

St. John's United Church of Christ

606 N Fifth Street
Vincennes, IN
47591

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January 2026 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:

I can hardly believe we are beginning a new year. Time seems to fly at an increasing rate of speed. I was so happy that many of you got to meet Colsen the Sunday before Christmas when my family was here to celebrate the holidays. He was definitely the best present I received even though he came in May. In looking ahead to 2026, we have several new paths to take, and I have some personal goals that are church based as well. Together as a congregation we will be exploring the following:

- Becoming a W.I.S.E. (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) congregation, actively committed to ending mental health stigma and creating a safe, understanding space for everyone affected by mental health challenges by promoting education, support and advocacy within our church and the community.
- Continuing the Visioning process we began last fall, exploring all the data received and determining how God is calling us to shape our future as a congregation.
- Searching for and welcoming a new Choir Director following the resignation of Becky Brockman who has faithfully been a part of our music program for 61 years.
- Supporting our Preschool program, including recruiting new students, as the new staff rebuilds and reshapes our program.
- Embrace Stewardship as a special Christian discipline that impacts our daily living and understanding.

For myself as your pastor, I have some personal goals of my own to achieve:

- Finding the time to finally finish unpacking the boxes and organizing my church office, even if it means I have to close my office door in order to accomplish the task.
- I still have two and a half rooms at the parsonage that need to be unpacked, gleaned and organized. I enjoy having events at the parsonage and haven't yet done so since I haven't completely settled in.
- Find more opportunities for Bible Study, beginning with a Lenten series based on the musical, *Hamilton*.
- Spend more time checking on both active and inactive members to get to know them better.
- Take better care of myself, physically and mentally, especially in utilizing my time off so that I don't get overwhelmed and over stressed. This includes actually planning and making my pilgrimage to the Iona Community in Scotland in 2026.

So, we have our work cut out for us. May this new year be one in which we work together to discern God's will and follow faithfully and obediently.

Peace,
Pastor Debbie



Children & Family Ministries



The Children and Family Ministry families are asked to help prep for the CFM Soup Fundraiser on Saturday, January 17, at 9am in the kitchen and will be done by 11am. The families are also asked to help on Sunday, January 18, with preparing the orders. Please be looking for announcements in the bulletin and on Facebook group for future information. If there are any questions, please let Will know!



Mini-marvels (age 4-2 grade) will have an opportunity to enjoy a winter afternoon from 3-5pm at church on Saturday, January 24th. 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!

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!

January Youth Dates

1/7 (Wednesday): 7pm-8pm After Messy Church

1/18 (Sunday): 4pm-5:30pm

Will Meyer

Children and Family Ministry Coordinator

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



Children & Family Ministries



St. John's UCC Children and Family Ministry Soup Sale Order Form

Needing an easy lunch or dinner? The Children and Family Ministry Group has a solution for that! We are selling soup for you to reheat & eat at home. Please order for presales by Wednesday, January 14, for pickup starting Sunday, January 18. Order forms can be turned in to the church office, offering plate or by emailing Will Meyer at stjuccfamilyministry@yahoo.com. Payment is due with pickup. Checks can be made out to Children and Family Ministry. Free-donations will also be accepted. Proceeds will go towards the 2026 In-town Mission Week and future CFM activities.

12oz Soup Cup (Great for lunch or small meal)-\$3.50

16oz Soup Cup (Great for a dinner serving)-\$4.50

Name _____

_____ 12oz Potato Soup

_____ 16oz Potato Soup

_____ 12oz Chili

_____ 16oz Chili

_____ 12oz Chicken Noodle

_____ 16oz Chicken Noodle

_____ Total 12oz soup cups at \$3.50 per container = \$ _____

_____ Total 16oz soup cups at \$4.50 per container = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____ balance due at pickup

Pickup Times of Preorders

Sunday, January 18-After church- 1pm

Monday, January 19- 4pm-5pm

***Extra soup cups will also be sold on January 18 ***

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:

Gary Meyer, Marilyn Houchins, Tony Riley and Ellen Riggs. Mollie Joice, cousin of Darcie Bahr and prayers for Bobby Bahr.

Shut-in Addresses:

Susie Milligan - Colonial Assisted Living, Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

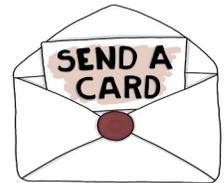
Leona Conway - Aperion Care, C Wing Room C-35, 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

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

Ellen Riggs - Bridgepointe, 1900 College Avenue, Vincennes, IN 47591

At Home:

Gary Meyer
Mike Lankford



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

For Pastor Debbie: revdjatkins@gmail.com Text or phone call: 812-760-2226

Visioning

Visioning for St. John's UCC

The Visioning Committee would like to thank everyone for filling out the surveys . We are busy tallying the results and will report back to the congregation in late January. Again, thank you for your responses.

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

Scarlett Speaks!

SCARLETT SPEAKS! Woof! Woof! I think my Mom has gone a bit cray cray. For several weeks now, she's been setting up trees inside our house. **TREES!** But they don't smell like the real trees outside. Then she started hanging all sorts of stuff all over them. She tells me this one is the family tree with ornaments made from the kids or places we've traveled. This one is a Noah's Ark tree. This one only has Twelve Days of Christmas decorations. There are two trees that just drip all these Hallmark ornaments she collects. Then came the dozens of Santa's, little Christmas knick-knacks, special dishes—I tell you she has gone NUTS. Then she started baking things like fruit cakes, cookies, candies, breads and more. The house smelled delicious, but she didn't share anything with me. Not even when I pouted and gave sad puppy eyes. I'm not exactly sure what this Christmas thing is all about, but she says since I'm such a good girl, there will be some new toys and treats under one of the trees on Christmas morning so I guess it can't be all bad. As long as I can keep visiting people in nursing homes, reading with the preschool kids and playing with the children at church, I'm okay. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Woof! Woof!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPIPHANY will be celebrated during worship on January 4th. Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Magi bringing gifts to the infant Jesus. We will distribute “Star Words” of affirmation during the service.

BAPTISM RENEWAL will take place on Sunday, January 11th as we celebrate the Baptism of Christ. Participants will have an opportunity to come to front for a blessing and a time to renew their baptism vows.

RETIRING OF THE GREENS will take place immediately following worship on January 25th. Please stay if you are able to help put away Christmas decorations. Many hands make the work easier and faster.

MESSY CHURCH will be held on January 7th from 5:30-7:00 pm. The theme is *Follow the Star: The Three Kings*. Lots of activities, crafts, dinner and fun! We will receive “Star words,” play “Pin the tail on the camel, decorate crowns and share a King Cake to see who will be “King/Queen” for the evening. Bring the family and join us.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED on January 1st for New Year’s Day and January 19th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday holiday.

RESIGNATION: It is with sadness that we have received the resignation of our Choir Director, Becky Brockman, effective May 20, 2026. Becky has faithfully served our music program for over 61 years. Her hard work and dedication have been greatly appreciated and we wish her well as she spends more time with her family and has the freedom to travel. Thank you, Becky for being such a good and faithful servant to the Lord.

Our Annual Updates from the October 2025 Church Directory is now taking place through January 2026. If you would like to make a change in your personal entry, do so by calling the Church Office and leaving the corrections with Kim. 812-882-2720 or email stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com Items to change, add or delete are of the following:

Photos, Residence Address, Email Addresses, Family Members, Phone numbers/work or home, Errors in Spelling,

The Church Board approved the following amendments to our Constitution at its meeting on December 15, 2025. The reason for the change is that last year only 3 candidates agreed to accept the nomination and with fewer members in our church, the Board felt we should reduce the size of the Church Board from 12 to 9. Currently we have 11 members so there will be a transition period as 4 members are replaced by 3. Also, we want persons to be able to participate in Board meetings even if they are unable to attend a meeting in person. The Amendments will be voted on at our Annual Congregational meeting on January 18 after church.

Ed Cummings

PROPOSED AMENDEMENTS TO THE
ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE VII GOVERNANCE

B. The Church Board: The Governing Body of the Church shall select, through a process of election, a Church Board to operate its business functions, hereinafter called the Church Board.

1. The Church Board shall consist of ~~twelve (12)~~ **nine (9)** members and the Senior Pastor. ~~Four~~ **Three** Church Board members shall be elected each year and serve for terms of three years each. At the completion of a Church Board Member's term, he/she shall not be eligible for re-election until after one year has elapsed.

The 2025 Church Board consisted of eleven (11) members. The Church Board will begin the transition to nine (9) members in calendar year 2026. Four Church Board members will complete their term of service to the Church Board at the end of 2025, leaving seven (7) existing Church Board members. Three (3) new members will be added in 2026, for a total of ten (10) members in 2026. Four additional Church Board members will complete their term of service to the Church Board at the end of 2026, leaving six (6) existing Church Board members. Three (3) new members will be added in 2027 for a total of nine (9) members in 2027. In each subsequent year, three Church Board members will go off the Board and three new Church Board members will begin their three-year term of service.

4. Procedure for the Annual Election of Church Board Members:

a. Nominating Committee: Candidates for election to the Church Board shall be selected by a Nominating Committee appointed by the Church Board President.

* The Nominating Committee shall consist of ~~not less than eleven (11) persons~~ **approximately eleven (11) members**, including the Pastor(s), Church Board President and Vice President, with representation from the current and active committees of the Church as well as at-large members of the congregation.

* The Nominating Committee shall attempt to select persons from various age, gender, and racial groups in the Church.

* The Nominating Committee shall have the power and authority to make all rules for the conduct of its business subject to the approval of the Church Board of St. John's United Church of Christ.

* Selection of ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** candidates shall be completed not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the annual Congregational meeting.

* Candidates may be submitted for election only upon their consent to serve.

b. Voting: The voting membership shall be those Church members present at the annual Congregational Meeting or at any postponed meeting thereof.

The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be present the ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** candidates for election. Nominations may be made from the floor. The Church members vote, electing ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** candidates.

7. Meetings: The Church Board shall convene once a month or as often as the business of the Church demands. The quorum shall be ~~eight (8)~~ **six (6) members of the Board. Board Members may attend meetings virtually if otherwise unavailable to attend in person, and virtual attendance will count toward a quorum.**

January 2026

Birthdays

Cheryl Meyer
Susie Milligan
Tony Riley
Kelly Alexander
Brenda Cummings
David Grube
Ryan Vieke
Keaton Summers
Daxton Lawrence
Will Vieke
Rodger Hobson
Ryan Watts
Conway Wilson

Anniversaries

No January Anniversaries

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 schedule is as follows:

January 8 th	Dogwood
January 15	American Table
January 22	Kelso's
January 29	Senor Tequila

Church Board Highlights

The Board thanked the out-going Board members for their years of service to the Church. The Board discussed plans for the upcoming holiday services and celebrated the success of the Advent Festival and children's program. The Board also discussed a variety of financial matters, including the budget for 2026 and how to finance the pre-school school. The Board approved financing any 2026 preschool shortfall from a combination of the Benevolence and Operating Funds. The Board also discussed plans to update the security system, replace flooring in the entry way, and address the sound system in the chapel.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<h1>January 2026</h1>						
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				1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Pastors Day Off Phoebe's Mission @ 4:30-6:00pm Pastor on Vacation from 12/26—01/03	3
4 Adult FF Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Epiphany Sunday Communion	5 Babe Store 12-5:30pm Evangelism & Membership @ 6:30	6	7 Messy Church 5:30-7pm Choir @ 7pm	8 Dinner & Conversation - Dogwood @ 6pm	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 Adult FF Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Baptism of Christ Movie @ 5pm (Harriett)	12 Babe Store 12-5:30pm	13 Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm	14 Messy Church Core Team @ 5:30 Christian Ed. @ 6pm Choir @ 7pm	15 Dinner & Conversation - American Table @ 6pm	16 Pastor's Day Off	17
18 Adult FF Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting after Worship	19 Babe Store 12-5:30pm Office Closed	20	21 February Newsletter Items Due In Office Today Choir @ 7pm	22 Dinner & Conversation - Kelso's @ 6pm	23 Pastor's Day Off	24
25 Adult FF Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Retiring of the Greens after Worship	26 Babe Store 12-5:30pm	27 Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm	28 Choir @ 7pm	29 Dinner & Conversation - Senor Tequila @ 6pm	30 Pastor's Day Off	31