

***St. John's United Church of Christ***  
**Worship Service: 9:00am / Sunday School: 10:15am**

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

[\* = Those who are able may stand, L = Leader, P = People and A = All]

Words of Welcome:            “Abide in My love.”            — John 15:9-10  
   “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love.”

Organ Prelude:                    “Peace Abiding”                    — G. F. Handel

**Welcome & Announcements**

Pastoral Greeting

Call to Worship<sup>+</sup>:

L: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**P: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

L: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**P: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

L: If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**P: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

L: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**P: May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

\*Opening Hymn:    “Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners”    #90

**Prayer of the Day:**

**Loving and Gracious God, you have invited us to abide in you. You have gifted us with your love, your mercy, your grace. For all of this, we give you praise; for all of this, we sing thanksgivings. Empower us to take these gifts of yours and use them to love the world. Strengthen our care for our neighbors, our love for one another, and our walk as Christ's disciples. For we know this is the fruit you wish to see in our lives. And we pray this in the name of he in whom we abide, Jesus. Amen.**

Prayer Response:    “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” (only chorus)    #5

Mission Moment:    Global Ministries

Especially for Children

The Song:    **“Jesus Loves the Little Children”**

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.  
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in His hand,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Scripture Reading:                    I John 4:7-21  
   John 15:1-8

Anthem: Chancel Choir: "A Place in the Valley"

Sermon: "Growing and Pruning"

Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #358

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation for Our Offerings

Organ Offertory: "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" arr. Hughes

Doxology #34

Offertory Prayer

\*Closing Hymn: "To God Be the Glory" #66

\*Benediction

Organ Postlude: "Praise the Lord On High" — Sawyer

†From re-worship.blogspot, original by Joanna Harader.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Feldmann
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Johnston
Organist/Choir Director	Mr. David W. Hanson

**LITURGIST / BENEVELOENCE CALENDAR:**

April 28	Sarah Dobson	Global Ministries
May 5	Charlie Dieckmann	Batesville Children's Summer Meal Program
May 12	Cindy Feller	Strengthen the Church (UCC)
May 19	Dan Hall	St. John's Sunday School (VBS)



**St. John's Prayer List – Those Bereaved (these names remain on for one year):**

Marian Koester; Willis Rouse; Doris Lamping; John Moody.

**Others For Whom We Have Been Asked To Pray:**

Gayle Sarringhaus; Nikki Sarringhaus; Dave & Bonnie Johnston; Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, Grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus); Randy & Becky Schebler; Margaret Meyers; Vicky & Jim Wintz; Toby Holman (Health Issues, Nephew of Bev & Jeff Schwier); Darlene Hauck & family (On the passing of her Father, Robert Hauck, friend of Kimberly Hill); Delores Cornett; Robert Weber (Recovery from fall); Sandi Maxwell (Cancer, friend of Jennifer Huffmeyer); Georgia Haarman; Dan Borchelt (Cancer, uncle to Barb Foster, cousin to Paul Borchelt); Mabel Horton (On her passing, Mabel is the sister of Ruth Thie and Aunt to Jennifer Huffmeyer); Anne Thie (On her passing, Ann was a family member and friend to many here at St. John's); Danny & Patty Canterbury (Patty is in ICU, friend of Dan & Elizabeth Hall); Steve & Ann Koph (Melanoma diagnosis and other health issues, friends of Dan & Elizabeth Hall); Jenell Schroeder; Sheryl Voss (Health Issues), Sherry Linville (Eye Surgery); Elaine Wessling (Health Issues); Connie Miller (Heart Surgery).

**Members/Friends Serving Active Duty in the Armed Forces:**

Kris Freeman, Aaron Gordon, Steven Meer, Ryan Miller, Chris Williams; Bryce Timonera.

**Our Members and Friends in Nursing/Retirement Homes:** (For Peace)  
St. Andrews Health Campus in Batesville: Margaret Meyers; Carol Narwold.

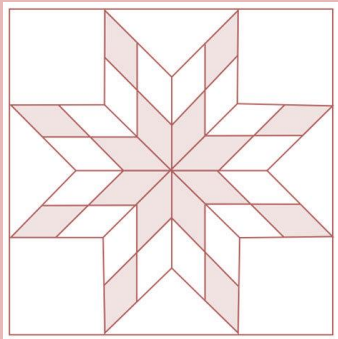
**EVENTS OF THE WEEK:**

April 28: Chancel Choir Sings  
May 1: Confirmation Class 6pm

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

May 5: Communion Sunday  
Men's Choir Singing  
May 6: Sunday School Board Meeting 6pm  
May 8: Confirmation Class 6pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 7pm  
May 11: All Daughters Banquet 5:30pm

*Announcements*



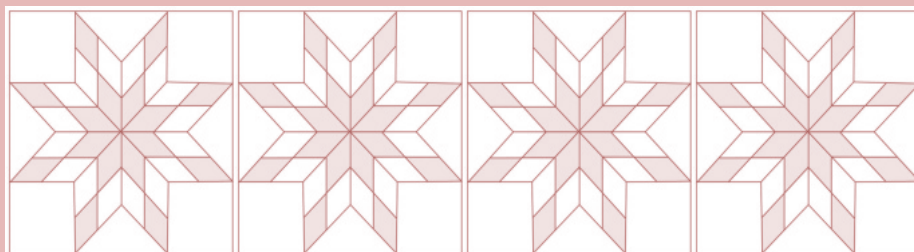
**ALL DAUGHTERS GATHERING**

Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> is the All Daughters Gathering, today is your last chance to purchase tickets. It's going to be a great event and you won't want to miss it.

Our meal is being catered by the Brau Haus in Oldenburg, starting at 5:30pm in the church dining hall. The menu includes their famous fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw and dinner rolls. There will also be a dessert. Cost is \$14 for ages 7 and up, \$7 for children 6 and under (children 2 and under are free).

We have chosen the theme of QUILTS for our program this year. We are asking attendees to bring a favorite family quilt with a description about where it came from and why it is special. It can be an old treasured quilt or one from a recent event. We will invite a quilter from the quilters' guild to help us learn highlights of the quilts; their patterns, how it is constructed and the era it was made. Expect fun facts to be shared during the evening about the history of quilt making.

For more information on this gathering, please contact:  
Barb Foster at 812-933-5667 or Cindy Feller at 812-212-8308



## **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY:**

is May 19<sup>th</sup> and we have six of our youth that will be invited to affirm their baptisms and join the ranks of those confirmed here at St. John's. Please join us before worship in the Fellowship Hall for a reception in their honor. And then join us for the joyful event itself during our 9am worship service.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

June 3 – 7 is when St. John's Vacation Bible School will be. Please save the date, spread the word, and invite your friends and cousins to come along to this awesome event! Stay tuned for more details to come next month.

This year's VBS theme will be:

**Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God**



## **LOADS OF LOVE!**

- ♥ Have you been given loads of love? I bet you have! Family, friends, God...
- ♥ Do you have loads of love to give? I bet that's true too!
- ♥ How do we spread loads of love to our local neighbors?  
By doing loads of laundry of course!



Our new outreach mission ministry, called Loads of Love, has begun! We have several ways locally for our neighbors in need to get clothing items for free or reduced costs. How do those same neighbors get their clothes clean, especially if they have a lower income or don't have laundry facilities in their home? Have you thought much about how expensive and inconvenient it is to have to do all of your laundry at the laundromat? We are collecting quarters, and really any money you're willing to donate, in our washing machine at the back of the sanctuary. At a future date, we will take these quarters and laundry detergent (purchased with that other money) to a local laundromat to do loads of free laundry for anyone who comes while we're there. This mission's purpose is to share our love with all our neighbors by helping them do a load of laundry. We'll help until the suds and funds run out.

### **LOADS OF LOVE LAUNDRY FUND**



## **SCRIPTURES**



### **I John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.



### **John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

## Hymns

### Jesus What a Friend for Sinners (page #90)

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!  
Jesus! Lover of my soul;  
friends may fail me, foes assail me;  
he, my Savior, makes me whole.

#### Refrain:

Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah! what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a Strength in weakness!  
Let me hide myself in him;  
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,  
he, my Strength, my victory wins. [Refrain]

Jesus! what a Help in sorrow!  
While the billows o'er me roll,  
even when my heart is breaking,  
he, my Comfort, helps my soul. [Refrain]

Jesus! what a Guide and Keeper!  
While the tempest still is high,  
storms about me, night o'ertakes me,  
he, my Pilot, hears my cry. [Refrain]

Jesus! I do now receive him,  
more than all in him I find;  
he hath granted me forgiveness;  
I am his, and he is mine! [Refrain]

### Glory Be to the Father (page #734)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (page #358)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away our love of sinning,

(continued in next column)

### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (continued)

Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (chorus only ~ page #5)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

### To God Be The Glory (page #66)

To God be the glory, great things he has done;  
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

#### Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he has done.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

[Refrain]

Great things he has taught us, great things he hath  
done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher and greater will be our  
wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

[Refrain]