

April 2024



# THE MESSENGER

*Prepared for the members & friends of:*

**St. John's United Church of Christ (Huntersville)**

**300 N. Huntersville Road, Batesville, IN 47006**

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## *from the Pastor . . .*

As I write this, we are mere days away from Easter Sunday. But happening a week after Easter Sunday is another big event in our community. One that has had people planning for ages. One that, according to officials, could bring a TON of people to our area. I am talking about the full solar eclipse on April 8. It will be a major event, with festivities planned the day before and schools taking the day off. All of this in honor of 5 minutes of night during the day, as the sun is covered up by the moon. It is sure to be a memorable day. And if you think I will waste the opportunity to try and tie it into our faiths journey, well, you are mistaken. ESPECIALLY because I think it is a great visual for Easter... and how Easter moments happen in our own lives. Let's talk eclipse!

I suspect that most of us know the mechanics of how the eclipse will look, if not the science behind it. In which case, feel free to skip to the next paragraph. But just in case, here is my best understanding of what will happen in just a few days. On April 8, the moon will move between where we are on earth and the sun, seeming to cover up the entire sun. Then, for five minutes, the day will turn dark. Indeed, it will seem like night is coming early, complete with street lights coming on and animal sounds that feel like evening. Then, after about 5 minutes, the earth and moon will keep turning and the sun will "come back," returning us to the middle of the afternoon.

This might be a bit of a stretch, but I think this is a good visual of what happened on Easter. Jesus was arrested in the garden, tried before Pilate, and then crucified. For his followers and friends, for those who knew him, it seemed as if the sun itself had gone out. (The Son himself?) Jesus was placed in a tomb and night seemed to have fallen on the world. Though we know what is happening during the eclipse, those first followers did NOT know that Easter was coming. All seemed dark and despair seemed to reign. But then...Easter came. Jesus rose. Death was defeated. And was like a new dawn, a new day. The Son has seemed to be blacked out. But instead, arose into new life that we, too, might know the gift of resurrected life. Those first followers and all of us in the 2000 years afterwards, moved into not an afternoon sun, but a new day full of light and new life. A day brought about by the rising of the Son.

Part of the promise of Easter is that this resurrection story is not a one-time event. At least not completely. Jesus's death and resurrection wins for all of us the gift of new life. Because of Easter morning, we can trust that death is never the end, but that a life with God awaits us just past the veil of death. God's ways of love and life win. But even more so, the promise of Easter is that **WHENEVER** we feel that the forces of death and destruction are winning, we can trust instead in the ways of God.

And here is where I think the eclipse analogy works. I don't know how many of us have seen a total solar eclipse before, but I suspect many of us have had moments where all the light seemed to go out of our world. Days that felt as dark and dreary as night. Weeks where we wondered whether or not the sun would ever shine again in our lives. The promise of Easter, visualized in the eclipse, is the Son is still there. That new life wins even in those times. That God ways of light and love will prevail. Through the peace of Christ we feel among us. Through the power of God that can make a way out of no way.



Through the gift of God taking even moments of tragedy and finding ways to make them moments of new life. Through the promise of resurrection. God's presence will shine through in those moments... just like the sun will peak back out from behind the moon on April 8.

So, order some eclipse glasses. It should be a truly awesome experience. Go watch the beauty and splendor of God's creation. And then marvel over this truth- the God who made this disappearing and reappearing sun is also the one who sent the Son. Is also the God who offers us new life. On Easter. On Eclipse day. And all the days of our lives. Thanks be to God!

Shalom,

*Pastor Joe*

## A page from the hymnal...

### “LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER FLOWING”

#20



Written in 1982, this hymn, celebrating the God of creation, was written by Michael Arnold Perry. Perry, a clergyman, was known as one of the leading hymnodists of the twentieth century in Britain. He was born in Beckenham, Kent, England on March 8, 1942, and initially studied mathematics and physics at the University of London, but transferred, after one year, to Oak Hill College, then Ridley Hall, to study theology. Rev. Perry was ordained as priest in the Church of England in 1966 and served several churches from 1972 until his death on December 9, 1996, at age 54, of a brain tumor. He was also editor and director of Jubilate Hymns, and served as chaplain and lecturer at the National Police Staff College in Bramshill. Of the 200 hymns he authored, eight are in our hymnal, including “O God, Beyond All Praising” (#64), “Blessed Be the God of Israel” (#158), and “See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw” (#227). The text is based on Isaiah 66:12; “for thus saith the Lord, behold I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.”

The tune, QUEM PASTORES LAUDAVERE, is of anonymous origin, dating from the fourteenth century, and was adapted and arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958).

*“Like a mighty river flowing...is the perfect peace of God.”*

David W. Hanson, Organist/Choir Director  
St. John's (Huntersville) UCC

## † Requesting Prayers for:

- Nikki Sarringhaus.
- Gayle Sarringhaus.
- Carolyn Carson (Nikki Sarringhaus' grandmother).
- Dave & Bonnie Johnston.
- Vicky & Jim Wintz.
- Randy & Becky Schebler.
- Dale Koester (Passing of Marian).
- Edna Rouse (Passing of Willis).
- Gerald Huffmeyer (Speedy recovery from surgery).
- Connie Moody & family (Passing of John).
- Ashton Akridge (Speedy Recovery, Daughter of Jennifer & Gerald Huffmeyer).
- The Family of Bethany Holland (Granddaughter of Don & Georgia Haarman).
- Georgia Haarman (Speedy Recovery).
- The family of Mabel Horton on her passing (sister of Ruth Thie and Aunt to Jennifer Huffmeyer).
- The family of Ann Thie on her passing (Ann is family and dear friend to many here at St. John's).

## Congratulations

to Baileigh Hartman and Faustin Bloemker on the birth of their son, Hudson Wayne. His proud grandma is Brenda Hartman, Great Grandparents are Nick & Kay Bailey and special aunt Nancy Bailey.



**HALLELUJAH!**  
*What a Savior!*  
The Crucified and Risen Christ

40th Ecumenical Easter Cantata  
**Easter Sunday Sunrise Service**  
March 31, 7:00am  
Light Breakfast Following

And  
**Sunday, April 7, 7:00pm**  
Refreshments Following

St. John's United Church of Christ  
300 N. Huntersville Rd., Batesville, IN

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Don't miss the Encore  
performance  
April 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm*

## Anniversaries This Month

- 1 Erik & Jamie Arkenberg
- 9 Mike & Janet Schumacher
- 12 Wally & Eunice Meyer
- 16 Nancy & Ed Lochard, Katie & Chris Sapp
- 21 Traci & Mason Graham
- 22 Lawson Gutzwiller & Mallory Martin
- 25 Doug & Marlene Emsweller, Ken & Lisa Slagle
- 27 Sandy & Whitey Weberding
- 28 Daren & Nikki Sarringhaus

## Birthdays This Month

- 1 Sarah Meyer, Janet Shields
- 5 Brian Blanton, Eric Thie
- 6 Elton Sarringhaus
- 8 Dave Johnston
- 9 Jim Bauman, Molly Weiler
- 10 Jenni Fullenkamp
- 12 Decklyn Day, Peter Frye, Alina Sarringhaus, Chris Weiler
- 14 Shane Akridge
- 15 Brenda Becker, Gerald Huffmeyer, Denise Richards
- 16 Stephanie Anderson, Gerald Bessler, Rick Dial
- 17 Jeremy Owens
- 20 Dick Placke
- 21 Linda Westrup
- 22 Austin Meyer
- 24 Carson Weiler
- 29 Nathan Cornett, Pastor Joey Feldmann, Shan Gardner, Nick Schaeffer
- 30 Rhett Davis, Alison Meyer



## Holy Week Schedule 2024

### Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7pm:

† Evening worship with Communion

### Good Friday, March 29 at 7pm:

† Evening Tenebrae Service

### Easter, March 31 at 7am:

† Ecumenical Easter Cantata Sunrise Service  
~ With a light breakfast following

### Easter, March 31 at 9am:

† Worship with Communion during our  
~ Easter celebration "Christ is Risen!"



### JOE WITH PASTOR JOEY:



at Amack's Well each Monday from a little after 9am until noon. (You can usually find him upstairs.) Come for casual conversation, to get something off your chest, or just to support our local business.

## St. John's Liturgist and Benevolence Schedule

### April 2024 – May 2024

April 7 .....	Nikki Sarringhaus .....	Batesville Area Ministerial Assoc. (Food Pantry)
April 14 .....	Stephanie Anderson .....	Granny Connection
April 21 .....	Sarah Dobson .....	Youth Encouragement Services Home
April 28 .....	Rachel Davis .....	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 (Vacation Bible School)
May 26 .....	Myron Kanning .....	St. John's Cemetery Fund

## THE COUNTRY STORE

Will again be part of the Sunday School Picnic for 2024. This year the proceeds will go to the Church General Fund. All the wonderful handmade items were greatly appreciated last year! There was quite a variety of treasures created by many of our members and even friends and family of our members. The Country Store added \$1800 to the Picnic "profit". A couple observations from the 2023 Country Store are that baby and Christmas items didn't seem to sell well, not saying that they aren't welcome, but just in case you were wondering what to make or how to contribute. If you feel your creative juices flowing, your donations would be deeply appreciated again this year.



The Picnic is Saturday, July 27, 2024.

Thank you in advance and if you have any questions—please contact Cindy Feller:

812-212-8308 or cindyfeller1@gmail.com



## SAVE THE DATE

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 3 – 7 is when St. Joh'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**



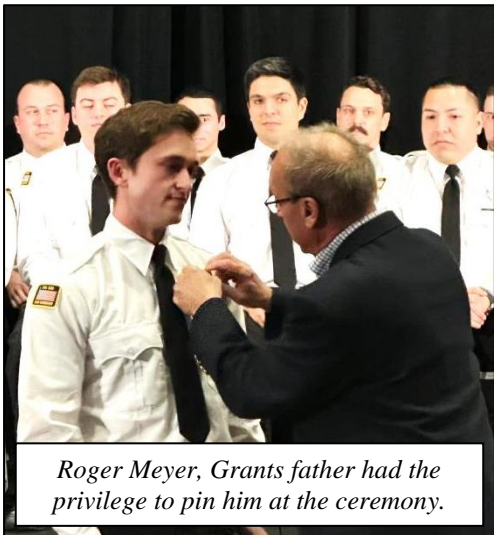
## CONGRATULATIONS!

### HOW PROUD WE ARE!!!

Noblesville Fire Department: Class 08-23 graduated on March 1, 2024. Brantley Springmeyer (grandson of Jenell Schroeder) and Grant Meyers (son of Roger & Taaron Meyers) earned their badges and are ready for duty as Firemen/EMTs and are currently working out of one of the seven Noblesville departments.



Entire graduating class



Roger Meyer, Grants father had the privilege to pin him at the ceremony.



Jenell Schroeder pictured with her grandson Brantley Springmeyer.

grateful  
thankful  
blessed

Dear St. John's Church Family we would like to Thank you for all of the love and support that you have shared with us during the final months of Irvin's dad's life. Death is never easy but the comfort of friends helps ease the sorrow. Thank you for your friendship, cards and prayers.

~ God bless you all! Irvin & Margie Harmeyer

To the Faithful members of St. John's UCC, The Holman family is so grateful for the prayers lifted up to our Father for our dear son Toby. He is tired but recovered in large part due to your fervent prayers. Words cannot express our Thanks.

~ With love, Craig & Heather Holman

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. They were a driving force that helped speed my recovery. I appreciate all that you do. ~ With thanks, Toby

The St. John's Cemetery Board and Church members wish to extend a heartfelt Thank you to John Thie for his 34 years of service in mowing and caring for our cemetery. Over the many years, John has always seen that the grounds were kept well maintained and so beautiful. Thank you again John, as you know, our cemetery is something we are very proud of.

~ Your Church Family

We just can't Thank you enough. . . .

Georgia and I wish to thank you for the cards and prayers. We hope to return to church soon and be with our church family. May God Bless You All.

~ In Christian Love, Don & Georgia Haarman

A huge Thank you to the many voices, hands, hearts, and minds, those young, old, and in between, who helped to make the 40<sup>th</sup> St. John's UCC Easter Ecumenical Choir Cantata happen. Without you, reviving this Interfaith Easter ministry would not have been possible. Thank you to those filling the pews too. May you be filled with wonder, peace, and joy this Easter. Hallelujah!

Thank you to Grace, Brooklyn, and Gwen for helping to collect empty cups after each communion service. These girls stepped up on their own to help. It shows our St. John's Youth in action! Many hands make the job easier. Thanks for being a good example of what can be done when we work together.

Thank you to our St. John's Family for all your prayers, cards, food, and well wishes for a successful surgery and full recovery. I felt equipped and relaxed for surgery knowing you all were faithfully leading the way with your prayers. All went, and is, well! **God is Good**, and so are you!

~ With much appreciation, Dawn and Mike

## 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!



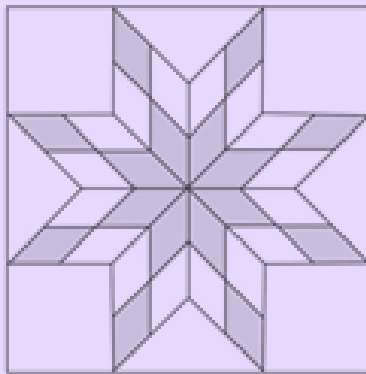
Our new outreach mission ministry, called Loads of Love, has begun! We have several ways locally for our neighbors in need to get clothing items for free or reduced costs.

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 are 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.





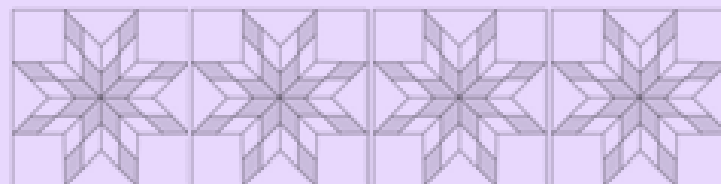
## ALL DAUGHTERS GATHERING

We are bringing back the banquet for mothers and daughters this year. Our name and arrangements have changed to meet the current needs of everyone.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> our meal will be 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. The committee will provide the dessert. Cost is \$14 for ages 7 and up and \$7 for children 6 and under.





We have chosen the theme of QUILTS for our program. 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.

Tickets will be sold beginning April 7<sup>th</sup> after worship. We will also have tickets available for sale at the church office. Come and bring friends and family to share the evening. Contact Barb Foster at 812-933-5667 or Cindy Feller at 812-212-8308 for more information on this new/old tradition.



# April 2024

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Sunday School Board Meeting 6pm	2	3 NO Confirmation Class	4 Ecumenical Choir Practice 6:30pm	5	6
7  Men's Choir Practice 8:15am Singing During Service ~ Ecumenical Easter Cantata 7pm	8 	9 Council Meeting 7pm	10 Confirmation Class 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 7pm in the Choir Room	11 BAMA 1:30pm	12	13
14 Chancel Choir Singing	15	16	17 Confirmation Class 6pm	18	19	20
21	22 	23 	24 Quiltmakers 9:30am Confirmation Class 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 7pm in the Choir Room	25	26	27
28 Chancel Choir Singing	29	30				