

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

February 2025 Newsletter

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

204 Seventh Street ~ Lincoln, Illinois 62656

217-732-6957

E-mail address: stjohnuclincoln@yahoo.com | Website: stjohnuclincolnillinois.com

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

Darlene Begolka

Volume 56, No. 2

Office Manager

February 2025



FROM PASTOR DAVID

I ran across this a while ago and thought it was appropriate as our lives now take separate paths. Enjoy.

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

“When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson I ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me... the only thing that would comfort was this verse....

*“Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
we are weak but He is strong.....
Yes, Jesus loves me....
The Bible tells me so.”*

When he finished, the church was quiet. You actually could hear his footsteps as he shuffled back to his chair. I don't believe I will ever forget it.

A pastor once stated, “I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn ‘Jesus Loves Me’ (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best.”

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all others.

“Senior version of Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

*Yes, Jesus Loves Me... Yes, Jesus Loves Me...
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, For The Bible Tells Me
So.*

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

*Yes, Jesus Loves Me... Yes, Jesus Loves Me...
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, For The Bible Tells Me
So.*

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song..
Telling me in words so clear,
“Have no fear, for I am near.”

*Yes, Jesus Loves Me... Yes, Jesus Loves Me...
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, For The Bible Tells Me
So.*

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

*Yes, Jesus Loves Me... Yes, Jesus Loves Me...
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, For The Bible Tells Me
So.*

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

*Yes, Jesus Loves Me... Yes, Jesus Loves Me...
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, For The Bible Tells Me
So.*

Sunday's scripture came to us from Psalm 96 which started out;

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Jesus love me, this I know.....
Love and blessings.
Pastor David



FILLING OUR PULPIT IN FEBRUARY...

February 2nd: Pastor Jim Christians
February 9th: Pastor Chris Schilling
February 16th: Ann Lamkey
February 23rd: Pastor Chris Schilling

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

Monday, January 20, 2025
1:00 p.m.

Present: Leland Semple, Silas Tockey, Dan Row, Laura Lee, Roger Michalsen, Randy Pech, Pastor David Marquardt and Darlene Begolka, Office Manager
Absent: Kaye Wilmert, Sandy Meinershagen, Keith Birnbaum

President Leland Semple called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2025. Pastor David gave the Invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

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

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor David did an exit interview and gave the pulpit supply list.
Discussion on the Pulpit Supply amount per Sunday.

Discussion on worship/bulletin procedures.
Pastor David said things should go through the Church Office

Schedule cover 3-4 months with potential fill in candidate that may reach out in a few months.

Pastoral compensation

- Potential of pulpit supply coming out of bridge pastor line.
- It was moved and seconded to accept pulpit supply to include mileage for an amount of \$225 per Sunday. Motion carried.
- Discussion of mileage for people traveling farther for pulpit supply will be addressed by the Church Council when needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Use of Sunday School Rooms: No Update

Confirmation: On hold

Hoefer Memorial Tree: Consult with Pastor David in the spring.

Annual Congregational Meeting: The meeting date is set for Sunday, January 26, 2025 immediately following worship, This will be Pastor David's last Sunday.

NEW BUSINESS

Communion Schedule: A communion schedule sign-up sheet was passed around. It was moved and seconded that the group from the month prior should assess grape juice. Motion carried.

Privacy Concerns: Discussion was had to whether to address at the Annual Congregational Meeting. 2025 Church Council to proceed with addressing privacy concerns at their Church Council meetings.

ZOOM for Annual Congregational Meeting: Warren Goetsch will not be present. ZOOM meeting will continue as normal if members request to attend online.

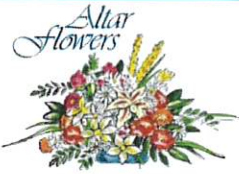
YMCA Contract Renewal: It was moved and seconded to renew the contract. Motion carried.

Other: It was moved and seconded that we purchase a \$200 gift card from the Growing Grounds in Bloomington from Interest for the Marquardt family. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. In closing, all repeated for The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Silas Tockey
Church Council Secretary



February 2nd:
February 9th:
February 16th:
February 23rd:



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
SEMINARY SUNDAY
and
CUE OFFERING**

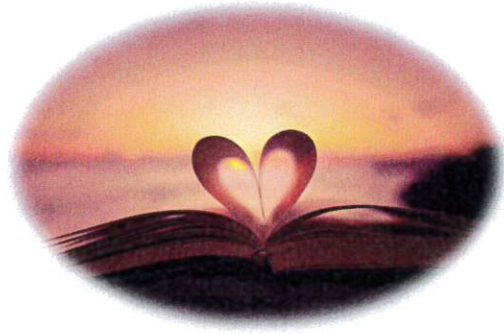
CHICAGO UNITED EDEN

We will be celebrating SEMINARY SUNDAY this year on Sunday, February 23rd 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.



Welcome

On Sunday, January 26th we welcomed Austin Garriott as a new member to St. John United Church of Christ in 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 for the **Children of Lincoln** project.
- **Fourth Sunday** of each month a special offering will be taken for the **Diaper Project for Head Start at Community Action**.

In December 2024, 4 bags of groceries were delivered to Lincoln/Logan Food Pantry. In January 2025, 24 bears and 84 Valentine stuffed animals were delivered to Lincoln Memorial Hospital ER.

Thank you, St. Johners for your continued support for these mission projects!

Keep saving those aluminum cans. Larry took 59 pounds of cans in on January 29th and the Humane Society will receive \$29.50 for their projects.

BLANKET SUNDAY
Sunday, February 9th
\$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 Food Pantry. Monetary donations are welcome also. On Super Bowl Sunday (February 9th), there will be a display of the cans of soup in the sanctuary.

ATTENDANCE

January 5th
No Church

January 12th
68 In-Person, 68 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed
and website = 148+

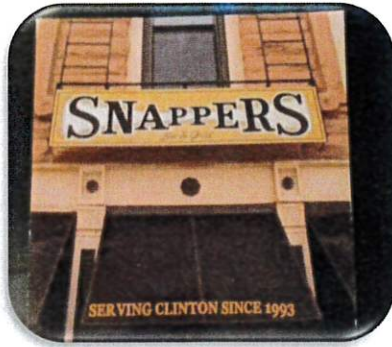
January 19th
51 In-Person, 58 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed
and website = 121+

January 26th
49 In-Person, 96 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed
and website = 157+



Articles for the **March 2025** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **February 19th**.

**St. John Diners
Saturday, February 15th
11:30 a.m.**



Those who are planning to attend St. John Diners in February should sign up on the reservation list in the back of the sanctuary so we have count. Then on Saturday, February 15th meet at the Church Parking Lot at 11:00 a.m. to go to Snappers in Clinton, Illinois.

SAVE THE DATE...



**SPRING BBQ
Boy Scout Troop 1102
Sunday, March 16th
10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Hall**



**Celebrate Life Birthday Group
Friday, February 14th
11:30 a.m.
Cracker Barrel**

February birthdays will be celebrated.

GREETERS

February 2nd: Dan and Nancy Dexter
February 9th: Donna Buse
February 16th: Nancy Gehlbach
February 23rd: Randy Pech



DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance		\$13,830.94
Income	\$47,074.69	
Expenses	\$31,230.62	
Ending Balance		\$29,675.01



**Saturday, February 1st
8:30 a.m.
Imo's Café**

All Men of the Church are Welcome.

OUTREACH and PUBLICITY

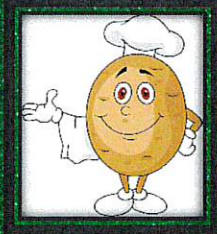
By: Jim and Leslie Wilmert and
Tonita Reifsteck, Co-Chairs

January was a continuation of 'busy' for Outreach. On Epiphany (Monday, January 6th) some in Outreach Ministry helped undecorate the church along with the Scouts and get everything back in storage, Helping were Brady, Emma & Paige Curry, Jack Leich, Bob Meinershagen, Tonita Reifsteck and members of Boy Scout Troop 1102.

On January 12th St. John celebrated the long history of Scouting at St John by honoring all Eagle Scouts who had been or are in Troop 6 (original) or current 1102 Troop during the worship service. Several 'veteran Eagle Scouts' were present in worship participating in their Scout Oath. During the service Jack Leich presented the plaques that Outreach-for the church had recorded all names, to Jason Maxheimer current Scoutmaster, who in turn presented to President Leland Semple and Pastor David Marquardt, who blessed the plaque and those who are honored on it designated for the Scout Wall in Fellowship Hall. Former Scoutmaster Ron Staubly shared expectations of becoming Eagle Scouts. Following the service a Fellowship Hour was hosted by Outreach with displays of some of the projects and honors the troop has acquired over the years.

SAVE THE DATE...

POTATO BAR
Sunday, March 9, 2025
Following Worship



Proceeds to go to WIC for Sippy
Training Cups.

Watch for more info.

NEEDED...

COFFEE HOUR HOST/HOESSTESS VOLUNTEERS

Sign-up sheets are in Narthex
and Kitchen



VOLUNTEER NEEDED...

MEALS ON WHEELS – 1½ hours/once a month

Driver for 4th Monday
Team of 2 for 3rd Friday

See Tonita Reifsteck or call 217-855-1645.



CHARITY GUILD and CELEBRATE LIFE HAPPENINGS

Nine gathered at Rio Grande restaurant on a blistery cold January 10th to Celebrate Life. Nancy Gehlbach, Janet Johnson, Wayne Mara, Carolyn Pech, Tonita Reifsteck, Dan Row, Jim and Leslie Wilmert and Sandy Wilmert shared fellowship and a Blessing (or more) of the past year. Birthday and Get-Well Cards were signed.

February Celebrate Life will be on Friday, February 14th at 11:30 a.m. at Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Lincoln. Topic: Share a 'Valentine Memory'. Reservations need to be called to Sandy Wilmert or Toni Reifsteck so we can have the group all together.

Prayerfully submitted,
Tonita Reifsteck, Secretary



Birthdays

- 6 Avery Birnbaum
Loren Birnbaum
- 9 Morgan Fuller
Ruth Post
- 10 Kent Paulus
- 13 Wyatt Conrady
Sandy Meinershagen
- 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 her mailbox on her birthday.

Would you be willing to be a liturgist?

Sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Jerry and Mary Berglin
Ruth Post
Susan Webb

CASTLE MANOR

1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

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



ANNIVERSARIES

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





February Calendar

Saturday, February 1st

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

Sunday, February 2nd

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

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Chimers practice after ringers

LCT practice at 1:30 p.m.

Monday, February 3rd

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 6th

Outreach and Publicity at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 9th

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

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Chimers practice after ringers

LCT practice at 1:30 p.m.

Monday, February 10th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11th

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 13th

LCT practice

Friday, February 14th

Celebrate Life Birthday Group at 11:30

LCT at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 15th

St. John Diners at 11:30 a.m.

LCT at 2:00 p.m.

LCT at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 16th

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

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Chimers practice after ringers

Monday, February 17th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 23rd

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

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Chimers practice after ringers

Monday, February 24th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25th

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

NOTE:

The YMCA After School Care Program
(Monday – Friday)
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.



Prayer List

Alissa Smith
Cheryl F.
Katrina Opperman
Lynn
David
Kathy Staten
Jim Walsh
Kristen
Lee Wolfe
Joyce (Gail Marquardt's mom)
"Pete" Luckhart
Abigail
Middle East
Raymond
Stephanie Opperman
Janet Dullard
John Tabor
Karson
Sharlene
Jen Steele
Pat O'Neil
Donnie Kirk
Ellen Schweizer
Beverly
David Dennis
Louise Jeffries
Martha
Debbie
Mike
Tim
Kelli Thomas
Tim Schippel

Baby Reese
Donna Pokorski
Duke
Chris
Allen
Linda Barrick
Caitlyn Hodges and family
Deborah Lichtenwalter
Wil Buse
Drake Miller
Bill Dennis
Josh Glazik Family
Patricia Southerd
Hayden Kovanik
Justin Brickey
Dwayne Robinson
Cheryl Robinson
Alice Paulus
Leslie Wilmert
Sandy Sanders
Karen Birnbaum
Jayne Zimmer
Tim and his son, Josh and family
Myron Zimmerman family
Jody Baldwin
Bethany Edgecombe

Illinois Conference/Western Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:

Steve Aue, Jerry and Mary Berglin, Judy Kline
Bill Krepps, Patty McCann, Helen Opperman
Ruth Post, Susan Webb, George Wilmert

Staff of St. John United Church of Christ

Members and Friends of St. John UCC

Darlene Begolka
Carolyn Pech
Dana Denny
Laura Lee
Darlene Begolka
Calob Pluhm

Ministers

Office Manager
Financial Manager
Custodian
Organist
St. John Chimers Director
St. John Ringers and St. John Singers Director

Church Council for 2025-2026



Silas Tockey, President
Randy Pech, Vice-President
Laura Lee, Secretary
Keith Birnbaum, Current Fund Treasurer
Bob Meinershagen (Elder), Special Funds Treasurer
Kaye Wilmert (Elder), Financial Secretary
Donna Kessinger
Roger Michalsen, (Elder)
Carolyn Pech

Contact us:

Email: stjohnuclincoln@yahoo.com

Website: stjohnuclincolnillinois.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"

