

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

June 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. David Marquardt

Darlene Begolka

Volume 54, No. 6

Bridge Pastor

Office Manager

June 2023

Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the Serenity
to accept the things I cannot change.
The courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is;
Not as I would have it;
Trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely
happy with You forever in the next.

AMEN

Reinhold Niebuhr



FROM OUR PASTOR

People say that time is the one thing we 'spend' that we can never get back. Therein, it's always a good idea to look at where we're 'spending' our time. This has really become true in our family as we've reached retirement age. Being bi-vocational makes this a bit of a challenge, but we do assess our time management on a daily basis. While I've not quit my consulting business altogether, I do cut back more and more every day. But the opposite is true for my ministerial career and calling, where it seems like I'm "spending" more and more time. All of this to say, and maybe to ask, *where on earth has the last month gone!* It seems like only yesterday that I and my family began worshipping with all of you at St. John UCC. And, while only God knows how long our relationship will last, these are definitely days well 'spent'.

So how about you? How are you 'spending' your time? Where is your worship of God in the course of your busy, busy days? Well obviously, we will all answer these questions differently. But regardless of how we answer, it's important that we each set some daily time aside for worship.

Our scripture for June 4th, Trinity Sunday, is what we know as the Great Commission. This is found in Matthew 28:16-20 as follows;

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

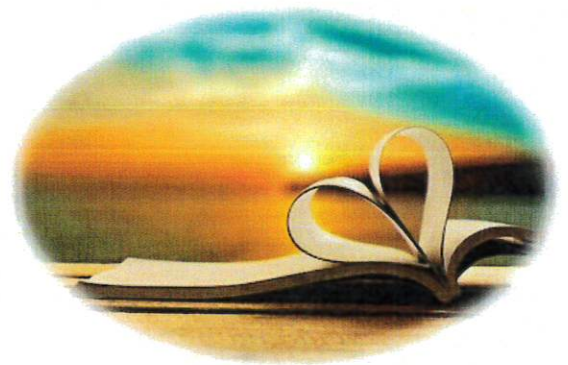
This charge to 'go and make disciples of all nations', are Jesus' last words to his disciples, and I think to us as well. But let's face it, it's very hard to bring up and talk about Jesus. Sure, we do well in

church or small groups, but how about the 'nations'? How about to those we know and socialize with who are outside of our religious circles? For most of us, it's pretty hard to add Jesus to pleasant conversations about our families, the kids, the ball game, or other interests in our lives. And I think the primary reason, is that we're just not comfortable with our own understanding of the Trinity.

In verse 17 of the scripture above, we read ¹⁷ *When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.* While we don't know why the disciples doubted, we do know that the more we understand something, the easier it is to speak about it. And while we may not have doubts about the Trinity, God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit, I do think we have doubts about our own ability to honor Jesus' Great Commission. Which brings us back to the question of how we 'spend' our time. In my world, I find that I spend a lot more time praying, reading, and growing closer to God, when I'm actively serving a church. Sure, some is out of necessity, but much of it is out of a desire for a deeper understanding of the scripture for that week's meditation.

As I started out, our time is the one thing we 'spend', that we can't get back. I'm thankful for this point in time as we are worshipping together and I'm spending a bit more time in prayer and scripture. This is time 'well spent', and I pray that we all will look at our days, and think about how we might spend more time growing in our understanding of God's Trinity. It's then that we'll also grow in our ability to honor Jesus' command to take the Gospel to all of the nations.

Grace, peace, and blessings,
Pastor David



**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 15, 2023**

Present: Kent Paulus, Leland Semple,
Silas Tockey, Jan Hahn, Dan Row,
Bill Gosda, Jr., Sandy Meinershagen,
Roger Michalsen, Keith Birnbaum,
Darlene Begolka (Office Manager)
and Pastor David Marquardt

Guest: Laura Lee

President Kent Paulus called the meeting order on Monday, May 15, 2023. Rev. David Marquardt gave the invocation.

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

Jan Hahn reported that the Special Events Committee was planning a Potluck Dinner following church on Sunday, May 21, 2023 to welcome Pastor David and family. Meat, drinks and table service will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. The committee is also planning a 4th of July Cookout/Potluck and Games sometime in July.

Jan Hahn also reported for the Veterans Celebration. They are awaiting approval from the County Board for a permit to hold a raffle. They are planning a Bake Sale for the weekend of June 9th and 10th at the VFW (this is Route 66 Garage Sale).

Laura Lee, Chair of the Parish Visitation Committee attended to get some guidance from the council for the Parish Visitation Committee. Perhaps a visitation log or calling card. There is also some information on the UCC website.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor David discussed some new worship practices.

OLD BUSINESS

YMCA – Their move-in dates are May 22nd and May 23rd. Start date is Tuesday, May 30th.

Interim Search Team – One profile so far.

Pastoral Search Team – They are working on the church profile.

3rd Fridays Downtown – This event starts on Friday, May 19th. St. John UCC will have their Pick Up a Duck Booth.

NEW BUSINESS

Communion Materials – Getting a schedule set-up. Setting out of materials the day before.

June – Bill Gosda, Jr. and Jan Hahn;

July – Leland Semple and Kent Paulus;

August – Keith Birnbaum and TBA

Name on Front Sign – Need to put Rev. David Marquardt's name on the front sign.

Transfer of Membership Request – Rev. Laurie Hill has requested that her membership be transferred to First Congregational United Church of Christ in Houston, Texas.

Office Door Sign – The sign needs to be replaced. It was damaged during one of the windstorms.

Other – Cybersecurity concerns, Music License status

CORRESPONDENCE and EMAILS

We received a thank you note from Pastor Laurie for all the festivities on Farewell Sunday.

ADJOURNMENT and BENEDICTION

Meeting adjourned with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Silas Tockey
Church Council Secretary



Articles for the **July 2023** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **June 19th**.

ST. JOHN DINERS
Saturday, June 17th
Bella Trattoria
5:30 p.m.



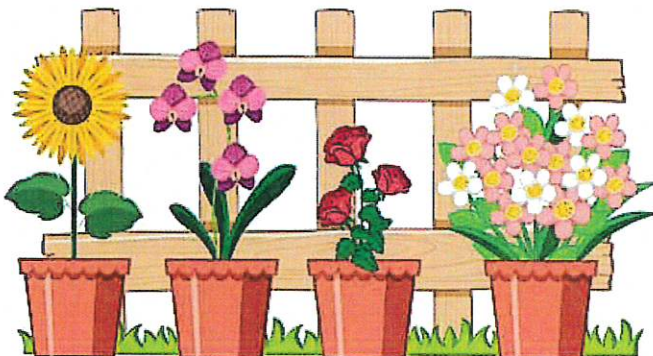
The Small Group Ministry has planned that the June St. John Diners outing will be to Bella Trattoria in Williamsville.

The group will leave the church parking lot at 5:00 p.m.

Reservations are for 5:30 p.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.



ATTENDANCE

April 30th

38 In-Person, 88 on Facebook, 16 bulletins mailed and website = 142+

May 7th:

36 In-Person, 75 on Facebook, 16 bulletins mailed and website = 127+

May 14th:

58 In-Person, 32 on Facebook, 16 bulletins mailed and website = 106+

May 21st:

45 In-Person, 43 on Facebook, 15 bulletins mailed and website = 103+



Saturday, June 3rd

8:30 a.m.

Imo's Café

All Men of the Church are Welcome

ALTAR FLOWERS

June 4th:

June 11th:

June 18th:

June 25th:



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



HELPERS NEEDED to deliver Meals On Wheels.
3 spots open.

Co-helper needed on both 1st and 4th Mondays.

A pair for the first Friday of each month.

If you know of someone who might be interested or have any questions see or call Toni Reifsteck 217-855-1645. (Time of route 1½ hour)



13th ANNIVERSARY OF CASTLE MANOR

The public is invited to celebrate the
13th Anniversary of the opening of
Castle Manor

(1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln)
at an Open House
on Friday, June 9, 2023.

Donuts and drinks will be served
from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Cake Cutting celebration will be at 1:00 p.m.

OUTREACH/PUBLICITY MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Jim and Leslie Wilmert and
Tonita Reifsteck, Co-Chairs

Outreach and Publicity met on May 4th.

Noted that greeters in entryway will encourage visitors to sign the book, take a GUEST pin and bag of popcorn. Congestion in Narthex has made greeting guests difficult.

Name Tags for new members and Pastor David's family have been ordered. Ushers are to encourage worshippers to wear to help Pastor and his family get acquainted.

Sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour during the summer will be in Narthex – encouraging other than Outreach to share in the fellowship treat. Questions – see Outreach.

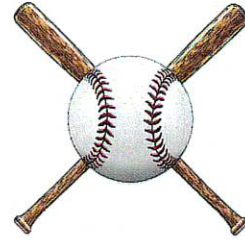
Membership Fee at Kickapoo Park for our use with CELEBRATE LIFE and other groups has been paid.

Toni announced that we will be sponsoring an 11–12-year-old girls team at Lincoln Rec. Game Schedule is at the end of article. Team will be treated on either June 13 or 14 following their game on Field A. Treats following the home games will also be given by the ministry.

POST MEETING: On May 16th, Nancy Leich, Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Sandy Wilmert and Tonita Reifsteck delivered 15 crib blankets to WIC from the proceeds of the Potato Bar in March. (Jack Leich and Lee Westerfield weren't able to help). Excited to accept them were WIC employees: Dana Oltmanns, Katie Samson and Sara Notto as they return to 'in person contact' for infant programs.



PLAY BALL...



12U GIRLS SOFTBALL
ST. JOHN UCC
COACH: DAWN CRAWFORD

HOME Games in BLUE at the Park District
AWAY Games in RED

June 2nd @ 6:00 p.m.
Field B – Lincoln vs. Mackinaw

June 5th @ 6:00 p.m.
Field A – Lincoln vs. Midwest Spirit

June 6th at 6:15 p.m.
Rochester Field 3 (Ebel Road in Rochester)
Rochester vs. Lincoln

June 8th @ 6:00 p.m.
Spartan Park (7250 Iron Bridge Road in Chatham)
Chaos vs. Lincoln

June 9th at 6:00 p.m.
Field B – Lincoln vs. Mackinaw

June 13th at 6:15 p.m.
Field A – Lincoln vs. Riverton (Waters)

June 14th at 6:15 p.m.
Field A – Lincoln vs. Riverton (Langfelder)

TEAM TREAT at Culver's after game on
June 13th or 14th

CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP...

By: Tonita Reifsteck



On May 12th St. John UCC members gathered in the sanctuary of the trees of Kickapoo Park for the monthly CELEBRATE LIFE fellowship. The rain had quit – the shelter was made ready by the groundskeeper for us and although few in number all enjoyed the symphony of the birds and the gentle breeze moving the leaves above us. Sack lunches were enjoyed and Sandy Wilmert introduced the theme of the day – “favorite vacation” found us in places from locally to spots and events around the world. A collection of St. John’s Pictorial Directories were also a part of memory lane. Cards were signed for birthdays, a get-well and wedding anniversary. None of the May birthdays were present for Happy Birthday.

Celebrate Life will continue to meet at the first shelter in Kickapoo Park at 11:30 a.m. all summer. This will be a bring your own lunch and drink. In case of rain, we will meet at the church. Reservations will not be necessary for these months, but is open to anyone who wants to join the fellowship and CELEBRATE LIFE.

ROUTE 66 GARAGE SALE at the VFW JUNE 9-10, 2023



The Veterans Ministry will have a spot at the VFW for the Route 66 Garage Sales the weekend of June 9-10, 2022 for a Bake Sale. Baked goods are welcomed. Hours are on Friday, June 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 10th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN GAMERS

Sunday, June 11, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

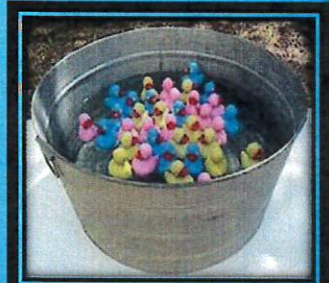


Come and enjoy an afternoon of Fun
and Fellowship.

St. John UCC will be participating in the
3rd Fridays Downtown Event on
Friday, June 16th. This family event runs from
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

We will have our Pick-Up a Duck Game set up.
Sound like fun?

Volunteers are needed to
help run the game. Can
you help out for an hour
or so? Please let the
church office know.



APRIL FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance	\$27,921.78
Income	\$12,606.28
Expenses	\$25,625.39
Ending Balance	\$14,902.67



Celebrate Life Birthday Group

Friday, June 9th

11:30 a.m.

Kickapoo Creek Park

(In case of rain the group will meet at the church.)

Bring your lunch and drink.

June birthdays will be celebrated.

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.

2023 GRADUATES FROM THE ST. JOHN UCC CHURCH FAMILY

Dean Meinershagen

From West Lincoln Broadwell School
Son of Troy and Jean Meinershagen
Grandson of Bob and Sandy
Meinershagen

Miley Bruder

from Poplar Bluff Junior High School in
Poplar Bluff, Missouri
Daughter of Richard and Allicent Bruder
Granddaughter of Randy and Betsy Pech
Great Niece of Carolyn Pech

Hayden Mooneyhan

From Sycamore Middle School in
Pleasant View, Tennessee
Daughter of Jeff and Sara Mooneyhan
Granddaughter of Dave and Marilyn
Armbrust

Jane Spellman

From Corona del Sol High School in
Tempe, Arizona
Daughter of Charlie and Miki Spellman
Granddaughter of Hank and Lynn
Spellman

Emma Gehlbach

From University of Minnesota
Daughter of Brian and Krista Gehlbach

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.**

Recycling

At St. John we are always recycling, but this month has been an especially busy one. After collecting your recyclables, it is nice to be able to move them out of the church and put them to good use.

Larry delivered a load of aluminum cans to Lincoln Iron and Metal. We received \$41.20 for the cans. This money goes directly to the Humane Society.

Lynn Spellman took a big load (10 bags) of caps and lids to the Women's Club for their project and Larry and I delivered another load of 20 bags to Kirby Rodgers for the Rotary project. Thirty bags of caps and lids! We had saved them up for a couple of years because it took a little while after the pandemic for groups to start these projects again.

With empty space in the Mission room, we look forward to your donations so that we can continue our community support.

Thanks for recycling!

June Food Item Is...



Food items are delivered to the
Community Action Food Pantry.
All non-perishable items are **WELCOME.**

GREETERS

June 4 th :	Jack and Nancy Leich
June 11 th :	Carolyn Pech
June 18 th :	Toni Reifsteck
June 25 th :	Verdeen Ingram





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 a member of our church who are on the visitation list. Let's fill her mailbox on her birthdays.

Dear St. John UCC family,

It seems that I'm in another world here in Texas yet, I know we are and always will be part of each other for years to come. My gratitude for all the memories is the deepest and I will cherish them forever. I'm grateful that God led us together and grateful we had such fruitful years together.

I'm also grateful for the beautiful goodbye luncheon and open house.

The stole is beautiful and I will treasure it and remember you and all your many colors as I wear it and see the beautiful butterflies. Thank you so much for the love offering. Moving ourselves (with Dana and Anthony's help) was difficult but you helped offset that cost. Now that we're settling into our new nest we appreciate having some extra cash as well. I feel your love!

Although, we need to be separated now for a year in contacts I hold you all in prayer as you carry your faithfulness and fruitfulness forward into your next chapter. And if anyone visits Galveston, please visit! I hope to take the month of May off but will be exploring ministry here in the Houston area or maybe I'll work at Hallmark— I'm not sure yet.

Many blessing!
Gratefully,
Rev. Laurie Hill



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





Thursday, June 1st

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
LCT at 6:30 p.m.
Outreach and Publicity at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 2nd

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 3rd

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

Sunday, June 4th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service with Communion at 10:00 a.m.
(In-Person/Live-stream)

Monday, June 5th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 6th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 8th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 9th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Celebrate Life Birthday Group at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 11th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (In-Person/Live-stream)
St. John Gamers at 2:00 p.m.

Monday, June 12th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 13th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 14th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 15th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 16th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
3rd Fridays Downtown from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 17th

St. John Diners

Sunday, June 18th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (In-Person/Live-stream)

Monday, June 19th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.
Church Council at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 20th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21st

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 22nd

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 23rd

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 25th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (In-Person/Live-stream)

Monday, June 26th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 27th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 28th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 29th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 30th

YMCA from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

NOTE: LCT will be here Sunday through Thursday from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.



PRAYER LIST

Linda Barrow
 Sherri Mester
 Drake Miller
 Alissa Smith
 Leslie Wilmert
 Harold Boyer
 Jackie Curry
 Judy Woodard
 Barb and Don Bauer
 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
 Debbie Stout
 Michael Matas
 Kurt
 Jim
 Zoe
 Larry Westerfield
 David
 Lena
 Laura Malcott family
 Phillip Dehner

Kathy Staten
 Tony Nemeth
 Brian Boyer
 Anita
 Sandy Sanders
 Connie Custis Hahn

Illinois Conference/Western Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:

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

Rev. David Marquardt
Darlene Begolka
Carolyn Pech
Dana Denny
Steve Spaulding
Laura Lee
Darlene Begolka
Calob Pluhm

Ministers

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