

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Mission Statement Adopted March 12, 2000
We are a family of many hearts and voices faithfully worshipping 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

Vincennes, IN 47591

(812) 882-2720

stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com

Website: myucc.org





Pastors' Ponderings

We would like to use this space to share information about ministries and opportunities available in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. We begin with **The Indiana-Kentucky Conference 2022 Annual Gathering on June 2 & 3 at Friedens UCC in Indianapolis.** This year's event is planned as a hybrid gathering—both in person and virtually. St. John's has the opportunity to send two lay delegates in addition to our two clergy delegates.

What to expect? There will be two keynote speakers, Rev. Dr. David M. Mellott, president of Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, and Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause, president of Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, who will help us think deeply about the new shape of Church post-pandemic. Our opening worship preacher will be Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas, also of Christian Theological Seminary, where he is the Director of the PhD Program in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric and the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics.

In addition, there will be workshops and fellowship. Meals will include the availability of Food Trucks for lunch and a Celebration Banquet on Friday. After the banquet there will be a time of recognizing clergy with certificates of milestones for years of ordained ministerial service.

Anyone who would like to attend as a delegate please contact Mark Lange, President of the Church Board.

. Registration information can be found on the Conference website, ikcucc.org.

Kentucky Disaster Response 2022

Volunteers are needed for the IKC 2022 Work Camps in Kentucky. If you would like to volunteer for a work camp in 2022, please go to ikcucc.org, pull down the ministries menu and click on *Disaster Preparedness* and download the "2022 Intent to Participate Form," fill it out, and either scan and email or mail it to the IKC Work Camp Registrar listed at the bottom of the form. You will then be added to the volunteer data base. Once a work site is established and dates are made available, you will be contacted by the Registrar to determine your availability.

The IKC Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) is

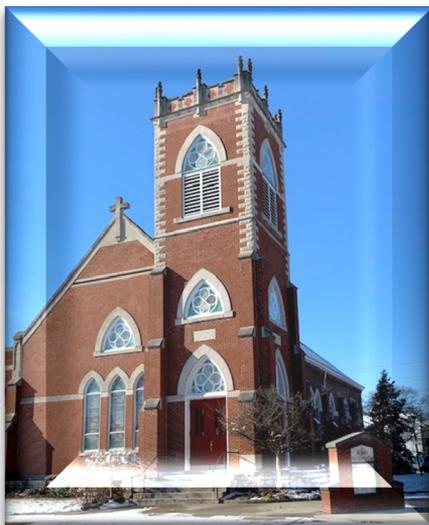
planning work camps to Kentucky throughout the summer. The next work camps are scheduled for the weeks of May 15 and May 22 and June 26. Work camp volunteers typically arrive Sunday evening for an orientation meeting and depart for home on Saturday morning after cleaning up of the dorms. Work will be in Mayfield, Kentucky which was devastated by the December 10-11, 2021 tornadoes. Details and registration forms are also available on the ikcucc.org website on the *Disaster Preparedness page*.

General Synod 2023

Every two years the United Church of Christ gathers as the General Synod for worship, fellowship, business and the celebration of the diversity of ministries and people of our beloved denomination. General Synod is an amazing and exciting experience. On June 30-July 4, 2023, General Synod 34 will be in downtown Indianapolis. As host, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference needs your help. Between 300 and 400 volunteers will be needed to greet, assist, and care for the thousands of delegates and visitors that will converge on the Convention Center in downtown Indy. More information will be forthcoming.

Blessings,

Pastor Linda and Pastor Dennis





Church Board Highlights

The minutes of the March 28 Board meeting were corrected and accepted. The Treasurer's report was accepted. The Board voted to switch the church's insurance carrier to one that offered a lower premium with more coverage.

Committee Report Highlights

Voted to return to having the communion elements being passed and to no longer use the prepackaged ones.

Voted to send benevolence monies for a total of \$6,200.00 to the following:

OCWM - \$2000.00, Merom \$1000.00, LAM - \$500.00, Friends of Special Athletes - \$500.00, KETA - \$500.00, Isaiah House - \$500.00, Laundry Love - \$200.00, and Ukraine Relief - \$1,000.00

A draft of the letter to members who have been inactive was presented for approval. Approval vote was tabled so the letter could be emailed with all the additions and edits clarified. An email vote will be taken by the board before the next E&M meeting.

New Business

Began a study/discussion on "Good Governance" to be continued next board meeting. This is being facilitated by Pastor Dennis and Pastor Linda. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM. Complete Church Board minutes and treasurer's report are available after approval at the next month's board meeting.

Next meeting is May 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Lopez, Church Board Secretary



Christian Ed highlights

A huge thanks to all who helped with the Easter Egg hunt held on April 16. It was a great success! Over 40 people attended, helped to hunt eggs, ate, played games and enjoyed the fellowship. This is a wonderful annual event. Children and youth Sunday School will continue through **May 22** from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday and then break for the summer. Thanks to Sarah and Will for teaching this past year!

Children's Church will continue throughout June, July, and August during worship.

Watch for details in the coming months for information about Vacation Bible School!

St. John's United Church of Christ

Pastors	Pastor Dennis Frische-Mouri Pastor Linda Frische-Mouri
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Leader	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Mark Lange
Pastoral Search Chair	Sheri Stodghill

Our Gift to God

OFFERING-Collections for March: \$12,539

Please consider supporting St. John's United Church of Christ so we can continue to do God's work and mission here and throughout the world. Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office in person or by mail.

Board representatives for committees 2022

	Attendance	
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
Music and Worship - Betsy Marchino		
Christian Education - Jill Lopez		
Financial Affairs - Ray Pieper	4/3	52
Outreach and Benevolence - Hope Clausman	4/10	66
Evangelism and Membership - Janet Daniels	4/17	118
Church Facilities - Janet Daniels	4/24	57
Wilhelm Parsonage Committee - Cheryl Meyer		
Congregational Life - Elaine Workman		
Tech - Jana Vieck		
Memorial - Sheri Stodghill		
Investment Funds - Ray Pieper		
Personnel - Jana Vieck		
Bank Statement Review - Jana Vieck		
Pastoral Search Committee - Sheri Stodghill		



From The Pastoral Search Committee...

Times of transition in a congregation can be filled with anxiety and hope. Since our last pastor left our congregation the world has changed. We have survived an on-going pandemic, gotten use to wearing face masks, and practicing social distancing. The pandemic

has taught us how to be a church in new ways with online services and changing the way we think about weekly attending, and how we worship.

One of the things that has happened over the last two years is that a lot of pastors across denominations have retired or left the ministry. This means that there are fewer pastors looking for new settled calls and fewer profiles available for our search committee to read. I would invite you to do two things. First, pray for both our search committee and the pastor God will send to serve us. Second, trust that God has someone coming to be our new pastor, it may take time for the search committee to receive that person's profile and discern this is the right person. Due to confidentiality restrictions the search committee cannot share with the congregation the names and information about the candidates we are reviewing, but we ask you to trust that we are doing our best. We ask you to know that when we find the person God is calling to serve as our next pastor you will hear us shout it from the rafters!



KIDS HOPE USA PROGRAM TO RESUME IN THE FALL 2022

The Kids Hope USA program at St. John's United Church of Christ in partnership with Riley Elementary School will resume mentoring students at Riley School this Fall 2022 . This news comes after a two year pause due to Covid guideline restrictions. Two continuing mentors and students are meeting presently for the remaining school year. Smiles were on faces at the reuniting event, (big hugs too). In lieu, of these two student -mentor relationships, we are hoping to fill five+ more mentors for the fall kickoff date. If you have been a past mentor or if you are interested in becoming a mentor,, please contact Jerri Johanningsmeier to express your wishes. There are five + students waiting for us to support them, love them, and work with them in their school life. Please consider this outreach position. It is a rewarding and heartwarming experience nonetheless. Thank you for any consideration. More information to come next month.

Jerri Johanningsmeier
St. John's UCC KIDS HOPE USA Director

Our stand out members of St. John's United Church of Christ



Jill Lopez

Mickey and Ruth Good Idea Award

As stated in the Vincennes Sun-Commercial :

“Jill Lopez who is a school councilor and educational diagnostician with VCSC, She was honored by the school corporation with the Mickey and Ruth Good Idea Award . This is an award that recognizes someone who goes above and beyond to help a special needs student.”

Some quotes to her were:

“Lopez is always willing to go above and beyond and job assignment

“She is willing to go through specialized training to learn more about functional behavior assessment and behavior plans. She observes students, works with teachers, and gathers information that she develops into plans to help support within class rooms. Jill is always a calm caring influence to others.”

We are all very proud of Jill here at St. John's UCC and want to congratulate her in this award.



Betty Lankford

Wabash Valley's Remarkable Woman of the Year Award.

The award was accompanied by a \$1000 check that was in turn donated to a none profit of Betty's choice. Betty chose the B.A.B.E. store which is a mission held at our

church that supplies new mothers with needed supplies and necessities in exchange for vouchers that mothers obtain through doctors visits, wellness checks and immunizations.

Some quotes as state din Vincennes Sun-commercial were:

Dr. Alan Stewart “She has the skills necessary, intelligent and a good leader with organizational ability. Her leadership, attention to detail, communication skills makes her exceptional ”

“Betty is such a caring person, the time and dedication she has put in for our community has been remarkable “ said Natalie Burkhart, secretary for the BABAE store.

Thank you for all you have done for our town and your church ! We are honored that you are a member of our St. John's UCC family.

Preschool News



The month of April brought Easter decorations to our classroom. Bulletin boards filled with homemade Easter eggs, the wall decorated with baby chicks and cute bunnies. All our preschoolers made their own Easter baskets to take home with Easter treats. We all had a great time hunting Easter eggs and playing Easter games.

Our classroom also got baby caterpillars that we are watching turn into butterflies. The children know the life cycle of a butterfly and other animals as well.

We are preparing for the end of the school year by working on end of year evaluations. Decorating our photo albums, and making packets to collect all our school items.

The last special guest day, at preschool will be “Mom’s Day” We will sing several songs to our moms and enjoy a special treat together.

Kindergarten... here I come!

Best of Luck to all the little Butterflies heading to the big Kindergarten next year! You will be amazing!





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
Liz Emmons

May Anniversaries

John & Kasey Yochum
Cody & Megan Hendershot
Scott & Laura Marchino
Marvin & Sandee Covey
Steven & Karen Redmond
Dan & Denise Egel
Mark & Sandra Lange
Ryan & Erica Cummings
Bernie & Pam Kirsch

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



Friends and Relatives of our church family:

- **Continuing Prayer Requests: Kennedy Alexander, Ruth Witsman, Marge Beamon, Don Osborne, Jr., Betty Meyer, Mark Lange, Bruce Deckard, Nora Grabbe (Friend of Janet Daniels), Roberta Meyers (Jake Alexander Mom.)**
- **For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying lets include all in our prayers.**
- Please keep Ruth Witsman in your prayers. Her chemo is no longer working, so they have stopped the treatments and hospice has been called in. Pain management is the main focus. Ed is not taking it well and needs lots of prayers also!
- Joe Linneweber had a stroke in April he is doing ok, and feels it could have been much worse. He has been released to go home. Prayers are with him!
- Prayers for all the families and kids who will be traveling for the summer season for vacations, ballgames and other summer activities. Have fun, be safe !



Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Norma Meyer, Colonial Assisted Living, Rm 142, 1622 S. Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591 *Updated room number*

Kenny Kixmiller, Freelandville Community Home 310 W. Carlisle St.
Freelandville, IN 47535 *Updated address*

Betty Meyer, Bridgepoint Health Campus, - 1900 College Ave., Rm 508,
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

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

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

Donna Cullison, c/o Heritage Center Memory Care Unit, Room 313, 1201
West Buena Vista Road, Evansville, IN 47710

Home

Ruth Witsman

Etta Snyder

Kennedy Alexander

Marge Beamon

Robin Root

Bruce Deckard



A word cloud graphic with the word "caregivers" in large, bold, black lowercase letters. Surrounding it are various smaller words in different colors (brown, orange, red) and orientations, including: "adult", "care", "giving", "women", "families", "brave", "supervisors", "selfless", "heroes", "inspiring", "empowering", "coordinators", "generation", "managers", "planners", "loving", "worker", "sandwich", "supporter", "caregivers", "motivatros", "strong".

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, Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino .

St. John's United Church of Christ May Mission Spotlight

[UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal](#)

“Members of the United Church of Christ are joining the global community to respond to the events unfolding in Ukraine,” said the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, associate general minister, Wider Church Ministries and Global Operations. “We are praying earnestly for peace and for the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the war. And, we are adding our resources to ensure that all can have access to safety and shelter as the fighting escalates.”

Gifts to the [UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal](#) will provide shelter, food and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens more than 125 countries living in Ukraine. Donations to the Ukraine mission can be made here at St. Johns UCC .





& Church Picnic

All are Welcome to Join us June, 5!

Gregg Park Open Shelter House

Out door Service will be at 10:30

Picnic immediately following

Bring a Friend!

Chicken Dinner will be Provided

Sign up sheet for a dessert is on the church hallway
bulletin board.

Entrance fee to swim at Rainbow Beach will be paid if wish
to swim.





Thank you to my St. John's family for the gift to the Komen Foundation in memory of Mike. I will always treasure the years that I worked there and appreciate all the prayers that were spoken on our behalf. May God continue to bless St. John's UCC.

During this time of sorrow we learn how much our family and friends mean to us. Thank you so much for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was much needed and deeply appreciated.

With love,

Bert Julian
and family

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,

Thank you for your \$500 donation to Backpacks of Love for VESC. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

We are filling 170 bags a week and are headed into our last nine weeks of the school year.

Thank you for your donation as well as physical help from Jill Lopez, Jonathan Lange and Gary & Peggy Meyer. You are awesome.

Kathy Clinkerbeard
Project Coordinator

THANK YOU



God Bless You!



Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, phone calls and words of encouragement.

Bruce has finished his chemo and will continue better.

with immunotherapy infusions for an indefinite period of time.

He will be having a scan mid-April and we are praying for good results.

He has gained some weight and is feeling much

better.

Your prayers, love & concern have been felt and we are so appreciative.

Much love, Bruce & Cindy Beckard



The month of April was busy for the Children and Family Ministry. On Saturday, April 9, Earth was celebrated by taking trip Foxridge Nature Park. An Unbeatable Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 16. A good time was had by all! A big thanks to [Jill Lopez](#) and [Sarah Lowe](#) for all they did to help! Final planning for the mission week and Holiday World trips 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.



On Saturday, May 7, 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 8:30am-11:30am. Individuals can bring gloves for the cleanup but some will be provided. The money made will go to the Children and Family Ministry account for future activities. This is also a great opportunity for service hours for school clubs/organizations! Helpers will meet at the church parking lot at 8:30am. Hope to see you there!



On May 27, there will be a Children and Family Ministry cookout and games at church from 5-7pm. At the cookout, there will be hamburgers and hot dogs. Please sign-up on the bulletin board next to the nursery or on Facebook to bring something to share with the other families! The meat, drinks and table settings (cups, plates and silverware) will be provided! There will be games and activities outside. Any friends and family members are welcome to come to the fun activity too!

The Children and Family Ministry will have an in-town mission week from June 6-10. This year there will be and kids will enjoy some of activities they have in the past and many new ones! Groups will be staying at a cabin and the kids can come and go for games/practices. Each day is designed for all ages/grades to enjoy the event. More details and the schedule will be coming for that week!



Children age 3-12 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. 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!
*** Children's Church will continue throughout June, July, and August during worship.

Will Meyer
Children and Family Ministry Coordinator

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

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