



Celebrating 175 years



*Church Remodel Project 1928*

*May 2024 Newsletter*



## A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

It's hard to believe that three months have passed since I first arrived in Vincennes. It has truly been a baptism by fire as we immediately jumped into the season of Lent and explored the theme of This Lenten Road. It was followed by Holy Week services and we celebrated the resurrection on a glorious Easter morning. I was so pleased with the amount of feedback I received about Holy Humor Sunday and fear not, it will return again the Sunday following Easter 2025!

During my time here we have hosted the Wabash Valley Association and attended the LAM dinner and the annual meeting of the Good Samaritan Foundation. We have witnessed a baptism, received new members in our fellowship, conducted a funeral, a wedding and a wedding vow renewal. The Holy Spirit is definitely moving through this church.

I am working on getting through my list of shut-ins and being in contact with those facing health issues. I have begun taking communion to the nursing homes monthly and will begin having Scarlett accompany me on these visits next month. Slowly, I am learning names and beginning to associate them with others. It will take a long time so THANK YOU for being faithful in wearing your nametag and for helping me recover when I get a name wrong. I hope we can perhaps soon put together a new pictorial directory since that will help me in my quest to put names with faces.

To help with planning future programs and scheduling events, I have included a survey in this newsletter. Could you please take a few minutes, fill it out and return it to the church office as soon as possible. I have begun planning for the Fall and want as much feedback from you as you can give.

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has worked hard and we are enjoying the monthly events they have planned. Our big celebration will take place on September 15<sup>th</sup> when we will welcome the UCC General Minister and President, Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, to our pulpit. Plan now to attend.

My Installation has been confirmed as taking place in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. I hope all of you will join me for this occasion as we solidify our covenant relationship as Pastor and congregation.

I feel so blessed that God has brought us together and I have faith that one day, I will have all my boxes unpacked at the parsonage. My three children and daughter-in-law are coming for Mother's Day weekend and we hope to get everything done at that time.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Debbie Jo

**SCARLETT SPEAKS:** Scarlett, the Sassy Scottie here, sharing my duties as a therapy dog on behalf of St. John's UCC. I have been a part of the Children's Moment three times since arriving in Vincennes and plan on being in worship on at least a monthly basis, bringing lots of hugs and kisses with each visit. I really enjoy meeting the children and adults. On March 12, I celebrated my second birthday by appearing at the Good Samaritan Annual Meeting and Dinner in Evansville.

I visited with the Butterfly Preschool Class just before St. Patrick's Day in March, while "Mom" read the story of *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Clover*. For the morning Caterpillar class, she read, *Happy St. Patrick's Day from the Crayons*. Each student had their picture taken with me and received one of my "trading" cards. At the Easter Egg Hunt, I wore my yellow *Peeps* costume and was very happy to hear several children telling their parents about my visit to their class.

In April we visited again, this time reading the book, *The Day the Crayons Quit to the Butterflies* and *Hairy MaClary from Donaldson's Dairy to the Caterpillars*. In May, I will begin visiting the nursing homes when "Mom" makes her monthly communion visits.

I am very proud and happy to represent St. John's UCC in my work as a therapy dog and look forward to expanding my visits within the community. It is an honor to serve and represent *Got Your Six Support Dogs* in Maryville, IL, where I received my training.

**FREE PIANO:** The church is offering the piano currently in the Sunshine Room to anyone wishing to remove it. If interested, please contact the church office.

**MOTHERS' PHOTOS** are wanted of your mother, grandmother, etc. to use in a presentation during worship on Mother's Day. You may send them electronically to church office or drop them by during office hours by May 12th. Photos will be scanned and returned unharmed. Please label photos with name and relationships. (We will also be doing the same thing for Father's Day so send or bring in those photos as well.)

**NAMES OF 2024 GRADUATES** are requested by the church office by May 12<sup>th</sup>. Graduates will be recognized in worship on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**EASTERTIDE** continues for 50 days following Easter Sunday so those Easter decorations can stay out a bit longer. The season includes the post resurrection appearances and teachings of Jesus and ends with the Day of Pentecost (50th Day).

**ONLINE GIVING** helps the church in so many ways. By signing up to have your contribution automatically withdrawn from your bank account and sent to the church on a regular basis, you help keep a continuous flow of income for the church to use in paying its bills and seeing that our missions continue without any shortfalls that sometimes happen. You also don't have to remember to bring your envelope or a check with you on Sunday mornings. You may sign up for online giving by going to the church website at [myucc.org](http://myucc.org) and following the contribution prompts. Thank you for your continued support of our church and its missions.

**WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS:** John & Ellen Riggs united with our church by profession of faith on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Their address is 1418 Weed Lane, Vincennes, IN 47591 and their phone is (847) 346-5167. John's email is [johndrl@att.net](mailto:johndrl@att.net). Martha Wilson was welcomed into our congregation through adult baptism on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Her address is 4830 Old 41 North, Vincennes, IN 47591. Her phone is 812-891-5993 and her email is [wilsonmartha26@icloud.com](mailto:wilsonmartha26@icloud.com). Pastor Debbie's letter of transfer has been received from my previous church thus making me a full member of St. John's UCC, as well.

**VOW RENEWAL & WEDDING:** An exciting event took place in our sanctuary on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Martha & Morris Wilson renewed their wedding vows on their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a ceremony that also included the wedding of her best friend, Diane Bouchie, to Scott Michael Bouchie. Congratulations to both couples!

**PASTOR'S INSTALLATION** has been scheduled for **Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00** p.m. Please plan now to attend as we finalize our covenant relationship with Pastor Debbie Jo as our Preacher/Teacher.

Join Us For Dinner & Conversation on Thursdays at 6 pm.

Schedule:

May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ponderosa
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	El Corral
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Procopio's
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hibachi Grill
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	COCO's
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Texas Roadhouse
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Senor Tequila
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Yamato Steakhouse
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Moniocal's Pizza

## Informational Survey from Pastor Debbie Jo

As I determine what ministry programs to develop, I always ask for LOTS of feedback from the congregation to better meet their needs, gain new perspectives and discover new ways for us to move forward together as we seek God's path. I hope you will take a few moments to complete and return this brief survey. Please include any ideas you might have for ways in which we can be in ministry and in community together. Thank you so much for your cooperation!

### WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

I prefer daytime meeting

I prefer nighttime meeting

I prefer Bible studies on:

Individual Book of the Bible

The Bible as a Whole

Biblical History

What Does the Bible *Really* Say

What *Doesn't* the Bible Say

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

I would be interested in:

Book Club

Suggested Reading \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Movie Nights at Church

Suggested Movies \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Women's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

Parenting Group

Parents & Young Children Group

Intergenerational Activities

Attend Sporting Events

Attend Theatrical Events

Travel Opportunities

Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Crafting Activities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Service Opportunities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact #** \_\_\_\_\_



### **May Birthdays**

Landry Culp  
Christina Schlag  
Brett Summers  
Olivia Cummings  
Charlie Klein  
Steve Cooper  
Roger Brockman  
Jordan Allen  
Payton Allen  
Sara Schutz  
Amelia Cummings  
Alan Hendrix  
Brenda Roark  
Joseph Christopher Cummings  
Briana Klein  
Hope Clausman  
Avery Sanders  
Liz Emmons

### **May Anniversaries**

Scott & Laura Marchino  
Marvin & Sandee Covey  
Steven & Karen Redmond  
Ryan & Erica Cummings  
Bernie & Pam Kirsch

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, and family. For the family of Carole Klein, and Don Hoffhaus. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying, let's include all in our prayers.**
- Gary Meyer, he is home, prayers as he continues his recovery .
- John Riggs has asked to keep his wife, Ellen in your prayers. She is suffering from issues causing her pain.
- Vernon Houchins surgery went well this week, prayers were all felt, and please continue for full recovery!

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

### Home

**Gary Meyer**

**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 History Tidbit...

## 1998 - present

In 1998 the church received a donation from a member of his home to be used as our fourth and newest parsonage. The old parsonage was renovated into much needed classrooms and office space.

The beautiful kitchen we have now was completely renovated in 1998 with donated funds from the Pruesner estate.

Memorial Hall was refreshed and updated prior to another building project that took place, adding an additional room that would connect Memorial Hall with the old parsonage. Dedicated in 1999, it was named "The Sonshine Room" with funds donated from a church member's estate.

St. John's started a preschool in 2000 and is widely respected in the community with a waiting list every year.

A new parlor was made possible by a memorial donation from Walter Cooper Jr.'s family in 2003.

The church underwent its last remodel with the Sanctuary being repainted, the stairwell entrance to the preschool was designed and painted as well as Memorial Hall's upstairs renovations including new areas of the auditorium, Senior high room and a craft room, as well as a refurbished pipe organ in 2008.



Celebrating 175 years



## **Celebrating 175 Years...**

### **Mission Work Sunday, May 5th**

St. John's has always answered the call for assistance. From early records showing for their 60th Anniversary celebration, St. John's members donated over \$6,000 for our community, to starting many of today's social outreach projects because we saw a need. St. John's is truly mission oriented.

Join us Sunday, May 5th as we celebrate St. John's Mission Work. During our worship service we will have members speak about some of our missions, how they came to be, and why they are so important to our community.

We will also have several posters located in the foyer showing where St. John's has donated money in the last 30 years. It's quite an impressive list and everyone should know exactly where our support goes.

Come check it out and learn other impressive facts about St. John's social outreach.

## **SHOW US WHAT YOU'RE DOING THIS SUMMER!**

With warm weather here, St. John's would like to be a part of your summer fun! Pick up one of our small 175th logos and take a selfie with your family on vacation, at a sporting event, or even on a walk around the neighborhood. Be sure to tag us at "St Johns UCC Vincennes" so we can get in on the fun ourselves. Make sure you put in "Vincennes" since there are a lot of Facebook churches with our name!

Portable 175th Anniversary logos are available by the Archive table now through August. Pick up one after worship, and let us help celebrate our members fun this summer!

# May

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Choir 7 pm	2 Dinner at Ponderosa 6 pm	3 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	4 CMF Vincennes City Clean Up 8:30-11:30 am
5 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 w/ Communion Children's Church Mission Sunday	6 BABE Store 12-4 p.m.  Evangelism & Membership 6:30 pm	7	8 Choir 7pm  Christian Ed 6pm	9 Dinner at El Corral 6pm  Girl Scouts 4:30pm– 6:30 pm	10 Preschool Butterfly Graduation 7 p.m.	11
12 <b>Mother's Day</b> Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10 am Worship 10:30 Children's Church	13 BABE Store 12-4 p.m.	14	15 Choir 7pm	16  Dinner at Procopio's 6pm	17 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	18
19 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 <b>2024 Graduate Recognition</b> Children's Church Strength in the Church Offering Mental Health Sunday	20 BABE Store 12-4 p.m.  Worship Comm 6pm  Church Board 7pm	21	22	23 Dinner at Hibachi Grill 6 pm  Girl Scouts 4:30pm—6:30 pm	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	27 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  OFFICE CLOSED	28	29 Laundry Love 6-8 pm	30 Dinner at COCO's 6 pm	31	
<b><u>"Mark your calendars now for the Annual Church Picnic, on Sunday, June 2...more details to follow"</u></b>						



## Church Board Highlights April 15, 2024

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

**Joys and Concerns:** The following joys and concerns were shared: The Wabash Valley Association Meeting was held at St. John's. On Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed wonderful special music by Alan Pancake.

### Committee Report Highlights

**Music/Worship.** The piano in the Sonshine room is going to be offered free to anyone who would like to come and pick it up. The committee would like to purchase a new keyboard to use for various functions. The money could come from Memorial funds.

**Christian Education.** The Easter Egg Hunt was a positive event. We had approximately 47 attendees which included some preschool children.

The youth will be participating in the city-wide clean up in May which is sponsored by Burkhart Insurance. They can earn \$10 per bag of trash collected.

Graduate recognition will be Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Vacation Bible school will be held in August.

In keeping with our Safe Child Policy that requires two caregivers to be present in the nursery when children are present, we are looking for volunteers to help out if needed.

Rally Day will be September 8<sup>th</sup> and Bibles will be presented to all 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Letters will be sent this fall to all potential confirmands and parents.

**Pre-School Committee.** A meeting was held with the Church Board Representative and the Preschool staff. Various issues and concerns were discussed and the Church Board is working to resolve the issues, concerns and requests.

**Outreach and Benevolence.** Treat bags will be provided to our Kid’s Hope participants during testing periods. The Church Board approved the following recommendations from the committee:

OCWM	\$2,000.00
Merom	\$1,500.00
LAM	\$ 500.00
Phoebe’s	\$1,000.00
 Total:	 \$5,000.00

**Church Facilities/Improvements.** Discussed the ceiling in the Sonshine room where the ceiling is falling down. The flashing around the skylights will be replaced and hopefully that should fix the problem.

**Parsonage.** New roofing is needed on the Parsonage. We will need to get estimates and bids from a variety of companies. New fencing has been placed around plants and bushes to keep Scarlett from getting entangled in them and garage door openers have been replaced.

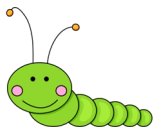
**Technology.** The technology committee meetings have been moved to the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. A Blu-Ray player has been purchased for use in the Church.

Complete Church Board minutes and Treasurer’s report are available after approval at the next month’s board meeting.

<b><u>St. John’s Attendance: February</u></b>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
4/7	72
4/14	70
4/21	78
4/28	65

<b><u>Finances</u></b>
March Contributions \$11,714
March Expenses \$27,248
March Outreach & Missions Receipts \$4,970

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## Preschool News

March had some days that came in like a lion and the end of the month was calm like a lamb. Our preschoolers enjoyed fun Easter parties with egg coloring, egg hunting, fun games and crafts. We made bunny and chick crafts and cute Easter eggs.

Some of our preschoolers are attending kindergarten roundups. These kids are so smart and ready for this new adventure!

We are working on end of year evaluations to see how much we have learned this year.

Thank you to Pastor Debbie Jo for reading to us and bringing Scarlett, her certified therapy dog! The children really enjoyed the visit and always love special visitors in their classroom!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BABE STORE!** Please consider becoming a volunteer for the BABE Store which is housed at St. John's UCC, 606 North Fifth Street. Minimal commitment of two hours, one Monday per month. The BABE Store allows pregnant women and families with children under the age of

four to redeem earned vouchers for diapers, wipes, and many other supplies. Duties include checking ID, collecting correct amount of vouchers for items purchased and assisting clients as needed. If you're interested, please contact Cindy Deckard ant 812-887-2999. Our volunteers frequently comment on how rewarding it is to help out the families of Knox County!



## MUSIC & WORSHIP

It was our pleasure to have Alan Pancake present his beautiful music and talent recently. We hope to have him again soon.

As summer approaches, we will be enjoying music during our morning worship. If you can provide music, please contact a member of the Music and Worship committee to select a date.

A big thank you is extended to Donnie Black for the beautiful sanctuary decorations during Eastertide. Thanks to all who provided fresh flowers on Easter morning, in honor or in memory of loved ones.

Soon you will see our new sanctuary paraments on the altar, lectern and pulpit! These were artfully hand-crafted by our own Jerri Johanningsmeier especially for our 175th Anniversary. A big thank you goes out to Jerri!



I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for cards, calls, visits and prayers during my recent hospital stay and recovery. Your support truly lifted my spirits!

With Love in Christ,  
Shirley Black

# 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.
- 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*



# MEROM CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

Merom Camp and Retreat Center offers several camp programs throughout the summer. Each camp offers a unique experience to suit every kind of camper of all ages and backgrounds! Please let Will Meyer or Rev Debbie Jo about more information and an opportunity for a camp scholarship.

## Summer Dates

CAMP	AGES	DATES	PRICE
Faith Journeys	Genesis: 3rd-6th Grades Jr. High: 7th-9th Grades Sr. High 10th-Current Yr. Grads	Jun. 10 - 15	\$300
Pathfinders	1st and 2nd Grades	June 12 - 15	\$150
Backstage Pass	9th - Current Year Grads	Jun. 19 - 23	\$150
Creative Spirit	6th - Current Year Grads	Jun. 23 - 29	\$300
Just, You, and Me Kid	Campers: 4 yrs. old and up Adults: 21+	July 10 -13	\$150
All Ages	3rd Grade - Current Grad	July 14 - 20	\$300

### VISIT [MEROM.ORG](http://MEROM.ORG) TO REGISTER FOR MEROM PROGRAMS!

Submit 1 form per camper, you can pay in full or in payments! Registration is due 1 week prior to the camp start date (for planning). Please include name of camp and camper's name with registration.

**LATE REGISTRATIONS WELCOME, PLEASE CALL AHEAD!**





## Children and Family Ministry Age Groups

**CFM** (Children and Family Ministry) Age 3-High School & Family

**M&M** (Mini-Marvels) Age 3-2nd Grade

**KFC** (Kids For Christ) 3rd-6th Grade

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

**KFC/Youth** Both Groups

**Special Sundays** Children and Youth



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 but some will be provided. The money made 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 favorites 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.

**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**

As a part of the In-town Mission Week from July 8-12, the CFM group is looking to help church members and friends/neighbors with little projects around their homes. Some of the projects the group could do is yard work, painting, and planting flowers. Please reach out to Will Meyer at [stjucfamilyministry@yahoo.com](mailto:stjucfamilyministry@yahoo.com) by May 19 to let the group know of projects the group to help with.

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**

**NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 9  
VINCENNES, IN**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**