

St. John's United Church of Christ

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October 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:

Early in his career, Tom Hanks made a movie with Shelly Long called *The Money Pit*. It was an hilarious comedy about a couple who buy a home only to discover it is in horrible condition and needs a total refurbishment. Some of the sight gags still have me laughing hysterically. When asked when the work will be finished, the contractor always replies, “two weeks.” There’s a moment, after months of reconstruction, Tom Hanks remarks, “It’s finally coming together.” That’s how I feel. After five months of searching, replacing, searching some more, it is finally coming together. It just did so in God’s time—not mine.

Since May, we began searching for new preschool staff and a church secretary. After months of reading resumes, dozens of interview appointments where the candidate didn’t show, we welcomed Laura Arial as our new Preschool Director and she is doing a FANTASTIC JOB! We are certainly blessed to have her onboard. Hannah Lewis became the Butterfly Assistant and Renesme Bartholemy assists with the Caterpillar Class. It has been a joy seeing all the wonderful things they are doing this year, but at times I was so discouraged I cried. I just had to wait on God’s time and suddenly, we had not only a director but two great assistants with a short period.

Now to focus solely on the secretarial position. I am so thankful to those who volunteered to cover the office during this time: Brenda Roarke, David Culp, Arlene Wilson, Jerri Johanningsmeier, Betsy Marchino and Nancy Stultz. Sheri Stodghill did the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter for us. Your help was very much appreciated. It has been difficult for the past five months and I’ve had to let certain things slide (which drives me crazy). We had over 60 applications but most didn’t have the necessary skill set. Those who did, usually didn’t show up for the interview which was so frustrating. Again, I needed to trust God more. BAM! We received resumes for two candidates, both who would have done a good job and both interviewed well. We selected who we thought would be a good match and on September 22, Kimber Butler joined our staff as Church Secretary. You can read more about her elsewhere in the newsletter.

God’s time is not our time. Patience is called a virtue. My problem is I get IMPATIENT and I want it **right now!** God has let us to some wonderful new additions to our staff and I hope you will all have the opportunity to welcome and get to know them. Psalm 40:1 says: *I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.* Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, *To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.* Sometimes it’s hard to wait on God’s time but we are now reaping glorious results. May all of us learn to wait on the Lord.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie



Mission Spotlight...

School year 2025-2026 Kick-off for KIDS HOPE USA

St. John's United Church of Christ in partnership with Riley Elementary has just started year **23** in mentoring children at Riley School.

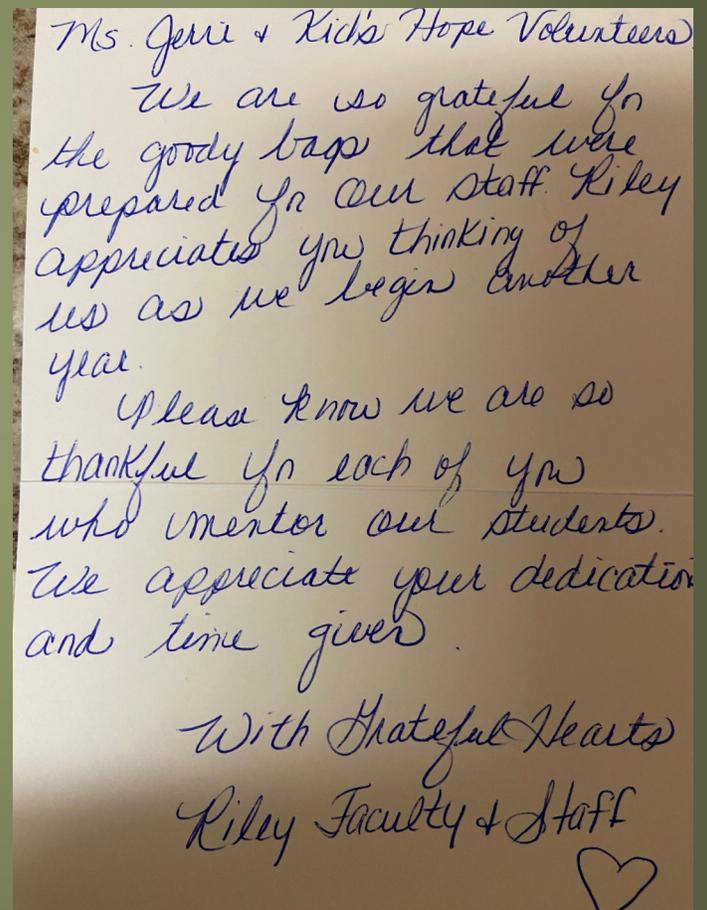
This year we are working one-on-one relationships including six mentors to 6 students. Our mentors are: Larry Marchino, Jill Lopez, Linda Gilbert, Cheryl Meyer, Eric Meyer, and Diana McGiffin, a mentor from Church of God and following a child who moved to Riley School. Welcome Diana. Eric Meyer is continuing his relationship with a Clark Middle School student who entered CMS from Riley. Prayer partners include. Pastor Debbie Jo, Janet Goodman, Brenda Cummings, Betsy Marchino, and Jerri Johanningsmeier.

THANK YOU

Thirteen bags of classroom supplies were given to each Riley classroom teacher wishing and hoping for a great school year for all. A humbling response was given to validate our mission at Riley. Walking together one-on-one in mentoring relationships leads to impact, faithfulness and legacy.

There are children who still need mentors. If you would like to join our program, please contact me for more information.

Jerri Johanningsmeier



Children & Family Ministries

On Sunday, October 12, the Children and Family Ministry will have a Wabash Trails Fun Day in the Houchins Shelter house from 5:00pm -7:30pm. The meat, drinks and table settings (cups, plates and silverware) will be provided! Families are asked to bring a side dish/ dessert to share with the other families! There will extra side dishes/ desserts provided in case your is family running from one activity to this one. There will be many games and activities for the families at the activity. This event would be a great opportunity for the families to invite friends.



On Saturday, October 18, the KFC and Youth will travel to Holiday World for Happy Halloween Weekends. This family-friendly special event includes the rides you love at Holiday World, plus 12 acres of corn mazes and hayrides! St. John's children will need to pay \$25 and friends/family are welcome to come but will need to pay \$35 for tickets. We will leave St. John's at 10:15am and return around 9:30pm. Please provide each child \$20-\$25 for food at the park and for supper. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the nursery or letting Will know by Thursday, October 16, so the tickets can be purchased. A medical information form will need to be filled for St. John's KFC/Youth and their friends. The medical information forms are located on the bulletin board by the nursery and outside of the CE office upstairs.

Starting in October the youth (7th - High School) will have opportunities for Faith Formation at least twice a month upstairs in the youth space. For October, the meetings will be Wednesday, October 1, from 7-8pm (after Messy Church) and Sunday, October 19, from 11:30am-1pm (lunch provided). If there are any questions, please let Will Meyer know!

Mini-Marvels (age 4-2 grade) will have an opportunity to enjoy a Fall afternoon from 3-5pm at church on Saturday, October 11. There will be crafts and activities at the M&M event. Also, there will be light snacks to enjoy too! This will be a great activity to invite friends, grandparents and other family members to come to the fun activity too!

Youth Retreat for grades 6-12 will take place on November 14-16, beginning at 7pmfriday and ending at 11am Sunday morning at Camp Cedar Ridge in Louisville, KY. St. John's will pay the \$125 fee for any young person from our church family who wishes to attend. To register for this event, you may register online by going to the IKC website weekly newsletter, Roots and Shoots at ikc@ikcucc.org. The church will send one check to cover everyone attending. Contact Will or Pastor Debbie Jo for more details.

Will Meyer

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



Prayer & Post

We ask for continuing prayer requests for friends and family:

Bruce Deckard
Lynne Simmons
Vern Houchins

Katrina Memering
Ted Lowe

Gary Meyer
Wayne Baker

Don Osborne, Jr.
Jasime Zeller

Mark Schutter
Kelvin Strange

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

At Home:

Bruce Deckard
Gary Meyer
Mike Lankford
Vern Houchins



I wrote this one day after work (at Crestview). I felt people were not being so kind to the patients as they have been. (My opinion—but this is how I feel people need to treat others.) I hope I do.

Handle with Care

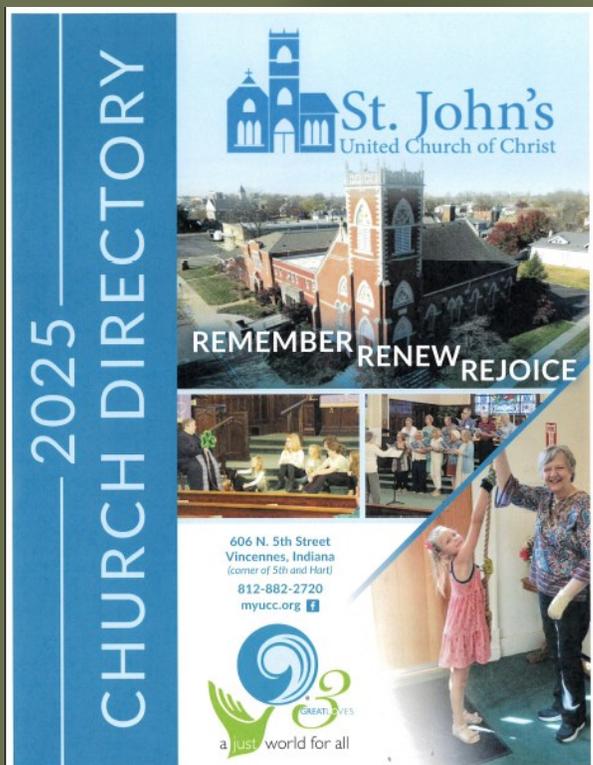
Handle with care this body, bent, misshapen, old.
The hair, once a crown of glory, is sparse, coarse, missing.
The eyes, once bright, alert, missing nothing are clouded, vacant, sad.
The ears hear little if anything.
Shoulders once so straight and proud are bent, weary, broken, old.
Those gnarled fingers once rocked a cradle, fed a babe, struggled to make a living from the stubborn land.
Feet, once swift, shuffle, stumble, immobile.
The once alert thinking brain now sends erratic messages which flow forth in jumbled gibberish.
Saying little, understanding less, oft wracked with pain, the body grows old.
Handle with care this body for what it was. For what, through no fault of its own, it has become.
Handle with care. Return to this old body the love it once gave so freely.
Preserve the dignity with which it once moved, breathed, had its being.
Do not rush this body. The messages are jumbled, the responses slow.
Speak gently, this mass is still a part of humanity, a child of God.
The heart still beats emotions live.
Handle gently this body—someone mother, grandfather, loved one.
Handle gently this being while it waits its time to go,
Home to rest.

Carol Graham

Prayer requests or updates can now be relayed to the church office during regular office hours and Janet Goodman during the evening/weekend. Email: st.johnsuccoffice@gmail.com or call 812-882-2720 M-F, 9 am - 1 pm.

For Janet: terrybaseball@gmail.com Text or phone call: 812-887-2797.

Church Directory



An updated 2025 version of St. John's United Church of Christ Church Directory will be available October 1st.

Directory will be electronically delivered to you like our monthly newsletter. Save or print for use at your discretion.

100 hard copies have been printed and will be available in the church office or at the October 5th worship service.

The Directory will be updated annually, preferably in the month of January. Call or email changes of address, new photos, phone, and/or email address for updating the directory for 2026.

A special Thank you to all of our congregations for photos, information card updates, The Ascended Photography, Cassy Irvine, Brian Fillingim, office volunteers and the Evangelism and Membership committee for helping to make this happen.

Jerri Johanningsmeier



Visioning

Visioning for St. John's UCC

God is calling us forward! St. John's is beginning a visioning process to shape our future together - strengthening ministry for youth, families, singles, older adults, and expanding our mission in the community. Your voice matters! Please join us at one the upcoming strategic visioning sessions as we share ideas, listen to one another, and dream about where God is leading us next.

We ask that you sign up for one session on the signup sheets in Memorial Hall entryway. If you are unable to sign up in person, please contact the church office to have them sign up for you. There is also a take home survey to fill out and return to the basket located in the church. Please return the surveys by October 30th.

Visioning Sessions - approx. 90 minutes with light meal being served:

Tuesday, October 7th, 5:30 pm - This evening is especially for families with young/college age members, but all ages welcome.

Sunday, October 12th, following worship - All ages welcome.

Vision Committee: Eric Meyer, Kelly Alexander, Betsy Marchino, Allison Cummins, Pastor Debbie, and Sheri Stodghill.



Scarlett Speaks!

SCARLETT SPEAKS! Woof! Woof! Whodun-it? That was the question on Mom's mind when she woke up to a crime scene. Fluffy stuffing guts were everywhere! A large, green

squeeaker lay silenced forever on the floor. In the midst of the chaos, the broken, lifeless body of the favorite "beet" toy lay in a heap, drained of its innards, unseeing, vacant eyes, cast upward. Who could have done such a horrible act of murder and destruction? Who could have so viciously attacked such an innocent toy who brought nothing but happiness to a little furry dog? It was a mystery.

Well, maybe not. Mom went all Miss Marple like and solved the puzzle pretty quick. **IT WAS ME!** (hee hee). I did it. It was my very favorite toy that came in my Easter basket and I mercilessly shook it to death. It was fine. But now I miss it. I'm sorry, not sorry. It was fun. And satisfying. **R.I.P. Beet Squeaky Toy. Woof! Woof!**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Messy Church on October 1st from 5:30-7:00 pm features the theme of *Prayer*. Our Scripture will be Romans 12:12 and we will have lots of prayer related games, crafts and activities. Dinner will be sloppy Joes, chips & raw veggies. Plan now to participate and join us for a great evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship. Invite your friends!

World Communion will be celebrated on October 5th during worship. We will also collect our *Neighbors in Need* Offering..

Harvest Home worship will take place on October 19th and everyone is invited to bring in canned goods for the Blessings Box.

Reformation Sunday/Covent Tour will take place on Sunday October 26th with our Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Monica Ouelette, will be in the pulpit. A pulled pork (courtesy of Brayton Cummins) fellowship meal will follow. This is part of the Covenant Tour where the Conference Ministers are visiting all the churches in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

Blessing of the Costumes will take place during the Children's Moment on Oct. 26th and all children are asked to wear their Halloween costumes to worship.

Family Movie Night: On October 19th at 5:00 pm we will gather to watch *Clue* (rated PG) starring Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Leslie Warren, Christopher Lloyd, Eileen Brennan, Michael McKeon and Martin Mull. Synopsis: *Six blackmail victims are invited to an isolated mansion by a man who knows a dark secret from each of their pasts. On arrival, each is given a pseudonym drawn from the Clue game before being introduced to the blackmailer. Each is handed a weapon, at which point the lights are switched off and the blackmailer is killed. Can the guests uncover the murderer before they all become victims?* The movie has three endings and we will see who can decide the murderer in advance. Everyone is invited.

Conference Youth Retreat for Grades 6-12 will take place on November 14-16, beginning at 7 pm Friday and ending at 11 am Sunday morning at Camp Cedar Ridge in Louisville, KY. The church will pay the \$125 fee for any young person from our church family who wishes to attend. You may register online at by going to the IKC website weekly newsletter, *Roots and Shoots* at ikc@ikcucc.org. The church will send one check to cover everyone attending. Contact Will or Pastor for more details.



The Blessing Box needs donations. Here are suggestions: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, Velveeta mac & cheese (doesn't require milk or butter), canned pasta, soups, crackers. Cans with pop top lids are best.

Music & Worship Committee Information

Join congregations around the world as we participate in World Wide Communion on October **5th**. Our congregations will also celebrate Harvest Home, giving praise for yet another bountiful harvest. We share in this blessing by bringing **Blessing Box** can goods donations which will be featured as part of our Harvest Home display. Prior to worship, you're your church family for Fellowship Time in Memorial Hall. **Reformation Sunday is October 26th**. We would like to Welcome Kim Godare and John & Ellen Riggs to our choir family! We are so glad you have joined us! And we remind the congregation that "slots remain open". Please join us~.

Meet our new Church Secretary: Kim Butler has started as our church secretary. She has lived in Vincennes for 32 years. After 25 years as Office Manager, she retired from Gentle Care Nursing Home. She has 3 adult children, 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandkids. She has been widowed for seven years and likes to quilt and crochet. She is a great addition to our staff and will be in the office Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-1:00 p.m. Stop by and introduce yourself!

If you would like to **reserve Memorial Hall** for any activity, please contact the Church office. and they will check the schedule and put down your reservation.

Thank you to the congregation for your support of our **VBS offering** in August. As a result of your generosity, a check was presented to the Knox County Humane Society in the amount of \$153.30! They were most appreciative.

Happy 80th Birthday Rev. Lynn Marino! If you would like to send her a card her address is: 8232 Buck Ridge Trail, Evansville, IN 47712. Her birthday is October 10th.

Save The Date Bell Ringers!

St. John's UCC is registered to ring bells for the Salvation Army at "Save a Lot" (inside) on Monday, December 1, 2025. One-hour shifts will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. To cover the eight 1-hour shifts, two volunteers (or a family) will be needed for each. Being on site to raise money for this annual campaign during the holiday period benefits the Salvation Army in providing for needs in our community. At the same time, we have the opportunity to represent our church. More information regarding signing up for a shift will come later.

Brenda Roark



October Birthdays

Lonny Vieck
Michelle Grube
Jan Henry
Darcie Bahr
Becky Nowaskie
Sarah Lowe
Liam Goodman
Sam Goodman
Etta Snyder
Ish Clausman
Jordan Daniels
Joel Sanders
Marvin Covey
Karen Cole

Anniversaries

Chas & Landry Culp
Daniel & Trista Goodman

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 October schedule is as follows:

October 2nd - Kelso's
October 16th - Luigi's
October 30th - Coco's

October 9th - Café Moonlight
October 23rd - Ponderosa



Church Board Highlights September 15, 2025

The Church Board met on September 15, 2025. The Board is excited for the upcoming Church picnic, to be held Sunday, September 28th at 10:30 a.m. at the open-air shelter at Gregg Park. Meat will be provided by the Board, courtesy of Brayton Cummins who is graciously preparing pulled pork. All others are asked to bring a dish serving 10-12 people to share. The Board thanks Kim Godare for her hard work planning the picnic.

The Board also discussed visioning, which is underway. The visioning task-force is asking everyone to attend a visioning session and complete a survey. The Board is continuing to search for a Church secretary and encourages everyone spread the word.

Jill Doggett
Secretary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2025			1 Messy Church 5:30 - 7 pm Choir Practice 7 pm Faith Formation (7th - 12th grade) 7 - 8 pm	2 Dinner & Conservation - Kelso's 6 pm	3 Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm	4
5 Adult FF Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am World Communion Neighbors In Need Offering Faith Ventures 10:30 am	6 BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm Friends 5:30 - 6:15pm Evangelism & Membership Mtg 6 pm	7 Vision Session 5:30 - 7 pm Girl Scouts 4:30 - 6:30 pm	8 Messy Church Core Team 5:30 Mtg Christian Ed Mtg 6 pm Choir Practice 7 pm	9 Tech Mtg 10:00 am Dinner & Conversation - Café Moonlight 6 pm	10	11 Fall Afternoon Fun 3 - 5 pm (M&M's)
12 Adult FF Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Visioning Session 11:45 - 1 pm Wabash Trails Cookout 5 - 7:30 pm (CFM)	13 Friends 5:30 - 6:15 pm	14 Office Closed Holiday Sandy's Pantry 11 - 12:30 pm	15 Choir Practice 7 pm	16 Sandy's Pantry 11 - 12:30 pm Dinner & Conversation - Luigi's 6 pm	17	18 Holiday World 10:15 am - 9:30 pm (KFC/Youth)
19 Adult FF Class 9:30 am Fellowship Worship 10:30 am Harvest Home Canned Goods Collection Movie Night - Clue 5 pm Faith Formation (7th-12th grade) 11:30 - 1 pm	20 Friends 5:30 - 6:15 pm Church Board 7 pm	21 Vision Session 5:30 - 7 pm Girl Scouts 4:30 - 6 pm	22 Choir Practice 7 pm November Newsletter Items Due In Office Today	23 Dinner & Conversation - Ponderosa 6 pm	24	25
26 Adult FF Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Conference Covenant Tour 10:30 am	27 Friends 5:30 - 6:15 pm	28 Cadet Girl Scouts 4:30 - 6 pm	29 Laundry Love 6 - 8 pm Choir Practice 7 pm	30 Dinner & Conversation - CoCo's 6 pm	31	