



**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
300 N. Huntersville Road, Batesville, IN 47006  
Worship Service: 9:00am / Sunday School: 10:15am

**Sunday, November 19, 2023**

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

Words of Welcome: Enter his gates with thanksgiving; and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. ~ Psalm 100:4

Thought to Ponder: "Thanksgiving Day is a good day to recommit our energies to giving thanks and just giving." ~Happy Thanksgiving

Organ Prelude: "Now Thank We All Our God" — J.S. Bach

**Welcome & Announcements**

Pastoral Greeting

Anthem: "America, Give Thanks" ~ Bell Choir

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 123)<sup>+</sup>:

**L:** Great and Glorious God, we gather to worship you.  
We lift our eyes to you, in reverent awe before your majesty.

**P: Great is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!**

**L:** Generous and Merciful God, we come to worship you.  
We lift our eyes to you, giving thanks for your compassion.

**P: Gracious is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!**

**L:** Welcoming and Empowering God, we worship you.  
We lift our eyes to you, and we celebrate your faithfulness.

**P: Holy is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!**  
We lift our eyes, seeking to worship and praise our God.

\*Opening Hymn: "We Gather Together" #81

\*Prayer of the Day<sup>+</sup>:

**We gather here, Holy One, to seek your blessing, your gifts and your presence. We gather to listen to your Word, feel your Spirit, and be empowered for our journeys of faith. So move in this space. Speak to our hearts and souls. As we gather, help us to hear; as we worship, help us to know you better. So that this hour of worship may not be just a place where we gather, but where our transformation as your disciples continues. For we pray in Jesus's name, Amen.**

Prayer Response: "Glory Be to the Father" #734

Mission Moment: St. John's Scholarship Fund

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.

Anthem:

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

~ Children’s Choir

Scripture Reading:

I Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon:

“Caring for the Gift”

Hymn:

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

#466

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation for Our Offerings

Organ Offertory:

“Chorale Prelude on ‘Nun Danket alle Gott”

— Lau

Doxology

#34

Offertory Prayer

\*Closing Hymn:

“Now Thank We All Our God”

#14

\*Benediction

Organ Postlude:

“Laudamus Te”

— Van Denman Thompson

<sup>+</sup>Adapted from re-worship.blogspot, original by Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A,  
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Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Feldmann
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Johnston
Organist/Choir Director	Mr. David W. Hanson

**LITURGIST / BENEVELOENCE CALENDAR:**

November 19	Mike Schumacher	St. John’s Scholarship Fund
November 26	Charlie Dieckmann	St. John’s Emergency Fund
December 3	Jane Link	Southeast Indiana Health Clinic
December 10	Mike Vonderheide	Global Ministries





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

Florence Meyers; Marian Koester; Willis Rouse, Doris Lamping.

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

Gayle Sarringhaus; Nikki Sarringhaus; John Thie (Brother to Jennifer Huffmeyer); Dave & Bonnie Johnston; Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, Grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus); Loretta Jones (Health Issues, Cousin to Dale Koester); Arthur Simmons (Health Issues, Cousin to Dale Koester and Barb Foster); Jane Fussner (Cancer, Friend of Christina Robbins); Sandy Gutzwiller (Cancer, Friend of co-worker's mom to Kristina Frye); Randy & Becky Schebler; Becky Fields (Cancer, Sister-in-law of Ron Meyer); Greg Lamping (Health Issues, Brother to Bonnie Johnston); Margaret Meyers; Vicky & Jim Wintz; John & Connie Moody; Carleen Weiler; Bryce Timonera (During his deployment to Kuwait); Brenda Mergenthal & Family (Passing of her Mother); Dale Koester (Solace in the passing of Marian); Bonnie Johnston & family (Passing of her Mother, Doris Lamping); Jennifer Huffmeyer (Health Issues); Ashton (Heart Issues and pregnant, Daughter of Jennifer Huffmeyer); The Family of Dr. Lisa Kelley; Edna Rouse (Solace in the passing of Willis); Joan & John Kuhlman (passing of their Nephew, David Smith); Justin & Sarah Benoit & family (On the passing of Justin's father, Guy Benoit).

**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.

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**EVENTS OF THE WEEK:**

- November 20: Chancel Choir Practice @ 7pm
- November 22: NO Confirmation Class
- November 23: Happy Thanksgiving
- November 25: Basement Reserved 10am-4pm

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- November 26: Chancel Choir Sings
- November 29: Nativity Set-Up  
Celebrate Recovery: Batesville Christian Church @ 6:30pm

**Announcements**

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED THANK YOU!! POTATO DRIVE for the FOOD PANTRY:**

**Potato Collection**



We were asked to donate 300 boxes of potatoes for the Christmas drive and we met /exceeded our goal. With that being said, donations are always accepted and if you have purchased and wish to still bring your donations in, they will be used, nothing goes to waste and too much at the Food Pantry is never an issue. The deadline to have these turned in is **November 21<sup>st</sup>**; delivery will be made to the Food Pantry on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

***THANK YOU for continuing to remember those in need at this very special time of year!***

St. John's UCC Hand Bell Choir Invites You To

Oh Holy Night



Nativity Display

and Fellowship

Sunday, December 3rd

Join Us *After* Church In The Parish Hall to

*Celebrate* the beginning of Advent with a  
beautiful *Nativity Display and Fellowship*

Enjoy holiday music and cookies too!

Hope to see you there ★



## SCRIPTURES



### **I Thessalonians 5:1-11:**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.



### **Matthew 25:14-30:**

[Jesus said,] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

## **Hymns**

### **We Gather Together (page 81)**

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
sing praises to his name: he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:  
thou, Lord wast at our side, all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, our leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be;  
let thy congregation escape tribulation:  
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

### **Glory Be to the Father**

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.

### **Take My Life and Let It Be (page 466)**

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love,  
at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for  
thee; take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King,  
always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages  
from thee; take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold,  
not a mite would I withhold.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its  
treasure store; take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.

### **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **Now Thank We All Our God (page 14)**

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands  
and voices, who wondrous things has done, in  
whom his world rejoices; who, from our mothers'  
arms, has blessed us on our way with countless  
gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life  
be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed  
peace to cheer us; and keep us in his grace and  
guide us when perplexed, and free us from all  
ills in this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be  
given, the Son, and him who reigns with them  
in highest heaven, the one eternal God whom  
heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.