St. John
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Bellevue, Kentucky
Never place a period where God had placed a comma – God is Still Speaking
PREVUES The Monthly e-newsletter November 2017

Neighbors, Members, Regular Attendees, Friends and All

You are Invited to the

St. John United Church of Christ annual

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Sign up at the Welcome Table in the back of the Sanctuary to select the food dish you will bring. Or you may sign up by phone or email:

Lonnie Fields 513.324.9303 | flds7@aol.com or Bruce Horn 513.608.5331 | bbobbyh55@gmail.com.

See page 3 for more details.

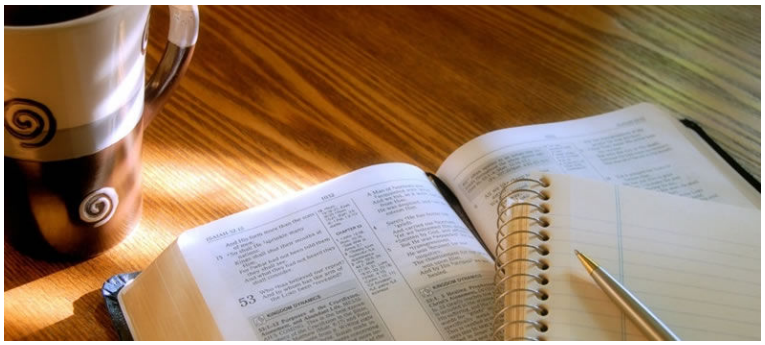
Sunday Worship in November @ 10:30a

Pre-service music begins at 10:20a

Reflections and Reading:

November 5: "Partners in Service" –Matthew 23.1-12
November 12: "Tending God's Light" –Matthew 25.1-13
November 19: "Extravagant Opportunity" –Matthew 25.14-30
November 26: "Reigning Compassion" –Matthew 25.31-46

Prepare for Sunday Worship by:
Reading the lesson for the day.
Inviting a friend, neighbor, or family member to come with you.
Praying for all who will attend, the pastor, and other leaders of worship.
Enhancing your experience, sit toward the front and invite someone to sit with you.



WEEKLY BIBLE ENCOUNTER

For Youth & Adults

Sundays @ 9:00a - Room 102

The purpose of the Weekly Bible Encounter is
to encounter the Bible through prayer, reading, study, scholarship and inquisitive community.

Led by a team of clergy on a rotating schedule.
Invite a friend to come with you!
Previous Bible knowledge or experience is not required.

Prevues is published monthly. Submissions are due on the 10th of the prior month. **(Dec. items due Nov. 10th)**
All repeat submissions should be revised each month.
Please email your submissions to: Prevues@StJohnChurch.net.
Requests for the Prayer List are due on Mondays. Email to PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net.
Editor: Keith M. Haithcock; Publication Assistant: Debbie Cummings

St. John Church Outreach Missions Group (OMG)

November 19, 2017 is the day of the annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner. The meal will be held following worship in the Fellowship Hall on the Lower Level.

You will find a signup sheet on the Welcome Table in the back of the Sanctuary (worship space) to guide you on what items to bring for the meal. Food should arrive fully cooked and ready to serve between 9:00a and 9:30a. We can heat items up, but we do not have time or oven space to cook items. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to join in this feast of savory delights.

Coffee, Tea, Lemonade and Ice water will be provided.

Senior Meal for the Holidays

Thanksgiving and Christmas meal for Seniors (and others who want to join us) will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 11:30a.

This is a free meal for all who want to attend. There will be a basket for a free will offering if you would like to help support the cost.

This year there will be a short sing along. As usual we will have a raffle and play some games after the meal. Contact Bruce Horn (513.608.5331) if you can help with items for the raffle.

All Church Collections for Charity for November and December

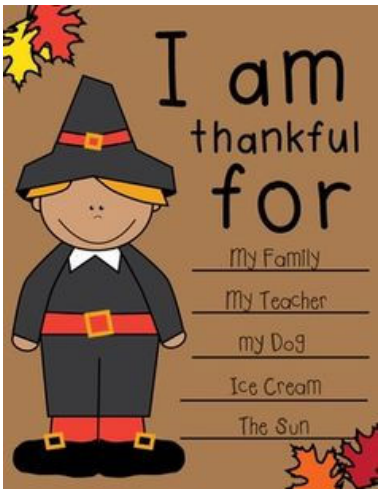
November will be a collection of shoes for the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky in Covington. They were very appreciative for all the wonderful items we gave them in September. Shoes do not have to be new, used are fine, but with some wear still left please.

December will be New Toys, unwrapped with some wrapping paper on the side, please. These toys will be going to Washington United Church of Christ to be sure that children in the Camp Washington area will receive something for Christmas.

We still have some room for monthly collections for your favorite charity. What would that be?

Contact Willie Tackett 859.468.8739, Eileen Thornton 859.261.3594, Bruce Horn 513.608.5331, Steve Phillips 859.261.9954, Carol Griffith 513.407.0832, or Bob Epton 513.317.6256.

From the Corner – *Thanksgiving*



Earthquakes and fires, hurricanes and floods, mass shootings, racial-based hostilities, and social resistance have submerged our daily lives and emotions that some might wonder what is there to be thankful for. As we listen to news reports, visit Facebook, and read tweets, we encounter hundreds of reasons to be people of prayer and to set our feet and voices to actions for justice, freedom and relief for the poor. It seems that when we have reached the breaking point is when we find places to be thankful; thankful for the infrastructures of our daily lives: food, shelter, clothing, water, electricity, plumbing, healthcare, and connection with others – the very things that 75% of the people of Puerto Rico are still without.

Sometimes I avoid asking people how they are doing because I know they will tell me. They'll go on and on about how terrible things are, how they want a different car, a better job, or a spouse unlike the one they "ended up with." I think to myself, they have everything they need why are they so unhappy. Being thankful for what you have is a blessing in and of itself. Realizing your abundance during the challenges of life is a gift. Choosing to see the light of God in the midst of the dark storms is the very hope that changes things.

Born to middle-class Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants in Philadelphia Noam Chomsky said, "Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, it's unlikely you will step up and take responsibility for making it so. If you assume that there's no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, there are opportunities to change things, there's a chance you may contribute to making a better world. The choice is yours."

Too often religious people consider God as the mythic Santa Claus of the 1950's. You know, the one who's coming to town to find out whose naughty or nice. If you're naughty you don't get what you asked for and if you're nice you do. The Creator of the universe does not work that way. Torrential floods flow on the good and the bad and refreshing rains fall on people who do virtuous things as well as people who do dreadful things. In other words, we live in a time when we know and understand weather patterns not as "acts of God" but rather results of the nature God has created. God is not out to get us, God is in our lives to gift us with blessings of this creation, attitudes of gratitude, and the redemption of our situations that can change lives and make the world that has been entrusted to us better. What a gift, what a blessing!

The choice to be thankful is yours!

From the Corner
is written by the
Rev. Keith M. Haithcock,
Pastor & Teacher of

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Kids Connection

Kids Connection is an interactive class for grades 1st thru 5th. Classes help children learn about God's love and the Bible lessons about Jesus.

Sundays at 10:30a on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of each month.

Neighbors, Members, Regular Attendees, Friends, and All

Register your child to attend Kids Connection TODAY!

For registration and other information contact Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or call 859.261.2066, ext. 202.

St. John United Church of Christ 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY StJohnChurch.net

A criminal background check for leaders is required and two adults are always present in the class room.

Improvements in the Fellowship!

Thanks to Dale Sexton for resurrecting old red velvet curtains from Newport's old Fourth Street School. He had the vision they could be a beautiful addition to the Avenue Stage in the Fellowship Hall.

Dale, Carol Rich, Jan Hoeweler, Keith Coultas, Willie Tackett, and Joe Cox spent many hours transforming the curtains. They first had to be cut to fit the stage. Due to the old lining disintegrating, new material was secured from a manager friend of Dale's at a local Joann Fabrics. Keith, a theatrical wardrobe professional, created and attach the new lining. Keith, Dale, Carol, and Jan completed untold hours of sewing to complete the project for unveiling at the Variety Show Cabaret on October 7th. Willie, Joe, and Dale completed the hanging and removed the unused screen box at the top of the stage, and added a matching valance over the Kitchen serving area to create a unified appearance and to improve acoustics for performances and other events. Be sure to go down to the lower level and look at the stage. A huge thank you to all for the many hours and effort to envision and complete this project!!!

The Pastor's Discretionary Assistance Fund

-Helping those in need-

Your over-and-above gift to the PDAF will go to those in our congregation and community who are in need of food, housing, utilities and amenities.

OCTOBER UPDATE

The Rev. Keith M. Haithcock, M.Div.

2 Kroger Cards for food were distributed. 1 individual-meal bag (Blessing Bag) was distributed. 2 people were served through the PDAF.

Update about Blessing Bags

Be a blessing to someone in need by sharing a "Blessing Bag." On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of each month) Blessing Bags will be available in the large round baskets in the front pew by the baptismal font and in the back pew by the refreshments table. Take a bag and offer it to someone you encounter at the curb on your way to work or on the sidewalk, during your lunch hour or someplace else you see a need. The bags are provided by the Pastor's Discretionary Assistance Fund (PDAF) by way of your generous gifts to PDAF. Each bag cost approximately $4.50 and is filled with non-perishable food items providing a full meal. Sandy Ruck is our shopper, Chelsea Clemons and Kat Casteel coordinate assembling the bags, and the Outreach Missions Group (OMG) provide seasonal items such as gloves and socks. Your gifts to PDAF are blessings right here in our neighborhood and everywhere St. John folks encounter people in need. Thank You!

Bellevue Nativity Update from SLC

The Strategic Leadership Council (SLC) has decided that for this and future years, we focus on coordinating assembly and staging of the Nativity (contingent on the city's shared commitment to its storage and delivery), and that we only hold a Nativity program if we can identify suitable volunteers. Steve Howes stepped forward to find the needed people to setup and take-down the 2017 Nativity. Please contact Steve Howes directly by email: howesfam5@aol.com, or phone/text: 513.460.6774, to help with set-up, staging, and/or take-down efforts for the stable and Nativity display. If you have any questions feel free to contact an SLC member.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

November Birthdays

1 Jeff Lowe
10 Eileen Thornton
22 Carroll Berringer
24 Gil Fauber
28 Ed Ulsas
30 Jan Smith

November Anniversaries

1 Tom & Marlene Vossmeyer
9 John Wilson & Melissa Stephens

Covenant Membership Class

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE
ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Saturday, November 18, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(If this date does not work for you contact the Pastor about an alternative date.)

Room 102 (Lounge) enter using the accessible door off the parking lot.
Lunch ordered in from a local restaurant.
Teacher: Pastor Keith Haithcock and others

Topics include: Introduction to St. John United Church of Christ, Statement of Faith, Spirituality, Baptism, Holy Communion, the Bible, what we believe, what it means to be a disciple, the six marks of discipleship, and more.

Becoming a member of the Church is more than adding your name to a list. It is a matter of faith and promise (covenant) with a local faith community and the universal church. Attending class does not mean you must join. The class may help you see if you are ready for this step in your faith journey.

Registration deadline: Sunday, November 12
Register by using your Sunday Information Card, calling 859.261.2066 ext. 202, emailing: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net, or at the Welcome Table.

Part of the 2017/18 Spiritual Growth Series at St. John Church

---

Pastor's Newcomers' Open House

Tuesday November 14th | 7:00 p.m. | Pastor Keith's home, 15 Custis Ave, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075
Pastor Keith would like to invite everyone who is a newcomer at St. John within the past year to an Open House at his home. Please indicate your interest on your Information Card or contact Pastor Keith at 859.261.2066, ext. 202 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net by Sunday, November 12th.

If you were new to St. John Church last year and were unable to attend the Pastor's Newcomers' Open House you are invited to attend this year. But please let Pastor Keith know by Sunday, November 12th.

2%

Raise the Percentage!

Only 2% of Church members invite someone to Church each year. Eighty-two percent of the unchurched are likely to attend Church, if invited.
Every invitation counts.

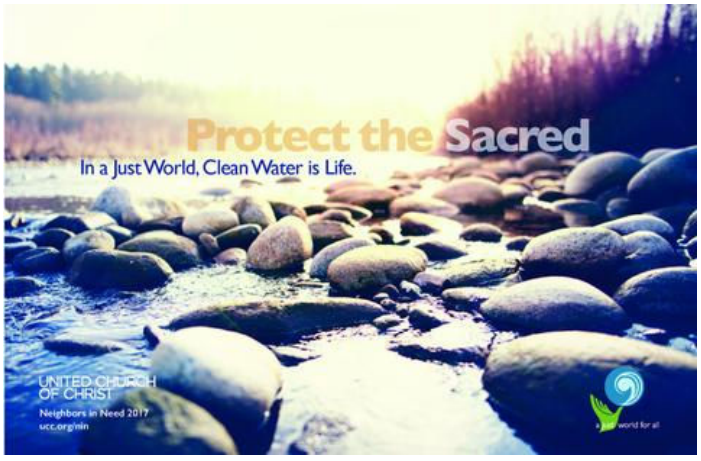
INVITE SOMEONE to attend Church with you.
Coming Soon: Back to Church Sunday - December 3

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS
Welcoming strangers, aliens, refugees, immigrants and everyone since 1887.

St. John
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Don't forget to FALL BACK!

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 5th. Mark your calendar to turn your clocks back Saturday night, November 4th before you go to bed!



Thank you St. John Church! 2017 Neighbors in Need (NIN)

Thank you, St. John Church, for your contribution to the United Church of Christ (UCC) *Neighbors in Need* special mission offering. We raised $896.00. Your generosity supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Melissa Artopoeus and Pastor Keith Haithcock, UCC Mission Offerings Coordinators

---

CHANCEL CHOIR

Lift up your Voice and Sing!

Music is a central part of the worship life at St. John Church. The sacred scriptures call us to lift our voice in songs of praise to the Creator.

Are you looking for a way to serve at St. John Church? Do you keep thinking, I should sing in the Choir? Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to be part of a fun and loving group? Join the Chancel Choir!

Contact Keyboard Musician and Choir Director, Steve Milloy, by email or phone: smilloy738@aol.com - 513.373.2352. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings with the call time at 8:45a and rehearsal starting at 9:00a. Steve is waiting for your call!

SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Shoppe – holiday rummage sale
Friday December 1st, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. and
Saturday December 2nd, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We will be collecting Christmas decorations and Christmas themed household goods in late November. Please consider sorting and saving Christmas items you can donate to the church for this sale. Watch for more details concerning donation collection. Help with the sale will also be needed, so mark your calendar for these sale dates and times.

October Financials & Attendance (thru October 22nd)

Offering Total: $12,955 Worship Attendance Average: 59

November Calendar

Wednesday, November 1st
- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

Thursday, November 2nd
- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
- 6:30p Pastor's Book Club

Saturday, November 4th
- 9:00a Association Fall Gathering Truth & Destiny UCC Cinti.
- 10:00a All-Church Yard Clean-up Day

Sunday, November 5th
- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
- 10:30a Sunday Worship, with Communion & sign interpretation, Sanctuary "Partners in Service" Matthew 23.1-12
- 2:00p All-Church Yard Clean-up Day

Tuesday, November 7th
- 1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
- 5:30p Pastoral Relations, Rm 101
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 202

Wednesday, November 8th
- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

Thursday, November 9th
- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
- 3:00p Riverside Prayer Group, Rm 102
- 6:30p Cub Scouts Meeting, LL100

Friday, November 10th

➔**DEADLINE for December *Prevues***

Saturday, November 11th
- 10:30a Pastor's Fall Book Club, Rm 102

Sunday, November 12th
- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
- 10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary "Tending God's Light" Matthew 25.1-13 Kids Connection, Rm 202

Tuesday, November 14th
- 1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 202
- 7:00p Pastor's Newcomer Open House, 15 Custis Ave. Ft. Thomas KY

Wednesday, November 15th
- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S
- 5:00p Pastor Relations Committee, Rm 101

Thursday, November 16th
- 8:30a Staff Meeting, Rm 101
- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
- 4:30p Youth Advisory Board, Christ Church 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave.

Saturday, November 18th
- 9:00a Covenant Membership Class, Rm 102

Sunday, November 19th
- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203 NO Bible Encounter Class
- 10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary "Extravagant Opportunity" Matthew 25.14-30 Kids Connection, Rm 202
- 12:00p Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, LL100

Tuesday, November 21st
- 1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
- 5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries, Christ Church 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave.
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 202

Wednesday, November 22nd
- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

Saturday, November 25th

Christmas Shoppe setup LL100

Sunday, November 26th

Christmas Shoppe setup LL100
- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203 NO Bible Encounter Class
- 10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary "Reigning Compassion" –Matthew 25.31-46 Kids Connection, Rm 202

Tuesday, November 28th
- 1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 202

Wednesday, November 29th
- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

Thursday, November 30th
- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group
- 5:30p Strategic Leadership Council, Rm 102

St. John
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

520 Fairfield Ave. Bellevue, Kentucky 41073
859.261.2066 | www.StJohnChurch.net
Facebook.com/StJohnUCC

Church office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8a to 4p

Ministers

The whole congregation

Clergy

Pastor & Teacher.....The Reverend Keith M. Haithcock
Pastor@StJohnChurch.net - 859.261.2066, ext. 202
Always available by appointment

Volunteer Chaplain in Residence.....The Reverend Sue Jelinek
sue.jelinek@cchmc.org

Staff

Administrative Assistant to the Pastor.....Debbie Cummings
Office@StJohnChurch.net - 859.261.2066, ext. 201

Data Coordinator.....Linda Schuster
Data@StJohnChurch.net

House Keeper..... Luis Hernandez

Illumination Youth Ministry Directors.....Nancy Bardgett | Melanie Sorrell
Nancy.Bardgett@gmail.com - 859.466.6946
melaniemcb@gmail.com - 859.468.8076

Keyboard Musician and Choir Director..... Steve Milloy
smilloy738@aol.com - 513.373.2352

Strategic Leadership Council (SLC)

President.....Steve Howes, howesfam5@aol.com - 513.460.6774
President Elect..... Alan Imberg, alan@alanimberg.com - 859.689.4540
Recording Secretary.....Theo Baldwin, TheoBaldwin@aol.com - 859.581.0493
Interim Treasurer.....Dale Sexton, treasurer@stjohnchurch.net - 859.581.0493
Member-at-Large..... Lonnie Fields, FLDS7@aol.com - 513.324.9303
Member-at-Large.....Ginnie Kelley, virginia.m.kelley3546@gmail.com - 859.801.4951

St. John United Church of Christ is proud to provide outreach to the following organizations:

Illumination Youth Group

BRIGHTON CENTER
A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Washington
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Cincinnati, Ohio

Our Church's Wider Mission
God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Durban, South Africa

Rubate Hospital - Kenya Africa