

St. John's United Church of Christ

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Vincennes, IN
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May 2026 Newsletter

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606 North Fifth Street
Vincennes, IN 47591**

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A Note From Pastor Debbie Jo...

Dear Friends:

Communication is frequently mentioned as an issue within churches (and many other organizations). “I didn’t know anything about such-and-such event,” is an often-heard refrain even though it was announced from the pulpit 4 times, has been on screen and printed in the bulletin for 8 weeks, along with flyers, emails, sign-up sheets, the monthly newsletter, online postings and the local radio station. Sigh. We need to realize that communication is at least a two-way street. One has to be actively listening to what is being communicated.

I still prefer face-to-face or telephone conversations when dealing with others. It allows to hear vocal intonation, facial expressions, etc. as opposed to email or worse yet, texting. If it requires more than one question or a brief reply, I much prefer speaking as opposed to using the keypad on my phone. I don’t want to be reading and reacting to entire paragraphs through typing. Texting brings an entirely new set of problems in miscommunication.

Context provides clarity and helps convey intended meaning which is easily lost in texting. Words can become ambiguous. We need context to use for judgement. A simple, “okay” can be interpreted as affirmation, indifference or annoyance. Without the verbal cues often used to gauge someone’s emotions, we can easily create a misunderstanding. Our brains are also wired to interpret information based on our personal experiences, beliefs and bias. This can lead to misinterpretation in digital communication. When reading a message, our current mood, past experiences and even our relationship with the sender play a role in how we decode the text. For example, a message that seems innocuous to one person might be perceived as offensive to another, based on their unique perspective. So, be careful what you text.

Texting is here to stay, but it should never replace an actual conversation. If its more than a sentence or two, pick up the phone and call. Be cautious how you communicate. Jesus calls us to love one another. Let’s not jeopardize that love through poor communication.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie Jo



Scarlett Speaks!

SCARLETT SPEAKS Woof! Woof! My social calendar has been full during the past several weeks, visiting with the preschool, dressing like the Easter bunny at the Egg Hunt, and being a pretty butterfly during the butterfly processional on Easter Sunday. I got to have a taste of ham and all the fixings for dinner and my basket was filled with two new toys (a bumble bee and a big squeaky hot dog) some edible bubbles, and lots of treats. I was finally allowed to play with Colsen when he visited, and he laughed when I licked his toes. I will visit the preschool two more times before the end of the school year, attend their graduation, and visit with shut-ins this month. I'm just a little social butterfly and I love every minute of it. Woof! Woof!



Visioning

There are copies of St. John's 5 year visioning plan available at several spots in the church.

Pick yours up to review today!

Children & Family Ministries

The Children and Family Ministry had an active month in April. On April 4, St. John's hosted the Unbeatable Egg Hunt, which drew a large crowd. Thank you to Jill Lopez, Sarah Lowe, and all the volunteers for their help in making this event a success. We also appreciate everyone who filled eggs or donated supplies for this year's hunt. The Children and Family Ministry also participated in the Earth Day activity on April 19 at Fox Ridge Nature Park. Attendees had the opportunity to plant flowers to take home and enjoy this summer, along with participating in other activities offered during the event.

This past month, the youth group (grades 7–12) held three meetings in the upstairs youth space. Each gathering included a lesson, an activity, and a community outreach project. In May, the youth group will meet three more times to finish out the school year. A big thank you to the youth who helped throughout April, including assisting with egg hunt preparation, the Good Friday service, and the Unbeatable Egg Hunt.

Youth Helping with The Blessing Box and Little Library This Past Month



Vincennes City Cleanup – Volunteers Needed!

On Saturday, May 2, the Children and Family Ministry invites all church members to participate in the Vincennes City Cleanup. Volunteers will help clean up the area surrounding the church from **9:00am to 11:30am**. Participants are encouraged to bring their own gloves, though some will be available if needed. All funds raised from this event will support future activities for the Children and Family Ministry. This is also a great opportunity for students to earn service hours for school clubs and organizations!

Please plan to meet in the church parking lot at **9:00am** to get started.

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

CHURCH COOKOUT



On Sunday, May 3, the Children and Family Ministry will have a cookout at church from 5:30pm-8pm. 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.



The Children and Family Ministry Mission Week is returning for its 9th year! The CFM will host an in-town mission week from June 29 through July 3, featuring a new format. This year will include a mix of exciting new opportunities along with some favorite "classic" activities.

The week is designed for all ages to come together, serve the community, and participate as they are able with other summer activities. Stay tuned for more details and upcoming announcements about Mission Week!

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!

May Youth Dates

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

5/10 (Sunday): **4pm-5:30pm**

5/17 (Sunday): Youth Group: **4pm-5:30pm**



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

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:

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Tom Nowaskie, Marilyn Houchins, Tony Riley and Ellen Riggs, Bobby Bahr and Mark Schutter. Prayers for Rhonda Webber (Brenda Fillingim Niece), Ryan Viecke, John Mineo, Brenda Fillingim, Davissyn Brown, brother of Daxton Brown (preschooler), Lynne Simmons and Bonnie Shelton.

Shut-in Addresses:

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

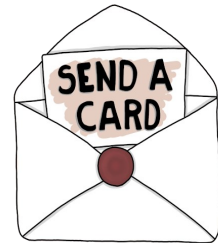
Leona Conway - Aperia Care, C Wing Room C-35, 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 4759

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

Ellen Riggs - Gentlecare Nursing Home, 1202 S. 16th. Street, Room 29, 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.

Email Pastor Debbie: revdjatkins@gmail.com

Text or phone call: 812-760-2226

Preschool Activities

As we begin to wrap up another wonderful school year, our preschool classrooms are buzzing with excitement! We are in the middle of our Alphabet Countdown, where each day is dedicated to a different letter and filled with themed activities. The children have loved diving into each letter in creative ways—like our recent “P Day,” where we celebrated with a picnic and pepperoni pizza! We are also looking forward to a very special milestone for our Butterfly class. Graduation will be held on Thursday the 22nd at 6:00 PM here at St. John UCC. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and celebrate these amazing students as they get ready for kindergarten!

As we celebrate the end of this school year, we are also looking ahead to the next year. Enrollment is now open for our 3 and 4 year-old classes beginning this fall. We are currently about halfway full, so we encourage you to continue sharing information about our preschool.



EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

In Honor of:

Our children and
grandchildren

Becky Brockman

DeEtta Welte

Will, Hannah, Nyal,
and Kanan

In Memory of:

The Lichte Family:
Charles, Lucretia,
and Carl

Jill Cooper

Loved ones:
Johanningsmeier-Godare
Family and Friends

Our Parents

Paul & Lue Stodghill

Carmen Pieper

John and Patty Jackson,
Ed and Martha Schutz,
Jeff Jackson

Parents

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Mark Lange

Robin, Joan, Brad Root

Hank Lopez, Jr.

Loved Ones

Loretta Wilson

Danny Roark and Loved Ones

Given by:

Gary and Peggy Meyer

St. John's Choir

St. John's Choir

Eric and Cheryl Meyer

Given by:

David and Carole Culp

Jim and Elaine Workman

Jerri Johanningsmeier

Eric and Cheryl Meyer

Sheri Stodghill

Ray Pieper

Mark and Susan Schutz

Gary and Peggy Meyer

Becky Brockman

Ed and Brenda Cummings

His Family

Brad and Pam Summers

Jill Lopez

Jill Lopez

Her daughters, Cathy, Connie, and Cindy

Brenda Roark

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If you would like to watch a WNBA game on Thursday, June 4th, and watch arch nemesis Angel Reece and the Atlanta Dream try to take down Indianapolis Fever's Caitlin Clark & Sophie Cunningham, contact Sheri Stodghill at 812-890-2363 for more information. Cost is \$110 for IV coach and basketball ticket. Flyers are available to pick up in the church.

Don't forget to volunteer to bring an item for Fellowship Time! A calendar and sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board next to the Nursery. Your involvement will be appreciated!

A recognition and celebration lunch honoring music retirees DeEtta Welte and Becky Brockman will be served after worship Sunday, May 17th, 12 noon! The menu includes a sampler plate of Procopio's lasagna, pasta rosa, and spinach ravioli in alfredo sauce, Italian bread, salad, plus cheesecake from Peafection's. A signup sheet is in the back of the sanctuary with a deadline of May 8th. You may also call the church office with your reservation.

Volunteers are needed to help. Please contact Kim Godare (887.3487), Brenda Cummings (881.6354), or Peggy Meyer (887.7615) to sign up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEET OUR GRADUATES

High School

Lucas Doggett - Son of Jill and Kyle Doggett. Lucas is graduating from Lincoln High School ranked first in his class with a 4.0 GPA, along with earning an Associate's Degree from VU, summa cum laude. He helped to found the robotics club, was selected to study abroad in Spain and graduated from that program with honors. He participated in varsity cross country, soccer, track, and swimming and has participated in musicals for the past 10 years. He has spent his summers as head lifeguard at Rainbow Beach.

He will attend Purdue University this fall to major in engineering, with a concentration in aerospace/aeronautical engineering and also with a minor in Spanish. He dreams of being an aerospace engineer.

Adelynn Lange - Daughter of Chrissy and Jonathan Lange. Granddaughter of Sandra Lange. Adelynn is graduating from Lincoln High School with an honor's diploma as well as an associate's degree in Vincennes University. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Interact Club, Champions Together, Competitive Robotics Team, stage crew for the high school musicals, Swim and Dive team where she was named the 2026 Kiwana's Athlete of the Year, MVP in School Cheerleading, and Competitive Cheer.

Her future plans are to attend Indiana University with a biochemistry major in hopes of becoming a dermatologist.

Jack Gilley - Grandson of Lonny and Jana Vieck. Graduates from Washington High School with honors. Plans to attend USI with a major in radiology.

Sidney Marchino - Granddaughter of Larry and Betsy Marchino is graduating from Hazelwood Central High School in Florissant, Missouri where she is a member of the Thespian Society and National Honor Society. She plans to attend the University of Evansville majoring in Art. Her parents are Scott & Laura Marchino.

College

Madalynn Grube is graduating from Vincennes University with a Bachelor's Degree in IT. Her parents are David & Michelle Grube.

Ethan Jones - Grandson of Nancy Stultz. Graduates from Purdue in Construction Engineering and is already employed in that field.

Abby Riley - Daughter-in-law of Tony and Ann Riley. Graduates from Vincennes University with a nursing degree.

MAY 2026 Birthdays

Christina Schlag
Olivia Cummings
Charlie Klein
Steve Cooper
Brenda Roark
Hope Clausman
Avery Sanders
Liz Emmons

Anniversaries

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

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:

May 7th.— American Table
May 14— Café Moonlight
May 21— Dogwood
May 28— Procopio's



2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6:30pm | 2 Kentucky Derby |
| 3 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Graduation Recognition Reception | 4 Babe Store 12-5:30pm Evangelism/Membership @ 5:30pm | 5 Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm | 6 Messy Church 5:30-7pm Choir @ 7pm | 7 Dinner & Conversation - American Table @ 6pm | 8 Pastor's Day Off | 9 |
| 10 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Mother's Day | 11 Babe Store 12-5:30pm | 12 Visioning Com. @ 5:30pm | 13 Christian Ed. @ 6pm Choir @ 7pm | 14 Ascension Day Dinner & Conversation - Café Moonlight @ 6pm | 15 Pastor's Day Off | 16 Graduation Celebration in Memorial Hall |
| 17 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Celebration for Becky and DeEtta | 18 Babe Store 12-5:30pm CCOP Mtg. 2-4pm Music Worship @ 5pm Board Mtg. @ 6pm | 19 Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm | 20 | 21 Dinner & Conversation - Dogwood @ 6pm Preschool Graduation @ 6pm | 22 Pastor's Day Off | 23 |
| 24 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Pentecost Sunday | 25 Babe Store 12-5:30pm Office Closed | 26 | 27 Laundry Love 6-8pm | 28 Dinner & Conversation- Procopio's @ 6pm Ministerial Alliance | 29 Pastor's Day Off | 30 |
| 31 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Trinity Sunday Movie Night (Babe) @ 5pm | | | | | | |