

# **St. John's United Church of Christ**

**606 N Fifth Street  
Vincennes, IN  
47591**

**812-882-2720**

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## **AUGUST 2026 Newsletter**

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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# A NOTE FROM PASTOR DEBBIE JO...

Dear Friends:

Having served some churches who were more dysfunctional than faithful, I am continually blown away by how much our congregation is a family of believers who care for one another. We have a strong group of prayer “warriors” who lift up those going through difficult times and are genuinely concerned for their siblings in Christ. Several of our committees and the Church Board begin their meetings with a time to share joys and concerns. I know of members who take food to those who are having health issues and unable to get around like they normally do. Others provide transportation to doctor’s appointments or church activities for those uneasy about driving. Some send cards, emails, or call to check on folks because they truly love the people of our faith family.

I have experienced this myself in numerous ways. One gentleman from our congregation always checks my van to make sure its in good shape. The first time, he remarked I needed new tires which surprised me. I was always checking one of my rear tires to see how the tread was wearing, forgetting that said tire was newer than the other three, due to a blowout. It was in good shape but my front tires were so bald, the steel belts were showing. I went that afternoon and got new tires. This past Sunday he was asking about my last oil change (on which I keep a watchful eye) and I noticed him checking my windshield wipers. Please know, Steve, I am very moved by your care for my safety. Marvin & Sandy are always on guard about any needs at the parsonage, and Scarlett is always delighted to see them.

In June, we had five members who represented our church at the Rainbow Over the Bridge festival. Two of our volunteers wore shirts that said “Mom Hugs” and “Dad Hugs.” Tears came to my eyes when young men and women willingly asked if they could have a hug and whisper, “my dad hasn’t hugged me in years.” Jesus said his disciples would be known by their love and this was a moment when that love was genuinely on display.

We again show our love in all the missions we sponsor and support throughout our community: Sandy’s Pantry, Phoebe’s Mission, the Babe Store, Laundry Love, Kid’s Hope, Blessings Box, Little Library, the Preschool, Messy Church and more. We are a 5 for 5 Congregation which means we contribute to OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission) and the four denominational offerings the UCC sponsors each year. Additionally, we financially support dozens of local non-profits through our Mission and Outreach.

Like all families, we have our disagreements, but the acceptance of differing opinions and respect for one another shines forth and we are united in our faith and the love of Christ. I feel so blessed and honored to be the Pastor/Teacher of this congregation. You are truly my family.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie

P.S. Thank you for the gifts to my “Scotland” fund that was established as part of my Installation two years ago. Arrangements are done and my itinerary is set for my trip this fall. Thank you so much for your support and excitement on my behalf. I can’t wait!



# Scarlett Speaks

**SCARLETT SPEAKS! Woof! Woof!** As a Scottish Terrier, I know how my territory is supposed to look down to every flower, shrub and tree in my back yard. When something new appears, I have to bark to alert my mom that something isn't right and to warn the new object that they need to move along. I will continue to bark every time I see the offending change until it is gone. For the past two months mysterious flags have been popping up in our yard: yellow, blue and then red. I barked each time I went outside to do my business but they never moved—just multiplied. I was not happy. Finally, last week there were noisy trucks and machines all around the house and when I went out that afternoon, the flags were gone. They finally got the message but they were sure slow in doing so. I am so excited that the school year is about to begin so I can see my friends at preschool! Miss Jerri has spoken to Mom about it being time to plan my Halloween costume and it is a doozy! Can't wait to reveal the surprise on October 25th. Woof! Woof!



# Visioning Group

## St. John's Church Committee Opportunities

### Share Your Gifts. Serve Where You Can. Help Our Church Thrive.

At St. John's, our committees help carry out the life and ministry of the church. As we take small steps toward simplifying how we work together, we are inviting members to serve in ways that match their gifts, interests, and availability. You do not have to do everything. You simply need a willing heart and a desire to help. Every committee needs people who can pray, plan, encourage, and lend a hand.

**1. Committee of Worship** – meets first Tuesday of every other month at 6 pm  
(September, November, January, March, May, July)

**Messy Church Group** – meets first Tuesday of every other month at 6 pm  
(August, October, December, February, April)

These committee groups help prepare and support our worship services so that worship at St. John's is meaningful, welcoming, and well organized.

#### Duties include:

- Helping with worship preparation for Sunday services & Messy Church (with minister)
- Supporting music, choirs, and worship leaders, special summer music (with minister/choir director)
- Coordinating liturgists, ushers, and communion preparation
- Assisting with paraments, flowers, and other worship needs
- Audio/visual coordination for worship (work with Technology Group)
- Seasonal worship elements (Advent, Christmas, Easter)

#### This committee may be a good fit if you:

- Care deeply about worship
- Enjoy helping things run smoothly
- Appreciate music, beauty, and meaningful service

## 2. Faith Formation Group (formally Christian Education)

– meets first Tuesday of every other month at 5:30 pm  
(September, November, January, March, May, July)

**Pre-School Group** – meets first Tuesday of every other month at 5:30 pm  
(August, October, December, February, April, June)

This committee helps people of all ages grow in faith, knowledge of scripture, and Christian discipleship.

#### Duties include:

- Faith formation oversight for children, youth and adults
- Helping with youth fellowship and adult education
- Assisting with Bible studies and short term learning opportunities
- Helping choose curriculum and learning materials
- Supporting special programs such as VBS, Rally Day, Advent events, and the Christmas pageant
- Supports the pre-school program

**This committee may be a good fit if you:**

- Enjoy teaching, mentoring, or encouraging others
- Care about children, youth, and adults growing in faith
- Like helping plan meaningful learning opportunities

**3. Financial Affairs, Investments, and Personnel Committee –**

Finance meets on the third Monday of every other month at 5:00 pm  
(September, November, January, March, May, July)

Investments meets in October at 12 noon at Edward Jones office

Personnel meets for reviews in October and then as needed

This committee helps ensure that the church's financial resources, investments, and personnel matters are handled wisely and responsibly.

**Duties include:**

- Budget development and monitoring
- Financial reporting to Church Board
- Annual audit or financial review
- Stewardship and annual commitment campaign
- Oversight of investments
- Personnel recommendations (hiring, reviews, compensation)
- Insurance coordination
- Preservation of legal and financial records (with church secretary)

**This committee may be a good fit if you:**

- Value careful stewardship
- Have experience or interest in finance, budgeting, business, or personnel matters
- Want to help the church plan wisely for the future

**4. Outreach, Benevolent & Memorial Gifts Committee –** meets the third Monday of every other month at 5:00 pm (October, December, February, April, June, August) This meeting time may change to 10:00 am.

This committee helps St. John's care for others through missions, outreach, benevolence, and memorial gifts.

Standing Mission Partners include: BABE Store, Sandy's Pantry, Laundry Love, Blessing Box, Phoebe's Mission, Messy Church, LAM, etc.

**Duties include:**

- Discern and recommend outreach partners
- Benevolence fund oversight
- Memorial gift receipts and recommendations
- Education of congregation about outreach
- Coordination of hands-on mission opportunities
- Annual outreach budget recommendations

**This committee may be a good fit if you:**

- Care about helping others
- Want to strengthen the church's local and global mission
- Enjoy connecting faith with action

**5. Membership Development Committee (formally Evangelism & Membership)**— meets the first Tuesday of every other month at 5:00 pm (September, November, January, March, May, July)

This committee focuses on welcoming visitors, encouraging membership growth, and helping people connect to the life of the church.

**Duties include:**

- Welcoming visitors
- Following up with guests, visitors and regular attenders
- Supporting new member orientation classes (with minister)
- Helping new members become involved
- Maintaining the membership list and church directory (with church secretary)
- Coordinating greeters
- Membership records (with church secretary)
- Responsible for Spring Block Party and Fall Festival Event

**This committee may be a good fit if you:**

- Enjoy meeting people
- Have a warm, inviting spirit
- Want to help others feel seen, welcomed, and included

**6. Congregational Life Committee** – meets quarterly, the first Tuesday at 5:30 pm (September, January, April, July)

This committee helps strengthen fellowship, care, and connection within the church family.

**Duties include:**

- Planning fellowship events and occasional social gatherings
- Bereavement support (assists with Funeral and meal)
- In charge of the Church Picnic
- Supporting special events with other committees
- Caregiver support (cards, calls, meals for members in crisis)
- Pastoral relations group (with minister)

**This committee may be a good fit if you:**

- Enjoy bringing people together
- Care about fellowship and encouragement
- Like helping create a warm church family atmosphere

**7. Church Facility and Improvements Committee** (formally Buildings & Grounds) – meets quarterly, the first Tuesday at 5 pm. (August, November, February, May)

This committee helps care for the buildings, grounds, furnishings, and overall physical needs of the church.

**Duties include:**

- Overseeing building and grounds care
- Monitoring maintenance and repair needs
- Recommending improvements and space use
- Helping care for equipment, furnishings, and church property
- Supporting accessibility, safety, and upkeep of facilities
- Custodial coordination
- Accessibility and safety reviews

**This committee may be a good fit if you:**

- Enjoy practical problem-solving
- Care about the church building and property
- Like hands-on projects, upkeep, and long-range improvement planning

**8. Technology Group** – meets quarterly, the first Tuesday at 5 pm (September, January, April, July). Meeting may change time to 10:00 am.

This committee supports the church's technology needs, including worship support and basic equipment upkeep.

**Duties include:**

- Assisting with computers, hardware, and software
- Supporting audio and visual needs
- Coordinating technology-related recommendations
- Supporting security-related technology as needed

**This committee may be a good fit if you:**

- Enjoy technology and troubleshooting
- Like helping others use tools more effectively
- Want to support worship and church communication behind the scenes

**9. Public Relations Committee** – meets quarterly the first Tuesday at 5:30 pm (September, January, April, July)

This committee helps share the message, ministries, and events of St. John's with members and the wider community.

**Duties include:**

- Church website and social media updates
- Helping with newsletters, bulletins, and printed materials
- Promoting church events and special programs
- Assisting with flyers, brochures, and outreach materials
- Community visibility

**This committee may be a good fit if you:**

- Enjoy writing, communication, or design
  - Care about helping people know what is happening at church
  - Want to help St. John's connect with the wider community
- 

## **We Need Many Gifts**

Some people lead. Some organize. Some give encouragement. Some make calls, prepare food, sing, greet, build, teach, write, fix, or simply show up and help where needed. Every gift matters.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please prayerfully consider where your interests and gifts may fit best. St. John's needs willing hearts, shared work, and faithful people who are ready to serve together.

**Try something new for a year!**



## St. John's United Church of Christ

# Find Your Place to Serve

Committee opportunities and meeting schedule

Most groups meet every other month. Choose one area that fits your gifts – try it for a year!



**FIRST TUESDAY** Most ministry groups - 5:00 to 6:00 PM

**THIRD MONDAY** Finance and Outreach - 5:00 PM

**QUARTERLY** Cong. Life, Facilities & Improvements, Technology Public Relations

### **W** Worship + Messy Church

Worship: 1st Tuesday at 6 PM  
Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July

Messy Church: 1st Tuesday at 6 PM  
Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr

*A great fit for people who love meaningful worship.*

### **E** Christian Ed + Preschool

Christian Ed: 1st Tuesday at 5:30 PM  
Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July

Preschool: 1st Tuesday at 5:30 PM  
Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun

*A great fit for teachers, mentors and encouragers.*

### **M** Membership Development

1st Tuesday at 5 PM  
Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, Jul

*A great fit for warm, welcoming people*

### **O** Outreach, Benevolent & Memorial Gifts

3rd Monday at 5 PM  
Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug

(mtg. time may change to 10 am)

*A great fit for people who put faith into action.*

### **F** Finance, Investments & Personnel

3rd Monday at 5 PM  
Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July

Investments: October @ 12 noon

Personnel: Reviews in October/As Needed

*A great fit for careful planners and good stewards.*

### **C** Congregational Life

1st Tuesday at 5:30 PM (Quarterly)  
Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug

*A great fit for people who bring others together.*

### **H** Facilities & Improvements

1st Tuesday at 5 PM (Quarterly)  
Aug, Nov, Feb, May

*A great fit for practical helpers and problem-solvers.*

### **T** Technology Group

1st Tuesday at 5 PM (Quarterly)  
August, November, February, May

(mtg. time may change to 10 am)

*A great fit for troubleshooters and tech helpers.*

### **P** Public Relations

1st Tuesday at 5:30 PM (Quarterly)  
September, January, April, June

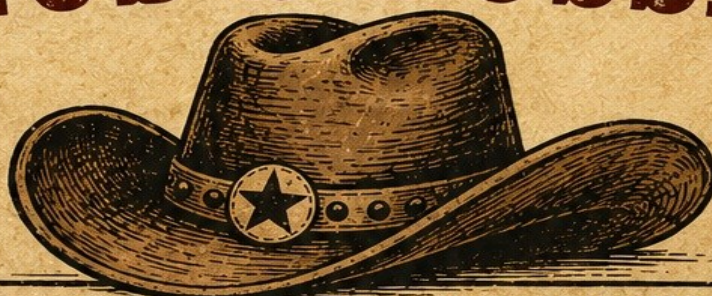
*A great fit for writers, designers and communicators.*

**READY TO SERVE?** Add your name to the committee sign-up sheet. Every gift matters.



# WANTED

FAITHFUL KIDS  
FOR  
GOD'S POSSE.



## MESSY CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

★ 5:30 - 7 PM ★

★ JOIN US FOR A ★  
**ROOTIN'-TOOTIN' ROUND-UP!**

- ★ EAT AT THE CHUCK WAGON
- ★ INTERACTIVE WORSHIP
- ★ ACTIVITIES, GAMES & CRAFTS!



★ INVITE YOUR FRIENDS  
AND FAMILIES ★  
AND JOIN US!

**YEE-HAW!**



**ST. JOHN'S UCC,**  
CORNER OF 5TH & HART STREET



# Children & Family Ministries



## 2026 Children and Family Ministry In-Town Mission Activity

The Children and Family Ministry (CFM) Mission Week returned for its 9th year this summer during the week of June 29. This year featured a refreshed format that combined exciting new opportunities with many favorite Mission Week traditions. Designed for all ages, the week offered a flexible way for families and children to serve our community while accommodating busy summer schedules. A total of 24 individuals helped throughout the week, serving at various nonprofits and outreach programs across Knox County. A huge thank you goes out to all the youth, parents, and chaperones who made this week so impactful. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies to support the mission activity. Many organizations we partnered with expressed their appreciation to the group and left a lasting impression through their hard work. Beyond the service, the group created lasting memories together as they gave back to their community. Good job youth!

**Monday, June 29: PACE** - For the first day of the mission week the group helped a church neighbor with PACE. Some of the activities the group did was worked on placing labels on new books, folded activity pages for the new books, organized toys in the gym, sorted home activity packets for the upcoming school year and cleaned lockers in the hall.

**Tuesday, June 30: Wabash Trails/Isaiah House** - The group painted all the picnic tables in the Sacajawea Shelter House at Wabash Trails. Also, the youth pulled staples out of the tables and the posts of the shelter house from past decorations/table coverings. Over the last couple of mission weeks, the St. John's groups have painted all the shelter signs, cleaned up the park and now painted two shelter house picnic tables! In the afternoon the group helped the Isaiah House by making cookie dough and going through donations.

**Wednesday, July 1: Helping His Hands/Salvation Army/Pet Port Donation** - The group spent Wednesday morning serving at Helping His Hands, where they broke down bulk food items into smaller portions for the food pantry, stocked shelves, and helped with other tasks. In the afternoon, the group served at the Salvation Army by packing boxes of perishable foods for that day's giveaway and also prepare pantry items for future distributions. Also, several in the group helped clean inside the building. Although this year's schedule didn't allow for a visit to the Pet Port, the group still supported the local animal shelter by donating supplies after an afternoon donation project.

**Thursday, July 2: Blue Jeans Center/Rainbow Beach/Family-VBS Dinner** - Helping the Blue Jeans Center was the main work for Thursday's mission day. The group did a lot of work including cleaning the concession stand cabinets, wiping down the woodwork and doors in the main hall, cleaning all the windows inside and outside of the cafeteria and vacuuming the first floor. While there the group also cleaned glass doors and got rid of old books from the library and other small jobs. In the afternoon to fill time the group traveled to Rainbow Beach since the Blue Jeans Center didn't have AC. After the pool the group helped prepare dinner for their family and VBS attendees.

## Children & Family Ministry Age Groups

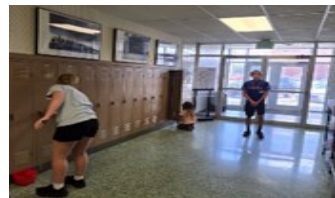
M & M (Mini-Marvels) Age 4-2nd Grade



# Children & Family Ministries

**Friday, July 3: St. John's Day** - For the final day of mission week, the group spent the day at church. While at church the group painted railings of 5th Street side bell tower, both sides of the ramps of the parking lot entrance and air conditioning rail. Also, the group organized books and placed the books in the closet near the kitchen for the parking lot book box. In the early afternoon the youth organized Sandy's shelves, cleaned and stocked shelves of Phoebe's. In the afternoon they also helped processed grocery bags for the mission programs, worked on the float for 4th of July Parade and other small jobs around the church. Thank you for another great mission week. The group made a huge impact in the community.

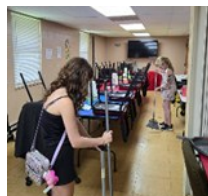
## Monday, June 29



## Tuesday, June 30



## Wednesday, July 1



## Children & Family Ministry Age Groups

M & M (Mini-Marvels) Age 4-2nd Grade

KFC (Kids For Christ) 3rd - 6th Grade

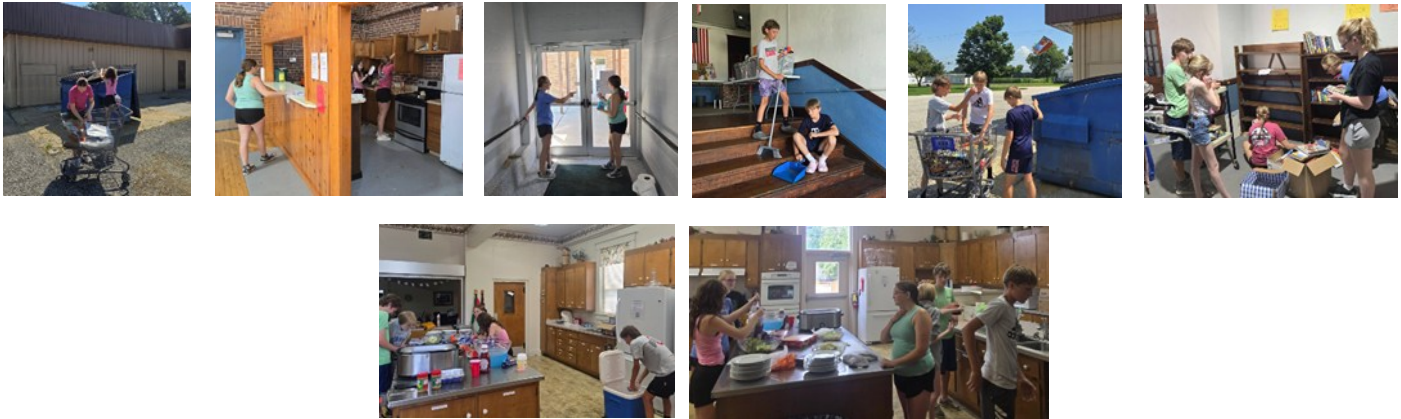
Youth 7th Grade - High School



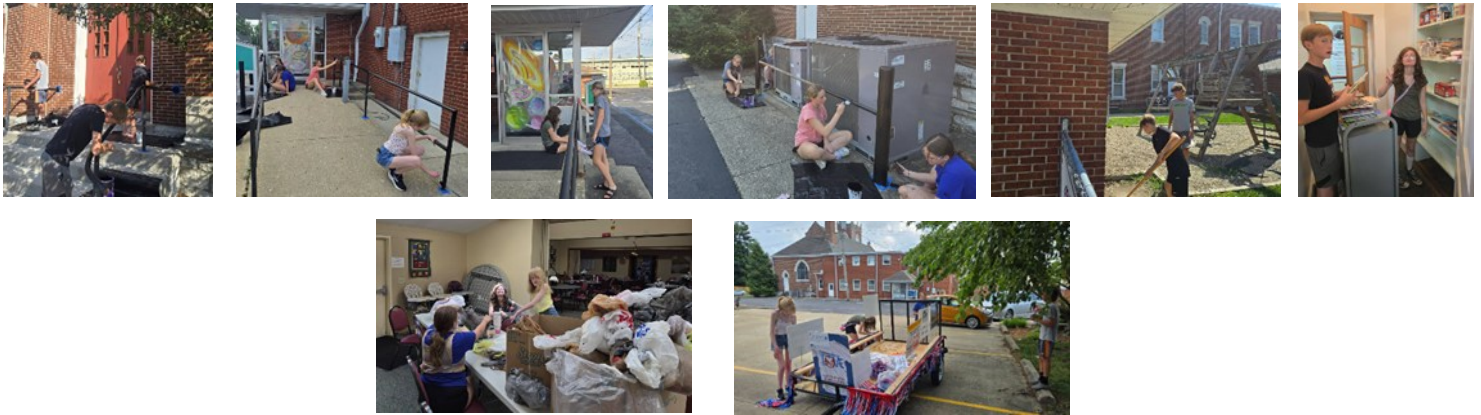


# Children & Family Ministries

Thursday, July 2



Friday, July 3



The Children and Family Ministry group stayed busy with a variety of activities from the end of June through mid-July. One highlight was a fun-filled trip to Holiday World on July 7, where a group from CFM enjoyed a day of rides and water attractions!

## 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



For the first time in 10 years, St. John's had an entry in the Vincennes 4th of July Parade! During the parade, our group passed out candy, 150 preschool enrollment flyers, and approximately 300 St. John's informational flyers, helping share our church with the community.

A big thank you to the youth who helped prepare the trailer on Friday, July 3, to everyone who helped with the final touches on the morning of July 4, and to all who participated in the parade. Their time, energy, and willingness to help made this a great opportunity to represent St. John's and connect with our community was appreciated!



## 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



## Thank You for Supporting the Lemonade Stand!

A big thank you to the families, church members, and the Vincennes community that supported the CFM lemonade stand on Friday, July 17, Saturday, July 18 and at church on Sunday, July 19. The St. John's stand proceeds were one of the highest for the weekend. Your support means so much! All proceeds from the stand go to benefit the Isaiah 117 House, an organization that provides physical and emotional support in a safe, loving home for children awaiting foster care placement.



## Exciting Things Ahead For 2026–2027 Program Year!

With August here, the 2026–2027 Children and Family Ministry program year is right around the corner! The new year will be filled with new fun activities, meaningful lessons, and some returning favorites. Final planning is currently underway, and details about upcoming events and programs will be shared soon. Be sure to watch for announcements in the church bulletin, on Facebook, and in the CFM mailboxes.



## 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:** Marilyn Houchins, Rhonda Webber (Brenda Fillingim Niece), John Mineo, Cindi Gilmore, Kim Godare's daughter Mallory, Jeremy Carpenter, Kelsey Pepmeier Oladubu (Janet Daniels' niece), DeEtta Welte, Phyllis King, mother of Melissa Pancake, Marvin Covey, Colten Kirchoff and Marty's daughter-in-law and son Morris and Jane Ann Marchino.

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

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## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The new front glass doors should arrive and be installed in the next two weeks. Kitchen door was installed on Friday, August 1st. They had to be fabricated so it took longer. The old water fountain near the Men's room will be removed and the pipe capped since most people bring their own drinks with them on Sunday morning or cups will be available in the kitchen for anyone needing water. The sixteen-years old ovens will be replaced with payment from the Kitchen Memorial fund. Two cameras are being installed on the front of the building so the office can monitor the area. Committees will begin meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month in September. Following worship, the sanctuary thermostat should be set between 76-78 degrees so the piano & organ don't get knocked out of tune. Sandra will water the piano as needed. One of the basement doors had a lock replacement when it would not unlock with existing keys. New members were approved by the board for August 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Christian Education Happenings

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Vacation Bible School was held on June 29-30 and July 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 to 7pm. The theme for the 4 days was Galaxy: Launching Kids on a Mission for God's Love. Each evening started with dinner and opening with songs and the scripture for the evening led by Pastor Debbie Jo Atkins and Tech Support Jana Vieck. Then the participants broke into groups and went to the stations for the of Bible Adventures with Sarah Lowe and Charlotte Bahr, Crafts with Darcie Bahr and Zoey Bahr and Games with Will Meyer and Rylan Coomes. The evening concluded with singing and an activity to sum up the scripture. A great time was enjoyed by all who attended and helped. The Awesome Kitchen Crew consisted of Eric Meyer, Cheryl Meyer and Lori Sanders. Kennedy Alexander, Korbin Alexander and Harper Coomes were Group Leaders. Darcie Bahr, Brenda Roark, Brenda Cummings, Jana Vieck, Cheryl Meyer and Elaine Workman provided food for the delicious dinner each evening. Thanks to all of them for helping to make Galaxy: Launching Kids on a Mission for God's Love a success!

**AUGUST MOVIE NIGHT** will be held on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm featuring *Keeping the Faith* starring Ben Stiller, Edward Norton, and Jenna Elfman, with Anne Bancroft in a supporting role. Best friends since they were kids, Rabbi Jacob Schram (Ben Stiller) and Father Brian Finn (Edward Norton) are dynamic and popular young men living and working on New York's Upper West Side. When Anna Reilly (Jenna Elfman), once their childhood friend and now grown into a beautiful corporate executive, suddenly returns to the city, she reenters Jake and Brian's lives and hearts with a vengeance. Sparks fly and an unusual and complicated love triangle ensues. A light supper will be provided. Everyone welcome.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will have its first gathering on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00-6:00 p.m. All students in Grades 6 & up are invited to participate. Even if you are not yet sure if you are ready to make a commitment to Christ and church membership, we encourage you to attend as an opportunity to explore your faith, ask questions, and hear the opinions of others in the class as together we continue our faith journey. This first class will be a time of getting to know one another, gain an understanding of Confirmation, and order our books and Bibles. PLEASE give it a chance and join us for this important exploration of our faith, history, mission and how we all belong together in God's family.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS** (with the exception of the Board, Personnel, Pastoral Relations and Investment) will begin meeting on the first Tuesday of each month beginning in **September**. The reasons for this change were outlined in last month's newsletter. Committee chairs should let the office know what time your committee plans to meet on that day (several committees may meet at the same time) so it can be printed in next month's newsletter.

**MESSY CHURCH UPDATE:** On Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, the Core Team and any willing volunteers will be organizing and inventorying the Messy Church room as we prepare for a new program year beginning on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please let Pastor know if you can help.

**UNITED STATES OF KINDNESS** is a movement to complete 250 acts of kindness in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States. We encourage everyone to perform one act of kindness per day for the rest of the year.



# ANNOUNCEMENT

**THANKS TO EVERYONE** who participated in the Procopio's Preschool Fundraiser. We appreciate your support. We earned \$1003 from Procopio's and \$800 from donations in the box for a total of \$1803. YAY! School begins on August 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> and we currently have 23 students enrolled with room for more. Thanks to Procopio's for hosting this fundraiser. It is greatly appreciated.

**NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED:** On August 9<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming six new members into our church family. If you would like to unite with the congregation, please speak with Pastor.

**INDIANA-KENTUCKY CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING** will be held on August 13-15 at St. Peter's UCC in Carmel, IN. The theme is Beyond Imagination and will feature guest speakers, workshops, and business meetings. Pastor Debbie will attend along with two delegates to represent our congregation.

**SUMMER MUSIC:** We are so blessed with the talented people who have shared their musical gifts with us during these summer months. In August our schedule is:

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| August 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Wood and Wire  |
| August 9 <sup>th</sup> . | John Mineo     |
| August 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Lauren Story   |
| August 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | Jonathan Clark |
| August 30 <sup>th</sup>  | Vera Mattingly |

**CHURCH PICNIC DATE** is September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Open Air Pavillion in Gregg Park. Mark your calendars!

**UPDATE ON ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR SEARCH:** We have been sending letters, emails, posting online, and following up with all leads as we continue to search for new music staff. We are so grateful to Pat for filling in as pianist. She is wonderful and we are blessed to have her. We are currently in conversation with a potential interim choir director and we will keep you posted as soon as we know anything. Unfortunately, the pool of qualified musicians is small but we continue in our efforts and ask for your prayers for God to bring us together.

**3-2-1 Blast Off!** Launching our fall programming on Sunday, August 16, at 9:45 am with an expanded Fellowship Time! On this date, Faith Ventures will also begin for the new school year. Faith Ventures is our ministry for elementary-aged children in kindergarten through 6th grade. Children in grades K-6 will attend the 10:30 a.m. worship service with their families and will be dismissed immediately following the Children's Message. Faith Ventures will include a Bible lesson along with fun, hands-on activities that reinforce the day's lesson.

**TAX-WISE WAY TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH** from Mackenzie B. Jones, CPA: If you are age 70.5 years or older, you can give directly from your IRA to our church through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This type of gift can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) and may help reduce your taxable income. It's a simple and tax-efficient way to support the ministry you care about. Please consult your financial advisor or IRA custodian to learn how to make a QCD.

**WELCOME JONATHAN CLARK** who has joined our staff as the Interim Choir Director for six months while we continue our search. In addition to directing the choir and music program, he will also be re-establishing our handbell choir. Thirteen members of the choir met with Jonathan prior to his hire to discuss the position and changes to the rehearsal time (due to his night shift work schedule). They unanimously voted to bring him on staff. Rehearsals will remain on Wednesdays beginning August 19<sup>th</sup>. The Handbells will rehearse at 3:00 pm with the Choir at 4:00 pm. All singers and potential ringers are invited to participate.



# FREE FALL Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

3 - 5 PM

FALL  
FUN  
FOR  
EVERYONE!

GOOD FOOD  
GOOD TIMES  
GREAT MEMORIES

FOOD



LINCOLN TRAIL  
MOBILE FARM  
(PETTING ZOO)



BOUNCE HOUSE



GIFT CARD  
RAFFLE



S'MORES



CARNIVAL  
GAMES



VISIT WITH THE  
VINCENNES  
FIRE DEPARTMENT!



GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN  
WITH A REAL  
DIRT TRACK  
RACE CAR!



Everyone Invited!

ST. JOHN'S UCC

corner of 5th and Hart Streets



# Preschool Activities

Summer has flown by, and we are excited to begin another wonderful school year! Preschool starts August 6th and 7th, and we can't wait to welcome both our returning students and our newest families.

We are thrilled to share that we have 24 students enrolled for the 2026-2027 school year! It is such a blessing to see our preschool continue to grow, and we are looking forward to a year filled with learning, laughter, friendships, and lots of fun.

Our incoming students and their families are invited to join us for an Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 31st, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This will be a great opportunity for children to meet their classmates, families to visit the classrooms, and everyone to enjoy a sweet treat before the first day of school.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible church family. Thanks to your generosity and support during our fundraiser at Procopio's, we raised more than \$1,800 for our preschool! Your encouragement and willingness to invest in our students means more than words can express.

It is truly an honor to serve as the preschool teacher here at St. John UCC. Thank you for believing in our program, supporting our families, and helping us create a loving, faith-filled place where children can learn and grow.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead and can't wait to share all that God has in store for our preschool family!





## August 2026

### Birthdays

Cameron Mattingly

Isabella Lange

Saundra Lange

Arlene Wilson

Brian Spangle

Kennedy Alexander

Madalyn Grube

John Riggs

Bob Klein

Jill Lopez

Larry Marchino

### Anniversaries

Gary & Peggy Meyer

Jeff & Krisi Mattingly

David & Michelle Grube

Brad & Pam Summers

Tony & Ann Riley

Ed & Brenda Cummings

Fred & Donna Klein

Larry & Betsy Marchino

Mark & Susan Schutz

Mark & Janice Strange

Kyle & Jill Doggett

## Dinner & Conversation



**DINNER & CONVERSATION:** Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:00 for *Dinner & Conversation*. 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 each week or you can call the church office. We'd love to see you there. Our schedule is as follows:

August 6th.—Haub House

August 13th.—American Table

August 20th.—Log Inn

August 27th.—El Corral



# 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                       | Tuesday                             | Wednesday                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                    | Friday                                                          | Saturday  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                                                                                                 |                                                                              |                                     |                                                                                            |                                                                             |                                                                 | 1         |
| <b>2</b><br>Adult SS Class 9:30 am<br>Worship 10:30 am<br>Communion<br>Backpack Blessings                                       | <b>3</b><br>Babe Store 12-5:30pm<br>Membership/Evang.<br>@ 5:30pm            | <b>4</b>                            | <b>5</b><br>Organize Messing Church<br>Room @ 10am                                         | <b>6</b><br>Dinner & Conversation -<br>Haub House @ 6pm<br>Preschool Begins | <b>7</b><br>Pastor's Day Off<br>Phoebe's Mission<br>4:30—6:00pm | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>Adult SS Class 9:30 am<br>Worship 10:30 am<br>John Mineo —Music<br>New Menbers Received                             | <b>10</b><br>Babe Store 12-5:30pm                                            | <b>11</b>                           | <b>12</b><br>Christian Ed. @ 5:30pm                                                        | <b>13</b><br>Dinner & Conversation -<br>American Table @ 6pm                | <b>14</b><br>Pastor's Day Off                                   | <b>15</b> |
| <b>16</b><br>Adult SS Class 9:30am<br>3-2-1 Blast Off @9:45am<br>Fellowship Time 10am<br>Worship 10:30 am<br>Lauren Story—Music | <b>17</b><br>Babe Store 12-5:30pm<br>Music/Worship @ 5pm<br>Board Mtg. @ 6pm | <b>18</b><br>Visonary Mtg. @ 5:15pm | <b>19</b><br>September Newsletter<br>Items Due In Office<br>Handbells @ 3pm<br>Choir @ 4pm | <b>20</b><br>Dinner & Conversation -<br>Log Inn @ 6pm                       | <b>21</b><br>Pastor's Day Off                                   | <b>22</b> |
| <b>23</b><br>Adult SS Class 9:30 am<br>Fellowship Time @ 10 am<br>Jonathan Clark—Music<br>Confirmation from 5-6pm               | <b>24</b><br>Babe Store 12-5:30pm                                            | <b>25</b>                           | <b>26</b><br>Laundry Love 6-8pm<br>Handbells @ 3pm<br>Choir @ 4pm                          | <b>27</b><br>Dinner & Conversation - El<br>Corral @ 6pm                     | <b>28</b><br>Pastor's Day Off                                   | <b>29</b> |
| <b>30</b><br>Adult SS Class 9:30 am<br>Worship 10:30 am<br>Vera Mattingly—Music                                                 | <b>31</b><br>Babe Store 12-5:30pm                                            |                                     |                                                                                            |                                                                             |                                                                 |           |