



Celebrating 175 years



Memorial Hall Built in 1904

April 2024 Newsletter



A Note From Of Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

As I write this, our Lenten Road is leading us to the end of the journey as we approach Holy Week. By the time you read this, we will have experienced the joy of the resurrection. We are now in the season of Eastertide. Easter is not only one day; it continues for fifty days, ending with Pentecost. So, feel free to leave up those Easter decorations until then. Because of the move, my decorations are somewhere in bins in the basement so the house is looking rather bare. I hope to have all the basement bins organized by October so I can fully decorate, and I'm planning an Open House in December so everyone can visit the parsonage. Over this past weekend, my youngest daughter visited and immediately found the elusive flatware I've been searching for. Yay! Still haven't found the legs to my couch.

I am slowly getting to know the inner workings of the congregation and continue to struggle with names so PLEASE wear your nametags. I am so proud of everything this church does for the community. You are definitely a congregation with a servant's heart.

On April 7th we will celebrate Holy Humor Sunday. This has been a tradition in many churches for several decades and takes place the Sunday after Easter. The premise is that on Easter, God played the biggest joke ever on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. Death could not contain him and Satan lost. This Sunday we will focus on God's sense of humor and the joyfulness of the season.

On April 14th we will host a meeting of the Wabash Valley Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference at 3:00 p.m. I hope many of you will be involved with this opportunity to host our sister churches or attend the meeting.

My Installation is tentatively scheduled for May 5th at 3:00 p.m., so please put it on your calendar and plan to attend. You have all been so welcoming to me, and I would love to be surrounded by all of you at my Installation as your Pastor.

Scarlett is now "officially" a trained service dog, and she has visited with our preschool's Butterfly class and the morning Caterpillar

Class. I read a story to each class and plan to do this on a monthly basis. She will soon begin accompanying me on my monthly visits to the nursing homes, and we are checking into visiting the students at PACE across the street.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will now be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month as well as several special services throughout the year. Join us as we gather about the Lord's table.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie Jo

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

To celebrate the upcoming eclipse, we will gather in Memorial Hall for a movie night and pizza on Friday, April 5th to watch *Little Shop of Horrors*. Why this movie? Because the mysterious plant appears during a total eclipse of the sun. This upbeat musical comedy stars Rick Moranis, Steve Martin and a guest appearance by Bill Murray. The man-eating plant is voiced by the magnificent *Levi Stubbs* of the Four Tops. Plan now to join us!

DINNER & CONVERSATION

Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:00 for *Dinner & Conversation*. Each week we visit a different restaurant and enjoy an evening of food and conversation. It's a great way to get to know our fellow church members better. A reservation sheet is in the back of the sanctuary each week or you can call the church office. We'd love to see you there. Our schedule is as follows:

April 4 th	Café Moonlight
April 11 th	Bobé's-Washington
April 18 th	Dogwood
April 25 th	Kelso's

Church Board Highlights

March 18, 2024

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

Joys and Concerns: Continued prayers for Gary Meyer and Bruce Deckard; condolences and prayers for the family of Carole Klein and Don Hoffhaus, and good news, Pastor Debbie found her flatware, now if she could only find the legs to her couch!

Pastor's Report. Pastor Debbie Jo has been busy visiting with shut-ins, visiting Willow Manor and Colonial Assisted Living, and attending committee meetings. We will have an adult baptism on Palm Sunday, and she is sending letters to potential members about joining the church on April 7th. Pastor Debbie's letter of transfer has been received. Scarlett is now fully certified as a therapy dog, and they visited with the Preschool 4 year old class and the morning 3 year old class where Pastor Debbie Jo read a story. Her goal is to do this on a monthly basis and reaching out to PACE across the street to see if they would also like a visit. On April 5th we are having a family movie night at 6:30 in Memorial Hall to enjoy pizza and watch *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Committee Report Highlights

Music & Worship. Maundy Thursday service with communion will be March 28th at noon in the chapel, and Good Friday Tenebrae service will be at 7:00 p.m.

Christian Education. The children will participate in the Palm Sunday Service. They will come down the center aisle waiving palm branches during the opening hymn. The Easter Egg hunt will be Saturday, March 30th from 4:00-6:00 with an egg hunt, light meal, and games and crafts for all!

Membership & Evangelism. The Committee discussed sending Christmas activity mailings and brainstormed groups to

provide the mailings to, such as the neighborhood, preschool, Kids Hope families, Babe Store participants, and Sandy's and Phoebe's participants. Pastor Debbie Jo is meeting with the preschool directors and will ask if the families already receive newsletters/other mailings from the Church.

Plans are being made to send care packages to college students. The Committee discussed adding Service Members and those in care facilities to the care package list as well.

Pastor Debbie Jo has started tentative plans for confirmation; it is anticipated to start in Fall 2024 with confirmation to occur in May 2025.

Pastor Debbie Jo brought up the idea of a Free Little Library. She has a shelving unit for the books. The Committee discussed using books from the old St. John's library.

We have some Bibles placed out for people to take if needed; several have been taken.

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

St. John's Attendance
For February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
3/3	69
3/10	70
3/17	73
3/24	70

Finances

February Contributions
\$11,487

February Expenses
\$24,470

February Outreach & Missions
Contributions \$8,470



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
Lynne Simmons

April Anniversaries

Bruce & Cindy Deckard
Conway & Alrene Wilson
Brad & Joanna Laughary

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, but should be, PLEASE CONTACT the church office! Thank you



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

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, - Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway, Willow Manor, - Room 73B sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

Marge Beamon, Oak Village Health Care Center— Room 333 bed 2 Please send cards and notes to, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

Franklyn Schroeder, Oak Village Health Care Center—Room 120 200 4th 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.

Carole Klein
December 15, 1940 ~ March 3, 2024



Carole Ann (Hagemeier) Klein passed away peacefully on March 3, 2024, in For Pierce, Florida, at the age of 83, her husband, Charlie, and children were by her side.

She was a loving wife to Charlie for over 65 years and a devoted mother to Jana (Lonny) Vieck of Vincennes, Elizabeth (Betsy, Liz) Emmons of Vincennes, and Bob Klein (partner, Jennifer Foster) of Vincennes/Westport, Illinois. She also is survived by her grandchildren, Matthew (Alyssa) Vieck, Daniel Vieck, Ryan (Brooke) Klein, Bri Klein of Carmi, Illinois, Danny (Abbie) McCullough of Green River, Wyoming; and step-granddaughter, Natalie (Cody) Steffey of Robinson, Illinois. She is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Jack Gilley, Leo Vieck, Eloise Klein, and Juliette Klein. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her pride and joy.

Carole was a graduate of Lincoln High School in Vincennes. She worked alongside her husband, Charlie, in operating a farm and Black Jewell Popcorn business until her retirement. Carole was a dedicated member of St. John's UCC in Vincennes, and Emmanuel UCC in Sebring, Florida. A Visitation , funeral , and Dinner was held at St. John's UCC memorial Hal on March 22. <https://www.suncommercial.com/obituaries>

Words can't express how much we appreciate the many prayers, cards, kind words, offerings of help, food, wonderful funeral dinner, and the donations in Carole Klein's memory. Nothing can take away the hurt, but the love of our church is so comforting. Carole loved her St. John's family so much. She would be happy, but not surprised, to know how much everyone is supporting us now.

Charlie Klein & Family

Donald Hoffhaus

January 18, 1940 ~ March 9, 2024



Donald G. Hoffhaus, a devoted husband, son, and esteemed member of the community, passed away on March 9, 2024, in Vincennes, at the age of 84. Donald's dedication to his faith was evident in his active participation at St. John's United Church of Christ, where he found comfort and support in his spiritual community. His love for his family was unwavering, as well as his devotion to his beloved spouse, Marjorie Hoffhaus. Don is survived by his wife of 41 years, Marjorie (Lane) Hoffhaus of Vincennes; his children, Chris Hoffhaus of Princeton and Mindy Burnfin of Princeton; his grandchildren, Elizabeth Hoffhaus, Carbon Burnfin, and JaKaitlyn Kidd; and his brother, Roy Hoffhaus.

<https://www.suncommercial.com/obituaries>

APRIL

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm	2	3 Choir 7pm	4 Dinner at Café Moonlight 6pm	5 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	6
7 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10am Worship w/ communion 10:30 Children's Church Outreach & Missions	8 Solar Eclipse Day All Closed	9	10 Choir 7pm Christian Ed 6pm	11 Dinner at Bobe's Washington 6pm Girl Scouts 4:30pm	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	15 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Worship Comm 6pm Church Board 7pm	16	17 Choir 7pm	18 Technology 11am Dinner at Dogwood 6pm	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Spring Fling Fo	22 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm	23 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	24 Choir 7pm Laundry Love 6-8pm	25 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm Girl Scouts 4:30pm Dinner at Kelso's 6pm	26 Mom's Day Preschool	27
28 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	29 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm— VU Bowling Center 5-6:15pm	30				



JOIN US FOR A

SPRING FLING LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST

Join us for free lunch and
fellowship immediately
following Worship Service!



St. John's
United Church of Christ

Celebrating 175 years

Celebrate Christian Fellowship With Us

Tired of cooking or getting take-out after church again? Celebrate Christian Fellowship with us after the 10:30 am Worship Service and enjoy a free lunch in Memorial Hall. Menu includes BBQ, potato salad, broccoli/cauliflower salad, cinnamon apples and cheesecake.

Show Your Pride In St. John's!

Show your pride in St. John's and celebrate all year long. Pick up a special FREE anniversary lawn sign and place in your yard for everyone to see this summer!

Signs will be available every Sunday in April.

Welcome Alan Pancake on April 14

Special guest singer Alan Pancake shares his talent with us during the April 14th Worship Service. Make sure not to miss this Sunday!



MUSIC & WORSHIP

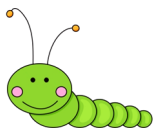
A special "thank you" to Donnie Black for decorating our sanctuary so beautifully in observance of Lent and Easter. We also enjoyed the spring flowers on Easter morning, given in honor and memory of those held close in our hearts.

Enjoy fellowship time on April 7th. We will also have communion during morning worship.

On April 14, we will enjoy musician Alan Pancake during worship. We look forward to the sharing of his talent with us. Come join us for his special musical presentation.

Also on April 14th, the Wabash Valley Association will meet here at St. John's at 3pm. A light meal will be served following worship and meeting. Please join in this fellowship with other churches in our area. Let's give them a warm welcome.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Preschool News

Our preschool friends are working on rhyming words, so we are learning nurse rhymes and finding the words that sound alike in them.

The butterflies had a full house when their grandparents came to preschool! They sang and danced on the stage, made water bottle bird feeders, and ate graham crackers with green icing.

We are working on getting ready for preschool round-up, and preK skills.

The preschool has many thanks to give out. Thank you to Brian Fillingim for hooking up our special day music in the sanctuary and a big thanks to Jordan for clipping the shrubs and trees on playground, so we don't poke our eyes out. Thank you to Bill Lathrop for putting the seesaw and digger for playground fun. Lastly, a thank you to the church members who put together preschool recognition day service on March 25. We sang and enjoyed lunch with members of the church.

Reminder:

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 or mail it to ST. John's UCC, 606 N 5th St. Vincennes IN 47591. It's never too early to get on the waiting list!

St. John's History Tidbit...

The Golden Years

We are now up to 1948 when the interior of the church was completely redecorated, the chancel changed to make the sanctuary an alter-centered church, new carpeting, wood paneling and other renovations. The centennial year was celebrated in 1949.

In 1957, a union was consummated between the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church and our present church took the name of St. John's United Church of Christ.

Also in 1957, another building project was undertaken with a new foyer and chapel connecting the Church with Memorial Hall. The chapel was named Ritterskamp Chapel.

In 1959, the third parsonage was built and housed many of our pastors and their families.

In 1963 and 1971, the houses behind the parsonage and the Church were purchased and razed. A parking lot was built on these lots the entire length between Hart and Shelby Streets.

In 1971, the Church's interior was redecorated and new carpeting was installed. In 1974, new pews were installed in the Church for our 125th Anniversary, and in 1977, the stained glass windows were covered with Tuflex to protect them from being vandalized. Ramps were installed, Sunday School rooms were redecorated, and hearing aid equipment was installed throughout the Church. By the end of 1979, St. John's was blessed with over 450 members.



Celebrating 175 years

April, May, June

Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events

April

- 4/7 Worship Service w/Communion.
Show your pride in St. John's and help celebrate all year long! Pick up a free special anniversary lawn sign for everyone to see! Signs available every Sunday in April.
- 4/14 Fellowship time today. Special guest singer Alan Pancake shares his talent with us during Worship Service today.
- 4/21 Tired of cooking or getting take-out again? Celebrate Spring Fling with us after the 10:30 am Worship Service and enjoy a free lunch. Menu includes: BBQ, hash brown casserole, broccoli/cauliflower salad, cinnamon apples & cheesecake.

4/28

May

- 5/5 Celebrating our Mission Work today. Come checkout the display showing all the types of missions St. John's members have dedicated themselves to through out the years.
Join us this afternoon for Pastor Debbie Jo's installation as St. John's.
- 5/12 Mother's Day with 10:00 am fellowship time before the 10:30 am Worship Service.
- 5/19 Pentecost Sunday
Facebook selfies with St. John's starts today. Pick up you 175th logo and take a selfie with your family on vacation, at a sporting event or even on a walk around your neighborhood. 175th logos available throughout the summer.

5/27 Memorial Day Holiday Weekend

June

- 6/2 What's better than worship, fresh flowers, fried chicken with all the fixins' and fun games? Join us at 10:30 am for our annual picnic at St. John's. Worship Service and lunch will be inside with dessert, fun and games outside in the tent! You bring a folding chair and we provide everything else...for a once in 175 year event for all!. Menu: Fried chicken, baked beans, pasta salad, fruit salad and desserts.
- 6/9
- 6/16 Father's Day with 10:00 am fellowship time before the 10:30 am Worship Service
- 6/23 Today we are celebrating the United Church of Christ's Birthday Celebration during our 10:30 am Worship Service.

6/30



Remember, Renew, Rejoice

JOIN US APRIL 14, 2024

10:30 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MID-AMERICA'S BEST GOSPEL MUSIC ON THE KEYS

ALAN PANCAKE

GOSPEL KEYBOARDIST



Alan Pancake of Washington, Indiana will be with us here at St. John's United Church of Christ on Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. to share his music ministry. Alan is a very gifted pianist and instrumentalist and is using his talent to bless others. He will be with us during our regular Sunday morning worship service. Please invite all of your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for this blessed time.

Children and Family Ministry Age Groups

CFM (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 Sundays Children and Youth

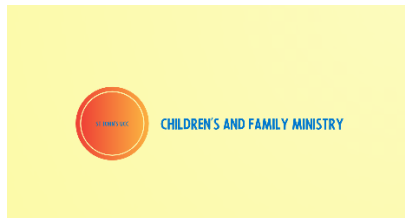


The Children and Family Ministry had many opportunities in March. The KFC (3rd-6th grade) and youth (7th-12th grade) enjoyed a lock-in for each group in March. Each lock-in started off with the groups making their own small pizzas and playing group games.



On Saturday, May 4, 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 or use those that will be provided. The money earned 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!

Save The Date



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

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

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