

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

December 2022 Newsletter

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

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

Rev. Laurie Hill
Darlene Begolka

Pastor
Office Manager
December 2022



For

Unto us a

CHILD

is born

unto us a SON

is given, and the

Government shall be

Upon His shoulders,

& His name shall be called,

Wonderful, Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace!

Isaiah 9:6

FL.

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Christmas carols is “I wonder as I wander”. I hope you all enjoyed the mystical nature of this hymn as the bell choir played it during the first Sunday of Advent. The lyrics are

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
That Jesus my Savior did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

I think I relate to this hymn because for my entire life, it's been hard for me to believe that someone, a human being, would be born into this world and even into my own heart, for me! So many times, I've gazed into the sky and felt the “smallness” of my own self. Not only is this world filled with so many people, but so is time. All through the history of this world, millions and millions of people have been born, lived and died. Why would just lil' ol' me be worth someone coming into this world to live, teach, and die to rise again for “poor on'ry people like you and like I”.

But the fact is, Jesus, a tiny infant was born into this world just as much for my enemy as much as He was for me. That means that no matter what I've done, mistakes I've made, words I regret or should regret, mean thoughts and feelings I might think and/or feel, God offers me, even me, grace. And the same is true for every living being that has ever walked the face of the earth. So, even my enemies. Even those who think completely differently than me. Even those who believe the strangest things. Even those who believe nothing. We are all created in the image of God, filled with grace and love and peace and all things good. Wow. That's a lot to wonder about!

Clouds, the sun, stars and the moon, all speak to me about the vastness of God's created universe. God's awesome nature never fails to

speak to me. I hope that you wonder as you wander as well, whether it's under the sky or walking down the aisle at Walmart. I hope you really see how God's image is reflected back at all of us in the beautiful display of diversity of people, of things, of animals, of stars, of snowflakes. God is so great we cannot possibly comprehend, but I love and thank God that I am part of it. You and I are born into this world in this time and place to be here for each other and love one another and creation and the itty-bitty baby who is in God's arms. As Christ is born, yet another year, into our hearts, I invite you to wonder how you and I can be the reason for this season, since we carry the light of Christ in our hearts and into our lives.

Peace be with you all and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Laurie



**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 22, 2022**

Present: Kent Paulus, Carolyn Pech, Jack Leich,
Jan Hahn, Bill Gosda (via zoom),
Tricia Pineda, Dan Row,
Sandy Meinershagen,
Darlene Begolka (Office Manager) and
Pastor Laurie Hill.

Absent: Leland Semple

Guest: Justin Diedrich

President Paulus called the meeting to order at
7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

Pastor Laurie gave the invocation.

President Paulus indicated that Justin Diedrich from RTech Solutions was joining us as a special guest to give the Council and update on some of the technology issues within the church. Justin addressed the entry way TV/message board and informed Council it appeared to power on but there was no image. He recommends the TV be replaced with a Roku smart TV which can display our images as well as messages. President Paulus inquired if there was a warranty on the current TV and Justin stated he had emailed Samsung and did not receive a response. Justin estimated the cost of this project would be approximately \$400. The issue of a speaker in the cry room was then discussed. The issue of placing a TV in the cry room was also discussed and Justin indicated given the limitations the church has with the current network that has the potential to be problematic. The church would possibly need a network upgrade which could cost approximately an additional \$350 per month. The speaker would cost approximately \$475 - \$525 which would include labor.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

President Paulus inquired if there were any items up for discussion as it related to the Consent Agenda items. No issues or concerns were raised. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. All voting aye, the motion passed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

President Paulus inquired if everyone had reviewed the secretary's report and if there was any discussion needed. No issues or concerns were raised. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. All voting aye, the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Jan Hahn gave highlights of the various events she was involved in, which included the farewell party for Norma Kramer which was deemed a well-received success.

Jan then indicated the Memorial Committee is requesting approval from the Council to purchase two temperature-controlled rosters as well as a Bose Wave Music Machine for musical entertainment within the church and at various church functions. The funds would come from the Memorial Committee.

After discussion among the Council, it was moved and seconded to approve the two roasters and Bose Wave Music Machine. All voting aye. The motion passed.

Jan also gave an overview of the Veteran's Celebration that was much appreciated and a big success as well. She read an appreciation letter that she received from Bill Gossett who attended the celebration.

Jan also gave highlights for the Small Group Ministry (St. Joh Gamers, St. John's Diners) and the Special Events Committee.

Jack Leich brought up the Christmas Parade and wanted to know who would be passing out the pencils this year. After discussion, it was determined the Boy Scouts will pass out the pencils during the parade for St. John UCC.

PASTORS REPORT

Pastor Laurie provided Council a copy of her monthly report for review and highlighted some of the items on the report. She indicated she would now be present and working on December 1st

through December 5th as she originally had taken that time frame off.

OLD BUSINESS

Constitution and By-Laws: Sandy Meinershagen gave a thorough update to all the changes made to the current version and answered all questions by Council as needed. It was moved and seconded to recommend the changes at the congregational meeting in 2023. All voting aye. The motion passed.

Building Use Policy: The draft policy was discussed by Council and it was determined to modify some of the language. This subject will be revisited at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Nursery Care Contract: Pastor Laurie reported a candidate was contacted to see if they were interested in the position, however that candidate declined. It was decided that the position would be advertised outside of the church with a salary of \$15 per hour.

Annual Congregational Meeting: President Paulus reiterated the annual meeting would be held on January 29, 2023.

Nominating Committee: President Paulus indicated that Tricia Pineda, Jack Leich and Carolyn Pech will all be going off Council in 2023. President Paulus indicated that Jack Leich and Carolyn Pech would be tasked with seeking their replacements with the assistance of two who are non-Council members aiding in the search. The committee will report back to the Council in December.

Christmas Oranges and Apples: It was determined after discussion that 2 boxes of oranges will be ordered from Lincoln Rotary and given out at the Christmas Eve service.

Treasurer's Books Closing 2022: President Paulus indicated that the Treasurer's Books will close on December 30, 2022 at 12:00 noon.

Reports: President Paulus indicated any and all

reports for the Annual Report are due in the church office by January 6, 2023.

Next steps for ONA: Pastor Laurie presented a variety of next steps to pursue for ONA. After discussion it was decided that Pastor Laurie would contact LCHS to see if there is any active LGBTQ committee to possibly share some of their ideas on moving forward as well as seek volunteers via Chimes to serve on a committee for the church. The church will also be purchasing some decals to display at the front door and possibly on the office door. More discussion in next months meeting. Pastor Laurie will also look into possibly making some type of notation on Facebook regarding ONA as well as a scrolling slide to display every Sunday.

Stewardship #'s: President Paulus presented Council with the following numbers:

Current Funds-\$42,925
OCWN-\$5,674
Sister Church-\$2,028
Contingency-\$1,308
Good Samaritan-\$1,884
Total-53,819

It was moved and seconded to purchase a new TV/monitor for the church entrance and proceed with the purchase of a speaker being placed in the cry room. Estimated at a cost of \$900 with the funds to come from the technology funds and any back-up coming from LEEAP or Memorial monies. All voting aye. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE and EMAILS

President Paulus read a thank you note from Norma Kramer in regard to her farewell party and a thank you from the Lincoln Park district for the church's participation at the Halloween Fun Fest.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

With no further business to discuss the Lord's Prayer was recited. Meeting concluded at 10:0pm

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Pineda, Secretary Pro-tem



LOGAN COUNTY VETERANS CELEBRATION NEWS

Once again, St. John UCC was able to show the veterans of Logan County how much we love and honor their service to our country and to thank them for the sacrifices they and their families made so we can enjoy today's freedoms. We were unable to hold it in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID and so many veterans told us how much they missed us – just as we missed them.

The event was held at the American Legion in Lincoln. We would like to thank the following individuals:

Mayor Tracy Welch served as the MC
Presentation of Colors by American Legion Post 263

Invocation given by Pastor Laurie Hill

Dinner prepared by Nick Bay of

Lincoln Land Catering

SJUCC Boy Scout Troop 102

The Harvest of Talents Vocal Ensemble

Tim Searby, Director

Kay Dobson, Accompanist

District 27 School - For colored picture and notes
for the Mail Bags

Lynn Paulus - Pictures for Veterans

Welcome given by Kent Paulus, Council President

David Morrow gave a short program regarding

The Veterans Park which was his Eagle Scout
Project Updating Index of Veterans Names at
Park

Calob Pluhm sang "On Eagle Wings"

The Congregation of St. John - Without their
faithful encouragement and support this event
would not happen.

Laura Slayton

Gary Hickey

Dave Helm

Don Begolka (Chartered Organization
Representative for Boy Scout Troop 102)

The event's business sponsors were:

Atlanta Locker Service

The Atlanta National Bank

Atteberry Family

The Carpet House

Chicago Street Rentals – Perry Winebrinner and
Brandon Winebrinner

Corey Leonard – Shelter Insurance

Chris Coyne – State Farm Insurance

Culver's of Lincoln

Country Aire Restaurant in Atlanta

Graue, Inc.

Harris - Hodnett Insurance Services

Hartsburg Grain Company

David Helm

Holland Barry and Bennet Funeral Home

J.M. Abbott & Associates, Ltd.

Jim Xamis Ford/Lincoln

Johnson Real Estate – A Veteran Owned Company

Joyful Painting – Jody Phillips

Lincoln Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

Lincoln Daily News

Lincoln Printers

Logan County Paramedic Association, Inc.

Logan County Veterans Assistance Comm.

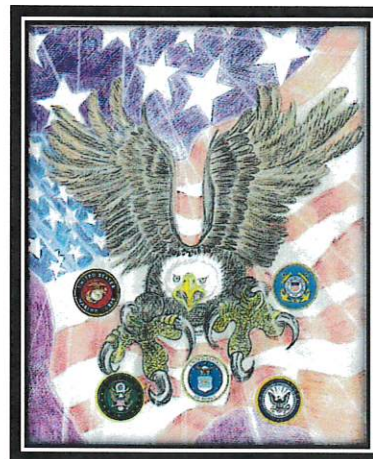
Mama's Arcade

ME Realty

Peggy's Place

Robert Maske (Given in honor of Wayne Sheley and
in memory of Orville Schaffer)

Rohlfs Implement Company



The cover of the evening's program was created by a disabled Logan County Veteran, Gary Hickey. He was able to be in attendance. His cover was featured in the slide show on New Herald News (Online). Dan

Tackett also covered our event on the front page of the Wednesday Lincoln Courier and shared the touching letter a student wrote to the veteran receiving this mail bag!!! Children have such a pure heart. The entire article is a must read! Lincoln Daily News also covered our event.

The Veterans and Guests who wished were delivered to the door by Roger Michalsen and Brian

Pineda in golf carts donated by Perry and Brandon WInebrinner of Chicago Street Rentals.

Lynn Paulus took pictures of the military groups and the veteran was presented with the picture when they left the event.

A new feature was added to mail bag presentations this year and the veterans loved it!!! Each veteran was recognized by name and handed his mail bag. Many veterans mentioned this was a first to be recognized individually.

A delicious dinner was delivered to the tables by the Boy Scout Troop 102. The veterans so appreciated not having to stand in line! This was prepared by Nick Bay and his talented employees of Lincoln Land Catering. Pork loin with bistro sauce, salad, loaded mashed potatoes and green beans almondine was served. Laura Slayton donated desserts which were a variety of flavors of cupcakes decorated in red, white and blue frosting and figures.

At the request of local veterans and members of our congregation, Paul Gleason was awarded a certificate of his appreciation for his dedication to the veterans having written 30-35 letters each and every month starting with the wars in Korea, Viet Nam, Afghanistan and Iraq. The veterans voiced their appreciation – especially if they did not get mail from home often there was a letter from Mr. Gleason.

Calob Pluhm performed a favorite of many of the veterans, *"On Eagle's Wings"*.

Bill Gossett was recognized as the oldest veteran in attendance. He is 98 years young and presented with a patriotic throw. On Wednesday, I received a letter from Bill. Below is a part of the letter:

" I will presumeto give a huge "THANK YOU" for all Vets there to St. John's for another successful Veterans Gala.To each and everyone (there were many) sincere MERCI BEAUCOUPS.

St. John's has a long history of service to the community; I am certain that this community appreciates the importance of the presence of your

church and what it has meant to this area over many years"

Other comments:

"The Veterans Celebration presented by St. John's was a great night" - Facebook Post

"Thank you for all your efforts and hard work all year long to create another wonderful celebration service to our country. There was so much attention to details and special touches. We had a wonderful evening".

"You all did great, one of the best programs I have attended."

"My husband loved that his name was called during mail bag presentation -- he said it was just like in the service! I appreciated the fact that each veteran was individually recognized. Please do this again next year."

"So glad to receive the picture! Thanks"

This is just a sampling of the comments, but I did want to share them with everyone.

Each business sponsor is awarded a certificate of appreciation and thanks!!

I would like to thank my committee who have worked so very hard all year not only to raise funds, brainstorm new ideas and to make it happen. They are Carolyn Pech, Laura Lee, Hannah Meece, Janet Johnson, Lee Westerfield, Marilyn Ambrust, Roger Michalsen, Jenna Michalsen, Marlene Wilmert, Darlene Begolka and Pastor Laurie

We were missing one of the original members of this committee, Selma Wilham. We lost Selma in 2021. Her contributions to this event over the years was so important. She is missed.

Once again, a thank you to everyone at St John UCC who have supported this event. Your ideas, donations, support and prayers are so needed and appreciated!!!

I would also like to say a huge thanks to our church office manager, Darlene Begolka. She creates fliers, placemats and programs for this event throughout the year. The sharing of her talents is greatly appreciated.

So many people are involved in this event. So many are behind the scenes, but they are so important. I hope I have not forgotten anyone!

Thanks again!!
Jan Hahn,
Committee Chairman



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, December 3rd
8:30 a.m.
Imo's Café**

All Men of the Church are Welcome.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023**

Committee Reports for the Annual Report
are due in the Church Office by
Friday, January 6, 2023.



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Leola Dowling
Evelyn Fulkerson
Bill Krepps
Susan Webb
John Wilmert

CASTLE MANOR

1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Jerry and Mary Berglin

COPPER CREEK

203 Stahlhut Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Steve Aue

CEDARHURST OF SPRINGFIELD

3520 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62711

Helen Opperman

CARRIAGE CROSSING SENIOR LIVING

1402 Leslie Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704

Sandy Morgan

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
Sunday, December 18th



The December St. John Diners outing will be a little different. The plan is to attend the LAMS Concert at 2:00 p.m. as a group. Following the concert, the group will go to El Mazaltan for dinner and a \$10 gift exchange.

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.

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.



WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

Jan Hahn at the death of her mother-in-law, Mary Hahn.

Judy and Jack Woodard at the death of her, brother, Bill Wilmert.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion
Saturday, December 24th
11:00 p.m.



Articles for the **January 2023** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **December 19th**.



PRIZES NEEDED

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 placed under "The Giving Tree." Thank you!!!

ATTENDANCE

October 31st

36 In-Person, 28 on Facebook, 15 bulletins mailed
and website = 79+

November 6th

45 In-Person, 100 on Facebook, 15 bulletins mailed
and website = 160+

November 13th

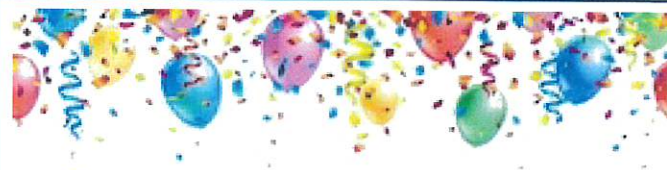
36 In-Person, 70 on Facebook, 15 bulletins mailed
and website = 121+

November 20th

36 In-Person, 59 on Facebook, 15 bulletins mailed
and website = 110+

November 27th

32 In-Person, 43 on Facebook, 17 bulletins mailed
and website = 92+



Celebrate Life Birthday Group
Friday, December 9th
11:30 a.m.
Cracker Barrel

**December birthdays will be
celebrated.**

Let Tonita Reifsteck or Sandy Wilmert
know if you are coming by December 6th.



OCTOBER FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance	\$11,803.86
Income	\$19,691.57
Expenses	\$22,517.57
Ending Balance	\$ 8,977.86



St. John Gamers
Sunday, December 11th
3:00 p.m.
Christmas Bingo

**Bring your favorite holiday treat
to share. Bring a white elephant
gift(s) for prizes.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

December 4th: Darlene Begolka
December 11th:
December 18th: Tonita Reifsteck
December 25th: No Worship Service

2022 TREASURER'S BOOK CLOSE



The treasurer's books for 2022
will close on Friday,
December 30th at 12:00 noon.
Any monies to be counted
toward 2022 must be in the
Church Office by that time. Monies received after
that time will be counted for 2023.



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

Dear members of St. John United Church of Christ,

Thank you for your wonderful donation of \$43. We truly appreciate your continued support of our church and mission work. What an incredible 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 our church.



Dear Kent and St. John Council,

Thank you for making October 30th so special for me! I appreciate all the planning and hard work that went into the day.

I enjoyed the beautiful flowers all week and was overwhelmed by the Love Offering. The reception and special cake were all beautiful. I love the card everyone signed.

I appreciate all your thoughtfulness and look forward to visiting St. John United Church of Christ when I can.

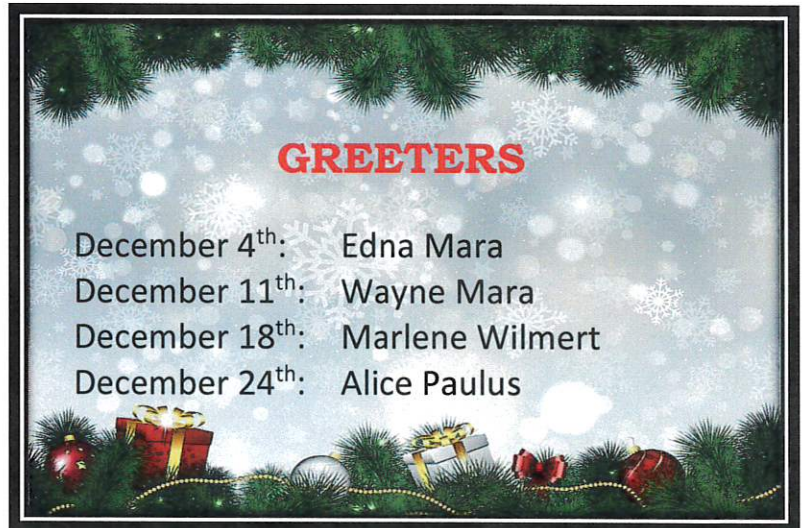
I am enjoying the Christian Village and looking forward to a good life here.

Thanks again,
God Bless,
Norma



Thank you! Thank you for being part of the Lincoln Park District's Halloween Funfest this year! We appreciate all of your help and we hope to see you again next year.

Allison Baker
Program Coordinator





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.**

You St. Johners and the Mission Committee support the community and especially the area young people in many ways. Here are the results of our recent projects:



Hats, Gloves and Scarves

It took five members of the Mission Committee to carry all of the winter warmers down to the front of the sanctuary on November 13th. We made our delivery to Community Action the next day. We were just in time too - just before the really cold weather we had recently.

In all we collected the following:

- 71 hats
- 84 pairs of gloves
- 15 scarves
- 2 earmuffs
- 1 head band
- 4 pairs of socks

Thank you very much to all who donated! We can be sure that kids will be warm whether they walk or ride to school.

Animals

Marlene recently delivered 100 Christmas-themed animals to the hospital for use in the emergency room. The ER is a scary place for kids and a cuddly animal might just bring a hint of a smile. Thank you to those who support this program!



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanks a lot, to all of you who added 'food pantry' to your grocery shopping list last month. Our Thanksgiving Food Drive was a good one with a nice display under the Giving Tree and bags in the sanctuary as well. Marlene and Jack delivered 20 boxes of food to the Community Action pantry on November 21st. The shelves will be crowded for a while now!

Six bags of groceries from our regular collection were also delivered early in the month.

Thank you for all of your support!

Pop Tabs



Hunting season brought our Florida kids to Lincoln. When they come, they always bring what my dad used to call 'loot'.

This time they brought 3 grocery bags full of pop tabs. These tabs were not ones that they had saved - we will get them later. These were tabs

given to them by friends who also want to support Ronald McDonald House. I am so happy that people far and near want to lend a hand.

I just learned that these two Ronald McDonald houses in Springfield and Peoria have served over 350 families so far this year. That comes to over 7,000 nights of stays. When their children are in the hospital, it is wonderful for parents to have a place to stay where they can do laundry, eat a home cooked meal and find comfort during a stressful time.

Thanks to all of you who save tabs and thanks to all who tell your friends about our mission work!!



You still have time to buy some toys! Toys, games, books and puzzles are all items that you can donate to Toys for Tots. Bring your toys to the Giving Tree by December 7th and drop them in the big box. There is also a can in the back of the sanctuary for your monetary donations.

Thank you for supporting Toys for Tots!



Christmas Cards

Greet your fellow St. Johners again this Christmas by putting your cards on the tree in the entryway. We want to hear from everyone! The tree will be up all month and the greetings will also be listed in the January Chimes.





OUTREACH and PUBLICITY

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

Outreach and Publicity met on Thursday, November 3rd in Wilmert Lounge.

Coffee Hour still looking for host/hostesses for Sunday to make coffee. Snack is optional.

Devotional Booklets for 2023 will again be available and obtained through Immanuel Lutheran Church Outreach. If more than 3 LARGE PRINT are needed see a member of Outreach. Devotionals are for self or to share with a friend.

Registration pad for visitors will be in the narthex and popcorn will be given to visitors as they are recognized by ushers or others.

Caroling is being allowed by facilities and will be on Sunday, December 11th promptly from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The route and times will be determined around the first of December. Only gift bags/notions can be given. No cookies.

Toni is to get stamps before increase. Lee donated a roll of stamps for the Prayer Chain ministry.

Laurie says there have been requests for shirts: Those requesting will have same logo/print as the original: Polo is \$35; Crew neck is \$16. See Laurie or Toni for this information/order,

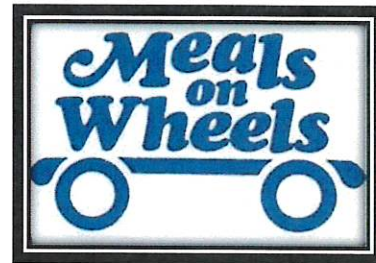
Meeting closed. Noting Thursday, January 5, 2023 is next Blood Drive at St. John UCC.

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.

VOLUNTEER

NEEDED – know of a recently retired friend looking for a chance to serve the community? Meals on Wheels has an opening for the 5th Friday of each month. Any questions or if interested please see Tonita Reifsteck or call 217-855-1645.



The ANGEL TREE

at St. Clara's will only be donations of SMALL ITEMS for individual bags – no purchases of individuals unless you want to pick someone and notify April in Activity or see Toni. Monetary donations will be appreciated as they fill a



GIFT BAG for each person. ITEMS can be put in basket under GIVING TREE marked ANGEL TREE/ST. CLARA'S. A cannister for monetary will be available in basket as well. Questions – see Toni

LINCOLN CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 1st

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the bus on Monday, November 28th at 4:00 p.m.

If you plan on riding the bus for the Christmas Parade; the bus leaves St. John at 5:30 p.m.

NEED walkers to pass out pencils.

ST. JOHN UCC CHARITY GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

By: Tonita Reifsteck

CELEBRATE LIFE met at El Mazatlan restaurant for their November birthday celebrations. 15 were present including Norma Kramer who came back to Lincoln to be with us. Birthday cards, Get Well and also some Thinking of You cards were signed to be sent.



Following our fellowship/lunch Karen called the Charity Guild meeting to order. Karen has volunteered to be Kitchen Supply liaison for one year, replacing Lynn Spellman. It was voted to retain the current slate of officers for the coming year. After many suggestions for the distribution of the Christmas gifts it was voted to present Pastor Charlotte Nold and St. John UCC, Chicago, Boy Scout Troop 1102, Habitat for Humanity of Logan County and Small Houses in Lincoln each a portion of the proceeds of the past year.

CELEBRATE LIFE will be at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 9th at Cracker Barrel. Call Sandy Wilmert or Toni Reifsteck to make a reservation before December 6th.

Karen Birnbaum, President
Marlene Wilmert, Vice- President
Sandy Wilmert, Treasurer
Tonita Reifsteck, Secretary
Members: all ladies of the church



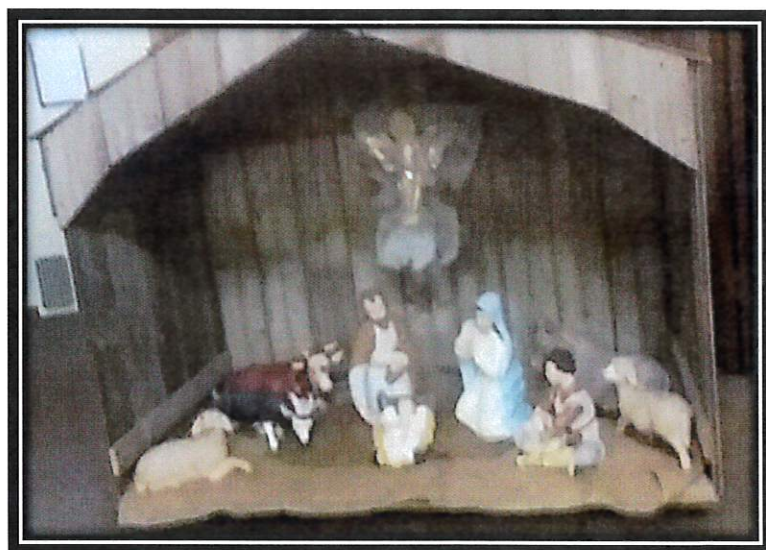
St. John ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET has arrived and will be available at the back of the sanctuary.

If you signed up for a copy, please check off your name and take a booklet.

If you have any questions, please see Tonita Reifsteck or call 217-855-1645.



To our Shut-ins on
Sunday, December 11th.
Leave the Church Parking Lot
at 1:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

Once again, we will be offering you the opportunity to make a donation to the Heifer Project in memory of your loved ones. In 2021 a total of \$1,315 was given and we were able to purchase a "Water for Life" program, send 2 girls to school and a flock of chicks.

Since, it was so well received last year we are going to repeat it for 2022.

You can learn more at heifer.org.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE...

For those who would like to participate an envelope has been provided in your Thanksgiving mailing. Please fill it out and then enclose your donation inside the envelope. Drop it in the designated offering plate on Sunday morning, or drop it off at the church office or place it in another envelope and mail it to the church office. It's that simple. We will need them returned by December 11th so a listing can be made for the December 18th bulletin. **Look for the paper ornaments on the tree in the entryway with animals on them.**



DECEMBER

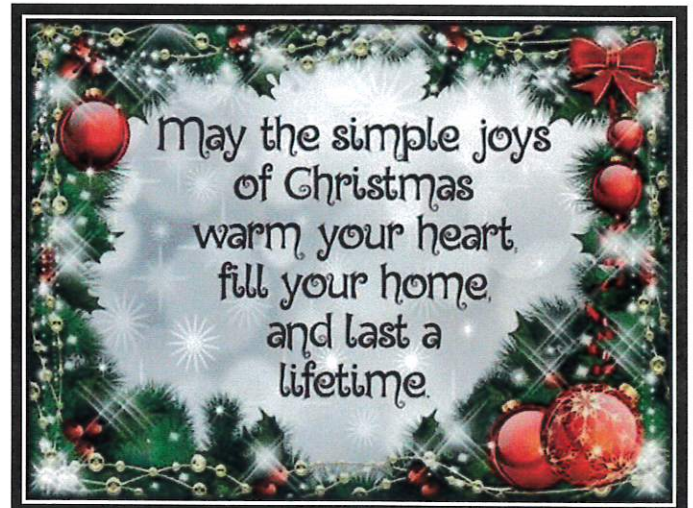
BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Dean Meinershagen
Dustin Paulus
Rich Reinwald
- 8 Peggy Goetsch
Silas Tockey
- 10 Meredith Wilmert
- 14 Marilyn Armbrust
- 17 Bill Gosda, Jr.
- 19 Roger Michalsen
Marlene Wilmert
- 20 Doug Reifsteck
- 29 Carolyn Pech
- 30 Greg Conrady
Meghan Kurtz
- 31 Angie Kurtz

DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Larry and Verdeen Ingram
- 9 Glenn and Terri Shanle
- 18 Leland and Becky Semple
- 27 Roger and Jenna Michalsen





December Calendar

Thursday, December 1st

Christmas Parade at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 3rd

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

Sunday, December 4th

St. John Ringers practice at 9:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

St. John Singers practice at 9:30 a.m.

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

Christmas Brunch following church

Monday, December 5th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7th

St. John Chimers practice at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 9th

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

Saturday, December 10th

Christmas Tea at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11th

In-Person/Live-stream Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice

St. John Singers practice

Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins at 1:00 p.m.

St. John Gamers at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 12th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 13th

Creative Delights at 3:00 p.m.

Cub Scouts at 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14th

St. John Chimers practice at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 18th

In-Person/Live-stream Worship at 10:00 a.m.

It's Birthday Sunday – Time to celebrate the
December birthdays

St. John Ringers practice

St. John Singers practice

St. John Diners – Attend LAMS Concert and out
to Dinner following concert

Monday, December 19th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21st

St. John Chimers practice at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with
Communion at 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th

Merry Christmas!!!

NO Church

Friday, December 30th

2022 Treasurer's Book close at 12:00 noon



PRAYER LIST

Linda Barrow
Wayne Bowns
Ron Brandy
Helen Dalpoas
Alta Gehrke
Cindy Hansen
Larry and Marcia Howen
Emily Jewsbury
Dwayne Keiffer
Sherri Mester
Drake Miller
Lynn Price
Mercedize Reyes
Alissa Smith
Kathy Staten
Jan Steele
Kent Tangman
Jim Walsh
Vicki Smith Williams
Leslie Wilmert
Fred Wiseman
Barb Braley
Sherry Reed
Kyle Lucas
Ann Holloway
Jen Steele
Harold Boyer
Lin Ziemer
Jackie Curry
Martha Pagel
Nathan Lucas
Ron (Donna's boss)
Lindsay (Donna's co-worker)
Donnie Kirk
Angela Rogers
Ruth Olson

Allen
Dustin
Wayne Moldenhauer family
Sandy Sanders
Kristin
Marie Johnson
Bob Sanders
Judy Woodard
Sophia
Kay Hurd
Bill Gosda, Jr.
Edna Mara
Donna Kessinger
Nancy Gehlbach
Debbie
Avery Burge
Jerry Berglin
Jim Fuhrer
Baby Shay
Pastor Laurie

Illinois Conference/Wester Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND

Dave Armbrust, Steve Aue, Mary Berglin,
Leola Dowling, Evelyn Fulkerson,
Jerry Gehlbach, Bill Krepps, Patty McCann,
Sandy Morgan, Helen Opperman, Susan Webb,
John Wilmert

Staff of St. John United Church of Christ

Members and Friends of St. John UCC

Rev. Laurie Hill
Darlene Begolka
Carolyn Pech
Dana Denny
Steve Spaulding
Laura Lee
Darlene Begolka
Calob Pluhm

Ministers

Pastor
Office Manager
Financial Manager
Custodian
Maintenance Person
Organist
St. John Chimers Director
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

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