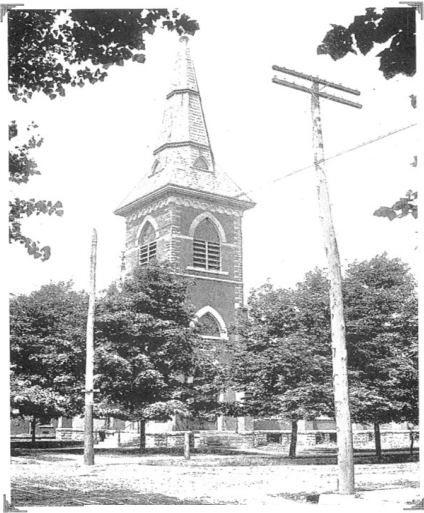




Celebrating 175 years



Original Steeple



Steeple Removed 1935

June 2024 Newsletter



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

What an exciting time to live in Vincennes! Watching the total eclipse was such an awe-inspiring moment when God's magnificent creation was on full display. A few weeks later, I stood in my driveway and viewed the Aurora Borealis. Both events were breathtaking and God-winking moments.

As I have been in meetings and at dinner with many of you, I have listened to what you say, especially regarding the church and its future. We are learning to trust one another and I will continue to "Watch, listen and wait" for a few more months. During that time we will be hosting a get-together to learn more about the various generations in our congregation and how our culture has shifted over the past 50 years. To what directions are we being called? What changes do we need to make for the health of our church family? Yes, changes. Change is a positive step. It is a necessary one. If we keep doing things the same way we've always done, how can we expect different results?

At the May Christian Education meeting, the committee spent over an hour talking about the decline in Sunday School participation and what we might do to improve our program. It began as a scary conversation but ended with a great deal of hope as we seek to continue to be a part of the faith formation of all our members, especially our children. My hope is that all committees will begin this process of sharing.

One of the things that came about in the CE meeting was investigating our becoming a W.I.S.E. (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) congregation which promotes mental well-being and helps reduce the stigma related to mental health issues. Several members of our church leadership attended a webinar on this topic and you will be hearing more about this soon.

I have been asked by several individuals to suggest a book(s) that might help our congregation better understand the challenges facing the church in a rapidly and radically changing society. A book I found to be especially informative and inspiring is *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Unchurched Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. It is available on Amazon, and I found it so profound that I had the Council at my last church ready and studied it. It gave us a much-needed perspective that helped us move forward more boldly and spiritually. I highly recommend it to everyone.

I am beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel with unpacking at the parsonage. I found the remaining items from my kitchen but still had no clue where the legs of my couch had been hidden. It has become an ongoing quest. My goal is to begin hosting small get-togethers at the parsonage in the fall and an open house in December for everyone to stop by for cookies and punch.

Please take time to fill out the survey that accompanies this newsletter. It will greatly help me plan fall programs.

*In Christ,
Pastor Debbie Jo*

SCARLETT SPEAKS: *Scarlett, the Sassy Scottie here, reporting on my work on behalf of this church. The preschool year has ended and I miss visiting with the children. I am looking forward to another school year beginning in August and hope to have a new “trick” to show them. I will also be reaching out to PACE across the street to see about visiting with them. I will soon be visiting with our folks in nursing homes as I accompany my mom when she takes communion. I am what is known as a “touch” therapy dog, meaning I am very agreeable when people want to pet and hold me. This is especially true if they are scratching behind my ears or rubbing my tummy. Petting a dog can be wonderfully healing and stress-reducing and I’m always glad to help out. I will be in my full kilt for my Mom’s Installation on June 9th at 3:00 p.m. walking proudly behind the bagpiper so come see me! I also plan on being at the church picnic in case any food should happen to fall off someone’s plate. (wink, wink) Someone has to help with clean-up!*

PASTOR DEBBIE JO’S INSTALLATION will take place on June 9th at 3:00 pm. Rev. Monica Ouellette will be preaching and a bagpiper will be providing special music. A light meal will be served afterward. Please join us for this final step in the Search Process as we enter into covenant with our new pastor.

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:

June 6 th	Texas Roadhouse
June 13 th	Senor Tequila
June 20 th	Yamato Steakhouse
June 27 th	Moniocal's

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

It has been brought to Pastor Debbie's attention that several of you have received a text message asking for you to purchase a gift card for someone in need; please know this is a scam! She did not send this and will never ask for something like that via text. If you are ever in doubt, please call the church office to confirm!

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

PHOTOS of your father, grandfather, etc., are wanted for a presentation during worship on Father's Day. You may send them electronically to the church office or drop them off during office hours by June 10th. Photos will be scanned and returned unharmed. Please label photos with names and relationships.

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 see that our missions continue without any shortfalls that sometimes happen. You also don't have to remember to bring your envelope or check on Sunday mornings. You may sign up for online giving by going to the church website at myucc.org and following the contribution prompts. Thank you for your continued support of our church and its missions.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY: Check out the brightly painted Little Library in the parking lot. Bill Lathrop refurbished a discarded Little Food Pantry from Pastor Debbie Jo's previous church and transformed it into a Little Library. We invite you to fill it with books you've finished so others may enjoy them as well. Children's books are especially welcome since we are hoping to reach the neighborhood kids during the summer months. Feel free to take a book if you like. You may return it if you wish or keep it as your own.

UCC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION will take place during worship on June 23rd. Come, hear about how our ancestors in the faith helped shape our country and how the UCC is known as "the Great Experiment."

175th ANNIVERSARY PARAMENTS will be **unveiled in** worship on June 9th. They were beautifully and lovingly made by Jerri Johanningsmeier to whom we are very grateful.



BOARD MEETING

Church Board Highlights

May 2024

The April minutes and Treasurer’s report were reviewed and approved.

Joys & Concerns – Congratulations to Kennedy Alexander and Trisha Lopez on their graduation! Kennedy is graduating from South Knox with plans to attend VU this fall and Trisha is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Purdue Global Online. The Mother’s Day recognition was very nice. It was wonderful to see the Choir up front and in their robes, singing four anthems on Pentecost Sunday.

Committee Report Highlights

Music & Worship – Reminder that the Church picnic is Sunday, June 2nd at Gregg Park open shelter house beginning at 10:30.

Christian Education—Will, Cheryl, and Eric Meyer, on behalf of the youth group, picked up five bags of trash during the city-wide clean-up, earning the group \$50. The Youth in-town mission is the week of July 8th. Vacation Bible School will be during the month of August. Graduation Sunday is May 19th, and Rally Day Sunday is September 8th.

Preschool – The first day of Preschool after the summer break will be August 12, 2024.

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

The next meeting will be June 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Betsy Marchino, Church Board Secretary



A thankful shout out to all our great Sunday Service Greeters January to June 2024

Hope and Ish Clausman

David and Carole Culp

Bob Klein and Jennifer Foster

Janet Daniels

Betsy Emmons

Jake and Kelly Alexander

Elaine and Jim Workman

Ray Pieper

Lori and Chris Sanders Family

Natasha and Jeremy Coomes Family

Pete and Sharon Mallatt

Steve Cooper

Kyle and Jill Doggett Family

Allison and Brayton Cummins Family

Eric and Cheryl Meyer

Donnie and Don Black Family

Janet and Terry Goodman

Jonathan and Chrissy Lange Family

Amy and Adam Family

Darcy Bahr and Girls

Carole Graham

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 #: _____



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, and family. For the families of Carole Klein, and Don Hoffhaus, and Franklyn Schroeder on their loss. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying, let's include all in our prayers.**
- Gary Meyer, is home, and prayers are requested 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.
- Please continue to pray for Bruce Deckard who is fighting cancer and for his family.
- Gayle Huffer, friend of Jill Lopez, continues to need our prayers due to ongoing health concerns. She is very appreciative of the cards, prayers and thoughts that she has received from our church family. Cards may be sent to: 5372 E. Wheatland Rd, Vincennes, IN 47591

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, - 3801 Old Bruceville Rd, Vincennes, IN 47591 Room 73B send cards to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

Marge Beamon, The Villages at Oak Ridge, -1694 Troy Rd. Washington, IN 47501,Room 333 bed 2, Remains in rehab. Please send cards and notes to, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

.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.

Join us for the **Annual Church Worship & Picnic on Sunday, June 2** at the **open shelter house in Gregg Park**. Due to construction, you must take 6th street North to Niblack Blvd (turning right) you will go over the RR tracks and take a right into Gregg Park next to the open shelter house where we will be located. Bring your lawn chair and your swimsuit if you want to go to Rainbow Beach after lunch...we will be paying everyone's pool entrance fees so bring the family and enjoy an afternoon at the pool!

Worship & Picnic in the Park

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

10:30 am Worship Service

Join us for a special **Worship Service** and **Picnic** at Gregg Park's open Shelter House

Bring your lawn chair, swimsuit and enjoy a day of outdoor fun and relaxation.

Free lunch will be provided

Free pool entrance fee



St. John's
United Church of Christ

Celebrating 175 years



Join us on Sunday, June 9th at 3 pm for Pastor Debbie's installation here at St. John's. We are so thankful for Pastor Debbie and hope everyone can make it to her installation and then join us for a light supper immediately afterwards.

St. John's United Church of Christ
606 N. 5th Street, Vincennes, Indiana

Invites you to attend the Installation of

*Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
as Pastor/Teacher*

Sunday, June 9th, 2024 at 3:00 pm

*Clergy are requested to arrive by 2:45 pm and
wear robes with red stoles for the processional.*

A meal will follow the installation.

RSVP to the church office at 812-882-2720.



June

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Church picnic Children's Church	3 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Evangelism & Membership 6:30 pm	4	5	6 Dinner at Texas Road House 6pm	7 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	8
9 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Rev. Debbie Atkins Installation 3pm	10 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Outreach & Missions 6:30 pm	11	12 Christian Ed 6pm	13 Technology Comm 10am Dinner at Senior Tequila 6pm	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10 am Father's Day Children's Church	17 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Worship Comm 6pm Church Board 7pm	18	19 Juneteenth Office Closed	20 Dinner at Yamato Steakhouse 6 pm	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22
23 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	24 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m.	25	26 Laundry Love 6-8 pm	27 Dinner at Moniocal's 6 pm	28 Holiday World Youth Trip (leaving 10:45am from church parking lot	29
30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church						

Vacation Bible School



The **POWER** to *Empower*: Investigating God's World VBS 2024

St. John's United Church of Christ will have Vacation Bible School during the Sunday mornings in August: Aug 4, 11, 18, & 25 from 9:15 to 11:30 am. VBS is for children of all ages. Bible stories, experiments, demonstrations, crafts, and snacks occur during the first hour. Bible passages and relevance will be shared during the Children's message. Children's Church time will include discussions, games, and songs. On August 25, there will be a VBS sharing time during worship service. We hope to see everyone there!

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Jill Lopez @ 812-887-3182.





**KIDS HOPE USA in PARTNERSHIP
WITH RILEY ELEMENTARY
Celebrates at KCARC 1972**

The Kids Hope USA program of St. John's United Church of Christ and Riley Elementary celebrated another successful year at the 1972 KCARC facility on Saturday, May 18, from 3:30-5:30 P.M. Mentors, Prayer Partners, our children and their families were in attendance. (total of 40). Pizza, dessert and drinks were served along with multiple activities, such as bounce houses and kick darts. A good time was enjoyed by all.

The 2023-24 school year included four children and their mentors Larry Marchino, Eric Meyer, Linda Gilbert and Brett Summers. Prayer partners supporting their mentors are Betsy Marchino, Cheryl Meyer, Linda Frische-Mouri, and Pam Summers. We are so appreciative of these members and their endless time spent changing one child at a time. Words seem not available for your impactful service.

Riley's principal, Susan Marchino, retired at the end of this year, We thank you for the years of support and care she has given the program's ongoing success. A plant and blessings were extended to her from St. John's UCC on her retirement. Suzanne Corona will be her successor in the fall.

Thank you, Brenda Roark, for making treats for the staff on a couple of occasions. You were a rock star to them.

In closing, leaving the building for the last time this year with the words, "Thank you for all you do for children. Have a great summer!" a teacher responded, "Another great year of Kids Hope. See you in the fall!"

Peace and summer relaxation
KHUSA Director
Jerri Johanningsmeier

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



June Birthdays

Janice Affolder
Norma Meyer
Beth Lindsey
Eric Meyer
Will Meyer
Joseph Goodman
Jeremy Coomes
Alivia Deckard
Jake Alexander
Grady Cummins
Sam Lindsey
Ann Marie Schutz
Gary Meyer
Susan Schutz
Jonathan Lange
Gabriel Goodman
Ryan Klein
Terry Goodman
Bill Lathrop

June Anniversaries

Cody & Kristi DeBouef
Jonathan & Chrissy Lange
Matthew & Alyssa Vieck
Terry & Janet Goodman
Brian & Brenda Fillingim
Jordan & Nicole Daniels
Dale & Jane Brown



ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL



As our year started to wind down evaluations for all preschoolers were sent home to show parents what all was learned throughout the year. The butterflies had one last special day where we invited Mom's to preschool. They made noteholders, planted flowers in flower pots, and enjoyed ice cream sundae's!

End of year fun days began with the bike rodeo in the parking lot. We had lots of tired legs from bike riding. Splash day was a wet one with sprinklers, squirt guns and water toys! Bounce house day and McDonalds for lunch was a special day for our Butterflies who will be moving on to kindergarten!

Our year will ended with graduation on May 10. Good luck to our Butterflies and their new adventures!

Hats off to Our Graduates!



Kennedy Grace Alexander

Kennedy graduated from South Knox High School in Vincennes, IN., and plans to attend Vincennes University in the fall for general studies and then transfer to Indiana State University to pursue a nursing degree.

Kennedy's story is different due to many medical issues. She had very challenging and difficult high school years. Often times not allowing her to do all she wanted. She showed such perseverance and strength. She worked hard to be able to catch up and graduate on time! Good luck in all future endeavors, Kennedy! Your church family is very proud of you!



Trisha Lopez

Trisha Lopez, daughter in Law to Jill Lopez, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Purdue Global Online. Best of luck to you Trisha!



Youth activities

Are you a middle or high school student looking for an opportunity to connect with other United Church of Christ youth?

From July 17-20, 2024, at Augustana College, we're bringing the Quad Cities' youth together for an event packed with collective worship, service, learning, advocacy, music, fellowship, and most importantly, FUN. Each participant will receive a t-shirt, nine meals, double occupancy housing Wednesday through Friday night, sheets, and towels.

The event is open to all UCC middle and high school students in the Great Lakes and West Central regions. By coming together in this supportive and inclusive environment, youth will have the opportunity to deepen their faith, build lasting relationships, and explore new ways to positively impact the world.

Please contact Will Meyer or Rev Debbie Jo by June 10 to sign up. Also, let Will know if you have any questions.



175th Anniversary Events

If you would like a 175th Anniversary celebration Yard sign, we still have a few to give away! Pick yours up in the foyer after church while supplies last! Show your support for St. John's!



It's vacation time! While everyone is out and having a wonderful time this summer, send us a "selfie." Pick up a small St. John's logo card (located in the lobby, next to the archive table)

and take it with you on vacation, sports tournaments, or walks around the neighborhood! Take a selfie picture of you or your family holding our logo and post on your Facebook page, "tagging" us at St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes so we can enjoy the summer with you.



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 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 7th 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 had an opportunity to participate in the Vincennes City Cleanup. The group picked up trash and debris in the area around the church and collected 5 bags of trash during the activity. The money made will go to the Children and Family Ministry account for future activities. Thank you for all that helped during the cleanup.

Save The Date



The Children and Family Ministry is gearing up for an exciting in-town mission week from July 8-12. This year, we have a host of new activities and some familiar favorites planned. Just like in the past, our group will be staying at a cabin, providing a fun and engaging environment for games and practices. Each day is packed with activities that are sure to thrill and engage participants of all ages and grades.

**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 are yard work, painting, and planting flowers. Please reach out to Will Meyer at stjucfamilyministry@yahoo.com by June 10 to let the group know of projects the group can help with.



On Tuesday, June 28, KFC (grades 3-6) and Youth (grades 7-12) are invited to the Holiday World trip. Each St. John's participant is to RSVP and purchase their \$25 tickets. Friends and family are also welcome,

but they will need to pay \$35 for their tickets. Please provide each child with \$20-\$25 for food at the park (the average combo meal at the park is \$10-\$14) and a stop on the way back for supper. Please note the park is cashless, so anything purchased at Holiday World will be on a card. The children will have the opportunity to put cash on a "ReadyCARD" which can be used at the park and anywhere in the United States where credit cards are accepted. The money can be turned in on the day of the activity. A new medical information form will need to be on file for all the children going on the trip. The forms are located on the bulletin board by the nursery and on the Facebook group. If there are any questions, please let me know!

The group will have an opportunity to watch 400 LED-lit drones take to the Holiday World & Splashin' Safari sky for a unique drone and fireworks spectacle! This one-of-a-kind, 15-minute spectacle celebrates Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and the Fourth of July animated light displays. The group can decide if they want to stay to watch the drone show... it's worth it. If the group stays, we will get back at 11:30 p.m., but if we leave before the show, the group will return at 10:30 p.m.



Children aged 3-12 are invited to go upstairs to the blue classroom for Children's 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. We greatly value the role of volunteers in making Children's Church a vibrant and enriching experience. 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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