



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



606 N. Fifth Street
Vincennes, IN 47591
(812) 882-2720
stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends:

I recently attended the funeral of a colleague from Evansville. Her daughter spoke about numerous memories of growing up with a clergy mother at a time when female clergy were few and far between. She laughed that only her mother would have the guts to have her funeral during Holy Week, the Super Bowl for clergy everywhere. This year, Holy Week seems like both the Super Bowl and the Derby Festival all rolled into one. It was exhausting but so rewarding.

Actually, all of April was amazing. With terrible thunderstorms for a week, the Block Party was moved indoors. The number of participants doubled to over 100, and we were crowded but overjoyed at the turnout. Three days later, **Messy Church** welcomed 38 to our event, our highest attendance yet, with a neighborhood family attending who had been at the previous Block Party. Then, again with heavy rains, the Easter Egg Hunt was moved indoors, and we again doubled our regular attendance with 105 present, including the same neighborhood family whose young son greeted me with a hug. Talk about a “loaves and fishes” moment with the hot dogs. Everyone had a great time. Then all through Holy Week to Easter, we had over 130 in worship, including so many members of the Cooper family who came to watch Jillian be baptized. We rejoiced and celebrated the resurrection of Christ together as a church family. April was indeed a blessed month.

On May 4th, we will celebrate our first Confirmation Class in several years. This is a fine group of young people, and I am so proud of them and their accomplishments. We’re a bit excited (at least the boys and I) that Confirmation is taking place on *Star Wars* day—May the Fourth, as in *May the Fourth*

(Force) be With You. I encourage all of you to bring a card, a note, or a small gift for each of them and place it in their individually labelled bag in the front pew. Let's make this a very special rite of passage for them and show our love and support for them all.

From this moment on, I am on *Baby Watch*. Colsen's official due date is May 16th, but after Addison's blood pressure spiked and she was kept overnight in the hospital for monitoring, she has been told not to return to work, and the baby could come at any time. We are hoping Colsen will take his time and hold out until May 1st, since we have so many family birthdays and events in April. Whenever he arrives, I will be making frequent trips to Indy, but shouldn't be gone over a Sunday. Thank you for all your prayers and the lovely diaper shower you gave Nick & Addison.

May brings Mother's Day, Graduation Recognition, Music Sunday, and Memorial Day weekend—more celebrations for our church family to share as we grow together spiritually and faithfully. Please join us as we strive to be the church God calls us to be. We aren't whole with you.

Peace,
Pastor Debbie Jo



SCARLETT SPEAKS! Woof! Woof! In April, Mom and I read "The Very Busy Spider" by Eric Carle to the Caterpillar Classes, and I was a bit overwhelmed at all the people at the Easter Egg Hunt. Mom completely forgot to call me down for the Children's Moment on Easter, so I could show off my little sailor dress. I

HATED the hat. However, I had many treats, a Colts jersey, and four new fun toys in my Easter basket, so I guess the hat wasn't so bad. I'm not sure how I feel about this kid named Colsen who will soon arrive (he has more stuff in his basket and is not even here yet. Oh well, I like everyone!) I will have a surprise for the

Confirmands. Woof Woof.

MESSY CHURCH on May 7th from 5:30-7:00 pm will feature the theme of *Be-Attitudes*. Our Scripture will be the *Beatitudes* from Matthew 5:1-12, and we will have lots of “Bee” related games, crafts, and activities. Dinner will be Baked Spaghetti, Salad, and Garlic Bread. Plan now to participate and join us for a great evening of Food, Fun, and Fellowship.

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 11th (Mother’s Day) and May 18th (Graduation Sunday) from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 am-2:00 pm. Plan now to set for 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.

CONFIRMATION is Sunday, May 4th, and we invite everyone to join us for this special rite within our congregation. A reception will follow in Memorial Hall. This is our first class in several years, and we encourage members of the church to bring a card or small gift for each of our six Confirmands. They will have a bag in which to receive your well wishes. Class members are listed below:

SECRETARIAT will be shown in Memorial Hall at 6:30 pm on

Name	Baptism Date	Scripture Verse
Addison Taylor Cummings	December 19, 2010	Psalms 119:105
Calvin Finn Doggett	February 9, 2014	Psalms 46:1
Lucas Garrett Doggett	September 20, 2009	Micah 6:8
Olivia Jane Lange	June 20, 2010	Hebrews 11:1
Vera Grace Mattingly	July 3, 2011	Matthew 7:7
Owen Charlie Schotter	October 7, 2012	Amos 5:24

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.

The GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 6th, at 6 p.m. at Bethel UCC in Evansville. Please let Pastor know if you would like to attend.

MOTHER'S DAY is Sunday, May 11th. During worship, we will recognize all moms and those who are like mothers to us. Plan now to attend.

GRADUATION RECOGNITION will take place during worship on May 18th, with a reception to follow in Memorial Hall. If you have someone graduating from high school or college, please let the office know so they can be recognized.

MUSIC SUNDAY will be celebrated during worship on May 18th with the choir singing several anthems throughout the service. This is their last Sunday before taking a break until Fall. Let's show our support and appreciation for these dedicated volunteers who give so much to enhance our worship experience.



Joel Sanders, along with six fellow members of the Lincoln High School Class of 2025, will be celebrating his upcoming graduation with an Open House on Saturday, May 17, 2025. He and his parents, Lori and Chris Sanders, wish to invite the members of their St. John's UCC church family to celebrate with Joel!

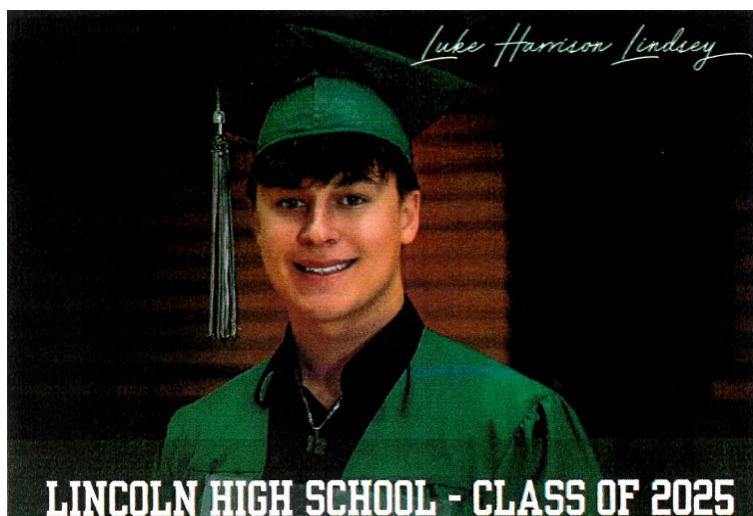
Awards and Honors:

Academic Honors Diploma, Member of the National Honor Society, Lincoln Early College Student, Academic Letter/Academic Society.

Joel will continue his education and basketball career at Franklin College in the Fall.

He will major in Exercise Science.

Joel's parents are Lori and Chris Sanders. Siblings include Carson and Avery Sanders. Grandparents include Brenda Roark and Dorothy Sanders. Joel was baptized at St. John's United Church of Christ in December of 2006, attended St. John's United Church of Christ Preschool, and has participated in many youth activities. Fun Fact! Joel was "baby Jesus" in the 2006 church Christmas program!



Luke Harrison Lindsey

Join us to celebrate Luke May 17, 2025 , 1-2:30 pm at Thursday Church
218 Main St. Vincennes, IN.

Degree or special honors: Luke will have earned over 60 college credit hours during his high school career and will graduate with an associate's degree. Other honors are listed below:

Awards or Honors

Lincoln High School Academic Society Academic Honors: Freshman-Senior Year, Football Team Captain: Senior Year, Earned Varsity Letter in Football all four years and Golf three years with Senior year to play, Lincoln High School American Legion Football Player of the Year: 2024, 3x Southern Indiana Athletic All-Conference Football, 3x All-Area Football, Academic All-State in Football 2024, Indiana Football Coaches Association Region 9 All Star Team 2025, 2x Evansville Courier & Press All SW Indiana , Southern Indiana Athletic All-Conference Golf 2022, Lincoln High School Golf Athlete of the Year Award 2022

Future Plans: Luke plans to attend college after graduation and major in business and finance. He hopes to own his own business one day.

Other Info: Luke is the son of Darwin and Beth Lindsey. He has a younger brother, Sam and a younger sister, Chloe. His grandparents are Gary and Peggy Meyer and Perri and Darwin Lindsey. He attended St. John's UCC preschool and was active in the youth program at St. Johns as a young child.



Delaynee Coomes will graduate from South Knox High School this month.

She is the daughter of Jeremy and Natasha Coomes.

Her siblings include Rylan and Harper Coomes.

Delaynee is not sure what next year holds as of yet. Best of luck in all future endeavors!



Thank you for all the cards, calls, thoughts and prayers during my recent stay in the hospital, It is incredibly heartwarming and healing to have the church family's care and concern. Feel so blessed to have each of you in my life.

Jerri Johanningsmeier

Thank you to everyone that sent cards and kept Norma in you prayers. She enjoyed all of your cards and get well wishes.

The Family of Norma Meyer



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

WE OFFER OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS to Sarah Lowe in the passing of her husband, Dewayne Pierce.

Please keep Shirley Black and her family in your prayers. Shirley had a bad fall, resulting in several head stitches and a slight brain bleed. They have her on a ventilator and sedated at the present time. She is at Deaconess Midtown Hospital but requests no visitors at the current time. Cards may be mailed to her home, and the family will get them to her. 1403 E Scott St. Vincennes, IN.

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

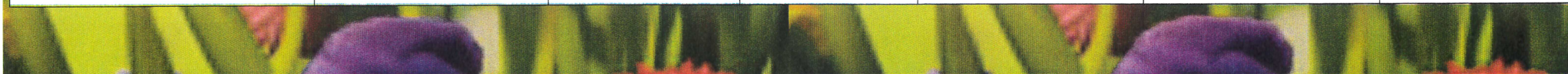
Gary Meyer

Gayle Huffer

Ellen Riggs

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2025				1 Sandy's Pantry 11– 12:30 pm Dinner at Harry Lee's 6 pm	2 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm Movie Night – "Secretariat" 6:30 pm	3 CFM activity City Wide Clean –Up. 9 am. Confirmation Practice 10 am
4 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 w/ communion Crew Goodman Baptism Confirmation Sunday Children's Church Reception for Confirmands following Worship Memorial Hall	5 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm	6 GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION Annual Meeting and Dinner 6 pm	7 Messy Church 5:30-7 pm Choir 7 pm	8 Technology 10am Dinner at Bobes Washington 6 pm	9 Butterfly Graduation 7 pm	10 Jennifer Cole/ Will Bicket Wedding Louisburg, NC
11 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship 10 am Worship 10:30 am Children's Church Mother's Day	12 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm	13	14 Christian Ed 6 pm Choir 7 pm	15 Dinner at Cafe Moonlight 6pm	16	17
18 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Graduation Recognition Reception Following - Memorial Hall Children's Church	19 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm Friends 5– 6:15 pm Worship Comm. 6 pm Church Board 7pm	20	21	22 Dinner at McAlister's 6pm	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24
25 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Children's Church	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27	28 Laundry Love 6-8	29 Dinner at Mi Pueblo's Washington 6pm	30	31





Easter Flower Donations

In Honor Of:

Family and Friends
Children and Grandchildren
Our confirmand granddaughter,
Addison

Given by:

Peggy Meyer
Don and Shirley Black
Ed and Brenda Cummings

In Memory Of:

Parents and Brother
Jill Cooper
Carole Klein
My Parents
Loved Ones
Loretta Wilson
Loved Ones
Our Parents and Grandparents
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Hank Lopez, Jr.
Loved Ones
Jean Wells
Galen and Sondra Clodfelter

Walter and Betty Meyer

Dannie Roark and our Parents
Loved Ones

Given by:

Brad and Pam Summers
Dad and Elaine
The Klein Family
Sheri Stodghill
David and Carole Culp
Her daughters
Don and Shirley Black
Terry and Janet Goodman
Jerri Johanningsmeier
Jill Lopez
Jill Lopez
Pastor Debbie Jo
Bill Lathrop
Eric, Cheryl, Will, Hannah,
Nyal, and Kanan
Eric, Cheryl, Will, Hannah,
Nyal, and Kanan
Brenda Roark
Ed and Brenda Cummings



Thank you to all who donated flowers on Easter Sunday! They enhanced our worship experience, and it was fitting to honor and memorialize friends and family.



Special thanks to Carole Culp, Brenda Roark, Peggy Meyer, Elaine Workman, Cheryl Meyer, and Brenda Cummings for a plentiful Fellowship Time on Sunday! Members, friends, and family enjoyed the goodies and the chance to visit. The next Fellowship Time will be May 11 – Mother's Day!



Vocalists and musicians are needed to provide special music during our summer worship services. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Music Room. Please share your special talents!



May Birthdays

Landry Culp
Christina Schlag
Brett Summers
Olivia Cummings
Charlie Klein
Steve Cooper
Roger Brockman
Jordan Allen
Payton Allen
Sara Schutz
Amelia Cummings
Alan Hendrix
Brenda Roark
Joseph Christopher Cummings
Briana Klein
Hope Clausman
Kim Godare
Martha Wilson
Avery Sanders
Liz Emmons



May Anniversaries

Scott & Laura Marchino
Marvin & Sandee Covey
Steven & Karen Redmond
Ryan & Erica Cummings



Preschool News



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.

**Please contact St. John's United Church of Christ
Office to register your child for the 2025-2026
school year!!**

Email: stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com

Phone: 812-882-2720



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)



Exciting Church Directory Photo Session Announcement

It's time to refresh our church directory, and we're overjoyed to invite you to be part of this special moment! With new faces and new families joining our community, this is the perfect opportunity to capture the heart and soul of our growing church family, helping us forge deeper connections and celebrate our shared journey of faith.

Capture the Moment:

- Dates: Sunday, May 11th, 2025 & Sunday, May 18th, 2025
- Time Slots:
 - 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
 - 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM
 - 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Location: St. John United Church of Christ (Indoor, with a stunning Soft Blue-Gray Backdrop)

Your image included in the church directory (digital format) at no cost to you

The members will also have the opportunity to purchase extra digital photos for your keepsake to treasure forever and that will be the Add on optional once you sign up

Optional Add-On: Digital Copy with Print Release

- For just \$25, treat yourself to the Digital Package, which Includes:
 - 3 professionally edited digital poses, bursting with warmth and personality
 - Print release for personal use to share with family and friends
 - Delivered through a private online gallery, sent straight to your email
 - Note: Your card will be automatically charged \$25 upon session completion.

Rescheduling / Cancellation Policy: Can't make your session? No problem! Your appointment will seamlessly shift to the next available photo date (May 18th, 2025) at the same time slot, unless you choose a different time.

Join the Fun – Sign Up Today! Don't miss out on this chance to shine! Reserve your spot now by:

- Clicking this link: https://book.usession.com/s/36eW5l_rmt
- Or scanning the QR code



If you're unable to sign up online, please call to make an appointment.

You can contact the church office at (812) 882-2720 or

The Ascended Photography at (812) 887-3120 to schedule your time and appointment.

We're beyond excited to capture your radiant smile and weave you into the beautiful tapestry of our church's history! Let's come together to celebrate the love, unity, and new connections in our vibrant community.

With Joy and Blessings,

The Ascended Photography

St. John United Christian Church

SUCCESSFUL ROCK THE BLOCK NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT

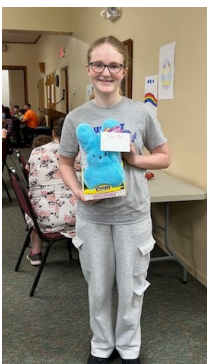
The third Rock the Block gathering took place at St. John's United Church of Christ on April 6, 2025, from 4-6 p.m. Wind and rain didn't dampen the spirit to move the event indoors, which included bounce house fun, corn hole, table games, a pig race, and fun fellowship among the 100 attendees. Hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream sandwiches, and chips were favorites made and grilled to perfection by our St. John's chefs.

For a special touch, raffle baskets were drawn and randomly distributed. Thank you to Natasha Coomes, Linda Gilbert, Elaine Workman, Allison Cummins, Brenda Roark, Pastor Debbie Jo, and Kim Godare for donating the theme baskets. They were a hit. A special thank you to all members who attended and helped with set up, clean up, and any other needed capacity. The Block rocked this evening's event, but St. John's UCC Rocks at Best.

Meet Our Cooks for the Party!



Pictures from St. John's United Church of Christ Annual Easter Egg Hunt





CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

The month of April was very active for the Children and Family Ministry group. The KFC (3rd-6th grade) and youth (7th-12th grade) had “An Evening at Church” on Friday, April 11. At this activity, the group had opportunities to enjoy time with their church family with games and other activities. The evening started off when the groups made their small pizzas. On Saturday, April 12, from 5 pm-7 pm, the Children and Family Ministry group was invited to have another exciting time at “Spring Is In The Air.” The group planted some flowers to take home to enjoy this summer, and planted flowers in the front landscape of the church.

The big activity of the month was the Unbeatable Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19. Since the weather wasn't the best, the two hunts for the younger children were inside this year in different areas of the church. For the 3rd-6th graders, the Easter egg hunt was upstairs with flashlights since the windows were darkened. In total, there were 90+ people at the Unbeatable Egg Hunt this year. Big thanks to Jill Lopez for the great food and all her help with the event. Also, thanks to everyone who helped out with the event, with the games, food, welcoming crew, and floaters. In addition to all of the Children and Family Ministry (CFM) activities, there was Messy Church (April 2), Rock the Block (April 6), Palm Sunday (April 13), Easter (April 20), and the movie “The King of Kings” (April 27).

Pictures From “Spring Is In The Air” (April 12)





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 9am-11:30am. 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 a great opportunity for service hours for school clubs/organizations! Helpers will need to meet at the church parking lot at 9am. Hope to see you there!



The Mission Week returns for the 8th year! The Children and Family Ministry will have their in-town mission activity from June 30-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 4-2nd Grade

KFC (Kids for Christ)-3rd-6th Grade

Youth-7th - High School

St. John's United Church of Christ

606 North Fifth Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

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