

# ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

*Published monthly in the interest of*



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

**July 2024 Newsletter**

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

204 Seventh Street ~ Lincoln, Illinois 62656

217-732-6957

E-mail address: [stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com) | Website: [stjohnucclincolnillinois.com](http://stjohnucclincolnillinois.com)

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

Rev. David Marquardt

Darlene Begolka

Volume 55, No. 7

Bridge Pastor

Office Manager

July 2024



## FROM OUR PASTOR

Grace and Peace

Do you like reruns? When we first retired and moved to Hudson, we were looking for something to watch and stumbled on to an old Gunsmoke rerun. Now neither one of us have watched Gunsmoke in 30 or 40 years that we could recall. The shows we would watch of an evening were or course reruns, but since we couldn't remember the old ones, they were once again new. And of course that's what retired folks do, watch old westerns!

We also went through a spell of older NCIS shows, Chicago Fire, and Chicago PD. These are older shows as well, but we don't recall ever watching them, so once again they have become new again. Now we don't have streaming, which has for the last few years been all the rage, so when people tell us about a great show or movie they recently watched on Hulu, Peacock, YouTube, or Netflix, we have to tell them we've never seen it. When they ask what we've been watching, and we tell about all the old western reruns, well I know they just think we're old retired folks and easily entertained. (which is of course true. 😊)

But not all reruns are enjoyable. If we see something one evening, and then notice the same program on another of the 9000 (mostly useless) channels that are on Direct TV satellite, then of course we look for something else to watch. It's like turning on the Cubs and watching them blow another game in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. Who wants to watch those recent reruns!?

In addition to older shows or reruns, we also enjoy the older hymns in church. I think that's something most of us would agree on, even though they too are reruns. We all have our favorite, which is something that really surfaces as families prepare for funerals and want to sing or play Mom or Dad's old favorites.

The point is this; some reruns are enjoyable, and some are not. Old forgotten reruns are new again, while recent reruns are not. Some weren't very good the first time, so watching them again is out of the question. But some reruns in life, like our wonderful old hymns in church, just never seem to get old, and we never seem to tire of them. So what does this have to do with church? Well stay tuned and we'll see.

There are books that we read and want to re-read because they were so enjoyable, or we learned so much from them. Conversely, there are books we can't wait to finish, hoping at some point before we're done that there might be a point. Some books are enjoyable to read, while others are not. But what about our Bible?

You see our Bibles are in many ways reruns. New verses aren't being added like TV shows where next week will be a new episode in a series. Unlike watching reruns over and over again, God's word is different each time we read it. Why? Because we're different, or in a different place in life since the last time we read that chapter or verse.

Far too often we read our Bible thinking we know what's going to happen next. But unlike reruns of movies or TV shows, God's word has something new to say every time we pick it up.

Now I bring this to you, because in all honesty, we, as Christians, don't spend enough time in God's word. There are several reasons for this, not the least of which is that we'd rather be entertained by a great novel or exciting movie on TV. But what I've observed over time, is that if I would suggest studying a portion of our Bible for a Lenten study, sure enough, several weeks later, someone's going to tell me what else they've been reading as they continue through that chapter or on to the next.

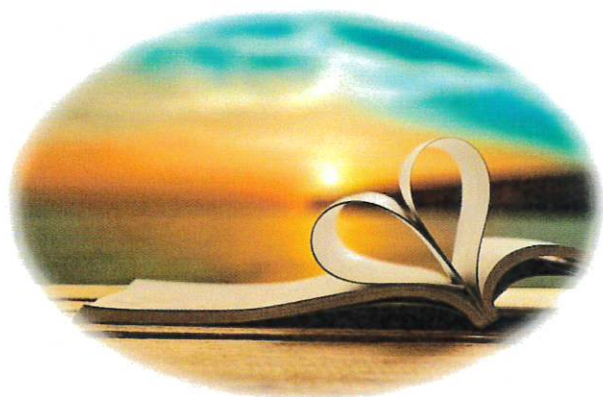
You see the more time we spend in God's word, the more we find it's always new. Many years ago I asked a minister about seminary, and they told me I was much better off just reading my Bible every day. This minister said they had read it cover to

cover 7 times, and continue to get more out of it than they learned in school. So I guess that if an ordained minister can get something new out of re-reading and re-reading their Bible, then we can as well. So in a clumsy way, I'm trying to get you to see not only the entertainment value of reading God's word, but also the education value. In my mind, there's really no way to more fully understand God's word and appreciate what God has done for us through Jesus, then to read and study God's own word. There's really no better way to learn how to live and to love, than reading the endless lessons that scripture teaches. And there's really no better way to learn how to get along with others, then to read both the good and the not so good relationships that God's people had.

You see, for generations, the Bible has been the #1 best seller, but when you talk to people, yes, they have a Bible, but they aren't reading it. This is a sad commentary on us as Christians who know so very little about what God's word has to say to us. And what I hope you gain from this, is that there is no possible way to understand everything God's word has for us in a single reading. God's word isn't a rerun, it's new each time we read it, because as I said earlier, we're not in the same place in our lives each time we pick it up. Please don't let it gather dust. Please give it at least some of your day, even if for a chapter or two. I think that once you start, that you'll see that it's harder and harder to put down.

My prayer is that you'll at least give your Bible another chance to change your life.

Love and blessings.  
Pastor David.



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

Monday, June 17, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Leland Semple, Sandy Meinershagen, Dan Row, Roger Michalsen, Laura Lee, Randy Pech, Pastor David Marquardt, and Darlene Begolka, Office Manager

**Absent:** Keith Birnbaum, Silas Tockey, and Kaye Wilmert

President Leland Semple called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024. Rev. David Marquardt gave the invocation.

### CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted. All voting aye the motion passed.

### COMMITTEE RPORTS

**Building and Grounds:** Committee has received three estimates for roof repair; one estimate for parsonage; and one carpet bid for sanctuary

**Special Events Committee:** They will be sponsoring lunch on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> following the morning service. It will feature pork burgers and 4<sup>th</sup> of July themed sides. There will also be a sing-along.

**Veteran's Celebration Committee:** The Route 66 Bake Sale raised over \$448.00, which was more than last year.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor David reported that besides the Sunday services, he presided at one funeral in the church and one at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home. He did a few nursing home and hospital visits

### OLD BUSINESS

**Interim and Pastoral Search Team:** The team will be interviewing one candidate in person, and another candidate via a zoom call.

**Third Fridays:** Upcoming Friday Theme – Nashville Nights. There are enough volunteers this month.

**Pridefest:** The event went well, but not as many attended as anticipated, so the items the church purchased will be used for next year's event. Leland thanked all the volunteers who helped out during the event.

**Juneteenth:** The church wasn't given enough information prior to the event in order to decide to participate. Hopefully next year the information will be sent out sooner.

### NEW BUSINESS

**New Member Packets:** It's been suggested that a packet be put together for new members to the church. Among items in the packet would be the most recent Directory (name and address), Committee list, plus various other items, and an actual tour of the church.

**Workday at the Church/Parsonage:** It has come to the council's attention that the outside of both the church and parsonage are in need of some detailed clean up. The Boy Scouts will be contacted and asked to help with this project.

### Other:

**Boat motor:** Sandy Meinershagen asked if anyone would have a 9.9-25 horse powered boat motor that the Boy Scouts could borrow.

**Tree Removal:** The tree, located on church property near the alley and the power pole, is dead and will be removed at the proper time. The tree was planted as a memorial, so it will be replaced.

### ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

It was moved and seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with the council reciting the Lord's Prayer.

**Communion in July:** Randy Pech and Silas Tockey; Bread and Grape juice provided by the church. Clean up by all.

Submitted by Laura Lee,  
Substituting for Secretary Silas Tockey

## MISSION COMMITTEE

by Verdeen Ingram, Co-Chair

**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.**

85 stuffed animals were taken to the ER at Lincoln Memorial Hospital during the month of June.

## COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES July, August and September

Bring your donations to The Giving Tree.  
Monetary donations are also welcome.  
Supplies will be given to Central and  
Lincoln Junior High Schools.  
(Pencil, pens, crayons,  
markers, notebooks,  
glue, etc.)

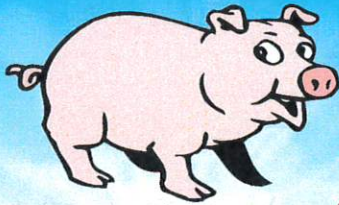


## July Food Item Is...



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

# JULY IS PORK PROJECT MONTH...



Be sure to memo your check for  
Pork Project.

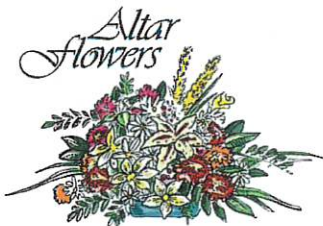


## MAY FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance		\$27,870.21
Income	\$ 7,897.92	
Expenses	\$17,253.96	
Ending Balance		\$18,514.17



Articles for the **August 2024** newsletter should be  
in the Church Office by July 19<sup>th</sup>.



July 7<sup>th</sup>:  
July 14<sup>th</sup>:  
July 21<sup>st</sup>:  
July 28<sup>th</sup>:

Eat at the  
**COUNTRY AIRE RESTAURANT**  
in Atlanta, Illinois  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**ALL DAY**  
(6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.)



**10% of the sales that day will go  
to the 2024 Logan County  
Veterans Celebration.**

**Mark your calendars and come  
out to support this great project.**

## WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

The family of John Wilmert.

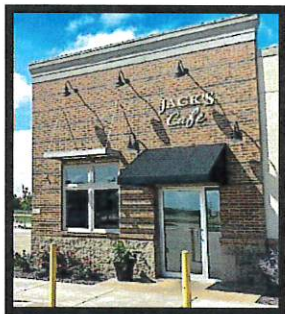
The family of Sandra "Sandy" Morgan.

Nancy and Dan Dexter at the death of Nancy's  
father, Clinton Barker.

Steve and Elaine Aue and family at the death of  
Steve's brother, Tom Aue.

Carolyn and Doug Reifsteck and family at the  
death of Carolyn's mother.

**St. John Diners  
Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>  
Jack's Café in Tremont  
11:30 a.m.**



St. John Diners will be going to Jack's Café in Tremont for the July outing

Leave the Church Parking Lot at 11:00 a.m.  
A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary.



Devotional for July, August, September are available for anyone wanting one – on the table in Narthex. Answer to question – YES you can take a 2<sup>nd</sup> one for other family or friend.

**CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP...**  
by Tonita Reifsteck



With a breeze flowing through the shelter at Kickapoo Park, a cozy group of 4 enjoyed their lunch and conversation at the June Celebrate Life luncheon. The topic for the month

was interesting that everyone present had originally intended on being a teacher – all began their college studies, two took a 'detour to another way of life' and two finished and taught. Lots of memories shared, stirred and cards signed for birthdays and get well. July CELEBRATE LIFE will be in the park – July 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Topic will be "most memorable patriotic event in my life" or free choice. No reservations required – all welcome – just come!



**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m.  
Imo's Café**

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

## ATTENDANCE

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

36 In-Person, 70 on Facebook, 13 bulletins mailed and website = 119+

June 9<sup>th</sup>

39 In-Person, 54 on Facebook, 13 bulletins mailed and website = 106+

June 16<sup>th</sup>

62 In-Person, 46 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed and website = 120+

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

35 In-Person, 52 on Facebook, 11 bulletins mailed and website = 98+

## GREETERS

July 7<sup>th</sup>: Tonita Reifsteck  
July 14<sup>th</sup>: Verdeen Ingram  
July 21<sup>st</sup>: Donna Buse  
July 28<sup>th</sup>: Edna Mara

## SPECIAL MUSIC FOR JULY



July 7<sup>th</sup>: Laura Lee  
July 14<sup>th</sup>: Austin Garriott  
July 21<sup>st</sup>: Kay Dobson  
July 28<sup>th</sup>: Silas Tockey

## SCHOLARSHIP INFO

The Scholarship Committee is offering the St. John Education Scholarship to members of St. John United Church of Christ in Lincoln who are pursuing higher education.

Applications have been emailed. The deadline to have your application into the church office is **July 15, 2024**. Extra applications are available by calling the church office (732-6957).



## LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

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

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656  
Jerry and Mary Berglin  
Susan Webb  
George Wilmert

### 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

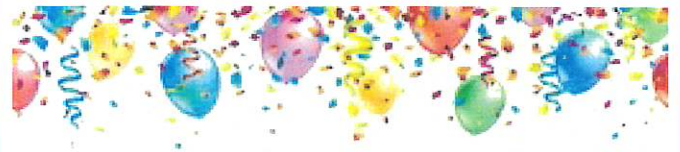


## JULY BIRTHDAYS...



- 2 Darlene Begolka, Edward Spellman, Mike Turner
- 3 William Mulach
- 4 Dana Kline
- 6 Glen Birnbaum
- 11 **Helen Opperman**, Glenn Shanle
- 16 Mark Goergen
- 20 Valerie Coombs, Andrew Pagel
- 21 Judy Kline
- 22 Gary Atteberry
- 25 Sandy Wilmert
- 27 Donald Begolka, Katherine Christensen, Shanda Ryer, Lynn Paulus
- 29 Benjamin Spellman
- 30 Kevin Kurtz, Alice Paulus

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



**Celebrate Life Birthday Group**  
**Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:30 a.m.**

**Kickapoo Creek Park**  
**(weather permitting)**  
**Bring your own lunch and drink.**

**July birthdays will be celebrated.**

## PLAY BALL...



**BOYS and GIRLS TEE BALL**  
**ST. JOHN UCC**  
**COACH: Mitchel Beatty**

Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
St. John UCC vs. ME Realty

Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
St. John UCC vs. State Farm/Bryan Clark

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

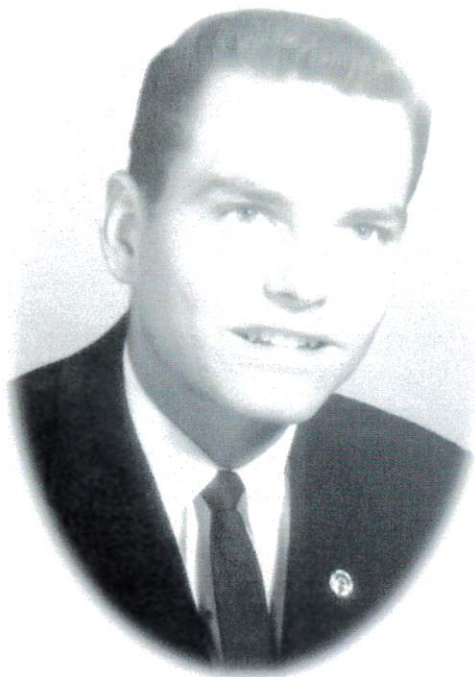


- 2 Tom and Leanne Pech  
Ed and Michelle Spellman
- 7 James and Erin Abbott
- 10 Wayne and Edna Mara
- 21 Rod and Lori Christensen
- 23 Kent and Lynn Paulus
- 24 Loren and Karen Birnbaum
- 30 David and Marilyn Armbrust

**St. John UCC**  
**will be participating in the**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays Downtown Event**  
**on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**This family event runs from**  
**5:30 to 8:30 p.m.**  
**We will have our Pick Up a Duck**  
**Game set up. Sound like fun?**  
**Drop by and see us!**

# *In Loving Memory...*



John Clifford Wilmert, 80, of Lincoln, passed away June 6, 2024 at St. Clara's Manor.

John was born November 10, 1943, in Lincoln, the son of Clifford John Wilmert and Margaret Alberta (Sparks) Wilmert. He married Sandra Baumhardt and they had three children. He then married Joan Patton. He later married Alice Doehring.

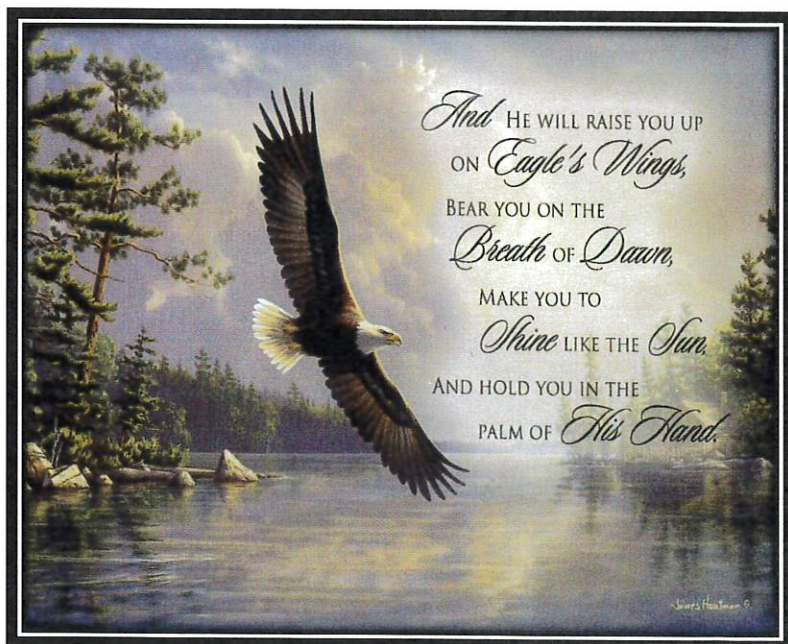
John began his education in a one room schoolhouse. He then attended Chester East Lincoln, graduated from Lincoln Community High School in 1961 where he was involved in the choir, 4-H, and FFA, graduated from Lincoln College, and then from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where he majored in forestry and agronomy. He was a livestock and grain farmer. John enjoyed arrowhead hunting, forestry, geology, guns, and knives. He was a member of several farm organizations, the NFO, NRA, and participated in the tractorcade to Washington DC in the 1970's. He was an active member of St. John United Church of Christ, serving on the church

council, singing in the choir, and participating in family fellowship. If you knew John, you knew that he was a storyteller, and if you didn't know him, he would make you feel like you did. John never met a stranger.

Surviving are his three daughters from ex-wife Sandy (Baumhardt) Wilmert: Yolonda Martin, Stacey (Chris) Marten, and Dana (John) Damm; grandchildren: Kate, Jessica, Nick, and Max Martin, Daniel, Ben, and Mae Marten, and Djuna Damm.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at St. John United Church of Christ with the Rev. David Marquardt officiating; burial was in New Union Cemetery, Lincoln.



## *In Loving Memory...*



Sandra J. "Sandy" Morgan, 80, of Lincoln, passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Lincoln Memorial Hospital.

Sandy was born February 19, 1944, in Lincoln, the daughter of Owen Calvin "Cal" and Edith (Miller) Beaver. She married Richard T. Morgan on July 4, 1963, in Girard. He preceded her in death in 2017.

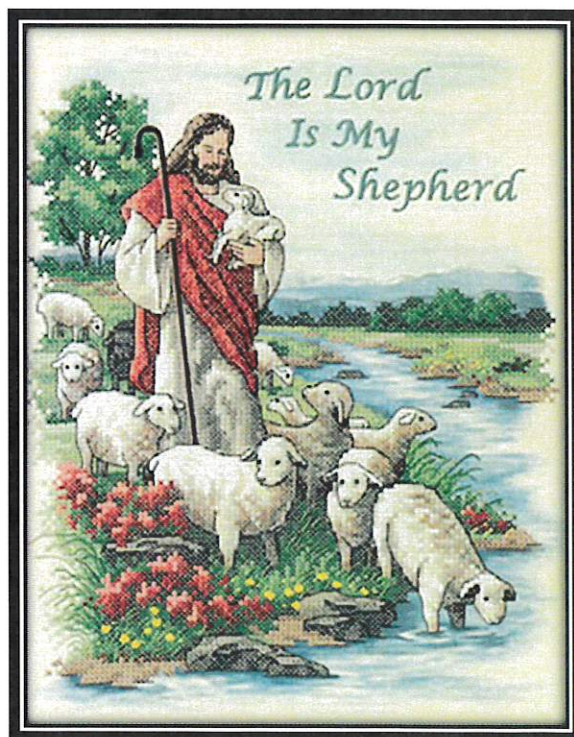
Sandy is survived by her children, Rodney Morgan, Rhonda (Don) Howard, Rochelle (Richard) Joseph, and Randy (Laura) Morgan; stepchildren, Kathy (Al) Anderson and Greg (Jolene) Morgan; eight grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and her loving yorkie, "Punkin".

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard; sister, Bonnie Hoy; and son-in-law, J.D. Kincheloe. Sandy was the last of her immediate family.

Sandy grew up on a farm helping her dad with all the chores. She loved her horse "Dusty" and would ride him to the one room schoolhouse in her youth. Sandy worked as a beautician for many years, then as a CNA, and later as a secretary of Abraham

Lincoln Memorial Hospital until retirement. She was a member of St. John United Church of Christ. Sandy loved her backyard and standing amongst her trees. She enjoyed attending steam engine shows. Sandy always raised big gardens and canned food for her family. She was a great cook! Sandy loved all nature and animals but loved being with her family the most.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln with the Rev. David Marquardt officiating; burial was at Lucas Chapel Cemetery in Lincoln.





**Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

T-Ball Game at 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

Church Office closed for holiday

**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

**Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

T-Ball Game at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

St. John Diners to Jack's Café in Tremont

**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**

All-day Fundraiser at Country Aire Restaurant

**Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Downtown Event 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

Veteran's Ministry meeting at 5:00 p.m.

**Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Rehearsal

**Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

Wedding

**Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

**NOTE:**

The YMCA Summer Camp will be here  
Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Linda Barrow  
 Alissa Smith  
 Leslie Wilmert  
 Cheryl F.  
 Katrina Opperman  
 Lynn  
 David  
 Kathy Staten  
 Jim Walsh  
 Kristen  
 Lee Wolfe  
 Joyce (Gail Marquardt's mom)  
 Lynn (Friend of Donna)  
 "Pete" Luckhart  
 Zach (Friend of Pastor David, Gail, Joshua)  
 Abigail  
 Middle East  
 Cierra  
 Raymond  
 Stephanie Opperman  
 Janet Dullard  
 Jean (C.J.) Sutton  
 Amy Tabor  
 John Tabor  
 Karson  
 Ruth Post  
 Sharlene  
 Alexis and baby Maverick  
 Emily Hyde  
 Rachelle Riggs  
 Jen Steele

Pat O'Neil  
 Donnie Kirk  
 Ellen Schweizer  
 John Hebenstreit  
 Beverly  
 David Dennis  
 Louise Jeffries  
 Bob Sanders  
 Martha  
 Wayne Mara  
 Debbie  
 Marc Wendt  
 Sandy Sanders  
 Anita  
 Mike  
 George Wilmert  
 Donnie Merritt  
 Tim  
 Mary

Illinois Conference/Western Association

**FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:**

Steve Aue  
 Jerry and Mary Berglin  
 Judy Kline  
 Bill Krepps  
 Patty McCann  
 Helen Opperman  
 Susan Webb

# 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

## Contact us:

**Email:** [stjohnuclincoln@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnuclincoln@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [stjohnuclincolnillinois.com](http://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”**

