

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

February 2024 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 55, No. 2

Bridge Pastor

Office Manager

February 2024

AND NOW
THESE THREE REMAIN:
FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

*But the greatest
of these is love.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

FROM OUR PASTOR

Grace and peace.

Today I come to you on the heels of our Annual Meeting. This is our first time sharing this event at St. John, but we've been through it many times at previous churches, both as pastor and family, and as congregants. One of the things I've always marveled at, is the way that folks step up to serve God's church. And that's what we must always remember, that it's God's church, not ours. Yes, we have the responsibility to fund it, care for it, and pass it on to future generations, but we must never forget that we are but tenants, and that God is the landlord.

As I thought about this, the phrase that 'it takes a village' came to mind. This is a phrase that originates from an African proverb and suggests that it takes a village of people to provide a safe and healthy environment for raising children. If we think about it, the same is true of our church. There are many chores and ministries that need to be managed and filled, some day-to-day, and some season by season. If it were not for the willingness of those who answer God's call, then these functions would go by the wayside.

We can relate this to our Bibles by thinking about the disciples who followed Jesus. Originally there were the 12, but then others became followers and disciples as Jesus went about his ministry. But it was a bit later, and recorded in all three Synoptic Gospels, where Jesus called 12, and named them apostles. Luke 6:12-13 records it this way; ¹²***One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:***

Matthew's gospel tells us in chapter 10 that when Jesus called the 12, he ***'gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness'***. Mark tells us in chapter 3 that ¹⁴***He appointed twelve that they might be with him and***

that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.'

All three gospel authors record that Jesus didn't find one, perhaps Peter or James, and send them out to do all of the healing, all of the preaching, and to eradicate all of demons. Jesus knew that the work of God would take many willing participants, and that 'many hands make lighter work'.

This is what I think about when I look around St. John. All one needs to do is read through the Annual Meeting booklet, to see all of the places where St. John makes an impact in our community. And as I mentioned, it takes a village, a church, a congregation, all working together, to serve the amount of people who are blessed by our church.

Now to be sure, I doubt highly that the 12 Apostles carried out all of their assigned ministries without enlisting more help and participation as the crowds grew and the early churches were formed. Similarly, those who step up and agree to lead the many ministries of our church, can't manage their tasks without the support of the rest of us. Still, there will be times when we grow tired, and feel like we've done our part. I understand that as much as anyone! And yes, we need to take brakes and rest and pray as Jesus did when he removed himself to the mountain in solidarity. And it's in our times of prayer and rest, that we call on and listen to God's still small voice, encouraging us to use our time and talents to serve. Trust me when I say that this is a regular event in my life, and I pray it will be in yours as well, as we join together to make St. John UCC all that God calls us to be.

Love and blessings,
Pastor David



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

**Monday, January 22, 2024
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, January 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Rev. David Marquardt gave the invocation.

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

Jan Jeffries, Chair of the Special Events Committee asked about having an Easter Breakfast this year. It was moved and seconded to have an Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor David explained the Membership Role Updating for the Pastoral Search. Discussion followed. It was moved and seconded we move forward with the membership role letter. Motion carried.

The Ash Wednesday Service will be on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m. Then the following five Wednesdays there will be a Bible Study.

OLD BUSINESS

YMCA: Nothing new to report

Interim Search Team and Pastoral Search Team: Keep the profile fresh.

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

Nominating Committee: It was announced that there is a slate for the Church Council. Laura Lee,

Kaye Wilmert and Randy Pech have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot.

NEW BUSINESS

Boy Scouts: Boy Scout Troop 1102 has had an election of officers: Scoutmaster – Jason Maxheimer; Committee Chair – Kristen Green; Advancement Chair – Mark Mathon; Secretary – Michael Dykman; Treasurer – David Wilmert; Camping Coordinator – Bret Aukamp. It was moved and seconded to approve these officers for Boy Scout Troop 1102. Motion carried.

Other: We are working on getting things setup to move over to YouTube for our Sunday morning services.

Other: It was brought to the attention of the Church Council about the Church Kitchen Cleanliness.

Parsonage Inspection: It was moved and seconded we have Mr. Woodhall inspect parsonage. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

The meeting was adjourned with all members reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Silas Tockey
Church Council Secretary



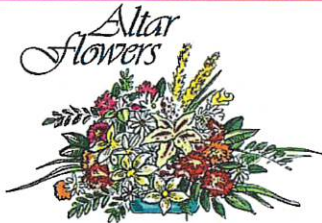


DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance	\$26,333.71
Income	\$41,674.44
Expenses	\$25,728.42
Ending Balance	\$42,279.73



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



February 4th:
February 11th:
February 18th:
February 25th:

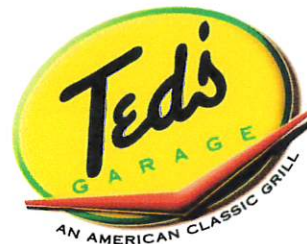
ST. JOHN GAMERS
Sunday, February 11th
2:00 p.m.



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

February birthdays will be celebrated.

ST. JOHN DINERS
Saturday, February 17th
11:30 a.m.



The Small Group Ministry has planned that the February St. John Diners outing will be to Ted's Garage in Clinton.

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.

Upcoming St. John Diners:

March 16th – Parkview in Bloomington
April 20th – Wild Hare in Elkhart

OUTREACH and PUBLICITY NEWS...

Tonita Reifsteck and
Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Co-Chairs

Outreach Ministry met on Thursday, January 4th.
Toni shared 'A Christmas Thought to Ponder'.
Highlights were finalized Annual Report due next day.

Revisited

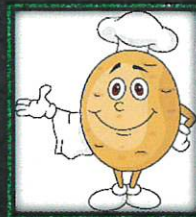
- Reported funding now available for Gas cards. Gas cards are available in the church office for those willing to furnish transportation for members with no other means to appointments locally, Springfield, Bloomington or Decatur
- Assistant were needed with greeters to assist those with walkers, canes, chairs etc. into the building.
- Coffee Hour volunteers are still needed.
- Devotionals are available in the vestibule and entryway for the 1st quarter. Office has been asked to make our payment to Immanuel Lutheran for our share.

Noted Monday, January 8th will be undecorating of the church/all welcome! Boy Scouts will be treated to a Culver's night some night in January/their schedule!

Have set Sunday, March 10th after church as the date for the POTATO BAR. Sign-up needed. Donations will be used to purchase training cups for WIC at Logan County Health Department.

On a windy, cold evening six members and the Boy Scout Troop 1102 took down all the Christmas decorations, trees and greenery. Brady Curry, Jack Leich, Bob Meinershagen, Kent Paulus, Tonita Reifsteck and Leland Semple were so efficient with the energetic Scouts, we were done by 8:10 p.m. Prior to the evening Jack had taken down the Nativity on the lawn (when it was warmer the day before) and Verdeen Ingram and Lynn Spellman had taken down poinsettia and candles in the windows and put in storage. All agreed It had been a beautiful place for the Christmas services and programs this year.

POTATO BAR
Sunday, March 10th
following church



Sign-up sheet in the back of the
sanctuary.
Proceeds will be going to purchase
training cups for WIC at the Logan
County Health Department.

LOVE IS Patient and kind,
NOT jealous, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, irritable, or resentful.
LOVE does not delight in evil BUT
rejoices with Truth. Love
protects, ALWAYS TRUSTS* always hopes,
ALWAYS perseveres. LOVE NEVER fails. 1COR 13:4-8



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 SEMINARY SUNDAY and CUE OFFERING

CHICAGO UNITED EDEN

We will be celebrating SEMINARY SUNDAY this year on Sunday, February 25th during the morning worship service. Remember, we will also be taking a special offering that Sunday for CUE (Chicago Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary and Eden Theological Seminary). Watch for more info on this special Sunday.



The following is a note from Rev. Dr. Charlotte Nold, Pastor of our Sister Church in Chicago:

Dear Members of St. John United Church of Christ in Lincoln,

Thank you for your wonderful donation of \$964.40. 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.

CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP...

by Tonita Reifsteck



CELEBRATE LIFE met on January 12th at CHI with 12 enjoying the food and fellowship despite the cold. Birthday, Get Well and Thinking of You cards were signed. Some shared their 'unsuccessful' New Years Resolutions, some 'successful' ones and one "never make them so I'm not upset about not keeping them". After leaving CHI, as many as could joined a 'drive-by and honk' procession past Janet Johnson's home for her birthday and Amy Tabor's residence as she recuperates! Janet came outside and waved to all.

Friday, February 9th Celebrate Life will be held at Cracker Barrel. It would be helpful if those planning on going would call Sandy Wilmert or Toni Reifsteck so we can reserve tables. The topic will be 'My Favorite Valentine or Valentine's day'. Valentines will be signed for shut-ins.



Take it if it's yours.
It's going to recycle next month!
Thank you!!
Charity Guild



Mission Committee 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.**

144 Valentine stuffed animals were delivered to Lincoln Memorial Hospital ER in January.

3 bags of groceries plus soda were delivered to Lincoln/Logan County Food Pantry in December.

BLANKET SUNDAY
Sunday, February 11th
\$10 = 1 Blanket

"Blanket the World with Love"



Keep bringing
CANS of SOUP
for the February Food Pantry
Item of the Month along with
any other non-perishable food
items.



At the end of February all the cans of soup plus any other non-perishable food items will be taken to the Lincoln/Logan County Food Pantry. Monetary donations are welcome also. On Super Bowl Sunday (February 11th), there will be a display of the cans of soup in the sanctuary.



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

All Men of the Church are Welcome.

GREETERS

February 4th: Bill Gosda, Jr.
February 11th: Donna Buse
February 14th: Nancy Gehlbach
February 18th: Marlene Wilmert
February 25th: Wayne Mara





Birthdays

- 6 Avery Birnbaum
Loren Birnbaum
- 9 Morgan Fuller
Ruth Post
- 10 Kent Paulus
- 13 Wyatt Conrady
Sandy Meinershagen
- 19 **Sandra Morgan**
- 27 Jan Jeffries
George Wilmert
- 28 Aidan Nemeth
Bailee Pineda

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



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



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Jeff and Jackie Curry
- 7 Rich and Barb Reinwald



February Calander

Thursday, February 1st

Outreach and Publicity at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 3rd

Boy Scouts from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, February 4th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

Morning Worship/Communion at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

Monday, February 5th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 6th

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7th

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

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

Thursday, February 8th

LCT

Friday, February 9th

LCT at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 10th

LCT at 2:00 p.m.

LCT at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 11th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

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

Monday, February 12th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13th

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14th

YMCA from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service at

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

Saturday, February 17th

St. John Diners at Ted's Garage at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 18th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

Monday, February 19th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 21st

Lenten Service

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

Sunday, February 25th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

Wednesday, February 28th

Lenten Service

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.



Prayer List

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)
Debbie (Friend of Jan Jeffries)
Janet (Ed and Jan Jeffries niece)
"Pete" Luckhart

Zach (Friend of Pastor David, Gail, Joshua)
Abigail
Middle East
Cierra
Raymond
Stephanie Opperman
Janet Dullard
Janet Johnson
Jean (C.J.) Sutton
Sandy (Donna Kessinger's niece)
Sandy Wendt

Amy Tabor
Edna Mara
Ann (Tonita Reifsteck's sister)
Brian (Tonita Reifsteck's nephew)
John Tabor
Karson
Ruth Post
Duane Ingram
Sharlene
Lainey Miller
Lucy Miller
Elizabeth Miller
Tammy
LaSalle County Nursing Home
Alexis

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 2024-2025



Leland Semple, President
Roger Michalsen (Elder), Vice-President
Silas Tockey, Secretary
Keith Birnbaum, Current Fund Treasurer
Dan Row, Special Funds Treasurer
Kaye Wilmert (Elder), Financial Secretary
Laura Lee
Sandy Meinershagen (Elder)
Randy Pech

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