor Debbie Jo. It is the year of the 175th Anniversary and within that year there will be a total eclipse. How exciting is that.

May the coming year be filled with happiness and joy. May the presence of God grant you strength of faith through the times of grief and loss. May St. John's become a beacon on hill along the banks of the Wabash. Heed the calling of Jesus to love God and love your neighbor.

Blessings,

Pastor Dennis and Pastor Linda

Saying Good-bye to Pastors Linda and Dennis Frische-Mouri

We have been guided for over 3 years by our interim pastors. As Pastors Linda and Dennis arrived, we worked through the pandemic and moved our worship to Facebook Live as we met 'virtually' for a number of weeks. They helped the Search Committee begin our process, working with them to start discussions on how to move forward with the search. They have kept our church moving forward and helped us review some of our processes and provided guidance in how things can be improved. They have led worship and worked with committees to support St. John's during the interim period. January 28 will be the last Sunday for Pastor Linda and Dennis. We will all have an opportunity to say thank you and wish them well at our Farewell Luncheon on January 28, immediately following worship. We hope you will plan to be there!



Join us Sunday, February 11th for Pastor Debbie's first Sunday as our new minister. We will be having a Welcome Fellowship Time prior to the service from 9:45 to 10:20 am with 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.



Church Board Highlights December 18, 2023

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

Joys and Concerns: The following joys and concerns were shared: the Advent Festival and the Sunday School Christmas Program were both great! It was good to see the children involved and participating. Thank you to all who were involved in making this happen. Great to have Pastor Debbie coming to St. John's! Elaine Workman did a great job serving as Liturgist and introducing Pastor Debbie. Prayers are needed for Cheryl Meyer's aunt and uncle who are in Florida waiting for a liver transplant for Cheryl's aunt. Continued prayers for Brenda Roark and family and for Jill Lopez's niece.

Committee Report Highlights

Pastor Search Committee. Pastor Debbie Jo Atkins has accepted the call to serve as the new Pastor of St. John's UCC! Plans are being made for the transition.

Music & Worship. Regular Sunday morning service on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 p.m. We will have communion at both services on December 24th. We will be taking down Christmas decorations on January 7th and invite and encourage all to help.

Christian Education. Thank you to all that helped with the Advent Festival and the Sunday School Christmas program. It takes a lot of help to make these events happen.

Outreach and Benevolence. Church Board approved the following benevolent recommendations from the Outreach Committee:

OCWM	\$1,000
LAM	500
LAM Banquet	600
Salvation Army	1,000
Phoebe's	500 (Transfer)
Sandy's	500 (transfer)
Total	\$4,100

Membership and Evangelism. Working on a process of securing greeters for Sunday mornings. Need someone to be charge of securing greeters.

Church Facilities/Improvements. Thanks to Bill Lathrop and Marvin Covey for installing new lights in the hallway.

The annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 21, 2024.

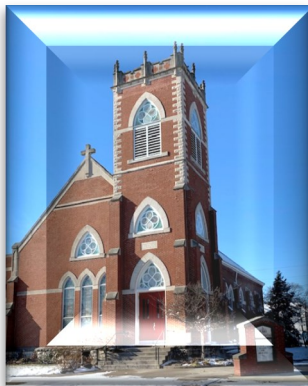
The next Church Board meeting will be held Monday, January 22, 2024. This is a week later than usual to allow for the Congregational meeting to be held prior to the Church Board meeting.

The installation of new and continuing Church Board members will be Sunday January 28th.

A “thank you” dinner will be held for Pastor Dennis and Pastor Linda on January 28th which will be their last Sunday with us. Pastor Debbie will be in the Office beginning February 5th with her first sermon being on February 11th.

A complete copy of the Church Board minutes and Treasurer’s report are available after approval at the next month’s Board meeting.

Betsy Marchino, Church Board Secretary





The Evangelism and Membership Committee is Looking for:

1. A person to join our team and help organize and recruit people to be Greeters on Sunday mornings. The person will serve on the Evangelism and Membership committee, but will not necessarily attend monthly meetings.
 2. Individuals who are interested in how the church can spread God's word and build positive relationship in our church and in the community by engaging on the Evangelism and Membership committee by attending either meetings/by phone/email/text/virtually.
 3. 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 new guests to our church, 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 the aware of our nursery room and staff, if needed, and giving out first time a visitor's bag. If you are interested in serving as a greeter on a Sunday or two. Please sign up on hallway bulletin board or contacting church office at stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com.



Our Preschool classroom looks so festive during the holiday season. Our Christmas tree was covered in cute reindeer snowmen, and Santa ornaments that the kids made. Stockings are hung by the mantel, each one decorated by each child.

Pete the preschool Elf came to visit and watch the preschoolers. Pete likes to make a mess and hear the kids laugh.

Our Butterflies gave an awesome performance at our annual Christmas program! The sanctuary was full of families and Santa, came for a visit! We are so thankful for the families and friends during the holidays. Hope everyone had a very merry Christmas and ready for the new year.

SANDY'S PANTRY

Sandy's Pantry is still recovering from the COVID shutdown. Last school year we served an average of over 20 students a month. This year we are serving over 35 students a month who can choose 25 healthy food items and eight personal hygiene items.

Each month it is rewarding to hear heartfelt thanks from the students. The following excerpt from an August 9th Sun-Commercial article shows how important VU views Sandy's Pantry

The release states. "VU also held a successful food drive at the opening meeting. The donations will help restock the shelves at Sandy's Pantry, which supports VU students experiencing food insecurity. VU faculty and staff gave \$531 in monetary donations, which was matched by the VU Foundation, bringing the total to \$1,031. There were nearly 970 non-perishable food items and hygiene products also donated. Sandy's Pantry is a partnership between VU and St. John's United Church of Christ. Students with a valid VU identification card can access the pantry and receive free non-perishable food and hygiene items in a judgment-free setting. Sandy's Pantry is located at St. John's United Church of Christ, 606 N. Fifth St. in Vincennes."

Together, we at St. John's are helping to make a difference in the lives of VU students.

-Brian & Brenda Fillingim for Sandy's Pantry

HELPFUL FOLKS! Salvation Army Bell Ringers

The spirit of Christmas was evident on Thursday, December 13, 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.

Many thanks to our volunteers: .

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

Brenda Roark

January Birthdays

Cheryl Meyer

Susie Milligan

Tony Riley

Zack Gilmore

Kelly Alexander

Brenda Cummings

Jeff Newell

David Grube

Ryan Vieke

Keaton Summers

Don Hoffhaus

Carmen Horton

Daxton Lawrence

Will Vieke

Rodger Hobson

Ryan Watts

Conway Wilson



On January 14, from 5-7:30pm the Children and Family Ministry will enjoy a night with their church family. Some activities will be playing pool, foosball, giant board games and watching a movie. The families can also bring games from

home to share! 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! Come and go to fit your schedule or stay the whole time.



Children aged 3-12 are invited 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 Children's Church are always welcomed and needed! If there are any questions, please let Will Meyer know!



The Children and Family Ministry families are asked to help prep for the CFM Soup Fundraiser on Saturday, January 20, at 10am in the kitchen and will be done by noon. The families are also asked to help on Sunday, January 21 with preparing the orders. Please be looking for announcements in the bulletin and on Facebook group for future information. If there are any questions, please let Will know!



St. John's UCC Children and Family Ministry Soup Sale Order Form

Needing an easy lunch or dinner? The Children and Family Ministry Group has a solution for that! We are selling soup for you to reheat & eat at home. Please order for presales by Friday, January 19 for pickup starting Sunday, January 21. Order forms can be turned in to the church office or by emailing Will Meyer at stjuccfamilyministry@yahoo.com. Payment is due with pickup. Checks can be made out to Children and Family Ministry. Free-donations will also be accepted. Proceeds will go towards the 2024 In-town Mission Week and future activities.

12oz Soup Cup (Great for lunch or small meal)-\$3.00

16oz Soup Cup (Great for a dinner serving)-\$4.00

Name _____

_____ 12oz Potato Soup

_____ 16oz Potato Soup

_____ 12oz Chili

_____ 16oz Chili

_____ 12oz Chicken Noodle

_____ 16oz Chicken Noodle

_____ Total 12oz soup cups at \$3.00 per container = \$ _____

_____ Total 16oz soup cups at \$4.00 per container = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____ balance due at pickup

Pickup Times of Preorders

Sunday, January 21-9:30am-10:30am/ 11:30am-12:30pm

Monday, January 22 and Tuesday, January 23- 10am-12pm

***Extra soup cups will also be sold on January 21 ***

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year! <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3 Dinner at 5pm McAlister's Choir 7pm	4 Girl Scouts 4:30pm Preschool Resumes	5 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	6
7 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10am Worship 10:30 Children's Church	8 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm	9	10 Christian Ed 6pm Choir 7pm Dinner at 5pm Pub n Grub	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	15 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Worship 6pm Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <i>Office Closed</i>	16	17 Dinner at 5pm Procopio's Choir 7pm	18 Girl Scouts 4:30pm	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Annual Congregational Meeting Following service CFM Soup Pick up	22 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Church Board 7pm	23	24 Dinner at 5pm CoCo's (Lawrenceville) Choir 7pm	25 Technology 1pm	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Farewell Luncheon Dinner Pastor Linda & Pastor Dennis	29 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm	30 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	31 Dinner at 5pm TBD Laundry Love 6-8pm Choir 7pm			



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Continuing Prayer Requests Bruce Deckard, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, Dan Roark & Family, for Gary Myer and family. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying let's include all in our prayers.



Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Norma Meyer, Colonial Assisted Living, Rm 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, -3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Marge Beamon, - Remains in rehab. Please send cards and notes to her home address, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

Franklyn Schroeder, Oak Village Health Care Center – 200 4th Street, Oaktown, IN 47561

Home
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 .



Dannie Ray Roark
July 26, 1952~ December 11, 2023

Dannie married Brenda (Spanger) Roark on Dec. 7, 1974. They recently quietly celebrated their 49th anniversary, made even more special by the thoughtfulness of friends and family. Blessings acquired during those years, beyond the families from which they'd each originally come, included a daughter, Lori, and the family she and her husband, Chris, created. Dannie will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and "papaw." Hobbies included all things sports — whether participating, watching on TV or, most importantly, watching his grandsons participate. Baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball and golfing (where he proudly achieved a hole-in-one) were all sports he enjoyed playing over the years. He was also an avid IU fan, especially men's basketball, and had been a Bobby Knight fan. As a young child, Dannie became a Mickey Mantle fan and continued to root for the New York Yankees, despite their many detractors. It was very difficult for Dannie, after moving to Vincennes, to become a Lincoln Alices fan, having been a North Knox graduate. However, once Lori began playing volleyball and basketball, he was hooked! Then came the grandchildren and he became among their top fans (along with their teammates.) The granddaughter's dance lessons came late in the game for Dannie, but he would undoubtedly have supported her in that as well.

A Note From The Family

There are not enough words to express the way in which our heavy hearts were lightened by the many prayers, cards, calls or texts, visits, and other kindnesses offered by those in our church family once Dannie's health began to decline. We know he also felt the love throughout. With Dannie's passing on December 11th and the service on December 20th, additional words of gratitude must be offered.

Especially at such a busy time of the year, we were overwhelmed by the attendance and condolences shared - but in a positive way. As another family member said, the service gave Dannie "such a good send-off" for one we all loved so much. It was truly a blessing! We also heard a number of compliments on our beautiful church. The bountiful meal was delicious, including the variety of desserts provided by our church members. Not unnoticed were the gracious folks involved in organizing, setting up and cleaning up afterward.

Please know how very grateful we are for all you have been and all you have done for Dannie and for us! You have reflected Christ's love.

Brenda Roark and Lori, Chris, Joel, Carson, & Avery Sanders



St. John's Facebook Page

St. John's Facebook page is getting in on the 175th Anniversary in a big way! Starting January 8th, our Facebook page is getting a facelift. We are introducing many special features that will occur weekly or monthly during our celebration. Look for these wonderful ways to help strengthen your faith, add resources in your family life, and inspire you when you might need it. We will also have church events, history tidbits about St. John's, information about the United Church of Christ, and what we predict will trend big...Flashback Fridays with pictures of, you guessed it, many members and events from our church past. If you haven't seen us, please go on Facebook, type in "St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes" and hit the "follow" tab! You don't want to miss out on all the wonderful things going on in 2024.

If you don't know how to get on Facebook on your phone or computer, follow the instructions below.

1. Go to facebook.com and click **Create New Account**.
2. Enter your name, email or mobile phone number, make up a password, date of birth and gender.
3. Click [Sign Up](#).

To finish creating your account, you need to [confirm your email or mobile phone number](#).

January, February, March

Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events

January

1/7 Fellowship Time today and Worship Service w/Communion.

Today starts our 175th Anniversary Celebrations. Stop by our special display table to see lots of church history, pictures and memorabilia about St. John's and it's members through the years. The display will be changed periodically.

Don't forget to order your St. John's logo clothing to help celebrate our anniversary all year long. Orders will be taken on January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, February 4th and 11th. Payment is due when ordering.

1/21 Congregational Meeting after Worship Service today.

1/28 Farewell Luncheon for our Interim Ministers, Pastor Dennis Frische-Mouri & Pastor Linda Frische-Mouri.

February

2/4 Special Guest Minister today.

2/11 Welcome our New Minister, Pastor Debbie Jo Atkins' at her first Worship Service at St. John's.

Fellowship Time today.

2/14 Ash Wednesday Service with Communion @ 7 pm.

2/18 Worship Service with Communion.

2/25 Celebrate St. John's Pre-School with a Special Presentation from the Children during our Worship Service. Afterwards join us for a Free Luncheon.

March

3/10 Fellowship Time today.

3/24 Palm Sunday Worship.

3/28 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion @ 7 pm.

3/31 Easter Worship with Communion.



Celebrating 175 years

Remember, Renew, Rejoice

Hello Indiana Kids Hope USA Churches!

Because of your dedication to serving the kids in your community, Kids Hope USA has seen tremendous growth in the state of Indiana. What started with a single church-school partnership has now grown to 76 programs in 37 different school districts across the state—with nearly 700 students now experiencing the joy of meeting weekly with a loving and caring adult mentor.

However, even with God's rich blessing on this ministry throughout the state, the need for mentors is still great. That is why we are thrilled to announce that **Kids Hope USA has been awarded a \$425,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support the growth of KHUSA mentoring programs in Indiana!**

This award will catapult the work of Kids Hope USA in Indiana forward, strengthening existing programs in the state and forming new partnerships to reach more students through one-on-one mentoring relationships.

With these additional resources, Kids Hope USA aims to more than double the number of students reached in Indiana by 2026, mobilizing 1,500 mentors to serve and support 1,500 students each week through a faithful, consistent, one-on-one mentoring relationship.

As a result, our team will spend extra time and energy helping your program **grow, deepen, and multiply** in the coming year. We'll use your responses to the recently completed Director Survey and Annual Renewal to reach out about opportunities to support these three outcomes, in addition to our usual ongoing support for your program. Expect to hear from us!

Thank you for continuing to serve kids in your community in Jesus' name. We're excited to see what God does in Indiana in the year ahead!



St. John's Kids Hope Program is mentoring five children at Riley School. During the Christmas season, 12 gift bags were delivered to the teachers with classroom supplies to use in their classrooms. In addition, a fanciful plate of treats accompanied them for the staff and school helpers. The mentors were given \$30.00 to purchase Christmas gifts for their child. Finally, the KHUSA students and their families were invited to our Dec 3. Advent Festival as well.

Currently, we are in need of additional mentors for our Riley school students. Students ask **frequently**, how do I get a mentor? This question is both a great thing for our existing program, but difficult in seeking mentors to fulfill the great need.

We need your LOVE, CARE AND TIME. It is a once a week time commitment of 30 minutes within the hour of 11am-12 p.m. Show-up, care, encourage and love their being and growth That's all!! It will be returned to you ten-fold plus. Please prayerfully consider becoming a mentor. Training is available. You may begin the second semester 2024 and our program will continue its long life integrity. Call the Church office or contact Jerri Johanningsmeier for more information.

St. John's History Tidbit...

175 Years, The Beginning

Our story begins in August 1849 when some German Protestant residents in the community learned that the Rev. C. Tomson, a German theologian, was in town. They prevailed upon him to conduct the first worship service in Vincennes in their native tongue.

Reverend Tomson, signifying his willingness to locate in Vincennes, a second service was arranged in September. At this service, final arrangements were made and the German Evangelical Protestant Church of Vincennes was organized and an invitation extended all German Protestants to become members.

The salary was the most serious consideration, as the members consisted of a few laboring men who were receiving only 35 or 40 cents a day. Nothing daunted, they circulated a subscription list and succeeded in securing \$150 for the pastor for one year.

In 1853, the congregation adopted the first constitution and assumed the name of German Evangelical St. John's Church.

In 1854, the building of a house of worship began when the congregation received a gift of two lots in Cochran Addition at Eighth and Scott Streets. Unfortunately, funds ran short and the new building was unfinished.

However, the English churches in the community came to the rescue: a fund-raising supper was held which collected \$450. That sum was sufficient to complete the work, and the church was dedicated by Rev. Cornbaum in May 1856, according to the Lutheran Ritual. This started a period of strife which went unresolved for many years until the Lutherans bought the Evangelicals' share for \$750. The Evangelicals then bought property on Fifth Street between Hart and Shelby Streets. A little frame church was built at the corner of Fifth and Hart and dedicated on the second Sunday of Advent, 1862.

St. John's UCC Shirt Order

Celebrating 175 years



DESIGN #1



DESIGN #2

GREY SHIRTS NAVY PRINT
NAVY SHIRTS GREY PRINT

GREY SHIRTS RED AND NAVY PRINT
NAVY SHIRTS RED AND WHITE PRINT

DESIGN #1 CHURCH PICTURE	M 10-12	L 14-16	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	COST	TOTAL
TEE SHIRT GREY									\$10.00	
TEE SHIRT NAVY									\$10.00	
LONG SLEEVE TEE GREY									\$15.00	
LONG SLEEVE NAVY									\$15.00	
CREW NECK GREY									\$20.00	
CREW NECK NAVY									\$20.00	
HOODED SWEATSHIRT GREY									\$25.00	
HOODED SWEATSHIRT NAVY									\$25.00	

DESIGN #2 1849	M 10-12	L 14-16	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X		TOTAL
TEE SHIRT GREY									\$10.00	
TEE SHIRT NAVY									\$10.00	
LONG SLEEVE TEE GREY									\$15.00	
LONG SLEEVE NAVY									\$15.00	
CREW NECK GREY									\$20.00	
CREW NECK NAVY									\$20.00	
HOODED SWEATSHIRT GREY									\$25.00	
HOODED SWEATSHIRT NAVY									\$25.00	

TOTAL\$

NAME _____ **PHONE#** _____

175 Anniversary Logo Clothing is available for order from January 7 thru February 4, 2024. You may fill out this order form and return it to the church office or sample shirts are available to try on prior to ordering, each Sunday thru Feb. 4. Payment is required when ordering.

**St. John's United Church of Christ
606 North Fifth Street
Vincennes, IN 47591**

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VINCENNES, IN**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED