

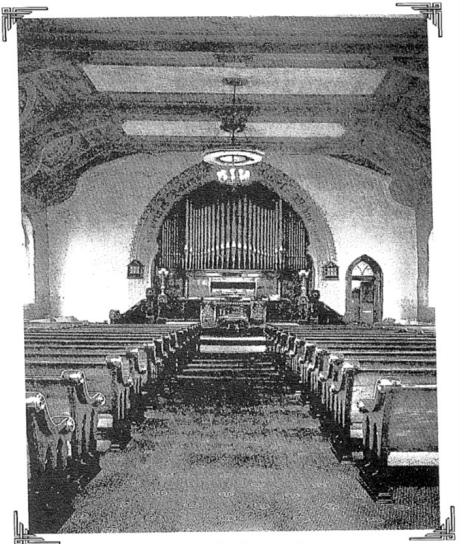


Celebrating 175 years



Old Steeple

*1886
New brick church
& interior
with pipe organ
in front*



March 2024 Newsletter



Dear Friends:

It is so good to finally be with you in person. The move was quite a frustrating adventure and I feel like I will be unpacking boxes for years to come. I am anxious to find the legs of my couch so it can be properly utilized. Thank you to everyone for the heartwarming welcome. The stack of cards and the signs made by the Sunday School were a wonderful touch. It is very much appreciated and I am looking forward to a long and fruitful ministry together.

Thank you also for your concern for Scarlett. The stress of the move and all the change really upset her but I think she is on the mend. She has started eating again and being playful. She still tends to cling to me but she is doing much better.

It's challenging to begin at a new church but having to jump into the season of Lent makes it more so. Sunday morning worship will follow the theme of *This Lenten Road* and we will explore various happenings upon Biblical Roads. Lent is, after all, the road to the cross.

I am getting my bearings, meeting with church leaders, staff, and trying to unpack my office as I settle in. I hope to soon begin making visits to church members so we can become better acquainted. I am usually in the office from 9-noon M-Th and my door is always open for anyone who wishes to stop by. Afternoons, if I am not making visits, is spent in Bible Study for my sermon and working on the upcoming worship service.

Friday and Saturday are my days off but emergencies take precedence so don't hesitate to call. Over the next several months, I may be switching up the Friday off schedule since I have to make 5 visits back to Southern Illinois for Scarlett to complete five supervised visits for the final part of her therapy dog certification. It will mean driving to Illinois for a one-hour visit with the trainers and driving back home. When this happens, I will take the travel day as my day off and be in the office on Friday of that week.

I am looking forward to walking This Lenten Road with you as we journey to Jerusalem and the cross.

Peace.

Pastor Debbie Jo

(812) 760-2226

revdjatkins@gmail.com

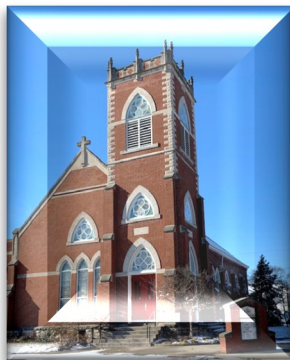
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE!

On **Palm Sunday**, March 24th, the children will process through the sanctuary waving palm branches and shouting *Hosanna* during the opening hymn. Hosanna means “God save us” and we commemorate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday worship will be held on March 28th at Noon in the chapel. We gather around the communion table to remember the night Jesus was betrayed and arrested after sharing a meal in an upper room with his disciples. It was after this meal that Jesus took the bread and wine and bid us to eat and drink in remembrance of him. The word Maundy comes from the Latin, *mandatum* meaning “commandment.” On this night Jesus instructed his disciples, “a new commandment I give to you that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Good Friday is the most poignant service in the entire church year. One by one the candles are snuffed out as the crucifixion story is told. The hammering of the nails is heard and the cross is draped in black. The service ends in darkness with the table stripped bare and the Bible slammed shut. Christ is dead; the light has gone from the world. However, we know the hope of Sunday morning. Easter joy is so much more meaningful and heartfelt when you have first been to the cross. I encourage each and every one of you to share in this special worship experience at 7:00 p.m. on March 29th.

Easter Celebration Service at 10:30 a.m. joyfully proclaims the resurrection with special music by our choir. The special “A” word that we locked up on the first Sunday of Lent is released, the lights come up and the glorious joy of Easter fills the air. Invite your friends and family to join us so that they too may share in the good news!



Church Board Highlights February 19, 2024



The January Church Board minutes and Treasurer's report were reviewed and approved. Ed Cummings, Treasurer, reported that we are still needing to move money from different accounts to keep the operating fund in the positive.

Joys and Concerns: The following joys and concerns were shared: Wonderful to have Pastor Debbie Jo here and to see more people in the pews! Prayers for Angie Robinson who is having surgery on Tuesday.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Debbie Jo shared that she is meeting with the committees and getting a feel for how we do things. She is putting together a pastoral care list of members she needs to visit with. She shared some of her ideas for meeting with the preschool children. Once she is settled, she would like to maybe host some events at the parsonage. She is planning on having a "meet and greet" time and meeting with individuals in small groups in order to get to know everyone.

Committee Report Highlights

Music & Worship. We will be having a Maundy Thursday service on March 28th at noon and a Good Friday (March 29th) service at 7:00 p.m. Discussed having communion the first Sunday of each month.

Christian Education. Easter Event will be Saturday, March 30th.

Membership & Evangelism. Jerri Johanningsmeier forwarded welcome cards to visitors that we have had in the past Sundays. We have 2 people who are requesting membership in the Church and Pastor Debbie Jo has been provided that information.

Wilhelm Parsonage. Handrails and a gate have been installed at the parsonage and the electric fence for Scarlet is now in place. Discussed the upcoming eclipse and did the Church want to participate in the celebration. We discussed various thoughts and ideas. We could make our parking lot available for spectators for a fixed "free will donation". Pastor Debbie Jo suggested a family movie night on the Friday before the eclipse and she will plan something and get back to us.

Outreach & Benevolence. Additional mentors are needed for Kids Hope. We are currently serving 4 children. Friends Who Care & Count was recently awarded a grant through 100 Women. This will allow for additional activities for FRIENDS at no expense to the members.

The following benevolent recommendations were made to the Church Board for approval and were unanimously approved:

OCWM	\$1,000
CUE	\$1,000
Food Pantry	\$ 500
LAM	\$ 500
Backpacks	\$ 500
SK Elementary Nurse	\$ 250
NK Elementary Nurse	\$ 250
VCSC Elementary Nurses	\$ 500
Isaiah House	\$ 500
Total Recommendation:	\$5,000

St. John's Attendance
For February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
2/4	63
2/11	85
2/18	72
2/25	86

Finances

January Contributions	\$11,487
January Expenses	\$24,470
December Outreach & Missions Contributions	\$8,470

March Birthdays

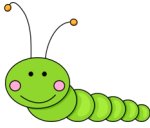
Zoe Gilmore
Fred Klein
Mark Meyer
Shawn Brown
Brian Fillingim
Kynzlie Brown
Lucas Doggett
Jennifer Cole
Dean Newell
Kim Vieke
Olivia Lange
Henry Joseph Lopez III
Krisi Mattingly
Nicole Daniels
Mackenzie Jones
Dustin McCrary
Carla Schmidt
Patrick Schutz
James Simmons
Lisa Hartig
David Culp
Calvin Doggett
Adelynn Lange



March Anniversaries

Mark & Marcy Meyer
Mark & De Etta Welte
Ish & Hope Clausman

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Preschool News

Hearts, flowers, and sweet candy Filled our classroom! Our preschool children enjoyed Valentines cards with their friends, played fun games, and made sweet treats!

The teachers are so proud of our Butterfly kiddos. Those that are able to write their names on the lines correctly and know all the letters get to put their name on the wall and be a member of our name writing club. All the Butterfly's are able to do so. Come check it out!

Our Caterpillars are learning about bears and all the animals that hibernate during the winter. These kids are so smart!

All preschoolers are learning about the body! We know about healthy habits and how to keep our bodies healthy!

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 that in!

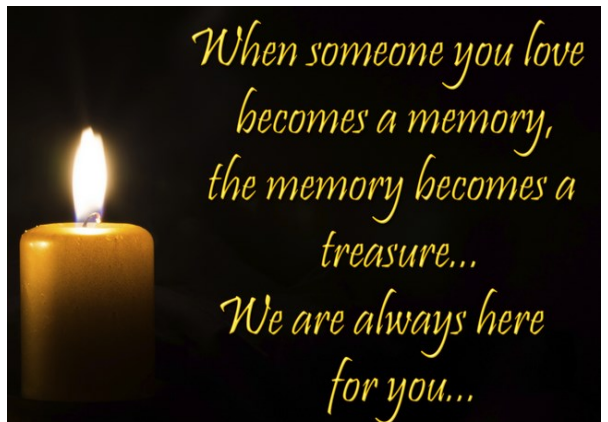
We have returned to color printing for our Newsletters. During the time we only had black and white printing, the following pictures of church family members were posted. We wanted to provide color pictures to better remember our loved ones.



Robin Root
December 30, 1933 ~ May 13, 2023



John Jackson
August 14, 1933 ~ May 31, 2023





Mark Lange
February 3, 1951~July 9, 2023

Jean Wells
March 6, 1931~August 10, 2023



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

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm KFC Lock in 7pm Friday, March 1, until Saturday, March 2 at 8:30am	2
3 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	4 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm	5	6 Choir 7pm	7 Dinner at Co-Co's 6pm	8 Youth Lock in 7pm until Saturday March 9, at 8:30am	9 Friday, March 8, at 8:30am
10 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10am Worship 10:30 Children's Church Daylight Savings Time Begins Spring Forward	11 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm	12	13 Christian Ed 6pm Choir 7pm	14 Girl Scouts 4:30pm Technology 11am Dinner at 6pm Applebee's	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm Worship Comm 6pm Church Board 7pm	19	20 Choir 7pm	21 Dinner at 6pm TBA	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:15 Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 Children's Church	25 BABE Store 12-5:30pm Friends 5-6:15pm— VU Bowling Center 5-6:15pm	26 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	27 Laundry Love 6-8pm Choir 7pm	28 Maundy Thursday Service noon Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm Girl Scouts 4:30pm Dinner at 6pm TBA	29 Good Friday Service 7pm Preschool Closed	30
31 Easter Sunday! Worship 10:30am						



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Continuing Prayer Requests Bruce Deckard, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, for Gary Meyer 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, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

Franklyn Schroeder, Oak Village Health Care Center – 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.

WHAT'S NEW?

Most of us have been Christians a long time. We are familiar with everything about the church. It's comfortable. We know what to expect. There are no surprises. Now imagine you have never been inside a church before and come to worship for the first time. Sound unbelievable? Unfortunately, it is very common. We have at least 1 ½-2 generations who are all but missing from the church. I can't tell you the number of weddings I've performed where a member of the bridal party will enter the sanctuary and say something like, "Wow, this place is beautiful. What do you do here?" Usually, they have never been inside a church. Sounds crazy to us but it is true.

So how can we be more welcoming in our worship? The first is to make our order of worship more understandable. Those who are unfamiliar with worship often feel as though they don't "fit in" or unwelcome because they don't understand the "secret, coded, language of the church. They have no idea what is an "Invocation," "Benediction," "Gloria Patri" or "Doxology." They don't understand so they don't come back. They don't feel welcome, so they don't come back.

One of the easiest changes to make is to rephrase some of our worship language. An Invocation is labeled, "We Invite God to Worship." The Call to Worship becomes, "God Calls us to Worship," thereby explaining what is happening at that point. The Benediction becomes the "Blessing" and the Sermon becomes the "Message." All simple, low-threatening changes that help newcomers understand and feel more welcomed. Take note of the bulletin this morning and you will see some of this put into practice. Can we accept the changes if they mean newcomers might better accept Christ as their Savior?

St. John's History Tidbit...

60 Years and Growing

In 1909, our church commemorated it's 60th Anniversary by donating \$8,627.53 to charity! They also held several events to celebrate this wonderful event.

In 1928, an extensive remodeling of the Church was undertaken. The entire chancel was remodeled, moving the organ and it's pipes to the sides and installing the stained glass windows through the sanctuary. A new three manual Wicks organ was also purchased.

Dissension in the church surfaced again and this resulted in a split in 1932 at which time St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Vincennes was organized.

The 1934 union of the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church of the United States was consummated and our church took the name: St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church

The original steeple, damaged by a windstorm, was replaced by a modern stone and brick one in 1935.

Then Zion Evangelical Church of Johnson Township closed its doors, and new members joined the congregation in 1941 and St. John's assumed responsibility for the perpetual care of Zion Cemetery.



Celebrating 175 years



Did your family help start St. John's?

Interested to see if one of your ancestors was a member of St. John's in the first 60 years?

Check out the Ancestry Poster at the Memorabilia Table thru the month of March to see if you recognize any family names!

Don't forget to join us as Holy Week begins



March 24 - Palm Sunday, Worship Service starts at **10:30 am**

March 28 - Maundy Thursday, Worship Service starts at **12 noon** in the Chapel



Tenebrae Service
Good Friday

March 29 - Good Friday, Service of Tenebrae starts at **7 pm**

March 31 - Easter Sunday Worship Service starts at **10:30 am**



BULLETIN TWEAKING

The physical look of the Sunday is changing a little as we *tweak* its appearance, making it easier for visitors and guests to follow. Information about the change in language is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are working hard to keep the order of worship to the inside of the bulletin so it doesn't "carry over" to an insert sheet. We like the information included on the back of the bulletin that comes from our national UCC office and don't want to sacrifice it for additional space. Therefore, we have eliminated the spacing between the order of worship. We have added color to break up the monotone look and provide an easier way of following the service.

We will continue to tweak things as we work together to make our bulletin and our worship more comfortable and inviting, especially for visitors with whom we wish to share the good news of Christ and welcome into our church family.



THANKS!

For the cards, letters, and phone calls when I was in St. Vincent's Hospital, Indianapolis recently for nine days. They helped!

Rev. Al



MUSIC & WORSHIP

The Worship committee invites you to participate in Sanctuary decorations for Easter Sunday. We will once again welcome live Easter lilies, daffodils or any other spring flowers to be given in honor of, or in memory of the special people in your lives. We ask that all flowers be potted, wrapped and placed on the tables in Memorial Hall, by Wednesday March 27. Please 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. Labels with the below information are available in the church office.

In Honor Of _____

Or

In Memory Of _____

Given By _____

We ask that you pick up all flowers following church on Easter Sunday.

The Music and Worship Committee is so happy to have Pastor Debbie join our church family. We look forward to working with her to plan and experience new and meaningful worship.

We invite you to serve the Lord and this church family in many ways!!

Here are just a few:

Serve as liturgist, contact Hope Clausman

Sing in choir, practice each Wednesday at 7pm

Be a greeter, contact the Evangelism Committee

Please join us in worship and service to our Lord and His Church,

Blessings to you and yours!

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 KFC (3rd-6th grade) will have a lock-in at church starting at 7pm on **March 1**, until 8:30am the next morning. The youth (7th-12th grade) will also have a lock-in at church starting at 7pm on **March 8**, until 8:30am the next morning.

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 Will (812-887-5303) 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.*

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 through the church office at 812-882-2720.

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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