



APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



606 N. Fifth Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

(812) 882-2720

[stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com)

Website: [myucc.org](http://myucc.org)



## A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

Spring has finally arrived, at least “officially” but Mother Nature is not cooperating. A few daffodils are up and a little forsythia but the weather has been very cool, very rainy and VERY windy. March came in like a lion but it remains to be seen if it will go out like a lamb. Hopefully we will soon see trees budding and more flowers blooming. I always look forward to the lilacs bursting forth in all their splendor. Their fragrance is one of my favorites and I like making lilac jelly from their blooms. I miss having lilac bushes in my yard and filling vases throughout the house so the smell permeates the air.

Our Lenten journey is half over and we will soon find ourselves at Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week. But then Easter arrives in all it's glory and we celebrate the joyous resurrection. Once again, we will sing and shout that special “A” word that was locked up on the first Sunday of Lent. Our music will move from somber hymns to exultant proclamations of jubilation. Christ is Risen! We will lift high the cross and all proclaim the glorious name of Jesus, the Christ. Our spirits are reborn in the magnificence of the resurrection.

We look forward to your joining us for this special, meaningful time of the Christian year. We encourage you to recommit to your faith, your Savior and to our shared church family. You are welcomed, valued and cherished among us and we miss your presence when you are away. Come, be with your siblings in Christ at this most joyous time!

Peace,  
Pastor Debbie Jo



**SCARLETT SPEAKS!** Woof! Woof! March was a busy and happy month for me. I spent a few nights at a kennel/spa in Indianapolis while Mom spent time with family and my “fur cousin” Murphy who will soon have his very own human baby to love and protect. It was fun playing outside and with other doggies. I finally met Leona at Aperion Care, and she sent me the nicest thank you note. I was in worship twice and loved being with the kids during the Children’s Moment.

I met some of the Friends group and Willow, another therapy dog. I turned three on March 12th and received the cutest stuffed longhaired Scottish cow to play with. On St. Patrick’s Day, I got a taste of corned beef, and it was scrummy! I’m looking forward to the Easter Egg Hunt and wonder what I’ll find in my basket on Easter morning. I’m pretty sure mom ordered me a new Easter outfit to show you. Woof! Woof!

**MESSY CHURCH** on April 2<sup>nd</sup> is themed *Holy Week to Easter: From Palm Branches to an Empty Tomb*. Dinner will be ham, mashed potatoes & green beans. Activities will include baking Resurrection rolls, a jelly bean game & prayer, a crinkle paper cross, a pop-up Jesus craft and much more. We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion during our closing. **EVERYONE IS INVITED** so, join us and bring your children and grandchildren. Invite your friends and neighbors to come along!

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** We have two infant baptisms scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> (Jillian Cummins) & May 4<sup>th</sup> (Crew Goodman). We will present each family with a “Baptism Growing Up” candle that will be lit during the service and families will be encouraged to light the candle each year on the baptism anniversary and tell their children about the event. When they are ready for Confirmation, they will light their Confirmation candle from their baptism candle. Christian Education will present each family with a Bible Story book to help introduce Bible lessons to their children.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will meet twice in April. On **April 6th** we will meet at 9:00 a.m. (due to the Block Party that afternoon). All class work needs to be turned in at that time. We will begin outlining personal faith statements to be shared with the congregation during the Rite of Confirmation. Confirmands are required to be in worship on Palm Sunday and Good Friday (7:00 pm). The class will participate in the service). On **April 27<sup>th</sup>** 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. On Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**CONFIRMATION WORK HOURS OPPORTUNITIES:**

Block party on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. Set-up and Clean-up can add additional hours.

April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Help with Good Friday service

April 19<sup>th</sup> Help decorate sanctuary for Easter (morning) and with Easter Egg Hunt from 4-5:30 pm.

Citywide Clean-Up on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE:**

**Palm Sunday** (4/13): Children’s Palm Processional 10:30 am.

**Maundy Thursday** (4/17): Service of Holy Communion in Chapel at Noon.

**Good Friday** (4/18): Tenebrae Service of Darkness & Shadows 7 pm.

**Holy Saturday** (4/19): Easter Egg Hunt 4-5:30 pm.

**Easter** (4/20): Butterfly Processional, Unlocking the “A” word.

**Celebrate!**

**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY** will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. God has the last laugh on Satan by overcoming death.

**EASTERTIDE** continues for 50 days following Easter Sunday, so those Easter decorations can stay out a bit longer. The season includes the post-resurrection appearances and teachings of Jesus and ends with the Day of Pentecost (50th Day). This year Pentecost will be on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**DINNER & CONVERSATION** Thursday nights at 6:00 pm. **Everyone is invited** to join us. Please be sure and make a reservation on the sign-up sheet or with the church office by Wednesday each week.

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kelso’s	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Harry Lee’s
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Procopio’s	May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bobes (Washington, IN )
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thurs.	May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Café Moonlight
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Ponderosa	May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	McAlister’s
		May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mi Pueblo (Washington, IN )

**SUNDAY NIGHT MOVIES** during Lent were very meaningful and successful. After Easter, we will schedule some more movie nights so watch the announcements.

**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](http://myucc.org) and following the contribution prompts. Thank you for your continued support of our church and its missions.

## 2025 Church Board Members

Ed Cummings *Church Board President*

Sandra 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

- 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

### **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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# ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

## 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

**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 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.



St. John's United Church of Christ  
606 N. Fifth Street, Vincennes

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19, 2025

4:00-5:30 pm

Preschool age thru 6th grade

Designated hunting areas for pre/k, 1st -3rd, and 4th - 6th

Egg hunt, food for all, crafts  
and games!

Bring your baskets or bags.

Also bring flashlights for 4th - 6th graders



Special appearance by Scarlett!





Donate an Easter flower in honor of or in memory of a loved one to be displayed on Easter Sunday in the Sanctuary. Please bring it to Memorial Hall by noon on Friday, April 18. You will be given a form to fill out and put with your flower. Please make sure to follow the instructions carefully. A list of donors will be included in the May newsletter.



Jay and Karen Cole would like to share a praise with our church family. Their daughter, Jennifer is engaged to be married to Will Bicket of Raleigh, NC. They plan to be married on May 10, 2025, in Louisburg, NC.

St. John's United Church of Christ sends best wishes and blessings to Jennifer and Will!

# April

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Sandy's Pantry 11– 12:30 pm	2 Messy Church 5:30-7 pm Choir 7 pm	3 Sandy's Pantry 11– 12:30 pm  Dinner at Kelso's 6 pm	4 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm	5
6 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 w/ communion Children's Church Confirmation Class 9 am Rock The Block Party 4-6 pm	7 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm	8	9 Christian Ed 6 pm Choir 7 pm	10 Technology 10am Girl Scouts 4:30 pm  Dinner at Procopio's 6 pm	11	12
13 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Diapers & Donuts Shower for Nick and Addison Atkins-Harris 10 am Children's Palm Processional Worship 10:30 am Children's Church	14 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm Outreach & Missions 6:30– pm	15	16 Christian Ed 6 pm Choir 7 pm	17 Maundy Thursday Service at noon w/ Communion in Chapel	18 Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7 pm  Preschool Closed	19 Annual Easter Egg Hunt 4-5:30 pm
20 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10 am Jillian Cummins Baptism Easter Worship 10:30 Children's Church	21 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Worship Comm. 6 pm Church Board 7pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm	22	23 Choir 7 pm	24 Dinner at Ponderosa 6pm Girl Scouts 4:30 pm	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26
27 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church Confirmation Practice 5 pm	28 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm	29 Sandy's Pantry 11– 12:30 pm	30 Laundry Love 6-8 Choir 7pm			

## 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.





## 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 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.





### **April Birthdays**

Donnie Black II  
Paul Meyer  
Donna Hall  
Chris Sanders  
Janet Newell  
Carson Sanders  
Cindy Deckard  
Trista Goodman  
Andrea Williams  
Mitchell Cooper  
Vera Mattingly  
Reid Schotter  
Chas Culp  
Michael Lankford  
Marcy Meyer  
Lynne Simmons  
Andrew Anson



### **April Anniversaries**

Bruce & Cindy Deckard  
Conway & Arlene Wilson



# Preschool News



March came in like a lamb this year! The kids are learning to watch the weather and are able to decide if it is a lion or lamb weather.

The Butterflies had a mock kindergarten round-up. They all did a great job and are ready to show off their stuff at the real round-up! We are working on life skills, such as making a bed, using a vacuum, ordering at restaurants, and folding towels.

The Caterpillars are learning about outdoor and sidewalk safety. To practice our skills, we walked around the block.

Come check out our classroom. We are growing several different kinds of gardens. Spring is in the air!

## 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)





**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED**  
TO  
**SUNDAY, APRIL, 6, 2025**  
**ROCK THE BLOCK**

**3rd ANNUAL ST. JOHN'S UCC EVENT**  
**4-6 P.M.**

**ST. JOHN'S UCC PARKING LOT. 606 5TH STREET**

**MEMBERS. FRIENDS. NEIGHBORS. FELLOWSHIP**

- ✓ **YES FOOD - Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Ice Cream**
- ✓ **YES! RAFFLE OF THEME BASKET GIVEAWAY**
- ✓ **YES! GAMES, MUSIC, ACTIVITIES, BOUNCE HOUSE**
- ✓ **YES! SOCIAL GATHERING TO LEARN AND GROW IN FAITH**  
**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!**





## 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







In March, the St. John's children and their families had a chance to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. On March 9, the CFM had an opportunity to enjoy a night at church with their church family by playing pool, foosball, and giant games. At this activity, there was a pasta bar and other snacks. During children's church on March 16, the children made a special snack for St. Patrick's which was the next day. April will be a busy month for the life of the church. In addition to all of the Children and Family Ministry (CFM) activities, there is Messy Church (Wednesday, April 2, 5 pm-7 pm), Rock the Block (Sunday, April 6, 4 pm-6 pm), Palm Sunday (April 13) and Easter (April 20). Check out the upcoming CFM activities in April.



CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

The KFC (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) and youth (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) will have "An Evening at Church" from 6 pm-10 pm on Friday, April 11. At this activity the group will have opportunities to enjoy time with their church family with games and other activities. The evening will start off with the groups making their own small pizzas. Children can be dropped off any time during the evening after coming from other activities. If anyone is dropped off/picked up after 6:30 pm, please text (812-887-5303). We will make arrangements since the back door will be locked after that time.



On Saturday, April 12, from 5 pm-7 pm, Children and Family Ministry group is invited to have another exciting time at "Spring Is In The Air." The group will be planting some flowers to take home to enjoy this summer and planting flowers in the front landscape of the church. There will also be chicken nuggets and snacks at this activity. Please wear some clothes that you can get a little dirty. Parents, friends, and other family members are invited to join their children for the fun too!



The Unbeatable Egg Hunt is Back!!! On Saturday, April 19, from 4 pm to 5:30 pm, the Children/Family Ministry and Christian Education will have an Unbeatable Egg Hunt at church. There will be egg hunts for preschool through 6th grade, with special eggs mixed in with opportunities for prizes. Weather permitting, the younger group will have the hunt outside. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders, the Easter egg hunting will be upstairs with flashlights since the windows will be darkened with new features and prizes this year. A meal and

games will also be at the activity. Please bring your baskets or bags to get the eggs and flashlights for the older children. Please look for announcements in the bulletin and the Children and Family Ministry Facebook group for future information on the Easter activity!



On Saturday, May 3, the Children and Family Ministry and any church member will have an opportunity to do the Vincennes City Cleanup. The groups will clean up the area around the church from 9 am to 11:30 am. Individuals can bring gloves for the cleanup but some will be provided. The money made will go to the Children and Family Ministry account for future activities. This is also an excellent opportunity for school clubs/organizations to service hours! Helpers will need to meet at the church parking lot at 9 am. Hope to see you there!



Mission Week returns for the 8th year! The Children and Family Ministry will have their in-town mission activity from June 30 to July 3. This year, there will be many new opportunities and some “classic” 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/practices. Each day is designed for all ages/grades to enjoy the event.

### **Children and Family Ministry Age Groups**

**M&M (Mini-Marvels)**-Age 4-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**KFC (Kids for Christ)**-3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Youth**-7<sup>th</sup> - High School

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

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