

# ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

*Published monthly in the interest of*



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

**August 2023 Newsletter**



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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**"Letting God's love shine through us to the Community we Serve"**

Rev. David Marquardt

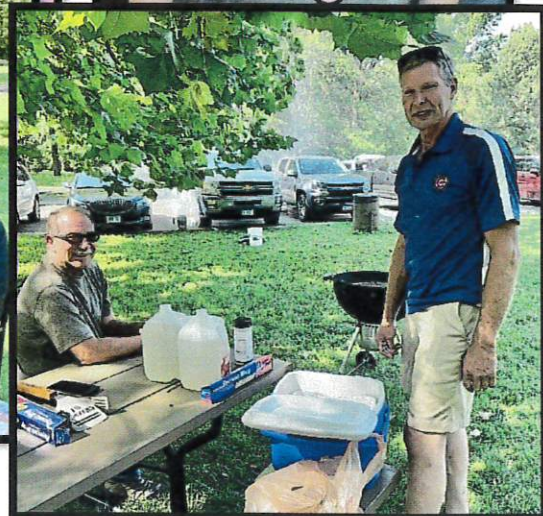
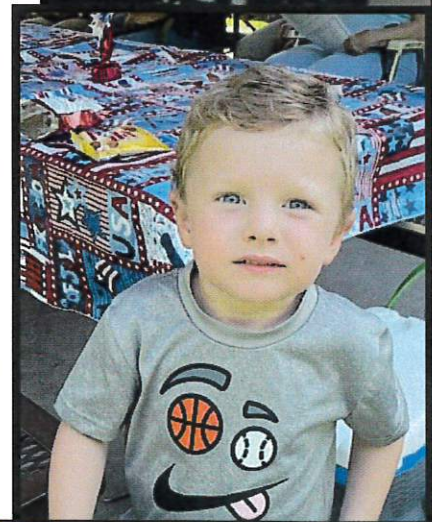
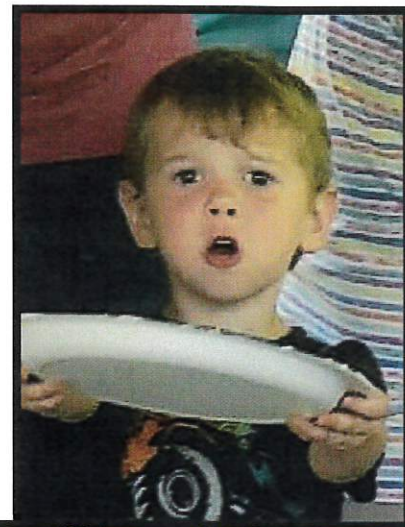
Darlene Begolka

Volume 54, No. 8

Bridge Pastor

Office Manager

August 2023





## FROM OUR PASTOR

Do you ever wonder what it must have been like to have been one of the original 12 disciples? I do all the time. It's really interesting to read scripture, while mentally placing ourselves within the text, within the setting, and within the times of Christ.

I wonder; what must it have been like to watch Jesus heal the leper and the lame, or to feed the masses with 5 loaves and 2 fish, or still the waters and walk on the same. How many times in our lives have we found ourselves saying 'I wish I could have been there' in reference to a ball game, a music concert, or other event that we've missed? But do we ever wish we could have been there to watch the miracles of Jesus take place? Even just to watch him turn the water into wine would have been something we would have talked about for many years to follow.

So while it would have been really cool to have been there during the miracles, healing and feeding, it would have been equally as troubling, to have been at his feet when he uttered these words from Luke 12: <sup>49</sup> *"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ....<sup>51</sup> Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. <sup>52</sup> From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."* (We studied Matthew's version of this in chapter 10 on June 25<sup>th</sup>.)

Imagine the confusion that must have been in their hearts, as they heard this kind, caring, and compassionate man, talk of bringing fire and division. But as we learned on Sunday, Jesus was talking about what it will be like if we, as well as the disciples, lived as he taught us to live. The reason Jesus predicted division, was because Jesus' ways, were not the ways of the world. And when

Jesus went against the status quo, he stirred up division and created chaos.

So, in June as we further explored how we could live into this lesson, we realized that if we live and act as Jesus taught us to live and act, then we too will be going against the mainstream of society. And to a large degree, the challenge we all face, is how to live like Jesus. Because in every day of our lives, we will see places where we know Jesus would say something different than is being said, or act on something that isn't being acted upon. And often, it is our in-action, that makes us guilty of not being like Jesus.

So why? Why is it that we're afraid to act like or speak like Jesus? Well again, as we heard in June, the answer is that we don't like chaos and conflict in our lives. Instead, we'd rather 'go with the flow', or more so, the 'status quo'. The last thing we want to do is rock the boat, so instead we turn and look the other way.

But that wasn't Jesus' way, and that's what he's telling us and his disciples. The text in Luke says that Jesus came to bring fire and division. The division we get; dividing right from wrong, but the part about the fire is harder to understand. Fire in the Old Testament often referred to judgment, and in the New Testament, it generally referred to the gift of God's Holy Spirit. So what Jesus is saying, is that he came to bring judgment on the earth, and that it will be through the strength and power of God's Holy Spirit, that we will be convicted to also live and act like Jesus.

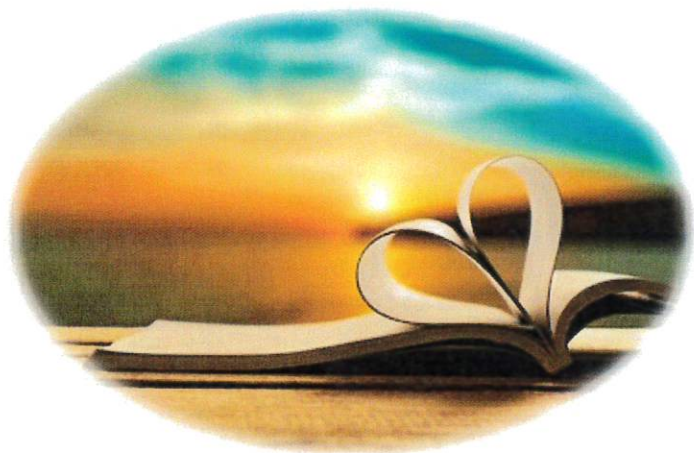
So, the questions I leave us with are these; are we willing to go against the flow, if the flow is going in the wrong direction? Are we willing to speak when we see wrong and accept the conflict and chaos that Jesus speaks of? Are we willing to be the hands and feet of Christ, even when it's not the way that's most popular?

You see these are questions we deal with every day, when we turn the other way instead of the

other cheek, or go with the flow, instead of following our hearts and souls. If we are to 'be like' Jesus, then division has been promised to us, and we need to decide whose team we're on, day in and day out, and moment to moment.

May God's Holy Spirit convict each of us, not only to hear and to see, but also to act and to speak.

God's peace and blessings.  
Pastor David



Articles for the **September 2023** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **August 19<sup>th</sup>**.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

August 6<sup>th</sup>: Nancy Gehlbach  
August 13<sup>th</sup>: Peggy and Warren Goetsch  
August 20<sup>th</sup>: Laura Lee  
August 27<sup>th</sup>: Bob and Sandy Meinershagen

## ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Monday, July 17, 2023 7:00p.m.

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

President Kent Paulus called the meeting order on Monday, July 17, 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 for Special Events regarding the recent Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic. Thanks to all.

Jan Hahn reported on the St. John Diners outing to Springfield to Westwoods Lodge Pub and Grill.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor David made some comments concerning worship. Also, thanks for the Outdoor Worship Service.

### OLD BUSINESS

**YMCA:** Things seem to be going well.

**Interim Search Team:** Only one candidate so far

**Pastoral Search Team:** Church Profile has been sent to the Conference Office. Delays have occurred at the Conference Office.

**3rd Fridays Downtown:** Everything in place for another exciting evening. Set-up crew will meet at 4:00 p.m. to pick up tables, chairs and supplies.

**Other:** Stole for Pastor Laurie still in limbo.

**Other:** Discussion regarding how to bring old members back and bring in new members.



## NEW BUSINESS

**Sunday School Curriculum:** There has been some discussion about starting Sunday School up again. We need to get everything in place including curriculum, background checks and teachers.

**Youth Funds at Edward Jones:** The Youth Funds at Edward Jones were tabled till next month.

**Housekeeping on Special Funds Report at State Bank:** It was moved and seconded to move the Building Restoration Account Funds to the Endowment Account. All voting aye. Motion carried.

**Other:** Pastor David will work month to month as his contract has expired.

**Other:** A reminder was given about the activities at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup> for Rev. Dr. Adam Quine's 10<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary.

## CORRESPONDENCE and EMAILS

Kent read a letter from Tonita Reifsteck.

## ADJOURNMENT and BENEDICTION

Meeting was adjourned with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Silas Tockey  
Church Council Secretary



## GREETERS

August 6<sup>th</sup>: Randy Pech  
August 13<sup>th</sup>: Alice Paulus  
August 20<sup>th</sup>: Jack and Nancy Leich  
August 27<sup>th</sup>: Carolyn Pech

The following is a thank you note from Rev. Dr. Charlotte Nold, Pastor and the congregation of St. John United Church of Christ (our sister church):

*Dear Members of St. John UCC in Lincoln,*



*Thank you for our wonderful donation. We truly appreciated your continued support for 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.*



**Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Imo's Café**

**All Men of the Church are Welcome**

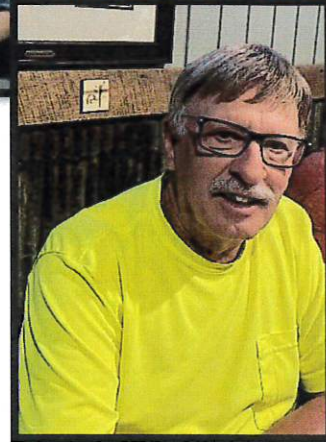


**ST. JOHN DINERS**  
**Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:30 a.m.**



The Small Group Ministry has planned that the August St. John Diners outing will be to Dovetail Inn in Emden.  
 Leave the Church Parking Lot at 11:00 a.m.

A sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary. As always you can either ride the bus or drive on your own. Just sign the sheet accordingly.



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

Co-helper needed on both 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 is about 1½ hour.



The following thank you is from Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President UCC:

Dear St. John United Church of Christ:



Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000 to the United Church of Christ to support disaster relief in the United States.

Because of your kindness, we will help people rebuild their communities and bring comfort to their lives.

Your gift enables the church to be present with people amid catastrophic and life-changing situations, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery support. Working through a network of global and local partners, the church lives out its call to care for our neighbors as we strive together toward a just world for all.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families in local and international communities. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance as the United Church of Christ continues to build a just world for all.

### ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST VETERANS MINISTRY

#### QUILT RAFFLE

Drawing to be held on September 17, 2023.

Winner need not be present to win.

Tickets: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.



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

### OUTREACH/PUBLICITY MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Jim and Leslie Wilmert and  
Tonita Reifsteck, Co-Chairs

Devotionals for July, August and September are now on table in Narthex.

#### COFFEE HOUR HELPERS NEEDED

Sign-up sheets are in Narthex and also, alongside treat counter at Coffee Hour

Sign up to make Coffee and set out supplies. Treats will be furnished by Outreach.



If you have questions about use of coffee maker or procedure (EASY) see Jack or Nancy Leich or Tonita Reifsteck.  
THANK YOU!!!!



### Celebrate Life Birthday Group

**Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:30 a.m.**

**Kickapoo Creek Park**

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

**Bring your lunch and drink.**

**August 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.



### CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP...

By: Tonita Reifsteck

On July 14<sup>th</sup> St. John UCC members again gathered in the shelter at Kickapoo Cree Park on a lovely summer day for the monthly CELEBRATE LIFE fellowship. Sack lunches were enjoyed and Toni introduced the theme of the day – “A DAY I REMEMBER IN

HISTORY”. Each present shared a memory that impacted their life – some the same. A picture of generations of men in family in military-the anguish of the mothers during deployment/visit to door with news (usually bad) WWII, Korean, Vietnam stories, A metal plated Bible carried in breast pocket WWII, Arlington ceremony. Memories of JFK Assassination, MLK assassination, landing on the Moon, -- often one’s memory triggered another memory within the group. Cards were signed for birthdays, get-well and wedding

anniversaries. HAPPY BIRTHDAY was sung for Alice, Sandy and Lynn – all present for the JULY Birthday.

Celebrate Life will continue to meet at the first shelter in Kickapoo Creek Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 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 and is open to anyone who wants to join the fellowship and CELEBRATE LIFE.

AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> the theme is SUMMER – favorite childhood event and/or tradition of family. If you have a memento – bring it for the “MEMORY TABLE” and your sharing.





## TIME THINK ABOUT CHOIRS...



Yes, it's hard to believe summer is almost over. The choirs have had a nice vacation, but now it's time to start thinking about choir rehearsals and making beautiful music together.

All the choirs (St. John Singers, St. John Ringers, and St. John Chimers) need more members. You ask how can I help? **EASY.** Simply join 1, 2 or all 3 choirs. It is a great way to share your musical talent. And, yes, everyone has musical talent. ***"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."***

St. John Singers will begin rehearsals on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.

St. John Ringers will begin rehearsals on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> following church.

St. John Chimers will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



### JUNE FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance	\$22,983.03
Income	\$ 6,949.02
Expenses	\$27,891.38
Ending Balance	\$ 2,040.67

## WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

Edna and Wayne Mara and family at the death of Tony Nemeth.



## LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

### ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Evelyn Fulkerson  
Susan Webb  
John Wilmert

### CASTLE MANOR

1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Jerry and Mary Berglin  
Bill Krepps

### COPPER CREEK

203 Stahlhut Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Steve Aue

### CEDARHURST OF SPRINGFIELD

3520 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62711

Helen Opperman

### ASHTON PLACE

4151 Ashton Road, Sarasota, FL 34233

Patty McCann

### IN THEIR HOME

Sandy Morgan

931 -1575<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln

Send mail to: 12 Pheasant Run, Lincoln



## MISSION NEWS

By: Verdeen Ingram and Marlene Wilmert,  
Co-Chairs

**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.**

91 assorted stuffed animals were delivered to Lincoln Memorial Hospital ER in July.

5 bags of groceries were delivered to CAPCIL for month of June. We deeply appreciate your contributions and effort to help feed those in need in Logan County

## August Food Item Is...



Food items are delivered to the  
Community Action Food Pantry.

All non-perishable items are **WELCOME.**

## COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES August and September

Bring your donations to The Giving Tree.  
Monetary donations are also welcome.  
Supplies will be given to Central and  
Lincoln Junior High Schools.

(Pencil, pens, crayons,  
markers, notebooks,  
glue, etc.)



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Lynn Spellman
- 6 **Bill Krepps**, Madi Meinershagen
- 8 Lee Westerfield
- 13 Megan Joseph
- 14 Maxwell Burge
- 17 Judy Atteberry, Jennifer Schneider
- 18 Charles Spellman
- 19 Jackson Morgan
- 20 Orry Ingram
- 21 Warren Goetsch, Brittany Kincheloe
- 27 Ashley Paulus
- 29 George Abbott, Susan Goergen

Name in **red** is a member of our church  
who is on the visitation list.  
Let's fill their mailbox on their birthday.

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



- 8 Donald and Rhonda Howard
- 12 Mark and Susan Goergen
- 15 Warren and Peggy Goetsch
- 19 Jim and Leslie Wilmert
- 21 Ron and Karen Pecoraro  
Hank and Lynn Spellman
- 29 Bob and Sandy Meinershagen





## August Calendar

### **Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

### **Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

### **Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

### **Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Worship Service with Communion at 10:00 a.m.

(In-Person/Live-stream)

### **Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

### **Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

### **Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

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

### **Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

### **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

St. John Diners

### **Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

St. John Singers practice at 9:15 a.m.

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

St. John Ringers practice following church

### **Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Church Council at 7:00 p.m.

### **Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

St. John Singers practice at 9:15 a.m.

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

St. John Ringers practice following church

### **Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

### **Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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

### **Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

YMCA from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.





## *Prayer List*

Linda Barrow  
 Sherri Mester  
 Drake Miller  
 Alissa Smith  
 Leslie Wilmert  
 Harold Boyer  
 Jackie Curry  
 Judy Woodard  
 Barb and Don Bauer  
 George Wilmert  
 Emma and Daris Knauer  
 Bill Dennis  
 Cheryl F.  
 Katrina Opperman  
 Allen Stout  
 Lynn  
 Cherl Hartbank  
 Debbie Stout  
 Kurt  
 Jim  
 Zoe  
 Larry Westerfield  
 David  
 Lena  
 Kathy Staten  
 Brian Boyer  
 Anita  
 Sandy Sanders

Kristan Green's mother  
 Carol Webb  
 Elizabeth Miller  
 James and family  
 Richard Green

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:

**Email:** [stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [stjohnucclincolnillinois.com](http://stjohnucclincolnillinois.com)

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