



FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

God is love.

1 JOHN 4:16

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A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

It seems as though we just celebrated the New Year and its already February. The winter storms played havoc with our schedule and prevented me from getting out as much as I would like. There have been days I have felt glued to a computer screen or a book, especially as I prepare for our Bible Study on the *Gnostic Gospels*. I learned from our study on *Hell* that this congregation has a much firmer and deeper understanding of Scripture than my last and I need to make sure I have enough material to keep them interested.

After worship on January 12th (our Epiphany celebration), I had numerous people comment how much they enjoyed the closing hymn, *I Am the Light of the World*. Several others texted me throughout the following several days. I've never had that much positive reaction to an unfamiliar hymn, and I was very pleased since it is a favorite of mine. We will be using it as a response until Lent begins. I've also planned for us to sing, *When I Needed a Neighbor*, which is similar and from the same time period. It too expresses the heart of Jesus' teaching as found in Matthew 25 and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do.

It's very hard for me to believe that as you read this, I will have passed my first anniversary as your pastor. I truly thank God daily for bringing us together and I hope you are still feeling the same way about me. I love it when God reminds me who is in charge of my life, and I stop putting up barriers and obey. The *star word* I blindly pulled from the basket on Epiphany was *Trust*, and I thought that was just God reminding me that everything works out best when I trust in God's guidance and obey God's call.

As we move forward in 2025, I hope you will also follow where God is leading us as a church and trust in divine guidance. Let us all trust, obey and follow throughout the upcoming days.

Peace,
Pastor Debbie Jo



SCARLETT SPEAKS: WOOF! WOOF!

I have been very lazy this month. I do not like the cold temperatures, and I definitely don't like the snow on my belly. You wouldn't either. The Pre-School was cancelled on the day I was to visit, and I haven't been out to see any of my church friends. It's boring being trapped for days with just my Mom for company. She spends hours looking at a small screen and tapping on some contraption I don't understand. I have to bop her with my nose to get her attention. I'm looking forward to warmer weather so I can get back to doing what I do best—being with people and brightening their day. Woof! Woof!

MESSY CHURCH will be held on February 5th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The theme is There's Snowbody Like You. There will be lots of snowy activities and *Boomwhackers*, with a Taco Bar and Nachos for dinner. Join us!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY on The Gnostic Gospels February 4, & 11. The Gnostic Gospels are 52 texts discovered in 1945 in Nag Hammadi, Egypt. They include 'secret' gospels, poems, and myths attributing to Jesus' sayings and beliefs, which are very different from the New Testament. We will be focusing on the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Phillip, and the Gospel of Mary Magdalene. We will also look at the Gospel of Judas if we have time. If more time is needed, we will add more sessions. Pastor will have some background info on these gospels to prepare for this study; copies are available in the church office.

SOUPER-BOWL SUNDAY The NFL Super Bowl is February 9th, and everyone is invited to bring in cans of soup for the Blessings Box for Soup-er Bowl Sunday. All kinds of canned soups are welcome, but those that are heat-and-serve with a *pop-top lid* are especially needed as many using our little pantry do not have can openers or even a safe water supply. Wear a jersey or shirt from your favorite team!

PRE-SCHOOL UPDATE: The committee has finalized a job description for the Pre-School Director and will soon post the advertisement as we search to fill this position. If you should hear rumors about the Pre-School closing, please assure the person making the statement that this is **NOT TRUE**. Our Pre-School is 25 years old and will continue serving this community for years.

The CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet on February 2nd at 5:00 p.m. to discuss The Protestant Reformation and The Story of Our Denomination. Jesus of Nazareth. Any Confirmands who haven't

turned in their Old Testament Bible Study should do so and begin work on the New Testament study. All three parts should be viewed and ready for discussion. Watching the movie *Luther* before the class session would be helpful.

February Assignments:

Work on New Testament Bible Study
Handout

Watch *Luther* starring Joseph Fiennes on
YouTube

Review Books of the Bible

Memorize *The 23rd Psalm*

Become familiar with UCC Statement of Faith

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S UCC is open to EVERYONE, no matter their 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 on a regular basis, you help keep a continuous flow of income for the church to use in paying its bills and see that our missions continue without any shortfalls that sometimes happen. You also don't have to remember to bring your envelope or check on Sunday mornings. You may sign up for online giving by going to the church website at myucc.org and following the contribution prompts. Thank you for your continued support of our church and its mission.



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Continuing Prayer Requests: Laura Sanders, Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Norma Meyer.

- Vern Houchins is home and recuperating. He still has quite a bit of pain. Prayers are appreciated!

Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Norma Meyer, Gentle Care, - Room 8, 1202 S 16th, Vincennes, IN 47591

Susie Milligan, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway, Aperion Care, - C Wing Room 3, 3801 Old Bruceville Rd , Vincennes, IN 47591

Marge Beamon, The Villages at Oak Ridge, - Room 303, 1694 Troy Rd. Washington, IN 47501

Home

Bruce Deckard

Gary Meyer

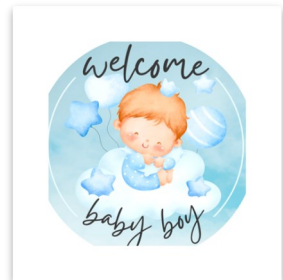
Michael Lankford

Gayle Huffer

Ellen Riggs



Welcome, **Crew Alan Goodman**, born January 10, to Paul and Allison Goodman! Proud grandparents include Terry and Janet Goodman. Well-wishes may be sent to Paul, Allison and Crew 9823 Clippinger, Evansville, IN 47725.



GRATITUDE BEYOND MEASURE TO OUR GREETERS JUNE -DECEMBER 2024



**Thank you to these members for serving as greeted for
Sunday services.**

Ed and Brenda Cummings Family

Bill Lathrop

Conway and Arlene Wilson.

Mark Welte

Marvin and Sandy Covey

Brenda Roark

David and Carole Culp

Connie Coulter

Tony and Ann Riley

Larry and Betsy Marchino

Tom and Becky Nowaskie

Betsy Emmons

Kyle and Jill Doggett Family

John and Ellen Riggs

Brenda Fillingim

Jay and Karen Cole

Allison and Grady Cummins

Ray Pieper

Ish and Hope Clausman

Jim and Elaine Workman

Vacation Bible School Attendees

Brad and Pam Summers

Kim Godare

Confirmands

Jeremy and Natasha Coomes Family

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:

1. serving as an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor,
2. Supporting the pastor's leadership: Interpreting the pastor's roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs 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 church's and the pastor's best interest.

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.



Help is needed to put up the cross for Lent and Easter on March 2 following church.

FEBRUARY

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 w/ communion Children's Church Confirmation Class 5pm	3 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm	4 Bible Study 10:30 am 6:30 pm Sandy's Pantry 11- 12:30 pm	5 Choir 4:30 pm Messy Church 5:30-7pm	6 Dinner at Luigi's Italian Restaurant 6 pm Sandy's Pantry 11- 12:30 pm	7 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	8
9 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10 am Worship 10:30 Children's Church	10 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Outreach & Missions 6:30 pm	11	12 Choir 4:30 pm Christian Ed 6 pm	13 Technology 10am Dinner at McAlister's 6pm	14	15
16 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	17 Presidents Day Office Closed Preschool Closed BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Worship Comm. 6 pm Church Board 7pm	18 Preschool Closed	19 Choir 4:30 pm	20 Dinner at Old Chicago 6pm LAM Banquet 6pm	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22
23 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	24 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm	25	26 Laundry Love 6-8 Choir 4:30 pm	27 Dinner at Café' Moonlight 6pm	28 Mom's Day for Preschool 11-12 pm	



February Birthdays

Daniel Goodman

Derek Daniels

Connie Coulter

Peggy Meyer

Kyle Doggett

Dan Coulter

Brenda Fillingim

Ann Riley

Garry Hall

Caleb Schlag

Ellery Miller

Beckett Daniels

Don Black

Allison Cummins

Mark Schutz

Jeffrey Watts

Harper Coomes

Rylan Coomes

Donna Klein

Delaynee Coomes

Taylor Fuller

Charlotte "Charlie" Bahr





Preschool News



We rang in the new year 2025, even after a week of snow days! Our preschoolers wrote 2025 and talked about New Year's Resolutions. We played and painted snow and even painted with ice cubes.

Everyone enjoyed making ice cream sundaes and cones—yum! The butterflies are learning to sound out small words, and seeing them figure out new words is so exciting!

The Caterpillars are learning to write their names on their own papers.

We want to welcome two new preschoolers to our Caterpillar class, Breezlin and Maverick.



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)





CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

The Children and Family Ministry had an active end of December into the new year. The final activity of 2024 was a Christmas Party on December 22. We had a taco bar, games, and crafts to finish the year. To start 2025, the CFM had an opportunity to help at the Isaiah House over Christmas break. During the activity, the group helped take down the Christmas decorations, did house maintenance, and went through donations. In the middle of January, the Children and Family Ministry had their Soup Fundraiser. The month ended with a Family Game Night to enjoy a night at church with their church family. Some activities included playing pool, foosball, and giant board games. The families could also bring games from home to share with the other families.



Thank you for all your help and for buying soup at the CFM fundraiser. It was a great success, and the proceeds will go towards the 2025 Children and Family In-town Mission Week in July and future activities.



The Children and Family Ministry decorated a lamp pole next to the Pickle ball court for December.

Christmas Party



Isaiah House



Enjoy some pictures from St. John's United Church of Christs December Activities!





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

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