



Celebrating 175 years

Those who came before...



August 2024 Newsletter



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

I was thrilled to have twenty-three people attend our first round-table discussion on July 15th in Memorial Hall. First, I presented some of my observations from my first five months as your Pastor, followed by some tasks we need to address.

I shared these four observations:

1. This is a loving, committed congregation, very mission minded.
2. I believe you are starved for pastoral care
3. The congregation has been in survival mode for the past several years, especially during Covid, the lengthy interim period, and the search for a Pastor.
4. Triangulation is a big issue with communication.

This was followed by some tasks we needed to address.

1. Like all churches, ours has rising expenses and diminishing revenue, so we must take stewardship very seriously.
2. We have to adapt or die. Change is never easy. If we keep doing things the way we've always done, we can't expect new results. Due to the average age of the congregation and the pastor, we don't have years to work on trust and slowly lay foundations. We have to act as swiftly as we can but not recklessly. Some things we're just going to have to take on faith.
3. We need to find more people with online skills to help increase our online presence.
4. All boards and committees need to be on a rotational basis. To help us move from survival mode, we have to move from the "we need someone, anyone to fill the spots available" to an active, healthy nominating committee that reflects on the skills needed and, identifies persons with those skill sets, and recruits them to serve. We need to continually get more people working on behalf of the church's ministries.

5. Need to better understand generational differences. This included an informational handout and discussion of the six generations within the congregation. We then reviewed some steps the Board and Committees are taking to help us move forward:

1. The Board is studying the book *"Canoeing the Mountains"* by Tod Bolsinger to help understand how our culture has shifted and how we need to respond.

2. We are developing programs in response to the congregational survey results. (These were shared in last month's newsletter.)

3. We are beginning the process of becoming a WISE congregation (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supporting, and Engaged). We are looking for at least two more volunteers to help us through this process.

4. Pray-Ground for children. Visitors need to know immediately that we are a safe place that welcomes children and young families. Children need to know they are welcomed and cherished, and church is fun!

5. Initiating a Messy Church (a church within a church). We have 6 members willing to serve on the core team and welcome any others who are interested. We hope to launch this outreach program in October or November.

6. Working to improve communication throughout the congregation. Some thoughts to remember: Only make "I" statements (I think, I believe, I feel, etc. Do not use generalized statements like "Well, I know others think the way I do" or "A bunch of us don't like. . ." Speak for yourself alone and speak DIRECTLY to the person who needs to hear what you have to say. Do not draw someone else into the process, thereby creating a triangle. Do not speak for someone else unless you have permission to mention them by name. Encourage them to speak for themselves.

We then opened the discussion to hear what everyone present wished to share with the following results:

More details and information regarding the W.I.S.E. program and Messy Church. The importance of connection and building relationships with the community. The threads that tie us together and how we weave them into a tapestry of God's love.

Possible billboard advertising the church and that all are welcome.

Bumper stickers. These items may hit older generations rather than younger ones. We need to increase our online presence.

We need to update our vision and mission statements. A mission statement should be eight words or less and appear on everything we

send out as a church. Possibly, everyone should say it together in worship each week.

How can younger people who have missed the opportunity to take part in Confirmation unite with the church? How can they know they are welcome to partake in communion? In the communion invitation it says, "all are welcome to participate." The pastor will write an article for the bulletin (and put it on slide) and newsletter regarding communion practices.

List Board Members and Committee Chairs in the Bulletin & Newsletter with their contact information.

We need a new pictorial directory. This project was organized and about to move forward when COVID-19 hit. Pictures could possibly be used to create a wall display so people can learn names and faces.

How can we better improve communication between the committees? Perhaps all committee chairs could meet quarterly or include chairs in the packet of reports the Board receives each month. Committees need clearer "duty lists."

Could we develop a plan when all committees meet at the same time and then gather to share information with everyone? The idea of "Wonderful Wednesdays" was suggested with meal and committee meetings.

Written reports to the Board need more details, and each committee should submit monthly written reports.

Vanco has communication training/resources we can utilize.

Bible Studies could be led by laypeople, not necessarily by the Pastor.

We are so appreciative to everyone who came and shared their thoughts and concerns. We are hoping to have these discussions periodically throughout the year so we can better communicate and work together to grow our church.

I want to encourage each and every one of you to help by praying regularly for our congregation, our spiritual growth, our discernment of God's will, and our courage to make necessary changes as we live out our faith and commitment to our loving and generous God.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie Jo

SCARLETT SPEAKS: Woof! Woof! I made my debut at the Bridge Pointe rehab center when I recently visited with Ellen Riggs while she was there. I poked my nose into several other rooms and made some



new friends. I met several of the staff and gave them my “trading card” so they could remember our visit. Mom spoke with them about my making some regular visits with the residents and staff. I recently had the chance to visit my original trainer, the super fantastic Ratchenla Pen, at the Petco in Edwardsville, IL. I was so happy to see her. She always has a pouch of treats around her waist, and I always do everything she tells me to do. I don’t always do what Mom tells me, proving sometimes I’m more of a “Snottie” than a Scottie. Ratchenla gave me the signal to roll over, and I immediately rolled my furry little self over. I rarely do that for Mom. I’m such a stubborn Scot! I’m looking forward to the Preschool beginning a new school year soon so I can visit with the kids.

DINNER & CONVERSATION

Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm 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 at 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:

	Restaurant	Person Making Reservation
August 1st	Ponderosa	Bill L
August 8th	Café Moonlight	Sheri
August 15th	Procopio’s	Brenda R
August 22nd	Monical’s Pizza	Ren
August 29th	El Corral	Arlene

LET’S GET MESSY! The Christian Education Committee has been discussing the possibility of developing a Messy Church program here at St. John’s. There are currently no Messy Churches in the Vincennes area. Messy Church is “Church, but not as you know it.” If you have attended church for a long time, Messy Church may not look like church to you. At Messy Church, all ages meet together to learn about Christ through games, crafts and activities, music, and storytelling from the Bible. Messy Church is a hands-on church where all are welcome. A foundational ingredient of Messy Church is to

gather around a table for a meal and build relationships with each other, God, and the world. This monthly event would be held on a weeknight and we are looking for members to form our Core Group who will oversee this program. If you would like to learn more about Messy Church, visit messychurchusa.org. We currently have six volunteers for our Core Team, but more are welcome. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the Core Team, please see Pastor Debbie Jo.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Acting on a joint recommendation from the Christian Education and Membership & Evangelism Committees, the Board approved developing a PRAY-ground for our children in worship. We are waiting for one last item to arrive before unveiling this new area. Watch the bulletin for announcements.

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 a check with you 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.

INDIANA-KENTUCKY CONFERENCE annual meeting will take place on August 23-24 at St. Mark's UCC in New Albany, IN. They will be celebrating the Conference's 60th Anniversary. We need 2 delegates to attend and represent us at this meeting. Let the church office know if you would like to take part.

BECOMING W.I.S.E.: We are looking for two more volunteers to join our WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) team before beginning the process. WISE promotes mental well-being and helps reduce the stigma related to mental health issues. If you are interested, please let Pastor Debbie Jo know.

BACKPACK & SCHOOL BLESSING: All students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship with them on Sunday, August 4th, for a special blessing for the new school year. Teachers, Aides, Bus Drivers, Administrators, Support Staff, Cafeteria Workers, anyone who works or volunteers at our schools will also receive a blessing so plan now to attend!

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S UCC is open to EVERYONE, no matter their age, church affiliation or non-affiliation, Confirmed or not. If you belong to Christ, you are welcome at the table. It is God's table, not ours. No one should be denied God's grace through the sacrament.

Finances

June Contributions
\$19,756

June Expenses
\$20,737

June Outreach & Missions
Receipts
\$7133

St. John's Attendance: July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
<u>6/28</u>	72
<u>7/7</u>	59
<u>7/14</u>	72
<u>7/21</u>	63
<u>7/28</u>	54

Church Board Highlights July 2024



BOARD MEETING

The June minutes, Treasurer's report and Pastor's report were reviewed and approved.

Joys & Concerns – Prayers for Kelly Alexander's mother who is currently in the hospital; prayers for the family of Bob Maze that recently passed away. The children's handbell choir did a wonderful job as the special music!

Committee Report Highlights

Music and Worship. The Board unanimously approved the purchase of a Yamaha CVP905B Clavinova for the sanctuary from undesignated funds from the Memorial committee. A digital piano is also being purchased for the chapel by private gift. The company will remove the pianos (one of the pianos will be going to the music department at Vincennes University).

Church Facilities/Improvements. The Board unanimously voted to pay from the Building account fund the remaining cleanup (remove all remaining debris and bird droppings) of the Bell Tower. In a second and separate project for the Bell Tower, the Board unanimously voted for placement of guards over the screens in the Bell Tower to prevent birds from getting in. This would also come from the Building fund.

Wilhelm Parsonage. The parsonage is in need of a new roof and we have received several estimates for replacement cost. A committee will review the estimates and bring their recommendation to the Church Board for discussion. The replacement of the roof will necessitate a congregational meeting to approve the expenditure.

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

The next Church Board meeting will be August 19, 2024.

Betsy Marchino, Church Board Secretary

- **Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Family of Carole Klein, Family of Franklyn Schroeder. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying, let's include all in our prayers.**
- Carole Graham has updated that her son in law is off the ventilator! He still has a long road ahead; continued prayers are appreciated.
- Please keep Kelly (Willis), Alexander, and their family in your prayers. Karen Willis, the mother of Kelly, has recently passed . If you would like to send cards Kelly and Jake address is P.O. Box 256 Monroe City IN 47557

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, request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes, IN

Marge Beamon, The Villages at Oak Ridge, -1694 Troy Rd. Washington, IN 47501

Home

Bruce Deckard

Gary Meyer

Michael Lankford

Gayle Huffer

Ellen Riggs

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (co-chair 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 (co-chair), Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.

August

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			3	2 Dinner at Ponderosa 6pm	2 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	3
4 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 w/ Communion Blessing of Backpacks Children's Church VBS 9:15-11:30 am Special Music By Christina & Shawn Schlag	5 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Friends 5-6:15 pm	6	7 Christian Ed 6 pm Preschool Open House Caterpillar 6-7 pm Butterflies 7-8 pm	8 Dinner at Café' Moonlight 6pm	9	10
11 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10am Worship 10:30 Children's Church VBS 9:15-11:30 am Special Music by Ladies Group	12 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Outreach & Mission 6:30 pm Preschool Resumes Butterfly's Friends 5-6:15 pm	13 Preschool Resumes Caterpillars	14 Choir Resumes 7pm	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Dinner Procopio's 6 pm Technology Comm. 10am Pastor Out of Office	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church VBS 9:15-11:30 am Special Music by Austin Glover	19 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Worship Comm. 6pm Church Board 7pm Friends 5-6:15 pm	20	21 Choir 7pm	22 Dinner at Monical's 6 pm Pastor at Boundary Training	23 Indiana-Kentucky Conference New Albany, IN	24 Indiana-Kentucky Conference New Albany, IN
25 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church VBS 9:15-11:30 am Special Music by Jonathan Clark	26 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Friends 5-6:15 pm	27	28 Laundry Love 6-8 pm Choir 7pm	29 Dinner at El Corral 6 pm	30	31



Tom Nowaskie's retirement from WIN Energy REMC was official on July 31. During his career, he served this cooperative more than 45 years. Tom was its CEO from 2018 to July 2024. He is married to Rebecca "Becky" (Spangle) Nowaskie.



From Backpacks of Love

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ members,
Thank you for your donation to Backpacks of Love for YCSA. This money will greatly help us get started for the new school year. We are looking to being filling about 170 bags a week.. That's a big jump from the 15 we were filling 13 yrs ago when we started.
Again thank you for your support.
Kathy Clinkenbeard
Project Co-Ordinator

From 4H Participant

Thank you so much for letting us use the big room and the kitchen to work on my ~~my~~ 4-H projects. It gives us a nice area to work in. Hope to be back next year!

-Mya Combs.

Show Your Blessings With the Gratitude Tree!

We have a Gratitude Tree in the foyer...what is a Gratitude Tree you ask? It's a bare tree that is waiting for you to put leaves on it. Every time you come to church we are asking you to write something you are grateful for on a tree leaf and attach it to the bare tree. It could be your family, food, a warm bed, friends...the blessings are endless. We hope to make a full tree showing everyone our gratitude's be the time our 175th Anniversary Celebration comes around on Sept. 15th. Do your part and thank God for the blessings we take for granted each day. We should have a beautiful fall tree showing our gratitude to God!

There's still time to show us what you are doing this August!

St. John's would like to be a part of your August 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 August!

Mark Your Calendars Now!

St. John's 175th Anniversary celebration will be on Sunday, September 15th. Make sure to mark us down on your calendar to attend. We will be having a wonderful Celebration Service with the adult and children's choirs singing, more special music, and our United Church of Christ General Minister & President, Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson will be giving the sermon that morning. After a wonderfully uplifting service, we will have fellowship and lunch in Memorial Hall with more surprises...don't miss this once-in-175-year celebration!



Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...

August Birthdays

Stephen Cole
Cameron Mattingly
Isabella Lange
Saundra Lange
Arlene Wilson
Billy Henry
Brian Spangle
Matthew Vieck
Leah Lankford
Ellis Jones
Kennedy Alexander
Madalynn Grube
Bob Klein
Jill Lopez
Larry Marchino
Jessica Bennett
Kyle Brown



August Anniversaries

Jeff & Janet Newell
Gary & Peggy Meyer
Jeff & Krisi Mattingly
David & Michelle Grube
Brad & Pam Summers
Tony & Ann Riley
Ed & Brenda Cummings
Fred & Donna Klein
Larry & Betsy Marchino
Mark & Susan Schutz
Mark & Janice Strange
Kyle & Jill Doggett
Vernon & Marilyn Houchins





Sandy's Pantry

We are gearing up for a new year with Sandy's Pantry.

Dates of openings will be announced soon as we meet with Vincennes University. School starts soon!

Thank you for your recent donations. A big shout out of thanks to Will Meyer and the youth group for doing a summer inventory and removal of expired items. They are a tremendous help to us and a huge blessing!

Brenda & Brian Fillingim

Volunteers
Needed

There are many ways to help serve your church, one of which is to volunteer to be a liturgist at a Sunday service. A signup sheet is located on the hallway bulletin board.





The Children and Family group was busy with July with activities. On July 2, a group from the CFM traveled to Holiday World. Thank you to all the children and chaperones making the trip this summer great.



A big thank you to the families, church members and the Vincennes community for coming by the Children/Family Ministry lemonade stand at church on Saturday, July 13, and during fellowship time on July 14. The Isaiah 117 House provides physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting foster care placement.



2024 Children and Family Ministry In-Town Mission Activity

The St. John's Children and Family Ministry had a very busy second week of July. The group of a total of 26 kids during the week helped different nonprofits/outreach programs in Knox County. Thank you to all the youth, parents, and chaperones for making this week great. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies for the week, too! Every place we helped, the staff were so happy with the youth that they asked when we could come back! During the week the group made memories as they helped their community.

Monday, July 8 (St. John's Day)- For the first day the group worked on some of the outreach programs that the church provides. The group moved some shelves in Phoebe's room, stocked the shelves of Phoebe's, counted donated supplies for Phoebe's, and counted/checked expired items for Sandy's. Also, during the day, the group moved a bookcase into the office, worked on the playground, made care kits, spot-painted the big blue room, and moved the carpet out of the preschool.

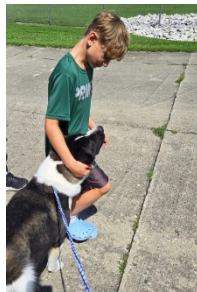
Tuesday, July 9 (Blue Jeans Center)- On this day the group helped at the Blue Jeans Center in Monroe City. Since the center is staffed by volunteers and it was a rainy day, the youth helped with the housekeeping of the facilities. The youth cleaned the windows of the cafeteria and the first floor of the main building. They cleaned the gym floor by cleaning up the shoe marks and sweeping under the bleachers. The group wiped all the woodwork in the main hall and moved furniture in the basement. The list of day two tasks is too long to list all the projects. This was a big help to the center since the staff is based on volunteers, and it would have taken weeks to do.

Wednesday, July 10 (Wabash Trails/Salvation Army)- In the morning the group gave back to their home base for the week. At Wabash Trails, the group picked up trash along the road and some of the trails at the park. Also, at the park, the group worked in the camping area, maintaining landscapes and RV sites. In the afternoon at Salvation Army, the youth stocked shelves in the food pantry cleaned the donation closets, worked in a couple of meeting rooms, and did some housekeeping jobs.

Thursday, July 11 (Isaiah House/Rainbow Beach/Family Dinner)- For Thursday's mission day the group helped at the Isaiah House. Some of the help the youth did was to clean the outside wall paneling, pull weeds, and sweep the sidewalks. Also, outside the group cleaned the fence and cleaned the outside toys. Inside the house the group cleaned the floors and the kids' rooms. Upstairs the youth worked on totes of donated supplies. After the Isaiah House the group traveled to Gregg Park for lunch and then Rainbow Beach. For dinner, the youth made an Italian dinner for their family.

Friday, July 12 (Animal Shelter/Finishing Up)-The final day of the mission week started with the group preparing for the Isaiah House lemonade stand. After preparing for the stand, the youth traveled to the animal shelter. The group donated supplies to the shelter and had an opportunity to visit the animals at the pet port. While visiting the shelter, the children went to the cat room and saw the dogs in the outdoor kennels. Many people have been and will be impacted by all the work the group did during that week. Thanks to all youth and parents for everything during the mission week.

Here are some of the many pictures during the 2024 Children and Family Ministry Mission Activity



A big thank you to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Vincennes for all the donations to Phoebe's Mission as part of the "Our Greatest Need" outreach program.

St. John's United Church of Christ

606 N 5th St.

Vincennes, IN 47591

812-882-2720

myucc.org

stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com

Facebook: St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes

Church Board Members

Jana Vieck	President
Jake Alexander	Voice President
Betsy Marchino	Secretary
Ed Cummings	Treasurer
Hope Clausman	Board Member
Steve Cooper	Board Member
Jill Doggett	Board Member
Saundra Lange	Board Member
Krisi Mattingly	Board Member
Cheryl Meyer	Board Member
Mark Schutz	Board Member
Ren Simmons	Board Member

Committee Chair's

Worship	Becky Brockman
Christian Education	Sarah Lowe
Outreach & Benevolence	Larry Marchino
Evangelism & Membership	Janet Daniels
Church Facilities	Marvin Covey
Wilhelm Parsonage	Sandee Covey
Preschool	April Brown
Technology	Saundra Lange
Memorial	Sarah Lowe
Investment/Finance	Ed Cummings
Personnel	Jake Alexander

**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