



MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



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A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. This year, we will be giving out Lenten calendars to adults and children, with each child receiving a crown to put together and stickers to add each day. They are encouraged to wear their crowns for Easter worship.

The confirmation class is rapidly coming to a close. We have our final “class session” on March 5th, before diving into writing our Faith Statements and designing our Confirmation stoles in April. Confirmation will take place in worship on May 4th.

How exciting it was to see two of our Confirmands running the worship PowerPoint and learning the soundboard! It’s so wonderful to have Lucas and Calvin on board to help make our worship flow smoothly and go live online. We will provide training for anyone who would like to join our media team.

Lent is a season of self-reflection and prayer as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter. It lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays) and represents the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the Evil One. Traditionally, observers sacrifice something that is a real temptation for them (chocolate, soda, profanity, alcohol, etc.) but I always encourage folks to “take on” something that adds to their spiritual growth: set aside a specific time of prayer or Bible study each day, read a daily devotion, do a daily random act of kindness, etc.

Because Jesus fasted during those forty days, many chose a form of fasting wherein they gave up meat one or two days a week. Pope Francis (whom I greatly admire) has these profound observances about fasting during Lent:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

I invite and encourage each of you to join us on our Lenten journey as we travel the road to Jerusalem, face Holy Week and the crucifixion, and celebrate the glorious Resurrection.

Peace,
Pastor Debbie Jo



SCARLETT SPEAKS: WOOF! WOOF!

I have so enjoyed watching all the snow melt and an end to the ice beneath my paws. I do my danger bark when I hear snow sliding off the roof and onto the sidewalk. I don't care much about the sound. I was able to visit with the Caterpillar Pre-School class while mom read the story, Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me by Eric Carle. Tomorrow, I will be visiting Bridgepoint. I'm so glad I can get out and see people again. On March 12th, I will celebrate my 3rd birthday. Where does the time go? I still remember meeting my mom for the first time when I was 8 weeks old. She drove from Illinois to Dawson Springs, KY, where I anxiously waited for her arrival. We love each other very much, and I am so happy she brought me to be a part of this church family. Woof! Woof!

MESSY CHURCH will take place on Wednesday, March 5th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The theme is Live, Love, Lent, and activities will include creating a tabletop Lenten garden, making pretzels, and several crafts. Dinner will be hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, and chips. Everyone is invited to join us afterward for the Ash Wednesday service.

LENT BEGINS with Ash Wednesday on March 5th with a Service of Communion and the Imposition of Ashes in the sanctuary at 7 p.m.

LENTEN MOVIE & DISCUSSION nights will occur on several Sunday evenings during the Lenten season. The first movie will be Conclave, starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, and Isabella Rossellini, on March 16th at 5:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

VALLEYS OF LENT will be the theme for worship during the Lenten season. We will explore messages from various valleys in the Bible, beginning with The Valley of the Dry Bones on Ash Wednesday.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

March 2nd	What is Lent? Sacraments: Baptism and Communion
March 5th	Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm
March Assignments	Begin drafting personal faith statement Review Christian symbols handout and Design your personal Confirmation stole Handout: Why do I Need the Church? Why Does the Church Need Me?

AMISTAD SUNDAY on March 23rd will explore the 1839 incident in which the ship La Amistad (Friendship) was taken over by slaves in an unprecedented uprising. The slaves ordered the surviving crew members to return the ship to Africa but U.S. officials intercepted the ship off the coast of Connecticut. The legal battle that ensued went all the way to the Supreme Court, which decided that since U.S. had banned the African trade, the slaves were legally free. Forbearers of our United Church of Christ were strong advocates for the prisoners,

providing food and clothing while they were incarcerated and legal representation for the legal battle which went to the Supreme Court. The ship became a symbol in the movement to abolish slavery and also became the subject of a major motion picture directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins and Matthew McConaughey. The Amistad incident was a defining moment for the movement to abolish slavery, and helped create momentum for the formation of the American Missionary Association in 1846.

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 seeing 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.

2025 Church Board Members

Ed Cummings *Church Board President*
Saundra Lange *Church Board Vice President*
Ren Simmons *Treasurer*
Jill Doggett *Secretary*
Jake Alexander
Steve Cooper
Kim Godare
Michelle Grube
Krisi Mattingly
Mark Schutz
Brad Summers



Notes from Music & Worship

Dates to remember:

- 3/05/25 – Ash Wednesday Service and Communion
7:00 p.m.. – In the Sanctuary
- 3/09/25 – 10:00 a.m.. - Fellowship Time in Memorial Hall
- 4/13/25 - Palm Sunday
10:30 a.m.
- 4/17/25 – Maundy Thursday Service and Communion
12:00 noon – In the Chapel
- 4/18/25 – Good Friday Service
7:00 p.m. – In the Sanctuary
- 4/20/25 – Easter
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time in Memorial Hall
10:30 a.m. – Church Service

We need help moving the Cross into the Sanctuary. We plan to move it Sunday, March 2, after church. Please let us know if you can help us out.

If you would like to **donate a Spring flower** in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, please have them at the Church by *12:00 noon on Friday, April 18*. A list of donors will be in the May newsletter.

A Big thank you goes out to Bill Lathrop for repairing the broken drawer in the kitchen and to Larry Marchino and Mark Schutz for their work on the stained-glass window in the Sanctuary. We appreciate all of you! Also, a big thank you to Mark Schutz for sidewalk and property snow removal!



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit, or desire communion, please get in touch with 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.

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

Please Keep the Below in Your Prayer's

Brain Fillingim For relief of the extreme pain in his L3– L6, and answers as to what is causing it.

Cheryl Meyer recovering from cataract surgery.

Michael Lankford Moving to rehabilitation at Good Samaritan.

Vern Houchins Recovering from an additional back surgery doctors discovered he needed after being hospitalized with pneumonia.

Marilyn Houchins suffering with pneumonia, but remains at home. Prayers are needed!

Pam Summers Recovering from knee surgery.

March

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 Friends 5– 6:15 pm Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm	4 Sandy's Pantry 11– 12:30 pm	5 Messy Church 5:30-7pm Ash Wednesday Service w/ communion 7 pm Choir immediately Following Service	6 Sandy's Pantry 11– 12:30 pm Girl Scouts 4:30 pm Dinner at El Coral 6 pm	7 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	8
9 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10 am Worship 10:30 am Children's Church	10 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm	11	12 Christian Ed 6 pm Choir 7 p	13 Technology 10am Dinner at COCO's 6pm	14	15
16 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Lenten Movie and Discussion 5:30 pm Memorial Hall	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Worship Comm. 6 pm Church Board 7pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm Spring Break Begins preschool	18	19 Choir 7 pm	20 Dinner at American Table 6pm	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22
23 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	24 Preschool Resumes BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm VU Bowling Center	25	26 Laundry Love 6-8 Choir 7pm	27 Girl Scouts 4:30 pm Dinner at Hibachi Grill 6pm	28 Grandparent Day Preschool	



March Birthday

Zoe Gilmore
Fred Klein
Stephen Nicole
Mark Meyer
Shawn Brown
Brian Fillingim
Kynzlie Brown
Lucas Doggett
Scarlett Atkins
Jennifer Cole
Dean Newell
Kim Vieke
Olivia Lange
Henry Joseph Lopez III
Krisi Mattingly
Nicole Daniels
Mackenzie Jones
Patrick Schutz
James Simmons
David Culp
Calvin Doggett
Adelynn Lange



March Anniversaries

Mark & Marcy Meyer
Mark & De Etta Welte
Ish & Hope Clausman



Preschool News



Love was in the air! February was full of hearts and flowers. We enjoyed Valentine's parties with cards and sweets. Everyone made Valentine's gifts for their parents, picture frames and paintings.

The Butterflies are learning to write their last names. Some of our kids are now in the Name Writing Club for last names. We are also learning to sound out words by listening to the first and last sounds!

The Caterpillars are writing their names on the back of their papers. Letters are all over the place, but we are making progress by trying to put them on a line.

All the children had fun learning about Dental Health Month. We know how to brush our teeth, floss, and eat healthy foods to have nice white teeth!

Nicole Daniels from the YMCA came to teach us some exercises during health week! Thank you, Miss Nicole!!

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)





SAVE THE DATE. APRIL 6, 2025. 4:00-6:00 P.M.

ROCK THE BLOCK NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT

The Spring "Rock The Block" event will be held on Sunday, April 6, from 4-6 pm in our church parking lot. As in the past, food and activities will be enjoyed with our neighborhood attendees and church family. At this time, traditional hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, and ice cream will be served. Activities have not been planned in totality, but bounce house, volleyball, photo booth, games, and theme basket raffle are on the list to enjoy.

Donations of theme baskets would be appreciated. Suggestions include a car wash, movie night, art supplies, summer games, pizza things, salad toppings, gift-wrapping items, snacks, soup and crackers, paper items, and many more.

In addition, volunteers are needed for the event: there are plenty of jobs for all. More details will be available in the days to come. Watch for them in the church service bulletin or April newsletter, or call the church office.

Evangelism and Membership Committee Members: Janet Daniels, Ray Pieper, Mark Schutz, Pastor Debbie Jo and Jerri Johannsmeier, Church Board Representative Jill Doggett.



DIAPERS AND DONUTS BABY SHOWER

APRIL 13, 2025 SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

10:00 -10:30 MEMORIAL HALL

FOR

BABY BOY

COLSEN MAX ATKINS-HARRIS

PROUD PARENTS TO BE

NICK AND ADDISON ATKINS-HARRIS

PROUD GRANDMOTHER

PASTOR DEBBIE JO ATKINS

INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL CHURCH MEMBERS

FELLOWSHIP WITH CONVERSATION REMAINS OPEN TO ALL.

A PACKAGE OF DIAPERS TO GIFT THE PARENTS IS REQUESTED, BUT NOT

EXPECTED.

NICK AND ADDISON WILL BE ATTENDING TO MEET AND GREET ATTENDEES

DIAPER DROP-OFFS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE IS OFFERED BEFORE AND AFTER THE APRIL 13 THEME SHOWER.

MARK PACKAGES. **ATKINS BABY (SO NOT TO CONFUSE WITH BABE STORE DONATIONS)**

COLSEN IS DUE TO ARRIVE ON OR BEFORE MAY 16!

CONTACT:

Jerri Johanningsmeier

Jill Lopez





Thank you for all the help and donations to the CFM soup fundraiser in January and cookie mixes in December. The fundraisers were a great success, and the proceeds will go towards the 2025 Children and Family In-town Mission this summer and future activities.



The Unbeatable Egg Hunt is back on Saturday, April 19. For future information about the Easter activity, please look for announcements in the bulletin and Children and Family Ministry Facebook group!



The Children and Family Ministry will have an in-town mission week from June 30 to July 3. This year, there will be many new opportunities and some of the same activities during the week. Just like in the past, the group will be staying at a cabin, and the kids can come and go for games and practices. Each day is designed for all ages and grades to enjoy the event.

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 March 9, from 5-7:30 pm the Children and Family Ministry will have family night at St. John's UCC . Some of the activities include playing pool, foosball, giant board games and games in the big blue room. The families can also bring games from home to share with the other families. There will be a pasta bar and other snacks. This will be a great chance to invite friends, grandparents and other family members to come to the fun activity too! Come and go to fit your schedule or stay the whole time.



Children aged 3-12 are invited to go upstairs to the blue classroom for Children 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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