

# ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

*Published monthly in the interest of*



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

**February 2026 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. Dr. Kenneth W. Kline  
Darlene Begolka  
Volume 57, No. 2

Pastor  
Office Manager  
February 2026



## PASTOR'S CORNER



### FINDING A NEW PURPOSE AND A NEW BEGINNING AND GOD'S LOVE

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

Let God change your heart. He will give you the POWER to LET GO of your past, PEACE to deal with the present, and PURPOSE for your future! And God will do that also for St. John UCC in the coming year! Let God Change us, and we will realize the meaning of Lent!

Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday will be shared with our friends of First Presbyterian Church this year. We will join them at their church on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., and they will join with us at St. John UCC on Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. And we will welcome this time of preparation for Easter as a time of spiritual POWER, and PEACE and PURPOSE!

*"For God so loved the world..."* Run into HIS everlasting arms. It was through the cross that Jesus conquered the world for us. God entered into the world and personally experienced our pain. Jesus is there in the lowest places of our lives. When tragedy strikes, when suffering comes, when you're wrestling with pain, - make the choice to run to Jesus Christ!

When no one understands, Jesus does. When no one can fix it, Jesus can. When no one shows you love, Jesus will. Cast all your care on the ONE who cares!

The greatest Love of all (Agape) is a love that sacrifices ALL!

*Pastor Ken*



**Bible Study on Mondays at 12:00 noon. Bring a sack lunch.**



### 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

George Wilnert

#### 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

#### AT HOME

Sandy Sanders

## ATTENDANCE

January 4<sup>th</sup>

31 In-Person, 53 on Facebook, 11 bulletins mailed and website = 95+

January 11<sup>th</sup>

34 In-Person, 41 on Facebook, 11 bulletins mailed and website = 86+

January 18<sup>th</sup>

48 In-Person, 49 on Facebook, 11 bulletins mailed and website = 108+

January 25<sup>th</sup>:

No Church due to weather

## WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR LENT?

There will be NO LENTEN SERVICES at St. John UCC. Instead, on the Wednesdays during Lent (February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25) we have been invited to Immanuel Lutheran Church for their Lenten services. Schedule is below. Also, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church has invited us to their Lenten services.

2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lincoln  
Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:30pm

Study on PSALM 23

February 25: "He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters."

March 4: "He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

March 11: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; Your rod and staff, they comfort me."

March 18: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over."

March 25: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Wednesday Services: February 25  
March 4, 11, 18, and 25

Dave Griffith, Presiding

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

Monday, December 15, 2025  
7:00p.m.

**Present:** Silas Tockey, Randy Pech, Laura Lee, Kaye Wilmert, Carolyn Pech, Roger Michalsen, Bob Meinershagen, Donna Kessinger, Darlene Begolka, Office Manager, and Pastor Ken Kline

**Absent:** Kaye Wilmert

President Silas Tockey called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m., Monday, December 15, 2025. Pastor Ken began the meeting by reading the Magnificat by Mary (Mary's Song from Luke 1:46-55), then he gave an opening prayer.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

There was an edit to November minutes: point six under the Pastor's Report – Pastor Ken has been contacted to be a member of the Regional Housing Supportive Services.

### 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:

**Stewardship Committee Report:** Randy Pech gave the monetary breakdowns by the Stewardship Committee:

Current Fund: \$33,750  
OCWM: \$ 5,750  
Sister Church (in Chicago): \$ 2,070  
Contingency: \$ 3,404  
Good Samaritan: \$ 680

### PASTOR'S' REPORT:

1. Pastor attended the Christmas Parade along with the Boy Scouts who passed out pencils, and all were grateful to have the bus to ride as weather was snowy and slick.
2. He attended the Community Thanksgiving Service at Sunrise Fellowship of God Church, led by Lincoln Area Ministerial

Association, and he attended the most recent Ministerial Association Meeting.

3. St. Clara's invited him to do a short Christmas Program, on December 19<sup>th</sup>.
4. He met recently with the Jefferson Street minister. He wanted to learn about their active Youth Program.
5. He made 44 Pastoral contacts including the Internment of Judy Kline.
6. There will be an Eagle Scout ceremony on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Johns. The public is invited if any congregation members would like to attend.

## OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Website:** Nothing at this time
- B. **Outdoor Digital Sign:** There was a discussion about replacing the outdoor sign on 7th Street to a digital sign. Silas took measurements and did research on sign companies. There is a good option for around \$400 plus electrician fees. It is weatherproof and the content can be changed by using an app on a phone. There will be more discussion on this topic after a bit more information becomes available.
- C. **Fellowship Hall Projector:** The projector works, but the analog mixing board is not working. A Yamaha mixer costs around \$700. But there may be other options to check on. Having the Fellowship Hall equipment functional would give the church more opportunity to use the Fellowship Hall, for ex. (165<sup>th</sup> Power Point presentation could have been done in there). The YMCA could also benefit by using to show movies, etc. on unpleasant weather day. It was moved and seconded to spend up to \$400 to purchase an analog mixer for the Fellowship Hall with monies to come from contingency. All voting aye, the motion passed.
- D. **Nomination Committee:** Keith Birnbaum and Roger Michalsen are co-chairs. Dan Row and Suzanne Tockey are serving on the committee as the two congregation members. Three candidates have agreed to be on the ballot for the Council. They are Suzanne Tockey, Jack Leich, and Hannah Meece. The Annual meeting will be on

Sunday, January 25, 2026 following the church service. Committee Chairs will be reminded to get their reports in early, or they won't be included in the annual report.

- E. **Outside Little Food Pantry:** Silas made some contacts and discovered that there are not really any rules applied to these small structures. The location would be across from the Office Door on Maple Street – Opposite the Niebuhr sign. There would be video available in that area. There would not be a need for anyone to oversee this Pantry. How it works is that anyone can contribute to the Pantry (only non-perishable items) and anyone can take as needed from the Pantry. The Scout troop leader will be contacted to see if there is a scout with carpentry skills that may want to use this as a possible Boy Scout project. To find where all Illinois Food Pantry locations are folks can go to "Find Food IL".
- F. **Laptops at St. Clara's:** This was brought up in October to allow members to follow the church service online by purchasing laptops for them to use on Sundays. The cost for Fire HD Laptops from Amazon are \$980 for 14 tablets. It was recommended that a church representative would set up tablets and set them up to have St. John UCC website accessible as soon as they are turned on. More research will be done before decision made.
- G. **New Pictorial Directory:** Pastor has requested that a new pictorial Directory be made. It has been many years since one has been made. Laura Lee has volunteered to research finding a company to help with this project to be done hopefully in the spring.
- H. **YMCA Christmas gifts:** The church will donate already made cookies for the YMCA children's Christmas party. Cookies could not be homemade, etc.
- I. **Organ Tuner:** Laura reported that the organ tuner (Levson) has been contacted repeatedly throughout the year to do the tuning. They keep saying they will get here, but it hasn't been tuned for at least over a year. She asked if she can contact another organ tuner, because there are some issues

with the organ at this time. All agreed that she can proceed to find another company to do the tuning.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. Housing Assistance Request:** There has been a request to help with housing cost from a church member. The council discussed this topic, but no decision was made about it.
- B. Ornaments from 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Ornaments that were given to special guests (wooden with Niebuhr Serenity Prayer) are available for purchase of \$15.
- C. Some Exit Lights** don't seem to be working. Bulbs need replaced. It was recommended that the Office and Staff Committee have a meeting.
- D. Annual Congregational Meeting** is Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> following the church service.
- E. Remove "Confirmation" from tabled items:** I was moved and seconded to remove "Confirmation" from tabled items as pastor will be starting confirmation. All voting aye the motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND EMAILS – None

**ADJOURNMENT** – It was moved and seconded to adjourn. All voting aye the motion carried. Pastor Ken gave a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Next meeting is Monday, January 19, 2026 at 7pm in Wilmert Lounge.

Respectfully submitted by  
Laura Lee, Council Secretary

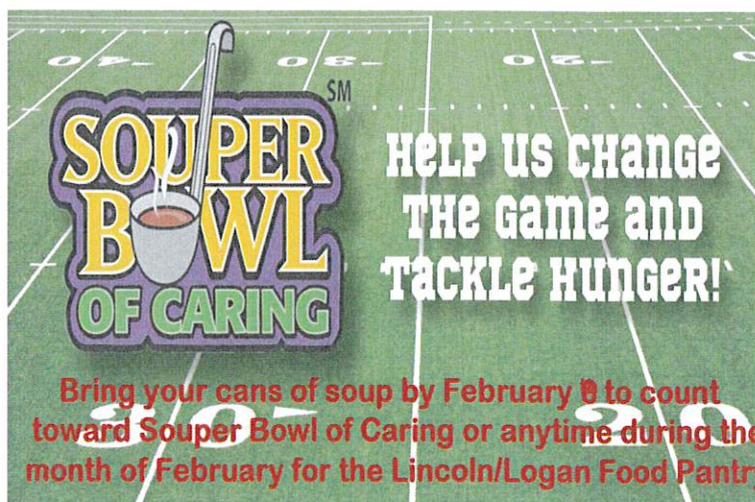


## MISSION NEWS

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.**
- **Third Sunday of each month** a special offering will be taken for our **Teddy Bear project.**
- **On the fourth Sunday of each month** a special offering will be taken for the **Diaper Project for Head Start at Community Action.**



January 13<sup>th</sup> was a nice day here in Lincoln with very little wind. So Larry took the opportunity to deliver 99 pounds of aluminum cans



to Lincoln Iron and Metal. That resulted in a \$44.55 donation to the Humane Society from St. John. (Wish it could have been 100 pounds but we will work on that for the next time.) Thanks for all of your donations. Keep up the good work!!



During the first week of school in January, I delivered 240 earbuds to Lincoln Junior High School. That sounds like a lot, but they are like gloves—the kids lose them all the time. So, the ladies in the office

were so glad to get them. The money for the earbuds came from your donations last summer for school supplies. Thanks for supporting these kids as they grow and learn!

**LOOKING AHEAD...**For the March Food Item, we are joining several churches in the community to provide Easter Food Baskets for those in need. The Easter Food Basket items will be for an Easter Dinner. St. John UCC is responsible for 50 jars of applesauce. So that the baskets all contain the same size of items we are asking that you contribute

money towards those jars of applesauce. We are looking to collect around \$175 for the jars of applesauce by March 22<sup>nd</sup>; which someone from the Mission Committee will then go out and purchase. In the back of the sanctuary look for the jar that resembles a jar of applesauce to put your money in; envelopes will be back there also.



**2025 CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM...**

Merry Christmas 2025

Love, Carolyn, Oreo, Remi

May your Christmas be filled with peaceful moments and happy times.

Love,  
Sandy and Bob Meinershagen

Dear St. John Family -

May the beauty and meaning of Christmas fill your heart with joy and cheer and may your faith sustain you through a holy, happy year.

Prayers of Blessings and Love to all—that we continue to serve together!

Tonita Reifsteck

Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas. God Bless.

George and Marlene Wilmert

Wishing you a happy Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year. Have the best Christmas ever!

Larry and verdeen

*Save the Date...*



**SPRING BBQ**  
**Boy Scout Troop 1102**  
**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Oasis Senior Center**

In the spirit of the season, in the chilly winter weather, warm memories have a lovely way of bringing us together...

And although we'll spend the holiday many miles apart, you're very close in memory...  
you're always close in heart!

Merry Christmas  
Donna Kessinger

To Friends at St. John, Lincoln, IL

May the spirit of Christmas guide your heart just as the wise men were guided by the star. Thank you for your support—over the last year especially.

Karen Birnbaum

May your holiday season be filled with joy and special moments.

In Christian love,  
Nancy Gehlbach

In the loveliest of seasons, may you know much love and peace.

Merry Christmas to all my church family. May your 2026 be full of blessings.

Lynn Spellman

Warmest wishes for happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Marilyn and David

To: My Church Family

'Tis the season to appreciate caring hearts and kind spirits like yours.

Merry Christmas  
Sandy Wilmert

Star of wonder star of light star with royal beauty bright westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light Merry Christmas. Thank you for cards you sent.

Love,  
Esther Denney

Wishing you the brightest joys of the Christmas Season

Just as the wise men brought gifts, you St. Johners continue to bring gifts for Mission projects.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!  
Your Mission Committee

Make sure to fit in plenty of fun in your holiday festivities! We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2026.

Shanda and J. D.

May you feel the warmth of God's love this festive season! Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Norma



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22  
SEMINARY SUNDAY  
OFFERING**

**CHICAGO UNITED EDEN**

We will be celebrating SEMINARY SUNDAY this year on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> during the morning worship service. Remember, we will also be taking a special offering that Sunday for CUE (Chicago Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary and Eden Theological Seminary). Watch for more info on this special Sunday.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Outreach will have an Update Program on the Defibrillator machine and Fire Safety Info Guidelines. Since the initial presentation a new Defibrillator machine has been purchased and use of it needs to be shared and understood in case of need. Program will be after church on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and following the program a light lunch will be served. Ham Salad or Chicken Salad sandwiches with side dishes. Sign-up Sheet with choice desired is respectfully requested by February 1<sup>st</sup>. See any member of Outreach for questions – Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Jack and Nancy Leich, Lee Westerfield, Sandy Wilmert or Tonita Reifsteck.

Outreach Ministry always appreciates the volunteers who help with COFFEE HOUR - Make coffee and clean-up afterwards. Treats are furnished by Outreach unless someone shares with that 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 until 10:00 a.m.



Articles for the **March 2026** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **February 19<sup>th</sup>**.



## CELEBRATE LIFE GROUP

By: Tonita Reifsteck

On January 9<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Armbrust, Nancy Gehlbach, Janet Johnson, Carolyn Pech, Toni Reifsteck, Dan Row, Lynn Spellman, Carol Webb and Sandy Wilmert gathered around a table at CHI for a delightful luncheon – singing Happy birthday to Janet. Updates on church events to come were shared, Birthday and Get-Well cards were signed.

February Celebrate Life will be at Cracker Barrel! This will require anyone wanting to join in the lunch and program to tell Sandy Wilmert or Tonita Reifsteck. All are welcome at 11:30 a.m. the program will be each one present a memorable Valentine. Valentines for shut-ins will be signed along with February birthday's being celebrated.

A lengthy "THANK YOU" note to Charity Guild was received from Habitat for Humanity of Logan County. "...Thank you for the \$100 donation to Habitat for Humanity of Logan County. Your donation is much appreciated and vital to our ongoing efforts to provide affordable housing in Logan County."



To: Charity Guild of St. John UCC,  
*Warm Holiday Greetings and THANK YOU for the support.*

CIVC  
(Central Illinois Veterans Commission)



Email response received by 165<sup>th</sup> Committee on December 28, 2025:

*"I just got your letter, thank you (It took awhile. Our mail system's ancient)*

Sam Sifton  
Grandson of Reinhold Niebuhr in response to invitation (enclosed personal contact info)



## OUTREACH AND PUBLICITY

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

Outreach Ministry met on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 with Jack and Nancy Leich, Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Sandy Wilmert, Tonita Reifsteck and Pastor Kline present.

Meeting opened with an Epiphany: *"We have seen His Star and have come to worship/serve Him"*.  
Pastor Kline opened the meeting with prayer.

No report of council (Chimes not available)

### OLD BUSINESS

- Check for \$100 with card to be sent to Baile Pineda/graduate December 2025
- Dan Row keeps welcoming of visitors exciting; notes are sent within the week. If local residents, information sheets will be shared with pastor ASAP

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Meetings will continue to meet first Tuesday each month
- Concern for Shut-ins/visitors and involvement – will be sent to council
- Details for Program and lunch after church finalized (POSTPONED TO February 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Map with designated locations of Fire Extinguishers and Motion lights shared
- Menu will be same as before: Ham/Chicken salad, salad, dessert and drinks
- Eagle Scouts (3) will be recognized in December. New scout plate made for Riley Simpson
- Treat Night for Scouts will be on a Monday chosen by scouts for Christmas help.
- COFFEE HOUR – still need hosting support will share need with council next year.
- Shared draft of Annual Report



## NEEDED... COFFEE HOUR HOST/HOStESS VOLUNTEERS



Sign-up sheets are in Narthex and Kitchen.



February 1<sup>st</sup>:  
February 8<sup>th</sup>:  
February 15<sup>th</sup>:  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>:

## St. John Diners Country Aire Restaurant Saturday, February 21 11:30 a.m.

Are you planning to attend St. John Diners in February? 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. Then just meet us at the Country Aire Restaurant in Atlanta on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 a.m. for lunch.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026**  
**after church**  
**Program on New Defibrillator**  
**and Fire extinguishers**  
**Lunch following**



**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Imo's Café**

All men of the church are **Welcome**

**DECEMBER FINANCIALS**



Beginning Balance		\$ 1,476.96
Income	\$40,475.05	
Transfer	\$35,000.00	
Expenses	\$38,740.21	
Ending Balance		\$38,211.80

**FEBRUARY Birthdays**

- 1 Ed Jeffries
- 6 Avery Birnbaum
- 9 Morgan Fuller  
*Ruth Post*
- 10 Kent Paulus
- 13 Wyatt Conrady  
Sandy Meinershagen
- 27 Jan Jeffries  
*George Wilmert*
- 28 Aidan Nemeth  
Bailee Pineda

Name in **red** is a member of our church who is on the visitation list. Let's fill their mailboxes on their birthday.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Jeff and Jackie Curry
- 7 Rich and Barb Reinwald

**CELEBRATE LIFE...**  
**Friday, February 13**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**Cracker Barrel**

**ST. JOHN GAMERS**  
**Sunday, February 8**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Bring a Game**  
**Bring a snack to share**  
**Bring your own drink**

## MUSIC at ST. JOHN UCC

By: Tonita Reifsteck

The words *"Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord"* comes to mind when the music program at St. John UCC is mentioned – both now and for all the years past. There are no historical records whether a piano or other instrument was in our first meeting place—the Postville Schoolhouse. The organ in the first church (McLean and Clinton Streets) was a Melodeon with suction bellows. When our church was built on Union and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets the singing of hymns was a high priority, so the first organ was purchased in 1893—a pump organ that Richard Knorr was paid 25 cents per Sunday to pump for the organist to play. We just celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> year of St. John UCC at Maple and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets which is also the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the pipe organ that was

ordered and delivered from Wurtemberg, Germany (near Stuttgart) when the church was in the progress of being built – and so began a history of unbelievable music to resonate throughout the church and community. Trumpet stops were added to the organ, given in memory of Wilbur Wilmert who had been soloist and in choir most of his life. Organists throughout the years – Naomi Hauffe (over 50 years) David Hirst and now Laura

Lee since 1995, along with substitutes Alice Paulus and Rev. Larry Maffet have prepared, practiced and led the congregation with hymn singing, special arrangements, accompanying other soloists and music of

every era. Laura's repertoire is amazing and sad to say – organists are not easy to find and fewer colleges who offer music schools, say fewer are signing up. We have been blessed with pianists when organ was in repair or an organist was not available, Kay Dobson, Norma Kramer, Rev. Larry and/or Marilyn Maffet or Alice Paulus taking the music leadership.



Adding to the organ music – St. John has throughout the years experienced the sounds of violin, cello, guitar, drums, trombones, trumpets, saxophone, tuba, French horn, flute, a keyboard (possibly others) and our handbells and chimes. Yes, a Joyful Noise!

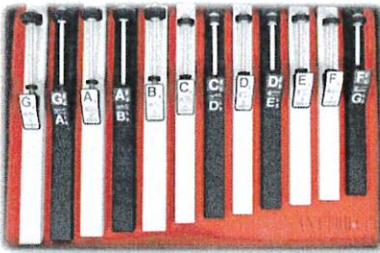


Speaking of Joyful noise – Chancel choirs have been a part of our heritage as well – for many years both sides of the chancel

were full of choir members – men in front of the organ and women on the pulpit side. Names of earliest directors was not found but most recent directors have been Marie Brooker, Eddie Vandewalker, Randy Buse, Rev. Rich Reinwald, David Helm, Zac Clemens and current director, Calob Pluhm. Then there have been Cherub choirs—with white robes that needed ironing and red bows! There was Youth Choir (led by Randy Reichert), Children's choir (led by Nancy Gehlbach and Darlene Begolka), Youth Band – (led by Laura Lee) and some vocal and piano soloists.

Now, although fewer in number, we have a choir that still has the dedication of practicing and sharing a message in music to fellow worshippers—often a favorite one, which is appreciated and 'enjoyed' by all – even, like after the Anniversary anthem, find themselves singing or humming an anthem for weeks afterwards! Of course, this choir and their director, Calob always welcomes anyone to join them!

A few months back a part of our musical history was shared, namely the 2 Bronze Bells in the Bell Tower and the Schulmerich Handbells.



St. John music program also has the sounds of Malmark Choirchimes. In 1998 two octaves of Choirchimes were given in

memory of Harold Pech. A children’s Chime Choir was begun led by Darlene Begolka. Later an adult choir began, also led by Darlene who continues to be the director. Additional octaves were added in 2002 in memory of Dorothy Robinson and Harold Keest and the 5<sup>th</sup> octave in 2013 in memory of Donnabelle Pech.

In addition to our own choirs, concerts have brought programs like Elmhurst College, Eureka College, Lincoln College, University of Illinois and community benefit concerts for Perry Hahn and a family losing their home to a fire.

St. John UCC music hasn’t been confined to just the church building, but all choirs have shared this ministry in Nursing Homes, to shut-ins in their home, ALMH, community events and invited others to join a group for a joint effort in sharing the Joy of music. (If the weather doesn’t cancel it!) All said, there have been hundreds who have given their time and shared their talent in making a joyful noise to the Lord and a meaningful worship for others.

As the church an invitation says – “Come and worship” so you can hear and experience the sounds of music of every imaginable means and leave with a song in your heart.



# GREETERS

February 1:	Dan and Nancy Dexter
February 8:	Donna Buse
February 15:	Nancy Gehlbach
February 22:	Randy Pech

## BLANKET SUNDAY

Sunday, February 8, 2026  
\$10 = 1 Blanket

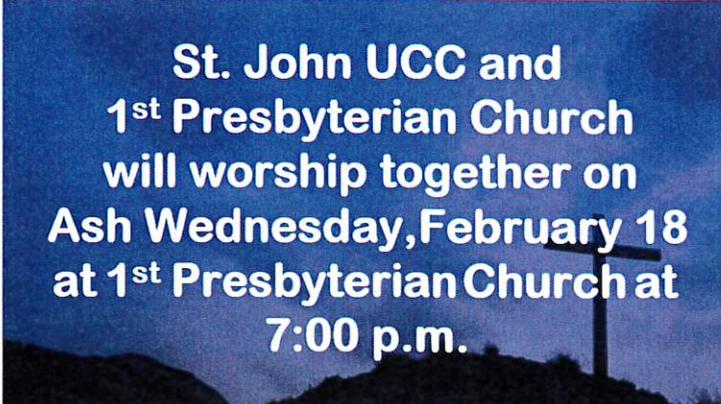
*“Blanket the World in Love”*



We are invited to the  
Fat Tuesday  
Pancake Supper at  
First Presbyterian  
Church.



## St. John UCC and 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church will worship together on Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.





**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.  
Confirmation at 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.  
Annual Congregational Meeting following church

**Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.  
Bible Study at 12:00 noon  
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Lincoln Area Ministerial Association at 11:30am  
Outreach and Publicity at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship w/Communion at 10:00 a.m.  
Blanket Sunday Offering  
Outreach Program and Lunch following church  
St. John Gamers at 2:00 p.m.

**Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.  
Bible Study at 12:00 noon

**Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

**Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

Celebrate Life Group at 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.  
Confirmation at 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.  
Scout Sunday  
St. John Ringers practice following church  
St. John Chimers practice following ringers

**Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.  
Bible Study at 12:00 noon  
Church Council meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

Ash Wednesday Service at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

St. John Diners at 11:30 a.m. at the Country Aire Restaurant

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.  
Seminary Sunday  
St. John Ringers practice following church  
St. John Chimers practice following ringers

**Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.  
Bible Study at 12:00 noon  
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

Cub Scouts at 6:15 p.m.

**Note:**

**The YMCA After School Program  
Monday – Friday  
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.**



Alissa Smith  
Cheryl F.  
Lynn  
David  
Kathy Staten  
Jim Walsh  
Kristen  
"Pete" Luckhart  
Abigail  
Middle East  
Raymond  
Stephanie Opperman  
Janet Dullard  
Sharlene  
Jen Steele  
Ellen Schweizer  
Beverly  
David Dennis  
Louise Jeffries  
Debbie  
Duke  
Chris  
Allen  
Linda Barrick  
Wil Buse  
Drake Miller  
Bill Dennis  
Patricia Southerd  
Leslie Wilmert  
Kevin Wilham  
Kathy  
Elizabeth Miller  
Katie  
Jackie Curry  
Ron Brawdy  
Dorothy

Kelli Thompson  
Sandy  
Dylan  
DJ  
Jeremy Cook  
Fred  
Linda Gehlbach  
Ryman Miller  
Lainey Miller  
Lucy Miller  
Kathleen Twente  
Kelly Thomas  
Linda Douglas  
Pat Hickey Freese  
Mogan  
Josh Filmore  
Lee Westerfield  
Janet Johnson  
Brooklyn  
Joel Beard  
Terry Puffer  
Randal Wyland  
Maggie Johnson  
Gene Hassebrock  
Jean Hall  
Vic  
Gail Parsonage  
Ali

Illinois Conference/Western Association

**FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:**

Dave Armbrust, Steve Aue,  
Jerry and Mary Berglin, Bill Krepps,  
Wayne Mara, Edna Mara, Helen Opperman,  
Ruth Post, Sandy Sanders, George Wilmert

# Staff of St. John United Church of Christ

## Members and Friends of St. John UCC

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Kline  
Darlene Begolka  
Carolyn Pech  
Laura Lee  
Calob Pluhm  
Darlene Begolka

## Ministers

Pastor  
Office Manager  
Financial Manager  
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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**Website:** [stjohnucclincolnillinois.com](http://stjohnucclincolnillinois.com)

St. John United Church of Christ  
204 Seventh Street  
Lincoln, Illinois 62656  
217-732-6957

Pastor Ken's cell phone number: 309-269-0233

Pastor Ken's email: [revkenkline@aol.com](mailto:revkenkline@aol.com)

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

