



St. John's  
United Church of Christ

175<sup>th</sup>

*September 2024 Newsletter*



## A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

Wow! Where did the summer go? Suddenly school has begun, and we are turning to our fall schedules with so many new adventures awaiting us as we move forward in ministry and celebrate our 175th Anniversary. Please check out details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Recently, I met up with my best friend from high school (Bev), and we spent a few days in Paducah, Kentucky. We are both quilters, and she has never visited the Quilt Museum. We had also discovered a series of books entitled *The Quilt City Murders* by Bruce Leonard and planned to visit some of the places mentioned in the mysteries, especially the Mellow Mushroom (pizza), Wall-to-Wall (murals along the Ohio River) and Hancock Fabrics (no quilter can pass up a fabric store). We also slipped across the river and spent a delightful morning in Metropolis, IL.

I am always in awe when I visit the Quilt Museum. I am a very traditional type of quilter, mostly patchwork and simple designs. The quilts displayed at the museum are breathtaking works of art. It is amazing to me how someone can take fabric and manipulate it into such stunning creations. They are truly artists, and their quilts are masterpieces.

It served as a reminder that all of us have different gifts and abilities to use in God's service. We have a multitude of perspectives and ideas to share as we seek to follow where God is calling. When we work together, we create amazing ways in which to be in ministry together. We become a masterpiece stitched together by faith and trust in God's love. Together we are one in Christ.

My two favorite quilts were based on two of my favorite book series: *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien and *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling. They were unbelievably exquisite. I have presented numerous workshops and Bible Studies on finding the Gospel in these books. They are overflowing with diversity, acceptance, friendships, overcoming injustice, and doing what is right and good. All values in the quilt of who we are as a congregation. So glad God has stitched us all together in a wondrous tapestry.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie Jo



**SCARLETT SPEAKS:** Woof! Woof! I recently spent two nights with my new friend, Nancy Stultz, and her fur babies, Finn and Cooper. We had a blast playing in her backyard, and I sniffed every inch of it. Now that preschool has started, I will visit soon with my mom to meet all the kids while she reads a story. I can't wait! I will be at Rally Day and the 175th Anniversary celebration, so I hope to see you all there. Woof, Woof!

**CEREAL DROP** is coming on September 8. Please bring in a box or two of cereal and watch them fall like dominos on Rally Day!

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARY** in the parking lot needs books for all ages. Please bring your used books in good condition and share them with others. Take a book for yourself. Books from the library may be kept, returned, or passed on.

**BUS TRIP TO FOX THEATRE IN ST. LOUIS:** Join us on Thursday, November 7, for a day trip to see The Neil Diamond Musical, A Beautiful Noise, based on his life and music. The cost is \$150 and includes round-trip bus transportation from Robinson, IL, admission to the show, and dinner at Niemerg's on the way home. Sheri Stodghill is organizing this trip, and flyers are available in the back of the sanctuary. If we have 12+ folks going from Vincennes, the bus will pick us up in the Walmart parking lot at approximately 8 am.

**CALLING ALL POSSIBLE CONFIRMANDS:** For any young person (Grade 7 and up) and their parents, please get in touch with Pastor Debbie Jo to discuss the 2024-2025 Confirmation Class. If you cannot attend but are interested in Confirmation, please contact the Pastor immediately.

**LABOR DAY** worship is on September 1st. You are invited to wear your regular work clothes to church so we can recognize your occupation. Children are encouraged to dress as what they want to be when they grow up. Join in the fun as we celebrate!

**RALLY DAY** on September 8th will kick off with a church breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Worship will include the cereal drop, Bible Presentation to 4th Graders, Dedication of the new Pray-Ground, and **OPENING THE 150th ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE!** Don't Miss out!

## 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 at the back of the sanctuary each week, or you can call the church office. We'd love to see you there. Our September schedule is as follows:

September 5th	Dogwood
September 12th	American Table
September 19th	Ponderosa
September 26th	El Corral
October 3rd	Fazoli's
October 10th	Kelso's 9th Hole
October 17th	Applebee's
October 24	Harry Lee's (Red Hill Park)



### **Special Congregational Meeting – Mark your calendars!**

On September 22, we will hold a special congregational meeting immediately following worship to vote on bids for a replacement roof on the parsonage. Members will be receiving a letter with details of the meeting, so please look for this letter. We want you to be fully informed about the project. It is important that the congregation vote on large expenditures, such as this one, and the meeting should be very brief with only a single item on the agenda. See you there!

Jana Vieck, Church Board President



## Church Board Highlights August 19, 2024

### BOARD MEETING

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

#### Committee Meeting Highlights

Approved end-of-school-year bonuses for preschool director and assistant.

Approved recommended expenditures for the Outreach and Benevolence Committee as follows: OCWM - \$1,000, CUE - \$500, Food Pantry - \$1,000, Friends Who Care and Count - \$500, LAM - \$500, Phoebe's - \$1,000, Riley Lu Lichte Fund - \$500, Messy Church - \$500, for a total of \$5,500.

Approved the expenditure of \$7,600 for the repair of the church parking lot.

The parsonage needs a new roof. A committee was formed to seek bids for the roof replacement. They secured several bids and recommended to the Church Board to accept Ellconn, LLC's bid of \$21,904. Due to the amount of the bid, a special congregational meeting will be held on September 22, 2024, to discuss and approve this bid.

#### New Business

Due to the resignation of our janitorial service, we are in the process of obtaining bids for it. Three services have reviewed our church and the services we require and will soon submit bids.

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

The next meeting will be September 16, 2024.

Betsy Marchino, Church Board Secretary



# Preschool News



We kicked off the 24-25 school year at Preschool on August 12, for our returning Butterflies and August 13 for all our new Caterpillars! The kids LOVED all the new changes made to the classroom over the summer! Our lunch time with the Butterfly class is a full cafeteria room when we have 24 preschoolers eating lunch!

Miss Lori and I would like thank several people for helping with updates to our class room, Bill Lathrop, Marvin Covey, Mark Schutz, Steve Cooper, Eric Meyer, Will Meyer, and Brian Fillingim.

So many people came to help, paint, remove old flooring, remove sinks and toilets and put new faucet in. We also appreciate all the help with clean up and set up! We even got new lights!

## **Preschool Hours**

### **Butterflies Class**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-3pm  
(doors open at 8:55 am)



### **Caterpillars Class**

Tuesday and Thursday, morning class 9-11am  
(doors open at 8:55 am)  
afternoon class 12:30pm-3:00 pm  
(doors open at 12:25 pm)





August was the month of Vacation Bible School, “The Power To Empower.” The children who attended experimented with various God's powers through science. They created art, sang songs, ate theme-related snacks, and played games, all the while learning about Bible stories and how God empowers our lives.

### **Many thanks to the helpers and supporters of our ‘power’ filled VBS!**

They are **Brenda Cummings** and **Betsy Marchino** for providing wonderful snacks, **Jerri Johanningsmeier** for the perfect window decor in the sanctuary, **Pastor Debbie Jo** for her messages to the children, **Vera Mattingly** for assisting with the motions to songs, **Eric Meyer** for his help on electrical matters, **Will Meyer** for leading games and posting announcements on Facebook, **Sarah Lowe** for her assistance, and **Jill Lopez**. Also, much appreciation to **Brian Fillingim** on sound for the Sunday sharing and to all the children who participated in VBS! We had fun!

**On September 8**, a breakfast will be held to kick off our new Sunday School year. All are invited to attend. During worship service the fourth graders will be presented with their very own Bible. Do plan to come for both the breakfast and the special presentations!

**On September 15**, the children will be singing one of their songs from VBS during worship service. All children are invited to sing along whether they attended VBS or not. We will practice during Children’s Church on Sunday the 8th and do a run through the morning of. The link to the song “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” is also on the St. John’s UCC Children and Family website on Facebook.

# Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



## September Birthdays

Mark Cummings  
Hannah Shields  
Ray Pieper  
Ryan Cummings  
Lauren Cummings  
Elaine Workman  
De Etta Welte  
Daniel Vieck  
Casey Dick  
Adam Schotter  
Owen Schotter

## September Anniversaries

Nyal & Hannah Shields  
Luke & Mackenzie Jones  
Chris & Kim Vieke  
Shawn & Christina Schlag







## ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Family of Carole Klein, Family of Franklyn Schroeder, Luis Prada (pastor Debbie's brother in law) . For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying, let's include all in our prayers.**
- Please keep Don Black Sr. in your prayers. He has been hospitalized with pneumonia. He does request no visitors at the time.

### 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.

# SEPTEMBER

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Labor Day Service Children's Church</p>	<p>2 Labor Day Office Closed</p>	<p>3 Evangelism &amp; Membership 6:30</p>	<p>4 Choir 7pm</p>	<p>5 Dinner at 6pm Dogwood</p>	<p>6 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Sunday School 9:15 Fall Kick Off Rally Day Breakfast 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Children's Church Cereal Drop</p>	<p>9 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Friends 5-6:15 pm</p>	<p>10 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm</p>	<p>11 Christian Ed 6 pm Choir 7pm</p>	<p>12 Dinner at 6pm American Table Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm Technology Comm. 10am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 VBS performs 175th Anniversary Celebration—Luncheon Children's Church</p>	<p>16 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Friends 5-6:15 pm Worship Comm. 6pm Church Board 7pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Choir 7pm</p>	<p>19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Dinner 6 pm Ponderosa</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church</p>	<p>23 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Friends 5-6:15 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Choir 7pm Laundry Love 6-8 pm</p>	<p>26 Dinner at 6 pm El Corral</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 .</p>
<p>29 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church</p>	<p>30 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Friends 5-6:15 pm</p>					

# Labor Day

## Word Search



BARBECUE

HOLIDAY

JOB

LABOR

MCGUIRE

MONDAY

MOVEMENT

ORGANIZE

PARADE

PARTY

PICNIC

PULLMAN

RALLY

RIGHTS

SECURITY

SEPTEMBER

STRIKE

TRADE

TRAFFIC

TRIP

UNION

VACATION

WAGES

WEEKEND



**KIDS HOPE USA IS BACK TO SCHOOL**  
**A Partnership with Riley Elementary and St.**  
**John's United Church of Christ**

The week of August 12, three continuing mentors were reunited with their students at Riley Elementary for the start of a new year in Kids Hope USA. Three mentors are waiting on deck to be matched with a new student as the new school year begins.

This year, 2024-2025, is our 22nd year in partnership with Riley School. We are grateful for the mentors and prayer partners who have had past and present impact and dedication to making the program successful.

As we look into the new year, we are excited about the things to come because we know there are many more students who could benefit from another caring and consistent adult in their lives to help them thrive. We are changing and supporting a strong community of tomorrow. KIDS HOPE USA thrives on building life-changing relationships one at a time.

This month, St. John's UCC is recruiting members and frequent attendees to help build the program to a stronger outreach, where everyone benefits. Training is available, and money is not key; your time commitment is what matters! Mentors are involved one day a week, 30- 45 minutes, on your chosen day, as well as your scheduled time. You also will have Prayer Partner support and the Kids Hope USA team. Please volunteer and prayerfully consider joining us. Mentoring is truly a heartwarming and endearing experience to add to your book of life. Kids Hope USA Sunday, September 22, 2024.

**WE NEED YOU**

For more information contact:

Pastor Debbie Jo Atkins/ Church Office 812-882-2720

Jerri Johanningsmeier

Larry Marchino

Eric Meyer

Cheryl Meyer

Jill Lopez

Brett Summers

Linda Gilbert

# St. John's 175 Anniversary

## Remember, Renew, Rejoice

### **Remember -**

We remembered where we started, from a small wooden building to our wonderful brick church and its campus, which encompasses this entire block.

We remembered not only where we started but also those who came before—everyone special in their own way, contributing to our church through donations, volunteering, or just saying yes when called upon for whatever was needed. We remembered all those in our congregation who came before us because, without each and every one of them, our church would not be here today.

And finally remembering what God has done for us, remembering his faithfulness, his mercy, the sacrifice of Christ for us, all the benefits that are ours because of Him and how God has inspired our Church to continue to grow, emerging as a place of acceptance for all.

### **Renew -**

We have renewed our commitment to God, our faith, and each other here. During the past year, this congregation renewed its faith by declaring that we are claimed by the God who is with us everywhere, not just on Sunday mornings. God has helped us renew our strength and energy, rising above our past and re-energizing this church to move forward and become a beacon in our community. Remembering there are so many people out there worse off than us, we renew our commitment to helping others.

### **Rejoice -**

We have rejoiced in what our church means to us and our community. We have to celebrate that St. John's has endured 175 years. It's been a time for us to laugh, sing, and praise God for watching over our church and its members, families, and friends. And of course, at St. John's, we love to eat...so we have had many different opportunities to sit down and have a meal together this year, to rejoice and celebrate what God has done for us here at St. John's.

**Remember, Renew, Rejoice...a theme that has carried us through these last nine months!**

## **It's Here...**

### **Our 175th Anniversary!**

What started in March 2023 with a small committee of volunteers deciding what the church needed has morphed into a nine-month celebration of events since January 2024. We hope you have enjoyed learning about our church's history, getting to know each other at the many food and fellowship events, and strengthening your faith in this church again.

Here's what happened this year...

- I wondered if your family name was an original ancestor of St. John's.
- Wearing your 175th logo clothing.
- Enjoyed the Farewell Luncheon for our Interim ministers, Pastors Dennis & Linda Frische-Mouri.
- Welcomed our new Minister, Pastor Debbie Jo Atkins, and Scarlett.
- We enjoyed celebrating our preschool with the kids singing during the Worship Service.
- Put out your special anniversary logo yard sign.
- I listened to all our volunteers discussing the special missions St. Johns has dedicated themselves to through the years.
- Enjoying all the wonderful singers and performers during Worship.
- Facebook vacation selfies
- The Annual Picnic at Gregg Park included a wonderful meal and free pool passes for everyone.
- Pastor Debbie Jo's installation as St. John's permanent minister.
- Celebrating the United Church of Christ's birthday.
- Eating too much at our Old Fashioned Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social.
- Placing a leaf showing what you are thankful for on our Gratitude Tree.
- Being a part of Vacation Bible School and grateful for its volunteers
- Getting up early for the Fall Kick-Off/Rally Day breakfast before the new Sunday school year starts
- Attend Sunday morning worship service as much as you are able.

We hope you enjoyed the many events this year and look forward to what St. John's will be up to in the future!



# Fall Kick-Off

Join us for **Free Breakfast and  
Sunday School Kick-Off**

*Sunday, September 8th, 9:30 am  
with **Worship Service** at 10:30 am.*

**Enjoy a Free Breakfast/Fellowship before starting your  
new Sunday School class next Sunday at 9:30 am!**

- Children's Classes from Pre-K to 8th Grade
  - Adult Classes for all ages



**Celebrating 175 years**



St. John's  
United Church of Christ

175<sup>th</sup>

# Celebration Sunday

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Join us for our 175th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, September 15 at 10:30 am EST  
The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister and President will be our guest speaker.

Worship, followed by lunch and fellowship to celebrate St. John's ministry through the years.

606 North Fifth Street, Vincennes, IN





With September here, the 24-25 Children and Family Ministry program year is starting back up. There will be new activities this year, and youth/family favorites will be returning. Some of the activities this Fall into Winter are:

- Holiday World Happy Halloween Weekend
- Lock-Ins
- Family Holiday Dinner
- Activities for each age group
- Youth Group

Final planning for future activities is being completed and will be announced in the coming weeks. Please look for announcements in the bulletin, Facebook, and Children and Family Ministry mail boxes for future information.

- Children and Family Ministry Age Groups
- M&M (Mini-Marvels)-Age 4-2nd Grade
- KFC (Kids for Christ)-3rd-6th Grade
- Youth-7th - High School



On Saturday, October 12, the Children and Family Ministry will have a Wabash Trails Fun Day in the Houchins Shelter house from 5:00 pm-7:30 pm. The meat, drinks, and table settings (cups, plates, and silverware) will be provided! Families are asked to bring a side dish/dessert to share with the other families! There will be extra side dishes/desserts provided in case your family is running from one activity to another. There will be many games and activities for the families at the activity. This activity would be a great opportunity for the families to invite friends.



Each Sunday children 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. Volunteers to assist in aspects of Children's Church are always welcomed and needed! If there are any questions, please let Will Meyer know!

**Will Meyer**

**Children and Family Ministry Coordinator**

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

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