

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

September 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"

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Kline

Darlene Begolka

Volume 56, No. 9

Pastor

Office Manager

September 2025

Welcome September

New month, new chapter, new page and new wishes.

May the month give you courage, strength, Confidence, patience, self-love & inner peace. May everyday in September fill your days with Hope, love, sunshine and energy. Let there be Joy, Fun and Laughter.



PASTOR'S CORNER

HELLO CHURCH!

Back to Church Sunday is
September 7th

The summer is almost over, and it is time to COME BACK TO CHURCH and to the challenge of refreshing, rebuilding and growing our church community together! This is God calling us to a refreshed ministry together. I welcome this opportunity to become your new Pastor here as St. John's and your good friend in the service of Jesus Christ.

"BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY" IS SEPTEMBER 7th THIS YEAR, AND ST. JOHN'S FALL PROGRAM WILL BEGIN! WE NEED EVERYONE TO BECOME PART OF THIS ANNUAL CALLING AND FUN! Jesus calls on each of us as he called to his original Disciples as he walked to them on water:

"But Jesus said to the disciples: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid'. Peter replied, 'Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water.' Jesus said 'Come'. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. (Matthew 14:27-31).

Each of us can learn from Peter's faithful and spontaneous courage. Our congregation can also focus on the calling of Christ to "Come!" Rebuilding and the restoration of our church community and family is our goal. And refreshing our fellowship in the Spirit of Christ is our challenge as we GROW forward to this new program year and 'moving in together' as church and new Pastor.

This is the time to reach out to family and friends, former church members and visitors to COME HOME TO ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN LINCOLN!

I would like to say 'Hello' and welcome each of you and your family!

Rev. Ken Kline

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

Monday, August 18, 2025
7:00p.m.

- Present:** Silas Tockey, Randy Pech, Laura Lee, Kaye Wilmert, Carolyn Pech, Keith Birnbaum, Roger Michalsen, Bob Meinershagen, Donna Kessinger, and Darlene Begolka, Office Manager
- Guests:** Warren Goetsch - Search Committee Chair; Toni Reifsteck - 165th Church Anniversary; Jan and Ed Jeffries

President Silas Tockey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2025, and he also gave the invocation.

Guest 1: Warren Goetsch – Discussed Proposed Compensation Package with Rev. Dr. Kenneth Kline, who was voted in as new settled pastor on Sunday, August 17, 2025. Rev. Kline will start on September 1, 2025. His will start preaching and leading service on September 7, 2025. His annual salary will be \$60,288 plus benefits.

Guest 2: Jan and Ed Jeffries

- Safety/Outreach – A Philips HeartStart OnSite AED Defibrillator has been chosen to replace the current AED that's not working correctly. The new one will be placed in the case at the top of the stairs by the elevator. The Memorial Committee recommends that the monies used to purchase the AED come from Jerry Gehlbach memorials for \$1,769.00. It was moved and seconded that the monies from Jerry Gehlbach memorial for \$1,769.00 be used to buy the new defibrillator AED. All voting aye. The motion carried.
- Veteran's Celebration – The money raised from the No Bake-Bake Sale has exceeded any of the former Bake Sale funds. Money is still coming in for the No Bake-Bake Sale. The committee has received 2 payments of \$1000.00 from non-church member donors. Both donors have given money for the

celebration and appreciate the Veteran's Celebration and its commitment to the community and veterans. This year's celebration may include help from H.S. students, and possibly Jr. High students in addition to the Boy Scouts. On September 18th Silas Tockey will be having an open mic on a mission night at Spirited Republic as a fundraiser for the celebration.

Guest 3: Toni Reifsteck – 165th/100th Anniversary

- The gift of leather bookmarks for all guests have been ordered; Placemats will be put on the tables along with memorabilia items and pictures as centerpieces.
- Red tee shirts will be ordered soon. There is a sign up in the sanctuary for those.
- There is also a sign up for the meal. The meal will be served family style at each table. This will mean no one has to carry a tray to go through a buffet line, and no one will be needed to serve individuals at the table.
- A letter explaining the Celebration will be sent out to the congregation with an enclosed envelope. The envelope is designated for 165th/100th payments. On the envelope are individual items for one to select what their payments are for. Person mailing will pay own postage to return the envelope.
- One "Whiskers" has been found – Anyone with pictures of Whiskers on his adventures are invited to bring to the church
- Gifts for Special Honorees – The committee has opted to give a Christmas ornament made from wood to the special honorees attending in October. It includes the Niebuhr Serenity Prayer and the dates of the church. They will be made by Hallmark. It was moved and seconded to give up to \$200 from Interest for the special honoree gifts of wooden ornaments for the 165th Anniversary. All voting aye, the motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Deletion to July Secretary's Report - Under New Business. A. Water Fountain-

Remove the sentence "Especially if tap water has any issues or is off for repairs." And further down in the paragraph "over tap water". It was moved and seconded to remove those phrases. All voting aye, the motioned carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Building and Grounds:** After some work on the security system and smoke detectors the key cards are now usable. The detectors will need to be upgraded and changed out. Bids are being sought for those. There are communications problems between older security equipment and newer equipment.
- Scholarship:** No applications have come in for the St. John Christian Service Scholarship, and two have come in for the St. John Scholarship – Emily Paulus and Bailee Pineda.
- Worship Team:** Choirs rehearsals have started. Chancel on August 17th; Bells on August 24th; Chimes on August 31st. Chancel rehearsals are before church and Bells and Chimes will be after services.

OLD BUSINESS

- Hoefler Memorial Tree:** Decision needs made on where to plant the tree on the 8th Street property.
- Pastoral Supply:** August 24th – Rev. Chris Schilling and August 31st – Ann Lamkey

NEW BUSINESS

- Installation Date for Rev. Kline:** Decide at the September Council Meeting when Pastor Kline has begun.
- Parsonage Cleaning:** The parsonage is in need of complete cleaning inside and outside cleanup of landscape. Professional service inside cleaner will also be consulted. Appliance check and water needs checked since haven't been used for awhile.

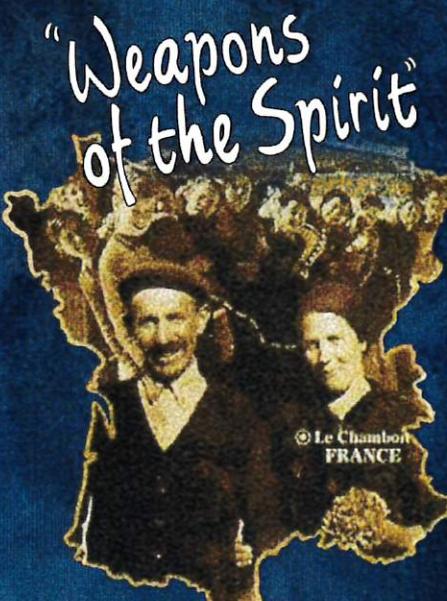
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. All voting aye the motion carried. All said the Lord's Prayer before adjourning.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Lee, Council Secretary

First Presbyterian Church presents
FILM & FAITH SERIES
 a free public screening of
 Pierre Sauvage's 1989 documentary

"Weapons of the Spirit"



Weapons of the Spirit recounts the saga of the village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, during the Nazi occupation—the mountain Huguenot community that provided the most dense, long-lasting and successful haven of refuge from the Holocaust anywhere in occupied Europe.

© Le Chambon FRANCE

9/17/25 6PM
 VIP LINCOLN
 GRAND 6



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

- Dave Armbrust
- 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

VONDERLIETH LIVING CENTER

1120 N. Topper Drive, Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548

- Sandy Sanders

CEDARHURST OF SPRINGFIELD

3520 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62711

- Helen Opperman



*This rosebud announces the birth of
 Everett Dean Emerson.
 He was born on July 31, 2025.
 He is the son Katelyn and Shawn Emerson,
 grandparents are Gary and Judy Atteberry.*



*This rosebud announces the birth of
 Rev. Rich and Barb Reinwald's
 great-grandson, Nico Warren Lubecke
 born on August 5, 2025.
 His parents are Kaitlin Baumert and Jon Lubecke;
 grandparents are Lori and Matt Baumert.*

CELEBRATE LIFE...

By: Tonita Reifsteck

Five St. John's gathered under the shelter at Kickapoo Creek Park for the August Celebrate Life picnic Marilyn Armbrust, Lynn Spellman, Jean Webb, Sandy Wilmert and Tonita Reifsteck enjoyed their sack lunch with a breeze making it a perfect day.



'Choice topics' of each were shared and Jean shared all her involvements in music, travel, organizations and family. Toni shared a reading: "Florida Vacation" that had everyone laughing throughout it! Within the group we celebrated Lynn's birthday and anniversary and signed Birthday, Get Well, Anniversary and Thinking of You cards signed to be mailed.

NOTED: St. John celebrated in July 100 years in our current building, and it got a new roof on that day (rather it was begun that week) This will be celebrated along with 165th anniversary of the church's charter on October 26th.

September Celebrate Life will be at Kickapoo Creek Park on September 12th! (in case of rain, it will be at the church.) NO reservations necessary – all are welcome at 11:30 a.m. at the first shelter at Kickapoo Creek Park. Bring own lunch and drink. Topic: Some remembrance of school days –anytime from K thru college OR Sunday School remembrance!

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 adds:

For the month of June, 9 bags of groceries were delivered to Logan County Food Pantry, and for July, 5 bags of groceries were taken.

The Food Pantry as well as those receiving food donations are appreciative of our efforts to help make a difference.

Thank you!

Lincoln Logan Food Pantry Distribution Report July 2025

Individuals served = 1,403

Children served = 477

Households served = 418

Introducing the food pantry need list for August/September 2025:

- Boxed Hamburger Helper
- Canned pork n beans, or baked beans

We appreciate food donations left at the food pantry area up the ramp entrance. These items are available at Aldi, Walmart, and IGA.

Recognize St. John United Church of Christ for grocery donations, along with Zion Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church for supporting our mission.

Happy 100th Birthday St. John Church July 12, 1925-2025



Thanks to local gardeners for garden items: the Kasa Family for fresh produce and Ken Schweitzer from First Presbyterian for weekly donations to the food pantry.

Sincerely,
Rick Releford and Norm Newhouse
LLFP co-managers

September Food Item Is...



All non-perishable items are
WELCOME.

COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES 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.)



Silas Tockey Music and Spirited Republic/Limerick Brewing Present:

OPEN MIC ON A MISSION

September 18, 2025
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

SPIRITED REPUBLIC/LIMERICK BREWING
509B Pulaski St., Lincoln, IL

ALL TIPS GIVEN TO MUSICIANS GO TO BENEFIT THE
2025 LOGAN COUNTY VETERANS CELEBRATION HOSTED BY ST. JOHN UCC

ATTENDANCE

August 3rd

42 In-Person, 36 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed
and website = 92+

August 10th

33 In-Person, 30 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed
and website = 77+

August 17th

58 In-Person, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 72+

August 24th

32 In-Person, 31 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed
and website = 77+

St. John Diners Fairlane Diner in Sherman Saturday, September 20th 11:30 a.m.



Are you planning to attend St. John Diners in September? 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 September 20th by 11:00 a.m. to leave for Sherman. Those driving on their own the reservation is for 11:30 a.m.



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



Sign-up sheets are in Narthex and Kitchen.

JULY FINANCIALS



Beginning Balance		\$20,632.96
Income	\$ 5,996.07	
Expenses	\$12,077.36	
Ending Balance		\$14,551.67



September 7: Toni Reifsteck
 September 14th:
 September 21st:
 September 28th:



**Saturday, September 6th
 8:30 a.m.
 Imo's Café**

All men of the church are Welcome

Celebration Dinner being planned!!!

Our congregation is 165 years old
AND

Our building is 100 years old
 Sunday, October 26th | Dinner at 12:15 p.m.

(Following Morning Worship and Special PowerPoint)

Menu: Roasted Pork Loin w/ Bistro Sauce, Potatoes Au Gratin, Green Beans w/ Bacon and Onion, Tossed Salad with Dressing, Rolls, Drinks, Cake

Cost per person: \$15

RSVP by October 10th (Limited number of seats available)



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

GREETERS

September 7th: Donna Buse
 September 14th: Nancy Gehlbach
 September 21st: Randy Pech
 September 28th: Marlene Wilmert



We Extend Our Deepest Sympathy To...



Suzanne Tockey and family
 at the death of her sister,
 Dawn Honecker.

OUTREACH and PUBLICITY

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

- NAME TAG TREE is being updated. If you have lost or your name tag is damaged, please report this to Tonita Reifsteck so a new one can be made. Wearing your name tag helps all of us – visiting pastors appreciated those who did, visitors can relay info and for those of us who have a ‘memory lapse’ it also helps! We’re sure it will be helpful for our visiting and eventually, settled pastor. THANK YOU!!!
- OUTREACH always appreciates the volunteers who help with COFFEE HOUR – Make coffee and clean-up afterwards. Treats are furnished by Outreach unless someone shares on occasion. See Jack or Nancy Leich or Toni Reifsteck with questions or sign up on sheet in Narthex or in kitchen. Enjoyable fellowship prior to worship every Sunday from 9:15 a.m. until ‘almost’ 10:00 a.m.
- STUDENT NEEDS for LCHS students to get from school commissary:

Individual toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Hairbrush
Deodorant (Boys and Girls)
Shampoo
Conditioner
Body Spray
Small canister shaving cream
Shaving razor starter kits
Bar or canister bath soap
Packs of socks
1 inch 3 ring binders
#2 pencils
Black or blue pens
Pencil pouches
Ruler
Colored pencil sets
Pocket folders



NEW AED PURCHASED

By: Kaye Wilmert

In June, Outreach and Publicity sponsored AED and Fire Extinguisher demonstrations. I did the AED



part and had a lot of good suggestions made by the participants. Also, in the process of the demonstration I became aware that our AED is outdated. The batteries don’t

last long (less than 6 months) and when you check it there’s no way to turn it off so it keeps beeping and wearing down the batteries even further.

It was clear we needed a new AED and Jack Leich through Outreach and Publicity suggested we proceed. I did some research and found one that does daily self-checks and will let us know when new batteries or pads are needed. So will have to check AED periodically to see if it’s notifying us to change. The new one will have an extra battery pack and pads for back up.

The cabinet used now is not user friendly. However, it may be that the new AED can fit in there and come out easier. We’ll just wait on that. Whatever needs to be done and AED will be stored in the same place to the left of the Fellowship Hall elevators as you are facing them. Outreach and Publicity approached the Memorial Committee and they have graciously provided the money for a new AED.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Jason Netzley, Bob Sanders
- 3 Lukas Morgan
- 6 Terri Shanle
- 9 Jake Curry, Jeff Curry, David Schneider
- 10 Emily Paulus, Amy Tabor
- 11 Toni Reifsteck
- 16 Samuel Birnbaum, Katherine Spellman
- 22 Owen Joseph, Dennis Kurtz
- 23 Leanne Pech
- 25 Kara Costello
- 28 Rochelle Joseph, Maureen White



Thanks to the following people or groups for providing Special Music during the summer:

Calob Pluhm and Austin Garriott, Laura Lee, Jon Langenbahr, Donna Kessinger, Kay Dobson and Austin Garriott, Gina Thoele, Verdeen Ingram, Tamara Turner, Austin Garriott, Silas Tockey and The Brass Trio (Calob Pluhm, Austin Garriott and Jean Webb).

Each musical selection added a special touch to the morning worship service.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 Bret and Samantha Paulus
- 3 David and Jennifer Schneider
- 7 Cody and Bailey Conrady
- 8 Gary and Judy Atteberry
- 10 Glen and Amy Birnbaum
- 15 Dennis and Brenda Kurtz
Robert and Cathy Sanders, Jr.
- 26 David and Cari Wilmert
- 29 Matt and Sarah Goetsch
- 30 Jack and Nancy Leich



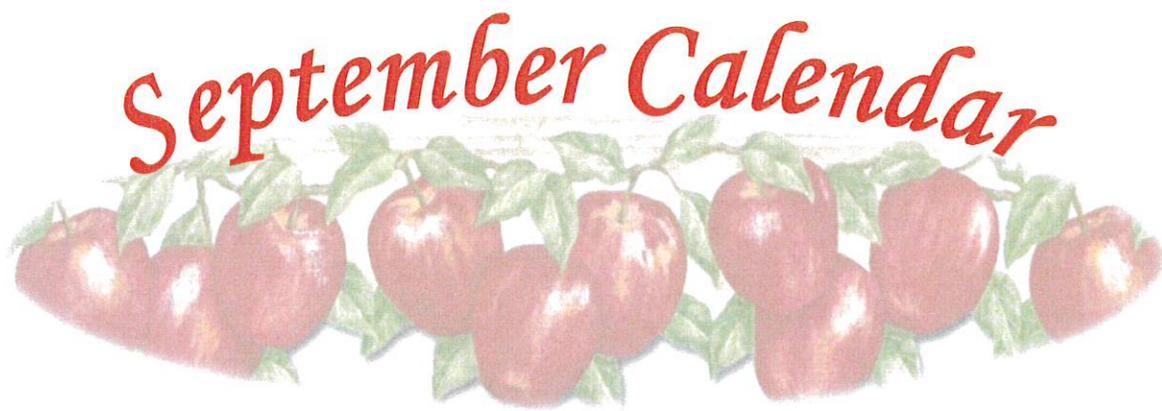
Fallon Claire Rader-Ingram received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, August 3, 2025 during the Morning Worship Service.

Rev. David Marquardt was the officiating pastor. Fallon's parents are Becky Rader and Orry Ingram.

ADDRESSES NEEDED...

Do you know a Veteran in Lincoln or Logan County that in the past has not received an invitation to the Logan County Veterans Celebration? If so, please let the church office know of their address or have them contact the church office themselves. We are working very hard to reach all the local veterans. This information is needed by September 10th.
Thanks!





Monday, September 1st

Church Office closed for Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 2nd

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

Saturday, September 6th

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

Ladies Mini Retreat at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 7th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

St. John Singers practice at 9:15 a.m.

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

St. John Ringers practice following church

St. John Chimers practice following ringers

Monday, September 8th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 9th

Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 12th

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

Sunday, September 14th

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 following church

St. John Chimers practice following ringers

Monday, September 15th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16th

Veterans Ministry meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 18th

Open Mic on a Mission from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Fundraiser for the 2025 Logan County Veterans Celebration

Saturday, September 20th

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

Sunday, September 21st

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

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Coats will be given to CAPCIL

St. John Ringers practice following church

St. John Chimers practice following ringers

Monday, September 22nd

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23rd

Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 28th

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 following church

St. John Chimers practice following ringers

Monday, September 29th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

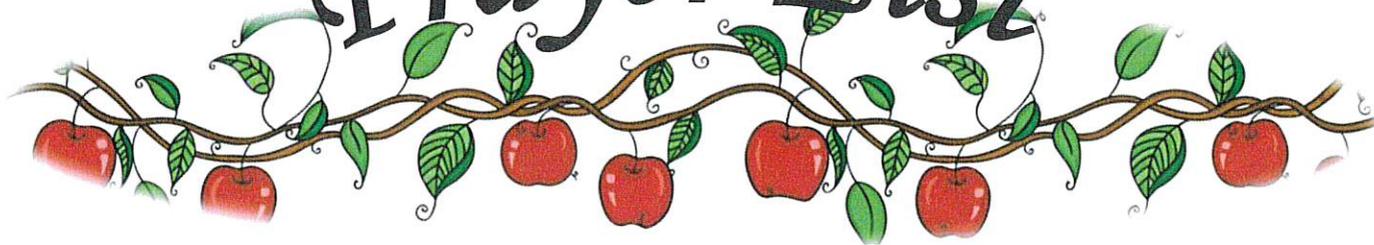
Note:

The YMCA After School 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 mother)
"Pete" Luckhart
Abigail
Middle East
Raymond
Stephanie Opperman
Janet Dullard
Sharlene
Jen Steele
Donnie Kirk
Ellen Schweizer
Beverly
David Dennis
Louise Jeffries
Martha
Debbie
Mike
Tim
Tim Schippel
Baby Reese
Duke
Chris
Allen
Linda Barrick
Deborah Lichtenwalter

Wil Buse
Drake Miller
Bill Dennis
Patricia Southerd
Leslie Wilmert
Dave Frank
Kevin Wilham
Kathy
Elizabeth Miller
Katie
Jackie Curry
Ron Brawdy
Dorothy
Merlene Stout
Janet Johnson
Kelli Thompson
Sandy
Dylan
DJ
Jeremy Cook
Laurie Reifsteck
Kaye Wilmert
Fred
Linda Gehlbach
Jim Wilmert
Nolan

Illinois Conference/Western Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:

Dave Armbrust, Steve Aue,
Jerry and Mary Berglin, Judy Kline,
Bill Krepps, Edna Mara, Wayne Mara,
Sandy Sanders, Ruth Post, Susan Webb

Staff of St. John United Church of Christ

Members and Friends of St. John UCC

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Kline

Darlene Begolka

Carolyn Pech

Dana Birts

Laura Lee

Calob Pluhm

Darlene Begolka

Ministers

Pastor

Office Manager

Financial Manager

Custodian

Organist

St. John Ringers and St. John Singers Director

St. John Chimers 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:

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