

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

January 2024 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

Bridge Pastor

Darlene Begolka

Office Manager

Volume 55, No. 1

January 2024



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024
Immediately following the church service**

**Committee Reports for the Annual Report
are due in the Church Office by
Friday, January 5, 2024**

FROM OUR PASTOR

Happy New Year!



I hope everyone celebrates safely and enjoys a healthy start to 2024. My prayer is that God has many great plans in store for St. John.

My first note for a newsletter was back in April, and I

never thought I'd be writing one for January. But, here we are. My time here has lasted longer than expected, and I've been trying to do what I can to help the church plan for their next sitting minister. I've met with and shared a few thoughts with the search committee, and I feel the church is fortunate to have this group working on their behalf. Please thank the members as you see them.

Now while I'm not serving in an official interim position, I am willing to take on some of those responsibilities. Any task that I can do now, will be one less chore facing the next interim or called pastor. One of the most needed chores is to update the church membership rolls. This is necessary for the church budget, for the search committee's work, and for our reporting to the wider church, including our Illinois Conference and National setting. It is also very important for future conversations with prospective interim or pastoral candidates. So, once I set the format, everyone will be receiving a letter asking for their membership confirmation. Your help and prompt return will be appreciated.

As far as the church year goes, we'll have a few weeks of Ordinary Time between New Years and Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 14th and is early this year. From there we'll be in Lent and share in these very special weeks leading up to Holy Week and Easter. I will be preparing for this

wonderful time in the life of the church, but will also be ready to step aside if God sends St. John their next minister.

My best wishes to all for a safe and faithful New Year.

Blessings.
Pastor David



Thank You

The shortest verse in the Bible is 'Jesus wept'. While very short, these two words speak volumes about the heart of Jesus.

Similarly, as we say 'thank you' to our church family, these two simple words speak volumes about how grateful we are for the birthday and Christmas gifts and cards we've received. Our hearts are full and overflowing with gratitude for our church family.

Our prayer is that each and every one of us continues to grow in our faith, as we find new and exciting ways to worship and serve our God. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

Pastor David, Gail and Joshua



**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**Monday, December 18, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

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

President Kent Paulus called the meeting order on Monday, December 18, 2023. Rev. David Marquardt gave the invocation.

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

Leland Semple, Stewardship Chair gave an update on the 2024 Stewardship Totals as follows:
Current fund - \$66,771.00; OCWM - \$9,316.00;
Sister Church - \$2,006.00; Contingency - \$6,210.00;
Good Samaritan - \$1,846.00 for a total of
\$86,149.00.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor David reported he had performed one wedding on December 16th. He was working on Advent Planning and Christmas. Pastor David will have some knee surgery on January 8th and will have pulpit supply on Sunday, January 14th.

OLD BUSINESS

YMCA: Christmas goodie bags had been made for the YMCA children with an invite to the Christmas Eve Candlelight placed in each bag.

Interim Search Team and Pastoral Search Team: Inspection of parsonage requested by conference. Partial rewrite of profile may be needed.

Christmas Dinner: Favorable comments given on the Christmas Dinner.

Annual Congregational Meeting Date: The Annual Congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 28, 2024

Nominating Committee: Randy Pech and Laura Lee have agreed to be placed on the ballot for Church Council. One more member is needed.
2023 Treasurer's Books: The treasurer's books for 2023 will close at 12:00 noon on December 29th.
Reports for the Annual Report: Reports for the Annual Report are due by January 5, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Removal: Building and Grounds has secured 3 bids for snow removal and have selected one to do our snow removal.

Membership Roles: We have approximately 75 giving units. Since we are in the search process it was decided that a questionnaire is to be made and sent to all asking about continued membership.

Other: A question was brought up about the 2023 Christmas and Christmas Eve offering regarding the Christmas Fund selection. The Christmas Fund was formerly the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund. There will be a slide made for the PowerPoint, an announcement made and Facebook posts.

Other: Jubilant Feet would like to meet on Mondays at 8:00 a.m. during the winter and walk in the church. Arrangements will be made to make this happen.

Other: An idea for a Little Free Food Pantry was brought up.

CORRESPONDENCE AND E-MAILS

Red Cross Blood Drives: An email was received from the Red Cross thanking St. John UCC for the past support regarding blood banks and that a new location has been found with volunteer support so they will no longer be using St. John UCC.

ADJOURNMENT and BENEDICTION

All recited The Lord's Prayer. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Silas Tockey
Church Council Secretary

ST. JOHN GAMERS
Sunday, January 14th
2:00 p.m.
Game: Five Crowns

Bring a New Year's resolution for our
Church for 2024.
Bring a Church memory from 2023.



Celebrate Life Birthday Group
Friday, January 12, 2024
11:30 a.m.
CHI Restaurant

January birthdays will be celebrated.



NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance \$ 5,670.48

Income	\$15,808.63
Transfer	\$30,000.00
Expenses	\$25,209.15

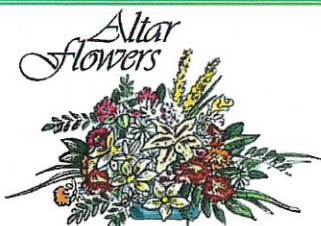
Ending Balance \$26269.96

ST. JOHN DINERS
Saturday, January 20th
11:30 a.m.



The Small Group Ministry has planned that the
January St. John Diners outing will be to
Dovetail Inn in Emden.

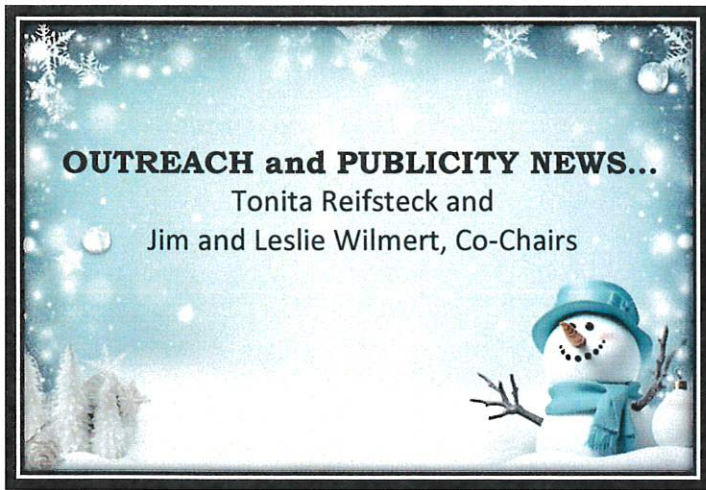
Leave the Church Parking Lot at 11:00 a.m.
A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary.
As always you can either ride the bus or drive on
your own. Just sign the sheet accordingly.



January 7th:
January 14th:
January 21st:
January 28th:



Articles for the **February 2024** newsletter should
be in the Church Office by **January 19th**.



Outreach/Publicity met December 5th to decorate the bus for the Lincoln Christmas Parade. Helping get ready was Jack Leich, Roger Michalsen, Tonita Reifsteck and Jim Wilmert. Theme for the year was "Deck The Halls – A Christmas Light Show". New signage on the bus honored the Boy Scout Troop 1102 of the church, made by Roger Michalsen. Riding the bus, driven by Bob Meinershagen were Jack and Nancy Leich, Sandy Meinershagen, Carolyn Pech and Toni Reifsteck. The Scouts had a float entry behind the church bus and all the scouts walked the route and passed out pencils to everyone along the route. Lots of people – most people we've seen!

Toni reported that the CHRISTMAS CAROLING was welcomed by all who were able to have them. St. Clara's Rehab & Senior Care had to cancel last minute but the residents of Castle Manor and Copper Creek welcomed us (Marilyn Armbrust, Tamera Turner, Carolyn Pech, Sandy Wilmert and Toni Reifsteck) and joined in singing with us for a delightful afternoon. Smiles, words of "thank you" and most delightful at each stop Copper Creek and Castle Manor. The group then drove out to Sandy Morgan's home. At each stop most joined in singing with the group – even had a dramatic touch to a song at Sandy Morgan's!

Presented each person in every group with a pencil. Talk about how a little gesture by singing carols bring JOY to not only the ones we visited but the group also got a big lift in JOY! Oh yes, we've been invited to "come again"!



The scene in the sanctuary of St. John on Monday, November 27th was as close to resembling Santa's workshop as you could imagine! The smile on leader Jack Leich's face never ended as he whistled and 'yelled' out the orders to all. He and grandson, Brady Curry had everything laid out along aisles ready to assemble, put in place or 'fluff'. Bob Meinershagen had Boy Scouts scampering up and down the ladders putting the trees together and decorating them – like elves with wings! The excitement in the air was refreshing and exciting and then Pastor David put on some Christmas music!!!! Did you ever envision roping along the church wall – being on the wrong side – the 'dance of several men shifting the garland from one wall across the sanctuary to the 'right side' was a spectacle you could never plan! Those who witnessed and, helped make the

sanctuary the breathtaking beauty of Christmas were Darlene Begolka, Brady Curry, Nancy Gehlbach, Edward Jeffries, Jack and Nancy Leich, Bob Meinershagen, Troy Meinershagen, Roger Michalsen, Pastor David, Gail and Joshua Marquardt, Kent Paulus, Brian and Tricia Pineda, Terry Puffer, Tonita Reifsteck, Leland Semple, Lynn Spellman, Silas Tockey, Carol Webb, Sandy Wilmert and David Wilmert.

The Boy Scouts that 'were such a help everywhere' were Calvin Aukamp, Soren Aukamp, Luke Dykman, Beau Ford, Blaine Klemm, Kyle Marten, Jackson



Mathon, Dean Meinershagen, Asher Scott, Trent Strait, Cameron Wilmert, Caleb Zirkelbach and Jacob Zirkelbach. Scout Leaders were Bret Aukamp, John DeWilde, Michael Dykman, Kristan Green, Aaron Karrick, Mark Mathon and Jason Maxheimer.

OUTREACH is requesting help with offering COFFEE HOUR – FELLOWSHIP TIME before worship every Sunday from 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Setting up and making coffee is sole need. Treats will be furnished by Outreach. Sign-up sheets are in Narthex and also alongside treat counter at Coffee Hour. THANKS FOR your help!! MUCH appreciated.

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

CAPCIL has a need for VOLUNTEERS: Mentor and /or Tutor Children in school setting (Grandparent Program).

Devotional Booklets for January, February, March are available in the Vestibule or entryway for the taking. A few copies of LARGE PRINT are also available. Any questions or concerns – please see member of Outreach Ministry.

Meals on Wheels HELPERS NEEDED to deliver...

Church route: 3 spots open.
Co-helper needed on 1st Mondays.
Pair for the 1st Friday of each month.

If you know of someone
who might be interested or
have any questions see or call
CAPCIL at 217-732-2159.

CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP...

by Tonita Reifsteck



Twelve gathered at Cracker Barrel for the December CELEBRATE LIFE lunch. Birthday and Christmas cards were signed and Happy Birthday sung for celebrants present: Marilyn Armbrust and Carolyn Pech.

Toni introduced the theme of the day – “A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MEMORY which brought to mind special gifts, happenings and food stories (especially cookies) and memories of family, church events which often triggered a memory for someone else in the group.

Celebrate Life will meet at CHI on January 12th at 11:30 a.m. and is open to anyone who wants to join the fellowship and CELEBRATE LIFE. JANUARY theme is: “Broken New Years Resolutions or SUCCESSFUL Resolutions!”

RESERVATIONS need to be called in to Sandy Wilmert or Tonita Reifsteck.



MISSION NEWS

By: Verdeen Ingram and
Marlene Wilmert, Co-Chairs



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM...

Merry Christmas from Carolyn, Remi and Oreo

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.**

To Our Church Family,

May His presence abide
with you today and in the new year.
Have a Blessed Christmas
Wishing you Love, Joy and Peace,
George and Marlene Wilmert

May your holidays sparkle with joy and laughter.

JOY, JOY, JOY!
Larry and Verdeen

May your Christmas celebration
be filled with love and peace.

Merry Christmas
God Bless!!
Jack and Nancy

Merry Christmas
With Love,
Sandy Wilmert

A little peace a little wonder, a lot of joy...

To you and your this season.

Merry Christmas to all our friends at St. John. May
your days be filled with the wonder of Jesus' birth.

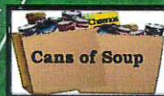
Lynn and Hank Spellman

May the memories of this season bring you joy in
the coming year.

Janet Johnson

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Help us change the game
and tackle hunger!



This year we are combining Souper Bowl of Caring and the January Food Item. They are both cans of soup. You are invited to bring your can(s) of soup anytime during the month of January and place them by The Giving Tree. At the end of January, they will be taken to the Lincoln/Logan County Pantry. Monetary donations are welcome also. Do you think we can reach a goal of 100 cans of soup? Let's try! On Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th, we will announce how many cans of soup and the total of the monetary donations.

Dear Church family-
Peace, joy and love to you and yours.
God's Blessings in 2024!
Tonita R.

May the peace and beauty of the holiday season be
with you throughout the coming year
Love,
Sandy and Bob Meinershagen

Merry Christmas
Love, Kaye

May your holidays be filled with peace, love and
happiness, and may your New Year bring you every
joy.
Dave and Marilyn Armbrust


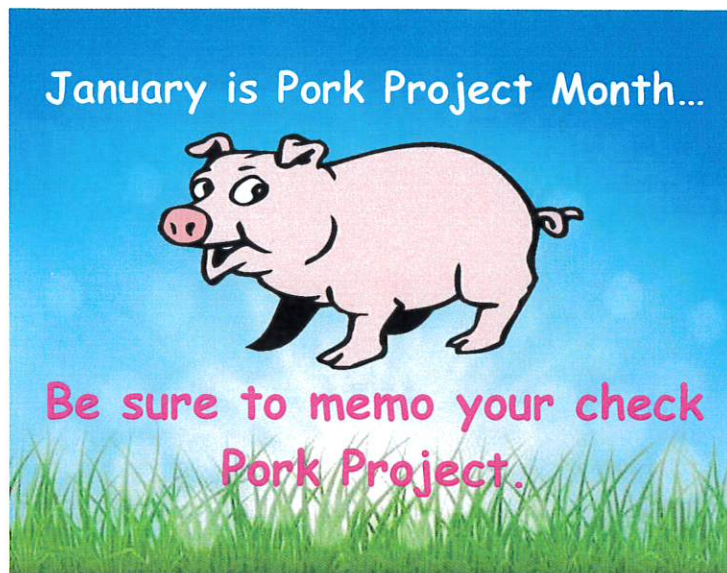
Blessings to you all
Wishing you the peace of Christmas and may your
New Year shine with possibility!
Donna Kessinger

Thanks to all of you St. Johners for keeping us busy
all year long!
Your Mission Committee

Greetings Church family –
Warm holiday wishes this season and throughout
the year
Alice Paulus

Wishing you boatloads of fun for the holidays and
good times for the New Year.
We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy,
Healthy and Blessed New Year!
Shanda and J.D. Ryer

To the Members of the Church—
A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope
and love. Have a blessed Christmas
Thank you so much for the card.
God Bless
Esther Denney



Our Boy Scout Troop 1102 is holding an Avanti's
Gondola Fundraiser.

Full length Avanti's Gondolas are \$8.00 each
or a Loaf of Bread is \$3.00 each.

Orders due
Monday, January 22, 2024 by 12:00 noon.

Pick up
Friday, January 25, 2024
between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. at St. John UCC.



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

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 -1575th Street, Lincoln

Send mail to: 12 Pheasant Run, Lincoln

January BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Colleen Pech
- 7 Ty Row
- 17 Jackie Curry
Bret Paulus
- 18 Janet Johnson
- 22 Jonathan Pagel
- 26 Connor Costello
Brandon Muhlach
- 27 Jean Meinershagen
- 28 Kyle Atteberry
- 30 Lori Christensen

GREETERS

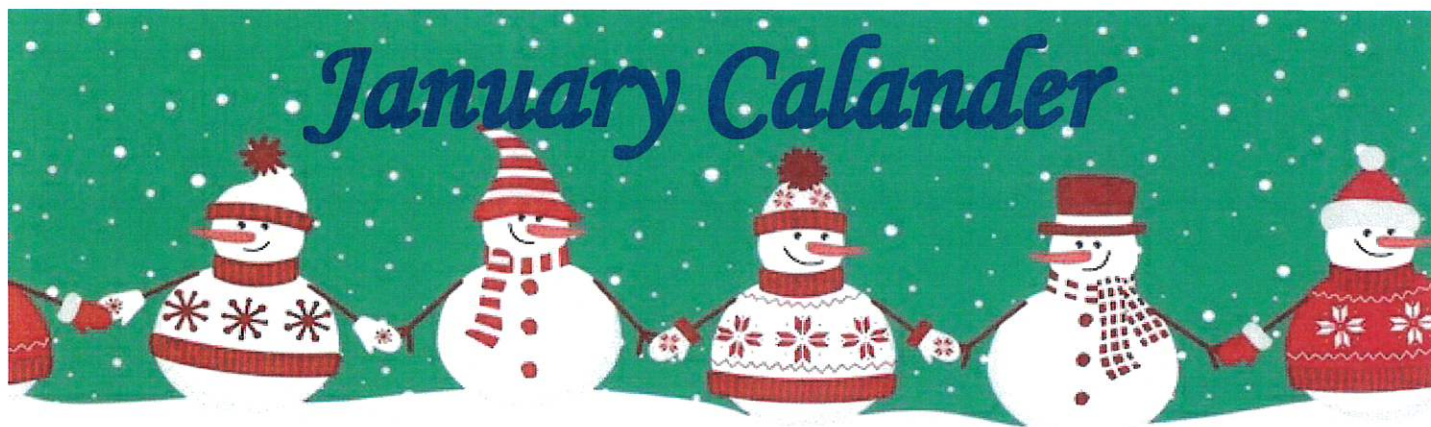
- January 7th: Jack and Nancy Leich
- January 14th: Carolyn Pech
- January 21st: Tonita Reifsteck
- January 28th: Verdeen Ingram



**Saturday, January 6th
8:30 a.m.
Imo's Café**

All Men of the Church are Welcome.

**Taking Down the Greens will be on
Monday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m.
We had lots of hands to put them
up. Let's have lots of hands to
take the greens down.**



Monday, January 1st

Happy New Year! – Office closed for holiday

Thursday, January 4th

Outreach and Publicity at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 5th

Reports for the Annual Report are due

Sunday, January 7th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

(In-Person/Live-stream)

St. John Ringers following church

Monday, January 8th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Taking Down the Greens at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10th

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

Friday, January 12th

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

Sunday, January 14th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

Monday, January 15th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 16th

CAPCIL – Foster Grandparents at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 17th

YMCA from 1:45 to 6:00 p.m.

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

Saturday, January 20th

St. John Diners

Sunday, January 21st

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, January 22nd

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24th

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

Sunday, January 28th

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)

Annual Congregational Meeting following church

Monday, January 29th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31st

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

NOTE:

The YMCA will be here Monday – Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. unless there is an earlier out which is noted on the calendar.



Linda Barrow
Sherri Mester
Drake Miller
Alissa Smith
Leslie Wilmert
Cheryl F.
Katrina Opperman

Lynn

Kurt

David

Kathy Staten

James and family

Jim Walsh

Kristen

Lee Wolfe

Joyce (Gail Marquardt's mom)

Lynn (Friend of Donna)

Mary Ann Bock Landon

Debbie (Friend of Jan Jeffries)

Janet (Ed and Jan Jeffries niece)

"Pete" Luckhart

Zach (Friend of Pastor David, Gail, Joshua)

Ronda Howard

Michelle Schneider

Abigail

Middle East

Cierra

Raymond

Stephanie Opperman

Janet Dullard

Janet Johnson

Jean (C.J.) Sutton

Anita

Sandy (Donna Kessinger's niece)

Sandy Wendt

Amy Tabor

Edna Mara

Ann (Tonita Reifsteck's sister)

Brian (Tonita Reifsteck's nephew)

Illinois Conference/Western Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:

Steve Aue

Jerry and Mary Berglin

Judy Kline

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

Laura Lee

Darlene Begolka

Calob Pluhm

Ministers

Bridge Pastor

Office Manager

Financial Manager

Custodian

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 Jeffries, 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

Website: stjohnucclincolnillinois.com

St. John United Church of Christ

204 Seventh Street

Lincoln, Illinois 62656

217-732-6957

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