

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

Still Speaking

December 2023 and January 2024

Sunday Worship

10:00am.

Recorded services are available via Facebook.

Adult Sunday School

11:30am.

Worship at St. Luke's

Our worship services begin at 10:00 AM on Sundays. If you would prefer to participate virtually, you can join us on our St. Luke's United Church of Christ Facebook page at 10am on Sunday mornings so that we can still worship together. If you have any difficulty accessing the virtual worship services, please contact the church office.

The Adult Sunday School class meets at 11:30 AM following Worship.

Office Hours

9:30am - 2:30pm

Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday

Weekly Updates

Keep an eye on our St. Luke's United Church of Christ Facebook page and our weekly emails to keep up to date on what's happening in our congregation. If you are not subscribed to the weekly emails and would like to get on the list, please contact the church office.

St. Luke's Staff

Ministers

All members

Pastor

Rev. Karen Barth

Student Minister

Emily Carle

Music Director

Neva Polley Scott

Accountant

Cindy Scroggins

Custodians

Carole Watson,

Grant Oakes

Council President

Barney Harting

Church Administrator

Alecia Simonis

Church Donations

Thank you to all of you have sent in your pledges and donations to St. Luke's recently. As you continue to support St. Luke's mission of being a caring presence in Southern Indiana, please consider giving online by going to the link on our website at www.stlukes.cc. Or, you can mail your tithes and offerings to the church at 329 Walnut St. Jeffersonville, IN 47130.

Somehow not only for Christmas
But All the long year through
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.
~John Greenleaf Whittier

Pastor's Letter

What We Make of Christmas

I love the Christmas season. I love the gift giving and all the wrapping, the decorating and the lights, the gatherings with friends and family, the carol singing. As many of you know, in the midst of all the hubbub, it can be easy to leave hardly any time for the real purpose of the season.

We are subject to the power of the season. We strive to make everything perfect materially and are sometimes left with a feeling of deflation when reality doesn't live up to our expectations. Families get together and there are fights instead of harmony. The gift that you thought was a perfect choice is barely acknowledged. The grief that you carry overwhelms any sense of love and light that you hope for.

As I reflect on this season, I actually find comfort in the fact that all of our efforts at the perfect Christmas can never live up to the perfection of Christ. The real 'reason for the season' is so far beyond our earthly efforts that we can all breathe a sigh of relief. What Jesus' birth and life does is to let us all off the hook of our own and other's expectations. It is Christ who perfects us and not the other way around.

The journey of God bringing us into God's own perfect light begins with a little baby being born into the lower room of a smallish house in Bethlehem and being laid in a stone manger lined with hay. Christ always reminds us of our humility, of our humanity. From a humble beginning, Jesus lived a humble life. In this season of celebrating Jesus' birth, let us dance and sing and celebrate in humility. We live because Jesus lives. The Christ light is with you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Christ's peace and humility,
Pastor Karen

A Note from the Council President

2023 is coming to an end, and here at St. Luke's, we have much for which to be thankful. I look forward to spending 2024 with you and wish I could see more of you in person. We have new people taking on leadership roles, some for the first time. There will be so many ways for members to get involved. Please read the rest of this newsletter to see what you can do.

I hope for all of you a truly blessed Christmas and a New Year of abundant love from God.

Kate



St. Luke's Music Ministry December 2023/January 2024

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesdays 7-8 pm

December 6

December 13 - No Rehearsal

December 20

No choir rehearsal December 27 and January 3

January 10

January 17

January 24

January 31

The choir will sing anthems on all Sundays.

Family Music Night (FMN)

Chimes, Craft, Singing

Wednesdays 6-7

December 6

December 13 - No FMN

December 20 - FMN Christmas Party!

No FMN December 27

Will resume in February

Sunday Morning Choir Warm-Up

Each Sunday at 9:30 am

Special Days

December 3rd – First Sunday of Advent

December 10th – Second Sunday of Advent & Children's Christmas Pageant 10 am

December 17th – Third Sunday of Advent

December 24th – Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

December 31st – New Year's Eve

St. Luke's United Church of Christ
329 Walnut Street, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130
www.stlukes.cc (812) 282-3383



Greetings and Blessings to all. I want to thank everyone who participated in whatever capacity during Oktoberfest. In many ways, it was a huge success. We served almost everything that we made, we had people lining up before we actually opened, and we served our community well. I had a good conversation with the mayor, Mike Moore, and he was flabbergasted at how well it went. Having our neighbors join in with the Oktoberfest celebration made it feel like a true community festival.

Now let's talk about what is next. I know everyone is just chomping at the bit to make our other big fundraising event an even bigger success. Yes, it really is time to start thinking about our Annual Sausage Supper, so save the date for the event, February 23, 2024. We will need everyone's help that whole week prior to the Sausage Supper, including the day of the Sausage Supper, making sure we maintain the tradition that our forefathers started and providing the greatest hospitality and food in Jeffersonville.

Some things we can do now to help with the Sausage Supper are making and bringing in Silent Auction Baskets, you know while you're out and about doing your holiday shopping and taking advantage of all those wonderful sales, why not pick up a little extra for the Silent Auction. I am sure that Bev can help you with ideas and will appreciate all that you can bring.

Another thing to start doing is getting stuff ready for the Country Store. I know Beth would love to have all kinds of items to sell, especially home-canned items, hand-crafted items, candies, desserts, etc. Our Country Store has really grown into a wonderful thing and, amazingly enough, most come for the fantastic food, but I have talked to some who say they really come to get some of the stuff from the Country Store.

Next on the list is for you to mark on your calendars to make sure you are free for the morning, afternoon, evening, or all day. This list is not all-inclusive, but they are some of the big parts that we need manpower.

Sausage Making – February 17, 2024 – 8 am usually done by 3 pm

Wash and Cook Potatoes – February 21, 2024

Peel & Slice Potatoes – February 22, 2024

Make German Potato Salad and Au Gratin Potatoes – February 22, 2024

Pack Slaw, Applesauce, silverware, get things ready – February 22, 2024

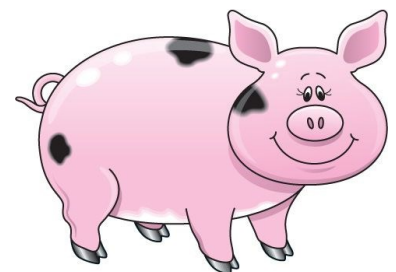
Deliveries (need drivers) - February 23, 2024 morning/early afternoon.

Day of Sausage Supper, Lunch crew and Dinner crew – February 23, 2024

Tear down and clean-up crew – February 23, 2024 after 7 pm

Thank you and Blessings to all,

Barney Harting



Young Adults Mission and Ministry

The Young Adults finished reading "Inhabiting Eden" by Patricia Tull, which looked at the Bible, creation, and the Christian call to respond to climate change. We had the opportunity to visit Trisha's net zero energy home in Henryville, tour her garden, and discuss her book with her. The Young Adults will be watching and discussing the TV show "The Chosen" together about the early ministry of Jesus for November, December, and January.

Our schedule for the next few months is the following, all meetings at 6 pm: 11/20: no meeting; 11/27: The Chosen Pilot episode; 12/4: The Chosen Episode 1; 12/11: The Chosen Episode 2 and White Elephant gift exchange - \$15 limit. No meeting 12/18, 12/25, 1/1, watch episodes 3-5 of The Chosen over break. We will resume on 1/8 with The Chosen Episode 6; 1/15: The Chosen Episode 7; 1/22: Board Game night at JP and Amanda's house; 1/29: The Chosen Episode 8. If you have any questions, contact Young Adult Pastor Emily Carle at 860-573-7143. Keep your eye on the bulletin and email list for updates



Faith and Fellowship

Faith and Fellowship - We would like to invite everyone to come to church on December 3, bring your favorite dish and join us for a Pitch-in lunch and Hanging of the Greens.

I want to thank so many of you for helping with fellowship throughout the year. I couldn't have made each Sunday special for our members without your help. We've had some delicious snacks after church, THANK YOU!

Bev



Youth Updates

St. Luke's Youth joined with other UCC Kentuckiana Youth on a 2 day retreat to Merom in November and had a wonderful time! Future youth updates on Sunday School will be sent over email and posted in the bulletin.

The Christmas Pageant is set for December 10. If you plan to participate, please contact Emily Cotner for details. Email-emilykay1224@gmail.com Phone-(812)987-5056

Highlights from the Church Library

Mayfield, Tyler. *Unto Us a Child Is Born*. The author lives in Louisville, Kentucky and was ordained as a UCC Pastor several years ago. He also teaches at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and his expertise is with the Old Testament. In *Unto Us a Child is Born*, Mayfield uses the book of Isaiah, Handel's Messiah, and some other Jewish writings to walk the reader through the Advent season and its importance in our faith. This is not a theological text, this is a book that is clear, readable, and speaks to God's love for his people.

Visiting Online Church. This book recounts one congregation's experience as they venture into online worship as a form of outreach. The author includes some of the lessons and individual experiences they had along the way. Various methods were used to spread the word about their online services. He includes a chapter on how online worship can reach the hearing impaired and others who are differently abled in your local community.

Finally, with the New Year do not forget it may be time to try something new for daily devotions.

The Daily Devotional from the UCC is written by various ministers who began writing these devotionals as part of the God is Still Speaking campaign. With 10-14 different ministers, many different viewpoints are represented. Some days will touch your heart, some days will touch your mind, some days will make you pause, and on occasion, some days will make you irritated. The writing speaks to today and God's word in our lives. Sign up at the link below:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>

Of course – the *These Days* devotional guides we have available in the back of the church are excellent. A combined effort of several Presbyterian denominations, the United Church of Christ, etc. It also provides us with insights from a variety of folks. These are provided as part of the mission and outreach of our local congregation. Do give these a try if you have not.

The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. We will be joining congregations of the UCC across the country as we receive the Christmas Fund Offering during worship on December 10 and 17. Please share generously on behalf of all those who have given of themselves in service to the church! You may give electronically, or you may send in a check to the church office. Please designate "Christmas Fund" on your gift.

SILENT AUCTION

Sausage Supper - It's time to start collecting items for the Silent Auction and looking for those deals while you are out shopping. Here are a few ideas for basket themes:

- Baking
- Cooking
- Children/Kids
- Summer Fun
- School Supplies
- Craft Supplies
- Office Supplies
- Teacher Supplies
- Easter
- Halloween
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- Fourth of July
- Travel
- Bath/Beauty
- Dog
- Cat
- Candles
- Gardening
- Throws/Blankets
- Wine
- Picnic
- Manly Things
- Genealogy
- Fun/Games
- Pictures
- Gift Cards



Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting was held Sunday, November 29, 2024. The 2024 Council was selected, the 2024 budget was approved, we approved our new mission and vision statements, and five new elders were accepted.

2024 Council and New Elders

President	Kate Chaney	Youth Representative	Sara Sharp
Vice President	Barney Harting	Property/Finance	John Scott, Chair
Treasurer	Carol Johnson		Bill Maloney, Vice Chair
Secretary	Bev Hurlbut	Faith/Fellowship	Carmon Cozzin, Chair
Financial Secretary	Kerri Cline		Bridget Anson, Vice Chair
Personnel	David Blankenbeker, Chair	New Elders	David Blankenbeker
	Barney Harting, Vice Chair		Mary Ann Jenkins
Mission/Outreach	Matt Mudd, Chair		Beth Maloney
Spiritual Life	Jeremy Eiler, Chair		Bill Maloney
Children/Youth	Emily Cotner, Chair		Doris Trinkle
	Kaitlyn Mudd, Vice Chair		

“I’M SO GLAD I’M A PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD”

Nationwide, church attendance has suffered a blow in the last several years. Many small inner-city congregations have dwindled even more since the 2 years of COVID absences. While this absence was absolutely necessary from a health standpoint, it was 2 full years of an altered lifetime habit of attending church on a regular basis every Sunday. Two full years, watching – not coming to church.

This lack of physically getting ready for church on a Sunday has induced a change in the sense of worship for everyone – those who come and sit with fewer folks gathering together to worship in a sanctuary, and those who have adopted the new habit of just watching worship.

When you worship with others in the sacred setting of a sanctuary you are immediately changed. You enter in, you see familiar faces, spot some new ones, and are warmly greeted. You may wander about, chatting with friends, find your favorite spot to sit in, and glance at the bulletin.

Or you may be someone who loves to share singing with others in the church choir, and you scurry back to the choir room to get your music and your choir robe on and have a few moments to run through this morning’s anthem.

Some of you serve as lector for this Sunday’s scripture to read God’s word - the foundation for the morning’s sermon, and a focus for your coming week of daily living and serving as one of God’s people here on earth. The minister’s message brings to light fresh perspectives of Biblical words, advising and guiding us closer to God, giving us a common thread to ponder.

As the worship service progresses, the congregation joins together in responsive readings, choral responses, and communal singing of the great hymns of our faith. When the time comes, you bring your offerings to make the Word of God an actual deed within your community. You have come together in prayer, which unites and strengthens the family of God. On the first Sunday of the month, you received Holy Communion with your fellow worshippers as the Lord directed you.

You have attended and participated in a loving and warm exchange in receiving the knowledge of God’s Word and true spiritual refreshment. You came to church. Or.....you could be sitting in your lounge chair, or at your kitchen table, with that second cup of coffee, in your jammies, watching others worshipping in a holy sanctuary, easily distracted from your computer or iPad. Hmmm.....

Psalms 100 says “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name, for the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” Come, be a part of the Family of God.

When we are with others as a family of worshipers, we have a greater strength for spiritual growth, and are a stronger body of individuals meditating and working together as the Family of God, serving as his ambassadors in our community. So, how about it? Take your shower on Saturday night, set out your clothes, plan a simple breakfast, and know your church service ends earlier than many in the area, and this gets you to the restaurants before the crowd. Come, be a part of the Family of God.

Carol M. Johnson

December Birthdays

1st	Drew Ellis	13th	Erica Jefferson	25th	Jimmy Hardaway
	Bud Jenkins	16th	Peggy Hardaway		Steve Hensley
4th	Atlas Phan	18th	Keith Spencer		Rosie Sorrell
6th	Becky Haxton	19th	Rachel Byars	26th	Savannah Spencer
8th	Dana Wilkins	22nd	Beth Maloney	28th	Bill Maloney
9th	Steve Lopp	24th	Emily Cotner	30th	Kaitlyn Mudd
11th	Jacob Harting		Mary Beth Woehrle		

January Birthdays

4th	Ken Turner	22nd	Harrison Eades
10th	Catie Lu Sorrell	24th	Willie Watson
11th	Dibbs Harting	25th	Butch Trinkle
12th	Elizabeth Vissing		Matt Mudd
14th	Marian Rider	26th	Linda Stirr
16th	Timothy Bonner	27th	Peggy Enteman
18th	Faye Eades		Carol Maloney
19th	Lonnie Burns	31st	Larry Coe

December Anniversaries

11th Derek & Jennifer Ellis
23rd Steve & Angela Hensley

January Anniversaries

1st Bruce & Vickie Eby
21st Michael and Lois Bliss

Please let the church office know if we have missed listing any birthdays or anniversaries.

December Loaves and Fishes

December 2 First Presbyterian
December 9 St. Augustine
December 16 Larry & Lyda Abell Group
December 23 Cook Memorial
December 30 St. John Paul

The Book of Golden Memories list is now available in its entirety on the St. Luke's website at
www.stlukes.cc.

St. Luke's Calendar December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM
3 Worship & Communion 10 AM Hanging of the Greens and Lunch 11:15 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	4 Cub Scouts 6 PM Young Adults 6 PM	5 NA 7 PM	6 Family Music Night 6 PM Choir 7 PM	7	8	9 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM
10 Worship & Christmas Pageant 10 AM Cookie Exchange 11 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	11 Cub Scouts 6 PM Young Adults 6 PM Finance & Property 6:30 PM	12 NA 7 PM	13 Women's Fellowship 12 PM	14	15	16 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM
17 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	18 Cub Scouts 6 PM	19 Church Council 6 PM NA 7 PM	20 Family Music Night Christmas Party 6 PM Choir 7 PM	21	22	23 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM
24 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Candlelight Service 7 PM	25 Church Office Closed	26 NA 7 PM	27	28	29	30 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM

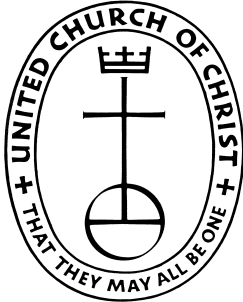
St. Luke's Calendar January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM	1 NA 7 PM	2	3	4	5	6 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM
7 Worship & Communion 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	8 Cub Scouts 6 PM Young Adults 6 PM Loaves&Fishes 6:30 PM Finance & Property 6:30 PM	9 NA 7 PM	10 Women's Fellowship 12 PM Choir 7 PM	11	12	13 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM
14 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Elders Mtg 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	15 Cub Scouts 6 PM Young Adults 6 PM	16 Church Council 6 PM NA 7 PM	17 Choir 7 PM	18	19	20 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM
21 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	22 Cub Scouts 6 PM Young Adults 6 PM	23 NA 7 PM	24 Choir 7 PM	25	26	27 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 AM
28 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	29 Cub Scouts 6 PM Young Adults 6 PM	30 NA 7 PM	31 Choir 7 PM			

**ST. LUKE'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

329 Walnut St.
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*A friendly
family of
faith*

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**No matter who you are
Or where you are
On life's journey,
*You're welcome here.***