September 2018

PREVUES

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

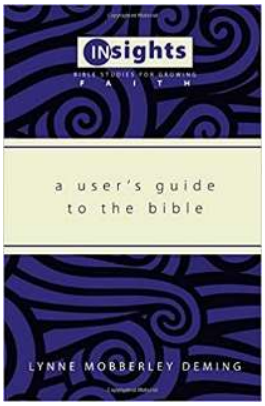
About the 2018/2019 Spiritual Growth Series

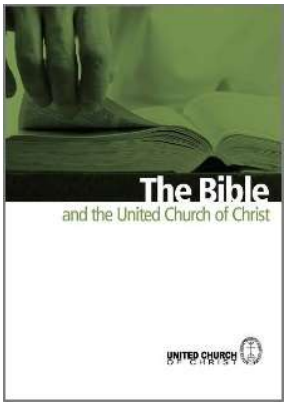
"Carrollton Pass" by Keith M. Haithcock

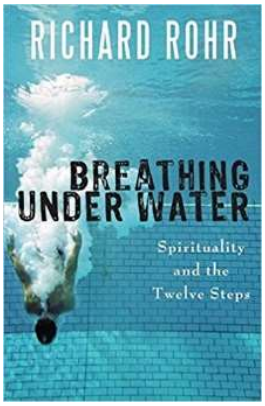
Welcome to St. John United Church of Christ: A Place of Learning!

The purpose of the Spiritual Growth Series is to encourage each member, guest, and friend of St. John Church to listen for the word of God through faithful study of the Bible, prayer, service, and experience. By gathering together in small groups throughout the year we meet new friends and strengthen relationships with one another, and with God. We also build a sturdy foundation that enables us to ask tough questions, struggle with difficulties and joys of life, dialogue, and respond faithfully to what matters.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome, invited and included to participate in any or all these spiritual growth opportunities. This series includes two one-session studies on the Bible, two Covenant Membership Classes, the 2019 Lenten Book Study with Richard Rohr, and weekly Bible Encounter and Morning Prayer.







For more information about the series or financial assistance contact:
Pastor and Teacher, Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor@StJohnChurch.net

For a copy of the full 2018/2019 brochure go to:
https://stjohnchurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2018-2019-Spiritual-Growth-Series-COMPLET-BROCHURE.pdf

On the Avenue and Beyond

By Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor and Teacher

Often, I have referred to St. John United Church of Christ as the "Church on the Avenue". Early in my ministry in Bellevue people in the community would ask me where my Church was, and I would say, it's the Church on Fairfield Avenue. Most people knew then what Church I was talking about. I like the name "Church on the Avenue," however, unless we were going to change our name, I knew we needed to market our *official* name to become known for who we are and to reach beyond our location.

We've done several marketing efforts over the past two decades: mass mailings, door hangers to every resident in Bellevue, newspaper articles, ads in the Cincinnati Men's Chorus programs, magnets, pens, festival booths, and more. For almost 20 years Music on the Avenue posters, post cards, radio and TV interviews, and concerts, have gotten our name known beyond Fairfield Avenue and Bellevue.

From 1999 thru 2007 we grew numerically as did our witness and programs. We became known in the region. We moved from an average of 42 in worship to an average of 92. A 119% increase in 8 years! But in 2008 there was a major decline. Some told me it was because of the national economic recession. At first, I didn't believe that, however, I've come to know from talking with people who stopped attending, that economics did impact their continued involvement with the Church. There were other things that impacted our decline, most of which related to relational connections, and the lack of children and youth ministries.

There are no magic answers to Church growth. Some will say non-traditional music and technology is the answer. But there are still many congregations who are very traditional who are packing the pews and meeting the needs of their community. Our first goal is to be faithful to God and go from there.

The most powerful mixture for Church growth seems to be relationship and focused programs. When we know one another, we will work together and share the mission. When we know someone only by face or acquaintance there is a hesitation to becoming involved beyond attending a worship service.

We do not need a ton of money to grow the Church. I say that because over the past two decades that has been the main excuse for lack of growth. The good news is that we are not dead! We have quite a lot of life and joy! In my opinion, we are sitting on the greatest opportunity for growth I've seen in a long time. We are a progressive, caring, inclusive Christian congregation with a welcome that is wide. But, we have become ingrown and are now dealing with the same ingrown behaviors as we did two decades ago. This can be changed, if we want to change; and we need to change to grow. Two simple words describe the change needed: Invite and include. We are great at welcoming people to worship when they show up. But, we are not so good at inviting and including new people to what we are doing: Bible study, meals after Church, prayer groups, Spiritual Growth Series, youth group, etc. The action of inviting and including is free, it doesn't cost us a penny, just our effort and love.

I envision a vibrant spiritual community of Jesus-followers who love God, love all neighbors near and far as we love ourselves, and care for the earth; a spiritual community where our purpose is to be and to grow the church through: worshiping God, inviting everyone, welcoming everyone, engaging and encouraging everyone; making disciples of Jesus; and serving those in need, on the Avenue and beyond!

Pastor Keith is always available by appointment. Phone: 859.261.2066, ext. 202; Email: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net
Typical office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9a to 4p.

Sunday Worship in September @ 10:30a

Pre-service music begins at 10:20a

Reflections and Reading:

September 2: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost *"Faith Produces Actions"* -James 1.17-27
September 9: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost *"Radical Inclusion"* -James 2.1-10, 14-17
September 16: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost *"Hold Your Tongue"* -James 3.1-12
September 23: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost *"God's Wisdom"* -James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a
September 30: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost *"Prayer Heals"* -James 5.13-20

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.

CONCERNING CHILDREN THIS FALL!

We give thanks for the on-going work and efforts, prayers and organization, planning and skill of our temporary staff and dedicated volunteer teachers and others to develop a sustainable children's ministry. However, due to disappointingly low attendance, the Strategic Leadership Council (SLC) has suspended Kids Connection until further notice.

That said, connecting with children every time we gather in worship will continue! Pastor Keith will continue to plan a time in the Sunday morning worship services to engage children present in helpful and meaningful ways for faith formation and community connection.

Cherie Draper has prepared, and will maintain, a basket of activities for children to pick up at the Welcome Table and take to their pew. And, Pastor Keith will hand out activities sheets for ages 3 to 6 and 7 to 12 following "A Word for Kids" time in the service.

The task for the congregation now is to invite parents with children to St. John Church. Your intentional efforts to build a children's program at your Church is crucial for a sustainable ministry at St. John Church. If you have any questions regarding this decision please contact the SLC president, Alan Imberg, at 859.743.7424 or alan@alanimberg.com, or any other SLC member listed on page 11 of this newsletter.

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 8a
In the Sanctuary

Start your day with 30-minutes of prayer
Scripture
Silence
Intercession

Enter thru the accessible door off the parking lot

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Keith will be away on vacation (and Labor Day holiday) from Monday, September 3 thru and including Tuesday, September 11. If there is a pastoral need, hospitalization, or death, please leave a voice mail at 859.261.2066 extension 202 with full details, including phone numbers. Voice mail will be checked several times a day. A member of the Congregational Care Team and/or the Pastor-On-Call will be contacted as needed. If there is a critical emergency or death, Pastor Keith will be contacted.

Prevues is published monthly. Submissions due on the 10th of the prior month.
OCTOBER ITEMS DUE SEPTEMBER 10TH
Email your submissions to: Prevues@StJohnChurch.net.
All repeat submissions should be revised.
Requests for the Prayer List are due on Mondays. Email to PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net.
Editor: Keith M. Haithcock; Publication Assistant: Debbie Cummings

Neighbors in Need Offering – October 7, 2018

This offering supports the United Church of Christ (UCC) ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC 's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Our National Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbor in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), historically forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nekota, Mandan, Hidarsa, Arikara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban multi-tribal UCC in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the United States.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED helps make a JUST WORLD for ALL POSSIBLE. For this to occur it needs your support. The goal for St. John is $900. We can meet this goal by giving $15 or more on World Communion Sunday, October 7.

Melissa Artopoeus and Pastor Keith Haithcock, UCC Mission Offerings Coordinators

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Join the Ding-a-Lings!

Have you ever heard the handbell choir play and say to yourself, "I wish I could do that"? Well, now is your chance! The St. John Handbell Choir is gearing up for the fall/winter and can always use a few more hands. Being able to read music is helpful, but not necessary. We love to teach new people how to ring! Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm and will begin on August 21st. If interested, please contact Stephanie Dalsfoist (sdalsfoist@gmail.com or 513.708.0246).

Ohio Conference
United Church of Christ

Annual Gathering

September 28-29, 2018
Westerville Community UCC

To register click on
http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efl0vv9512976a85&llr=zlqs5dcab

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Walk to End Hunger – One Step at a Time

Sunday, October 7th, starting at St. John's UCC Newport. Registration will start at 1p with the walk starting at 2p. Your support is both needed and welcome. Contact Rev. Russ Kimmerly revruss2@yahoo.com 513.202.0128 for more information.

Illumination Youth Ministries Updates

Rainstorms and the chaos of summer have prevented our group from meeting in July and August (shout out to the Drapers who had dinner with me in August!) I miss all your lovely faces!

Our fall scripture is taken from Psalm 119:66-- "Teach me knowledge and good judgement, for I trust your commands."

Wednesday, September 5--5:30-7:30 PM at First Christian Church: Summer's Last Hurrah. Hurry! Before summer ends, let's have a picnic dinner and play water and outdoor games.

Tuesday, September 18--5:30-7:30 PM at Christ Church UCC-Fort Thomas: Join us as we walk through Fort Thomas to Tower Park. We'll serve our community by picking up trash along the way. At the park, we'll enjoy a picnic dinner (get ready to make some sandwiches!).

Note--This is a 1-mile walk each way. Please wear appropriate shoes. If this presents an issue for you, please let Melanie know.

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.

For more information, please contact the Illumination Coordinator:
Melanie Sorrell Call or text: (859)468-8076 Email: melaniemcb@gmail.com

BAYARD RUSTIN

THE MAN BEHIND THE DREAM

BY CINCINNATI COMPOSER, STEVE MILLOY

BAYARD RUSTIN ART BY ALLIE RUTH

YELLOW SPRINGS · DAYTON · CINCINNATI

WORLD HOUSE CHOIR & CINCINNATI SINGING FRIENDS

- **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6:** ***Opening Concert***, 7:00, at Antioch College's Foundry Theater, 920 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
- **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7:** ***Dayton Concert*** at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 7:00 at 125 N. Wilkinson St, Dayton, OH 45402, sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Office, Center for Teaching and Learning at Sinclair Community College. This concert is the kick off event of Peace Dayton.
- **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8:** ***Repeat performance*** at the Foundry in Yellow Springs, 7:00 at Antioch College's Foundry Theater, 920 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
- **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9:** ***Cincinnati Concert*** at House of Joy Christian Ministries, 4:00 at 5912 Hamilton Ave, in College Hill, Cincinnati, OH 45224

FREE ADMISSION · DONATIONS WELCOME

https://Bayardthemanthedream.org
Aliven Arts is a Production Partner
(Rachel Kramar, CEO)
AlivenArts

www.worldhousechoir.org
Catherine Roma, Artistic Director
WORLD HOUSE CHOIR

artswave

ANTIOCH COLLEGE

Ohio Arts Council

the Coretta Scott King Center for cultural & intellectual freedom

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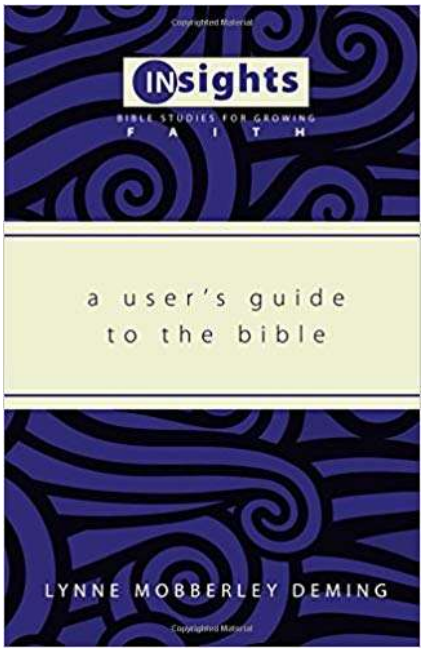
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
DR. HERMAN ZEMAN
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CINCINNATI
ANONYMOUS

SAVE THE DATE!



One Session Study Bible 101 session #1

A User's Guide to the Bible

One 4-hour session
Saturday, October 27, 2018
9:30a to 2p, Room 102
Bring a bag lunch

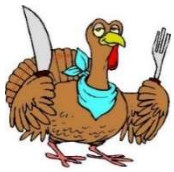
A practical introduction to the bible for adults and youth. In this study you will learn about how the Bible came into being, its contents, date, and authorship of each biblical book, be introduced to some basic Bible study tools, and learn how to use them.

Previous Bible knowledge or experience is not required. Bibles are available.

Register by October 21, 2018 by calling 859.261.2066, ext. 202; emailing: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net; signing up at the Welcome Table; or using your Sunday Information Card.

At least 7 registrants are required for session to take place.
Books are provided - Return at the end of the session.

Registrants are encouraged to view these youtube videos prior to class:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXsP5KTFtcw
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC8YD1bZ0ll



Sunday, November 18th – Following worship – LL100
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Washington UCC seeks Homework Club tutors

If you can spare a couple of hours a week to help a child succeed in school, Washington United Church of Christ wants to hear from you!

Washington's Homework Club starts September 10. We are in session from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the church, 2950 Sidney Ave., in Camp Washington, Cincinnati, just off the Hopple Street exit off I-75. Seven miles from St. John Church.

Volunteer tutors are asked to commit to one day a week, in order to work with the same child each week.

Homework Club students are in kindergarten through 8th grade. We can match you with the age you prefer!

For more information, call Laurel Humes at 513-681-4322 or e-mail at laurelh@zoomtown.com.

Recent Memorial Fund Gifts

In Memory of Robert Thomas from Pat & Charles Giglia

St. John Financials & Attendance Information

August 2018 Offering Total: $9,679 Worship Attendance Average: 59

Blessings to those who are celebrating this month!

September Birthdays

9 Bill Machuga
14 Darlene Young
17 Melodie Imberg
24 Rita Auteri
25 Robert Portlock
26 Greg Mathein
29 Raniele Jago

September Anniversaries

1 Vivian Hunnings & Deana McReynolds
14 Fred & Jan Hoeweler
Mitch Leigh & David Hiser
17 Sue Jelinek & Dorothy Gatch
19 Linda & Regis Nesbit

Pastor's Discretionary Assistance Fund

-Helping those in need-

August Update

The Rev. Keith M. Haithcock

13 Kroger Cards for food were distributed.
40 Blessing Bags (individual-meals) were distributed.
5 households were served by PDAF.

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

St. John United Church of Christ

520 Fairfield Avenue, Bellevue KY

Interstate 471-Route 8 exit, 1 mile east of Newport on the Levee

Tickets available now at **www.StJohnChurch.net/VS**

FALL CABARET

"MY FAVORITE THINGS"

SONGS ABOUT THINGS THAT MAKE US FEEL GOOD!

SHOW & SUPPER

Saturday, October 6, 2018

5:00-6:00 pm Meal served

Salad bar, spaghetti & meatballs, dessert, beverage

6:30 pm Show Time

Musical entertainment: songs, handbells & more!

TICKETS: ADULTS - $20, CHILDREN UNDER 8 – FREE

Buy your tickets at **www.StJohnChurch.net/VS**

Questions? Contact VS@StJohnChurch.net or 859-261-2066.

September 2018 Calendar

Sunday, September 2
9:00a **NO** Weekly Bible Encounter Class
10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
Holy Communion and Sign Interpretation
Tuesday, September 4
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
6:30p Cub Scouts, Rm LL100
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203
Wednesday, September 5
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S
5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
Thursday, September 6
10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
7:00p Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
Sunday, September 9
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
Monday, September 10
➔DEADLINE SEPTEMBER PREVUES
Tuesday, September 11
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203
Wednesday, September 12
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S
Thursday, September 13
10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
Sunday, September 16
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
Tuesday, September 18
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
6:30p Cub Scouts, LL100
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203
Wednesday, September 19
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S
Thursday, September 20
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
Sunday, September 23
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
Tuesday, September 25
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203
Wednesday, September 26
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S
Thursday, September 27
10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
6:00p Strategic Leadership Council, Rm 102
Saturday, September 29
11:30a Free Senior Meal, LL100
Sunday, September 30
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary

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.....Melanie Sorrell
melaniemcb@gmail.com - 859.468.8076

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

Strategic Leadership Council (SLC)

President..... Alan Imberg, alan@alanimberg.com - 859.689.4540
President Elect..... Jeff Draper, neworleans2415@yahoo.com - 425.905.0827
Recording Secretary..... Jan Hoeweler, jhoeweler@fuse.net – 513.314.5736
Treasurer..... David Hiser, treasurer@stjohnchurch.net - 859.486.3308
At-Large.....Carol Griffith, cabbg@hotmail.com – 513.407.0832
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

OHIO CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
IMPACTING CONGREGATIONS FOR GOOD

SONKA
Southwest Ohio
Northern Kentucky
Association

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

CHICAGO UNITED EDEN
CUE SEMINARIES of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
COALITION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

INANDA SEMINARY
Shine where you are
Durban, South Africa

Rubate Hospital - Kenya Africa