



NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

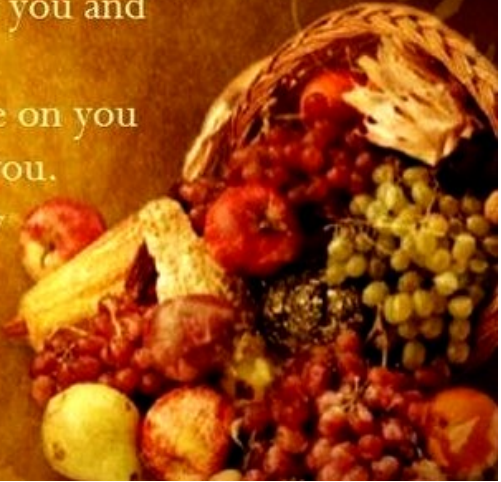
NOVEMBER BLESSINGS

May the LORD bless you and
protect you.

May the LORD smile on you
and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show
you His favor and
give you His peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26



606 N. Fifth Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

(812) 882-2720

stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com

Website: myucc.org



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

It's hard to believe it's been eight months since I first arrived in Vincennes. It has been a busy time and every day I see God's hand in bringing us together. While I was able to get away for a three day trip to Paducah in August, I haven't had a Sunday off since beginning as your Pastor. There's just always been something going on and you all make me feel so welcome.

I finally took a full week off and was able to visit with family in Illinois and Indianapolis. In Illinois, I attended the October Hallmark premiere and added several new ornaments to my collection. Can't wait to get my Christmas trees up as soon as the Halloween decorations come down! I was able to visit with friends and spent a day shopping with Noah. Scarlett got to visit with her first trainer and spent a few nights at the Kennelwood Pet Resort where she attended puppy camp each day. On the way home, we stopped for lunch at a Cracker Barrel where Scarlett worked her magic with those in the rocking chairs and sat at my feet while I ate. So many of the workers and other patrons came over to meet her and she gave everyone a personalized trading card.

We got home just as they started putting the new roof on the parsonage. Scarlett was not happy with all the noise and workers. They worked from sun-up to sundown. Fortunately, we weren't home for very long. While Scarlett spent time with Nancy (and her dogs, Finn & Cooper) I headed to Indianapolis where I spent time with Nick and Addison. They took me to a delicious dinner and dessert at the Cake Bake in Carmel and gave me an early birthday present (I'll tell you about it later).

Once upon a time I would feel guilty about taking a week's vacation, but I now understand how important it is to take time to rest and rejuvenate. Scripture mentions Jesus taking time away from the crowds in order to reflect and recharge. The week off helped me a great deal and I am ready to begin a new adult four-week Bible Study on Tuesdays and of course, the debut of Messy Church. I am planning

on another week off in November (part of a gift from my kids) and then it will be time for Advent and Christmas. Bring it on!

As the holidays approach, don't forget to take time to relax. Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions with family are very special but don't let them become overwhelming. Step back and count the blessings for which you are grateful. Prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. Take time to breathe and reflect. It can make all the difference.

Peace,
Pastor Debbie Jo



SCARLETT SPEAKS: Woof! Woof! On October 6th, I participated in the Vincennes Pet Blessing sponsored by the Clergy Association. I was all decked out in a new outfit made by recently appointed personal stylist, Jerri Johanningsmeier. She made me a clergy robe with a white collar, often referred to as a “dog collar” (ha-ha), and a stole with paw prints and dogs (including a Scottie). Thanks, Jerri! I also accompanied my mom when she read to both three-year-old Preschool classes. I love meeting new friends. Mom and I also spent several days in Illinois where I got to connect with my first trainer, Ratchenla Pen. I ran to greet her and immediately rolled over for her (I won't roll over for Mom). Woof! Woof!

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 in the back of the sanctuary each week or you can call the church office. We'd love to see you there. November schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| November 7 th | Culver's |
| November 14 th | COCO's |
| November 21 st | Old Chicago Pizza |
| November 28 th | Thanksgiving (no meeting) |

BIBLE STUDY: Beginning Tuesday, October 22nd, through November 12th, Pastor Debbie Jo will be leading a four week Bible Study for adults at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. The topic is *What does the Bible Really Say About Hell?* Please join us each Tuesday.

TOTENFEST/MEMORIAL SUNDAY will take place in worship on November 3rd. We will remember those of our church who have entered into eternal life during the past year. A candle will be lit, the bell rung, and yellow roses will be in honor of each person recognized.

MESSY CHURCH will launch on November 6th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Our theme is **Celebrate Harvest!** **Activities** will include a variety of crafts, such as making a bird feeder, a gratitude game, making gingerbread cookies 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 appreciate your sharing flyers with others. EVERYONE is welcome at Messy Church, including our own church families. **Messy Church** will continue on the first Wednesday of each month.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin on November 3rd with a condensed schedule and more independent assignments. All young people in Grades 7-12 are invited to participate and should contact Pastor Debbie Jo immediately. The class will enter into a covenant with the congregation during worship on November 3rd.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on November 11th for Veteran's Day.

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.

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 mission.



FEEDBACK NEEDED!!!!

Please fill out the slip below and return to the church office ASAP. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIME:

Christmas Eve worship should be held at

3:00 5:00 7:00 Doesn't matter

I won't be attending Christmas Eve service.

BIBLE STUDY:

I prefer Bible Study opportunities at

10:30 am 6:30 pm

I am not interested in Adult Bible Study

Name _____

Phone _____



St. John's United Church of Christ Church Board Highlights

BOARD MEETING October 21, 2024

Joys and Concerns

Prayer request for Sara Schutz's family following the death of her mother

Prayer request for the family of a friend Of Pastor Debbie's daughter who died of an overdose

Prayers of thanks for the number of children at the service Sunday

Prayers of thanks for the truckload of broccoli that the group gleaned on Saturday with the help of three of our church's young folk

The amended agenda and secretary's report were accepted.

Ed led us through the treasurer's report regarding the movement of money to cover the several expenses currently due, which the board then accepted.

Pastor Debbie's report reminded us that she will be away the week of 11/8. Messy Church will debut on 11/6. She is working to schedule the confirmation class and get the final list of confirmands.

Committee Reports

Krisi Mattingly summarized the actions of the Worship Committee. We will have fellowship time 11/17. The Hanging of the Greens will be 11/17 and 11/24. Advent begins 12/1 and the Children's Program will be 12/15.

Cheryl Meyer for the Christian Education Committee noted that the new Bible Study begins 11/22, with both morning and evening sessions.

The Finance Committee Report from Ed Cummings noted that we are adjusting how we set out the portion of utilities, cleaning, etc., that go toward the Preschool.

Jill Doggett presented the Membership and Evangelism report. They are arranging the door hangers to announce the Messy Church to the neighborhood households. The Block Party will be next spring. The discussions are on-going regarding the need for a new church directory.

For the Facilities Committee, Mark Schutz reported on the updated light fixtures in several areas. The repairs to the parking lot are waiting on the

repair of the truck used to hold the ground-off paving material. The repair of the large stained-glass window in front of the sanctuary is waiting for the matching caulking material.

Jana Vieck noted from the Parsonage Committee that the roof is done.

Cheryl Meyer informed us that the Memorial Committee paid the fee for Higher Bound.

Jake Alexander presented the proposed job descriptions for a part-time secretary and part-time financial manager. After significant discussion we agreed to finalize this next month.

Old Business

The Pastoral Relations Committee is now set and will follow the UCC guidelines.

We approved the updated van usage guidelines and will present them to our insurance carrier.

Pastor Debbie asked us to look into changing the exterior door between her office and the sanctuary into one opened with an emergency crash bar.

The Board thanked Pastor Debbie for providing the food and Scarlett’s cuddling.

Submitted by Ren Simmons for Betsy Marchino

<u>St. John’s Attendance: October</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
<u>10/6</u>	61
<u>10/13</u>	57
<u>10/20</u>	73
<u>10/27</u>	67

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



November Birthdays

Addison Cummings
Ross Lankford
Amelia Schutz
Janet Goodman
Jim Workman
Sierra Deckard
Betty Lankford
Paul Goodman
Luke Lindsey
Cyndi Glass
Pastor Debbie
Shirley Black
Natasha Coomes
Elise Goodman
Leo Vieck
Jana Vieck
Janice Strange
Ed Cummings
Rodney Lopez



November Anniversaries

Jake & Kelly Alexander
Zach & Mallory Bowman
Jay & Karen Cole
Clayton & Cindi Gilmore





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 offer prayers of healing for Patrick Gott, whose appendix ruptured on October 16th. He is the husband of Gabrielle ("Gabby") Gott and son-in-law of Donna Gerhardt.
- Please keep Brenda Fillingim and her family in your prayers on the passing of her cousin, Joann Lamar, from Poseyville. She passed on October 13.
- From Brenda Roark: Dannie's brother, Ronnie Roark of Kendallville, IN, passed away this morning after an illness of several years. His family, Lori Sanders and family, and I appreciate your prayers.

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 - 3599 E. Warren Cir, Vincennes IN 47591

Gary Meyer - 2004 J.C. Street, Vincennes IN, 47591

Michael Lankford- 105 N 13 St, Vincennes, IN 47591

Gayle Huffer- 5372 E. Wheatland Rd, Vincennes, IN 47591

Ellen Riggs- 1418 Weed Lane, Vincennes, IN 47591

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.

November

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	2
3 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Confirmation Covenant Memorial Sunday Children's Church	4 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5-6:15 pm Evangelism & Membership 6:30 pm	5 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm Adult Bible Study 10:30 am 6:30 pm	6 Choir 7pm Messy Church 5:30-7pm	7 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm Girl Scouts 4-6 pm Dinner at 6pm Culver's	8 Youth Lock in 7 pm	9 Fri.- 8:30 am Sat.
10 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Veterans Recognized Stewardship Sunday Children's Church	11 Friends 5-6:15 pm Dinner @ St. Francis Xavier Parish Center Preschool out Veterans Day Office Closed	12 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am 6:30 pm	13 Choir 7pm Christian Ed 6 pm	14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Dinner 6 pm CO-CO's Technology 10am	15 Pastor Debbie Birthday 	16 Baby Shower Allison & Paul Goodman Memorial Hall 11:30 am
17 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Hanging Greenery Stewardship- Sunday Chili Cook-Off to follow	18 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5-6:15 pm Oliver Presentation Lincoln High School Worship Comm. 6 pm Church Board 7pm	19	20 Choir 7pm	21 Dinner at 6 pm Old Chicago	22 KFC Lock in 7 Pm	23 Fri.- 8:30 am Sat.
24 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Decorate Church (immediately following service)	25 BABE Store 12-5:30 p.m. Friends 5-6:15 pm Holiday Dinner First Baptist Church	26	27 Choir 7pm Laundry Love 6-8 pm Preschool out	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed Preschool out 	29 Office Closed Preschool out	30

A BABY SHOWER

You are invited to attend a baby shower on Saturday, November 16, at 11:30 am in honor of Allison and Paul Goodman in Memorial Hall. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the nursery if you plan to attend. You can see their wish list on my.babylist.com/goodman2025. (It's a boy!)

Advent Festival!!!!

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, Dec.1, immediately following worship service for our annual Advent Festival. A lunch, crafts, games, and other Christmas preparation fun will be served. Plan now to attend. This is an event for all church friends, neighbors, and families.

If you would like to help with food, a craft, a game, or offer other ideas, please get in touch with Jill Lopez.



The Christmas Program put on by the youth and children of St. John's will be held on Sunday, December 15th, during worship service. We look forward to seeing our young people participate!

Music & Worship



Sanctuary decorating help needed following worship,

November 17– moving greenery and trees into sanctuary.

November 24– **Final decorating of trees and nativity scene in sanctuary.**

Pastoral Relations Committee is Formed

To maintain a healthy relationship between the congregation and the pastor, St. John's has formed a Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)

The PRC achieves this purpose by:

serving as an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor,

providing support for the pastor's leadership: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor to the congregation.

The PRC maintains an atmosphere of confidentiality, support, care, and honesty with the pastor while promoting healthy communication with the congregation. This committee serves as a safe space for the pastor to share ideas and concerns in a confidential setting and for church members to share concerns with the pastor. Dealing with issues as they arise in a healthy, Christian environment is in the best interest of the church and the pastor.

Ideas or issues for the PRC may be directed to any of the following committee members: Hope Clausman, Brenda Cummings, Eric Meyer, Sheri Stodghill, and Jana Vieck.



Stewardship Campaign 2024



Imagine Together: What Might Generosity Look Like for You?

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

When I was a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I had world renowned theologian Dr. James Cone as my professor for Systematic Theology. In our first class I remember him saying: "We all do theology. Theology is God-talk." A theology of money is God-talk about money.

Conversations about money are taboo in our society. We reluctantly talk about the cost of items we purchase; we are hushed in our conversations about money; and silent in discussing our investments or what we earn. Money is a topic which creates discomfort for many, with most not knowing how to ask for what is needed or what is owed. If our conversations about money are challenging, then finding our way to God-talk on the subject could be even more challenging.

Such a theology starts with how we understand God present and with us in our lives and in the world around us. The prophet Malachi puts before us a theology of money that says God will bless what is given. The blessing is on the giver and on what is given. The tithe in this case is the expectation of giving. God is present blessing what is given back to God for use in the house of God. Malachi resonates

an expectation one will give back to God regularly and in line with the expectations of the religious order of his day. This is one way to think about money and how we give. There are others.

A theology of money continues with a clear-eyed understanding of how much money we have. If I am giving a portion of what I have, then I should be knowledgeable about what my financial obligations are, including my desire to give in supporting the mission and ministries of the church. Whether investing, spending, or giving we should pay attention to what we have, in order to give from what we have whether a tenth, or another fraction, or amount of our choosing. When we give value and meaning to what we have, we give from abundance rather than from scarcity, from knowledge rather than fear.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Imagine

Together



CHILI-COOKOFF: Our Stewardship Campaign will take place during worship on November 10th & 17th as we Imagine Together our church's future. Following worship on the 17th, we will gather for a chili-cook-off meal in Memorial Hall as we make our 2025 commitments. The winner will receive a trophy and bragging rights. The challenge has been thrown down so make up a crockpot of

your favorite chili recipe and join us for food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary, so be sure to get your name on the list. We are also asking for a few plates of sandwiches and desserts as well.

Church Directory Feedback Requested

The last church directory was published in 2011, making it a 15-year-old informational resource at St. John's United Church of Christ. In lieu of this, the Evangelism and Membership Committee would like to update and release a new one.

Here's how you can help. Call the church office with a response to the following questions. 812-882-2720 or email the church office with the same information. stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com.

1. Would you like an updated church directory?
2. Do you prefer a traditional handheld booklet copy? Traditional photos are scheduled for purchasing in package form.
3. Would you prefer an online directory to change and update when needed, such as pictures, family information, and selected Information provided by you?

The online directory would be secured and available to members. Assistance would be available, if needed, for online entries.

4. Do you feel we should offer both as preferred, by request of members?

We are grateful for your time in responding to this project. We thank you in advance.



Preschool News



We finished up the spooky season. The Children enjoyed making scary bats, spiders, and pumpkins to decorate the classroom. The Butterflies had a chance to go through a not-so-spooky haunted house. They had lots of fun, played many games, and enjoyed sweet treats!

Our Butterflies are doing lots of learning with a visit from germ busters, the fire station, and Mouzin Pumpkin farm.

The Caterpillar classes are learning to follow directions and perform several tasks independently. We are so proud of them!

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 12:30pm-3:00 pm
(doors open at 12:25 pm)



CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

On Sunday, October 12, the Children and Family Ministry attended a Fall Fun Day at Wabash Trails. The activity included hamburgers, hot dogs, and BBQ, and the families shared side dishes. The cookout also featured many games and activities for the families. This was a great opportunity for the families to invite friends.

On October 19, the youth had an opportunity to glean broccoli with other St. John's members and a group from St. Louis. The youth did a great job and were a great help that Saturday. Thank you to the youth and everyone involved with gleaning!

On Saturday, October 26, the KFC and Youth traveled to Holiday World for Happy Halloween Weekends. This family-friendly special event included the rides you love at Holiday World, plus 12 acres of corn mazes and hayrides!



On Saturday, November 10, the M&M (age 4-2 grade) will enjoy a Fall evening activity from 3 to 5 p.m. at church. There will be crafts and activities at the Mini-Marvels event. Also, there will be light snacks to enjoy! This will be a great activity to invite friends, grandparents, and other family members to join in on the fun!



The youth (7th-12th grade) will have a lock-in at church starting at 7 p.m. on November 8 until 8:30 a.m. the next morning. The KFC (3rd-6th grade) will also have a lock-in at church starting at 7 p.m. on November 22 until 8:30 a.m. the next morning.

For the lock-ins, the children can be dropped off any time during the night after coming from other activities. If they are being dropped off/picked up after 7 p.m., please text (812-887-5303) Will to make arrangements. The evening will start with the groups making their own small pizzas.

***For both lock-ins, a 24-25 medical information form must be on file for the St. John's children and their friends. The medical forms are located on the nursery's bulletin board, and the Facebook group is in the file tab.



On Saturday, December 7, the Children and Family Ministry will have a Family Holiday Dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. The meat and drinks for this event will be provided! Please sign up on Facebook to bring a side dish or dessert to share with the other families! Extra side dishes or desserts will be provided in case your family is running from one activity to another. This activity would be an excellent opportunity for the families to invite friends.

**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