

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

August 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. 8

Bridge Pastor

Office Manager

August 2024



FROM OUR PASTOR

I'm curious, do you ever bite your tongue? I do, and it's been happening more of late. I think it's been for 5 or 6 months or so. Does it hurt? Well maybe some, but I sure feel better for it.

You see I'm not talking about actually biting the tongue in my mouth, I'm talking about biting the words that come out of my thoughts and mouth. We've all heard the expression; *I wish I would have bitten my tongue instead of saying that*. Or what mom always told us; *if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all*. Ok, maybe your mom didn't say that, but mine did, and sometimes rather regularly.

Now let's be honest, every one of us have caught ourselves saying things out of anger, frustration, or just to be heard. Sometimes we don't even know what the topic or conversation is, but by golly we have to have a word in it! These are places where we need to bite our tongue, and maybe mind our own business. I preached some of this a couple of weeks ago, referring to some of the time I spent on conference and association boards, and the stories we would hear about troubled churches. Most of the time, it was just as I said above, that people need to learn when to speak, because what they have to say needs to be heard, and when to keep their thoughts and actions to themselves. I saw this in my last church, where one party said something a bit snide to another, and then the injured party never came back. **Feelings matter, and they are more fragile than we often understand.**

So, you ask, what does God's Word have to say about this? Well, I'm glad you asked, because God says plenty, and much of it He wrote in the book of Proverbs. Here are a few:

Proverbs 16:23 - The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction.

Proverbs 18:6-7 - The lips of fools bring them strife, and their mouths invite a beating. The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives

Proverbs 19:1 - Better the poor whose walk is blameless than a fool whose lips are perverse.

Proverbs 23:15-16 - ¹⁵ My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed; ¹⁶ my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.

Proverbs 10:20-21- The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value. The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of sense.

Proverbs 10:31-32 - ³¹ The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom, But the perverted tongue will be cut out. ³² The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverted.

Proverbs 11:11 - Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.

I think from these few verses that you get my point, and it goes hand in hand with my message that day. As I said at that time, St. John is in a time of transition as the congregation prepares for its next minister. I preached a while back about what God's word says about being more forgiving. I followed that a few weeks later with how to best deal with conflict. And just a couple of weeks ago my message was, for lack of a better description, how to keep the peace, by not bickering, especially about pointless things. Nothing, as I mentioned that day, will divide a congregation and create more long-term hurt, than simply saying things we shouldn't. Sometimes it's best to simply bite our tongue when we don't approve of another's actions.

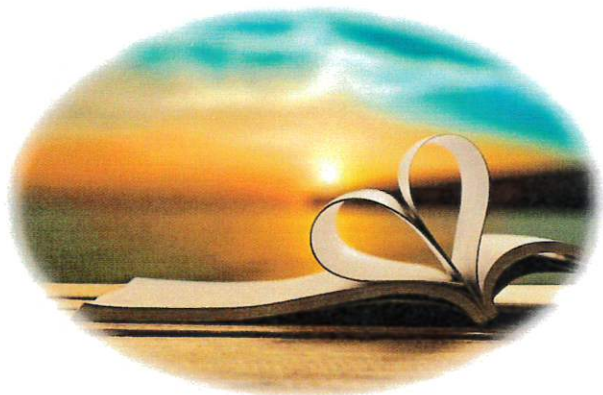
What I hope we've understood in each of these messages, is that God's Word says plenty about

dealing with conflict and being more forgiving. And as I've noted above, God also has plenty to say about an unkept tongue. And conversely, God also has much to say about showing kindness and compassion, by maybe biting our tongues a bit more.

Yes, St. John is in a time of transition, and there's nothing I want more, than for your next minister to be loved in the same manner with which you have loved us. And equally, my prayer is that your next minister will fill your pulpit with the kindness, love and compassion you so richly deserve. Your search committee has taken their task to heart, and done a wonderful job of vetting the profiles they've received. Please thank them and let them know how much you appreciate them for their effort and sacrifice. It's not an easy task, but they have been service-minded and deserve all the support you can offer.

So, how about spending a bit more time contemplating God's word, and then trying to live into it. You see, God knew us before we were born, and he knew we would need prodding from time to time on how to get along with the rest of His children. And much like a mother, God will instruct us on when we should bite our tongues, and when we should speak, doing so with the same love and compassion that Jesus speaks with, as he teaches the flocks that He shepherds.

Love, thanksgiving and blessings,
Pastor David



**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 15, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

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

Absent: Keith Birnbaum

President Leland Semple called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 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.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor David reported that the wedding of Ashley Paulus and Seth Bramel was coming up on July 27, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

Fund Transfer: It was mentioned that the \$20,000 had been transferred from Special Funds to Current Fund in late June.

Cry Room: Due to some conflicts the Memorial Committee has not been able to meet yet. A crib that fits the recommendations has been located. The committee is also looking into to some toys for the room.

Third Fridays Downtown: The final 3rd Friday of the season is coming up on Friday, July 19th. St. John UCC will be there with the pick-up a duck game.

Other: There was some discussion on the safety of the room being used for children on Sunday mornings. Some of the furniture in the room is not child safe. Also brought up was the number of people watching the children.

Other: Silas Tockey and Rev. Dr. Adam Quine found out they had just finished reading the same

book. In talking, the subject of a joint Book Club between the 2 churches came up. Silas will look into this a little further.

NEW BUSINESS

At this point in the meeting the Church Council moved into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved and seconded to move into Executive Session. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to exit Executive Session. Motion carried,

It was moved and seconded to Ratify the Executive Session. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Silas Tockey
Church Council Secretary

A Special Congregational meeting
is being called for
Sunday, August 18, 2024
following the morning worship service for the
purpose of voting on
Rev. Brian Damrow as our new settled pastor.



On Saturday, August 17th from
2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in
Fellowship Hall there will be an
Open House for
Rev. Brian Damrow and his wife, Dawn
hosted by the Church Council and Search Team.
This will give the congregation an opportunity to
meet Rev. Damrow and Dawn.

TIME TO THINK ABOUT CHOIRS...



Yes, it's hard to believe summer is almost over. The choirs have had a nice vacation, but now it's time to start thinking about choir rehearsals and once again making beautiful music

together. Your directors have been working hard over the summer to find some great music.

All the choirs (St. John Singers, St. John Ringers, and St. John Chimers) need more members. You ask how can I help? EASY. Simply join 1, 2 or all 3 choirs. It is a great way to share your musical talent. And, yes, everyone has musical talent. ***"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."***

St. John Singers will begin rehearsals on
Sunday, August 25th at 9:00 a.m.
St. John Ringers will begin rehearsals on
Sunday, August 25th following church.
St. John Chimers will begin rehearsals on
Wednesday, September 4th at 7:00 p.m.



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

All Men of the Church are Welcome.

OUTREACH AND PUBLICITY

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

Although Outreach was not meeting during the summer two programs they sponsor were able to carry out the programs planned.



On a sunny Sunday, June 30th nine ladies from St. John spent the afternoon sharing the music of Independence Day celebration prior to July 4th. With Laura Lee at the piano Nancy Gehlbach, Carol Webb, Sandy Wilmert, Tamara Turner, Carolyn Pech, Kaye Wilmert, Marilyn Armbrust and Tonita Reifsteck sang a number of patriotic songs in which many residents in each facility joined in singing too. It was a delightful afternoon spent in Copper Creek, St. Clara's Rehab and Senior Care (room was full) and Castle Manor which in each place our group visited with our members and others. Plans to visit a couple of shut-ins in their homes had to be cancelled. (Post event – we've been invited back to 2 of them!)

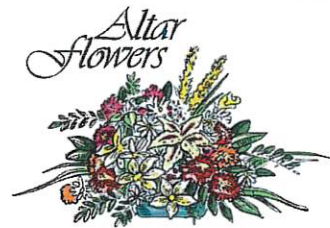
During June and through July 8th when they played their last game, the Lincoln Rec T-Ball team we sponsored played most Monday and Thursday evenings. One game was cancelled due to extreme heat. Coach Mitchell Beatty and his wife, Crystal assisting, kept 14 active boys and girls 'in the game' with a lot of parents and grandparents along with yours truly in the spectators section! There are more 'fun' stories to tell than space permits – so just ask if you need a smile or chuckle in your life! A 'treat' was given each player at the end of the game from Outreach – and after last game coach and team personally thanked our church for

our support/sponsorship and interest in the youngsters of Lincoln. Great coach-was aware of all 'needs' in a flash – and the blue shirts with UCC logo was visibly sharp.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS FOR THE VETERANS CELEBRATION...

- **Thursday, September 19th – Open Mic on a Mission at the Spirited Republic from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, September 21st – Bake Sale at the VFW during the Railsplitting Festival**
- **Monday, September 30th – Pork Chop Sandwich Dinner at Mama's Arcade from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, October 30th – El Mazatlan from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, November 30th – Quilters Bazaar on Small Business Saturday**

Watch for more information on each one of these fundraisers.



August 4th:
August 11th: Nancy Gehlbach
August 18th: Warren and Peggy Goetsch
August 25th: Laura Lee

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.**

The following is a report from Rick Releford and Norm Newhouse, Co-managers of the Lincoln Logan Food Pantry:

Distribution Report for May, 2024:
1236 Individuals served
406 Children served
386 Households served

Distribution Report for June, 2024:
1155 Individual served
377 Children served
360 Households served

Summer is here and temperatures rising, just in time for vegetable gardens. Lincoln Logan Food Pantry (LLFP) handed out vegetable seed packets, encouraging customers to grow their favorite vegetables at home.

Feeding America resources: Walmart, Aldi, and Sysco are big contributors to our food pantry each week! If not for Feeding America efforts, these food items would be tossed into the garbage!

Postal Carriers food drive was a big success with almost 2,000 pounds of food items donated to 4 Logan County food pantries! Thanks Carriers!

Thank you to our supporters for providing to food insecure families! It's a really good thing you do for others in our community. Thank you for the support with food donations and monetary funds. Garden donations are accepted too.

Verdeen reported that she had taken the following to the Lincoln Logan Food Pantry:

In May: 5 boxes and 2 bags of food
In June: 2 boxes and 2 bags of food

Thank you for your contributions.

COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES
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.)



August Food Item Is...



All non-perishable items are WELCOME.



Articles for the **September 2024** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **August 19th.**



JUNE FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance		\$18,514.17
Income	\$ 9,377.64	
Transfer	\$20,000.00	
Expenses	\$23,441.45	
Ending Balance		\$24,450.36

The following is a note from our sister church in Chicago:

Dear Members of St. John UCC in Lincoln,

Thank you for your wonderful donations of \$207.50 and \$144. 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 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.

Rev. Dr. Charlotte Nold, Pastor and the congregation of St. John Church in Chicago

**St. John Diners
Saturday, August 17th
The Old Brickyard
in Mt. Pulaski
11:30 a.m.**



St. John Diners will be going to The Old Brickyard Grill and Pub in Mt. Pulaski for their August outing.

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



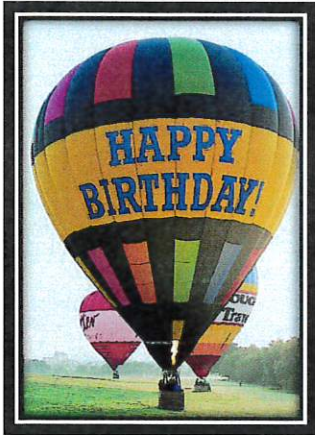
**Celebrate Life Birthday Group
Friday, August 9th
11:30 a.m.**

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

August birthdays will be celebrated.

CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP...

by Tonita Reifsteck



The sun was out but a cool breeze flowed through the shelter at Kickapoo Cree Park for a delightful gathering of nine CELEBRATE LIFE. A Cardinal put on a show darting back and forth and entertained us from a tree close by. Nancy led all in singing the

“Appleseed Prayer” after which all enjoyed their lunch which included ice cream given to us from the Church potluck the week prior. Ice cream, dishes, scoops and napkins – all in check/what – no spoons! Nancy came to the rescue with a pack of silverware in her bag!



A variety of topics filled the conversations from memorable July 4th events to other family times in July memories past! Cards signed for birthdays, anniversaries and get well.

August CELEBRATE LIFE will be in the park on Friday, August 9th at 11:30 a.m. Topic will be “some person at St. John who you remember/influenced/inspired or motivated you”. Since it’s been 50 years since remodeling of the sanctuary we’ll continue historical reflections so topic in September will be memorable event in St. John past (164 years).

No reservations required – all welcome – just come! In case of rain we will meet in Wilmert Lounge at the church.



NEWS TIBITS by Tonita Reifsteck...

Several funeral luncheon were served during the month and volunteers stepped up to make it possible – in addition to Leland fixing one of the carts to make it useable and Bill driving from Springfield to run the dishwasher. All donations and assistance were appreciated by Charity Guild and the families.

THANKS goes out to Jack Leich who has kept the flowers watered around the church in all the dry weather there is beauty! (If others helped do this – apologies/you were under the radar)

THANKS to all who are there at the door to help anyone with walkers or canes or need assistance in getting in the building.

THANKS to all who showed up for WORKDAY in beautifying the grounds.

GREETERS

August 4th: Marlene Wilmert
August 11th: Wayne Mara
August 18th: Bob Meinershagen
August 25th: Sandy Meinershagen

ATTENDANCE

June 30th

46 In-Person, 64 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed
and website = 122+

July 7th

39 In-Person, 64 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed
and website = 115+

July 14th

43 In-Person, 65 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed
and website = 120+

July 21st

47 In-Person, 76 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed
and website = 135+

July 28th

41 In-Person, 65 on Facebook, 12 bulletins mailed
and website = 118+



Congratulations to
Ashley Paulus and Seth Bramel
who were married at
St. John United Church of Christ
on Saturday, July 27, 2024 with the
Rev. David Marquardt officiating.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR AUGUST



August 4th: Norma Kramer

August 11th:

August 18th: Austin Garriott

August 25th: Calob Pluhm



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Lynn Spellman
- 6 **Bill Krepps**, Madi Meinershagen
- 8 Lee Westerfield
- 14 Maxwell Burge
- 17 Judy Atteberry, Jennifer Schneider
- 18 Charles Spellman
- 19 Jackson Morgan
- 20 Orry Ingram
- 21 Warren Goetsch, Brittany Kincheloe
- 27 Ashley Bramel
- 29 George Abbott, Susan Goergen

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
Jerry and Mary Berglin
Ruth Post
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

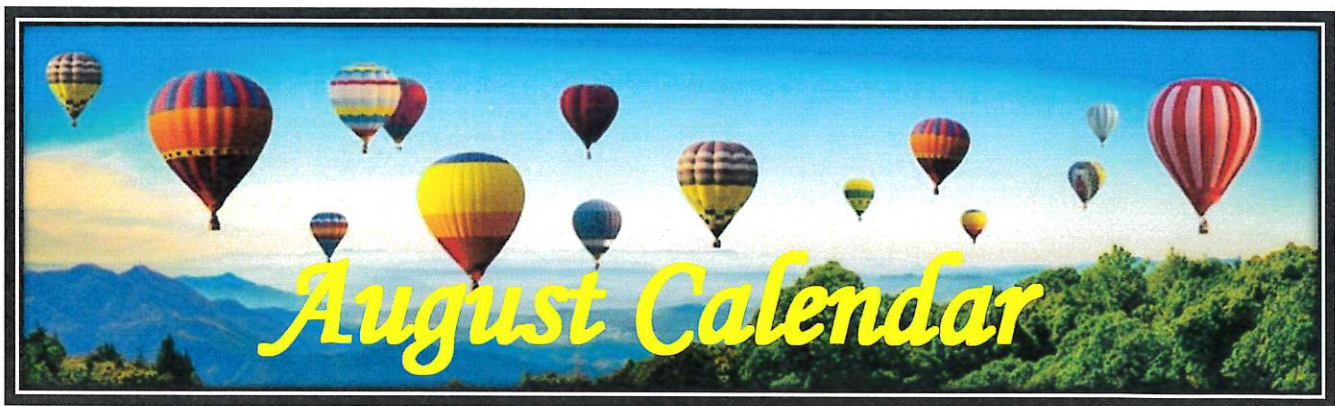
4151 Ashton Road, Sarasota, FL 34233
Patty McCann

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



- 8 Donald and Rhonda Howard
- 11 Ed and Jan Jeffries
- 12 Mark and Susan Goergen
- 15 Warren and Peggy Goetsch
- 19 Jim and Leslie Wilmert
- 21 Ron and Karen Pecoraro
Hank and Lynn Spellman
- 29 Bob and Sandy Meinershagen





Thursday, August 1st

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

Friday, August 2nd

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

Saturday, August 3rd

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

Sunday, August 4th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

Monday, August 5th

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

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 6th

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

Wednesday, August 7th

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

Thursday, August 8th

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

Friday, August 9th

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

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

Sunday, August 11th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, August 12th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 17th

St. John Diners go the Brickyard at 11:30 a.m.

Open House from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 18th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Special Congregational Meeting following
Morning Worship

Monday, August 19th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 25th

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

Monday, August 26th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

NOTE:

The YMCA After School Care Program
(Monday – Friday)
will start on Wednesday, August 14th from
3:00 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
Sharlene
Jen Steele
Pat O'Neil
Donnie Kirk
Ellen Schweizer
John Hebenstreit
Beverly

David Dennis
Louise Jeffries
Bob Sanders
Martha
Wayne Mara
Debbie
Sandy Sanders
Anita
Mike
Tim
Mary (Friend of Pastor David, Gail, Joshua)
Thomas Montgomery
Kelli Thomas
Alison Pagel
Karen Murrell
Tim Schippel

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

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:

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