

# MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



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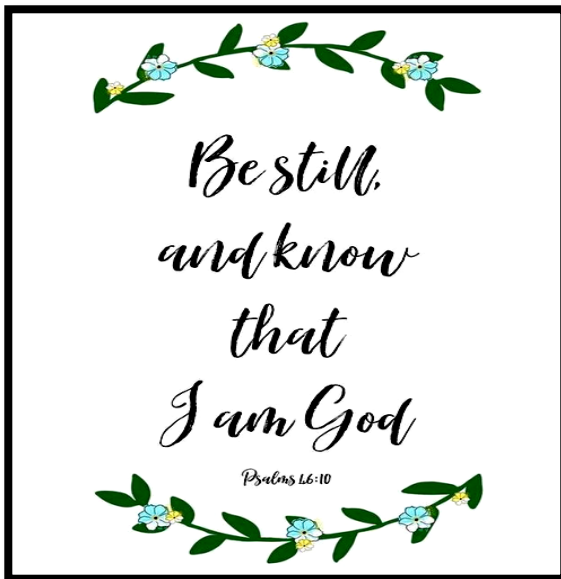
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**Mission Statement Adopted March 12, 2000**

*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.*

**606 N. Fifth Street**

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## Pastors' Ponderings for May 2021

First, a tidbit of information (since someone inquired and others may be wondering) about the date of Easter: In the life of the Church this year, we celebrated Easter Sunday on April 4. The date of Easter is determined by the first full moon of spring which follows the spring equinox. The spring equinox is the time when the sun crosses the celestial equator, in the sky above the earth's equator line, and then starts moving to the North. (You can find more information in the *Old Farmer's Almanac* as well as various other places.)

In the Church the Season of Easter (known as The Great Fifty Days) goes from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. It is a season which celebrates Christ's resurrection and new life in Christ. Those days also include Ascension Day, celebrating Christ's Ascension (Luke 24:51) and coming 40 days following Easter Day (including Easter Day).

On May 23, the Church will celebrate Pentecost Sunday which is 50 days after Easter Sunday and is often celebrated as the birthday of the church – that time, as told by the book of Acts, when the Spirit of God called the Church into being. The Season of Pentecost highlights the work and mission of the Church in the world.

Through Global Ministries much of our mission work is done in the world. As their website states "Global Ministries is a common missional witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Global Ministries works with approximately 290 faith based international partners in close to 90 countries."

As we celebrate Pentecost and enter into the Season of Pentecost, we encourage you to take a look at the Global Ministries website at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org) to learn more about the common mission work of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

*Pastor Dennis and Pastor Linda*

## Prayer Chain 2.0

When I was growing up my introduction to the Prayer Chain was a note from my teacher or the Principal at Immanuel Lutheran School folded over for my Mom. Her name was Fay, but in those days she was Mrs. Robert J Lange like all married women. I dutifully handed the notes to her and sometimes they would be about me – or my brother (hopefully). If I was the subject of the note and it was negative, the discussion was one sided and short and the result was quick. No use waiting for my Dad to come home from work. If it was about my brother he usually got off without the quick result of his actions. Sometimes the note wouldn't be about any of the Lange kids. It would be a request for prayers from someone in or outside of our church family. Mom didn't share that kind of information with the kids. Prayer was at bedtime and dinner and not much more for us kids. The Prayer Chain was for adults. You know. The ones that could do real prayers.

Time passed, technology changed, but it still seemed that the Prayer Chain was something women did. They called each other on the phone. Each one had a single person to call and the requests gained steam in a slow serial fashion. It took some time, especially if the ladies got to chatting, but the job got done. Telephone Prayer Chain success.

Then there became the Emailed Prayer Chain. Not a chain at all. "Poof", almost instantly the head lady – it was still a lady thing – could contact everyone on the list and it was done in an instant. But that didn't seem fast enough or wide ranging enough when Social Media came along and dominated many lives. Now it's not just "Poof". It's "Poof" and "Explode". Post a request on Social Media and all your electronic friends can see it and they can share it to people you don't even know and who don't even know the subject of the request, but can become engaged. You can even count how many people have "liked" your request.

Is a little picture of Prayer Hands on Facebook enough? Is a Social Media request for "Prayers" and no hint as to what it's for or who we are being asked to pray for that is somehow omitted enough so a proper prayer can be developed? Don't know. But I do know it is better than not doing anything and relegating prayer back to an occasional meal or bedtime prayer. As I age, the Prayer Chain is more and more important. I might be on it. Oh...I HAVE been on it and am thankful for the chain. The Prayer Chain has changed a lot and will likely continue to evolve, but remain an important part of many lives. But no matter what the changes, I still get most of my Prayer Chain contacts from the ladies of the church. Except for the importance of the prayers themselves, the one thing that has never changed. Thanks ladies.

# board meeting

## April 2021 Church Board Highlights

Church Board met for their regular meeting on April 19th, 2021.

Treasurer Report was reviewed.

For the month of February, an income of \$33,525 was received and expenses were \$64,761. YTD ending balance was -\$9,306.

Committee Meeting Highlights:

- Our youth Easter Egg Hunt was very successful with over 50 persons attending! Christian Education committee is working hard to provide our youth with fun activities. We are always looking for more volunteers to serve on the Christian Education committee... if interested, contact Jill Lopez.
- Our Outreach and Benevolence committee has been busy and it was approved to support local partners / organizations financially, some included Isaiah House 117 with a donation of \$500, Merom camp with a donation of \$1000, and Blessing Box with a donation of \$200.
- We want to thank our volunteers of the Church Facilities and Improvements committee that spent their time to clean up the outside areas of the church, including the playground.
- The Congregational Life committee is busy planning the upcoming Church Picnic. Please look for more information regarding this exciting event.

We want to thank Tony Riley, for accepting an empty board member seat. His term will run thru 2022.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm. Complete Church Board minutes and treasurer's reports are available after approval at the next month's board meeting.

Megan Jennings



## St. John's United Church of Christ contributions and attendance

	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Contributions</b>
3/7	58	\$4,762.00
3/14	43	\$4,555.00
3/21	48	\$3,670.00
3/28	67	\$4,390.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>		<b><u>\$17,377.00</u></b>

Monthly Contributions to Outreach & Missions	\$2,150.00
Monthly Contributions to Building	\$170.00
Monthly Contributions to Sandy Pantry	\$1,500.00
Monthly Contributions to OGHS	\$1,970.00
<b><u>Operating Income</u></b>	<b><u>\$11,587.00</u></b>
Expenses	\$19,029.76
Total Operating Balance for March	<b>(\$7,442.76)</b>

### **Year To Date**

Income: \$33,525

Expenses: \$64,761.14

Difference: **-\$31,236.14**



## Christian Education Highlights

The **Easter Egg event** held on April 3 at the church was a great success! Church families, Preschool guests and event helpers numbered 51. In addition to the main event (hunting Easter Eggs!) food was served, games were played, and several hands on crafts and experiences were offered. A big thank you to all who came, and a special thank you goes to **Megan Jennings, Sarah Lowe, Will Meyer, and Jill Lopez** for their part in hosting it.

Children and Youth Sunday School schedule:

- **Children and Youth Sunday School will continue each Sunday from now through May 23rd (9:30 am start time).** Sunday School for the youth and children will be on summer break from May 30 through July 25.
- **Children's Church** will continue each Sunday during 10:30 am worship service **even in the summer months.**

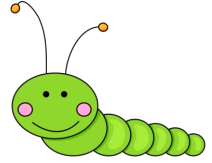
**Vacation Bible School** will be celebrated during the Sundays in August. Specific times to be announced at a later date.

Merom summer camps are offered this summer! Families will receive specific information in the mail. You may also contact Pastor Dennis for more info. Financial assistance is available for the cost of the camp.

The Christian Education Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Please join us and be a part of our monthly planning!



# Preschool News



Easter egg hunting was egg-citing! All of our preschoolers enjoyed Easter parties, playing Easter games, eating Easter snacks, and hunting eggs!

Our preschoolers are learning about recycling. We know to cut down on the amount of trash we have by recycling or making something new out of our trash.

We worked on name writing skills and had evaluations. Everyone is doing great!

We worked on the senses, smell, hear, taste, touch, and see. We worked with the Five Senses books and we tried different things without using one of our senses.

St. John's UCC Preschool has a few openings in the year 3 year old caterpillars afternoon class for the 2021-2022 school year.



## **Wabash Valley Association Spring Meeting**

The Wabash Valley Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ will be gathering for the Annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, May 2 at Salem UCC, Westphalia. The meeting will be in person and registration will be at 2:30 pm with the meeting beginning at 3 pm. The agenda items include election of officers and welcoming two congregations into the Association. Those congregations are St. Luke's UCC, Frankfort, Indiana and Pleasant Hill UCC, Wingate, Indiana. Both churches were formerly members of the Western Association which dissolved last year.

Covid protocols are to be adhered to.

Any member of a UCC congregation that is in Wabash Valley Association is invited to attend with vote. Please let Mark Lange know if you would like to attend.



## **Indiana-Kentucky Conference Annual Gathering**

The theme for the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Annual Gathering is "From Sackcloth to Joy." There will be worship and wisdom, including a keynote address from the Rev. Dr. Gregory C. Ellison II, from June 3, 2021-June 5, 2021. Rev. Dr. Ellison is the Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the Candler School of Theology since 2009. His teaching draws primarily from his work with the organization he founded called Fearless Dialogues, a non-profit organization that creates unique spaces for unlikely partners to have hard, heartfelt conversations on taboo subjects like racism, classism, and community violence.

The Gathering will be a virtual meeting and everyone is invited to attend. Registration and additional information will be up on the [lkcucc.org](http://lkcucc.org) website soon. The registration fee is \$50 per person.



# ABOUT THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Thanks to Sheri Stodghill, Chairperson of the Search Committee, for providing the materials that are the basis for a series of short articles about the United Church of Christ which will be in the newsletter over the next few months. (for more information see [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)) --Pastor Dennis*

## Who We Are

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members, across the United States, the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world.

The United Church of Christ is the only Protestant denomination that was formed from four separate Protestant denominations. In 1931 the Congregational Churches and the Christian Churches merged. The Evangelical Church and the Reformed Church merged in 1934. St. John's was founded as the German Evangelical Church of Vincennes. It later became St. John's Evangelical Church and then St. John's Evangelical and Reform Church. In 1957 The Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged to form the United Church of Christ and St. John's became St. John's United Church of Christ.

## Summer Church Camp 2021

Merom Camp and Conference Center is related to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. The Camp sits on a bluff overlooking the Wabash River in beautiful Sullivan County. For decades young people have been attending Church Camp under the supervision of volunteer directors and counselors. The Staff at Merom works very hard to provide a safe and comfortable environment where young people can learn about God and Jesus, make new friends and create great memories.

Camp registrations are limited because of the pandemic and the pool will not be open. Camp brochures have been mailed out and there are some on the table outside of the office. Camperships are available. Any questions please ask on of the Pastors.



**Merom Camp & Retreat Center Inc.**

GPS: 8555 Phillips Street

PO Box 127

Merom, IN 47861

1-800-313-4511

[www.Merom.org](http://www.Merom.org)

“During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us....Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.”

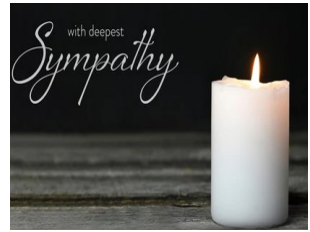


Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you for the many prayers, cards and love for our family during Terri's illness and death. I am so blessed to have all of you in my life.

Love,  
Cindi  
The family of Terri Avra

Condolences to Cindi, Clayton and Gilmore family on the loss of Cindi's sister Terri Avra, on March 25th 2021. May she rest in peace and prayers of comfort to the family.



ST. JOHN'S UCC,

The board of directors at Merom Camp and Retreat Center want to say "THANK YOU!" for supporting our mission and ministry. We couldn't do it without folks like you all!

With love,

Lakota Iron Rope  
Member of the board

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (chairman 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 .

## **Addresses for Shut-ins and Others**

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

**Colonial** - 1622 S. Hart Street Road, Vincennes  
Norma Meyer, Kenny Kixmiller

**Bridgepoint Health Campus** 1900 College Ave. Rm 508  
Betty Meyer

**Willow Manor** – 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes  
Joy Tooley, Patty Lowe

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

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

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

### **Home**

Ruth Witsman  
Etta Snyder  
Bev Tussey  
Kennedy Alexander  
Marge Beamon  
Vic Meyer  
Robin Root  
Linda Wagoner



\*We ask for prayers for the Alexander family as Kelly and Kennedy travel to Florida to see a specialist. The family is hoping to get some answers and a plan on what and where the next procedures take place .

\*Continued prayers for Carmen Pieper, she is back in the ICU dealing with several health issues.

\*Please keep Vic Meyer in your prayers as he continues on hospice.

\*Please pray for three-year-old Meredith Catt who has been fighting ATRT (Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumor), a rare brain cancer, since October. Meredith is the granddaughter of Tammy Mincey, a resident of our St. John's neighborhood, who has been attending our worship services recently."

# Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Search Committee wanted to thank everyone who participated in the recent input meetings or filled out the recent on-line survey. We are very happy to show the congregation the top answers received for qualities and tasks for our new minister:

## Most Important Qualities Of Our New Minister

- Effective preacher/speaker
- Compassion & caring
- Accepting of people with divergent views
- Strong commitment to the congregation
- Helps members develop their spiritual life

## Most Important Tasks For Our New Minister

- Active in the life of the congregation
- Preaches inspiring sermons
- Spiritual Leader
- Makes Pastoral Calls
- Emphasizes the spiritual development of members (tie)
- Develops & supports programs for youth (tie)

We are moving forward to complete St. John's profile to assist us in looking for a new minister. We will be keeping you informed of our progress in the next couple of months.

St. John's would like to recognize our **high school or college graduates!** If you or someone in your family will be graduating, please let the church office know as soon as possible, the following information:

NAME OF GRADUATE:

SCHOOL:

DEGREE:

SPECIAL HONORS:

FUTURE PLANS:



For Mother's Day, the Music & Worship Committee wants to recognize all the important women in your lives by displaying their pictures in our Sanctuary on Mother's Day, May 9th. We ask that the photo be dropped off at the Church Office by May 7th. We also ask that the photo be in a 4x6 or smaller frame, with your name on the back of the photo. We would like to keep the pictures up through the week of May 7th - 16th.



Please be sure to share this information with anyone that is in our Church Family.

### MAY'S MISSION MOMENT PHOEBE'S MISSION

Phoebe's Mission is a disbursement of necessary household items, such as toiletries and cleaning supplies, to low income Vincennes residents the 1st Friday of each month from 4:30-6 PM. These household items are necessary for everyone, but they cannot be purchased with food stamps.

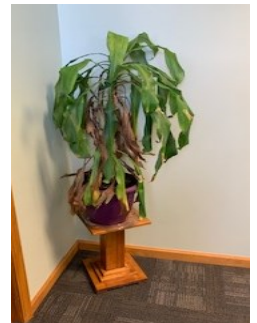
#### EXAMPLES OF ITEMS NEEDED/GIVEN OUT

Toilet paper \* Laundry Soap \* Shampoo \* Bar Soap \* Dishwashing Detergent \* Deodorant \* Cleaning supplies. If you would like to support this outreach program at St. John's UCC this month, please mark your money contributions as Phoebe's Mission, drop in offering or mail to the church office at 606 N. 5th Street, Vincennes, Indiana. 47591. Specific items may be dropped off at the church, as well. Will Meyer: contact person. Any consideration to give to this mission will be greatly appreciated by participants.



### Please rescue me!

Hello, my name is Emerald aka Emmy. This was based on the bright shade of green I used to be all over! I need someone to take me home and show me some love to bring my color back. While I love being in the church office, I need more space and sun! If you have these, and some TLC please come rescue me!



## Church Clean-up Day

Five of our church members, Mark Schutz, Larry Marchino, Danny Roark, Bill Lathrop and Brad Summers met on March 27, 2021 to give the outside a little TLC. They pressure washed and cleaned the fence perimeter and play areas outside the church.



Bill Lathrop (pictured) sanded and painted the access door to the playground area.



We are looking for volunteers to help count the Worship offering on Monday mornings! We are hoping to get enough volunteers so that it would only be one time per month or maybe once every six weeks.

Volunteers would need to be in the church office from 9-10:30 am on their scheduled Monday morning and assist our secretary, Angie with the counting, depositing and data keeping of our church offerings.

All volunteers would be trained together prior to starting and you would be able to choose your work day (with the other volunteers).

If you would like to help with this very important task, please contact our church secretary to be put on the list. Volunteers will be contacted prior to the training session in June.



**BIRTHDAY'S** and  
**ANNIVERSARIE'S**

**Don't Miss To Wish!**

**May Birthdays**

Landry Culp  
Christina Schlag  
Brett Summers  
Dennis Frische-Mouri  
Olivia Cummings  
Charlie Klein  
Beverly Tussey  
Kathryn Cole  
Thomas Holka  
Steve Cooper  
Roger Brockman  
Jordan Allen  
Payton Allen  
Sara Schutz  
Amelia Cummings  
Linda Frische-Mouri  
Alan Hendrix  
Lulu Miller  
Brenda Roark  
Joseph Christopher Cummings  
William Holka  
Briana Klein  
Hope Clausman  
Desiree Cantwell  
Kimberly Godare  
Avery Sanders

**May Anniversaries**

John & Kasey Yochum  
Cody & Megan Hendershot  
Scott & Laura Marchino  
Marvin & Sandee Covey  
Steven & Karen Redmond





## Celebrate Summer With Us At The Outdoor Worship & Picnic Event!

*Sunday, June 6 starting at 10:30 am*

*@ Gregg Park Open Shelter House*



Come and Experience...

- Uplifting Outdoor Church Service In The Shelter House
- Fabulous Picnic Lunch Of Fried Chicken And Fixings
- Fellowship With Other Church Members
- Fun Games For Everyone To Play
- Free Admission To Swim That Afternoon!

*Just Bring Yourself, Your Family, And A Lawn Chair  
And We Provide EVERYTHING ELSE!*

Shelter House  
location is across  
from Baird Homes



SUNDAY, JUNE 6  
10:30 am  
Gregg Park

OUTDOOR  
WORSHIP  
& PICNIC





## April Recap



The Children and Family Ministry had a busy month of April! On Saturday, April 3, St. John's UCC hosted an Unbeatable Egg Hunt. With over 50 people in attendance there was an activity for all ages! Children ages preschool to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade hunted for eggs down stairs and outside. For 3-6th graders the egg hunting was done by flashlights after the whole upstairs the windows were darkened. A big

thank you for Megan Jennings, Jill Lopez and Sarah Lowe for helping! Children and Family Ministry had the opportunity to plant some flowers around the church in an Earth Day activity on April 17<sup>th</sup>. They were also able to take some plants home.



## What's to Come

On Saturday, May 1, the Children and Family Ministry and any church member will have an opportunity to do the Vincennes City Cleanup. The groups will clean up the area around the church from 9-11:30am. Individuals can bring gloves for the cleanup. The money made will go to the Children and Family Ministry account. Helpers will meet at the church parking lot at 9am. Hope to see you there!

Final planning for summer 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 age 4-12 are invited to go upstairs to the blue classroom (former grades 1-3 class) 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. Although your child may already be attending Sunday school, Children's Church offers these children an opportunity to learn more about God and our church. Volunteers to assist in aspects of Children's Church are always welcomed and needed! If there are any questions, please let Will Meyer know! Coronavirus precautions will be in place during Children's Church.

**Will Meyer**

**Children and Family Ministry Coordinator**

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

**Cell: 812-887-5303**

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

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