



St. John's United Church of Christ  
**Holy Humor Sunday**  
 April 27, 2025



\* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold Print is for all People**

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER** (be seated)

**CHURCH BELL** (the bell invites us to worship) **PRELUDE**

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

O praise to the God of laughter whose humor sends ripples through even the river of death, who turns a mustard seed into a tree.

**Like a trickster, you turn my world topsy-turvy.**

Here in the Fun House the popular routes lead me in circles but the dead-ends have doors.

**O for a thousand tongues to sing the praise of One who is All, who is as invisible as the wind, yet as firm as a rock.**

\* **OPENING HYMN** *Alleluia!* (2<sup>nd</sup> time through with kazoo) #106

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

God of joy, we know that you have blessed us richly. Yet so often, we are down in the dumps over silly little disappointments. You have given us Jesus Christ, raised him from the dead and promised us eternal life. But we act as though we don't know it! Forgive us, God! Keep us mindful that you always have the last laugh, and that your promise is for true joy in every circumstance, and life forever. Amen.

\* **RESPONSE** *Christ Arose* (chorus) #224

**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)

We dedicate these gifts in response to Christ's call, and offer ourselves in full commitment. Take us and mold us according to his will. We pray that who we are may be acceptable, what we do may find favor and that which we give will reflect your love.

**ANTHEM** *At the Cross* Rany

**WE GATHER IN PRAYER**

Silent Prayers – Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Congregational Response: *He Lives* (chorus) #226

**SCRIPTURE:** *Psalms 126: 1-3 1 Corinthians 4: 10a*

The Word of God for the People of God **Thanks be to God**

**SERMON** *Laughter IS the Best Medicine*

\* **CLOSING HYMN** *God Rest You Merry Sinner*

Melody: *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*

(Sing vs. 1 & 3; kazoo on v. 2)

\* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins! Hallelujah! Christ lives and reigns for us! Hallelujah!

In Jesus Christ, we have been given new life in Christ. Thanks be to God!

\* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *O For a World* (v.1) #683

\* **POSTLUDE**

## God Bless You Merry Sinner

(Tune: God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen)

God bless you merry sinner,  
you're forgiven it is true;  
Remember Christ your Savior

has lived and died for you,  
and lives again as King of Kings,  
of saint and sinner, too.

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
peace and joy.*

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.*

In Jerusalem at Calvary  
that dismal Friday morn,  
amid the pain and suffering  
eternal life was born.

It came with arms outstretched to us,  
right through the curtain torn.

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
peace and joy.*

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.*

So sing an alleluia,  
for our Savior's victory,  
and shout to all "Hosanna!"  
that we have been set free  
from sin and death and devil's grip

throughout eternity.

*We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy,*

*peace and joy.*

*Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.*

## ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins</b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Eric Meyer</b>
<b>Head Usher</b>	<b>Jake Alexander</b>
<b>Organist</b>	<b>DeEtta Welte</b>
<b>Music Director, Pianist</b>	<b>Becky Brockman</b>
<b>Children /Family Ministry Coordinator</b>	<b>Will Meyer</b>
<b>Nursery Attendant</b>	<b>Darcie Bahr</b>
<b>Projection</b>	<b>Saundra Lange</b>
<b>Sound</b>	<b>Lonny Vieck</b>
<b>Church Secretary</b>	<b>Angie Robinson</b>
<b>Church Board President</b>	<b>Ed Cummings</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	

**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.)

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Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, [myucc.org](http://myucc.org).

Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



### THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's

#### **SUNDAY, April 27**

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Children's Church

THE KING OF KINGS Movie @ AMC Theater 1 pm

Final Confirmation Practice 5 pm

#### **MONDAY, April 28**

BABE Store 12-5:30 pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

#### **TUESDAY, May 1**

Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm

#### **WEDNESDAY, April 30**

Choir 7 pm

Laundry Love 6-8p m

#### **THURSDAY, May 1**

Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm

Dinner @ Harry Lee's 6 pm

#### **FRIDAY May 2**

Phoebe's Mission 4:30- 6 pm

#### **SATURDAY, May 3**

City Wide Clean UP—CFM Activity 9am

Confirmation Practice 10 am

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### **SUNDAY, May**

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship W/ Communion /Crew Goodman Baptism 10:30 am/ Confirmation Sunday

Children's Church

#### **MONDAY, MAY 5**

BABE Store 12-5:30 pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

Evangelism & Membership 6:30 pm

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 7**

Choir 7 pm

#### **THURSDAY, May 8**

Dinner @ Bobes (In Washington) 6 pm

#### **FRIDAY, May 9**

Butterfly Preschool Graduation 7 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, Katrina Memering.

- Please keep Pastor Debbie's daughter-in-law, Addison, in your prayers. During a routine check-up this week, her blood spiked and they sent her to hospital for tests. Everything was fine but they kept her overnight to monitor her blood pressure. She was being discharged Wednesday evening but told not to return to work.. She is at 37 weeks and we're hoping she makes it to May 1st at the earliest. Thanks.
- Jake Alexander has ended up in the hospital with some GI issues,. He will be having surgery Saturday April 26. He is willing to have visitors room 4321.

### Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

**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.

**CONFIRMATION** is NEXT SUNDAY. Tonight, we will meet at 5 p.m. 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 4<sup>th</sup>** during worship. Group photos will take place at 9:45 that morning.

We encourage members of the church to bring a small gift for each of our six Confirmands. They will have a bag in which to receive your well wishes. Our Confirmands are: Addison, Calvin, Lucas, Olivia, Owen & Vera.

**THE KING OF KINGS** is a new animated movie about the life of Jesus Christ. We will gather at Vincennes AMC to view the 1:00 show today at 25% off the regular price. The church will pay for children's and youth tickets. Join us!

**SECRETARIAT** will be shown in Memorial Hall at 6:30 pm this Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> (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.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY PICTURES:** Membership & Evangelism is working on a new church directory that will be available both digitally and in hard copy form. Picture appointments will be open on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day) and May 18<sup>th</sup> (Graduation Sunday) from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Plan now to set up a family portrait during those times. More info will be announced soon. Let's get as many pictures as possible so you can learn to put names with faces.

**WE OFFER OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS** to Sarah Lowe in the passing of her husband, Dewayne Pierce. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 am at the First Church of the Nazarene.