

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



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

March 2024 Newsletter

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

204 Seventh Street ~ Lincoln, Illinois 62656

217-732-6957

E-mail address: stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com | Website: stjohnucclincolnillinois.com

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

Rev. David Marquardt

Darlene Begolka

Volume 55, No. 3

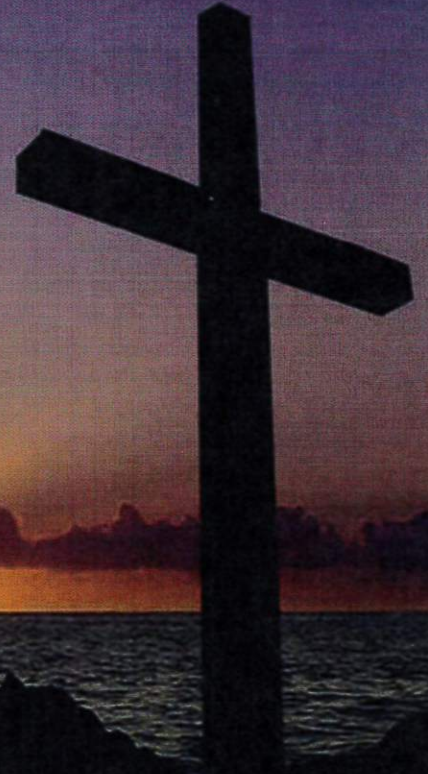
Bridge Pastor

Office Manager

March 2024

A Lenten Prayer

Lord, I know how much you love me
It's hard for me to feel it sometimes
but I know your love is always with me
Help me to use your love as a way
to persevere in my Lenten intentions
I am weak, but I know with your help
I can use these small sacrifices in my
life to draw closer to you. Amen



FROM OUR PASTOR

February 14th. Valentines' day. Ash Wednesday. And slipping through the cracks, was the news that the Cubs pitchers and catchers reported! Yes, baseball season is fast approaching, and pre-season games will be here before we know it.

A bit of research tells us that pitching is between 75% and 90% of the game of baseball. This doesn't dismiss the importance of hitting and fielding, but does suggest that it's pitching that wins games. And as a longtime Cubs fan, I can vouch for the importance of a strong pitching staff, because we're not used to having one! I mean we can score run after run, and sure enough we'll lose the game, because our pitchers fail and the other team scores more.

Now what's important, is to see that the pitchers and catchers always report to spring training first. Managers and teams know that if they're going to have a good pitching staff, then they'll need more practice than the rest of the players. Hitting and fielding skills are easier to hone than pitching, so pitchers have to practice more.

So, the question I have for us is 'are we fielders and hitters, or are we pitchers?' I mean does our faith need practicing like a pitcher, or are we comfortable with just fielding a couple of sermons and hitting a couple of prayers and we're good to go? We hear the phrase often, that we need to 'practice our faith', but what's that mean to the average Christian?

Well practicing our faith most often refers to the way we live out the call God places on our lives. We talk often, that Jesus showed us how to live, love, and serve during his earthly life, and that we are to emulate this in our own lives. This means that we are to carry our Christian faith out of the church and into the streets and we're commanded to do. That's why we end our services commissioning one another to go forth taking the gospel into the streets where it belongs.

But here's my question; how well are we prepared to take the gospel to the street, practicing our faith, if we haven't first practiced our faith in the church? In other words, the more we learn about Jesus in the church, the more we can act like Jesus in our streets, communities, and neighborhoods.

So, what am I sneaking up on? I'm trying politely to suggest that being in worship is the best way to grow closer to Jesus. Now hear me well! I'm not suggesting that we can't grow closer by reading our Bibles and praying at home, and for many of our shut-ins, that's all they have available, and I'm thrilled that they worship on their own. But what I am suggesting, is that when we gather with other sinners, all sharing together as we learn, pray, and worship, that even through osmosis, we're going to grow more completely than we can on our own.

I bring you all of this to suggest that if you're one of the many who join us online each week, that I wish you'd consider joining us in worship. Further, I'd like to suggest that for those who are 'regular' worshipers, that we make every effort to attend our special services. Keep in mind, that we call them 'special' for a reason. I write this on the heels of our Ash Wednesday service, where attendance was rather shy. And what has to be considered, is how important these services are to our understanding of the seasons of the church. Right now we're in the season of Lent, and before we know it, we'll be celebrating Easter. And in my mind, it's hard to truly appreciate what Jesus went through for us, if we miss the special services along the way. It's like that pitcher who tires in the 5th inning, and starts throwing walks and more hits, because they missed practice, and weren't prepared.

So, my prayer for all of us, is that when possible, that we practice our faith in the church, so that we can better practice it in the streets. My prayer is that we appreciate and support those who put so much into our special services, so that the rest of us might grow in our understanding and faith. My

prayer is that we might **all** practice our faith **as a faith community**, supporting one another, and growing stronger together. Remember; practice makes perfect!

Love and blessings,
Pastor David



**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, February 19, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

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

President Leland Semple called the meeting order on Monday, February 19, 2024. Rev. David Marquardt gave the invocation.

It was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Mission Committee: Sandy Meinershagen reported that the Mission Committee recommends that the Easter Offering go to the Illinois Conference Disaster Relief Fund. It was moved and seconded

that the Easter Offering go to the Illinois Conference Disaster Relief Fund. Motion carried.

Small Groups: Jan Jefferies reported that the St. John Diners had gone to Ted's Garage on Saturday, February 17th; March 16th they will go to Parkview Inn in Bloomington; and April 20th to Wild Hare in Elkhart. Jan's last time presenting for Small Groups summarized her work as committee chair. There had been lots of groups under the main title of Small Groups including movie group, jubilant fee, grace and glory, prayer partners, men's fellowship, adult vacation Bible School, crafting groups, St. John Gamers, positive message groups.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor David reported that there would be a Wednesday night Bible Study during lent. He has been visiting shut-ins in need.

The Ash Wednesday Service will be on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m. Then the following five Wednesdays thereafter will be a Bible Study.

OLD BUSINESS

YMCA: Nothing new to report

Interim Search Team and Pastoral Search Team: Once the membership info is in, the Search Team will meet to update the profile and have it reposted. It is important to keep it up to date.

Church Membership Directory: A new church membership directory will be compiled when the information is in.

Asking Pastor David to be our Interim: It was moved and seconded to remove "asking Pastor Dave to be interim" off the tabled items. Motion carried.

Parsonage Inspection: The parsonage will be inspected this week.

Other: Posting profile to seminaries and other denominations was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Rainbow Flags/Banners: Discussion was had. A website was emailed to everyone to look at what is available.

Committee chairs and co-chairs list: Should be available soon. Just a few chairs/co-chairs to finish up.

Website Updating: Needs to say we are handicapped accessible and open and affirming on it.

Offering deposit: Safe is too high up. Financial Secretary will be assisted in depositing money in the safe.

Other: Some other items discussed were church calendar, council members on committees for reporting purpose, greeter concern for safety, cry room toy situation, in bad shape, not child proof and location of banners.

Correspondence and Email

A letter was received from Hannah Michalsen Meece asking for her membership to be transferred from First Methodist Church back to St. John United Church of Christ. It was moved and seconded to grant this. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Everyone recited The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Silas Tockey
Church Council Secretary

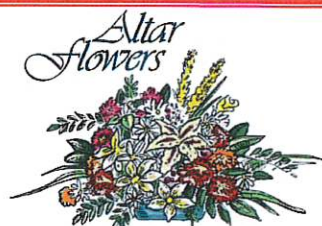


JANUARY FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance	\$42,279.73
Income	\$23,775.00
Expenses	\$27,753.68
Ending Balance	\$38,301.05



Articles for the **April 2024** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **March 19th**.



March 3rd: Nancy Gehlbach
Carolyn Pech
March 10th:
March 17th:
March 24th:
March 31st:

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
Thursday, March 28th
7:00 p.m.

**Sacrament of
Holy Communion**



Saturday, March 2nd
8:30 a.m.
Imo's Café

All Men of the Church are Welcome.



Celebrate Life Birthday Group
Friday, March 8th
11:30 a.m.

Rio Grande

March birthdays will be celebrated.



ST. JOHN DINERS
Saturday, March 16th
11:30 a.m.

Parkview Inn/Bloomington

The Small Group Ministry has planned that the March St. John Diners outing will be to Parkview Restaurant in Bloomington.

Leave the Church Parking Lot at 11:00 a.m.
 A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary.
 As always you can either ride the bus or drive on your own. Just sign the sheet accordingly.

Upcoming St. John Diners:
 April 20th – Wild Hare in Elkhart

OUTREACH and PUBLICITY NEWS...

Tonita Reifsteck and
 Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Co-Chairs

Outreach and Publicity Ministry met Thursday, February 1, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

Announced the Boy Scouts 'THANK YOU' treat at a night at Culver's in appreciation for making St. John's Christmas decorations possible is being set by the Scouts. Open invitation to join them will be given when decided.

Coffee Hour host/hostess have some helping – more welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

The POTATO BAR is set for after church on Sunday, March 10th. Sign up by March 3rd for choice of potato (Irish or Sweet). Hot Dogs and topping of every description will be furnished by the Outreach Ministry committee. Roger Michalsen is making a sign with details. Donations will be used to buy Munchkin Splash Training Sippy Cups for WIC program at the Logan County Health Department.

Devotional Booklets for January, February, March are available in the Vestibule or entryway for the taking. A few copies of LARGE PRINT are also available. Any questions or concerns – please see member of Outreach Ministry.

COMMUNITY EVENTS SHARED WERE

Boy Scouts BBQ on March 17, 2024

COFFEE HOUR HELPERS REQUESTED/NEEDED FOR EVERY SUNDAY in 2024

OUTREACH is requesting help with offering COFFEE HOUR – FELLOWSHIP TIME before worship every Sunday from 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Setting up and making coffee is sole need. Treats will be furnished

by Outreach. Sign-up sheets are in Narthex and also alongside treat counter at Coffee Hour. THANKS to Carol Webb (treat), Bob and Sandy Meinershagen and Marlene Wilmert for your help in February!! MUCH appreciated.

If you have questions about use of coffee maker or procedure (EASY) see Jack or Nancy Leich or Tonita Reifsteck. THANK YOU!!!!



On February 5th, Outreach Ministry members Jack and Nancy Leich, Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Sandy Wilmert and Tonita Reifsteck handed 100 Munchkin Sippy cups to Logan County Health Department, WIC staff Dana Oltmanns, Sara Notto and Katie Samson.

Easter Breakfast Sunday, March 31st



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

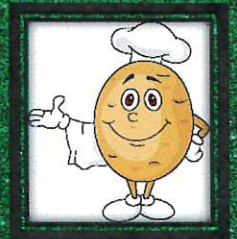


Habitat for Humanity is partnering with Culver's in fundraisers to help fund the next Habitat for Humanity House Build. **On Monday, March 11th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** a percentage of the proceeds at Culver's will be designated toward the next house build. Your support will be very much appreciated.

Beginning in April Habitat for Humanity of Logan County will be having the fundraiser on the 3rd Monday of each month - so we can continue our mission: Build Homes and Build Lives.

Any questions see Toni Reifsteck or any member of the Habitat for Humanity of Logan County Board.

POTATO BAR (Sweet and /or Irish) Sunday, March 10th following church



Sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. Proceeds will be going to purchase Munchkin Training Cups for WIC at the Logan County Health Department.

CELEBRATE LIFE BIRTHDAY GROUP...

by Tonita Reifsteck



Twenty gathered at Cracker Barrel for the February CELEBRATE LIFE lunch. Birthday cards and Valentines were signed and Happy Birthday was sung for celebrant present Sandy Meinershagen.

Sandy Wilmert gave all present a valentine and Toni Reifsteck introduced the theme of the day – “A SPECIAL VALENTINE Memory” which brought to mind special gifts, cards, traditions/happenings. Alice Paulus and Nancy Gehlbach each shared a box of their family’s valentines. The oldest Valentine being 1899.

Celebrate Life will meet at Rio Grande located at 116 North Kickapoo Street in downtown Lincoln on Friday, March 8th at 11:30 a.m. and is open to anyone who wants to join the fellowship and CELEBRATE LIFE. MARCH theme is “Do you have Irish ancestry? or Share your spring memories.” Reservations need to be called in to either Sandy Wilmert or Tonita Reifsteck.

CHARITY GUILD NEWS...

By: Tonita Reifsteck

Charity Guild members Karen Birnbaum, Tonita Reifsteck, Marlene Wilmert and Sandy Wilmert took everything out of the church pantry and reorganized and discarded the ‘mess’. Everything has a place – all bins are labeled with what the CONTENTS SHOULD BE.

All of the supplies are available for whomever or whatever organization or group wants to use them. There are cups for favors, fruit cups, juice cups, drinking cups enough that none need to be purchased.

There are a variety of napkins, plates for both dinner and dessert and tablecloths (plastic) of every color. BEFORE SHOPPING – all groups are invited to see what they can use from the supply and save their funds. If other supplies are bought – leftovers can be put in the corresponding bins. IF THERE IS NO SPACE—TAKE IT HOME! PLEASE DO NOT “CRAM SOMETHING IN JUST ANY BIN TO GET RID OF IT!



There is one tub of SPECIAL OCCASIONS – with supplies in individual bags for: Christmas, Easter, Confirmation, Graduation, Patriotic, Happy New Year, October/Fall, Football Party, LGE pkg. Daisies Napkins and various sizes of paper dollies.

We encourage everyone to step into the pantry and see what items are available for any program they may be involved with. If you have any questions or concerns see one of the Charity Guild board members: Karen, Marlene, Toni or Sandy W. and THANK YOU for helping keep things organized so everyone can benefit from our supplies.

SPRING BBQ

Boy Scout Troop 1102

March 17th

10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall



**Menu: Authentic Southern Pulled Pork,
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad,
Dessert and Drink**

Tickets \$10 for adults

Tickets available at the church

Mission Committee 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 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.**

Your Children of Lincoln donations were put to work during February. Your Mission Committee took advantage of sales on winter clothes.

On February 5th we delivered 24 pairs of gloves to Central School. In this winter weather hands get cold on the playground. So teachers like to have gloves on hand for kids who need them. Thank you for helping to keep these kids warm!

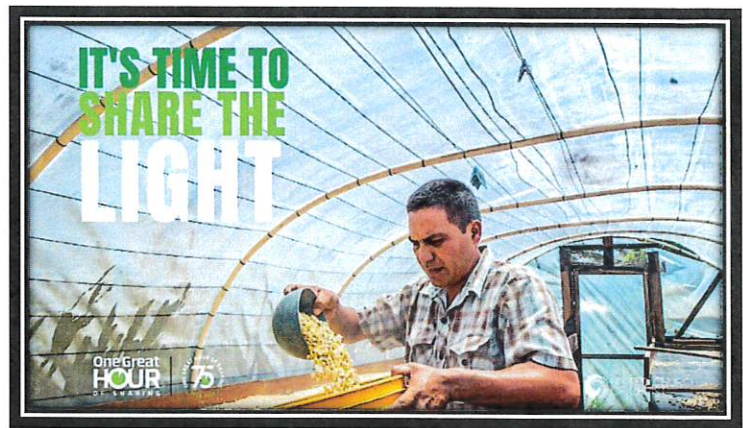
Head Start parents don't always have the means to keep a few clothes on hand in the classroom. When we found little sweatshirts on sale for a dollar we couldn't pass them up. So we purchased 20 shirts in various sizes and delivered them to Community Action. Again, thank you for your support and for keeping these kids warm!

The aluminum cans were piling up, so during the warmer weather Larry made two trips to Lincoln and Iron and Metal. He delivered over 100 pounds of cans for a total donation of \$47.65 to the Humane Society. That's a lot of aluminum! Thank you for all of your donations.

March Food Item Is...



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



ONE GREAT of SHARING OFFERING Sunday, March 10th

Theme: "It's Time to Share the Light"

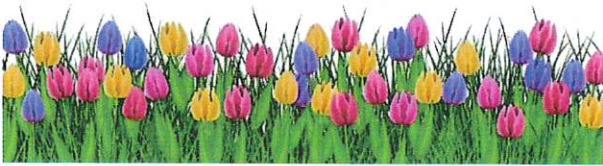
"You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world." This scripture from Matthew 5:14 invites us to 'Share the Light.'

On Easter Sunday in 1949, on nation-wide radio, Christians were challenged to donate one million dollars in one hour to help people devastated by the aftermath of World War II. Faithful Christians answered the challenge and the goal was met.

That was the beginning of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of its inception. Our world has changed since 1949, but human needs remain, OGHS continues to carry God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.

Since that first offering, OGHS has expanded its mission to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravages by national disaster, advocate and offer resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provided funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners.

Each year, the Offering is gathered by several denominations and Church World Service (CWS) under a single theme developed by the ecumenical OGHS Committee.



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Susan Webb

John Wilmert

CASTLE MANOR

1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Jerry and Mary Berglin

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

IN THEIR HOME

Sandy Morgan

931 -1575th Street, Lincoln

Send mail to: 12 Pheasant Run, Lincoln



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Emily Sanders
- 2 Donna Kessinger
- 3 Randy Pech
- 5 Savannah Conrady
- 8 Linda Nowack
- 10 Kendall Paulus
Suzanne Tockey
- 11 Nancy Gehlbach
Malachi Tockey
- 12 Henry Spellman
- 14 Melissa Wilmert
- 17 Erin Abbott, Joshua Marquardt
- 19 Robert Sanders, Jr.
- 21 Beth Wright
- 22 Katelyn Atteberry
Maci Meinershagen
- 23 Shyanne Conrady
- 24 Andrew Goetsch
- 26 Verdeen Ingram
- 27 **Steve Aue**
- 28 Michelle Mayfield
- 30 Jim Wilmert
- 31 Austin Sanders

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



Ryman Cassidy Maddix Lee Miller, son of Justin and Elizabeth Miller received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, February 18, 2024 during the morning worship service. His Godparent is Donna Kessinger.



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Troy and Jean Meinershagen
- 15 George and Marlene Wilmert
- 20 Charles and Michelle Mayfield



March Calendar

Saturday, March 2nd

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

Sunday March 3rd

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

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

St. John Ringers practice after church

Monday, March 4th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 5th

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6th

Lenten Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

St. John Chimers practice at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 7th

Outreach and Publicity at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 8th

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

LCT Auditions from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9th

Set-up for Potato Bar at 9:00 a.m.

LCT Auditions at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 10th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Potato Bar following church

Monday, March 11th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12th

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13th

Lenten Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

St. John Chimers practice at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16th

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

Sunday, March 17th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Boy Scout Troop 1102 BBQ

St. John Ringers practice after church

Monday, March 18th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20th

Lenten Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

St. John Chimers practice at 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday, March 24th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 p.m.

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

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Ringers practice after church

Monday, March 25th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27th

St. John Chimers practice at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 28th

Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31st

Easter Breakfast

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

NOTE:

The YMCA will be here Monday – Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. unless there is an earlier out which is noted on the calendar.

The week of March 25th—March 29th the YMCA will be here from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Prayer List

Linda Barrow
 Sherri Mester
 Drake Miller
 Alissa Smith
 Leslie Wilmert
 Cheryl F.
 Katrina Opperman
 Lynn
 Kurt
 David
 Kathy Staten
 James and family
 Jim Walsh
 Kristen
 Lee Wolfe
 Joyce (Gail Marquardt's mom)
 Lynn (Friend of Donna)
 Debbie (Friend of Jan Jeffries)
 Janet (Ed and Jan Jeffries niece)
 "Pete" Luckhart
 Zach (Friend of Pastor David, Gail, Joshua)
 Abigail
 Middle East
 Cierra
 Raymond
 Stephanie Opperman
 Janet Dullard
 Janet Johnson
 Jean (C.J.) Sutton
 Sandy (Donna Kessinger's niece)
 Sandy Wendt
 Amy Tabor
 John Tabor

Karson
 Ruth Post
 Duane Ingram
 Sharlene
 Lainey Miller
 Lucy Miller
 Elizabeth Miller
 Tammy
 Alexis
 Steve
 Ann Holloway
 Hunter Miller
 Emily Hyde
 Rachelle Riggs
 Raelynn Babbs' family
 Mike Meares
 George Wilmert

Illinois Conference/Western Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:

Steve Aue
 Jerry and Mary Berglin
 Judy Kline
 Bill Krepps
 Patty McCann
 Sandy Morgan
 Helen Opperman
 Susan Webb
 John 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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"Letting God's love shine through us to the Community we serve"



2024 GERBERA DAISY ORDER FORM



The Worship Team is going to add color to the sanctuary for Easter this year. In addition to the silk Easter lilies (we are using silk Easter Lilies due to allergies) there will be Gerbera Daisies adding color and beauty to our sanctuary on Easter morning. We hope you will support and help with decorating the sanctuary for Easter.

The potted Gerbera Daisies will be \$5.00 each.

**ALL ORDERS FOR THE POTTED GERBERA DAISIES ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY
MONDAY, MARCH 25th**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.
PLEASE MAIL YOUR ORDER FORM(S) AND CHECK TO THE CHURCH OFFICE
ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
204 SEVENTH STREET
LINCOLN, IL 62656
or
BRING TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

-----**DETACH**-----

(USE A SEPARATE ORDER FORM FOR EACH PURCHASE)

Name _____

Gift _____

or

In memory of _____

from _____
