

# ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

*Published monthly in the interest of*



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

**April 2025 Newsletter**

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

204 Seventh Street ~ Lincoln, Illinois 62656

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

Darlene Begolka

Office Manager

Volume 56, No. 4

April 2025



## HOLY WEEK at ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### **PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>**

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m. led by the Rev. Chris Schilling. Palms will be waving in celebration of Palm Sunday.

Special Music will be provided by St. John Chimers playing *"Bell Peal on Ellacombe"*.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>**

The congregations from St. John UCC and 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church will worship together on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at St. John UCC.

The Rev. Dr. Adam Quine will be leading us in worship. Music will be provided St. John Ringers playing *"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"* and a combined vocal choir from 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church and St. John UCC will sing *"Crucified! Jesus Dies for You and Me"*. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be

### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Fruit and Pastry Buffet with serving from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship with Communion at 10:00 a.m. led by the Rev. Teresa Higus.

Special Music will be provided by the

St. John Chimers playing *"Fanfare for Easter"* with Austin Garriott on Trumpet;

St. John Ringers playing *"A Joyful Celebration"* and

St. John Singers will perform *"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"*.

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

**Monday, March 17, 2025  
7:00pm**

Present: Silas Tockey, Randy Pech, Laura Lee, Kaye Wilmert, Keith Birnbaum, Carolyn Pech, Roger Michalsen, Bob Meinershagen, Donna Kessinger, and Darlene Begolka, Office Manager

President Silas Tockey called the meeting to order on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and gave the invocation.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

A correction was made to the February meeting minutes. In section F. Other - #5 regarding the Search Committee, the statement that said, "A new profile has been sent with changes." needed deleted. It was moved and seconded to amend the February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes with correction. All voting aye, the motion carried.

**Financial Report addition:**

Bob Meinershagen explained that because interest rates are currently better at Edward Jones than Heartland Bank, formerly State Bank, the amount in the Special Fund Account at Heartland Bank was transferred into the Edward Jones Account and divided among the separate funds.

With the changes made and explained it was moved and seconded to accept the consent agenda. All voting aye, the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Sunday School Room Use – No report was given.
- Confirmation – Discussed possibility of member attending Summer Camp (council approval for expense) in place of confirmation or Zoom with another congregation for Confirmation, table for now

- Hoefer Memorial Tree replacement (Spring a good time to do this project)
- Member Privacy – No discussion
- Pridefest – Saturday, June 7 from 3pm – 8pm. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to work at the booth was passed around for council, and it will then be placed on the table in back of the sanctuary for other volunteers to participate. Since St. John UCC is O and A we must be willing and able to participate in events such as Pridefest.
- Monthly Community Organization presenters – We are asking to have a brief 5-minute presentation by local organization representative for each month, so April 27 will be Jeanette Davis from Logan/Mason ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care). Will be contacting Patti Schonauer from Hope on 5<sup>th</sup> for May.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Sunday Service schedule of Ordained and Lay Leaders will continue as is through the end of August. Still need to verify Pastor James Christian's schedule.
- Maundy Thursday Service (April 17 at 7pm) – Rev. Dr. Adam Quine will be conducting this service at St. John UCC and his congregation from 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian will be invited to attend.
- There is no Good Friday Service here at St. John or at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian.
- St. John UCC is invited to 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian for a Holy Saturday Service on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- There will be an Easter Service at St. John UCC, with Special events offering a Fruit and Pastry Buffet from 8:45am – 9:30am
- The list of Committee Chairs is complete. The chairs will be given the names of those who signed up for their committees on the Time and Talent Sheets, so they can make contact with them.
- Other:
  - Church Profile – the Council reviewed the completed Church Profile. It was moved and seconded to approve the Profile for

submission. All voting aye, the motion carried.

- Communion To Shut ins/Nursing Homes – There was a discussion about who is able to serve communion to the homebound and Nursing home residents. The UCC policy would be researched to see if Lay church members are allowed to serve communion or if it can only be ordained clergy.
- Website/Facebook – It’s important to have updated social media, so a potential candidate can see the current workings of the church. The Website needs updated as does Facebook. Tracy Welch does the website but receives his information from the office.
- Posting Council Meeting Agendas – A question was asked if the council meeting agendas could be posted the Sunday prior to the Monday meeting because someone may want to attend if they see a particular topic they know will be discussed. It was then discussed about where to post the agenda so only church members can view it. It was moved and seconded to post the agenda in an acrylic document holder on the table in the back of the sanctuary on the Sunday prior to Monday’s council meetings, on a trial basis of two (2) months. An usher or greeter can show anyone asking where to find it. It should remain on the table and not be removed. All voting aye the motion carried.
- “Welcome Sign” Painted on Parking lot double glass doors – Roger has offered to like to paint a “Welcome to St. John UCC” sign on the parking lot double doors (on the outside of the doors) for free. This sign is to welcome visitors and all to the church. He’s done several other signs in town which have been very satisfied with the work. The current paper sign for YMCA can be placed in plastic sleeve and put on side window. It was moved and seconded to accept Roger Michalsen’s offer to paint the Welcome Sign. All voting aye the motion carried.

- New Membership Directory and Committee lists – A new Membership Directory will be done and as soon as the Committee Chairs submit their committee members that list will be posted.

#### CORRESPONDENCE AND E-MAILS

Rev. Mark Binder, Moderator of the Western Association sent a letter requesting updated Church information. He will be sent the information requested in the letter.

#### ADJOURMENT AND BENEDICTION

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voting, the motion carried. All said the Lord’s Prayer as the benediction before adjourning at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Lee, Church Council Secretary



#### FILLING OUR PULPIT IN APRIL

April 6 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev. James Christian
April 13 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev. Chris Schilling
April 20 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev. Teresa Higus
April 27 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev. Chris Schilling

**Easter Fruit and  
Pastry Buffet**  
**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Serving 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sign up by April 6th**

## 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.**



April is showers, flowers and Earth Day. Here at St. John, we can celebrate Earth Day not only on April 22 but every day.

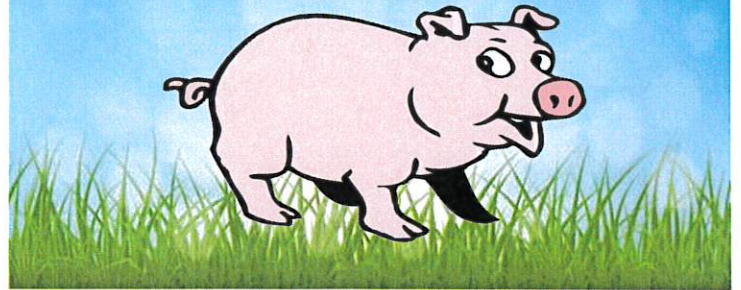
Our Giving Tree is filled with buckets for recycling. We collect pop tabs, greeting cards and aluminum cans, just to name a few. We are doing a good job, but we can always do better, so take a few minutes to gather up your recyclables and bring them to the church.

Remember that we are called to be stewards of the Earth. It doesn't really belong to us - it belongs to God!



## APRIL IS PORK PROJECT MONTH...

Be sure to memo your check  
Pork Project.



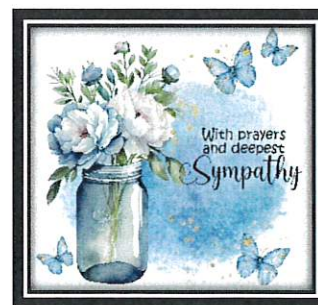
## April Food Item Is...



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



## WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...



Lynn and Kent Paulus and family at the death of her father, William Walter Lenschow.

Jerry and Mary Berglin at the death of his sister, Judy Awe.

John and Amy Tabor at the death of his father, Duane Tabor.



Articles for the **May 2025** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **March 19<sup>th</sup>**.



April 6<sup>th</sup>:  
 April 13<sup>th</sup>:  
 April 20<sup>th</sup>: This Sunday is taken  
 April 27<sup>th</sup>:

## ATTENDANCE

March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 35 In-Person, 41 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 90+

March 9<sup>th</sup>  
 38 In-Person, 36 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 88+

March 16<sup>th</sup>  
 34 In-Person, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 48+

March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 32 In-Person, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 46+

## CHARITY GUILD and CELEBRATE LIFE HAPPENINGS...

By: Tonita Reifsteck

Eight St. Johner's met at El Mazatlan for March Celebrate Life. Janet Johnson, Donna Kessinger, Elizabeth Miller, Carolyn Pech, Tonita Reifsteck, Dan Row, Carol Webb, and Jim Wilmert shared fellowship and some shared their favorite sign of spring. Birthday and Get-Well Cards were signed and Happy Birthday sung to those in attendance.



**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Imo's Café**

**All Men of the Church are Welcome.**

April Celebrate Life will be on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Wild Hare in Elkhart. Topic: "Do you have an Easter family tradition" or a Memorable Easter. Reservations need to be called to Sandy Wilmert or Toni so we can have the group all together and arrange to carpool from church.



**St. John Diners  
Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 a.m.**



Are you planning to attend St. John Diners in April? Sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary to let us know. This way we know how many to make the reservation for. Be at the church parking lot on April 19<sup>th</sup> by 11:00 a.m. to leave for Clinton. Those driving on their own the reservation is for 11:30 a.m.



**FEBRUARY FINANCIALS**

Beginning Balance		\$59,456.38
Income	\$10,409.93	
Expenses	\$22,340.50	
Ending Balance		\$47,525.81



**THANK YOU!      THANK YOU!!  
THANK YOU!!!**

SPECIAL THANKS to ALL who jumped in and helped with the emergencies during service and after the luncheon following the memorial for Mary Fuller. We didn't know a dishwasher could put out so much water – even overflowing into Fellowship Hall and across kitchen – after it was shut off! Even Mary's grandson's came to our rescue by knowing how to find shut-off valve and electrical supply. Can't list all the names – know I'd miss someone because mop changed hands, new hands dropped towels and rags, others washed dishes and trays by hand. Talk about teamwork – and no one was in charge – each just found a spot or a job and did it! Always on top of a problem like this the reinforcements arrived: Gary Atteberry, Leland Semple, and Bob Meinershagen took tools and expertise to a new level. Talk about ANGELS!!!! St. John had a host of them that afternoon. BLESS YOU ALL!!!



**Celebrate Life Birthday Group  
Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 a.m.  
Wild Hare Café in Elkhart  
April birthdays will be celebrated.**



Are you or someone in your family graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, High School or College this year? Please let the church office know as soon as possible. Thanks!

Gratefully,  
Charity Guild Funeral  
Luncheon committee

## OUTREACH and PUBLICITY

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

Outreach met in Fellowship Hall to finalize the Potato Bar dinner and complete list of names for Scout plaque. Jim and Leslie Wilmet, Jack and Nancy Leich and Tonita Reifsteck met and because Sandy will be gone – info will be shared with Janet Johnson who will help.

OLD BUSINESS: Set up for Potato Bar will be Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Jack will get access to church on Sunday prior to 8:30 a.m. so potatoes will be done by 11:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS: LCHS welcomed new possibilities of transferring LCHS project for items for commissary to Missions: Children of Lincoln program.

Toni will request office to cut a \$200 check to Lincoln Park District for team sponsorship.

Looking for others to share in this ministry – be on team, help with projects (i.e. bulletin boards, programs).

THANKS TO ALL who supported the POTATO BAR – March 9, 2025 following Worship. Proceeds of \$334.57 go to Outreach's support to WIC for Sippy Training Cups

SPECIAL THANKS to Janet Johnson for joining the group in serving and cleaning up – (NO dishwasher and one oven not working made for extra hands on deck and busy!!!!)



Outreach Ministry delivered Sippy cups to the Logan County Health Department for the WIC. Program. Dana accepted the gift with gratitude for St. John UCC's support for items their budget can't obtain but so vital to the children ages 1-5 who benefit.



### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED...**

**MEALS ON WHEELS – 1½ hours/once a month**

**Drive/or Deliver on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday**

See Tonita Reifsteck or call 217-855-1645.

**NEEDED...**  
**COFFEE HOUR**  
**HOST/HOSTESS VOLUNTEERS**



Sign-up sheets are in Narthex  
and Kitchen.







### LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

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

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656  
Jerry and Mary Berglin  
Wayne Mara (Send mail to: Edna Mara,  
302 South Main Street, Lincoln, IL 62656)  
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

#### LINCOLN VILLAGE HEALTHCARE CENTER

2202 N. Kickapoo Street, Lincoln, IL 62656  
Judy Kline

#### CEDARHURST OF SPRINGFIELD

3520 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62711  
Helen Opperman

#### ASHTON PLACE

4151 Ashton Road, Sarasota, FL 34233  
Patty McCann

## GREETERS

- April 6<sup>th</sup>: Tonita Reifsteck**
- April 13<sup>th</sup>: Dan Row**
- April 20<sup>th</sup>: Verdeen Ingram**
- April 27<sup>th</sup>: Lynn Spellman**



## BIRTHDAYS

- 9** Esther Denney
- 13** Brady Curry
- 16** Emmett Nowack
- 17** Heather Goetsch
- 20** Karen Birnbaum
- 25** Laura Lee
- 27** **Wayne Mara**  
Betsy Pech
- 29** Becky Rader

Names in **red** are church family members who are on the visitation list. Let's fill their mailboxes on their birthdays.

**Easter Fruit and Pastry Buffet**  
**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Serving 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sign up by April 6th**



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 12** Randy and Betsy Pech
- 13** Steve and Elaine Aue
- 20** Rich and Rochelle Joseph



**Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Outreach and Publicity at 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

LCT Auditions

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

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

LCT Auditions

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Chimers practice after ringers

**Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

**Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Fellowship Hall reserved

**Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Chimers practice after ringers

**Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

St. John Diners to Ted Garage

Holy Saturday at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian at 6:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Fruit and Pastry Buffet with serving from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

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

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

St. John Chimers practice after ringers

**Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Veterans Ministry meeting at 4:00 p.m.

**NOTE:**

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

The week of April 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> the YMCA will be here from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (It's Spring Break for the schools).



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  
 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  
 Alice Paulus  
 Leslie Wilmert  
 Sandy Sanders  
 Karen Birnbaum  
 Tim and his son, Josh and family  
 Myron Zimmerman family  
 Jody Baldwin  
 Bethany Edgecombe  
 Dave Frank  
 Kevin Wilham  
 Kathy  
 Elizabeth Miller  
 Edna Mara  
 Calob's Grandmother  
 Katie

Illinois Conference/Western Association

**FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:**

Steve Aue, Jerry and Mary Berglin, Judy Kline,  
 Bill Krepps, Wayne Mara, 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:** [stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com)

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

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