

March 2023

THE MESSENGER



Prepared for the members & friends of:

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

300 N. Huntersville Road, Batesville, IN 47006

Church Office: 812-934-4144 • Church Fax: 812-933-9000

Rev. Joseph Feldmann, Pastor • pastorjoestjohns@etczone.com

Website: www.stjohnsuccbatesville.org • Email: stjohnsuccbatesville@etczone.com

www.facebook.com/sjucbatesville



40 days in the wilderness. That is the image we use for Lent. It connects us metaphorically to Jesus's time in the wilderness before the Temptation (traditionally our first reading in Lent). It connects us to the Israelites who spent not 40 days, but 40 YEARS in their own wilderness, wandering before they could enter the Promised Land. It connects us to all of the wilderness going church mothers and fathers, who went into barren places and brought back images or words from God. But most importantly, the time of intentional wilderness focus helps us to grow in our faith life. It does this in at least two ways.

First, the wilderness journeying of Lent can help us to focus on our own areas in need of tending. It is no accident that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day that reminds us of our own frailty. Nor is it an accident that Lent includes an intentional time of confession in worship. Lent is, among other things, a time to take stock. How have we failed in our attempts to be the disciples God wants us to be? How might we better show love to our Creator, our neighbors, and our world? What have we done, or left undone, that we need to repent for? Journeying into the wilderness, even metaphorically, can help us get the space and distance we need to begin to answer these questions. And that is good. Lent at its best can help us take stock of our shortcomings. Not so that we feel guilty or shamed, but in order to empower us to be better disciples. That is an important part of our Lenten journey.

But even more important is how journeying through the wilderness in metaphor can help in those times where we journey through a wilderness moment for real. Because we all have those moments, maybe it is a time of anxiousness over health or a job or finances. Maybe our wilderness moment is grief- loss *is* a universal part of being human, after all. Maybe even our wilderness moment is seeing the world changing around us and not yet knowing how best to respond. Many are the reasons we might feel as if we are journeying in the wilderness. And deep are the feelings that such a journey can create within us.

How might Lent help us in these moments, even when they don't take place during Lent? By reminding us that God, too, is found in the wilderness. By reminding us that even when we feel most alone and afraid and emotionally beat-up, God is there. For God has always been there. We see it in the stories that guide this metaphor. Jesus may have felt alone while facing temptation. But as soon as it was over, angels came and waited on him. The Israelites certainly felt some despair with their 40 years of wandering. But they were guided at all times by a pillar of fire or of cloud; Guided by Moses who talked directly to God. Even at their worst God was with them, just as God is with us.



There are wilderness moments in our lives. Some are more metaphorical than others. Some give us moments to grow. Some are just times where we need to feel God near. Praise be to God that our Creator is with us through them all. In Lent; in other times; always. Thanks be to God.

Shalom,

Pastor Joe



“LEAD ME TO CALVARY”

#253



This hymn, asking the Lord to lead us to Calvary was written and published in 1921 by Jennie Evelyn Hussey. Miss Hussey, born on February 8, 1874 in Henniker, NH, was a Quaker (Society of Friends), but was baptized toward the end of her life. Although she suffered from severe rheumatism, she spent many years caring for her invalid sister. From her youth, she was a writer of poetry, hymns and stories. She was first published at age 24. She authored over 150 hymns. Miss Hussey died in Concord, NH, on September 5, 1958.

Composed for this text, the tune DUNCANNON was written by William J Kirkpatrick, who was the composer of over 160 hymn tunes, including “Away in a Manger” (#205), “Jesus Saves” (#554), “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” (#406), and “‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (#442). Kirkpatrick, who was born in Ireland on February 27, 1838, was a well-known carpenter and mechanic. He immigrated to Philadelphia, PA in 1854, and devoted himself to music, studying voice and organ. He was organist at Ebenezer AME Church for 17 years. During the Civil War, he served in the Union army. Kirkpatrick died in Germantown, PA on September 20, 1921.

“Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead Me to Calvary”

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



LITURGIST & BENEVOLENCE
SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

- 5 Lori Mauer Safe Passage
- 12 Mike Schumacher St. John’s Music Fund
- 19 Jane Link Our Church Wider Mission
- 26 Ron Meyer One Great Hour of Sharing

JOE WITH PASTOR JOEY



Pastor Joey will be at Amack’s Well each Monday from a little after 9am until noon. (Usually upstairs due to a large group that gathers at 10am these days.) Come join him

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

Requesting Prayers for:



- Nikki Sarringhaus.
- John & Connie Moody.
- Marian Koester.
- Kent Meyers (son to Taaron & Roger).
- Danny McDonough (Health Issues, father to Sarah Feldmann).
- Gayle Sarringhaus.
- Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus).
- Loretta Jones (Health Issues, cousin to Dale Koester).
- Robert Weiler Jr. (Colon Cancer).
- Kelsey Weber (Health Issues).
- Lori Mauer (Thyroid Cancer).
- The Family of Ruth Thie.
- Dave & Bonnie Johnston.
- The Family of Douglas Maple.
- Jerry Rose (Cardiac & Neurological Issues).
- Vicky Wintz (Breast Cancer).
- Stephen Feldmann (Health Issues).
- The Family of Chyntia Buczak.
- The Family of Florence Meyers.
- Bill Davenport (Cancer & Health Issues).
- Crystal Iles (Recent loss of her husband, mother and father within a short period of time).
- The Family of Maria Perez (on her passing).

MARCH CHOIR SCHEDULE

Men’s Choir:

Practice: Sunday, 5th - 8:15am / Perform: Sunday, 5th

Chancel Choir: (Practice this month follows Lenten Service)

Practice: Wednesday 8th / Perform: Sunday 12th

Practice: Wednesday 22nd / Perform: Sunday 26th

WELCOME New Members

John, Jena & Eleanor Gerritsen: Jena grew up in



Batesville and moved to Indianapolis in 2011 to start her first nursing job where she met John who was a lifelong resident of Indianapolis. After several job changes between the two of them, they ended up buying their first home in Batesville in 2016. John now works for LifeCenter in Cincinnati where he is a Donation Coordinator for organ transplants. Jena is mostly a stay at home mom to Eleanor who is about one and half years old. She works about 2 days a week as a nurse practitioner doing home visits. When they are not working or playing with Eleanor they like to watch movies, visit state/national parks, try new places to eat, and playing all kinds of weird board games.

Jeremy Welborn: I was raised in Liberty, IN and



grew up in Methodist and Presbyterian churches. After high school I attended Purdue University in West Lafayette and graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

I worked for a year at Workhorse Custom Chassis in Union City, IN as a Manufacturing Engineer and then joined Honda Auto Plant in Greensburg in 2008. I have worked at Honda for the past 15 years and am now a Project Leader in charge of all New Model CRV Testing for the Indiana Plant. In 2011 I met my wife Junelle (Sarringhaus) and we were married at St. John's in 2013 and we have been involved with St. Johns ever since. We now have 4 children: Jaxon (8), Jadyne (6), Johnathan (4), and Jordyn (2).

SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER EGG HUNT



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 8th at 10am, with donuts and drinks beginning at 9:30am. Come join us for this longstanding Sunday School tradition.

Thoughts from your Pastor Emeritus



I love stories that tell us of a churches life. I find reminders of these stories around a churches cemetery. This column will be about such stories, let us begin.

There are over 3,000 graves in St. John's Cemetery. Here is a story of two of them.

The Pandemic of 1918 hit this area hard and lasted for several years. In 1921 this pneumonia like flu was still taking many lives. St. John's Church (commonly known as Huntersville Church) needed to call a new pastor. They called Reverend Ernst Stroehlein and several others who came as new graduates of Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Among their duties, these new pastors were to conduct needed funerals for people in the Cincinnati area. The churches of our denomination also agreed to ask members of their choirs to sing for these funeral services. At one such funeral Rev. Stroehlein met a beautiful young soloist named Clara Fischer (she was a member of the Evangelical & Reform Church in Clifton, OH) and they together went about the difficult business of providing encouragement for those who grieve.

They fell in love and after their wedding; they moved into the present parsonage on Columbus Avenue. Mrs. Stroehlein herself told me this story saying, "We met because of death, but God chose to use it to bring us a new life."

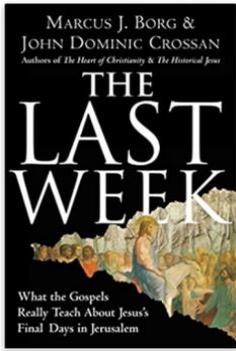
I love this story, especially in February with Valentine's Day.

More stories to come.
Rev. Dave Johnston



Thank you to the anonymous grandparents of the church who left slightly used toys in the nursery, we thank you! The kids were so excited when they found the toys on Sunday morning!
~ the Preschool / Kindergarten
SS Class

BOOK STUDY



The book we are studying is “The Last Week” by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. The study session is in progress; however, it’s not too late to join. We meet on Tuesdays at 4:30pm. If you are interested in attending either come on Tuesday. We’d love to have you join us!!

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

March 26: Youth Meeting at Church: Our next youth group meeting will be a planned devotional, lunch, and fellowship time after SS on March 26. There will be food. There will be learning about God. There will be fun with your fellow youth. So plan to join us!!



Youth Sunday is also coming up soon. Watch for more details to come!

LENTEN SERVICE:

Join us for our weekly Lenten service this year around the theme of “The Lord’s Prayer.” March 1 thru March 29, we will gather each Wednesday at 7pm for a short service. This is a great thing to ADD to your life as a Lenten discipline. Come join us!

Holy Week 2023 Schedule

April 2nd, Palm Sunday at 9am: Join us for worship, including our palm parade & children’s choir.

April 6th, Maundy Thursday at 7pm: We will remember the last night of Jesus’s life, including the beginning of Communion.

April 7th, Good Friday at 7pm: Our Good Friday worship will include a Tenebrae celebration, as the night gets darker and Jesus’s death comes at last.

April 8th, Sunday School Donuts & Drinks at 9:30am with the Easter Egg Hunt at 10am: Come join us.

April 9th, Easter Morning: Easter dawns bright with many ways to celebrate the resurrection! There will be an Easter Sunrise service at 7am, an Easter Breakfast immediately afterwards, and our regular Easter worship at 9am, complete with Communion. It is THE High Holy Day for us as Christians, so be sure to join us!



- 1 Lindsey Rynn
- 2 Janice Brougher, Claire Fullenkamp, Kyle Wirth
- 3 Bob Wilhelm
- 5 Andy Brebberman
- 7 Sarah Dobson
- 8 Linda Kanning, Luke Sarringhaus
- 9 Josh Pohlman
- 10 Sarah Bryant, Sandy Weberding
- 11 Derek Davidson
- 12 Irvin Harmeyer, Sharon Wessel
- 13 Serenity Feldmann, Greg Hellmann
- 14 Nikki Sarringhaus, Janet Schumacher, Mike Vonderheide
- 18 Joe Volk
- 19 Gwen Haakinson, Kathie Pohlman
- 20 Chad Emsweller
- 22 Colt Narwold
- 24 Marla Placke, Austin Wilhelm
- 25 Ruby Gardner, Becky Schutte
- 30 Gabe Kuykendall
- 31 Danette Oswald, Shari Westerfeld



- 4 Jim & Vicky Wintz
- 14 Willis & Edna Rouse
- 20 Paul & Carol McPherson
- 30 Tim & Kathie Pohlman

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We are looking for people to volunteer for Margaret Mary Hospice. Basically just provide companionship, conversation, etc.

NO physical care of course. Please contact Leanne Beiser, Margaret Mary Volunteer Coordinator at 812-933-5629.



IN NEED OF: We are in need of clean plastic containers with lids for leftovers after funeral meals. The containers that work the best for this purpose are: yogurt, cool whip, sour cream, cottage cheese or something similar. Please keep this in mind and bring to the church for us to reuse and send leftovers home with the families.



We will be having donuts, pastries and fruit Easter morning this year prepared by our Confirmands and their families. The breakfast will be

between our Sunrise service and our regular worship service on Easter (roughly 7:45-8:30ish.) All are welcome, though we are asking you to RSVP on a sign-up sheet in the back of church so we have an approximate count. Let's break bread together this year as we celebrate the gift of new life found in Jesus!



If you would like to place an Easter flower or heavenly bouquet (*monetary donation to help maintain the beauty of our altar*) in the Sanctuary in memory/honor of someone on Easter Sunday, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering tray or turn in it to the office. All forms **MUST** to be turned in to the office no later than **Sunday, April 2nd**. Please have all flowers to the church by noon on Holy Saturday, April 8th. You may pick up your flower after service on Easter Sunday, April 9th. (*Please call the Florist of your choice to order your flower!*)

I would like to place (*circle one*) a Easter flower in the sanctuary or donate a heavenly bouquet in (*circle one*) Memory of or In Honor of:

Name: _____

Given By: _____

USED BOOK AND ETC. SALE:



The Batesville Public Library
 Used Book and Etc. Sale
 March 10th and 11th 9am-5pm
 Paperback Books 50¢ each
 Hardcover Books \$1 each
 Miscellaneous items will also be available for purchase. Donations are being accepted of gently used books, tapes, CDs, DVDs, etc.

CONFIRMATION REUNION SUNDAY:



Confirmation Reunion Sunday

April 23rd St. John's will be having a Confirmation Reunion Sunday. Everyone is invited to join us in

celebrating our confirmands throughout the years. Following worship we will be meeting in the Parish Hall for fellowship and pictures, followed by a luncheon downstairs. Please mark your calendar and share this information with family and friends who may want to join us in this special celebration.



UPDATED SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE:

By-Laws: Article 5 – Sunday School Board

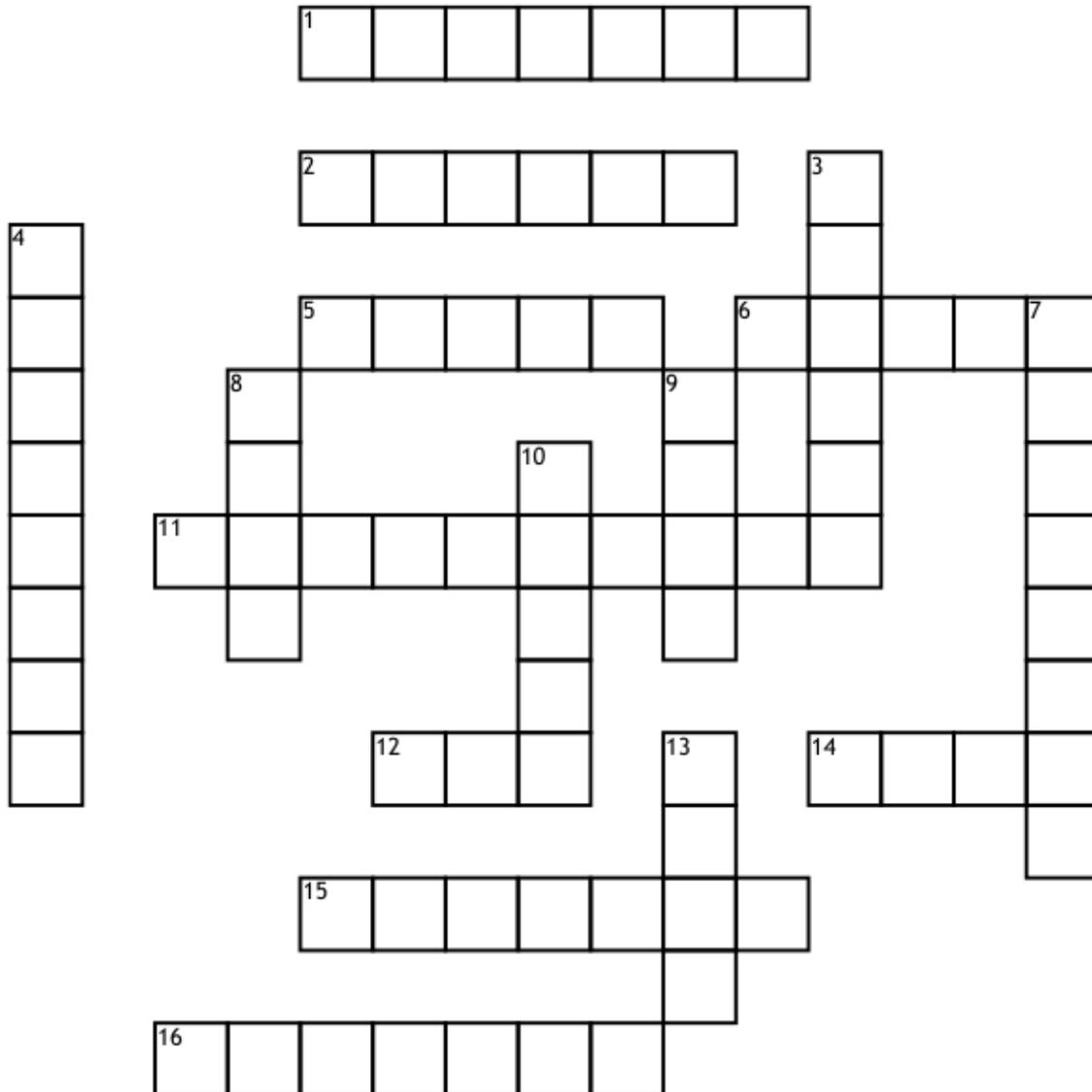
Section 1

- (a) The Sunday School Board shall consist of 6 to 8 members and their term of office shall be 2 years. The Sunday School Board may have an additional youth member, with a one year term. The youth member must be a confirmed member of the church.
- (b) Nominations shall be made by the Nominating Committee appointed by the Church Council.
- (c) A member of the church can be elected three times in succession to the Sunday School Board. After a one year's retirement, the member becomes eligible for re-election.



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Lord's Prayer



Across

1. To hand over
2. Creator of heaven and earth
5. Food made of flour, water, and yeast
6. The planet we live on
11. The desire to do something wrong
12. A period of 24 hours

14. A person's identification

15. To show mercy

16. The spiritual domain

Down

3. The home of God and the angels
4. To enter someplace without permission

7. To honor as holy

8. Word said at the end of a prayer

9. Very bad

10. To do something every day

13. To offer something to another person



March 2023



April 2023						
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						

Worship Service: 9am / **Sunday School:** 10:15am

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday, 8am-4pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Confirmation Classes: Year 1 - 5:30pm Year 2 - 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm	2 Griefshare 6-7:30pm	3 	4
5 Men's Choir Singing <i>Communion</i> SUNDAY	6 SS Board Meeting 6pm	7 Book Study 4:30pm	8 Confirmation Classes: Year 1 - 5:30pm Year 2 - 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm Chancel Choir Practice following Service	9 BAMA 1:30pm Griefshare 6-7:30pm	10 Used Book & Etc. Sale at the Batesville Library 9-5 	11 Used Book & Etc. Sale at the Batesville Library 9-5
12 Chancel Choir Singing DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME Begins 	13	14 Book Study 4:30pm Council Meeting 7pm	15 NO Confirmation Classes Lenten Service 7pm	16 Griefshare 6-7:30pm	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Messenger Deadline
S P R I N G B R E A K						
19 	20 	21 Book Study 4:30pm Sew Days for QuiltMakers 9:30am	22 Confirmation Classes: Year 1 - 5:30pm Year 2 - 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm Chancel Choir Practice following Service QuiltMakers 9:30am	23 Griefshare 6-7:30pm	24	25
26 Chancel Choir Singing	27	28 Book Study 4:30pm	29 Confirmation Classes: Year 1 - 5:30pm Year 2 - 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm	30 Griefshare 6-7:30pm	31	

I don't need

LUCK

I've got

JESUS!

