ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

April 2023 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 54, No. 4

Pastor

Office Manager

April 2023

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday, April 2nd join us for the Palm Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. The St. John Chimers will perform "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna". Silas Tockey will sing "Ballad of the Carpenter". We will be waving palms on the hymns.

Maundy Thursday, April 6th the service will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The St. John Singers will sing "Nighttime in the Garden". The Sacarament of Holy Commuion will be observed and the service will end with the Service of Tennebrae.





On **Good Friday, April 7**th we have been invited to First Presbyterian for their40-minute "listening meditation" based on the Seven Last Words of Christ in Union Chapel. The meditation consists of poetry, scripture, and music, and it is meant to help us listen anew the story that is so familiar to us, to anchor it in the present, and to make space for reflection and prayer. They will offer the meditation eight times on Friday: 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 6:00. People are encouraged to come at the beginning of each offering so as not to disrupt others who might be there. Enter through the Ottawa Street door.

Easter Sunday, April 9th begins with the Easter Breakfast. Serving will be from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The menu includes Biscuits and Gravy, Egg Casserole, Fruit, Patries and Drinks. A sign up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary. Please sign up by April 3rd to help the committee plan accordingly.

Morning Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be at 10:00 a.m. All the choirs will be performing special music in celebration of Easter.



FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

One of the reasons I really love the UCC is that I get to be a member of a church. In the Presbyterian denomination, (that I was before I switched to UCC), the pastors are members of Presbytery, not the church. Truly, there are pros and cons to both ways but for me, I enjoy being a part of a church family. And for the last five years, I have been so grateful to be one of you. I have been not only your pastor but your sister in Christ. And now, as I leave to start my new adventure in Texas, I am passing on the gauntlet, so to speak, to a new pastor. But I will still and always be your sister in Christ. I will change my church membership to another family in the next few months, but I will always be grateful for my time with you.

And it's time for me to say Goodbye and Thank You! Thank you for your respect. I am so grateful for your respect for the calling of being your pastor. That's a huge thing nowadays. Pastors are leaving the ministry very fast and very few are wanting to join, largely because the respect for the position of pastor is often dwindling. Even though sometimes we disagree, I never have felt disrespected in your midst. I so very much have appreciated that! Thank you! And in that same vein, thank you for respecting the boundaries that I need, such as not abusing the boundary of the parsonage and not calling me on my day off or vacation time (unless it was an emergency). I so appreciate that you have respected these boundaries very well.

Thank you for allowing me to play bells and chimes! (And when I could sing, the choir too) This brought me great joy! I so loved making music with you! Thank you for indulging me all my gift giving. Perhaps some of you know the book about "love languages". One of my favorite love languages is giving gifts, so I love to give you something that will remind you of the sermon, the Scripture, or an important concept I was trying to

teach. And that's a huge thank you: Thank you for allowing me to teach! My heart longs to teach and so I hope you've learned some things from me. Of course, the best teachers are the best learners, and so you can be assured that I have learned from you as well.

Thank you for providing a wonderful staff! When I serve a church, I strive to work alongside the ministers who are doing wonderful things. Darlene has been faithful and diligent in providing bulletins. newsletters, power points and I've had the most fun with her doing the 3rd Friday and Halloween events. I love so much Laura's music! We are so lucky to have such a talented organist/pianist in our town! And Calob! Wow! What a wonderful, fun, and talented bell and choir director! His patience is outstanding but even moreso is his directing talent. Carolyn has also been diligent in paying taxes, bills and doing payroll! I enjoy her presence in the office! Dana has been a joy to work with and cleans better than I've ever seen. Steve's abilities to fix things is outstanding but his refinishing wood furniture is the best. So, I appreciate so much these fine people and I pray you continue to respect and enjoy their ministries as much as any other minister of God.

Thank you for being you! God made each one of you to be who you are! There is no one else like you. And just like our benediction song, I see the glory on each of your faces! Your smiles, your kindnesses, your vision, your compassion for mission, your love are all of what I will hold in my heart forever.

With Gratitude, Your sister in Christ and Pastor for a few more weeks, Laurie



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 20, 2023

Present: Kent Paulus, Leland Semple,

Silas Tockey, Jan Hahn, Dan Row, Bill Gosda, Jr., Sandy Meinershagen, Roger Michalsen, Keith Birnbuam, Darlene Begolka (Office Manager)

and Pastor Laurie Hill

Guest: Jason Maxheimer

President Kent Paulus called the meeting order on Monday, March 20, 2023. Pastor Laurie gave the invocation.

It was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Jason Maxheimer, Scoutmaster gave an update on the Sunken Garden project (which is an Eagle Scout project). They are waiting for the weather to stabilize. The Scout Troop would also like to attach wall hangers in the bus barn for structure poles.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Laurie gave each of the council members a book entitled "Declining Churches; Finding Hope".

OLD BUSINESS

Lincoln YMCA Update: Leland Semple reported on updates of the contract. The lawyer has had some recent health issues so the contract is pending. The rent per month was discussed. The contract length will be for one year. Our Office Manager spoke with organizations who our use facility to clear any scheduling conflicts. There are no current conflicts. YMCA would relocate in event of funerals, visitations, and/or other event that would conflict with programming. It was moved and seconded to proceed with the plan as stated by Leland. 6 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstain. Motion carried.

Interim Search Team and Pastoral Search Team:

The scope of the work for the Interim Search was prepared by Pastor Laurie, Roger Michalsen, Dan

Row and Jan Hahn and has been sent to Dr. Perdew.

Flags in the Sanctuary: Researching the possibility of getting new flags in the sanctuary. It was moved and seconded that the Memorial Committee investigate and be approved to purchase flags (American and Christian). All voting aye. Motion carried.

Carpet in Sanctuary: Gary Atteberry, Building and Grounds Chair is going to be asked to explore options.

NEW BUSINESS

Tech Team: The Tech Team recently met with RTech about ways to improve our live streaming capabilities. We are going to begin streaming on YouTube which can also continue our streaming on Facebook. We are going to add a second computer to take over the duties of live streaming. Cost of the second computer is \$790. It was moved and seconded to proceed with the Tech Team recommendations with monies coming from original technology budget. All voting aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was read from David Harris who is the trustee for the Thoren Family Charitable Trust. St. John UCC received a \$5,000 check from this trust. Emma Gimble, who was a member here, has very fond memories of the church.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Silas Tockey Church Council Secretary



The Church Council invites you to a Farewell Sunday for Pastor Laurie Hill on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Join us for morning worship at 10:00 a.m.

Catered Meal to follow the service.

(There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or call the church office to make a reservation).

Open House from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

NEW NAME and NEW TIME...



Creative Delights get a new name and a new time. Are you looking for a group that you can work on those unfinished craft projects, maybe put a puzzle together, do adult coloring or just come a socialize?

Creative Delights is now the new **Hobby Time**. **Hobby Time** will meet on the 1st Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

So, mark your calendars. Get those unfinished projects out of the closet or from under the bed or wherever and get yourself over to the church on Saturday, April 1st at 1:00 p.m. and start working on them. You may surprise yourself and get some Christmas gifts done early.

FROM THE ST. JOHN UCC SCHOLASHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES...

St. John UCC Scholarship Board of Trustees Meeting on March 13, the Scholarship Board of Trustees changed the Guidelines for Awarding the Christian Service Scholarship, formerly called the Bock Family Scholarship, by deleting the word fulltime. Now whether the candidate plans to seek a part-time or full-time position will be just one of many factors considered in choosing the winner. In addition, the Board changed the wording about required references and moved up the date applications are due from mid fall to June 15. This means that the scholarship will now be awarded for the fall semester, not the spring. Since students will now be made aware of our scholarship at the time they enroll, we hope to get more applicants. Application materials have been sent to financial aid offices at the CUE seminaries and to the Illinois Conference Minister and all Associate Conference Ministers.

Applications for the St. John Education Scholarship, which is awarded to members of the congregation pursuing education beyond high school, will be due July 21. The awards will again be made in August, just prior to the fall semester. Application forms will be available in the church office starting in mid-June.

Lynn Spellman, Chair



ST. JOHN DINERS Saturday, April 15th



The Small Group Ministry has planned that the April St. John Diners outing will be to Ted's Garage in Clinton, Illinois The bus will leave the church parking lot at 11:00 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.





Articles for the **May 2023** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **April 19**th.







10% of the sales that day will go to the 2023 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 to the Community we serve"



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656 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

ASHTON PLACE

4151 Ashton Road, Sarasota, FL 34233 Patty McCann

AT HOME

Dave Armbrust 922 Decatur Street, Lincoln, IL 62656

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 2nd:

April 9th:

April 16th: Church

April 23rd: April 30th:

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY ANNOUNCES A NEW OUTING...



Calling all those who like to watch movies. Do you enjoy watching movies, but don't like to go alone? Wait no longer and new group is starting.

They will meet on the last Saturday of

the month and either go uptown to see a movie or select one to watch at the church.

The first outing of the Movie Group will be on **Saturday, April 29**th. Watch for more details.



OUTREACH/PUBLICITY MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Jim and Leslie Wilmert and Tonita Reifsteck, Co-Chairs

Outreach/Publicity met on Thursday, March 2nd to finalize the Potato Bar details and update other projects in our care.

Toni reported that the VALENTINE SINGING was welcomed by all who were able to have them. St. Clara's had to cancel last minute but the residents of Castle Manor and Copper Creek welcomed us (Carolyn Pech, Carol Webb, Sandy Wilmert and Toni Reifsteck) and joined in singing with us for a delightful afternoon. Oh yes, we've been invited to come again!

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

Devotional Booklets for April, May and June 2023 are now available in Narthex of church. If more than 3 LARGE PRINT are needed see a member of Outreach. Devotionals are for self or to share with a friend.

GUEST Name Tags, Registration Book and Popcorn are now in the entryway to be supervised by the Greeters each Sunday. Space in the Narthex was preventing this from being effective. Wearing of Name Tags will be encouraged by Laurie and emphasized even more in May — making us more visitor friendly (and a help for our own who can't remember the name of that person!)

Potato Bar details finalized. Donations to go to the WIC program at the Lincoln Health Department for purchase of crib-sized quilts/blankets. Toni will talk with WIC to see if they have a resource. Jim has already googled it.

The POTATO BAR was a Delicious Success! The ovens worked (the dishwasher did NOT) — although potatoes were so big, it took longer! The group rallied to the challenge and 30+ diners loaded their potato and hot dog with as much as they desired and enjoyed a great time of fellowship. Several not

on the committee, brought desserts to be shared; THANK YOU Marilyn Armbrust, Sandy Meinershagen and Kaye Wilmert. Donations totaling \$175 has been designated to go to the WIC program (at Logan County Health Department) for the purchase of crib-sized blankets/quilts.



CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP DINES AT EL MAZATLAN...

CELEBRATE LIFE was enjoyed by 16 participants at El Mazatlan for the March birthday gathering. Cards were signed for shut-ins and birthdays of others of our church fellowship. HAPPY BIRTHDAY was sung to Donna Kessinger and Suzanne Tockey by the group and then SURPRISE – staff brought each of them their Ice Cream dessert and sang their native version of Happy Birthday!

April Celebrate Life will be held at 11:30 a.m. on April 14th at DIAMONDS Restaurant in Decatur. Reservations are requested to be called to Sandy Wilmert or Toni Reifsteck. If we are able to take the bus we will need to know who is riding. If we are carpooling we will need driver and/or need ride information. Norma says restaurant is similar to Imo's. Everyone is welcome.



WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

Judy and Jack Woodard at the death of her son, Robert "Bob" Rawlins.

The family and friends of Leola Dowling.



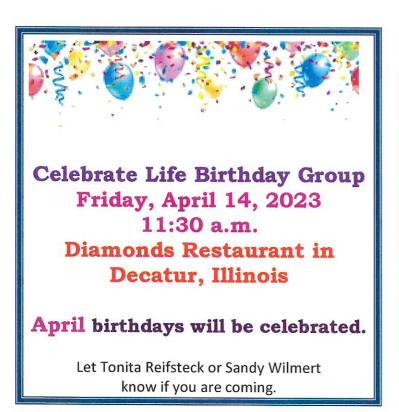
PROTOCOL

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.





FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance

\$64,891.16

Income

\$ 8,254.08

Expenses

\$21,869.50

Ending Balance

\$51,275.74

MISSION NEWS

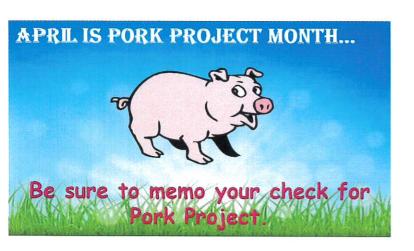
By: Verdeen Ingram, Co-Chair

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.

FOOD PANTYR NEWS: Five bags of groceries were delivered to CAPCIL for January. Eleven bags of groceries were delivered to CAPCIL for February which contained 70 cans of soup for Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday.

STUFFED ANIMALS: Also, in January 182 assorted Valentine stuffed animals were delivered to the ER at Lincoln Memorial Hospital. In February there were 125 assorted Easter stuffed animals delivered. It was so rewarding to hear John Stoltzenburg thank St. John UCC for providing this service. They were so appreciative of our efforts. And thank you, the congregation, for making this possible!!





THE GIVING TREE

Come into the church and what do you see?
A great opportunity for you and for me.
Just one look and you will agree,
It's perfectly natural - The Giving Tree!



At St. John we celebrate Earth Day not just on April 22nd but every day - right here under The Giving Tree. Stop by and take a look at all of the ways you can help to protect God's Earth and God's people.

As a reminder:

Caps and Lids - Plastic caps and lids are made into benches and other items useful to the community. These caps may include those from containers such as milk, juice and detergent bottles. Lids come from containers such as cottage cheese and margarine. Currently these caps and lids will be given to the LCHS Leaf Club and the Lincoln Rotary.

Pop tabs - The tabs are taken to Ronald McDonald house in Springfield where they help to provide housing for families of children who are hospitalized or in treatment in Springfield and Peoria.

Aluminum cans - The money raised from the can collection is given to the Logan County Humane Society.

Athletic shoes - Used and worn-out athletic shoes are taken to Nike outlets. They are ground up and used for playground and court surfaces.

Printer cartridges - Used ink cartridges support and are recycled by the Hartsburg Emden school district.

Eyeglasses - These are given to the Lion's Club for their eye glass projects.

Cell phones - The phones will be given to shelters for use as emergency phones.

Cancelled stamps - We give the stamps to the catholic church. They are a source of income for the nuns.

Re-chargeable batteries - Our only goal here is to keep these things out of the landfill!

Bingo prizes - St. Clara's is always looking for prizes that the people in the nursing home will enjoy.

Craft items - This bucket includes a variety of items that can be used for crafts for the kids at Christian Child Care. Toilet paper and paper towel rolls, egg cartons and anything else that can be used for

crafts are welcome. We also send them our used greeting cards for their crafts.

Greeting cards - New cards are used here at St. John. Used cards, as noted above, are given to Christian Child Care.

Plastic grocery bags and Newspapers - These are given to the Humane Society.

Small and Empty prescription bottles - The bottles are used by the Humane Society when sending home, a supply of pills for a new pet.

Kleenex and wipes - All of the schools need lots of these.







- 9 Esther Denney
- 13 Brady Curry
- 16 Emmett Nowack
- 17 Heather Goetsch
- 20 Karen Birnbaum
- 25 Mary Fuller Laura Lee
- 27 Robert E. Lenhardt Wayne Mara Betsy Pech
- 29 Becky Rader



ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Randy and Betsy Pech
- 13 Steve and Elaine Aue
- 20 Rich and Rochelle Joseph



Are you or someone in your family graduating from 8th grade, High School or College this year? Please let the church office know as soon as possible. Thanks!



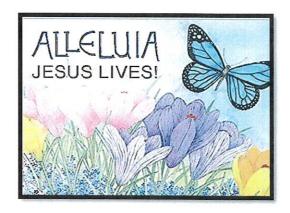
SHHHH!!! SURPRISE CARD SHOWER 90th BIRTHDAY

On April 25th **Mary Fuller** will be celebrating her 90th Birthday!

Mary has for years, and still does send scores of cards to others each month. Charity Guild members would like to **SURPRISE** her with notes and cards to brighten her day/life. You can mail to her home: 1037 North Madison Street, Lincoln, Illinois 62656 – give to her personally or put in the box under the Angel Tree at church. Any questions see Karen Birnbaum, Sandy Wilmert, or Toni Reifsteck



Prairie and Western Associations Joint Spring Meeting Saturday, April 29, 2023 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pilgrim Park Camp





Saturday, April 1st

Men's Fellowship at 8:30 a.m. Hobby Time from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 2nd

Coffee Hour at 9;15 a.m.

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

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Singers practice at 11:30 a.m.

Monday, April 3rd

Spring Flower orders due Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 p.m.

St. John Chimers at 7:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9th

Easter Breakfast

Serving from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

In-Person and Live-stream Worship Service with the Holy Communion at 10:00 am Children of Lincoln Special Offering Sunday

Monday, April 10th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11th

Cub Scouts at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12th

All Day Fundraiser for the Veterans Celebration at the Country Aire Restaurant in Atlanta St. John Chimers at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 14th

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

Saturday, April 15th

St. John Diners

Sunday, April 16th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

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

It's Birthday Sunday – April Birthdays Farewell Dinner following church Open House from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Monday, April 17th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19th

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

Friday, April 21st

LCT Auditions

Saturday, April 22nd

LCT Auditions

Sunday, April 23rd

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

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

Diaper Project Special Offering Sunday

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Singers practice at 11:30 a.m.

Monday, April 24th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 26th

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

Saturday, April 29th

Western Association Spring Meeting Monthly Movie Event

Sunday, April 30th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

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

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Singers practice at 11:30 a.m.



PRAYER LIST

Linda Barrow

Sherri Mester

Drake Miller

Alissa Smith

Leslie Wilmert

Harold Boyer

Jackie Curry

Martha Pagel

Judy Woodard

Barb and Don Bauer

Larry Ingram

Andrew Tabor

Carolyn (Laura Lee's sister)

George Wilmert

Emma and Daris Knauer

Harlan Atteberry

Bill Dennis

Cheryl F.

Katrina Opperman

Allen Stout

Lynn

Cherl Hartbank

Wayne Mara

Rev. Bob Sherman

Rev. Mark Binder

Nolan (Cousin of Calob)

Debbie Stout

Illinois Conference/Western Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:

Dave Armbrust
Steve Aue
Jerry and Mary Berglin
Evelyn Fulkerson
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 Ministers
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 2023-2024



Kent Paulus (Elder), President Leland Semple, Vice President Silas Tockey, Secretary Jan Hahn, Current Fund Treasurer Dan Row, Special Funds Treasurer Bill Gosda, Jr., Financial Secretary Keith Birnbaum Sandy Meinershagen (Elder) Roger Michalsen (Elder)

Contact us:

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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"