

# NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



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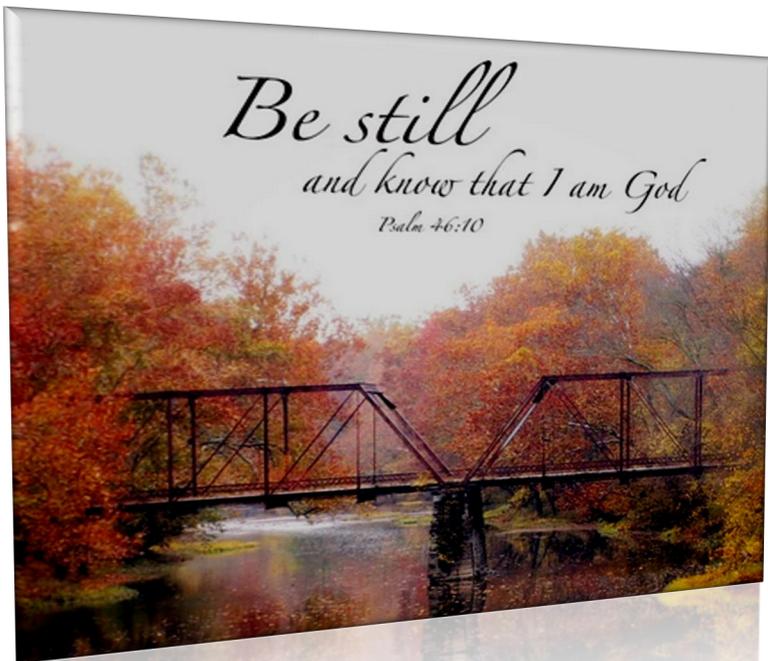
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Mission Statement Adopted March 12, 2000

*We are a family of many hearts and voices faithfully worshiping God. We encourage one another in our living, learning, and growing as God's people. Led by the Holy Spirit, we joyfully promise to serve others as we share the love and hope of Jesus Christ.*

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## Pastors' Ponderings



### Why Church?

By Rev. Rachel Bauman, St. John's UCC, Wisconsin Conference

*Recently I was asked "why church?" by someone who had grown up without organized religion and wanted to understand why someone would invest their time, talent and treasure within a faith community. My reflexive answer, borrowed from St. Augustine, was "because our hearts are restless until they rest in God."*

*Raising an eyebrow my friend replied, "Even if that was self-evidently true, it still does not answer the question. Clearly it is possible to encounter the Divine Presence outside of church."*

*In struggling to explain, I found myself using the needs-based language I've learned through the practice of Non-Violent Communication (NVC). NVC posits that all behavior is an attempt to meet universal human needs. Explicitly naming the needs we are seeking to meet through our actions creates greater understanding between us. So, here is an (abbreviated) list of the needs I told my friend are met for me through participation in Christian community.*

**Shared Reality:** *As a community we believe different things, but we share an understanding that there is 'Something More' that gives life meaning beyond our individual identities and experiences. We share a commitment to following in the way of Jesus.*

**Self-Expression & Contribution:** *Church was where my leadership skills were first named, noticed and nurtured and where I was encouraged to claim and use my voice.*

**Effectiveness:** *Through church I am part of a collective body that has the power, through our actions and advocacy, to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice a little quicker and more effectively than my individual efforts alone.*

**Challenge:** *Church challenges me to align my behavior with my values and beliefs, holding me lovingly accountable to being my most authentic self.*

*The list goes on: compassion, celebration, belonging, beauty, inspiration, connection . . .*

*There is no community that will meet all my needs all the time. But during this*

*season of stewardship as I reflect on what value the church has in my life, I am grateful for how many of my needs are met consistently through my engagement with the United Church of Christ. And, equally important, how investing my time, talent and treasure in this community of faith provides the opportunity to contribute to meeting the needs of others.*

How would you answer the question “Why Church?” Why is a community of faith important to you? How much do you value your church family? What are you willing to commit to the work and ministry of God’s church so together we can accomplish so much more than each of us individually.

Please give prayerful thought to your 2022 commitment to the ministry of St. John’s United Church of Christ, fill out your commitment card and return it to the church or drop it in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary, by November 14.

Rooted in Love...Called by Jesus...Gifted by God...Empowered by the Holy Spirit.

I walked the church property early one morning this month looking for inspiration and support. The buildings seem in great shape, the yard looked good, the problems in the parking lot were circled awaiting repairs that came later. But I was surprised at all the “Thou Shalt Not” signage I ran into. Thou Shalt not park a “full sized car here”. Thou Shalt not “skate board or ride your bicycle there”. Thou Shalt not roller blade or roller skate here either – like ANYONE roller blades or roller skates anymore. Thou Shalt only park here on Sunday if Thou art in a wheel chair or use a walker – all others will be towed. Thou Shalt not fill the Blessing Box without permission. Thou Shalt not smoke on church property.

Then there were a few “sort of positive” signs. “Love – (but) Wear a Mask”. There are four streets around the church property: Half of them say “Thou Shalt travel only One Way”. At least there is one way we can go.

The positive signs include: Babe Store: Open Monday 12 – 4:30. Enroll in St. John’s Pre-School. Worship 10:30 Sunday.

But the most positive signs on our property may be:

Carl Meyer - 8/29/1883–12/27/1884

Oscar Vollmer - 12/25/1895–7/23/1899

I don’t know anything about Carl or Oscar except that they died too young and that their families were willing and able to make a Thank Offering to members of our church long past that still survives. The trip around the building made me wonder if I am a 1.) “Thou Shalt Not” person, a 2.) sort of positive guy, or a 3.) really positive person. I hope I am number three. How about you?



## Church Board Highlights From meeting 10/18/21

One of the biggest “Joys” discussed at the October Church Board meeting was the growth – numbers and quality of our Choir. Under the direction of Becky Brockman with help from Deetta Welte and the voices of both seasoned and new singers, the addition of the choir to weekly services has been a blessing. The Church Board also approved the spending of \$500 to support the Afghan citizens now housed at Camp Atterbury in Southern Indiana. The church will also be a collection point for donations of hard goods for that group. Other benevolent donations were approved for Life After Meth (LAM) OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission), and the Pastors’ Emergency Fund. The Board will



You may have heard that recently we had a neighborhood block party. The Evangelism and Membership committee got the idea that being kind to our neighbors,

was, well biblical. We wanted to spread the word that our church welcomes everyone, but especially our neighbors!



We want to thank our congregating who chose to interact with our guest. All that we did was for nothing without that! Those who gave their time and efforts to help in this are a great blessing.



# St. John's United Church of Christ

## Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
10/3	53
10/10	56
10/17	59
10/24	49

## September Finances

<b>Period Activity Contributions</b>	<b>\$14,752</b>
<b>Period Activity Expenses</b>	<b>\$26,047</b>

<b>Year To Date Contributions</b>	<b>\$98,849</b>
<b>Year To Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$163,159</b>





November filled our classroom with turkeys, pilgrims and Indians. We are so thankful for so many different things. Miss April and Miss Lori are thankful for all our preschool friends.

We got to enjoy a Dad's day program with our Dad's! We sang song's and enjoyed donuts with our Dads.

Preparing for the feast was lots of fun as we peeled potatoes, rolled dough, snapped green beans and shook butter. Also we designed our own pilgrim and induna costumes!

Our preschoolers are learning so much as we work on our names letters and numbers.

## Some Pictures From Last Months Halloween Party!





# Christian Education Highlights

All families have now been paired with a **Family Prayer Partner**. Thank you to all who have volunteered in this capacity! Remember to keep your Family in your prayers. Sending “Thinking of You” and/or special occasion cards are also encouraged. If you have any questions or concerns, please see a Christian Education committee member.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

9:15 - 10:15

ADULT CLASS - MEETS IN THE PARSONAGE ANNEX

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL CLASS MEETS IN THE YOUTH ROOM

PREK/ELEMENTARY CLASS - MEETS IN THE ROOM BEHIND THE CE  
OFFICE

NURSERY - AVAILABLE FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS

(9:15 - 10:15)

## SPECIAL SUNDAYS

SPECIAL SUNDAYS OCCUR ON THE **LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR, 9:15 AM TO 10:15 AM.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THAT SUNDAY WILL BE TREATED TO A VBS TYPE EXPERIENCE. MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE A **SPECIAL EFFORT TO ATTEND SPECIAL SUNDAYS!**

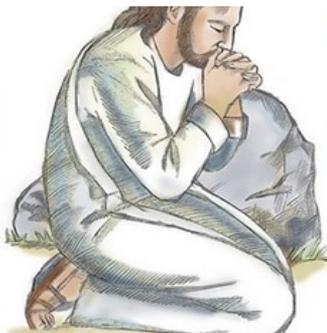
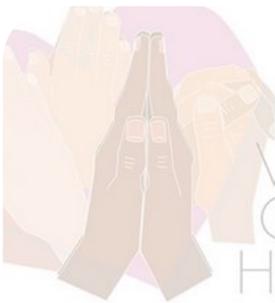
LOOKING AHEAD: THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** WILL BE HELD ON **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19** DURING WORSHIP SERVICE.



**Friends and Relatives of our church family:**

- Please pray for Bruce Deckard as his oncologist confirms his treatment plan and he begins treatment for lung cancer.
- Please keep Mark Lange and family in your prayers as he is advancing to stronger a chemo treatment.
- Continuing Prayer Requests: **Kennedy Alexander, Ruth Witsman, Marge Beamon, Don Osborne, Jr., Betty Meyer.**
- Sympathy and prayers of comfort are offered to **Rodger Hobson and the family** on the passing Wednesday, October 20, 2021, of his uncle, **James "Jim" Hobson** of Westfield, IN.

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (chairperson of Caregivers) or any caregiver listed below. We would appreciate your help and want to make sure everyone is blessed by St. John's when you need it! St. John's UCC Caregivers- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard, Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino .



How can  
we  
**PRAY**  
for you?

## Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

**Marilyn Magruder**, Fox Ridge Manor, - 150 Fox  
Ridge Dr, Rm. 140  
Vincennes, IN 47591



**Norma Meyer**, Colonial Assisted Living, Rm 154  
1622 S. Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Kenny Kixmiller**, Colonial Assisted Living, - Rm  
139 1622 S. Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Betty Meyer**, Bridgepoint Health Campus, - 1900 College Ave., Rm  
402, Vincennes IN 47591

**Joy Tooley**, Willow Manor, - 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN  
47591

**Leona Conway**, Willow Manor, -3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes,  
IN 47591 Rm. 77

**Patty Lowe**, Willow Manor, -3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN  
47591

**John and Patty Jackson**, The Villages at Oak Ridge, - 1694 Troy Rd,  
Rm. 511 Washington, IN 47501

**Kathryn Cole**, Lodge of the Wabash, 723 Ramsey Rd, Vincennes, IN  
47591

**Donna Cullison**, Heritage Center, - 1201 W Buena Vista Rd., Evansville,  
IN 47710

### Home

**Ruth Witsman**

**Etta Snyder**

**Kennedy Alexander**

**Marge Beamon**

**Robin Root**

**Arlene Wilson**



Sandy's Pantry is well on its way for this school year. In September we had 17 students and October we had 23 students for a two month total of 40 students.. The beginning year food drive at Vincennes University brought us over 330 items and \$880. THANK YOU, VU!! We are continuing with allowing the students "shop"

from our well stocked shelves for 25 items, the equivalent of \$25 worth of non-perishable food items to supplement their diets. Our expenses for the two months has been approximately \$730 to keep the shelves well stocked with multiple choices for breakfast, lunch & dinner plus evening study time snacks. We continue to purchase from Dollar Tree at \$1.00 per item.

The students are very appreciative of the opportunity to come to the pantry to get food. We hear many "Thank you for doing this for us," every time we are open. November's dates are Tuesday the 2nd and Thursday the 4th, 11:00 to 12:30pm. We would greatly appreciate any donations that you are willing to give to insure that we can keep these students healthy and in school.

Thank you to our helpers, Lynne Simmons and Carole Culp for being there every month.

Blessings,

Brian & Brenda Fillingim

### **Commitment Campaign Notes From Finance Committee**

The theme of this year's campaign is "Rooted in Love". This is especially fitting for St. John's UCC since our church has deep roots as we are approaching our 175 year anniversary.

You have or will shortly receive a letter from Board President Mark Lange with the commitment/pledge materials. Your commitment/pledge cards are to be returned to St. John's on or before November 14, 2021 which is Stewardship Sunday.

We ask you to carefully and prayerfully consider the blessings all our members and friends receive from God and from being a part of our church family.

Ed Cummings

Finance Committee Chair

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### November Birthdays

Addison Cummings  
Ross Lankford  
Claire Hendershot  
Amelia Schutz  
Janet Goodman  
Jim Workman  
Sierra Deckard  
Betty Lankford  
Danielle Linneweber  
Paul Goodman  
Luke Lindsey  
Cyndi Glass  
Shirley Black  
Natasha Coomes  
Elise Goodman  
Leo Vieck  
Jana Vieck  
Janice Strange  
Ed Cummings  
Adrienne Yochum  
Rodney Lopez

### November Anniversaries

Jake & Kelly Alexander  
Zach & Mallory Bowman  
Scott & Danielle Linneweber  
Jay & Karen Cole  
Clayton & Cindi Gilmore

**If your birthday or  
anniversary is not listed, but  
should be, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE CHURCH OFFICE!  
Thank you**

# St. John's UCC Mission Spotlight

## BABE Store



### What Is The BABE Store Mission?

This unique "store" provides incentives encouraging families to nurture healthy babies. Serving pregnant women and their children up to age three with no income restrictions to be able to participate in this program. Clients earn vouchers by keeping prenatal appointments, taking their children for immunizations and other activities, then redeeming the coupons at the BABE Store located in St. John's for merchandise from diapers to cribs and everything in between.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

12 noon - 4:30 pm  
Monday's Only  
Closed on Holidays

**Contact**  
Peggy Meyer  
812-886-9723

Cindy Deckard  
812-887-2999

### How Can I Help?

**BABE relies on the support of individuals and organizations in Knox County. Tax deductible donations are accepted for new:**

- High Chairs & Strollers
- Diapers & Wipes
- Baby Clothing
- Bottles & Pacifiers
- Bathing Supplies
- Potty Chairs
- Bedding
- Teething Rings & Rattles
- Financial Gifts
  
- Host a "Baby Shower" For BABE
- Volunteer At The Store
- Serve As A Board Member

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
812-882-2720    [www.myucc.org](http://www.myucc.org)



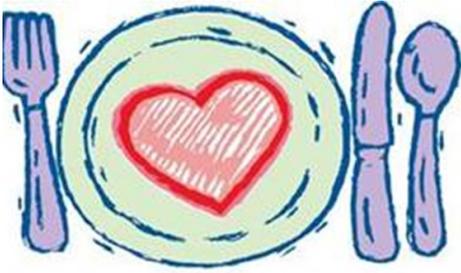
**SPECIAL OUTREACH MISSION.  
AFGHAN FAMILY RESETTLEMENT  
INDIANA'S CAMP ATTERBURY**

The Indiana Kentucky Conference United Church of Christ of Indiana and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are supporting the Afghan Family Resettlement effort at Camp Atterbury. St. John's has selected the following items for donation by our members.

- BABY DIAPERS** (biggest need- all sizes).
- BABY WIPES.**
- POWDERED BABY FORMULA.**
- CHILDREN'S SOCKS**
- FEMININE HYGIENE PADS (no tampons)**

A table in Memorial Hall provides placement for these items. Please give prayerful consideration for this humanitarian effort. The church office can refer questions to the outreach committee for clarification.





The Bereavement Committee is looking for more volunteers. Qualifications for being on the committee? If you would be able to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to church when we have a funeral

dinner. Please contact Angie in the church office (882-2720) to be placed on the list. We always need lots of food, and having volunteers in place before a funeral helps a lot. If you would be interested in heading this committee, (that doesn't have meetings...) let Angie know as well. We have a list of supplies, and food quantities necessary for a crowd. This is not a hard job, but is a meaningful way to serve our church.



The Congregational Life Committee is looking for new members and a Chairperson. What is the CLC? This is the group that provides fellowship in the church. This committee

only meets when necessary...(Yay!)

All of our previous committee members have retired now and we are looking for new faces. If you are interested in chairing or being a committee member, contact Angie in the church office (812-882-2720) to be added to the list. This is another good way to volunteer your time and talent for St. John's.





# MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

## Volunteers Needed!



Wanted: Willing workers to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season on November 14 (trees and garlands) and on November 21 (trimmings) following worship service. Let Donnie or Becky know if you are available to assist on either or both Sundays.



Memorial Sunday will be observed on Sunday, November 21 during worship service. Plan to attend and help honor the memories of those who have passed away this past year.

Thank you very much for all your can good donations made in October! The Salvation Army was very appreciative and sends many thanks!



### Looking Ahead:

Christmas Eve service will be held at 7pm on Friday December 24.





CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## Children and Family Ministry November

The Children and Family Ministry had many opportunities over the past month. Some of the group enjoyed the St. John's Block party on October 3. The Children and Family Ministry group had a family movie night with an outdoor viewing of Casper at church on October 9. Next, the KFC and youth traveled to Holiday World for Happy Halloween Weekends that included the rides they loved, 12 acres of corn mazes and other Fall fun on the 16th. On Saturday, October 23, the group was able to visit the Lark Ranch, for more seasonal fun!



On Saturday, November 20, the Children and Family Ministry and any church member will have an opportunity to do the Vincennes Fall City Cleanup. The groups will clean up the area around the church starting at 9am. Gloves may be brought for the cleanup. Helpers will meet at the church parking lot at 9am.



On Sunday, November 21, the Children and Family Ministry will have a Family Thanksgiving Dinner starting at 5:00pm. The meat and drinks for this event will be provided! Please sign-up on Facebook 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. This activity would be a great opportunity for the families to invite friends.

**November 5/6**-Youth Lock-in at Church-7pm-9am

**November 20**- Vincennes Fall Clean Up- 9am

**November 21**-Family Thanksgiving Dinner-5pm

**December 10**- Children and Family Ministry Christmas Activity

**Children and Family Ministry Age Groups:**

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

**KFC** (Kids For Christ)-3nd-6th Grade

**Youth**-7th- High School



Children age 4-12 are invited to go upstairs to the blue classroom for Children Church for stories, games and activities after the children's sermon. Preschool children are welcome to go to the nursery at this time also. If there are any questions, please

let Will Meyer know! Coronavirus precautions will be in place.

**November Lessons**

November 7-The Church Unites

November 14-The Church Sends Its First Missionaries

November 21-People Pray for Peter to Get Out of Prison

November 28- Special Sunday

**Will Meyer**

**Children and Family Ministry Coordinator**

[stjucfamilyministry@yahoo.com](mailto:stjucfamilyministry@yahoo.com)

**812-887-5303**

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