



OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



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## A Note From Our Pastor

Friends:

Wow! What a glorious culmination of our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the September 15<sup>th</sup> Celebration! The kids did a great job with the Power Shuffle, and the choir's anthems were so beautiful, especially the one commissioned for this event. Trevor Murray's All That We Have Heard was heartwarming and meaningful.

You can read the lyrics elsewhere in this newsletter. The flowers and window decorations were lovely.

What a blessing to have the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson in the pulpit. She encouraged us to Be the Church, and her words were affirming and inspiring.

The dinner following the service was awesome. It was great seeing Memorial Hall filled with everyone enjoying themselves. The food was excellent, and the decorations were amazing. We heard a letter from Rev. Al (with a special message to Scarlett), and it was a joy having Rev. Lynn reminisce about her years as the Pastor of St. John's. We did better with the church trivia at this dinner than at the Ice Cream Social.

The memorabilia and pictures on display brought back so many memories, and it was interesting to see the items from the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary time capsule. We will be refilling the capsule with items from the 175<sup>th</sup> celebration sometime in November.

It has been a tremendous year of weekly Facebook postings and monthly special events. And a LOT of good food and fellowship. None of this could have happened without our fantastic Anniversary Committee: Peggy Meyer, Becky Brockman, Cindy Deckard, Sarah Lowe, Elaine Workman, Donnie Black, and Sheri Stodghill, Chair. We are so grateful for and blessed by their hard work and dedication, especially Sheri, who practically lived and breathed this celebration all year. They did such an amazing job planning and implementing everything, and we can't thank them enough.

We have lots coming up in the months ahead, so I hope you will continue to join us as we continue to be the church!

Peace,

Pastor Debbie Jo



**SCARLETT SPEAKS:** Woof! Woof! I had a lot of fun at the anniversary celebration, and I thank Harper for letting me hang out with her. At first, I was mad that Mom locked me in her office during the meal. She probably knew I would go around the room giving everyone the “sad puppy eyes” so they would share their food with me. She left me with one of my favorite chewy treats, but I was so exhausted from all the playtime with the children that I didn’t touch it and instead took a nap. I slept the whole afternoon as well. She did give me a bite or two of leftovers. They were delicious! I am getting ready to start my monthly visits to the Pre-School classes. Woof! Woof!

**COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN’S UCC is open to EVERYONE**, regardless of age, church affiliation, or non-affiliation, whether 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.

**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 regularly, 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](http://myucc.org) and following the contribution prompts. Please contact church office if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of our church and its missions.

## 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. October schedule is as follows:

October 3rd	Fazoli's
October 10th	Kelso's
October 17th	Applebee's
October 24th	Harry Lee's
October 31st	Halloween-No meeting

**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 little library may be kept, returned or passed on.

**HARVEST HOME** celebration will take place during worship on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please bring in canned goods (preferably with pop-top lids) or other non-perishable items for our Blessings Box. Be sure and check those expiration dates.

**ALAN PANCAKE** will be in concert in our worship on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Debbie Jo will be on vacation.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** is forming so please contact Pastor Debbie Jo if you haven't received a letter. The class will receive their books, personalized Bibles, and enter into covenant with the congregation during worship on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The first class session will be that day from 5-6 pm.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY** is October 27<sup>th</sup> and we will celebrate our faith journey that led us to who we are as Christ followers today.

**COSTUME BLESSING:** Children (and those young at heart) are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to worship on October 27<sup>th</sup>. During

the Children's Moment, a special blessing for their safety will take place.

**MESSY CHURCH** will launch on November 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 pm. Our theme is **Celebrate Harvest!** **Activities** will include a variety of crafts, such as making a birdfeeder, a gratitude game, gingerbread, and more! **Dinner** will be mini corn dogs, mac & cheese, and raw veggies. **Worship** will be interactive and include a recap of everything we learned. Our Core Team is doing an **AWESOME** job preparing for this event, and we will soon have flyers for you to share with others. We will continue on the first Wednesday of each month.

**How can you help with Messy Church?** Volunteer to lead an activity (you don't have to do it every month, just when you are available), help in the kitchen, assist with set-up or clean-up; there are so many ways to get involved as much or as little as possible. We appreciate everyone's help. We will also be posting lists of items we need to prepare for future crafts. Currently, we are looking for:

**Cardboard tubes from paper towels/toilet tissue** rolls (drop off at church office).

A "Paint Spinner" toy

Someone with a *Cricut* to cut out needed shapes or iron-on transfers (on occasion)-Please let Pastor know.

Prayers for our new venture to share God's love with others. We are so excited to be starting this new ministry and look forward to everyone becoming involved as they are able.

**COMING SOON:** A five-week Tuesday Bible Study for adults at 10:30 a.m. and repeated at 6:30 p.m. from October 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 19<sup>th</sup>. Watch the bulletin for more details.

**TOTENFEST/MEMORIAL SUNDAY** will take place in worship on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## BOARD MEETING

# Church Board Highlights September 16, 2024

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

### **Committee Meeting Highlights**

Joy & Concerns: The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was a wonderful event. Thanks to the committee for all of their hard work in making this celebration a joyous event for all.

Mitch Cooper was able to get home to be with his wife on the birth of their daughter!

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Music & Worship.**

- Harvest Home Festival will take place on October 6<sup>th</sup> along with World Communion.
- Confirmation dedication will be on October 3rd during the church service.
- November 10 & 17<sup>th</sup> will be Stewardship Sundays.

#### **Christian Education.**

- Cookout for children and families will be October 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-7:30 at Wabash Trails
- M & M fall activity is planned for October 20<sup>th</sup> from 3-5:00
- Youth will be doing a Christmas fundraiser of selling cookie mix in jars on November 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Messy Church will start November 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00
- Confirmation will start October 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:00

Hoping to start a Bible study on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings beginning mid-October.

### **Outreach & Benevolence:**

Our Church has a lot of outreach and benevolent activities. Sandy's Pantry served 41 students recently!

### **Church Facilities:**

- Approved \$6,400 for electrical work that needs to be done as requested/required by our insurance company.
- Bell Tower needs tuck-pointing
- Sure Clean will be our new janitorial service provider.

### **Wilhelm Parsonage:**

Congregational met on September 22nd to vote on the recommendation of the Church Board for replacing the parsonage roof.

### **Technology:**

Discussing a new soundboard for the sanctuary. Need something uncomplicated and simple.

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

Next meeting will be October 21, 2024.

Betsy Marchino, Church Board Secretary



# Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



## October Birthdays

Kaiden Lichte  
Lonny Vieck  
Michelle Grube  
Jan Henry  
Darcie Bahr  
Becky Nowaskie  
Sarah Lowe  
Liam Goodman  
Sam Goodman  
Etta Snyder  
Ish Clausman  
Jordan Daniels  
Diane Frederick  
Joel Sanders  
Marvin Covey  
Karen Cole

## October Anniversaries

Chas & Landry Culp  
Daniel & Trista Goodman  
Dean & Linda Wagoner







## ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

### 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**, **Leona Conway**, Aperion Care - (Willow Manor under new ownership) C&D Hall Room 35, 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**



**Aurelia Nell Goodman Russell** was born September 8th in Winchester, UK. She is the daughter of Matthew Goodman and Madeline Russell. She is welcomed home by brothers, Joe and Sam. She was 8 pounds and 8 oz. "Over the moon" grandparents are Terry and Janet Goodman.



**Clarissa Cooper** was born September 19th, at 3:09 a.m., Weighing 7 lbs. and 4 oz. and 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Mitchell and Dasny Cooper. Steve Cooper is the proud grandparent. In his words, "She looks perfect to me!" A neat fact to go along with this blessing is that Clarissa was born on the anniversary date of grandparents Steve and (the late) Jill Cooper. Congratulations to all!

# October

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Choir 7pm  Messy Church core team meeting at parsonage 5:30 pm	3 Dinner at 6pm Fazoli's	4 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	5
6 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10 am Harvest Home Worship 10:30 W/ communion Children's Church	7 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm  Friends 5-6:15 pm  Evangelism & Membership 6:30 pm	8 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm	9 Christian Ed 6 pm  Choir 7pm	10 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm  Girl Scouts 4-6 pm  Dinner at 6pm Kelso's  Technology 10am	11 Preschool Dad's Day	12 CFM Wabash Trails Fun Day 5 pm-7:30 pm
13 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Alan Pancake guest singer Children's Church	14 Indigenous People's Day Office Closed Friends 5-6:15 pm  Outreach & Missions 6:30 pm	15	16 Preschool Fall Break  Choir 7pm	17 Preschool Fall Break  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  Dinner 6 pm Applebee's	18 Preschool Fall Break	19 Kitchen /Memorial Hall in use M&M youth fall activity 3-5 pm
20 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Confirmation Class 5-6 pm	21 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5-6:15 pm Worship Comm. 6pm at parsonage  Church Board 7pm at parsonage	22 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am repeated at 6:30 pm  Finance Comm. 12 pm	23 Choir 7pm	24 Dinner at 6 pm Harry Lee (Red Hill)	25	26 .
27 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Confirmation Class 5-6 pm	28 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m.  Friends 5-6:15 pm	29	30 Preschool Butterflies Halloween program Choir 7pm Laundry Love 6-8 pm	31 Preschool Caterpillars Halloween program		

St. John's United Church of Christ, Received several nice letters in regards to our 175 Anniversary Celebration. Here a few of them:

From Rev. Al Willhouse:

Hello Debbie Jo and Scarlett,

I want to introduce you to my wife and me, I am Al Willhouse. My wife is Lita Willhouse. I am a retired clergyman from the United Church of Christ I am 96. My wife is 95.

I am writing to you because I served St. John's Church for 16 years from 1974-1990. In September, you and the St. John's Church family will be celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We would like to attend and share the festivities. But the distance and our ages (I am 96, Lita is 95) prohibits that. This letter is our way of "being present." Our prayers will be with you.

"Woof, woof" to Scarlett.

We are so proud of you and the good works you do when you visit with your mom. Hope you like it at St. John's! Woof! Woof!

From Al



September 8, 2024

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,

Greetings to you all in Jesus Christ as you gather on this day to celebrate 175 years of ministry in the greater Vincennes community. As a part of the Indiana Kentucky Conference, I give thanks for the ways in which you have been able to bear witness to the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and demonstrate the unending love of God to all in your community. The mission of the Indiana Kentucky Conference is "to live in covenant, connecting and equipping local ministries to love and serve like Jesus." You have been loving and serving like Jesus over the course of nearly two centuries and in your church, you have seen generations baptized and confirmed, celebrated the joy of weddings and comforted those who grieve at funerals, seen youth encounter Christ at camp and in the lives of those who make up St. John's as a congregation, and partnered with the Eden Gleaning Project to help glean food that can be used to address poverty and food insecurity. What a gift you have been to your community and to this world.

While I will be away in Germany representing you and the wider Indiana Kentucky Conference sharing in our ecumenical partnership with the Evangelical Church of Westphalia while you all gather to celebrate, please know that I am celebrating along with you. You will be incredibly blessed to be accompanied in worship today by the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, whose leadership is inspiring and will lift your spirits as you imagine the next 170 years of service to your community. What a gift she will be for this special day. Your siblings in Christ in the Indiana Kentucky Conference are also rejoicing along with you this day and we treasure the covenant we share together with you. Thank you for loving and serving like Jesus in the Vincennes community and beyond and I pray for many many more years of service as God continues to guide, inspire, and empower you as a community of faith.

May your celebration be filled with joy!

In Christ and Covenant,  
Chad

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott  
Conference Minister  
Indiana Kentucky Conference  
United Church of Christ

Mental  
Health  
is a  
Universal  
Human  
Right



*"God will not falter or lose heart until  
justice prevails throughout the earth."  
(Isaiah 42:4)*

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**A World with Mental Health Justice for all  
is God's Dream for Us**

**T**his year's Neighbors in Need theme **"Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right"** highlights our God-given right to mental health.

***Everyone is created in God's image, and everybody should receive quality mental health care.***

In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

We believe we all have a God-given right to the following to support mental health:

- 1.** *The right to be protected from known harms to mental health; a universal right which applies to the entire population, but especially the vulnerable including children and oppressed peoples.*
- 2.** *The right to access quality and affordable care when a person is experiencing mental health challenges.*
- 3.** *The right to freedom and dignity, including the right of choice for mental health care.*

Visit [www.mhn-ucc.org](http://www.mhn-ucc.org) to learn more about these mental health principles.

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The 2024 Neighbors in Need theme



**“Mental Health Justice for All:**

**Mental Health is a Universal Human Right”**

provides us with an opportunity to re-ignite our efforts to build a more justice world for all, dismantling the shame and stigma of mental health challenges.

We invite you to be part of God’s work of mental health justice, join the WISE movement for mental health in your congregation, and support the Neighbors in Need offering.

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**October 10th is World Mental Health Day.**

For more information visit:

<https://wmhdofficial.com/>

**In a Just World, Mental Health is a Universal Human Right!**

Please join us in supporting the

**2024 Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering.**



**Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.**

[www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin).

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## It's Back To School for KIDS HOPE USA at Riley Elementary

We need mentors for our Kids Hope USA program. Becoming a mentor involves a 30--45-minute visitation with an assigned student at Riley School once a week. Training is available. No expense is incurred. Just be there and share your care with a Riley student K-5th grade and reap the rewards for you, your child, parents, teachers, school, church, and community. Contact the church office, Jerri Johanningsmeier, Eric Meyer, Larry Marchino, or Brett Summers. Jill Lopez, Linda Gilbert, or Cheryl Meyer if you are interested in helping .



Congratulations to our three children who received their very own bible on September 8. **Rylee Jennings (4th grade), Cameron Mattingly (4th grade) and Gavin Utley (6th grade)** were presented bibles during worship service. Rylee is the daughter of Megan Jennings and Andy Jennings, Cameron is the son of Krisi and Jeff Mattingly, and Gavin is the son of Cindy and Jim Utley. The Christian Education Committee was pleased to make this annual presentation to this special group of children!

### Upcoming dates to mark on your calendars!

**Advent Festival** - Sunday, December 1

**Children's Christmas Program** - Sunday, December 15



## Music & Worship

The season of fall is approaching quickly! On Sunday, October 6, we will celebrate Harvest Home and have Fellowship before Harvest Home Worship. We will also collect non-perishable food for our blessing box. It is a wonderful way to share our beautiful blessings with those in need.

Come and join us!

Alan Pancake will share his music ministry with us on Sunday, October 13. We look forward to seeing him again!



# Preschool News



Apples filled our classroom for the month of September! We tasted apples and decided if we liked red, yellow, or green apples the best. We also cooked and made apple crisp. Some kids were surprised they liked it! We are learning our color words each week as we sing our color songs, and we are mixing colors together to make new colors!

Everyone is working on their names. The butterflies are learning to write their letters on lines correctly. The caterpillars are saying each letter according to the sound it makes. We even worked on the syllables in our names by clapping them out!

## Preschool Hours

### Butterflies Class

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



### Caterpillars Class

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







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 things to do for everyone! This is an excellent opportunity for the families to invite friends.



On Saturday, October 26, the KFC and Youth will travel to Holiday World for Happy Halloween Weekends. This family-friendly special event includes the rides you love at Holiday World, plus 12 acres of corn mazes and hayrides! St. John's children will need to pay \$10, and friends/family are welcome to come but will need to pay \$20 for tickets. We will leave St. John's at 10:15 am and return around 9:30 pm. Please provide each child \$20-\$25 for food at the park and a stop on the way back for supper. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the nursery or text Will (812-887-5303) by Thursday, October 24, so the tickets can be purchased. A medical information form must be filled out for St. John's KFC and their friends. The medical information forms are located on the bulletin board by the nursery and outside of the CE office upstairs.



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

**Have a safe and happy trick or treat season!**

TRICK or TREAT



**St. John's United Church of Christ  
606 North Fifth Street  
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