

November 2019

PREVUES

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



Neighbors, Members, Regular Attendees,
Friends, and Everyone

You are Invited to

St. John United Church of Christ

Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Sunday, November 24

Following worship

Fellowship Hall

A sign-up sheet will be 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.

Helpers are greatly needed! Please contact Lonnie Fields, flds7@aol.com or 513.324.9303, if you can help.

Photo by Keith M. Haithcock

From the Corner: *Grace Always Wins!*

by Keith M. Haithcock

As a kid growing up with my two brothers and sister, I learned how to share space, clothing, time, chores, my bed, car, etc. In Sunday School I learned the stories of Jesus and about his generous love, grace, peace, joy, hope, guidance, patience, and justice for all the children of the world. Through the church I learned what a tithe was and how to value and use my financial resources as well as my talents. In the wider world I learned how to care for the earth, grow food, till the soil, shop, schedule my time and use of energy, make a place for everyone, and live within my means. I learned tools of life from my parents, grandmothers, and teachers. And I learned how to live my faith and offer others the gift of what had been offered to me – the gift of grace.

In the church we hear a lot about God's grace and love. We can find many verses in the Bible that begin or end with, "God's grace and love be with you," or "Grace to you and the peace from God above be upon you." One of the most well-known hymns of the church, "Amazing Grace" written by John Newton (1725–1807), is about the change of heart, mind, and soul that Newton encountered through experiencing God's grace. Newton was a captain of a slave ship, a profitable and popular occupation at the time. After several years he underwent a conversion through an encounter with the dramatic force of grace. He left the slave trade - a livelihood that robbed life from others - and began to offer what had been offered to him – grace.

Christianity is a religion and spiritual path that is grounded in God's generous grace. Though modeling God's grace could draw us together, too often we encounter attitudes, stances, and positions of rejection, division, and separation. Knowing the power of grace in our own lives, why would we withhold it from our neighbors? Why not invest every bit of ourselves in sharing the inexhaustible gift of grace with others?

God's generous grace given to the world, to people like Newton, you, or one such as me, will always emerge. As followers of Jesus grace has changed us and we can't help but give it away. Here's hoping that we each find creative ways to share the gift of grace with those we encounter.

Grace always wins!



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 November @ 10:30a

Pre-service music begins at 10:20a

Sermons and Reading:

November 3: "Do to Others as You Would Have Them Do to You" – Psalm 149; Luke 6.20-32

November 10: "Hold on to Faith" – 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17

November 17: "Endurance" - Luke 21.5-19

November 24: "Celebrate the Bounty of God" – Deuteronomy 26.1-11

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; and **Enhancing** your experience by sitting toward the front and inviting someone to sit with you.



Pastor's Newcomers' Open House

Tuesday November 12, 7:00p, Pastor Keith's home, 15 Custis Ave, Ft. Thomas, KY

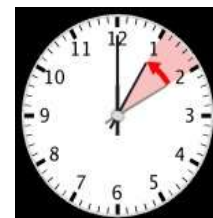
Pastor Keith would like to invite everyone who is a newcomer at St. John within the past year to an Open House at his home. Please indicate your interest on your Information Card or contact Pastor Keith at 859.261.2066, ext. 202 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net by Sunday, November 10.

If you were new to St. John Church last year and unable to attend the Pastor's Newcomers' Open House, you are invited to attend this year. Please let Pastor Keith know by Sunday, November 10.

It's that time again! Don't forget to FALL BACK!

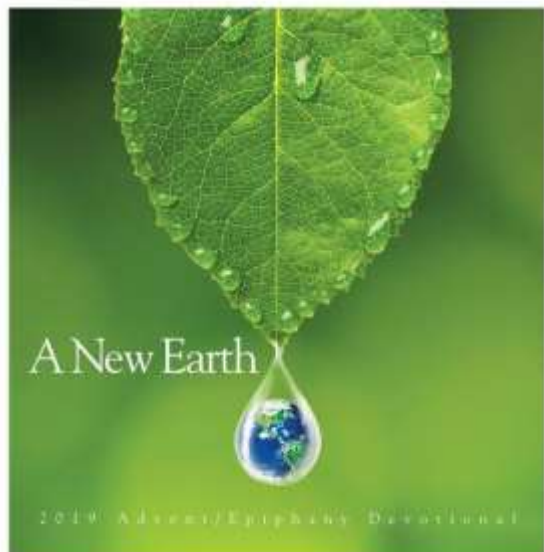
Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 3.

Mark your calendar to turn your clocks **back** before you go to bed on Saturday night!



2019 Advent Devotional Booklet

A New Earth - Daily readings for Advent thru Epiphany



The promise of God's presence and restoration is not just for humanity but for all creation. Keep company with the stars and planets, cattle and sheep for the Advent 2019 season.

From the writers of the popular online Daily Devotional, *A New Earth* includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day. New for 2019: this popular resource now includes daily readings through Epiphany.

Available in November 2019 for \$4

Morning Prayer



Every Wednesday at 8a in the Sanctuary

Morning Prayer is a 30-minute period of guided prayer, intercessory prayer, meditation, and silence.

The accessible door at the ramp off the parking lot is open by 7:45a. Please enter the Sanctuary quietly.

Begin your day with prayer.



Weekly Bible Encounter

A Bible Study for Youth and Adults

Sundays @ 9a - Room 102

The purpose of the Weekly Bible Encounter (WBE) is to encounter the Bible through prayer, reading, study, scholarship and inquisitive community. No registration, no sign up, no commitment, no fee, no frills! Attend when you are able. Let's face it, most of us would not

read the Bible at all if we didn't have a plan. Well, here is your plan! WBE is led by a team of preachers, teachers, saints and sinners. Invite a friend to come with you! Previous Bible knowledge or experience is not required. Bibles are available. Everyone: members, guests, friends, family, and neighbors are always welcome.

Living Generously

The creative work of the *Generosity Team* has come together to engage each of us in the mission and ministry of the Church. Tim Smith, Mitch Leigh, Melissa Stephens, Mary Ann Reilly, and Dale Clark are the people who serve on the “*Generosity Team*.”

Our effort this year is to increase the engagement of individuals (both members and non-members) through being generous with our time and talents under the theme of “Living Generously.”

St. John Church Generosity Story

God has called us to be here in this place at this time to proclaim the gospel through progressive worship and ministry. In response to this great gift we commit ourselves to living generously through our lives, our time, our talents and our finances.

Engagement Rings

The Generosity Team invites you to what we are calling Engagement Rings; groups of 10 people (including 2 facilitators) who will gather for one hour. Over a meal (provided) the group will consider the Church generosity story (above) - generosity in terms of time and talent, and these three questions:

What brings you joy?

What is your calling or passion?

What will you do?

Sign-Up!

Sign up for an Engagement Ring begins on Sunday, November 3. Each date has a limited space of ten people on a first come first serve basis. So be sure to sign up early!

Dates and times of Engagement Rings:

- ✓ **Sunday**, November 3, following worship
- ✓ **Saturday**, November 9, 9:00a
- ✓ **Sunday**, November 10, following worship
- ✓ **Sunday**, November 17, following worship
- ✓ **Wednesday**, November 20, 6:30p



Engagement Rings will take place in the Church Lounge, Room 102. Additional dates will be set during Advent if needed. Each Engagement Ring is limited to 10 people.

You may sign up on the Big List posted on the Sanctuary walls or [click here](https://stjohnchurch.net/engagement-ring-rsvp) to register online (<https://stjohnchurch.net/engagement-ring-rsvp>). The goal is that everyone who is affiliated with St. John Church will be part of one Engagement Ring session.

What is your Generosity Story?

Here is the Generosity Story of one of our team members, Melissa Stephens:

God has been good to me – so good. Throughout my life I have known joy and had the privilege to live passionately. In the darkest times, I didn’t necessarily realize how God was supporting me. In response, I want to give my time and my God-given talents to contribute to the vitality of St. John Church.

If you have questions, please contact Tim Smith at timsmith@aol.com or 513.871.4099.



"Communities Make a Difference"

Focus on Caregiving

Sunday December 1st - 7 pm

New Spirit Oasis Community Church - MCC
4033 Hamilton Ave, Northside (Cincinnati)

Welcome ~ Bishop John A. Bell

Address ~ Rev. Joseph L. Poynter ~ A Caregivers Story

Reading of the names ~ Mark Dinser

Street Parking is free on Sundays in Northside. Extra parking across street in pay lot near Tillies and behind church at Vandalia Avenue at Gulow Street

Volunteer support courtesy of Northern Kentucky Health Department



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Invites you to a

Service of Installation

Rev. Paul E. Forrey

Sunday, November 10, 2019, at 2:00p
1 N. Jefferson Street, Alexandria, KY 41001



Neighbors in Need (NIN) Offering "Love of Children"

Thank you to all the folks at St. John who contributed to the Neighbors in Need Offering on Sunday, October 6, 2019. There was a generous response from our congregation and we collected \$741, falling just slightly short of our \$1,000 goal. Contributions will help support NIN ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and territories in 2019!



2nd and 4th Sundays at 10:30a

Kids Connection is an interactive class for students in K thru 5 that meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Classes help kids learn about God's love and the Bible lessons about Jesus.

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

C A T E C H E S I S

2019 New Fall Faith Formation

A shared time of community and faith

Co-sponsored by: Christ Church-Ft. Thomas, St. John-Bellevue, and St. John's-Newport

Track 1 - 6th -12th grades

Making This Faith Our Own

Track 2 - Adults

The Great Emergence Video & Book

Track 3 - Adults

Faith Foundations

Wednesdays, October 2 - November 13

St. John's United Church of Christ

415 Park Ave., Newport, KY

6pm Meal (\$5 adults, kids free)

7pm Growth Groups

Register: <http://christchurchft.org/ministries/catechesis/>
or at the Welcome Table in the back of the Sanctuary.

What is Catechesis?

Catechesis is an ancient word that refers back to the process of learning the Christian faith. This process was rarely done alone, but rather with others seeking to learn and grow together. **Catechesis connects us to how the early church gathered. They would share a meal called the Agape Feast and then learn more of what it means to follow Jesus.** United Church of Christ congregations gather for Catechesis, a 7-week event that includes a meal, a youth track, and 2 adult tracks and Child care.

Prevues is published monthly. **DECEMBER ITEMS DUE NOVEMBER 10**

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: Jennifer Cannell

SAVE THE DATE!

HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE and RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, December 6, 5:00p – 8:00p and
Saturday, December 7, 9:00a – 12:00p
Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)



SET ASIDE GOODS NOW to donate to our next Rummage Sale and Christmas Shoppe. We will be collecting all types of Christmas decorations and holiday themed items as well as miscellaneous household items. It's time to begin sorting through your holiday storage for items you can part with as well as your kitchen cabinets, linen closets, and winter clothing. We are specifically looking for donations of tree ornaments, table top holiday collectibles, lights and candles, toys and games, art and pictures, jewelry, holiday music CD's and movies, blankets, sheets, towels, shoes, coats, sweaters, kitchen utensils and bakeware, Tupperware and plastic containers, pots/pans, chairs, small tables, AND PEOPLE to help organize, price, and work the sale.

If you have questions or needs regarding donation drop offs at the church, please contact Steve Phillips stephen.phillips2014@icloud.com or (859) 803-3830. To help with organization and working the sale dates, please schedule with Dale Clark at dale@dsp.org or (513) 673-4260. You can bring your donations to the church basement stage area when you come to the Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 24, and continuing through Monday, December 2.



PDAF Socks and Gloves Drive

The weather is getting colder. Our Blessing Bags, full of food, need some socks and gloves. Please consider donating new socks and gloves to add to the Blessing food bags for November thru February for those in need.

Blessing Bags are provided by the Pastor's Discretionary Assistance Fund (PDAF) thru your generous donations. You may put your donations of socks and gloves in the big box in the Accessible Lobby through January. If you would like to give cash yellow PDAF envelopes are available at the Welcome Table. Make your check payable to St. John United Church of Christ with PDAF on the Memo line of your check. You may mail your PDAF donation to St. John United Church of Christ, 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073 or place your yellow envelope in the offering plate on Sundays. Thank you for your generous support!

Keep Bringing in Your Ink Cartridges for Recycling!

Staples Office Supply has an ink and toner recycling program. For each cartridge we receive \$2.00 to help purchase church office supplies. If you have empty ink or toner cartridges, please bring them to Church and put them in the box located on the coat rack in the hallway behind the pulpit. We can turn in a maximum of 20 per month. Thanks for going green and for supporting your Church! Keep recycling!



Your Holiday Purchases can support St. John Church!

Earn Rewards for St. John Church at Kroger and purchase gift cards from over 200 retailers

If you are not enrolled in the program, it is easy to enroll in Kroger Community Rewards. Please invite your family and friends to support St. John through this program. Every time you shop and use your Plus Card, St. John will receive Rewards!



- Go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/> or use the Kroger app.
- Sign in if you have a Kroger account or create a new account.
- Go to **Account, Community Rewards, Find Your Organization** and enter **XW792** or St. John United Church of Christ.
- Select St. John and hit **Enroll!**

If you need help, contact Jennifer Cannell at 859.261.2066 or office@stjonchurch.net.

Illumination Youth Ministries Fall Schedule

Our fall scripture comes from Deuteronomy 31:6-- "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of the, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."



Illumination Youth Ministries is open to youth from sixth grade through twelfth grade. If you will be entering sixth grade in the fall, we'd love to have you join us! See the specific dates for our Fall schedule below.

Wed., November 6 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM at St. John's UCC Newport (415 Park Ave, Newport)

Wed., November 13 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM at St. John's UCC Newport (415 Park Ave, Newport)

Wed., December 4 - 5:30 - 8:00 PM at First Christian Church (1031 Alexandria Pike, Fort Thomas)

Wed., December 18 - 5:30 - 7:30 PM at First Christian Church (1031 Alexandria Pike, Fort Thomas)

ADULTS: We are in need of adults who want to hang out with us. We need interested adults to go through a background check. After that, you'll work with Melanie to schedule as many or as few dates as your availability allows.

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 usually on the first and third Wednesday of each month unless otherwise scheduled. 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

Covenant Membership Formation

Saturday, November 16, 9a - 2p, Rm 102

Topics include introduction to St. John Church, Statement of Faith, Spirituality, Baptism, Communion, the Bible, Giving, Freedom and Responsibilities, the Six Marks of Discipleship, Open and Affirming, and more. Becoming a Covenant Member is more than your name on a list. It is a matter of faith, promise (covenant), and participation. This class is designed to help you discern if you are ready for this step on your journey.

Teacher: Pastor Keith Haithcock

Registration deadline: November 10

Register by calling 859.261.2066, ext. 202;

emailing Pastor@StJohnChurch.net; signing up

at the Welcome Table; or using your Sunday Information Card. Lunch will be provided from a local restaurant. Not available on November 16? Contact Pastor Keith for options.



Music on the Avenue

It is with great sadness that the Music on the Avenue Ministry Team is announcing that the Music on the Avenue series of concerts will no longer take place. So no concerts as a part of this series are being planned for February and early March of 2020 in our church sanctuary. We are so proud of the fine music and outreach to our community that Music on the Avenue provided over the past twenty years. Thanks to everyone who supported this series through financial contributions, work behind the scenes, and attendance at concerts. This series will be greatly missed by many. But perhaps a new outreach ministry could be started by others sometime in the future to share the extravagant welcome that St. John UCC is so proud of and known for.



Building Maintenance Team Members

Volunteers are needed to work with the Building Maintenance Coordinator, Dale Sexton. Skills required are a passion for taking care of the Church house, a willingness to learn, strong communication and follow through – bringing projects to completion. Guidance/training is available. Contact Dale Sexton at dalesexton@aol.com or (859) 409-1686.

Cub Scouts Pack 17 at St. John Church

November meetings are on the 12th and 26th at 6:30p in the lower level Fellowship Hall at St. John Church. Enter through the accessible door off the parking lot. For more information contact Kevin Pfaehler kevin.pfaehler2@gmail.com



Pastor's Discretionary Assistance Fund

-Helping those in need-

October Update

The Rev. Keith M. Haithcock

9 Kroger Cards for food were distributed.

40 Blessing Bags (individual-meals) were distributed.

10 households were served by PDAF

0 Community Agency provided with assistance

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

Recent Memorial Fund Gifts

In Memory of Brun Imbert from The Ulsas Family

In Memory of Brady Scanlon from Four Lead Family Foundation, Inc.

In Memory of Carroll Berringer from Debbie Reker

In Memory of Edgar Stitt from Debbie Reker, Melissa Artopoulos, Rita Auteri, Dale Clark, Diane Cottingham, Pat & Charles Giglia, Shirley Gregory, Connie Mahaney, Sandy Ruck, Ken & Vicki Engel, Fred & Jan Hoeweler, Sandra Kerlin, Mark & Debbie Lucas, Greg Mathein, Robert Moreland, Esther Ries, Sandy & Ed Showell, Ed Ulsas, Judy & Bob Yeager, Joy Boothy, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Owen, and Terri L. Young



November Anniversaries & Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Tom & Marlene Vossmeier
- 9 John Wilson & Melissa Stephens



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeff Lowe
- 10 Eileen Thornton
- 24 Gil Fauber
- 28 Ed Ulsas
- 30 Jan Smith



Financials & Attendance October 2019

Offering Total: \$10,195

Average Attendance for October: 68

Average Attendance for 2019: 70



At St. John Church

A simple way to give and support your Church

<https://StJohnChurch.net/donate-online-2>

November 2019 Calendar

Thursday, October 31

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
- 6:00p Trick or Treat Candy Giveaway

Sunday, November 3

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 203
- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
- 10:30a Sunday Worship with Holy Communion & Sign Interpretation, Sanctuary
- 11:30a ENGAGEMENT RING, Rm 102

Tuesday, November 5

- 1:30p Staff meeting, Rm 101
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203

Wednesday, November 6

- 8:00a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S
- 6:00p Catechesis - Dinner & Faith Formation Series, wk 1 (St. John's UCC Newport)

Thursday, November 7

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Saturday, November 9

- 9:00a ENGAGEMENT RING, Rm 102

Sunday, November 10

➔DEADLINE DECEMBER PREVUES

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 203
- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
- 10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:30a ENGAGEMENT RING, Rm 102

Tuesday, November 12

- 1:30p A2A meeting, Rm 102
- 1:30p Staff meeting, Rm 101
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203
- 6:30p Cub Scouts, LL100
- 7:00p Pastor's Newcomers' Open House

Wednesday, November 13

- 8:00a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S
- 6:00p Catechesis - Dinner & Faith Formation Series, wk 2 (St. John's UCC Newport)

Thursday, November 14

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Saturday, November 16

- 9:00a Covenant Membership Class, Rm 102

Sunday, November 17

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 203
- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
- 10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:30a ENGAGEMENT RING, Rm 102

Tuesday, November 19

- 1:30p Staff meeting, Rm 101
- 6:00p SLC, Rm 102
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203

Wednesday, November 20

- 8:00a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S
- 6:30p ENGAGEMENT RING, Rm 102

Thursday, November 21

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Saturday, November 23

- 5:00p Christmas Shoppe & Rummage Sale – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 24

- 9:00a Christmas Shoppe & Rummage Sale – Fellowship Hall
- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
- 10:30a Sunday Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:30a Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, LL100

Tuesday, November 26

- 1:30p Staff meeting, Rm 101
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203
- 6:30p Cub Scouts, LL100

Wednesday, November 27

- 8:00a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, Rm LL100S

Thursday, November 28

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group
Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Sunday, December 1

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 203
- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
- 10:30a Sunday Worship with Holy Communion & Sign Interpretation, 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 Jennifer Cannell
Office@StJohnChurch.net - 859.261.2066, ext. 201

Data Coordinator Linda Schuster
Data@StJohnChurch.net

House Keeper Luis Hernandez

Illumination Youth Ministry Director 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 Jeff Draper, neworleans2415@yahoo.com - 425.905.0827

President Elect *Position open, please consider volunteering for your congregation*

Recording Secretary Jan Hoeweler, jhoeweler@fuse.net - 513.314.5736

Treasurer Melissa Stephens, treasurer@StJohnChurch.net - 859.802.2745

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



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



Cub Scouts

Pack 17 – Bellevue, KY
St. John United Church of Christ