

May 2024



THE MESSENGER

Prepared for the members & friends of:

St. John's United Church of Christ (Huntersville)

300 N. Huntersville Road, Batesville, IN 47006

Church Office: 812-934-4144 • Church Fax: 812-933-9000

Rev. Joseph Feldmann, Pastor • pastorjoeystjohns@etczone.com

Website: www.stjohnsuccbatesville.org • Email: stjohnsuccbatesville@etczone.com

www.facebook.com/sjucbatesville

from the Pastor . . . “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” Acts 8:37

One of the stories found in the lectionary this past month (that we did NOT read because there was so much good stuff) was the interaction between the apostle Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch. It ends with this glorious question, “What is to prevent me from being baptized?” Before this question, Phillip has been moved by the Spirit to go to a certain road and approach the chariot with the eunuch in it. The eunuch, a Jewish convert, has been to Jerusalem to worship and is on his way home. Along the way, he is reading (and is confused by) the book of Isaiah. Empowered by the Spirit, Phillip has used this as a jumping point to teach the eunuch about Jesus, leading to his conversion. Leading to this glorious question, “What is to prevent me from being baptized?”

The answer? Well, it could have been a whole lot. Just what baptism look like in the early church was still being decided? Did Phillip have the authority to do so without a gathered community? Had the eunuch learned enough about Christ to make such a commitment? And then there is his status. Among Jewish law, some scholars think he would have been an outcast due to his status as a eunuch. Not to mention, he was a court servant of the Queen in Ethiopia. What would that look like for a convert to the Way of Christ? And, of course, while Jewish, he was still a foreigner. Where was the line to be drawn at this new community the disciples were trying to establish, that the Spirit WAS establishing. (Remember, this is BEFORE Peter baptizes Cornelius... and even before the conversion of Saul to Paul). What would stop him from being baptized? Plenty.

Except it doesn't. Phillip recognizes right away that the Spirit has been at work. Phillip sees in this man the same joy, the same sense of transformation that has been seen in Jerusalem. And so the chariot stops, a Christian convert is baptized, and the Spirit whisks Phillip away to his next task. As for the eunuch? He will go home praising God and telling the Good News of Jesus. Is he the patriarch of Ethiopian Christianity (one of the oldest Christian communities in the world)? I honestly don't know if they make this claim. But it seems likely. His life has been changed and the world around him will change, too.

As I hear this story, I am struck by the wideness of God's welcome, the wideness of the Church. For that is what the author of Acts is proclaiming here (and in later chapters when Gentiles enter in). The graciousness of God, the welcome of God, is for all people. And nothing can keep out those who want to enter in. Can my doubts and questions prevent me? No. Does my age or gender or background prevent me? No. Can my politics keep me out or my dislike of politics; what about the sports teams I support or that I hate sports in general? No and no. Nothing can keep us out of the welcome of God. Nothing can keep us out of the Church. (At least that is the vision; whether or not WE act as gatekeepers that keep out people God welcomes in is a WHOLE other article).



Sometimes, we need to hear that line in regards to others (see that line above about us being gatekeepers). We need to be reminded that God's love and welcome extends even to “those people.” But sometimes, sometimes we need this reminder for ourselves. So, if you need it, when you need, hear this good news. Nothing can keep you from the welcome and love of God. Nothing can keep you from the community Christ came to build. Nothing can prevent you; can prevent us, from being baptized... or living with Jesus all the days that follow. What good news!

Shalom, *Pastor Joe*

“LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING”

#22



Written as a choir anthem in 1939, this hymn is mostly used at Thanksgiving. Katherine Kenicott Davis, known as KK Davis, born on June 25, 1892, in St. Joseph, MO, was the author of the text. After graduating from Wellesley College in Massachusetts in 1914, she taught music until 1929, after which she devoted herself to composition, winning many prizes for her compositions. Many of her instrumental and vocal compositions were intended for church use. Written under the pseudonym, John Cowley, her most famous song, written in 1941, is “Carol of the Drum,” also known as “The Little Drummer Boy.” KK Davis died in Littleton, MA, on April 20, 1980. The text of this hymn is based on Exodus 13:21; “and the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.” 2 Chronicles 16:23; “Sing to the Lord all the earth; show forth his salvation,” and Proverbs 4:18; “the path of the righteous is like the morning sun.”

The tune, ASH GROVE, is a traditional Welsh melody dating from the eighteenth century. Also set to this tune is the hymn, “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (#712).

***“Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise.”***

David W. Hanson, Organist/Choir Director
St. John’s (Huntersville) UCC

† Requesting Prayers for:

- Nikki Sarringhaus.
- Gayle Sarringhaus.
- Carolyn Carson (Nikki Sarringhaus’ grandmother).
- Dave & Bonnie Johnston.
- Vicky & Jim Wintz.
- Randy & Becky Schebler.
- Dale Koester (Passing of Marian).
- Edna Rouse (Passing of Willis).
- Connie Moody & family (Passing of John).
- Georgia Haarman.
- The family of Mabel Horton on her passing (sister of Ruth Thie and Aunt to Jennifer Huffmeyer).
- The family of Ann Thie on her passing (Ann is family and dear friend to many here at St. John’s).
- Danny & Patty Canterbury (Patty is in ICU, friend of Dan & Elizabeth Hall).
- Steve & Ann Koph (Melanoma diagnosis and other health issues, friends of Dan & Elizabeth Hall).
- Jenell Schroeder (Melanoma diagnosis).
- Sheryl Voss (Health Issues).
- Sherry Linville (Eye Surgery).
- Elaine Wessling (Health Issues).
- Connie Miller (Heart Surgery).
- Joan Westerfeld (Hip Replacement).
- Bob Selke (Recent Surgery).

grateful
thankful
blessed

I want to Thank all of you for the cards, texts, phone calls and emails while I went through my surgery and recovery. Words cannot express how much I appreciated knowing that you had me in your thoughts and prayers. Growing up at St. John’s has always been a blessing to me. St. John’s people are the best. ~ With lots of love and appreciation,
Jenell

Thanks to everyone for all the cards, texts, calls and food during my recent surgeries.
~ God Bless You All,
Pam Belter

Anniversaries This Month

- 5 Jim & B.J. Bauman
- 7 Andy & Sarah Jaisle
- 19 Kyle & Amber Wirth
- 20 Jill & Brian Haakinson
- 23 John & Joan Kuhlman
- 24 Jeremy & Charrel Raver
- 30 Rachel & James Spurlock
- 31 Linnie & Gary Fullenkamp

Birthdays This Month

- 2 Margaret Meyers
- 5 Dennis Frische-Mouri
- 6 Pam Belter
- 7 Carol Dial, Sarah Feldmann, Kurt Oliver, Randy Schebler
- 8 Bob "Tuba" Narwold
- 9 Janet Sagester, Kara Shane
- 11 Jessica Stephan
- 14 Margie Harmeyer
- 15 Nick Bailey, Carol Narwold
- 16 Jason Sarringhaus
- 18 Justin Benoit, Jeanie Carter, Linda Frische-Mouri, Hattie Westerfeld, Gaike Wintz
- 19 Charlie Dieckmann, Gary Weberding, DeVota Weberding
- 20 Jeremy Borgman
- 21 Robert Kitchell
- 22 Aubree Spurlock
- 23 Alex Davis
- 24 Sandy Wittkamper
- 25 Lawson Gutzwiller
- 26 Andrew Johnston
- 28 Danny Narwold, Lauren Voss
- 29 John Gerritsen, Mac Miller
- 30 Dan Hall
- 31 Candy Bessler, Brenda Mergenthal

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE:

The Sunday School Board will once again be hosting a special Memorial Day service after worship on Sunday, May 26. This year our guest speaker will be Tom Williams. Please plan to join, either in person or online, for this always special service in our Cemetery honoring those veterans who have gone too soon.



THE COUNTRY STORE

Will again be part of the Sunday School Picnic for 2024. This year the proceeds will go to the Church General Fund. All the wonderful handmade items were greatly appreciated last year! There was quite a variety of treasures created by many of our members and even friends and family of our members. The Country Store added \$1,800 to the Picnic "profit". A couple observations from the 2023 Country Store are that baby and Christmas items didn't seem to sell well, not saying that they aren't welcome, but just in case you were wondering what to make or how to contribute. If you feel your creative juices flowing, your donations would be deeply appreciated again this year.



The Picnic is Saturday, July 27, 2024.

Thank you in advance and if you have any questions – please contact Cindy Feller:

812-212-8308 or cindyfeller1@gmail.com

JOE WITH PASTOR JOEY:



at Amack's Well each Monday from a little after 9am until noon. (You can usually find him upstairs.) Come for casual conversation, to get something off your chest, or just to support our local business.

GRADUATES:

We want to honor both in worship on June 2nd and in the June newsletter all of our members who've graduated this year. High school, college, and grad school all count. Please email or call the office and let us know so that we can give you the honor and congratulations you deserve. A photo and a short paragraph about you would be awesome. Things to include would be: where you graduated from, where you'll be going to further your education and what you are studying, maybe planning to serve in our military, or possibly go straight into the workforce. This would be awesome to include in the June Messenger!!



SAVE THE DATE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 3–7 is when St. John’s Vacation Bible School will be held this year. Please save the date, spread the word, and invite your friends, classmates and cousins to come along to this awesome event! Stay tuned for more details to come this month.

This year’s VBS theme will be,

Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God



YOUTH GROUP

It has been a year of Sabbath for our youth programming, but we are hoping to schedule some activities this summer. If you are interested AT ALL in youth group, please join us after Sunday School on June 2nd to dream and imagine the summer to come. If this date cannot work for you, please let Pastor Joey know your interest (and what you might be interested in doing). We will put dates on the calendar for the summer and fall, so we want as much input and interest as possible. This is open to all youth in grades (incoming) 6-12. Join us!



CONFIRMATION:

Confirmation Sunday will soon be upon us. On May 19th, seven of our youth will be invited to affirm their baptisms and join the ranks of those confirmed here at St.



John’s. Please join us at 8:15 before worship in the Fellowship Hall for a reception in their honor. And then join us for the joyful event itself during our 9am worship service. Congrats to these young people!

LOADS OF LOVE!

- ♥ Have you been given loads of love? I bet you have! Family, friends, God...
- ♥ Do you have loads of love to give? I bet that’s true too!
- ♥ How do we spread loads of love to our local neighbors? By doing loads of laundry of course!



Our new outreach mission ministry, called Loads of Love, has begun! We have several ways locally for our neighbors in need to get clothing items for free or reduced costs.

LOADS OF LOVE LAUNDRY FUND



How do those same neighbors get their clothes clean, especially if they have a lower income or don’t have laundry facilities in the home? Have you thought much about how expensive and

inconvenient it is to have to do all of your laundry at the laundromat? We are collecting quarters, and really any money you’re willing to donate, in our washing machine at the back of the sanctuary. At a future date, we will take these quarters and laundry detergent (purchased with that other money) to a local laundromat to do loads of free laundry for anyone who comes while we’re there. This mission’s purpose is to share our love with all our neighbors by helping them do a load of laundry. We’ll help until the suds and funds run out.



St. John's Liturgist and Benevolence Schedule

May 2024 – June 2024

May 5.....	Charlie Dieckmann.....	Batesville Children's Summer Meal Program
May 12.....	Cindy Feller.....	Strengthen the Church (UCC)
May 19.....	Dan Hall.....	St. John's Sunday School (Vacation Bible School)
May 26.....	Myron Kanning.....	St. John's Cemetery Fund
June 2.....	Mike Schumacher.....	So Loved Closet of Ripley County
June 9.....	Joan Westerfeld.....	Our Church Wider Mission (UCC)
June 16.....	Bev Schwier.....	Merom
June 23.....	Donna Weber.....	Back Bay Mission
June 30.....	Linda Kanning.....	St. John's Youth Fund

MAY

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| BASKET | LADYBUG |
| BOUQUET | MAY DAY |
| BUMBLEBEE | MOTHERS DAY |
| BUTTERFLIES | PLANTS |
| CATERPILLAR | SPRINGTIME |
| FLOWERS | SOIL |
| FROGS | UMBRELLA |
| GARDENING | WORMS |



B K E T B O U M B R E L L A M
 A S W O R M S Q U O T B U G B
 F Y B E E B E L B M U B E A L
 L A D Y B U G U T T E Q F R I
 O D E M I T G N I R P S U D E
 W S L L I P R E T P A Y C E S
 E R C A T E R P I L L A R N T
 R E A R E F L O W A E D R I F
 S H A G K S O G R N F Y S N R
 R T D E S N I N G T L A D G O
 S O I L A Y A M G S U M B Y G
 Y M A D B U T T E R F L I E S

Thank you to all who helped and attended this inspiring and meaningful Ecumenical Easter program. It was a great way to celebrate Easter and join in fellowship with our community. The brass quintet, 50 member Ecumenical Choir, narrators, visual performers, audio, lighting, and sound effects, teamed with a nourishing breakfast provided by our confirmands and parents, and St. John's delicious punch and homemade goodies were heartedly enjoyed by all! Weeks of practice and preparation not only provided for a successful event, but also

was a hands-on way to share and strengthen our faith with friends within and beyond our church walls? While we always hope all the pews will be filled, including the choir, we were happy to have over 150 attend the sunrise service and more than 170 at the Sunday night reprise. We are already planning for 2025! When the Easter Choir was queried at its last practice, 100% said they want to sing again next year! Easter arrives late April in 2025. Mark your calendar now and spread the word to be sure that you are a part of this uplifting and special Ecumenical experience!

2024 Ecumenical Choir



Jesus Mural:
Kathy Mallory



Ecumenical Choir and Jason Sarringhaus as Jesus



Guards:

Irvin Harmeyer,
Zach and Pastor Peter Frye,
Quentin and Daren Sarringhaus



Narrators:

Nikki Sarringhaus,
Mike Vonderheide



*He is
risen indeed!*

Brass Ensemble:

Kristina Frye (Leader) French Horn,
Zach Frye/French Horn,
Jim Bauman/Trumpet,
Pastor Joey Feldmann/Trumpet,
Serenity Feldmann/Baritone



Quartet:

Sara Putnam,
Martie Feller,
Pastor Joey Feldmann,
Joshua Rhoads



Stage Preparation

May 2024

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Confirmation Class 6pm	2 National Day of Prayer	3	4
5 Communion Men's Choir Practice 8:15am Singing During Service	6 Sunday School Board Meeting 6pm	7	8 Confirmation Class 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 7pm in the Choir Room	9 BAMA 1:30pm	10	11 All Daughters Gathering 5:30pm
12 Chancel Choir Singing HAPPY Mother's DAY	13	14 Council Meeting 7pm	15 FINAL Confirmation Class 6pm	16	17	18
19 Communion Chancel Choir Singing Basement Reserved Confirmation Sunday	20	21 Messenger Deadline	22 Chancel Choir Practice 7pm in the Choir Room	23	24	25 BHS Graduation 11am Class of 2024
26 Chancel Choir Singing TRINITY Sunday	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28	29 Chancel Choir Practice 7pm in the Choir Room	30	31	



Surely the
righteous...
will be
remembered
forever.

Psalms 112:6, NIV