

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

May 2025 Newsletter

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

Darlene Begolka

Office Manager

Volume 56, No. 5

May 2025



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

**Monday, April 21, 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

Guests: Toni Reifsteck, Leland Semple, and Gary Atteberry

President Silas Tockey called the meeting to order on Monday, April 21, 2025 at 7:00pm, and he also gave the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

A correction was made to the March meeting minutes. Under "Other" #5. Welcome Sign – "like to" was removed. A motion to make correction and accept amended March 17, 2025 Minutes was made and seconded. All voting aye the motion carried. It was moved and seconded to accept the consent agenda as presented. All voting aye, the motion carried.

GUEST DISCUSSION

Charity Guild – Funeral Dinner Guideline: Toni Reifsteck presented updated guidelines for Funeral Dinners. It was moved and seconded to accept the updated Funeral Dinner Guidelines. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Kitchen Coffee Pot (Bunn) and entryway coffee Keurig machine: Toni wanted to inform the council that the Bunn coffee maker in the kitchen was badly leaking, so it has been replaced. And it has come to the attention of several people that the Keurig machine in the entryway on the coffee cart is producing poor quality coffee due to lack of regular use. Cart will stay. It was moved and seconded to remove the Keurig coffee machine only, from the cart in the entryway. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Silas thanked Toni for attending and bringing her questions to the council.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Building and Grounds Update:** Gary Atteberry gave an update on the areas of the church that need addressed or have been addressed.
Sunday School Rooms: A list with each Sunday School room and what is currently in each room was given to the council members. No action was taken.
Dishwasher: A hot water valve was replaced on the dishwasher. So hopefully no more massive leaks
Outdoor signs fixed: The Outdoor signs were fixed
Custodian: Dana, the custodian is back to work after having her baby.
Landscaping: Thanks to Jack Leich, the landscaping around the church and parsonage has been completed.
Bids for tree removal: Thomas Madigan has submitted a bid to remove two Hackberry trees for \$2000 each and \$1250 for the gumball tree South of the bus barn, which causes leaves in the sunken garden.
Security System: System not functioning properly. The current company, Tech Electronics used the previous company's equipment (Johnson Equipment), so the alarm codes can't be accessed by Tech Electronics. Building and Grounds is assessing options and will present to the Church Council.
Church roof: Some shingles were damaged or came off during the most recent wind storms. Repairs were done, but both the church and the parsonage roofs are in need of replacement. The committee will get bids to present to the council, then the congregation.
YMCA: Due to the stipulation of their grant the YMCA is currently only using the Fellowship Hall and the restrooms.

Silas thanked Gary Atteberry and Leland Semple for presenting the Building and Grounds Report.

2. **Confirmation:** No Discussion
3. **Hoefer Memorial Tree replacement:** Will consult Pastor David Marquardt to get a specific tree and get it planted.
4. **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.
5. **Monthly Community Organization presenters:** We are asking to have a brief 5-minute presentation by local organization representatives for each month, so April 27 with be Jeanette Davis from ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care). Will be contacting Patti Schonauer from Hope on 5th for June.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Church's 165th Anniversary:** It was decided to have the Worship Team meet and decide how to celebrate this anniversary.
2. **Birthday Observance during Worship service:** It was moved and seconded to discontinue the Birthday observance on the 3rd Sunday of each month. All voting aye the motion carried. Will discuss again if any feedback is given.
3. **Use of index cards for prayer/joys during worship:** After discussion it was decided we not use index cards, until a settled pastor comes, then Pastor can make the decision.
4. **Banners:** Discussed different location for storage of banners, so as not to fade them.
5. **Special Events:** Special Events Committee will have a Graduate Recognition event on Sunday, May 18th. There will be NO 4th of July event this year.
6. **Communion to Shut-ins:** After checking with Western Association Conference Minister, Kathy Lawes, about lay people serving communion to shut-ins, or homebound, she said that communion should be served by Elders, but lay people may accompany.

CORRESPONDENCE AND E-MAILS

There was no correspondence or e-mails.

ADJOURMENT AND BENEDICTION

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voting aye, the motion carried. All said the Lord's Prayer as the benediction before adjourning at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Lee, Church Council Secretary



FILLING OUR PULPIT IN MAY

May 4 th :	Rev. James Christian
May 11 th :	Rev. Chris Schilling
May 18 th :	Ann Lamkey
May 25 th :	Rev. Ken Kline



MISSION NEWS

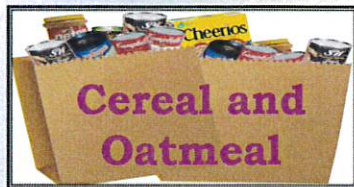
By: Verdeen Ingram and
Marlene Wilmert, Co-Chairs

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.**

Marlene delivered 164 teddy bears and Easter stuffed animals to Lincoln Memorial Hospital in March. However, mid-April they were down to 8 animals, so she was only able to locate another 71 to deliver in April. Thanking everyone in advance for Easter donations towards the Teddy Bear Project to keep it going.

May Food Item Is...



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



Coming Soon...

MUSICFEST SUNDAY
Sunday, May 18, 2025



Articles for the **June 2025** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **May 19th.**



May 4th:
May 11th:
May 18th:
May 25th: Nancy Gehlbach



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

All Men of the Church are Welcome.



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

The graduates will be recognized on Sunday, May 18th.

CHARITY GUILD HAPPENINGS...

By: Tonita Reifsteck

THANK YOU to all who have made the effort to put items into the proper tubs and crates in the pantry. Reminder: plastic containers for leftovers go into the tub ONLY WITH LIDS – no lid, please don't leave. If tub is full see a member of Charity Guild.

Please don't 'plop' container or bag full down on floor.

REMINDER: There is a LARGE TUB with seasonal items for ANYONE to use (don't need permission or to notify anyone – just take!). Leftovers of your event can be donated if you don't take them home – please put in proper tub! Charity Guild officers are Karen Birnbaum, Marlene Wilmert, Sandy Wilmert, Tonita Reifsteck.

REMINDER: If you use the last of any item (paper towel, coffee, creamer, storage bags, etc. please note supply needs to be filled by writing on memo pad on refrigerator! THANK YOU!!!



CELEBRATE LIFE...

By: Tonita Reifsteck



Sixteen St. Johners met at Wild Hare Restaurant in Elkhart for Celebrate Life on April 11th. Karen Birnbaum, Nancy Gehlbach, Janet Johnson, Laura Lee, Alice Paulus, Carolyn Pech, Tonita Reifsteck, Dan Row, Becky Semple, Lynn Spellman, Suzanne Tockey, Carol Webb, Jim and Leslie Wilmert and Kaye Wilmert shared in fellowship, signed birthday, get-well and Easter cards for members of the church family. Several enjoyed and took advantage of the gift shops in the area.

The May Celebrate Life will be at Kickapoo Creek Park (weather permitting) on Friday, May 9th at 11:30 a.m. in the first Shelter. Bring your own picnic lunch and drink.

ATTENDANCE

April 6th

35 In-Person, 46 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 95+

April 13th

37 In-Person, 55 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 106+

April 20th

91 In-Person, xx on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = xxx+

April 27th

37 In-Person, 34 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 85+

St. John Diners
Saturday, May 17th
11:30 a.m.



Are you planning to attend St. John Diners in May? 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 May 17th by 11:00 a.m. to leave for Bloomington. Those driving on their own the reservation is for 11:30 a.m.



Celebrate Life Birthday Group

Friday, May 9th

11:30 a.m.

Kickapoo Creek Park

(Weather Permitting)

Bring your own lunch and drink.

May birthdays will be celebrated.



MARCH FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance	\$47,525.81
Income	\$10,904.41
Expenses	\$18,271.23
Ending Balance	\$47,525.81

OUTREACH and PUBLICITY

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

Outreach met on Tuesday, April 1st in Wilmet Lounge with Jim and Leslie Wilmet, Jack and Nancy Leich, Sandy Wimert and Tonita Reifsteck and joined by Silas Tockey, Church Council President who is going to join our ministry.



OLD BUSINESS

- Potato Bar netted \$334.57 and Sippy cups have already arrived and been delivered to WIC – for which they are grateful for St. John's support

Special thanks to Sandy Meinershagen for decorations and Janet Johnson for helping serve.

- All names are complete, and errors corrected on the Eagle Scout plaques in Fellowship Hall and another plaque for the future is available since this model is no longer available (magnetic name plates). Total project \$834.
- Check for sponsorship of summer baseball team of \$200 was delivered to Lincoln Rec Center. Details of St. John team will be shared when available (early May)

NEW BUSINESS

- LCHS welcomed new possibilities of transferring LCHS project for items for commissary to Missions: Children of Lincoln program. Input from LCHS is forthcoming.
- Awareness of limited number of members who know where or how equipment available in church operates. Outreach has offered Church Council to offer a program after worship sometime in June for location and operation guidelines for the heart defibrillator, Fire extinguishers, emergency shut off (i.e. water) who to call etc. Details will be shared as confirmed. Other programs possible were discussed/tables.
- Meetings will move to the first TUESDAY of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Wilmet Lounge.
- Looking for others to share in this ministry – be on team, help with projects (i.e. bulletin board themes, present/suggest programs).

GREETERS

May 4th: Alice Paulus
May 11th: Bill Gosda, Jr.
May 18th: Dan and Nancy Dexter
May 25th: Donna Buse

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

Sign-up sheets are in Narthex
and Kitchen.



VOLUNTEER NEEDED...
MEALS ON WHEELS – 1½ hours/once a month

Drive/or Deliver on 3rd Friday

See Tonita Reifsteck or call 217-855-1645.



THANK YOU to the family of Mary Fuller for the nice dish cloths, towels and oven mitts you gifted the church kitchen with. They have replaced a 'sorry state' of towels now in rag bag! A much-appreciated gift – that brings a lot of smiles for

'Mary memories'. THANK YOU!



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Jerry and Mary Berglin

Edna Mara

Wayne Mara

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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Elaine Aue
Angela Coombs
Reagan Rader-Ingram
- 7 Jack Leich
- 9 David Hansen
- 10 Amellia Nowack
Pat McCann
- 14 Leslie Wilmert
- 17 Noah Morgan
- 19 Skylar Morgan
- 21 Tricia Pineda
- 22 Dan Dexter
- 23 Henry Abbott
- 24 Marge Hansen
- 26 Russell Wright
- 31 Kaye Wilmert

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

The following is a thank you note from Rev. Dr. Charlotte Nold, Pastor and the congregation of St. John Church in Chicago:

Dear Members of St. John UCC,



Thank you for your wonderful donation of \$136. We truly appreciate 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 along 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 os much needed financial support that you are giving to our church.

May ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Charlie and Miki Spellman
- 17 Russell and Beth Wright
- 18 Jerry and Mary Berglin
- 31 William and Twila Muhlach

The Special Events Committee is planning a Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 18th starting at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to honor the graduates of St. John United Church of Christ. Stop in before church for something to drink and a cookie.

The graduates from the church will also be recognized during the worship service.





Saturday, May 3rd

Men's Fellowship at Imo's Café at 8:30 a.m.
Western and Prairie Association Spring Meeting

Sunday, May 4th

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship/Communion at 10:00 a.m.
St. John Ringers practice after church
St. John Chimers practice after ringers

Monday, May 5th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6th

Outreach and Publicity meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9th

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

Sunday, May 11th

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, May 12th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13th

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, May 17th

St. John Diners to Bandana's

Sunday, May 18th

Graduate Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
MusicFest Sunday
Cub Scouts at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, May 19th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.
Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 23rd

YMCA Camp Training Meeting

Sunday, May 25th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
St. John Chimers practice after church

Monday, May 26th

Church Office closed for Holiday

Tuesday, May 27th

YMCA Summer Camp starts at 7:00 a.m.
Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28th

YMCA Summer Camp from 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 29th

YMCA Summer Camp from 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 30th

YMCA Summer Camp from 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Note:

The YMCA is here Monday – Friday
from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.



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

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