St. John's United Church of Christ

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November 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:

My study leave in Scotland was everything I dreamt it would be and so much more. I'm still unpacking and doing laundry and trying to get back into the daily routine but my spirit is renewed and filled, my heart is full and my eyes are overflowing with the beauty I experienced both of God's creation and that wrought by human hands. I had an absolutely AMAZING trip and my raincoat never needed to be worn.

I took hundreds of pictures and as soon as I get them edited and organized, I will host a time for anyone who wants to hear about my trip and see the photos. I will have some shortbread and Tunnock's tea cakes to sample and I'm trying to get a case of Irn Bru. Some highlights other than those I've mentioned before include feeding a Highland Coo (cow), making a Harris tweed handbag, going INSIDE Lallybroch (*Outlander* fans will understand) and riding a train up the side of a mountain. I also got a photo with Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster. Haha.

I'm keeping it short this month since I also have the bulletin, and Stewardship to deal with this week. I hope you will read the article written by Tia Lewis a visitor to our worship who feels the yearning to write and needed a place to share. I know you will show her love and support. It's good to be home.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie



Scarlett Speaks !

SCARLETT SPEAKS Woof! Woof! Well, boy was I ever surprised. My flabbers were totally gasted when Mom didn't take me to the Big House to stay while she went to my native country. Instead, I got to stay with my now Aunt Jana who spoiled me even more than Mom. We went on long walks. I visited with Harper, Korbin and Gannon, I slept in her bed and she had a little ramp for me to climb instead of jumping up like I was some kind of animal. She made sure I got my cheese cubes before bedtime and had all sorts of ground for me to explore with lots of new smells. My little sniffer was in hyperdrive. Then, I found a spot where a skunk had left its perfumed calling card. I liked the smell and rubbed my beard and neck all over so Aunt Jana had to give me a scrub down. That wasn't a much fun but overall, it was a great experience. I was happy to see my mom again but I pouted for a few days to let her know I was angry she didn't take me with her. THANKS Aunt Jana for taking such good care of me. Woof! Woof!



Children & Family Ministries

The Children and Family Ministry had an active month in October. The CFM had a Halloween activity on Saturday, October 17 at the church! Children and families had an opportunity to enjoy a variety of fun crafts, activities and lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time together with friends and family to make some great memories!

On Sunday, October 18, a group of 19 of our youth and some of their siblings played important roles in our Youth Sunday worship service! From passing out bulletins and serving as acolytes to singing, doing readings, and sharing about the impact our church has had on their lives, each of them helped make the service special. Many youth stepped outside their comfort zones to participate. A big thank-you also goes to the youth who wanted to help but couldn't participate because of scheduling conflicts. The Sunday service made a lasting impact on those who attended. Thank you all for sharing your time, gifts, and hearts with our church family.

Continuing with activities in October, some of the KFC and Youth traveled to Holiday World for Happy Halloween Weekends on October 24. 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. There were many chances for children and their family to be involve with events at St. John's during the last month. This past month the St. John's youth group also had three meetings. <u>During the meeting times the youth had a lesson, an activity and community outreach.</u>

<u>Saturday, October 17-CFM Fall Activity</u>



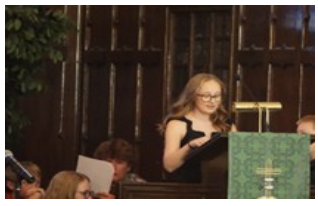


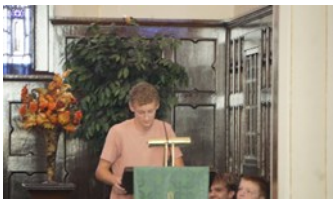



<u>Sunday, October 18 "Youth Sunday"</u>












Children & Family Ministry Age Groups

Children & Family Ministries

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

11/4 (Wednesday): 7pm-8pm-**After Messy Church**
11/15 (Sunday): 4pm-5:30pm

<u>Sunday, October 18-Youth Filling Book Box and Blessing Box</u>





On November 8 from 5:00–7:00 p.m., the Children and Family Ministry (CFM) will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a special "Baby" themed activity! For our November CFM activity, we will be helping B.A.B.E. As part of the November M&M/KFC activity, we will be having a "Baby Shower" to support the program. There will be fun games, activities, and snacks for the children and families to enjoy. Friends, grandparents, and other family members are also very welcome to join us for this fun event! Come enjoy the games, snacks, and fellowship as we celebrate and support B.A.B.E. We hope to see you there!



Starting October 18 through November 8, the CFM group will be collecting items for their Baby Shower activity. Anyone wishing to donate is welcome to drop off items in the designated collection area near the coat rack. Below are some suggested items the group will be collecting, but donations are not limited to these items:

Diapers
Wipes
Teething Rings
Shampoo
Baby Lotion
Bath Wash
Safely Items: Door knob covers, cabinet door latches, refrigerator latches



<u>KFC & Youth "An Evening at Church"</u> <u>– Friday, November 13 |</u> 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 13**,** 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!

Children & Family Ministries

<u>CFM Holiday Fundraiser Prep</u>– Sunday, November 22 | 5:00–7:30 PM

On Sunday, November 22, 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 29**.** Proceeds from the fundraiser will support future CFM activities, including our annual In-Town Mission Week and other CFM get-togethers.



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 15.

Will Meyer
Children and Family Ministry Coordinator

<u>Stay Connected:</u>
Be sure to check the church bulletin, our CFM Facebook group, and the Children and Family Ministry mailboxes for upcoming announcements and schedules.

Prayer & Post

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Marilyn Houchins, John Mineo, Cindi Gilmore, Kim Godare's daughter Mallory, Marvin Covey, Colten Kirchoff, Jane Ann Marchino, Jana Vieck, Brenda Fillingim, Olivia Robinson, Derrick Flowers, and Ryan Watts.

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

At Home:
Mike Lankford



November 2026

Addison Cummings

Janet Goodman

Jim Workman

Betty Lankford

Pastor Debbie

Natasha Coomes

Jana Vieck

Janice Strange

Ed Cummings

Anniversaries

Jake & Kelly Alexander

Jay & Karen Cole

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Christian Education Committee is excitedly planning the celebration for the beginning of the Advent season this year with an Advent Festival on Sunday, November 29, immediately following worship service until 2:00 PM. Plans include lunch, lots of craft creations, candy/ cookie making, games and good old-fashioned fellowship. Please mark your calendar for this festive day. If you are interested in helping in some way with the Advent celebration, please contact Jill Lopez.

Looking ahead! This year's Children and Youth Christmas program will be held during worship service on Sunday, December 13th. "The Heart of Christmas" promises to be a very special service. Parts and practice schedules for the youth and children will be distributed soon. Please plan to attend.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY/TOTENFEST will take place in worship on November 1st. We will remember those of our church who have entered into eternal life during the past year: Vern Houchins, Ellen Riggs, Marjorie Beamon, and Rev. Al Wilhouse. A candle will be lit, the bell rung, and yellow roses will be in honor of each person recognized.

MESSY CHURCH on November 4th from 5:30-7:00 pm is ***GROWING GENEROSITY*** based on 2 Corinthians 8-11: *And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.* Dinner will be Soup, Cheese & crackers and a fruit cup. Activities will include painting rocks, Generosity Tag, a Treasure Toss, Care Kits, and more! Join us for this awesome event.

WANTED FOR MESSY CHURCH will be preparing care kits for homeless individuals and the First City Sunrise Shelter and we need your help. Please consider donating any of the following items: socks, (long-thermal/warm), gloves, travel size personal items (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant), and hand warmers: reusable or disposable. A labelled box has been placed in Memorial Hall for your donations.

VETERAN'S RECOGNITION will take place in worship on November 8th. Wear your poppy pin if you have one or pick up one in worship.

NOVEMBER MOVIE NIGHT will feature *Young Washington* at 5:00 pm. A young George Washington faces war, betrayal and impossible choices that will forge a leader. A light supper will be served so please sign up on the sheet in back of the sanctuary.

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:

November	5	American Table	**December**	3	Café Moonlight
	12	Cowtown		10	Senor Tequila
	19	Ponderosa		**Break till January**	
	26	**Thanksgiving**			

THERE OUR HEARTS SHALL BE is the theme of this year's Stewardship campaign which kicks off in October. We will be sharing our dreams for our congregation as we approach our Commitment Sunday on November 15th. During the past 18 months of 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.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY will take place on November 15th with a catered meal following the service. Plan now to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT BEGINS on November 29th. This liturgical season lasts for the four weeks leading up to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. The color is blue and each week we will light a candle on the Advent Wreath as we anticipate the coming of Christ into the world. Join us for these special worship celebrations.

BLESSINGS BOX needs donations. Suggestions are: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, Velvetta mac & cheese (doesn't require milk or butter), canned pasta, soups, crackers. Cans with pop top lids are best.

FAITH VENTURES is our Faith Formation program (formerly Sunday School) for grades K-6th. Participants leave with the teachers following the Children's Moment and return by end of service. Younger children are invited to play quietly under parental supervision in the Prayground in the back of the sanctuary.

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED on November 11th for Veteran's Day and on November 27th for the long Thanksgiving weekend.

WANTED: The Preschool is in need of a 2-4 shelf bookcase. If you have one in good condition you would like to donate, please contact Laura Arial at 812-899-1731.

FELLOWSHIP TIME HELP: Please sign up to help with Fellowship Time at 9:45 on October 11th, and December 20th. A clipboard is in the back of the sanctuary.

THANK YOU from Pastor Debbie for the lovely prayer and two beautiful mums on behalf of Clergy Appreciation Month. I am so blessed with serving this congregation. Thank you for your love, support and kindness.

SCAM WARNING FROM THE PASTOR: Recently it appears as if my email was hacked and many members within the church received a request in my name asking for gift cards to CVS or Target to help a woman in need. THIS IS A COMMON SCAM and should be deleted from your phone/email/Facebook. They make it sound so convincing. Of course, the pastor would be helping someone in need. Of course, those contacted want to help, it's what we do as Christians. Of course, the pastor can rely on us. I will NEVER contact anyone privately asking for a gift card to help someone in need. We have a very good system worked out for supplying needed assistance to anyone who asks for it. We have a form to fill out; ID is provided as is other documentation if needed. We keep gas and grocery gift cards on hand. I have a small discretionary fund to assist those in need of rent or utility bills to be paid. If a larger amount is needed, the Outreach & Benevolent Giving Committee is contact and their chairperson, Larry Marchino gets involved with the situation. From there, the need is verified and what assistance we can provide is given. If I am out of town or on vacation, our secretary, Kim and Larry are capable of handling any situation that arises. Thank to those who contacted me to let me know what happened and those who called to ask if the gift card request was valid. Keep this notice where you can see it as a reminder. **THIS IS A SCAM. I WILL NEVER** make requests like this to you privately. Please report the scam and delete it from your phone/computer. THANKS!

TAX-WISE 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 towards 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Update : From Statement of Activity for September

Total for Revenue: $7,944.00

Total Expenditures: $26, 081.14

We have had some large expenses like quarterly insurance $6,247.21.

Preschool First Full Month: Income $4,155.92

Expenses $5,117.22

Contributions to support Preschool are accepted.

- Individuals that are eligible for required minimum withdrawal can work with their financial advisor to make tax deductible contributions.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



We're excited to announce a Cheesecake Fundraiser benefiting the BABE Store!

This Thanksgiving season you can satisfy your sweet tooth while helping to support the mission of the Knox County BABE Store. All funds raised will be donated back to the BABE Store and used to purchase diapers and supplies for new mothers, and families in our community.

The pick up place is St. John's United Church of Christ, 606 North 5th. Street, from 4:00-6:00pm.

Cheesecakes are $25.00 each and can be ordered at the link below:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/G7HH2tGXOx

Thank you for supporting the BABE Store and the young families of Knox County!


HANDBELL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
First Christian Church
Vincennes, Indiana
Nov. 22
4:00 PM
Join The Holiday Festivities!
Celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season with an afternoon of beautiful handbell music!
BRING YOUR FAMILY, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, AND SHARE IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS!

Southwest Indiana Cantata Choir

2026 Christmas Cantata

Community Sponsorship Opportunity

Bringing Free Sacred Music to Southwest Indiana

The Southwest Indiana Cantata Choir (SWICC) is a volunteer ensemble of over 60 singers from six counties in Indiana and Illinois. Our Mission:

- Preserve cherished choral and sacred music
- *Provide free, high-quality performances for rural families and seniors*
- Support local and Professional musicians
- Strengthen arts access in our community

Why Your Partnership Matters

In rural Southwest Indiana, live choral and orchestral music is rare. Our free Christmas Cantata relies on community sponsors to underwrite our 2026 production costs.

- *20-25 Professional Orchestra Members*
- *Venue & Tech Expenses*
- *Sheet Music & Licensing*
- *Outreach Concerts for Seniors*

Join Us in Preserving a Community Tradition—Your Support Will Help Bring a Beautiful, Free Christmas Cantata

Make Checks Payable To: Westminster Presbyterian Church Cantata

Westminster Presbyterian Church

110 NE 2nd Street, Washington, IN 47501

SWICC Sponsorship Levels

In Every Song, A Donor's Note • Keep the Music Alive

Maestro — $1,000+

- Premier placement in printed programs
- Featured recognition on social media
- Acknowledgment from the stage

Conductor — $500–$999

- Prominent listing in printed programs
- Social media recognition

Concertmaster — $250–$499

- Program listing
- Social media acknowledgment

Musician — $100–$249

- Program listing
- Social media listing

Supporter — Up to $99

- Program listing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dark into Light

*Hey, have you ever felt like you're in a very dark place that you can't ever get out? For example, there is a tunnel, you see the light at the end of the tunnel. You're looking around seeing everything on the walls of your past mistakes that you can't forgive yourself because it hurts and you don't know how to forgive yourself. As you get closer to the tunnel, you start to feel this wave of depression and you keep telling yourself, I won't ever be good enough, I can't do this anymore. A few moments pass and you're standing inside the tunnel. Now you feel the breeze of cool air like in the fall, when you look up still see the light at the end of the tunnel. You start breathing deeply, inhale and exhale, start slowly moving forward inside the tunnel. Hearing the negative thoughts, they start getting louder as you move forward in the tunnel. The sound of the crunch that sounds like the leaves off the trees, you look down and see a white piece of paper that has writing on it that says "Keep going, you got this!" You pick it up fold it to fit it in your back pocket, you move forward. Now you're in the middle of the tunnel, you look back to see how dark it really is then you look ahead, you see the light, you smile, you think you're getting close to the light. Smack! You grab your face, again hit from behind, the front, you grab your stomach, you start to slowly fall on the ground grabbing your chest, the pain is so sharp like the blade off a sword hitting your chest, you finally fall, you reach to the light hoping someone will just grab it to help you out. A few moments pass, you're on the ground, you slowly open your eyes to see someone standing there reaching out their hand for help and smiling down on you. You slowly start to smile and reached your arm around to reach for their hand to help you get up, you then push yourself up with their help, after you stand up, look around cause once you stood up from the help you got from this mysterious person, they seem to disappear in the light, you then begin to be confused you say to yourself "Who was that, why did they help me but then disappear?" As you're standing there wiping the dust off your clothes, you start to walk forward but then you hear the mysterious person's voice which they say in soft angelic like "Hey, you okay? Don't let anything beat you up even yourself, don't let it happen, you are more powerful than you give yourself credit for, you are amazing, we always beat up ourselves for the past mistakes we have made. You will keep ending up in the same cycle if you keep doing it, then it will exhaust you. Now we don't want that now do we? You have come so far don't let it fail you now *giggles*." You hear the voice; it sounds peaceful but you don't know why just yet. A few moments pass, you are finally at the end of the tunnel, you look around, you can't see what's inside the light at all well, not the moment, you feel the weight finally lifting from your shoulders, you smell the smell of lavender and smell of wood burning which smell peaceful. You close your eyes, just soak it all in, you tell yourself "Maybe that mysterious person is right, maybe I can finally be able to just forgive myself for all my past mistakes and start a new clean slate and breathe." You take a minute. After that minute you open your eyes, take a deep breath, slowly walk forward to the light, you made it, you look around and all you can do is smile because it was just inside the mind that you were experiencing, you see your family and friends having a laugh, your partner asks you if you're okay and you look at them and you smile and say "Yes I am, thank you for asking." You smile ear to ear.*

Well guys my name is Tia, and I love writing, I just don't do it very often I just need to be in the mood for it, the main thing behind this is, it will always be scary but always remember you will become stronger at the end of the day, also remember it sometimes just takes that one person to open yours about the world or get the motivation to do better. One more thing, don't forget you're NEVER alone!



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Communion Totenfest Stewardship Speaker (Natasha Coomes). Confirmation @ 5pm	**2** Babe Store 12-5:30pm	**3** Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 Worship Comm 4:30p Preschool Mtg. 5:30pm Messy Church Mtg 6pm Congregational Life 6pm Election Day	**4** Handbells @ 3pm Choir @ 4pm Messy Church 5:30-7pm	5 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 Dinner & Conversation - American Table @ 6pm	**6** Pastor's Day Off Phoebe's Mission 4:30—6pm	**7**
8 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Veteran's Day Recognition Stewardship Speaker (Becky Brockman) Movie (Young Washing-ton)	**9** Babe Store 12-5:30pm	**10** Visioning Meeting at the parsonage @ 5:15pm	**11** Handbells @ 3pm Choir @ 4pm Office Closed	**12** Dinner & Conversation - CowTown @ 6pm	**13** Pastor's Day Off	**14**
15 Adult SS Class 9:30am Fellowship 10am Worship 10:30 am Stewardship Sunday Dinner after Church Pastor Debbie's Birthday	**16** Babe Store 12-5:30pm Finance Mtg. 5pm Board Mtg. 6pm	**17**	**18** Handbells @ 3pm Choir @ 4pm	**19** Dinner & Conversation - Ponderosa @ 6pm	**20** Pastor's Day Off	**21**
22 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Fellowship Time @ 10 am Worship @ 10:30 am Thanksgiving Celebration CFM Holiday Fundraiser 5-7:30p	**23** Babe Store 12-5:30pm	**24**	**25** December Newsletter Items Due In Office Handbells @ 3pm Choir @ 4pm Laundry Love 6-8pm	**26** **Thanksgiving Day** **Office Closed**	**27** Pastor's Day Off **Office Closed**	**28**
29 Adult SS Class 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Lighting of Advent Wreath Advent begins Festival after Worship until2	**30** Babe Store 12-5:30pm					