

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



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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



Fall has officially begun. Pumpkins and gourds are plentiful and soon the leaves will begin to turn and the beauty of the trees will be ablaze. Combines have been busy in the fields and will continue through October. This is the time of year when we celebrate Harvest Home and thank God for blessings showered upon those who plant and harvest and those who prepare and eat from tables of great bounty.

World Communion is celebrated on October 3. On this Sunday Christians all around the world will celebrate The Lord's Supper together. This is also the Sunday that we begin collecting the Neighbors In Need Offering (NIN). NIN is one of five all-church offerings of the United Church of Christ. Two-thirds of this offering supports advocacy, programing and grants. One third of the offering directly supports the Council of American Indian Ministries. A percentage of the NIN offering will be utilized within the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. This year there is an emphasis on the issue of Homelessness.

October 3 is also the day of our Neighborhood Block Party sponsored by the Evangelism and Membership Committee. From 4-6 pm we will welcome folks from the neighborhood for a cook out, fun activities, and a prize drawing every half-hour. Church members are invited to come and participate and take the time to meet some of our neighbors. If you would like to help please contact Mark Schutz.

The Christian Education Committee is establishing a Family Prayer Partner Ministry and needs your help. Check out the information in this newsletter and in the Sunday morning announcement sheets and then contact Jill Lopez to sign-up to be a Family Prayer Partner.

The last couple of months have been difficult for Knox County as a new surge of Covid-19 arose prompted by the "delta variant." We celebrate the reports that mask wearing has drastically reduced the number of infections and quarantines in county schools. Thank you for continuing to wear masks in the church building. We encourage folks who are fully

vaccinated to consider a booster when you are eligible and for those who are not vaccinated to consider getting the shot for yourself, your children and grandchildren, and others.

Continue to pray for those who are ill, recuperating from accidents and surgeries, and who are grieving the loss of a loved one. May the God who hears our prayers bless those who we pray for. May the God of peace and justice intervene where there is war and injustice. And may the God of reconciliation bring this church and the broken world around us together and restore the wholeness of humanity.

Shalom,

Pastor Dennis and Pastor Linda

September Mission Spotlight: Backpacks of Love

Backpacks of Love is an outreach program, in partnership with VCSC (Vincennes Community Schools Corporation), that provides food for approximately 200 families for weekend meals. The backpacks are stocked on Thursdays and provide cans of spaghetti, vegetables, peanut butter, cereal, juices, noodles, and fresh fruit. Backpacks are then delivered to designated families.



Backpacks of Love originated at our own St. John's United



Church of Christ but has grown in capacity to serve the Vincennes City School Corporation system wide service. Contributions can be made through benevolent offerings at St. John's UCC, marked **Backpacks of Love**.



September 2021 Church Board Highlights

Church Board met for their regular meeting on September 27, 2021. Treasurer Report was reviewed.

For the month of August, an income of \$14,743 was received and expenses were \$26,048. We are seeking additional donations from the members of St. Johns UCC as our financial situation is currently struggling.

Committee Meeting Highlights:

- The Christian Education Committee is continuing to provide opportunities and events for the youth. The Family Prayer Partner program has started... still looking to assign 8 more SJUCC families.
- Brian Fillingim and the Technology Committee have done a fantastic job for the past 2 Sundays 'live streaming' our services.
- The church is planning a block party on 10.3.21. It will be a fantastic event and outreach to the community. Plan to attend and show your support for SJUCC.

The Pastor Search Committee is still working hard. If you are interested in knowing more about the process, or getting involved, please contact Sherri Stodghill.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm. Complete Church Board minutes and treasurer's reports are available after approval at the next month's board meeting.

-Megan Jennings
Secretary

St. John's United Church of Christ

Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
9/5	41
9/12	74
9/19	59
9/26	70

August Finances

Period Activity Contributions	\$14,752
Period Activity Expenses	\$26,047

Year To Date Contributions	\$98,849
Year To Date Expenses	\$163,159



SERVICE OF ORDINATION FOR KAREN KAY PEPMEIER

Karen Kay Pepmeier, a 2021 graduate of Eden Theological Seminary, will soon be ordained as a United Church of Christ minister. You may attend her service of ordination at Salem UCC in Westphalia on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. Also, a wiener roast will be held on Salem's church grounds at 5:00 p.m. to celebrate this further accomplishment along her walk of faith and ministry to others.

Several Sundays during the summer of 2020, Karen Kay Pepmeier served as a pulpit supply pastor here at St. John's UCC while she was a student at Eden working toward her Master of Divinity Degree. Also, during her time at Eden, she headed up The Gleaning Project to address "food deserts." Gleaning of corn and potatoes was carried out several times in the fields of Lonny and Jana Vieck. Additional volunteers beyond the Viecks and those from Eden included other members of our own church and Salem UCC. This project provided produce for food pantries and a soup kitchen in St. Louis, along with food pantries in our own community.





SPECIAL SUNDAYS are coming!

On the **last Sunday of each month**, beginning in September, children and youth who attend Sunday School on that Sunday will be treated to a VBS type experience. (Why save all that VBS fun for only the summer?) Mark your calendars and make a **special effort to attend Special Sundays!**

Would you consider being a FAMILY PRAYER PARTNER?

What is a Family Prayer Partner, you ask?

A Family Prayer Partner is a person, or couple, who is paired with a family in our church and who agrees to pray for that family, take an interest in that family's activities, and acknowledge them when they come to church.

How do I become a Family Prayer Partner?

Sign up at the table in the foyer (Sept. 12th, 19th, and 26th) and draw a family name.

For how long is the commitment?

From Oct 2021 to Sept 2022

What if I can't keep my commitment for the full year?

Just let a CE committee member know and they will find a replacement.

Is there anything else I should do for this family?

If you choose to do so, you can also send birthday/congratulatory cards. Birthdates will be provided.



What is the purpose of having Family Prayer Partners?

The purpose of Family Prayer Partners is to help church individuals/couples to get involved with families; create new/stronger connections within the church; and help families feel supported by St. John's Untied Church of Christ.



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.
- **Norma Pepmeier** continues to need our prayers for healing. She fell several months ago and is having a difficult time.
- **Betty Meyer**, is recovering well and is now back at Bridgepoint , she is in Rm. 402.
- **Continuing Prayer Requests: Kennedy Alexander, Ruth Witsman, Marge Beamon, Brenda Cummings, Bruce Deckard**

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 .

Harvest Home will be here soon . Let's share our abundance ! We will be collecting canned goods for Salvation Army Food Program. Please fill the food boxes at the Memorial Hall and Foyer entrances beginning Sunday, October 10. Items collected will be displayed on Sunday, October, 24.

Advent/Christmas sanctuary decorating will begin following church on Sunday, November 14, with placement of trees and greenery. Need several strong persons to help.

On Sunday November 21, the final touches will be added following church. Window decorating, placement of wreaths, etc. If you could give an hour of your time with either of these please let Donnie Black or a member of the Worship Committee Know.

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 508,
Vincennes IN 47591

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

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

Bev Tussey

Kennedy Alexander

Marge Beamon

Robin Root

Arlene Wilson

****Great news Arlene was able to go home on Thursday this week!**



To St. John's UCC members who helped and took part in the Festival Latino

“On behalf Wabash Valley Progressives, thank you for being part of our festival!! “



Ed and I wish to thank our church family for their concern and support, prayers, meals, cards, phone calls, and messages during my continued recovery from my concussion and fractures. As others have stated before me, support from our church family and friends have sustained us these three months. THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for all the cards, texts, and prayers. I have a way to go but am on the road to recovery! Knowing my church family is praying for me makes my recovery easier.

-Betsy Marchino



Arlene & Conway Wilson wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and notes of concern. Recovery is going well.



October Birthdays

Kaiden Lichte
 Lonny Vieck
 Michelle Grube
 Casey Harner
 Jan Henry
 Kyndrix Linneweber
 Darcie Bahr
 Becky Nowaskie
 Sarah Lowe
 Liam Goodman
 Etta Snyder
 Ruth Witsman
 Ish Clausman
 Emily Haskins
 Jordan Daniels
 Diane Frederick
 Joel Sanders
 Catey Haskins
 Marvin Covey
 Karen Cole
 Jack Haskins
 Kate Linneweber
 Patty Lowe

October Anniversaries

Chas & Landry Culp
 Daniel & Trista Goodman
 Wally & Jeannie Linneweber
 Dean & Linda Wagoner
 Peter & Emily Haskins
 Don & Marjorie Hoffhaus

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

Thank you



CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

On Saturday, September 11, the Children and Family Ministry enjoyed a Wabash Trails Fun Day. The children enjoyed playing on the playground, football, soccer and walking the trails while the parents enjoyed time with the other families. Thank you for the families for sharing a side dish for the activity.



On Saturday, October 16, the KFC and Youth will travel to Holiday World for Happy Halloween Weekend. This family-friendly special event includes the rides you love at Holiday World, plus 12 acres of corn mazes and hayrides! St. John's will pay all of the St. John's KFC tickets. Friends and family are welcome to come but will need to pay \$15 for tickets. We will leave St. John's at 10:15am and return around 9:30pm. Please provide each child \$20-\$25 for food at the park and for a stop on the way back for supper. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the nursery or texting Will (812-887-5303) by Thursday, October 14, so the tickets can be purchased. A medical information form will need to be filled for St. John's KFC and their friends. The medical information forms are located on the bulletin board by the nurse and outside of the CE.

The Children and Family Ministry (age 4-6th grade and their families) will have an opportunity to travel to Lark Ranch on Saturday, October 23. The group will leave church at 2:00pm and will return at 7:30pm. The group will be traveling in the St. John's church van. Each person coming to Lark Ranch will need to provide \$5 for the afternoon activity and some money for supper. Please let sign up on the bulletin board by the nursery or texting Will (812-887-5303) by Thursday, October 21. Feel free to let Will know about any your questions!



Children and Family Ministry October Opportunities

October 3- St. John's Block Party-4pm-6pm

October 9- Family Movie Night at Church-7pm-9pm

October 16-KFC/Youth-Holiday World-10:15am-9:30pm (Details above)

October 23- Family Outing to Lark Ranch- 2pm-7:30pm (Details above)

October 24- M&M Fall Art Afternoon- 5pm-6:30pm

October 29/30- KFC Lock-in at Church- 7pm-9am

*The Children and Family Ministry will help move items into the new Isaiah 117 House date TBA.

*Please be looking for announcements for this community service.

*Final planning for more activities are being finished up and will be announced in the coming weeks. Please be looking for announcements in the bulletin, Facebook and Children and Family Ministry mail boxes for future information.

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

A big THANK YOU for all the donations to the Isaiah 117 House. in July. The church donated 16 indoor/outdoor activities to the house. The Isaiah 117 House is scheduled to open this Fall to provide physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting foster care placement.



Will Meyer

Children and Family Ministry Coordinator

stjucfamilyministry@yahoo.com

812-887-5303

**St. John's United Church of Christ
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