



St. John's United Church of Christ
Easter Celebration
 April 20, 2025



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold Print=Everyone**

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER

UNLOCKING THE "ALLELUIA" - CHORAL RESPONSE

PRELUDE

ANTHEM

He Is Alive!

CHURCH BELL

Choplin

***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

The long night of darkness is over.

The stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty,

The sun begins to shine. The Son has risen!

It's a morning of glory, Of love overcoming death,

Of women spreading Good News, of men turning from despair.

It's a morning of joy, for Easter has come again.

Love is stronger than death,

And we lift our voices in song.

***OPENING HYMN** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

#216

***WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison)

Loving God, as the day begins to brighten, shine your light into our lives. Chase the corners of sadness, expose our fears and bring us to the light of new hope, the dawn of possibility. Open us to your resurrection power that knows no boundaries. Fill us with incredible joy, everlasting peace and unquenchable hope this day and always. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Christ Arose (v.1)*

#224

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM – *Jillian Claire Cummins*

Born on November 12, 2024 to Brayton and Allison (Cooper) Cummins

Godparents: Brody Pepmeier and Brianna French

Big Brother: Grady Micheal Cummins

Grandparents: Steve Cooper & the late Jill Cooper, Tabby & Ray Cummins, Jim & Elaine Workman, Steve Snow

Baptism Hymn: *Jillian, We Greet You*
 (melody: *Morning Has Broken*)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children come forward)

Jesus Loves Me

OFFERING INVITATION

God is so good and we are richly blessed. Let us give back to God with gratitude and thanksgiving.

***RESPONSE** *In the Garden (v.1)*

#227

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Gracious God, you have given us the ultimate gift in the death and resurrection of your Son. We humbly offer these gifts to you. Consecrate them to your use — that the ministry of this congregation might serve as a witness to those who still doubt. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: John 20: 1-18

The Word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON

A Grave Situation

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn *The Strife is O'er (with Alleluias)*

Invitation

Communion Prayer

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution; Consecration and Sharing of the Elements

Thanksgiving Prayer (unison)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Thine is the Glory*

#218

***BLESSING** (responsively)

The stone has been rolled away and the tomb is empty! Go forth from this house of worship filled with amazement at the miracle God has performed! Alleluia!

**We will sing and dance for joy! We will spread the word that Christ
has been raised! Alleluia! Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *He Lives* (chorus only) #226

***POSTLUDE**

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

| | |
|--|---|
| Pastor | Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins |
| Liturgist | John Riggs |
| Head Usher | Jake Alexander |
| Organist | DeEtta Welte |
| Music Director, Pianist | Becky Brockman |
| Children /Family Ministry Coordinator | Will Meyer |
| Nursery Attendant | Darcie Bahr |
| Projection | Jana Vieck |
| Sound | Jonathan Lange |
| Church Secretary | Angie Robinson |
| Church Board President | Ed Cummings |
| Greeters | Jeremy & Natasha Coomes & Family |

Preschool Teacher Needed St. John's United Church of Christ's Preschool has been going strong for 25 years. Our preschool has had effective, caring teachers providing children with a strong foundation for kindergarten and beyond. We are looking for a qualified director/lead teacher to take over the management and teaching responsibilities for the Preschool for the 2025-26 academic year. The position could begin as early as June 1, 2025, but the exact starting date is negotiable. Send resume and 3 letters of reference to St. John's UCC, 606 N. Fifth St., Vincennes, IN. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

Plans for Graduate Recognition Sunday (date pending)

If you or anyone in your family will be graduating from high school, college, or completing any other notable educational achievement, please contact the church office with the following information as soon as possible:

Name: _____

School: _____

Degree or special honors: _____

Future plans: _____

Other info: (i.e. parents' names, connection to our congregation, etc.)



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, myucc.org.
Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Fellowship 9:45 am

Worship 10:30 am, Butterfly Processional

Jillian Cummins Baptism

Children's Church

MONDAY, April 21

BABE Store 12-5:30 pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

Worship Comm. 6pm

Church Board 7 pm

WEDNESDAY, April 23

Choir 7 pm

THURSDAY, April 24

Girl Scouts 4:30

Dinner @ Ponderosa 6 pm

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, April 27

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Children's Church

MONDAY, April 28

BABE Store 12-5:30 pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

WEDNESDAY, April 30

Choir 7 pm

Laundry Love 6-8p m

THURSDAY, May 1

Dinner @ Henry Lee's 6 pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Norma Meyer, Pat Hutchinson and Family, Gayle Huffer, Brian Fillingim, Carol Graham, Vern Houchins

- Carole and David Culp want to add their nephew's wife, Katrina Memering, to your prayers. Katrina was born with cystic fibrosis. In 2011, she received a double lung transplant. Over time, the drugs she has been taking to maintain the transplant have damaged her kidneys. She is hoping to find a live donor for a kidney transplant.
- Please keep Sarah Lowe in your prayers on her husband's passing.

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 C-35, 3801 Old Bruceville Rd, Vincennes, IN 47591

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

Michael Lankford- Bridgepoint Health Center, 1900 College Ave., Vincennes, IN 47591

Home

Bruce Deckard

Gary Meyer

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.

****You may place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or online at myucc.org and clicking on the contribute button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.**

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

NEXT SUNDAY is **Holy Humor Sunday**, so come prepared to have a FUN time as we celebrate God's ultimate joke over Satan—death has lost its sting, and we have eternal life through Christ!

CONFIRMATION is only two weeks away. On April 27th, we will meet at 5 pm to finalize faith statements and make our stoles. Please bring an adult who can help with the stole (no sewing required) and a steam iron. This will probably take more than an hour. On Saturday, May 3rd, we will rehearse at 10:00 a.m. Confirmation will take place on May 4th during worship. Group photos will take place at 9:45 that morning.

THE KING OF KINGS is a new animated movie on the life of Jesus Christ. We invite the church to join us for a matinee performance next Sunday afternoon. Details will be announced. Christian Education will pay for the admission of every child/youth from the church.

SECRETARIAT will be shown in Memorial Hall at 6:30 pm this Friday, May 2nd (Derby Eve). Eat dinner before you come (or bring something with you). Derby Pie will be served for dessert. Wear your best Derby hat, fascinator, or your best bow tie. Pastor Debbie will talk Derby to us and also share the actual race footage of Secretariat's Triple Crown races.

Never put a period where God has put a comma, God is still speaking!