

January 2024



THE MESSENGER

Prepared for the members & friends of:

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

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from the Pastor . . .

So it was the week before Christmas and there I was, sitting on the side of the road. My car having an issue and my day very much changed for the longer. Put aside were any hopes of doing any of the things on my list, at least for a few hours. No, now I had car issues to take care of. (I won't go into the details here; this isn't a woe is me story. But if you want to know, just ask.) I was tempted to feel very sorry for myself. And, okay, did for at least a bit. Human nature is human nature, after all. And ONE MORE THING right before Christmas was not on my calendar.

But somehow by the grace of God, I didn't stay there. Somehow, I was able to think about how lucky I truly was even in the midst of this moment. The car had died when I was by myself, and not with the kids. There were options for me to have a vehicle in the time until my car would be repaired. Due to insurance, the cost wouldn't be as high as it might. And so on and so forth. In short, on that busy stretch of interstate, sitting in a dead car, I was reminded that even there God was with me. Even there was Emmanuel.

And friends, THAT is the story of this season. That is the story of our faith. Jesus comes in a manger, comes as a little child, to remind us that God is with us. When we are dealing with all the joys and challenges of parenthood—crying babies, whining toddlers, amazing elementary school aged-kids, confusing teenagers, and whatever you call us adult children—God is with us. When we are happy and content on Christmas morning, God is with us. When we mourn or cry or weep, God is with us. When our hearts are overflowing with all the complicated emotions that come with human life, God is with us. If we just feel numb, God is with us. And yes, when we are sitting in a dead car five days before Christmas, God is with us.

A part of me feels like I should have more to say here. Like I should be filling this space with all the wisdom I can. But sometimes the simplest messages are the best. And the most true. So whether you are reading this right before or right after Christmas. Whether you are exhausted or wishing the season could keep going. Whether this month has been one of joy or sorrows or something in between, hear this good news. God loves you. And in Jesus, in Emmanuel, God is with us.

God is with us. Thanks be to God.



Shalom,

Pastor Joe

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 or to get something off your chest, or just to support our local business.



“LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE”

#232

Originally written in Greek, the Standard English version of this hymn, intended for the communion liturgy, was paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie. The son of an Anglican minister, Moultrie was born on September 16, 1829 in London, England. He was educated at Rugby and Exeter College, obtaining his BA in 1851 and his MA in 1856. He took Holy Orders and was third Master and Chaplain at Shrewsbury School. He was author, editor and publisher of many hymns. Moultrie died at Rugby, Warwickshire, England on December 26, 1874. This ancient hymn of Eucharistic devotion dates from 245 AD. Based on the Divine Liturgy of St. James of Jerusalem, this hymn was used to prepare worshippers for communion, and quotes scripture references from Habakkuk 2:20; “But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him,” and Zechariah 2:13; “Be silent, all flesh before the Lord, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.” The first verse emphasizes Christ’s incarnation; the second, His human nature; the third, His blessings; and the fourth, His worthiness of praise.

Dating from the seventeenth century, the tune, PICARDY, is based on a carol from the Picardy region of France. It was adapted and arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1906 for this hymn text. Vaughan Williams was an English composer and organist who lived from 1872 to 1958.

“Christ, our God, to earth descendeth; our full homage to demand.”

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

LITURGIST & BENEVOLENCE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

3 Jane Link.....Southeast IN Health Clinic
10 Mike Vonderheide Global Ministries
17 Bev Schwier..... St. John’s Music Fund
24 RD Kitchell.....Safe Passage
24 (9pm) Joan Westerfeld Veterans of the Cross
31 Danny Narwold..... Church World Service (UCC)

† Requesting Prayers for:

- Nikki Sarringhaus.
- John & Connie Moody.
- Gayle Sarringhaus.
- Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus).
- Dave & Bonnie Johnston.
- Vicky & Jim Wintz.
- Randy & Becky Schebler (Health Issues).
- Margaret Meyers (for comfort).
- Becky Fields (Cancer, sister-in-law to Ron Meyer).
- Bryce Timonera (On his deployment to Kuwait).
- Dale Koester (Solace in the passing of Marian).
- Bonnie Johnston & family (Passing of her mother, Doris & brother, Greg Lamping).
- Ashton, (Health Issues daughter of Jennifer Huffmeyer).
- Edna Rouse (Solace in the passing of Willis).
- Joan & John Kuhlman (Passing of nephew, David Smith).
- Justin & Sarah Benoit & family (Passing of Justin’s father).
- Andy, Sarah Jaisle and family (Passing of Andy’s mother, Rita).
- Dale & Sandy Wittkamper and Elaine Wessling (Passing of their brother Earl).
- Mark & Lara Mortimer (Passing of Lara’s father).
- Gerald Huffmeyer (Speedy recovery from surgery).

MEMORIAL SUNDAY:

Our Memorial Sunday this year will be on Sunday, January 14 during worship. As has been our tradition, we will honor the members of our congregation who we have lost in the past year. We will also have space to honor family and friends of our congregation. If you would like to have your loved ones name read during this Sunday, please get the office their name by Wednesday, January 10. Then please join us for a special Sunday of remembrance.



Birthdays This Month

- 1 Chantel Weiler
- 2 Jaxon Welborn
- 5 Paul Borchelt
- 6 Addyson Weiler
- 7 Kyle Emsweller, Michelle Wheat
- 10 Sheryl Voss, Jim Wintz
- 11 Jason Emsweller, Connie Moody
- 12 Janet Wirth
- 13 Grace Sarringhaus, Greg Westrup
- 14 Sam Sitterding
- 15 Will Jaisle, Elizabeth Vest
- 16 Luke Kuykendall, Cole Nunlist
- 18 Zachary Frye
- 19 Kristina Frye
- 21 Lane Westerfeld
- 24 Ed Lochard
- 26 Ian Prickel, Lillie Sitterding
- 28 James Spurlock, Kohlson Voss
- 30 Randy Meyer
- 31 Blair Becker, Colin Becker

Anniversaries This Month

- 2 Linda & Greg Hellmann
- 7 Jane & Jim Link
- 10 Mark & Michelle Wheat
- 20 Rick & Carol Dial

St. John's Liturgist Schedule

January 2024 – April 2024

- January 7, 2024Kristina Frye
- January 14, 2024Linda Kanning
- January 21, 2024Cindy Feller
- January 28, 2024Peter Frye
- February 4, 2024Sam Sitterding
- February 11, 2024Anna Mauer
- February 18, 2024Donna Weber
- February 25, 2024Myron Kanning
- March 3, 2024Lori Mauer
- March 10, 2024Kimberly Hill
- March 17, 2024Ron Meyer
- March 24, 2024Gary Weber
- March 31, 2024 (*Easter*)Joan Westerfeld
- April 7, 2024Nikki Sarringhaus
- April 14, 2024Stephanie Anderson
- April 21, 2024Sarah Dobson
- April 28, 2024Rachel Davis

*grateful
thankful
blessed*

Our Church Family,

Thank you very much
for the phone calls, cards
and prayers. Your kindness
and thoughtfulness mean so
much. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year! ~ Georgia and Don Haarman

St. John's Youth Group,

Thank you so much for the basket of goodies
that we received. Thank you so much for thinking of
us. That was such a sweet gesture. You all are a very
special group. ~ Love, Bev & Jerry McKinney

Thank you so much for the cards and gifts this
holiday season. My family loved seeing the cards
and each of you just thinking of our family. This is a
special congregation and we are grateful to be here.
~ Thank you, Pastor Joey & family

CARD MINISTRY:

Thank you for the cards and prayers during my
accident in April, they were a huge help in my
recovery. Things are going very well and by Spring I
hope to be at a full recovery. Thank you again and
God Bless You all! ~ Jerry Meyer & family

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP GROUP:

Our next event for the still nameless
family fellowship group is:

January 14, 2024: Is at Perfect North
Slopes: we will gather after Sunday
school and then head to Perfect North
for some time tubing on the slopes.
One of the most popular events (and
one that weather cancelled last year), this is sure to
be a hit. So mark your calendars now.



Just a reminder, there is
no age limit for this
group. We would love to
have anyone that like
kids and wants to hang
out, grandparents, aunts,
uncles, etc. We are all a
part of the church family together. So come join us.
Or for ones that will be announced.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please remember that our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 28th after worship. Plan to join us as we approve the budget for 2024 and officers for the New Year. We are all the Church together, so we need all of us there as we together discern the Spirit.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY:

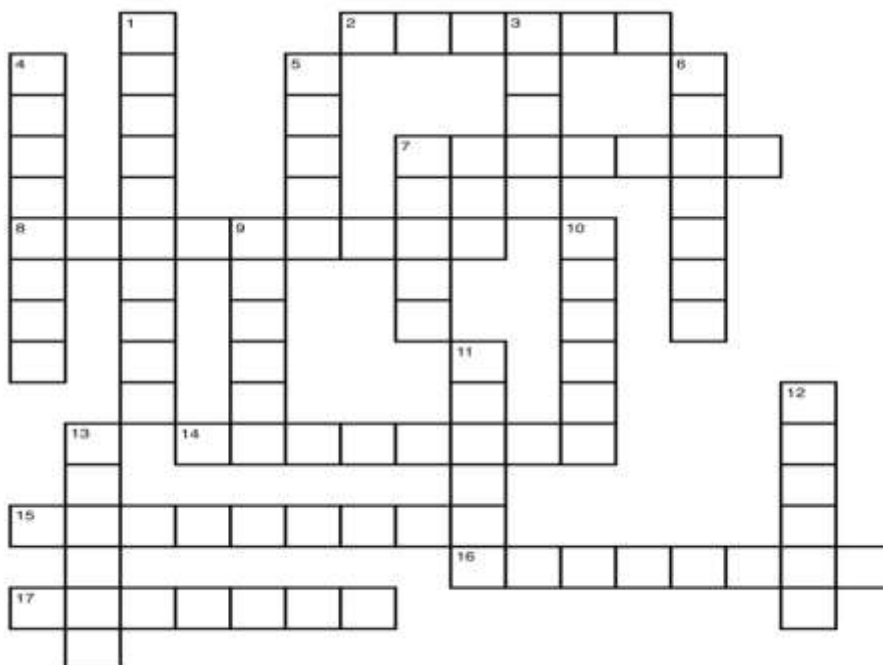
We started a new ministry opportunity at St. John's – children's pictures. In the back of the Sanctuary, you will find a stack of blank sheets of paper, some coloring pages and coloring books, along with tools to draw and color with. Kids are encouraged to make pictures, cards, etc. for our members, especially those who are homebound or ill. The pictures will then be sent out with the cards from our card ministry to further brighten the day of those who receive them.

This is a great way for our kids to start caring for others in Jesus's name.

Thanks for being a part of it!



WINTER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 2) Frozen spike
- 7) Winter sculpture
- 8) Present day?
- 14) Winter coasting
- 15) Hearth
- 16) Rudolph and teammates
- 17) Winter ____ Games

DOWN

- 1) White Rabbit's milieu
- 3) Hot chocolate
- 4) Winter outerwear
- 5) Icy coating
- 6) Rink dancing
- 7) Neck wrap
- 9) Snow remover
- 10) Aspen activity
- 11) Small shake
- 12) Stanley Cup sport
- 13) Uncomfortably cool

Giving

WARMS THE HEART

DONATE BLOOD

NATIONAL
BLOOD
DONOR
MONTH 

**Sunday,
JANUARY**

21

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.
Photo ID required.



**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BLOOD DRIVE**

LOCATION
300 N. Huntersville Rd
Batesville, IN 47006 -

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED
Schedule your donation by scanning the QR code
with your phone camera.

Every 2 seconds, someone needs a blood
transfusion. Help us maintain a safe blood supply in
Indiana hospitals by scheduling your donation today!



Blood Center of <state>

January 2024

February 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		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 Men's Choir Practice 8:15 Singing During Service 	8 Sunday School Board Meeting 6pm	9 Council Meeting 7pm	10 Confirmation Class 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 7pm in the Choir Room	11	12	13
14 Chancel Choir Singing Memorial Sunday Service	15	16	17 Confirmation Class 6pm	18 BAMA 1:30	19	20
21	22 	23	24 Confirmation Class 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 7pm in the Choir Room	25	26	27
28 Chancel Choir Singing	29	30	31 Confirmation Class 6pm			

O HOLY NIGHT NATIVITY CELEBRATION 2023







2023 ST. JOHN'S FLOAT IN
THE ANNUAL BATESVILLE HOLIDAY PARADE

