March 2018

PREVUES

The Monthly e-newsletter of St. John United Church of Christ
Bellevue, Kentucky

Lent

A time to Pray and Encounter Scripture

Bible Study

Weekly Bible Encounter

For Youth & Adults
Sundays at 9a - Room 102

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

Previous Bible knowledge or experience is not required. Bibles are available.
Attend when you are able.
Face it, most of us would not read the Bible at all if we didn't have a plan. Here is your plan!
Invite a friend to come with you!

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:47 a.m.
In the Sanctuary

Start your day with 35-minutes of prayer

Scripture
Silence
Prayers of Intercession
Enter the accessible door off the parking lot.

Daylight Saving Time Starts March 11th, 2018
Remember, SPRING FORWARD 1-hour Saturday before you go to bed!

Sunday Worship in March @ 10:30a

Pre-service music begins at 10:20a

Reflections and Reading:

March 4: 3rd Sunday of Lent *Into the Wilderness: "Marketplace"* -John 2.13-22
March 11: 4th Sunday of Lent *Into the Wilderness: "Darkness"* -John 3.14-21
March 18: 5th Sunday of Lent *Into the Wilderness: "Troubled"* -John 12.20-33
March 25: Palm Sunday *Into the Wilderness: "Testify"* -John 12.1-19

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Kids Connection

Kids Connection is an interactive class for ages 4 thru 11. 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.

Ways to Ignite Your Congregation

PERSONAL INVITATION

By Randy Hammer

While pastoring a previous fledgling new church development, our children got involved in Little League baseball. I took the opportunity to meet some of the other parents while we were waiting at ball practice. I began by stating my name and learning the names of those I was hoping to meet. After a while, I took the opportunity to ask each new person whom I met what line of work he or she was in. In other words, I showed a genuine interest in them. Eventually they got around to asking me what type of work I did. At that point I shared that I was a minister and that I was starting a new church in our community. Of course, I eventually issued a nonthreatening invitation to them to worship with us. To make a long story short, three of the families visited our new congregation, and two of the families became active, charter members.

One of the best ways to welcome new persons to your church is the old tried and true way – by encouraging and training current members to invite others to worship with them. They can also invite those who are new to the church or those who have not attended church in many years to attend a church function that would perhaps be considered less threatening than a church service. In the New Testament gospel of John, there is a story of how Philip, after commencing to follow Jesus, went and found his friend Nathanael and invited him to come and see Jesus. Upon meeting Jesus for himself, Nathanael was so impressed that he also became a follower and disciple of Jesus. Today in the city of Cana, there is a beautiful church named in Nathanael's honor. If only he could have known the legacy he would leave. And it was all because Philip issued the invitation to come and see (John 1:45-46).

When my family finds a dentist or physician that we love, we may be anxious to share that information with a friend or neighbor. Why should there be any difference when it comes to our church, and possibly a pastor, that we love so dearly?

Church growth expert Herb Miller, in *How to Build a Magnetic Church*, notes, "Churches that aggressively seek new members tend to grow." This holds true whether a church is conservative or liberal in its approach and theology. Miller contends that the one word that differentiates growing churches from nongrowing churches is "invite." "When a church isn't growing," Miller observes, "its members are not 'inviting.'" No amount of publicity can compare with a congregation in which the members are inviting their friends, relatives, neighbors, coworkers, and other acquaintances to join them for worship.

Citing another church growth expert, Lyle Schaller, Miller notes that people tend to invite others to church when their own faith is growing, when they like their pastor, and when they are excited about what is happening in their congregation. Evangelism (sharing the good news) is not just a responsibility of an evangelism committee. Evangelism, reaching out, and welcoming others must involve the entire church. Think of the positive results if every active member were to bring just one more new member into the life of the church in the coming months. In just a year's time, the attendance and active membership would double. How many lives would be blessed!

It is not difficult to invite someone to church. It is as easy as saying, "I was wondering, do you regularly attend a local church?" If the answer is "No," then the natural follow-up is "I would like to invite you to attend our worship service and see what we have to offer." This is the easiest but also most important thing a church member can do.

Elmer Towns has devised a program called "Bringing FRANC to Church." FRANC is an acronym, of course, standing for "Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbors and Coworkers." These are the people with whom all of us already have a degree of influence. It is only natural that we take the opportunity to invite them to church. When asked why they started attending a new church, a high percentage of members say it was because a friend, relative, neighbor, or coworker invited them. This brings us to Friend Day.

Randy Hammer is pastor of United Church, Chapel on the Hill, in Oak Ridge, TN. "Personal Invitation" from 52 Ways to Ignite Your Congregation: Practical Hospitality" by Randy Hammer, copyright © 2009 by The Pilgrim Press, pp. 5-7. Used by Permission.

Dear Friends of St. John United Church of Christ,

Your prayers, cards, and all your thoughtfulness carried me through all the months, of rehab. I'm back in my apartment which feels so good. I walk very slow with a walker, but I'm walking. I feel so Blessed. Each day is better.

Thank you, Thank you,
Jeannette Cox (Pastor Keith's mother)

Two Hundred and three soup items were delivered to Hosea House (Echo Soup Kitchen) from the SOUPer Bowl Sunday Collection with cash donations totaling $60.
Thanks for your generosity!

Ashley Patak Recital

Chancel Choir soloist and section leader, Ashley Patak, will be performing a recital on Saturday, March 24th at 3p in Greaves Hall of the Fine Arts Building on the Northern Kentucky University Campus. The recital is free and St. John Church is invited to attend.

St. John Financials & Attendance Information

February 2018 Offering Total: $9,935 Worship Attendance Average: 58

Recent Memorial Fund Gifts

In Memory of Lorraine Arthur from Dale Clark and Pat & Charles Giglia
In Memory of Betty Weidinger from Pat & Charles Giglia
In Memory of Kathryn Johnson from Pat & Charles Giglia
In Memory of Joan Hayes from Pat & Charles Giglia, Tom & Marlene Vossmeyer

One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Offering - March 11, 2018

The theme for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is INTERPRETATION. It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas in need in God's world: there is hunger, sickness, gun violence, and injustice in many communities. It is easy to feel there is a sense of hopelessness, that we cannot solve these problems. BUT THERE IS HOPE! BETTER YET WE ARE THAT HOPE.

As the apostle Paul writes "by the power at work within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine." We are the agents of transformation that God uses to transfigure this world (Ephesians 3.20). Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don't realize that God gives us community to practice love and compassion (Archbishop Desmond Tutu). We cannot only care for ourselves, but we must also care about those around us both near and far.

Our OGHS offering is part of a loving legacy in a way we could never have predicted. OGHS offering becomes a blessing to people who we have never met and help them in ways we never could have known.

St. John Church has been challenged to meet the goal of $1,200 or more. If each person in the congregation gives $12 or more we could make or surpass our goal on Sunday, March 11, 2018. When writing a check or filling up a coin box think about how you are enriching someone's life.

UCC Mission Offerings coordinators - Melissa Artopoeus and Pastor Keith M. Haithcock

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Spring Covenant Membership Classes

Saturday, May 5 - 9:00a to 2:00p
Room 102 (enter using the accessible door off the parking lot)
Registration deadline: Sunday April 29th
Lunch ordered in from a local restaurant.

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

Topics include: Introduction to St. John United Church of Christ, Statement of Faith, Spirituality, Baptism, Holy Communion, the Bible, what we believe, what does it mean 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 covenant with a local 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 April 29th. **Register via** your Sunday Information Card, or sign up at the Welcome Table, calling 859.261.2066, ext. 202, or emailing: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net.

Illumination Youth Ministry News

We are continuing with our theme taken from Hebrews 12.1 . . . "Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." We have been talking about how very few roads follow a straight line from beginning to end, and have been relating this to the "highs" and "lows" that we all experience. We have also been thinking about the "races" that other people must run. As a group we went to see the movie "Wonder", and we made valentines to send to folks on the prayer lists of all three Illumination churches. Before they were sent out the youth held each valentine in their hands and prayed for the recipient.

March Illumination Events:

Wednesday, March 7th, 5:30-7:30p at First Christian Church: We will be getting in shape for "the race" with a special workout. We will do a workout for our bodies before dinner, and a workout for our minds after dinner.

Tuesday, March 20th, 5:30-7:30p at Christ Church UCC: Our service project will be to make Easter Care Baskets for residents of "The Terrace", an assisted living facility in Lower Price Hill. These residents struggle with both mental illness and physical impairments, and have very limited contact with family or friends outside of the facility, so our baskets, filled with comfort and care items, will be a way to reach out with love.

Illumination Youth Ministry is a shared youth ministry of St. John UCC-Bellevue, Christ Church UCC-Fort Thomas, and First Christian Church-Fort Thomas. Middle School and High School Youth (Grades 6-12) are invited and encouraged to attend. Our regularly scheduled meetings are on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month. Friends are always welcome—we just ask that everyone sign in for meetings with appropriate emergency contact information.

During the first quarter of 2018 our first Wednesday meetings will be held at First Christian Church (1031 Alexandria Pike, Fort Thomas), and our third Tuesday meetings will be held (or start at) Christ Church UCC (15 S. Fort Thomas Avenue, Fort Thomas). **During the second quarter of 2018**, our first Wednesday meeting will continue to be held at First Christian, and our third Tuesday meeting will be held (or start at) St. John UCC (520 Fairfield Avenue, Bellevue)

For more information, please contact the Illumination Coordinators:

Nancy Bardgett Call or text: (859)466-6946 Email: Nancy.Bardgett@gmail.com
Melanie Sorrell Call or text: (859)468-8076 Email: melaniemcb@gmail.com

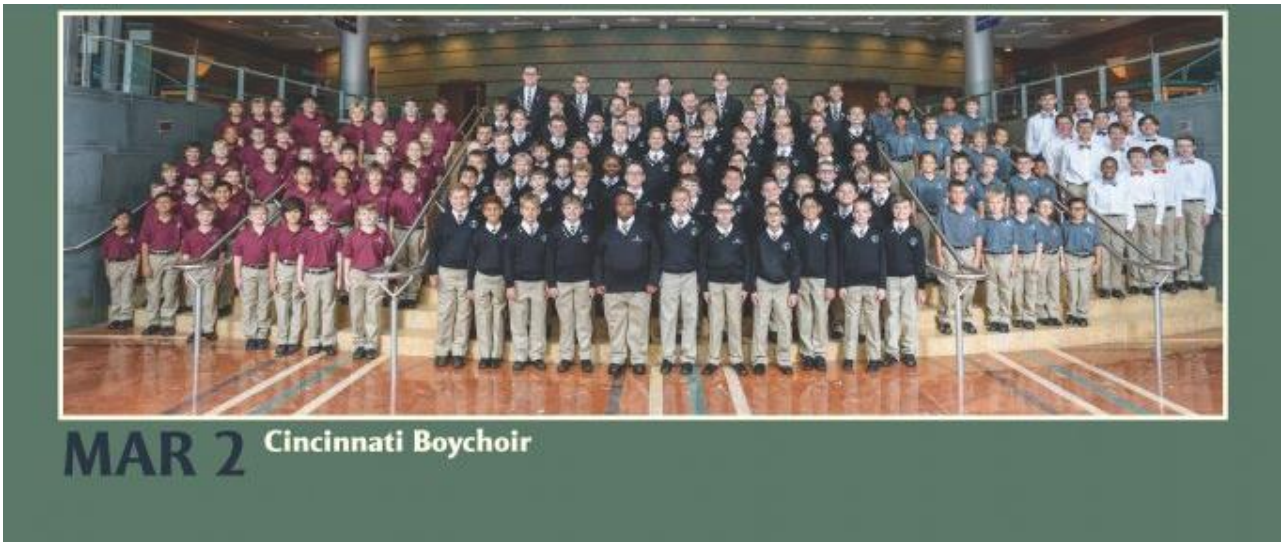
Last Concert of the Series!

March 2, 2018 - 8p

Cincinnati Boychoir

Premier professional boychoir

Songs from around the world, including South Africa



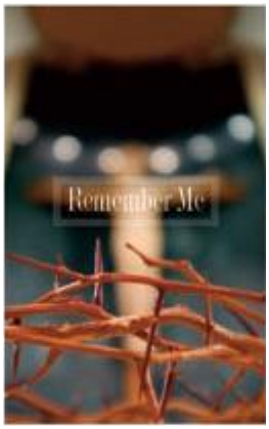
For more information about the series contact Steve Phillips at Stephen.phillips2014@icloud.com or 859.803.3830

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME AT ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

Palm Sunday, March 25, 10:30 a.m.

(Pre-service music begins at 10:20 a.m.)

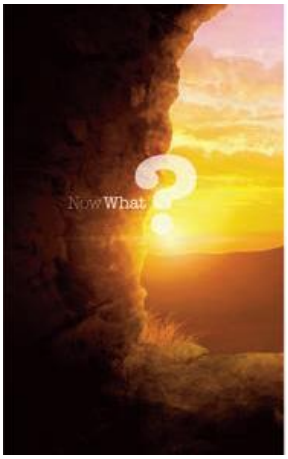
Palm Sunday worship begins with a procession led by the Chancel Choir and children waving palms as we remember how Jesus modeled an alternative entry of God's reign of peace in contrast to Rome's reign of empire. Join the festive parade in the sanctuary and launch into worship together as we begin Holy Week.



Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.

(Pre-service music begins at 7:20 p.m.)

Gathered in the Sanctuary we recall Jesus' command to love one another in the account of Jesus washing the disciple's feet exemplifying service to others. All are welcomed to gathered around the communion table remembering Jesus and the last supper with his followers. The service is led by the Pastor and Chancel Choir. It includes the ancient Tenebrae service with Scriptures of desertion and contemplation on what it means to pick up our own cross. This is a moving service in darkness as we face the cross and are mindful of the realities of being followers of Jesus.



Easter Sunday Breakfast, April 1, 9:00 a.m.

Enjoy food, friendship and fellowship before Easter Sunday Worship in the Fellowship Hall (lower level – elevator available). Everyone is invited.

Easter Sunday Worship, April 1, 10:30 a.m.

(Pre-service music at 10:20 a.m.)

The Sanctuary will be filled with Easter Lilies, spring flowers, and music to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The service will be led by the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir and other musicians. There will be a special time for Children, prayers of healing, and Holy Communion for all. Pastor Keith's Easter sermon is "Now What" from Mark 16.1-8. Bring a friend and celebrate the resurrection!

Help Needed to Prepare for Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 1, 9:00 A.M.

Lower level in the Fellowship Hall

Look for the sheet on the Welcome Table and sign-up to bring one or more of the following items: egg stratas, ham, sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, pastries, muffins, juices, milk coffee, etc. All items must be ready to serve. Recipes and serving pans provided at the Welcome Table.

For more information, contact:
Bruce Horn, bbobbyh55@gmail.com, 513.608.5331, or
Willie Tackett, willtackett@gmail.com, 859.468.8739

Birth Announcement

Landon Matthew Dennis
born February 15, 2018, 10:06p. 7lbs 4oz., 20.5"
to parents: Carly & Matt Dennis,
and great-great-Aunt Debbie Cummings

Blessings to those who are celebrating this month!

March Birthdays

3 Jan Hoeweler
10 Melissa Stephens
20 Willie Tackett
23 Steve Phillips
25 Doug Baldridge
26 Kris Dickinson

March Anniversaries

14 Rita & Bob Auteri
18 Keith Coultas & Lonnie Fields
23 Sandy & Dan Ruck

Prevues is published monthly. Submissions due on the 10th of the prior month. **(April items due Mar. 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

From Our Mission Church

Washington United Church of Christ
2950 Sidney Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45225
Phone (513) 541-7757 Fax (513) 541-7579

February 6, 2018

Dear Friends at St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue,

Thank you for your generous financial gifts in 2017, which we needed and appreciated, and for continuing your support. We have just received your gift of $253, through SONKA.

This is what the gifts from you and others meant last year to the people we serve:

- 7,500 meals served to needy adults, through Camp Community Café lunch four days a week and Community Dinner once a month. They come for the food, of course, but also a chance to socialize in a safe place.
- Food for more than 6,500 people at Camp Cupboard, where everything is free, including clothing, hygiene products, and household items.
- After-school tutoring (including a meal) for 25 students Monday-Thursday
- A Summer Youth Program 4 day a week for 8 weeks for 50 children. Breakfast and lunch are served, and programming includes Christian education, arts and crafts, music, reading tutoring, games and field trips.
- Christmas gifts, clothing, hats, gloves and food for 375 children
- Transportation to Sunday School and worship for children each week.

On behalf of the caring ministries we <u>all</u> share and the hundreds of people you help each year, thank you.

Blessings,
Rev. Pam DeFusco, Pastor and *Laurel Humes,* Church Council

Easter, Summer Program, Christmas and much more. Thanks to you!

The Pastor's Discretionary Assistance Fund

-Helping those in need-

February Update

The Rev. Keith M. Haithcock

6 Kroger Cards for food were distributed.
20 Blessing Bags (individual-meals) were distributed.
6 households were served by PDAF.

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.

Knox College Choir in Concert

March 13, 2018 – 7:00p (correction)
Faith United Church of Christ
6886 Salem Road, Cincinnati, OH 45230

The Knox College Choir is the premier choral ensemble of the College. Members of the choir come from a variety of backgrounds and academic interests. Under the direction of Professor Laura Lane, the choir performs concerts each term and tours annually.

Comprised of roughly 50 individuals possessing a wide variety of majors and minors, the choir is an extremely diverse group of students that continuously strive for one goal: to share with others their passion for singing.

Join other United Church of Christ congregations for this special concert of choral music. To hear more about Knox College Choir go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=960w_igJH2k. To help with meal preparation, promotion and housing for the choir contact Pastor Keith at Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or 859.261.2066, ext. 202.

March 2018 Calendar

Thursday, March 1
10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Friday, March 2
8:00p MOTA Concert, Sanctuary and LL100
Cincinnati Boychoir
Songs from around the world, including South Africa

Sunday, March 4
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Sunday Worship, with Communion & sign interpretation, Sanctuary
John 2.13-22
1:45p Mannerchor rehearsal, Rm 203

Tuesday, March 6
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 202

Wednesday, March 7
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S
5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries,
First Christian 1031 Alexandria Pike

Thursday, March 8
10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
10:40a Kids Connection, Rm 202
6:30p Cub Scouts, Rm LL100

Friday, March 9
6:00p Cincinnati Men's Chorus Retreat
Rms LL100 & 203

Saturday, March 10 ➔DEADLINE APRIL *PREVUES*
8:00a Cincinnati Men's Chorus Retreat
Rms LL100 & 203

Sunday, March 11
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
John 3.14-21
Kids Connection, Rm 202
1:45p Mannerchor rehearsal Rm 203
3:00p UCC Ohio Conference – Restructuring Conversation, St. John's UCC Newport 415 Park Ave.

Tuesday, March 13
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 202

Wednesday, March 14
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S

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

Sunday, March 18
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
John 12.20-33
Kids Connection, Rm 202
1:45p Mannerchor rehearsal, Rm 203

Tuesday, March 20
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries,
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 202

Wednesday, March 21
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S

Thursday, March 22
10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
5:30p Strategic Leadership Council, Rm 102
6:30p Cub Scouts, Rm LL100

Sunday, March 25 PALM Sunday - Holy Week
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
John 12.1-19
Kids Connection, Rm 202
1:45p Mannerchor rehearsal, Rm 203

Tuesday, March 27 - Holy Week
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 202

Wednesday, March 28 - Holy Week
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S

Thursday, March 29 - Holy Week - Maundy Thursday
7:30p Maundy Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Friday, March 30 - Holy Week - Good Friday

Saturday, March 31 - Holy Week - Holy Saturday
11:30a Free Senior Meal, LL100

Sunday, April 1 – EASTER Sunday

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

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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

Kids Connection Teacher-Coordinator (February thru May 2018).....The Reverend Amy Arnold
peaceala@yahoo.com – 513.365.0835

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
Treasurer.....Dave Hiser, treasurer@stjohnchurch.net - 859.486.3308
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