

# St. John's United Church of Christ

606 N Fifth Street  
Vincennes, IN  
47591

812-882-2720

stjohnsuccoffice  
@gmail.com



## November 2025 Newsletter

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606 North Fifth Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

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Dear Friends:

Growing up Presbyterian, I knew the first two weeks in November were always dedicated to Stewardship. They were as much a part of the liturgical calendar as Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. Coming into the United Church of Christ, I have found that stewardship is almost a *word that must not be spoken aloud*. I have heard complaints about churches *always asking for money*. In fact, over the years, I have had several conversations with people who stated they stopped going to church because they were always asking for money for something or another. Really? You gave up going to church? Do you stop sending your child to school because the school needs more money for teaching supplies, books, sports equipment, music and art opportunities? Do you stop letting your child play sports because they need uniforms, insurance, special equipment? Do you not belong to any social or fraternal organizations because they require dues?



Stewardship is a biblical concept about using our time, talent and treasure for the furtherment of God's presence here on earth. It's not only about money. How much time can you volunteer to help with missions and programming (even if it means serving on a committee)? How can you use your talents to help in the church's ministry? And yes, how can you financially support our church's ongoing presence in this community? I don't believe we are always asking for money. We do, however, spend a limited time each year, sharing how we are making a difference for so many lives and asking for your continued support.

We are a church family strongly dedicated to being God's hands, feet and heart in this community. We've been here for 176 years, and we're not finished yet. Think of those who would suffer if suddenly there was no St. John's church providing space for various organizations; offering a Christian preschool for the community; helping others through Sandy's Pantry, Phoebe's Mission, the B.A.B.E. store, Laundry Love; mentoring children through Kid's Hope; supporting drug addicts as they negotiate tough rehabilitation and a faith journey through LAM (Life After Meth), providing needed items for school nurses, backpacks filled with school supplies, and much, much more. What if you no longer had your church family surrounding you through all the dark valleys and rejoicing in your mountaintop experiences, lifting you up in prayer, offering support whenever and however needed, sharing the gospel with the world?

*Dreaming God's Dream* is the theme of this year's campaign. What dreams do you have to further God's work in the world? How can you help? Please join us as we dream and serve together.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie Jo



The Children and Family Ministry (CFM) had a busy month of October. Mini-Marvels (M&Ms) had an opportunity to enjoy a Fall afternoon on Saturday, October 11. At this activity there were crafts, activities and light snacks to enjoy too! On Sunday, October 12, the CFM had a Wabash Trails Fun Day Cookout in the Houchins Shelter house. At this activity the families were provided hamburgers, hot dogs and barbecue. Thank you for the families sharing a side dish or dessert at the cookout. The families had chance to hang out with each other, play games, enjoy the playground and decorate pumpkins. Continuing with activities in October, some of the KFC and Youth traveled to Holiday World for Happy Halloween Weekends on October 18. At Holiday World the group had opportunities to do a corn maze, enjoy a fall hay ride and enjoy all the rides at the park. Many chances for children and their family to be involve with events at St. John's.

This past month the St. John's youth group also started for grades 7-12 with two meetings upstairs in the youth space. During the meeting times the youth had a lesson, an activity and community outreach. The youth helped prepare for Phoebe's Mission for October, put out chairs for upcoming church dinners and worked with donated items for the Blessing Box from Harvest Home Sunday. For November, the youth will have 3 meetings for the month.

### M&M Fall Afternoon-October 11



### CFM Wabash Trails Fun Day Cookout October 12



## 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

The St. John's Youth (7th- 12th Grade) meets at least twice a month upstairs in the youth space. During meetings the youth have a lesson, an activity and do mission work/community outreach. If there are any questions, please let Will Meyer know!

### November Youth Dates

11/5 (Wednesday): 7pm-8pm-**After Messy Church**

11/16 (Sunday): 4pm-5:30pm

11/30 (Sunday): 11:30am-1pm-**Lunch Provided**

### KFC & Youth "An Evening at Church" – Friday, November 14 | 6:00–10:00 PM

The KFC (3rd–6th grade) and Youth (7th–12th grade) are invited to a fun-filled evening at church on Friday, November 14, from 6:00 to 10:00 PM! We'll kick off the night by making our own *personal pizzas*, followed by games and other great activities. It's a chance to relax, hang out, and enjoy time with our church family.

#### Drop-off Info:

Children can be dropped off any time throughout the evening, especially if coming from other events. However, if you plan to arrive after 6:30 PM, please contact Will ahead of time, as the back door will be locked after that point and arrangements will need to be made for entry. Hope to see everyone there for a great night of food, fun, and fellowship!

### CFM Holiday Fundraiser Prep– Sunday, November 23 | 5:00–7:30 PM

On Sunday, November 23, the CFM group will be gathering to prepare items for our upcoming Holiday Fundraiser! We'll be making Mason Jar Cookie Mixes, Homemade Hot Chocolate Mixes, Christmas Cards, and other festive gifts for the season. Sandwiches and snacks will be provided during the activity, so come ready to create and enjoy some good food and fellowship!

All fundraiser items will go on sale starting Sunday, November 30. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support future CFM activities, including our annual In-Town Mission Week and other CFM get-togethers.

Will Meyer

Children and Family Ministry Coordinator



The Children and Family Ministry will be making cookies mixes in Mason Jars again this year for a Christmas Fundraiser. For this fundraiser the group are looking for quart Mason Jars with lids. If anyone wants to donate their extra quart jars please put in box by coatrack at church by Sunday, November 16.



For Faith Ventures in November, children in grades K-6 will learn "Thanks" through biblical stories and activities, helping them recognize God's blessings and show appreciation to others. Faith Ventures is a new experience for grades K-6, replacing what was previously known as Children's Church. Darcie Bahr continues to be available in the nursery before worship for young ones belonging to those attending adult Faith Formation or choir practice. She is also available to care for babies, toddlers and preschoolers during worship service.

## **We ask for continuing prayer requests for friends and family:**

Gary Meyer, Don Osborne Jr., Conway Wilson, Davissyn Brown (brother of Daxton Brown—Preschool). The family of Mark Schutter, Kelvin Strange, Lynne Simmons, Katrina Memering, Jasmine Zeller, Cindy Utley, Jessica Conner, Marilyn and Vern Houchins, Jo Tarrh , sister of Jill Lopez and Jerri Johanningsmeier .

## **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:**

Gary Meyer  
Mike Lankford  
Vern Houchins

**WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS** to the family of Thomas William Crowley who entered eternal life on October 27, 2025. Visitation will be held at Frederick's Funeral Home from 10-12 on Monday, November 3rd with the service following led by Pastor Paul. A luncheon will take place afterwards in Memorial Hall.



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](mailto:st.johnsuccoffice@gmail.com) or call 812-882-2720 M-F, 9 am - 1 pm.

For Janet: [terrybaseball@gmail.com](mailto:terrybaseball@gmail.com) Text or phone call: 812-887-2797.

# THIS MONTH IN PRESCHOOL

This month in preschool has been full of learning and excitement! The children have been practicing their letters and sounds through fun games and puzzles, and they are really enjoying the activities. Pastor Debbie visited to share a wonderful story, and both classes loved meeting Scarlett! We've also been learning about how to care for pets. We took a field trip to the Big Peach in October.



## Scarlett Speaks!

**SCARLETT SPEAKS:** Woof! Woof! My Mom recently jetted off to Florida for a fun-filled trip to Universal Studios where she had a grand old time visiting the *Wizarding World of Harry Potter*, riding exciting rides, meeting Toothless, the dragon from *How to Train Your Dragon* and just basically having FUN! I spent the week in JAIL! Yep. She deposited me in a detention center where I spent the night in solitary confinement in my off-the-floor doggie bed (complete with personal blanket and my current favorite toy). I spent the days in the "yard" with the other prisoners, running around, barking, playing with the guards and climbing on the equipment. While Mom was dining at the *Three Broomsticks* and the *Leaky Cauldron* or enjoying ice cream at *Florian Fortescue's* or a hot butter beer, I just had my usual dry dog food. Thankfully, I got a special treat in the afternoon when my private guard came and played with me one on one. I guess it wasn't too bad but doggone it, she's heading to Vegas this month, so I'll be sent to the big house again. Sigh. It's a dog's life. Woof! Woof!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MEMORIAL SUNDAY/TOTENFEST** will take place in worship on November 2nd. We will remember those of our church who have entered into eternal life during the past year: Carol Graham, Gayle Huffer and Bruce Deckard. A candle will be lit, the bell rung, and yellow roses will be in honor of each person recognized.

**DREAMING GOD'S DREAM: No Gift Too Small, No Dream Too Big** is the theme of this year's Stewardship campaign which kicks off on October 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be sharing our dreams for our congregation as we approach our Stewardship Sunday on November 9<sup>th</sup>. During our recent Visioning gatherings, we have heard a lot of the dreams church members have for our congregation. Let's work together to make those dreams into reality.

**MESSY CHURCH** on November 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 pm features the theme of *Gratitude: The Bounty of the Earth* with lots of *thankful* related games, crafts and activities. Dinner will be baked pasta, salad, garlic bread and "turkey" decorated cupcakes. Plan now to participate and join us for a great evening of Faith, Food, Fun and Fellowship. Invite your friends!

**ACOLYTES:** Calling all interested young people in Grades 4-12 who would like to serve as acolytes for Sunday morning worship. Acolytes serve as "light bearers." They carry the light of Christ into the sanctuary during the Prelude and light the candles on the altar. At the close of the service, they carry the light of Christ out into the world during the Postlude. Pastor Debbie Jo will have a training for those interested in serving on Sunday morning, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**MOVIE NIGHT:** Join us on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 for a light supper and the comedy, *The Money Pit*, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. A couple buys their dream home only to discover it's a real "fixer-upper." Please sign up on the sheet in back of sanctuary so we can better plan for the meal.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** on November 11<sup>th</sup> for Veteran's Day and on November 28<sup>th</sup> for long Thanksgiving weekend

**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 AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE INFORMATION

**Totenfest**, or **All Saints Day**, is the first Sunday in November the 2nd. We will remember St. John's members who have died during the year, including Bruce Deckard, Carol Graham and Gayle Huffer. Communion will be served. AND, its time to "fall back"! Daylight Savings Time ends; Eastern Standard Time begins. Set your alarms accordingly Saturday night.

**Stewardship Sunday** is November 9th., giving us the opportunity to renew our commitment to St. John's, as we make our pledges for 2026. Not only is this a commitment to our church, it also recognizes the missions that strengthen our community.

**Hanging of the Greens** will start after worship on November 16. Volunteers are needed to help with moving trees to the sanctuary and hanging garland.

The **First Sunday of Advent** is Sunday, November 30th. St. John's youth and their families will be lighting the Advent Candles each Sunday during Advent.

Looking ahead on December 3. The **Advent Festival** will coincide with **Messy Church**, from 5:30pm until 7pm. Family and friends are encouraged to share this special occasion with others.

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.

***Happy Birthday Pastor Debbie! Her birthday is November 15th.***

## THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

There aren't enough words to express our thanks for the outpouring of love and support during Bruce's illness and his recent passing. Four years of fighting cancer was made easier by the many acts of kindness delivered to our family. Prayers never ceased, beautiful encouraging cards were received, phone calls and texts were sent just to check on us and see if we needed anything. Special surprises showed up at our door to lift our spirits and remind us we were not alone in this battle. Delicious food and sweet treats were shared for our enjoyment.

The Celebration of life service for Bruce was supported by so many from our church family. The bereavement dinner came together beautifully by the united effort and comradery of all of you.

How blessed to be supported and loved by your church during joyous times, but especially during our greatest hour of need.

Love,  
Cindy Deckard & Family

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# November

## Birthdays

Addison Cummings  
Ross Lankford  
Amelia Schutz  
Janet Goodman  
Jim Workman  
Sierra Deckard  
Betty Lankford  
Paul Goodman  
Luke Lindsey  
Cyndi Glass  
Pastor Debbie  
Natasha Coomes  
Elise Goodman  
Leo Vieck  
Jana Vieck  
Janice Strange  
Ed Cummings  
Rodney Lopez

## Anniversaries

Jake & Kelly Alexander  
Jay & Karen Cole  
Clayton & Cindi Gilmore

## 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. Call or Text Brenda Roark at 812-890-1221.

Brenda Roark



## 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 November schedule is as follows:

November 6th.—El Corral  
November 13th.— Monical's  
November 20th.—Café Moonlight  
November 27th.—Thanksgiving



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# NOVEMBER 2025

1

**2**  
Adult FF Class 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Totenfest/Memorial Sunday  
10:30am Communion  
Daylight Savings Time Ends

**3**  
BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm  
Friends 5:30 - 6:15pm  
Membership & Evangelism  
@ 6:30pm

**4**  
Vision Session 5:30 - 7 pm  
Girl Scouts 4:30 - 6:30 pm  
Election Day

**5**  
Messy Church/Advent  
Festival 5:30-7pm  
Choir Practice 7 pm

**6**  
Tech Mtg 10:00 am  
Dinner & Conversation -  
6 pm @ El Charro

**7**  
Phoebe's Mission  
@ 4:30 -6:00pm

**8**

**9**  
Adult FF Class 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Stewardship Sunday  
Acolyte Training 9:30am

**10**  
BABE Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5:30 - 6:15 pm  
Pastor on vacation all week

**11**  
Sandy's Pantry  
11 - 12:30 pm  
**Office Closed -Veteran's Day**

**12**  
Christian Education 6 pm  
Choir Practice 7 pm

**13**  
Sandy's Pantry  
11 - 12:30 pm  
Dinner & Conversation -  
6 pm @ Monical's

**14**

**15**

**16**  
Adult FF Class 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Youth Group 11:30 - 1 pm  
Movie Night (The Money Pit) @ 5  
pm

**17**  
BABE Store 12-5:30 pm  
Friends 5:30 - 6:15 pm  
Music & Worship 6 pm  
Board Mtg with Association  
@ 6pm  
Church Board 7 pm

**18**  
Girl Scouts 4:30 - 6 pm  
Preschool Meeting 6pm

**19**  
Choir Practice 7 pm  
December Newsletter  
Items Due In Office To-  
day

**20**  
Dinner & Conversation -  
6 pm @ Café Moonlight

**21**

**22**

**23**  
Adult FF Class 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Fellowship Time 10am

**24**  
BABE Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5:30 - 6:15 pm

**25**  
Cadette Girl Scouts  
4:30 - 6 pm

**26**  
Laundry Love 6 - 8 pm  
Choir Practice 7 pm

**27**  
**Thanksgiving**

**28**  
**Office Closed**

**29**

**30**  
Adult FF Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30 am  
First Sunday of Advent