ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



St. John United Church of Christ 204 Seventh Street Lincoln, Illinois 62656

June 2022 Newsletter

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 204 Seventh Street ~ Lincoln, Illinois 62656 217-732-6957

E-mail address: stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com | Website: stjohnucclincolnillinois.com "Letting God's love shine through us to the Community we Serve"

Rev. Laurie Hill

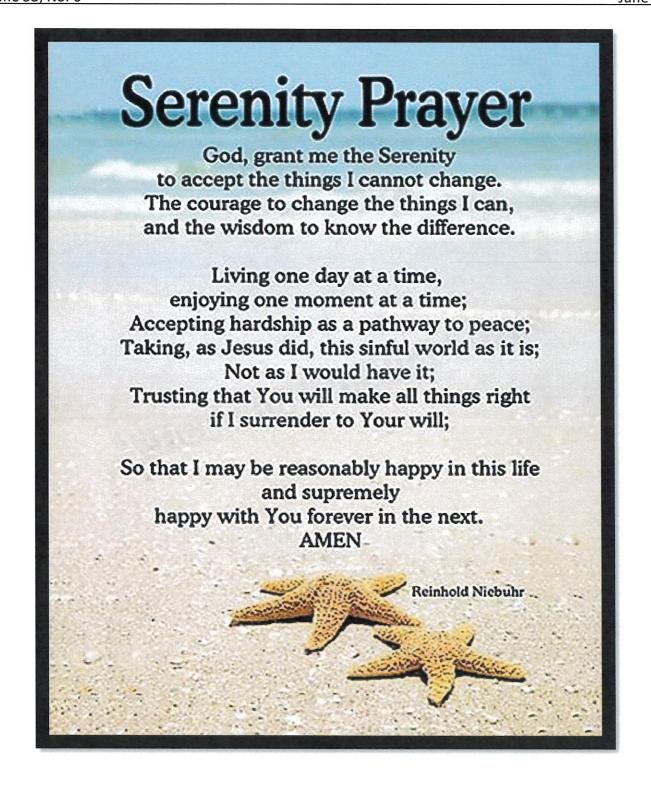
Darlene Begolka

Volume 53, No. 6

Pastor

Office Manager

June 2022



FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

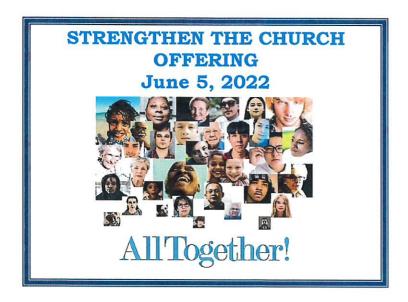
The ONA Task force has asked me to address some of the Scriptural references that are often used in reference to the LGBTQ+ community. So this article is PG13 rated. Please be aware it is a discussion of sexuality. Also, be aware it's difficult to fully cover these topics in a short newsletter article. There is so much more written so please visit the ONA table in the narthex. This month, I will limit my comments to the Old Testament. The verses most often quoted in opposition to homosexuality are from a list of what are called, "Purity Codes" which were written by the priests of that day in order to preserve a community of health and well-being. There are 613 purity codes, which make following them almost impossible for anyone. If we followed these in a literal way, anyone who has been unfaithful to a spouse would be killed by stoning. "Abominations" include whispering, eating pork and dairy products, wearing two different kinds of cloth, etc. There are only two verses that are most often translated as homosexual acts, but translators have discovered the acts described actually are acts of rape and what we would call sexual perversion such as sexual acts with children, orgies, abuse, etc. So, what do we do with these purity codes? No one could possibly follow them all and neither can we pick and choose which ones are more or less important than others. We simply do not live in that era. So, as with all Scriptures, we need to look at the historical significance of them and then figure out what the lesson is for us today. Because of the governmental role (no separation of church and state back in the tribal culture of the Hebrews), the Priests made the laws which were often created as a result of some event or happening in that community. For example, when people got sick from eating uncooked pork, pigs became "unclean". We, who have electricity, obviously know much more now about refrigeration, pasteurization, cooking temperatures, etc. Our laws are about how to keep people safe from foods. We also have laws about behaviors that are

harmful to others. Sexual perversion, that is sexual acts that cause harm, is obviously evil and this is illegal in our society also.

That brings me to the second Scripture often quoted which is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. We now know that this is a story of sexual perversion, not faithfulness and love between two people. Sexual perversion is prevalent in our society. We all know that orgies, rape, child pornography, etc. are not the will of God because they end in disease and emotional pain that often scars for life and causes a chain of more abuse. These are the wicked acts we are warned about over and over in the Bible. Adam and Eve is another story that is used but I'd like to save that story for a future article on marriage.

King David loved Jonathan. Jonathan loved King David. That is quoted at least 5 times in 1st Samuel. After Jonathan died, David mourns heavily. A song was written about the war in which Jonathan died: (2 Samuel 1) "Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions." Were David and Jonathan gay or really good friends? They both married wives but was that was Hebrew law to ensure procreation. Maybe they were "Bisexual"? We will never know. We do know that they were two men who loved each other very much and their love was important enough for Biblical writers to want us to know about it. There are very many other stories in the Old Testament that as translators study them now provide lessons of God's faithfulness through all the sexualities of human life, all of which when faithful and lovingly expressed are blessed by God. Harm is harm. which is evil and wicked, whether executed by anyone with any sexuality. Next month, I will focus on the New Testament Scriptures. My measuring stick of all my life is that God is Love and Love is God. Love between two people, any two people, is good.

Peace, Pastor Laurie



The sound of rushing wind. A fire spreading with all-consuming speed. A forceful energy that envelopes a crowd. Like a rock concert, a sporting event or even ... a worship service?

Do you remember what a "full house" on Sunday morning felt like? The electric experience of a gathered crowd, close together, both giving and receiving as all share in the presence of something larger than themselves? We celebrate Pentecost each year and recall the birthday of the Church, when the message caught fire and spread beyond a small group of people and began to literally transform the world. That's a worthy celebration, but what might happen if we acknowledge, this Pentecost Sunday, that the holy fire still burns in, through, and around us?

We crave interaction with others. Gathering in community makes that happen. With the great realignment well underway – people moving to new communities and new jobs during the pandemic - congregations everywhere have a chance to re-form, to re-imagine, and re-create community, welcoming new folks into their midst like never before! Just like the first Pentecost, our neighbors are eager, so we must engage! In the South Central Conference that looks like a church plant with the mission to revitalize an urban neighborhood and fight gentrification by offering micro-loans to local entrepreneurs. It looks like a church leveraging technology to spread the gospel

on a schedule that meets young families at convenient times in busy lives. And another congregation stands as a beacon of hope and the lone progressive Christian voice in a growing community where new folks are connecting with them weekly.

These are a few examples of what can happen when we're all together in one place. As you give to **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH** this Pentecost Sunday, may you receive the Spirit's fire and share it with boldness and innovation, too! All Together, our offerings will empower leaders, engage communities, and shape spaces that will change lives.

Rev. Phil Hodson Conference Minister South Central Conference, United Church of Christ





On Sunday, June 5, 2022, DeanMeinershagen will receive the Rite of Confirmation during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.

A Brunch has been planned following the service.

To help the committee plan according; please either sign up at church on Sunday, May 29th or email the church office (stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com) or call (217-732-6957) to make your reservation.



ST. JOHN GAMERS Sunday, June 12th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Come and join us for a couple hours of fun and fellowship.

Other dates to mark on your calendars for St. John Gamers are: Sunday, July 10th Sunday, August 14th

GREETERS

June 5th: Carolyn Pech

June 12th: Jack and Nancy Leich

June 19th: Tonita Reifsteck
June 26th: Verdeen Ingram







THANKS to our Boy Scout Troop for planting the flowers.



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Steve Aue

Leola Dowling

Evelyn Fulkerson

Amanda Leich

Susan Webb

John Wilmert

CASTLE MANOR

1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656 Jerry and Mary Berglin Carol Turner

CEDARHURST OF SPRINGFIELD

3520 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62711 Helen Opperman

CARRIAGE CROSSING SENIOR LIVING

1402 Leslie Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704 Sandy Morgan

CARLINVILLE REHAB/HEALTH CARE CENTER

751 N. Oak Street, Carlinville, IL 62626 Bill Krepps

VONDERLIETH LIVING CENTER

1120 N. Topper Drive, Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548 Jerry Gehlbach

ASHTON PLACE

4151 Ashton Road, Sarasota, FL 34233 Patty McCann

AT HOME

Dave Armbrust 922 Decatur Street, Lincoln, IL 62656

ST. JOHN DINERS Saturday, June 18th Gina's Talk of the Town 11:30 p.m.



The Small Group Ministry has planned that the June St. John Diners outing will be to Gina's Talk of the Town in Elkhart.

The bus will leave the church parking lot at 11:15 a.m.

Reservations are for 11:30 a.m.

A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary.

As always you can either ride the bus or drive on your own. Just sign the sheet accordingly.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates for St. John Diners:

Saturday, July 16th to Imo's Café Saturday, August 20th to Rio Grande



WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

The family of Mary "Jean" Cummings.

Larry and Verdeen Ingram at the death of his cousin, Marianne Ingram.



PROTOCOL

SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO BE "HYBRID": (a combination of online and in-person).

MASKING: Masks are now a personal choice. We urge you to wear one if you feel even slightly sick. But it now completely up to you to wear a mask or not.

OFFERING: The Offering Plates will remain in the back of the sanctuary, but the usher will be bringing the plate forward during the offering time in the service.

COMMUNION: Communion sets will remain in the back for you to pick up as you come in. If you wish to bring your own, of course, that's fine. Darlene has "smidget" Tupperware containers if you wish to use one for your own juice/wine.

FOOD: Food offered at events can be homemade, but we ask groups in the church to also offer a commercially prepared option for those who would prefer their food made in that way.



St. John United Church of Christ is no longer doing their monthly Bingo at St. Clara's Rehab and Senior Care. But we can still help them when their activity department does Bingo. Here's how we can help. They are in need of Bingo prizes. Some ideas are SMALL stuffed animals, door or window décor, adult coloring books and colored pencils, word search books (large print might be helpful), some gently used white elephant type gifts and little knick-knacks (non-breakable) to mention a few. No jewelry, please. These items can be places under "The Giving Tree." Thank you!!!

ALTAR FLOWERS

June 5th: Bob and Sandy Meinershagen June 12th: Bob and Sandy Meinershagen

June 19th: Bill Gosda, Jr.

June 26th:



APRIL FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance \$12,378.30

Income \$ 9,794.28 Transfers \$15,000.00 Expenses \$25,660.35

Ending Balance \$11,512.23



The following is a Thank You note from Rev. Dr. Charlotte Nold, Pastor and the congregation of St. John Church in

Chicago (our Sister Church):

Dear members of St. John church,

Thank you for your wonderful donation of \$47.50. We truly appreciate your support of our church and mission work. What a blessing you are to us. Thank you.

Our food pantry is growing every week and it is a blessing for us to be able to feed the families in desperate need of food so that their children do not need to go to bed hungry. We also have many people who live alone who need and receive food. One of our clients is from Ukraine and is sending several boxes of food to her family overseas or whoever needs food there.

Thank you again for the wonderful blessing of much needed financial support that you are giving to the church.

ATTENDANCE

May 1st

35 In-Person, 45 on Facebook, 18 bulletins mailed and website = 98+

May 8th

36 In-Person, 36 on Facebook, 18 bulletins mailed and website = 78+

May 15th

2 In-Person, 58 on Facebook, 18 bulletins mailed and website = 78+

May 22nd
33 In-Person, 18 bulletins mailed
and website = 51+

FUNDRAISERS FOR THE VETERANS CELEBRATION...

Eat at the COUNTRY AIRE RESTAURANT in Atlanta, Illinois

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 All Day



10% of the sales that day will go to the 2022 Logan County Veterans Celebration. (The Logan County Veterans Celebration is hosted by St. John United Church of Christ.)

Mark your calendars and come out to support this great project.

"Letting God's love shine through us to the Community we serve"

ROUTE 66 GARAGE SALE at the VFW JUNE 10-11, 2022

The Veterans Ministry has yet another fundraiser planned for June. They are working hard on raising enough funds for the upcoming Veterans Celebration in November.

They will have a spot (10' x 20') at the VFW for the Route 66 Garage Sales the weekend of June 10-11, 2022. There will be a small area for a Bake Sale. The remainder of the space will be used for Garage Sale items. **NO CLOTHES or SHOES**. Ideas of what to bring include books, kitchen items, knick-knacks, toys, games, etc. Watch for more info on this.

FUNDRAISER

FOR

VETERANS CELEBRATION

(Hosted by St. John UCC)

Mama's Arcade Chicken Noodle Dinner Chicken noodle, green beans, mashed potatoes,

bread and butter



Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Ticket cost is \$9.00 each

CARRY OUT ONLY FROM MAMA'S ARCADE

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

VETERANS MINISTRY



The Veterans Celebration is set for Sunday, November 13, 2022.

The following fundraisers have been planned:
July 20th – Fundraiser at Culver's
October 16th – A Silent Pie Auction.

Watch for more info on these events in the newsletters, bulletins, emails, etc.

OUTREACH and PUBLICITY NOTES

Co-Chairs: Jim and Leslie Wilmert and Tonita Reifsteck — 160th Anniversary Planner

Outreach/Publicity met on May 5th in Wilmert Lounge. Jack presented an update on the plans for the "Scout Wall'. Learned that there were more than the plaque could honor so Toni will order a second EAGLE SCOUT plaque for past awards and use the current plaque for current and future Eagle Scouts. Cost of the plaques plus engraving of the plates is \$300 each. Suggestion that gifts from individuals who were families of those Scouts or have been supporters of the Scouting program would be accepted. Other suggestions would be considered as well, including some from Memorials.

The "Rec Team" has been assigned 8–9-year-old boys and shirt color is blue with dark lettering. Schedule of games will be shared on entryway board.

The treat at Culver's will be decided at the June meeting.

160th ANNIVERSARY

BULLETIN BOARD in Fellowship Hall is open for anyone who has a picture or article to share. Explanation/details should be put on a memo note and tack behind the item so there is space for everyone wanting to participate. Memories can still be shared on the 160th Board in the entryway.

Questions - see Tonita Reifsteck.

PLAY BALL...



LINCOLN 2 – ST. JOHN UCC
COACHES: CURTIS CONRADY AND ETHAN NEITZEL

ALL GAMES ARE AT 6:00 P.M.

HOME Games in BLUE at the Park District

AWAY Games in RED

DATE	LOCATION	
May 23	Breezy Field	Lincoln 2 vs. Mackinaw 2
May 26	Olympia Gd	Danvers 1 vs. Lincoln 2
May 31	Diamond 5	Marquette vs. Lincoln 2
June 2	Breezy Field	Lincoln 2 vs. Lincoln 1
June 6	Breezy Field	Lincoln 2 vs. Atlanta 1
June 9	Brock Lake	Mackinaw 1 vs. Lincoln 2
June 13	Breezy Field	Lincoln 2 vs. Mason City
June 16	Luther Field	Hartem 2 vs. Lincoln 2
June 20	Diamond 2	Hopedale 1 vs. Lincoln 2
June 23	Brock Lake	Mackinaw 1 vs. Lincoln 2

TEAM TREAT at Culver's after game on June 13th





VOLUNTEER NEEDED: Meals on Wheels has an opening for the 1st Monday of any month that has that scenario. This would involve 10:30 a.m. to noon. (Norma and Kim have taken the 5th Friday opening – "THANK YOU")

Any questions or if interested please see Tonita Reifsteck or call 217-855-1645.



CHARITY GUILD NOTES...



Eight ladies enjoyed the CELEBRATE LIFE luncheon on Friday, May 13th. Because of the heat and wet grass, the luncheon was held in Wilmert Lounge.

Birthday and Thinking of You cards were signed and mailed by Janet Johnson.

Norma Kramer shared some thoughts and memorable verse/program for the group

Th June Celebrate Life will be held at Kickapoo Park on Friday, June 10. In case of rain, it will be in Wilmert Lounge.



2022 GRADUATES FROM THE ST. JOHN UCC CHURCH FAMILY

BAILEE PINEDA

Lincoln Community High School Daughter of Brian and Tricia Pineda

JAKE CURRY

GED from Heartland College Son of Jeff and Jackie Curry Grandson of Jack and Nancy Leich

AIDEN NEMETH

Lincoln Community High School Grandson of Edna and Wayne Mara

TY ROW

Lincoln Community High School Grandson of Dan Row

SAM BIRNBAUM

Iowa State University
Bachelor of Science Degree
Son of Keith and Lori Birnbaum
Grandson of Loren and Karen Birnbaum

DANIEL MARTEN

Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago
Bachelor of Science in Biomedical
Engineering
Master of Science in Biomedical Data
Science and Modeling
Grandson of Sandy Wilmert

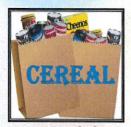


MISSION COMMITTEE By: Verdeen Ingram, Co-Chair

SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAYS...The Mission Committee has designated the following Sundays:

- Second Sunday of each month a special offering will be taken following church for the Children of Lincoln project.
- Fourth Sunday of each month a special offering will be taken following church for the Diaper Project for Head Start at Community Action.

June Food Item Is...



Food items are delivered to the Community Action Food Pantry.

All non-perishable items are WELCOME.



of \$2,652 was collected for the Bucket Challenge. In buckets that equals 34 buckets, plus we had one filled bucket for a grand total of 35 buckets for the

challenge. Thank you to everyone who helped met this challenge! The congregation was given the opportunity to pay for an entire bucket in memory of or in honor of. Those are as follows:

In memory of Ray and Evelyn Begolka from Darlene and Don.

In memory of Earl and Ruth Bidner from Verdeen and Larry Ingram.

In memory of Elaine Conrady from Carla Jurgenson.

In memory of Lois Conrady from Carla Jurgenson.

In memory of Wayne Conrady from Carla Jurgenson.

In memory of Greg Jurgenson from Carla Jurgenson.

In memory of Bob Jurgenson from Carla Jurgenson

In memory of Rev. Kenneth D. Kramer, Jr. from Norma Kramer.

In memory of Amy Row from Daniel Row.
In memory of Wilbur and Mildred Wilmert
and Roy and Nita Brickman
from Jim and Leslie Wilmert.

In memory of our parents from Jerry and Nancy Gehlbach.

In memory of family and friends from Warren and Peggy Goetsch.

In memory of loved ones from Sandy Wilmert.
In honor of all the farmers who keep America fed from Tonita Reifsteck.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022





BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Barb Reinwald
- 4 Cathy Sanders, Cameron Wilmert
- 5 Edna Mara, Jack Woodard
- 7 Lindsey Burge
- 8 Mary Berglin
- 11 Nancy Leich
- 13 Bob Meinershagen
- 15 Scott Row
- 17 Cameron Kurtz
- 19 Braxton Paulus
- **20** Bob Coombs, Jr.
- 23 Sarah Fuller

Names in red are members of our church who are on the visitation list. Let's fill their mailboxes on their birthdays.



ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Adam and Lindsey Sanders Burge
- **12** Greg and Lisa Conrady
- 15 Jonathan and Tami Pagel
- **16** Bob and Sandy Sanders
- 18 Orry Ingram and Becky Rader
- 22 Keith and Lori Birnbaum
- 25 David and Linda Nowack Mike and Debbie Turner
- 27 J. D. and Shanda Ryer

In Loving Memory



Mary "Jean" Cummings, 92 of Lincoln passed away on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Jean was born on May 5, 1930 in Lincoln, the daughter of F. John and Irene Anna (Dierker) Zurkammer.

Jean is survived by her daughters, Judy (Gary)
Atteberry, and Nancy (Greg) Bree; her
grandchildren, Kyle (Kristine Apel) Atteberry,
Katelyn (Shawn Emerson) Atteberry, Jessica Scohy,
and Amanda (James Mittelsteadt) Bree; her greatgranddaughters, Isabelle and Olivia Scohy; her
brother, Dean Zurkammer; and her brother-in-law,
Dick May.

Jean was a lifelong member of St. John United Church of Christ in Lincoln. She was a major presence in the lives of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; she was the most loving daughter, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother that anyone could ever have.

A family graveside service was held for Jean with burial at New Union Cemetery in Lincoln.



June Calendar

Wednesday, June 1st

All Day Fundraiser at Country Aire Restaurant for Veterans Celebration

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 2nd

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Outreach and Publicity at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 4th

Men's Fellowship at 8:30 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday, June 5th

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service with Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Rite of Confirmation

Meal following worship service

Monday, June 6th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 10th

Route 66 Garage Sales

Celebrate Life Birthday Group at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 11th

Route 66 Garage Sales

Sunday, June 12th

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service at 10:00 am

St. John Gamers at 2:00 p.m.

Monday, June 13th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Veterans Ministry meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boys Scouts 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14th

Creative Delights at 3:00 p.m.

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15th

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 16th

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 17th

3rd Friday Downtown Event – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 18th

Fellowship Hall Reserved

St. John Diners at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 19th

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service

at 10:00 am

It's Birthday Sunday

Time to celebrate June Birthdays

Monday, June 20th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21st

Chicken Noodle Dinner Fundraiser

Pick-up from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

at Mama's Arcade

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 22nd

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 23rd

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 25th

Fellowship Hall reserved

Sunday, June 26th

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service

at 10:00 am

Monday, June 27th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 28th

Creative Delights at 3:00 p.m.





Linda Barrow

Barb Bauer

Sharon Bauer

Rev. John Bock

Wayne Bowns

Brian Boyer

Ron Brandy

Rev. Molly Carlson

Helen Dalpoas

Alta Gehrke

Ruth Gordon

Cindy Hansen

Gene Hassebrock

Rev. Don Hoover

Larry and Marcia Howen

Emily Jewsbury

Dwayne Keiffer

Peter Lawes

Sammy McClure

Chad Martin

Ronnie Merold

Drake Miller

Sherri Mester

Lynn Price

Kayleigh Reifsteck

Mercedize Reyes

Zac Schafer

Alissa Smith

Kathy Staten

Jan Steele

Karen Sutton

Kent Tangman

Jim Walsh

Susan Webb

Vicki Smith Williams

Leslie Wilmert

Fred Wiseman

Chris

Sherri

Lisa

Scott

Allen

Fred

Lynn

Regina

David

Betty

Kelli

Rachel

Jim and Becky and Grandmother

Sam

Cliff

Connie

- The Residents at the Christian Village and St. Clara's Rehab and Senior Care
- All those from our "Church Family",
 Community, State and Nation working in the
 Medical Field
- Illinois Conference/Wester Association

MILITARY - Wyatt Conrady

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND

David Armbrust, Steve Aue, Jerry and Mary Berglin, Leola Dowling, Evelyn Fulkerson, Jerry Gehlbach, Bill Krepps, Amanda Leich, Patty McCann, Sandy Morgan, Helen Opperman, Carol Turner, John Wilmert

Staff of St. John United Church of Christ

Members and Friends of St. John UCC Ministers Rev. Laurie Hill Pastor

Rev. Laurie Hill Pastor
Darlene Begolka Office Manager
Carolyn Pech Financial Manager

Dana Denny Custodian

Steve Spaulding Maintenance Person

Laura Lee Organist

Darlene Begolka St. John Chimers Director

Calob Pluhm St. John Ringers and St. John Singers Director

Church Council for 2022-2023



Kent Paulus (Elder), President
Leland Semple, Vice President
Bill Gosda, Jr., Secretary
Jan Hahn, Current Fund Treasurer
Danny Row, Special Funds Treasurer
Bill Gosda, Jr., Financial Secretary
Jack Leich
Sandy Meinershagen (Elder)
Carolyn Pech
Tricia Pineda (Elder)

Contact us:

Email: stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com

Website: stjohnucclincolnillinois.com

St. John United Church of Christ 204 Seventh Street Lincoln, Illinois 62656 217-732-6957

Pastor Laurie's cell phone number: 217-521-7747
Pastor Laurie's email address: pastorlauriehill@gmail.com