

# St. John's United Church of Christ

606 N Fifth Street  
Vincennes, IN  
47591

812-882-2720

stjohnsuccoffice  
@gmail.com



## June 2025 Newsletter

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

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# A Note From Pastor Debbie Jo...

Dear Friends:

What an eventful six weeks. We've had quite an upheaval among the church staff, we are still searching for a new Preschool Director, we celebrated our first Rite of Confirmation in several years, we had two infant baptisms, Pope Francis, who I greatly admired, passed away, a new Pope elected, and we began work on a new church photo directory. And those are just the highlights. It has been a crazy roller coaster ride of stress, anxiety, sadness and joy. I have seen more evidence of our amazing congregation coming together, working together to take on additional responsibilities during this busy and challenging time for our church.

However, the absolutely greatest moment arrived when my new grandson, Colsen Max Atkins-Harris made his debut. For those who don't know, I already have two grown grandchildren. My family is in two parts with an almost 18-year gap in between. My husband had been married previously and had a 13-years old daughter when we married. He was almost 8 years older than I. Hedy came to live with us a year later and I legally adopted her when she was sixteen. She was a senior in high school when Nick came along. She married, and had Keith, my first grandson who is a year and four days older than my youngest daughter, Noah. She also has a daughter, Nina who is married and lives in Anderson, IN. So, while I love my two older grandchildren, I was in the midst of mothering my own small children and at times, I was more of a mom than a grandmother to them.

So as Nick and Noah became adults, the grandmotherly feelings began to awaken and I looked forward to when either of them became parents. Unfortunately, Noah's MS has basically ruled out her having a child as too risky to her health and she and her husband have decided to be childfree. So, the pressure was on Nick, who finally married the greatest daughter-in-law in the world. Last fall, they announced they were expecting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We were all thrilled. Eventually we discovered the baby was a boy, he was healthy, but towards the last few months he was measuring large and causing some blood pressure issues for his mom. We began to worry he would arrive sooner than expected and we just hoped he would wait until at least May 1<sup>st</sup> since we have SO MANY family birthdays and anniversaries in April. I began to hope he would arrive on May 4<sup>th</sup> so he would be born on *May the Fourth be With You Day*, the official *Star Wars Day*.

Well, he did and I've already presented him with his first light saber. We're already planning for his first trip to Disney World. I have selected my grandmother name as **Mazi**, short for **Amazing Grandmother**. My two older grandkids call me Nana, but only because Hedy didn't like the Mazi idea. Anyway, this Mazi has visited with him twice and pronounced him the most beautiful baby ever. I am looking forward to being there for him and planning amazing activities and experiences with him for as long as God allows. I am so incredibly blessed and my joy overflows. I will always have pictures to share with anyone who is interested.

Peace,  
Pastor Debbie Jo (a.k.a. Mazi)



**SCARLET SPEAKS!** Woof! Woof! As a Scottish Terrier, I am very stubborn. Loyal, but stubborn. If I don't want to obey a command, I just won't and you can't make me. Like human children sometimes do, I will not listen to my mom, if I don't like what she is telling me to do. An example is I won't obey when she gives me the signal and command to "roll over." Nope. Don't want to. Won't do it. Now, when my original trainer, Ratchenla, gives the same command, I roll over like a hotdog on a roller grill. But I won't do it for anyone else. That changed on May 18<sup>th</sup> when Harper gave me the command. I like Harper, and I didn't want to hurt her feelings so I rolled over for her. And again. At the end of the service, she

brought me to my mom, and told her what I had done. My mom was so surprised and asked her to demonstrate. I rolled over and my mom was so happy. She then tried and I decided she had suffered enough with my stubbornness, so I rolled over like a champ. Then I did it a second time. Sigh. I guess now, I'm committed to doing it every time. All I can say is she better have a good treat in her hand. **Woof! Woof!**



# May Church Happenings...



**2025 Confirmation Class** - Six class members were confirmed on Sunday, May 4th at St. John's. (l-r) Owen Schotter, Vera Mattingly, Olivia Lange, Lucas Doggett, Calvin Doggett, and Addison Cummings. Congratulations to the class!

**A May Baptism** - Everyone was excited to see Crew Goodman be baptized on Sunday, May 4th. Parents are Paul & Allison Goodman, and grandparents are Terry and Janet Goodman



**2025 HS Graduation Recognition** - Three members were recognized for graduating High School on May 18th. (l-r) Joel Sanders, Delaynee Coomes, and Luke Lindsey.

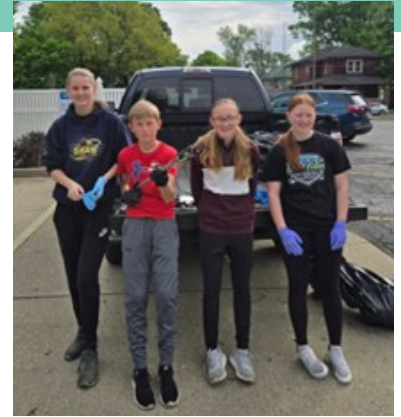
**Choir Appreciation** - Sunday, May 18th was the last worship service with our wonderful choir for the summer. Thank you to everyone who sang and to Becky & DeEtta for their wonderful dedication.



# Children And Family Ministry

## Vincennes City Clean Up - May 3rd

On Saturday, May 3, the Children and Family Ministry and any church member had an opportunity to do the Vincennes City Cleanup. The group cleaned up the church neighborhood and Schoolhouse Road. The CFM group collected 7 bags of trash during the activity. The money made will go to the Children and Family Ministry account for future activities. Thank you for all that helped during the cleanup.



## KFC (grades 3-6) and Youth (grades 7-12<sup>th</sup>)

**Thursday, June 26 @ 9:30am---Please RSVP by Monday, June 23**



Each of the St. John's participants are asked to pay \$30 for tickets. Friends and family are welcome to come but need to pay \$40 for tickets. Please provide each child \$25-\$30 for food at the park (average combo meal at park is \$12-\$16) and a stop on the way back for supper. Please note the park is cashless so anything purchased at Holiday World will be on a card. The children will have opportunity to put cash on a "ReadyCARD" which can be used at the park and anywhere in the United States where credit cards are accepted. Please RSVP for the activity by signing up on the bulletin board by the nursery or texting Will (812-887-5303) by June 23, so the tickets can be purchased. The money can be turned in on the day of the activity. A new medical information form will need to be on file for all the children going on the trip. The forms are located on the bulletin board by the nursery and on the Facebook group page. If there are any questions, please let me know!

The group will have an opportunity to watch 500 LED-lit drones take to the Holiday World & Splashin' Safari sky for a unique, drone, and fireworks spectacle! This one-of-a-kind, 15-minute spectacle celebrates Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and the Fourth of July animated light displays. The group will be able to decide if they want to stay to watch the drone show...it's worth it. If the group stays, we would get back at 11:30pm but if we leave before the show the group will return around 10:30pm.



Children aged 3-12 are invited to go upstairs to the blue classroom for Children's 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. We greatly value the role of volunteers in making Children's Church a vibrant and enriching experience. If there are any questions, please let Will Meyer know!

# Children And Family Ministry

## Annual Mission Week June 30th - July 3rd

The Mission Week returns for the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 and grades to enjoy the event.



## Lemonade Challenge July 19th

The Children and Family Ministry group will be a part of the Lemonade Challenge for Knox County on Saturday, July 19th in the back church parking lot from 10-2pm to support the Isaiah House. Please let Will know if your family can help with the lemonade challenge.

**Isaiah117**  
changing the way foster care begins



## Children & Family Ministry Age Groups

M & M (Mini-Marvels) Age 4-2nd Grade  
KFC (Kids For Christ) 3rd - 6th Grade  
Youth 7th Grade - High School





# Kids Hope USA

## End of Year Celebration

St. John's United Church of Christ in Partnership with Riley Elementary Kids Hope USA program celebrated end of school year successes with a party at KCARC 1972 on Saturday, May 10, 2025. There were 35 in attendance including three families of our Kids Hope USA mentors, prayer partners and some of their families. Pizza, cookies and drink were served and activities such as rock wall climbing, bounce houses, basketball and video games were among the fun evenings.

Ultimately, our mentors are showcased as angels, caring and working with the six children we serve. They are Brett Summers, Larry Marchino, Linda Gilbert, Jill Lopez, Eric and Cheryl Meyer. Prayer partner support follows them with Janet Goodman, Pastor Debbie Jo, Brenda Cummings, Betsy Marchino, and Pam Summers for the support through prayers in each mentor & child relationship. We are blessed to have completed 23 years of outreach to our community through the KIDS HOPE USA program.

Thank you to all who have helped make this happen.

Jerri Johanningsmeier



### Want to be a part of Kids Hope USA?

If you are interested in becoming a Kids Hope mentor or prayer partner, contact Jerri Johanningsmeier through the Church Office at 812-882-2720

# Prayer and Post

## We ask for continuing prayer requests for:

Jake Alexander  
Pat Hutchinson  
Mark Schutter

Bruce Deckard  
Katrina Memering  
Caden Utley

Carol Graham  
Gary Meyer

Paul Goodman  
Don Osborne, Jr.

Gayle Huffer  
Cora Schlag

The family of Shirley Black

The family of Norma Meyer



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Shirley Black on her death on May 22.

## Shut-in Addresses:

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 Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Carol Graham - BridgePointe Health Campus, Room 510, 1900 College Avenue, Vincennes, IN 47591

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



## At Home:

Bruce Deckard  
Gayle Huffer  
Gary Meyer  
Mike Lankford  
Caden Utley  
Cora Schlag

## Prayer Requests

Until further notice, all prayer requests or updates should be relayed to Janet Goodman instead of the church office.

Email:  
terrybaseball@gmail.com

Text or phone call:  
812-887-2797.

# Church Directory Information...

## ATTENTION:

Members who were unable to schedule an onsite photo for our new church directory. Currently, we are asking any members who wish to have their photo placed in the directory to send a photo for us to use.

### Here's how:

- 1). Mail a formal family or individual pose to  
St. John's UCC  
506 North Fifth Street  
Vincennes, Indiana. 47591
- 2). Send a photo to Brian Fillingim, [brianf981@cinergymetro.net](mailto:brianf981@cinergymetro.net)
- 3) Drop off at the church office, 9:00-12:30
- 4). Email to church, [stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com)



Please try to present a formal/church appropriate photo.  
We will return photos at your request.

### IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE

Name of family or member.  
List of names of persons in the photo shoot  
Address, City, State, Zip  
Phone, Home and Cell  
Email Address

### JUNE 30th DEADLINE

Questions? Talk to Jerri Johanningsmeier

## DESIGN OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY COVER!!!

**Calling out to all St. John's family** who are creative, artistic, and talented, who would like to create a new front cover for the church directory. It is **open to all ages** to submit a cover for the new directory to be published later this year. Welcome family project time, or a friend team.

### Guidelines included are:

- 1). Use 8 1/2 x 11 in size paper. (example: card stock, copy paper, poster board).
  - 2). You can use any medium such as: markers, color pencil, paint, or computer graphics.
  - 3). Suggestions for design include symbols, architecture, memories, things associated with St. John's UCC.
  - 4). Submit to church office, in care of: Jerri Johanningsmeier, committee chair.
  - 5). Be sure to write your name and contact number on the back of your design.
- CREATIVE MINDS/on your mark/get set/ GO!!!

**DEADLINE IS JULY 30!**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FATHERS' DAY** IS JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>. We will recognize fathers and those who are like a father to us and enjoy Fellowship before worship that day.

**THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING** reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.** As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. This offering will be gathered during worship on Pentecost (June 8<sup>th</sup>).

**No Summer Sunday School** for children/youth during the summer months of June and July.

**Plan to attend August Sundays for Vacation Bible School!** Children from age 3 to high school age are encouraged to attend from 9:15 to 11:30 beginning August 3rd through the August 24th. Watch for more details in the July newsletter. To anyone who would like to help with VBS, please contact a member of the Christian Education committee.

Our Wednesday **Messy Church Events** will be on hiatus until September.

**It's Pastor Debbie's twenty-eighth anniversary of her ordination this June 29!** If you're considering a gift, please remember, the Pastoral Search Committee has established a bucket list fund to help fulfill Pastor Debbie's dream of visiting Scotland!

**The Annual Church Picnic**, normally taking place in June, has been postponed until fall.

## Dinner & Conversation



Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm. Each week we visit a different restaurant and enjoy an evening of food and conversation. It's a great way to get to know our fellow church members better. A reservation sheet is in the back of the sanctuary weekly or you can call the church office to add your name. The June schedule is as follows:

June 5th - CoCo's  
June 19th - Kelso's

June 12th - Procopio's  
June 26th - Luigi's

**PENTECOST** is June 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to wear **red** to worship as we welcome the coming of the Holy Spirit!

**Dear St. John's UCC Family,**

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to all of you for the support, prayers and love in the cards that I have received since my husband's passing. Special thanks to choir for the beautiful flowers and to Pastor Debbie for her visit.

In Christian love,  
Sarah Lowe

**Congratulations to the Confirmation Class** of young people. God's blessings to you all from a long-time Christian and member of St. John's UCC.

Leona M. Conway



**St. John's Adult Choir** deeply appreciates the time and effort our director, Becky Brockman, and our organist, DeEtta Welte, dedicate to finding the best music to enhance our worship services. Thank you, Becky and DeEtta!

We invite interested members to consider joining our choir, as we look forward to practices beginning late August. The choir will resume singing during the September 14<sup>th</sup> worship service. New faces and voices are welcome!

While the choir is on hiatus, the sign-up sheet to provide summer music is on the bulletin board in the Music/Choir Room. Please consider sharing your talents!

**Dear St. John's UCC Congregation:**

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for the wonderful diaper shower you hosted in preparation for our soon-to-be little guy! Your generosity and kindness mean the world to us, and we are so grateful for the support you've shown our growing family. The abundance of diapers, gifts, and encouragement will be such blessings as enter this new chapter. Knowing that our family has the support of such a loving community brings us so much joy and comfort. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and for sharing in our excitement. We are truly blessed.

With Love,  
Nick, Addison, & Colsen





★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

## June Birthdays

Janice Affolder  
Beth Lindsey  
Eric Meyer  
Will Meyer  
Joseph Goodman  
Jeremy Coomes  
Alivia Deckard  
Jake Alexander  
Grady Cummins  
Sam Lindsey  
Ann Marie Schutz  
Gary Meyer  
Susan Schutz  
Jonathan Lange  
Gabriel Goodman  
Ryan Klein  
Terry Goodman  
Bill Lathrop

## Church Board Highlights - May 2025

**Meeting Called to Order**, Joys and Concern, Prayer, Members attendance recorded.

**The board** voted to terminate employee Angela Robinson as Executive Church Secretary.

**A motion** was made and passed to keep Mackenzie on for treasurer duties until the board reviews and revises secretarial and treasurer duties.

**Pastor Debbie** gave a report of her month's activities including baptisms, new confirmands becoming members, church directory progress and Messy Church will take a break thru summer and reignite in September

**Worship Committee** will be working on purging decorations and cleaning storage

**Board approved** a motion to pay off the remaining contract of the Preschool Director and Assistant.

**Preschool Committee** did not have a candidate to bring before the Board for approval. They will continue their search.

*Full Board Minutes will be available following their approval at the next regular Board Meeting.*



## June Anniversaries

Cody & Kristi DeBoeuf  
Jonathan & Chrissy Lange  
Matthew & Alyssa Vieck  
Terry & Janet Goodman  
Brian & Brenda Fillingim  
Jordan & Nicole Daniels



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Communion	2 Babe Store 12 - 5:30 Friends 5 - 6:15 pm E & M Mtg 6 pm	3	4	5 Dinner at Procopio's 6 pm	6 Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm	7
8 Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Pentecost - Wear <b>RED</b> Strengthen The Church Offering	9 Babe Store 12 - 5:30 Friends 5 - 6:15 pm Outreach & Benevo- lence @ 6:30 pm	10	11 Christian Ed @ 6 pm	12 Tech Mtg. 10 am Dinner at Coco's 6 pm	13	14
15 Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Trinity Sunday Father's Day Fellowship	16 Babe Store 12 - 5:30 Friends 5 - 6:15 pm Music & Worship 6 pm Church Board 7 pm	17	18 Newsletter Items Deadline	19 Juneteenth Holiday - office closed  Dinner at Kelso's 6 pm	20	21
22 Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	23 Babe Store 12 - 5:30 Friends 5 - 6:15 pm	24	25 Laundry Love 6-8 pm	26 Dinner at Luigi's 6 pm	27	28
29 Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	30 Babe Store 12 - 5:30 Friends 5 - 6:15 pm Youth In Town Mission Week Begins					