



**St. John's**  
United Church of Christ

**Celebrating 175 years**



*Our First Parsonage 1864*



*Our Second Parsonage 1884*

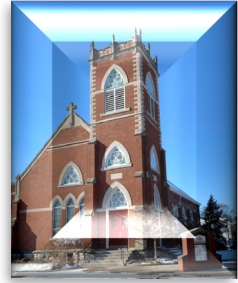


*Our Third Parsonage 1959*



*Our Current Parsonage 1998*

**February 2024 Newsletter**



Dear Friends:

How wonderful it is to be back home again in Indiana. As I write, Scarlett and I are in the midst of the move and hope to soon have a schedule established for some meet and greet times where we can get to know one another better. I am so excited to begin our ministry together as we jump into the season of Lent.

Often, Lent is seen as a gloomy period and while it isn't as joyful as Advent/Christmas and the music is a bit more somber, it is still an exciting time in the church year. Lent is the six weeks prior to Easter. Like Advent, it is a time of preparation although the focus is more on spiritual matters. It begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for 40 days representing the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the evil one before beginning his earthly ministry. It is a time of inward examination, study and spiritual discipline and you'll hear more about that in worship.

I encourage you to join us each week for worship as we explore this theme, and I am especially excited for our traditional Tenebrae Service of Darkness and Shadows on Good Friday.

As we begin our new relationship I would ask for your prayers, your patience and for you to wear your name tags. It will take me a long time to learn everyone's name and how you are connected so please be tolerant.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie (Jo)

# Church Board Highlights

## January 22, 2024

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

**Joys and Concerns:** The following joys and concerns were shared: Mitch Cooper and his wife are expecting a baby! Wonderful news but concerns because Mitch is scheduled to be deployed for 8 months. The surgery went well for Cheryl Meyer's aunt that had a lung transplant and she is recovering well.

### Committee Report Highlights

**Music & Worship.** The Pre-School children will be singing on February 25<sup>th</sup> so the Adult Choir will have that Sunday off. Who will be responsible for securing Liturgists for Sunday mornings? Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Christian Education.** Easter Event will be March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Church Facilities/Improvements.** Three trees have been planted on the Shelby Street side of the church. The stain glass window above the altar in the sanctuary is still being looked at. Some of the calking has come loose and not sure but it may all need to be re-calked. Still working on the leaks in the kitchen area and pastor's office area

**Wilhelm Parsonage.** A BIG THANK YOU to Marvin and Sandy Covey for all the work they have done in a very short period of time for getting the parsonage ready for Pastor Debbie. They have been super busy making appointments, meeting repair people and working in the parsonage. Thank you!

On January 28 we will install Church Board members including the newly elected Church Board members who are Jill Doggett, Saundra Lange, Krisi Mattingly, and Wren Simmons. We will also have a thank-you dinner immediately following church for Pastors Dennis and Linda.

Hope Clausman has agreed to be the contact person for securing Liturgists for Sunday morning. She welcomes volunteers!

Pastor Debbie’s first Sunday is February 11<sup>th</sup> and there will be a special welcome for her during fellowship time.

The following will serve as Church Board Officers for the 2024 year:

- President: Jana Vieck
- Vice President: Jake Alexander
- Treasurer: Ed Cummings
- Asst. Treasurer: Wren Simmons
- Secretary: Betsy Marchino

- Committee Board Liaisons are:
- Worship: Krisi Mattingly
  - Christian Education: Betsy Marchino

| <b><u>St. John’s Attendance</u></b> |                | <b><u>Finances</u></b>                               |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Date</u>                         | <u>Worship</u> | December Contributions<br>\$168,459                  |
| 1/7                                 | 55             | December Expenses<br>\$27,403                        |
| 1/14                                | 54             |                                                      |
| 1/21                                | 70             | December Outreach & Missions<br>Contributions \$1726 |
| 1/28                                | 70             |                                                      |

# St. John's History Tidbit...

## 1880 - 1903 Expansion

The first parsonage was build on the Fifth Street property. During this same time, the church operated a parochial school. At first the school met in the rooms at the rear of the church building.

The church now owned all of the frontage in the block between Hart and Shelby Streets on North Fifth Street. Discussion began on the topic of expanding the present church building or erecting a new building. In June, 1886, the cornerstone of the new brick church was laid. A special train of six cars loaded with people, came in from Evansville, Haubstadt and Princeton to cheer the building of the new brick church which cost around \$12,000 when completed. This is the same church we are using still today. A new pipe organ was also installed at a cost of \$2,000 and a new parsonage was constructed at the corner of Fifth and Hart a few years later in 1898.

The leaders of the church decided they needed more members. Only men were members of the congregation until 1899, then "unattached" women were allowed membership upon payment of \$1.

In 1903, M/M L.A. Meyer and M/M William H. Vollmer announced their gift of \$6,000 for an educational building as a memorial to their sons. Memorial Hall was dedicated in memory of Carl Meyer and Oscar Vollmer. In 1922, seeing the need for enlarging and modernizing the building, the two families made another generous gift and the building was enlarged to include an auditorium and stage.

# Celebrating St. John's Pre-School

Part of our anniversary celebration is recognizing St. John's Preschool.

For 24 years, our pre-school has been an integral way for hundreds of families giving their children a wonderful experience, helping them start their schooling with the best education they can receive.

St. John's Pre-School has had a waiting list almost every year since it opened back in 2000, when it began with a few children and only one class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Flash forward to 2024, where we now have two half day morning classes for the Caterpillars (3 year olds), and three all day classes for the Butterflies (4 year olds). Because of the increase in number of children, they have had to add more staff.

Our current teacher, April Brown has been a with the pre-school for 17 years. Teaching assistant Lori Petty and part time aide, Darcie Bahr round out the staff and help make sure our preschoolers will continued to thrive once they head to Kindergarten.

On Sunday, February 25, our current pre-school classes will sing songs during our 10:30 am worship service. We will not only welcome them, but their parents and families as well.

After the morning worship, we will continue to celebrate the preschool at our first anniversary luncheon where the children and their families will be invited to eat with us.

Don't forget to join us that special Sunday to enjoy the children's presentation and have a free lunch afterwards.

***St. John's UCC...Remember, Renew, Rejoice.***



## ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF

# Preschool News

We rang in the new year by making fun noise makers and learning how to write 2024. The Butterflies made the New Year resolutions, some good ones were, making my bed, sharing with friends, and helping my mom and Dad. The Caterpillars are starting to write their names on their papers!

Enrollment for August 2024 has begun! We have a very large waiting list and are excited about everyone's interest in our preschool!

If you are looking for preschool, please fill out a waiting list form to get your child on the list! You can come by the office and pick up the forms or you can find copies of this and other helpful documents at <https://myucc.org>. Under ministries select Preschool. On that page you will find three options to click on; Waiting List, Enrollment, Description. You can email the waiting list form to [stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com) or mail it to ST. John's UCC, 606 N 5<sup>th</sup> St. Vincennes IN 47591. It's never too early to get that in!



## February Birthdays

Daniel Goodman  
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







## SANDY'S PANTRY

After the break for the Holidays, VU students have returned for the Spring Semester 2024. Along with that timing VU has conducted a FOOD and HYGIENE Drive for Sandy's Pantry. A generous amount of items have been picked up and stocked, along with a cash donation. We are very grateful for VU's support, and YOUR support through the Benevolence Fund and our Church in being able to provide these items for our VU students. For some students it makes the difference of their being able to stay in school and continues their education or drop out. We are blessed to serve in this investment in their future .  
THANK YOU for your continued support to this vital Mission.

Brenda & Brian Fillingim



Thank you for all the gifts and thank you cards that we received on our last Sunday. The hugs, handshakes and expressions of thanks were also most appreciated.

# February

# 2024

| Sunday                                                                                                     | Monday                                                                                                                    | Tuesday                                | Wednesday                                                                     | Thursday                                                 | Friday                                         | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------|
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                           |                                        |                                                                               | 1<br>Girl Scouts 4:30pm<br>Sandy's Pantry<br>11-12:30pm  | 2<br>Phoebe's Mission<br>4:30-6pm              | 3        |
| 4<br>Sunday School 9:15<br><br>Worship 10:30<br>Children's Church                                          | 5<br>BABE Store 12-5:30pm<br><br>Evangelism<br>&Membership 6:30pm                                                         | 6                                      | 7<br><br>Choir 7pm<br><br>Dinner at 5pm<br>Seno Tequila                       | 8                                                        | 9                                              | 10       |
| 11<br>Sunday School 9:15<br>Fellowship 10am<br>Welcome Pastor Debbie<br>Worship 10:30<br>Children's Church | 12<br>BABE Store 12-5:30pm<br>Friends 5-6:15pm VU<br>Dance<br><br>Outreach & Missions<br>6:30pm                           | 13                                     | 14<br>Ash Wednesday Ser-<br>vice 6pm<br><br>Christian Ed 6pm<br><br>Choir 7pm | 15<br>Girl Scouts 4:30pm                                 | 16                                             | 17       |
| 18<br>Sunday School 9:15<br>Worship 10:30<br>Children's Church<br>M&M Valentines Activity<br>5-6:30pm      | 19<br>BABE Store 12-5:30pm<br>Presidents Day—Office<br>Closed<br>Friends 5-6:15pm<br>Worship Comm 6pm<br>Church Board 7pm | 20<br>No Preschool                     | 21<br>Dinner at 5pm<br>TBA<br><br>Choir 7pm                                   | 22<br>Technology 11am                                    | 23<br>Grandparents Day<br>Preschool<br>11-12pm | 24       |
| 25<br><br>Sunday School 9:15<br>Worship 10:30<br>Children's Church<br>Preschool Presentation<br>Luncheon   | 26<br>BABE Store 12-5:30pm<br><br>Friends 5-6:15pm                                                                        | 27<br><br>Sandy's Pantry<br>11-12:30pm | 28<br>Dinner at 5pm<br>TBA<br><br>Laundry Love 6-8pm<br><br>Choir 7pm         | 29<br>Sandy's Pantry<br>11-12:30pm<br>Girl Scouts 4:30pm |                                                |          |



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **Continuing Prayer Requests** Bruce Deckard, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, For the family of Dannie 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**, - Room 142, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Susie Milligan, Colonial Assisted Living**, - 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Leona Conway, Willow Manor**, -request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Oaktown, IN 47561

### 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! **St. John's UCC Caregivers**- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard, Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.

# 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

| <b>DESIGN #1</b><br><b>CHURCH PICTURE</b> | M<br>10-12 | L<br>14-16 | S | M | L | XL | 2X | 3X | <b>COST</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------------|--------------|
| 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     |              |

| <b>DESIGN #2</b><br><b>1849</b> | M<br>10-12 | L<br>14-16 | S | M | L | XL | 2X | 3X |         | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---------|--------------|
| 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 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](https://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*



Thank you for all the help and buying soup at the CFM fundraiser. The fundraiser was great success and proceeds will go towards the 2024 Children and Family In-town Mission Week in July and future activities.



The M&M group will have a Valentine activity on February 11, from 5-6:30pm at church. There will be crafts and games at the activity. Also, there will be light snacks to enjoy too! This will be a great activity to invite friends, grandparents and other family members to come to the fun activity too! Come check out the fun!



The youth (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) will have a lock-in at church starting at 7pm on March 2, until 8:30am the next morning. The KFC (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) will also have a lock-in at church starting at 7pm on March 9, until 8:30am the next morning, March 10.

For the lock-in the children can be dropped off any time during the night after coming from other activities. If they are being dropped off/picked up after 7pm please text (812-887-5303) Will to make arrangements. The evening will start off with the groups making their own small pizzas. Some of the activities during the night will be a movie, laser tag and group games

**\*\*\*For both lock-ins a 23-24 medical information form will need to be on file for the St. John's children and their friends. The medical forms are located on the bulletin board by the nursery and on the Facebook group in the file tab.**

*\*\*\*In the winter months check out the St. John's Children and Family Facebook group for weather related changes. Final planning for more activities is being finished up and will be announced in the coming weeks. Please be looking for announcements in the bulletin, Facebook and Children and Family Ministry mail boxes for future information.*

### **Children and Family Ministry Age Groups**

**M&M** (Mini-Marvels)-Age 4-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**KFC** (Kids for Christ)-3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Youth**-7<sup>th</sup> - High School



The Children and Family Ministry will have an in-town mission week from July 8-12. 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



# Laundry Love



## What Is Laundry Love Mission?

Laundry Love takes place at the Vincennes Laundromat, (1815 North 6th street). On the last Wednesday of each month from 6-8 pm, volunteers from St. John's pay for up to 5 loads of laundry for any family that evening and 3 loads of laundry for those who are single.



## How Can I Help?

**Laundry Love relies on the support of individuals from St. John's UCC.**

- An Extra Donation In Your Pledge Envelope Marked "Laundry Love"
- Cash Donation Placed In The Laundry Love Containers Located In The Back Of The Church
- Volunteer At The Laundromat

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

**Last Wednesday  
Of Each Month**

**Contact  
Jana Vieck  
812-882-2720**

**St. John's United Church of Christ  
812-882-2720    [www.myucc.org](http://www.myucc.org)**



## Valentine Word Scramble

The following mixed-up words have something to do with Valentine's Day. Unscramble the letters to identify them all.

1. Evlo \_\_\_\_\_
2. Scelocatho \_\_\_\_\_
3. Swelfor \_\_\_\_\_
4. Essor \_\_\_\_\_
5. Eatd Thing \_\_\_\_\_
6. Theastrewe \_\_\_\_\_
7. Dynac \_\_\_\_\_
8. Reggiten Dracs \_\_\_\_\_
9. Figt \_\_\_\_\_
10. Meancro \_\_\_\_\_
11. Tinas Linnevate \_\_\_\_\_
12. Scarvenitoon \_\_\_\_\_
13. Nightcalled \_\_\_\_\_
14. Skiess \_\_\_\_\_
15. Ninred Tou \_\_\_\_\_
16. Stinteem \_\_\_\_\_
17. Sugh \_\_\_\_\_
18. Tonicaffe \_\_\_\_\_
19. Ducip \_\_\_\_\_
20. Shippanes \_\_\_\_\_

**St. John's United Church of Christ  
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Vincennes, IN 47591**

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