

The St. John's Messenger

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GODLY FATHERS

"The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him." Proverbs 20:7

"Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding; for I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law." Proverbs 4:1-2

As we celebrate Father's Day, I want to encourage fathers in their Godly parenting. Your influence of faith pleases God and reveals the source of your strength to your children. Our sons and daughters will model their lives on the values they see in us, both our words and deeds. I like the quote from Charles Spurgeon, "Train up a child in the way he should go – but be sure you go that way yourself."

I am grateful for the faith and character my father exemplified in our household. He conducted himself at home and in public with the same consistent foundation of faith. That consistency comes from a humble and reverent heart for God. I want to continue that legacy in my life.

I commend all fathers to be courageous and strong in the Lord and allow His strength to be your strength. Pray for your wife and children, devote yourself to Scripture and be willing to encourage younger fathers along the way.

A few quotes and a poem for your enjoyment:

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." -- Billy Graham, Christian evangelist and author

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." -- Theodore Hesburgh, Catholic priest and President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame

"A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian ... and most of all, his family ought to know." --Dwight L. Moody, 19th-century American evangelist

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it." -- Clarence Budington Kelland, U.S. writer

OUR DAD

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it
Dad

--Anonymous

In the Lord's Mighty Grip, Pastor Bill

ST. JOHN'S UCC RITTENHOUSE MINISTRY

On May 8, Pastor Dennis Carroll called seven St. John's members to meet with Jaimie Kessler, Director of Recreation and Events at Rittenhouse. We've organized an Outreach Ministry to Rittenhouse. This Ministry will go to the 2nd Floor of Rittenhouse on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.. We will meet with residents for an hour. Our program will include prayer, singing, communion, and sharing.

Our first Rittenhouse Outreach Ministry event (May 18th) drew 10 residents and 6 St. John's members. The residents especially enjoyed singing songs from Sue Allison's Gaither Family DVD.

This Ministry will develop lasting relationships with residents. We invite St. John's members and friends to join us by contacting Pastor Dennis at the church office, 872-9121, ext. 1. Rittenhouse Village is at 4300 Cleveland Avenue, Michigan City.

JUNE FOOD BANK SUGGESTIONS

Soup, cereal, soap, toilet paper, fruit, instant potatoes, canned chicken or ham

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. John's will host our fourth annual Michigan City Community Wide Vacation Bible School, July 24-28, 5-8 p.m.. This program brings nine local congregations together as an extended church family. We teach our faith in ways that work for kids.

Our VBS web site is: <http://www.mcvbs.com>

This year's theme is "Maker Fun Factory—Created by God, Built for a Purpose." Registration opens for kids and volunteers on June 5 and will close on July 14. There is no cost. We expect we will easily meet our capacity of 160 kids, so register your kids early. We need about 90 volunteers total, and St. John's usually provides about a third of them. We need strong representation in our kitchen to prepare light meals and snacks the kids. We need crew leaders who will lead five or six kids each evening. We also need volunteers on the Security team to mind the doors and hallways.

As the host congregation, St. John's has a special role. We take very seriously the implementation of our Safe Church Policy for this event. We urge our VBS volunteers to contact our church office (872-9121) to sign up for our online course. You can complete this course in about 5 hours, in 20-30 minute segments, at times you find convenient. It's all about keeping our kids safe.

SAFE WATER

In thanks to Christ, the Living Water, we are collecting change to supply filters and if possible, dig a well for those in need. Help make a change by bringing your change to fill a water bottle. We'll collect through June 22nd. Our goal is to supply filters to those in need.



ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GUILD SAYS

THANK YOU!!!

The Women's Guild members want to say thank you to St. John's members and friends who

- Donated sale items for the sale!
- Shopped the sale or told their friends!
- Worked some hours during the sale!

Profits from this year's sale will once again be used by the Guild for St. John's projects and for community philanthropic agencies. Besides the actual monies made, it is estimated that the Guild donated excess Rummage items valued at between \$1,500 and \$2,000. The donations were made to the following:

- Books and Magazines to Friends of the Library in Michigan City
- Lorraine Hoffman (wife of Roderick Hoffman) was our contact in donating clothes and toys to a family for 5- and 7-year-old children. Also, for their Men's Shelter at the church, we gave blankets, throws, towels, and socks.
- Goodwill received many, many, many bags of items filling a pickup truck and several SUV's making the trip across the street more than once!
- Michigan City High School Golf team received golf clubs.
- Salvation Army and Keys To Hope
- Habitat for Humanity: glassware and remaining furniture items
- Vacation Bible School Trunk Sale: many items donated for this
- Michiana Humane Society received blankets and towels which could not be sold
- Fabric was donated to Evelyn Peo for the LaPorte County Quilt group which sew quilts for charity

A big *THANK YOU!* goes to all the St. John's members who willingly gave their time and caring to this project which had such a far-reaching effect in our community:

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Beth Ann Ast, Leni Barugh, Margene Bates, Vi Beans, Arnie Bos, Don Briggs, Elaine Burkhart, Sandy Cook, Debbie Dill, Mike Dill, Joanna Doskocil, Lynda Ferry, Jeff Holt & Michael, Betty Johnson, Bob Johnson, Greg Kearney, Judy Kearney, Judy Kerestury, Judy Lange, Kent Lange, Karen Lawrenz, Linda Mrkva, Phyllis Nowatzke, Meredith Rumsey, Esther Schlegelmilch, Dale Schultz, Jean Squires, Bob Stallsmith, Joyce Stallsmith, Eric Wagenblast, Gary Wagenblast, Dolores Van Ulzen—and we cannot forget all the assistance given during the month of April by Nicole Orzech and Joyce Pairitz in the church office.

Workers prayed to God that this effort would reach many members of our community in ways we might not even understand. St. John's church schedules and groups meeting within our church were advertised on the flyer given to shoppers. Our prayer was that we would share with others in Michigan City in many ways.

Thank you for your support! The Women's Guild



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

If you or someone you know will be graduating this year, please call the office (872-9121) and have their name put on our roster of 2017 graduates! They will be honored at our 9:30 a.m. service on June 4th.

NEW DISCIPLE CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN

Our Michigan City neighbors extend hospitality every day by offering lunch. New Disciple Church is one site that can use help, with paper plates, bowls, cutlery, cups, and napkins as well as lemonade mix and juice.

Please bring your items in a bag marked "New Disciple" and put them by our Food Bank collection.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The ladies' Saturday morning Women's Study group meets in the Adobe Room on Saturdays. Upcoming meeting dates are June 3, June 10, July 1, July 15, July 29, August 12, and August 26th. They meet from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m..



FISH FRY NEWS

Friday, June 2nd, 2017:

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- Cost: Adults (13 and over): \$10.00

Children (12 and under): Free
Includes all-you-can-eat white fish, potato salad, homemade coleslaw, bread, & beverage.

Desserts: \$1.00

- Family bucket: \$30.00: includes 12 pieces fish, 1 lb. each, potato salad & homemade coleslaw, 4 slices of bread
Adult carry-out: 3 pieces fish, 6 oz. each potato salad & homemade coleslaw, 1 slice bread
- Tickets on for sale soon in the church office from 9 - 3 p.m. M., T., Th., F; after services on Sundays; and at the door the night of the Fish Fry

We need many generous people to help with selling tickets, set-up, serving, traffic control, and clean-up. **Please check the bulletin board outside the library and add your name to the list of distinguished helpers for our Fish Fry!** Please know that your help is always greatly appreciated!!

Containers needed: Please recycle only your 15 oz. or 16 oz. cottage cheese, sour cream or butter containers for the Fish Fry.

Donations of sugar for the cole slaw would be greatly appreciated! You may drop off your sugar in the box in the kitchen. If you have any questions, please call Beth Ann (872-5292) or Sue (219-393-0382).



NELSON'S PORT-A-PIT CHICKEN AND POTATOES, JUNE 10 AT ST. JOHN'S

Michigan City Community-Wide Vacation Bible School will raise funds with Nelson's Port-a-Pit Chicken and Potatoes June 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at St. John's.

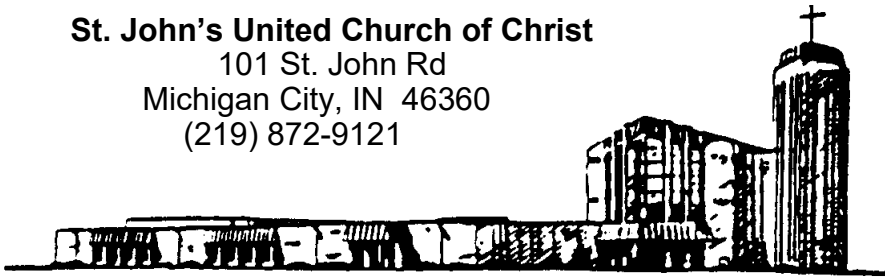
1/2 Chicken: \$6.50

Pit-tatoes: \$3.50

Presales pickup by 1 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at our 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday services, or call Don Briggs at 219.324.6117. Tickets are also on sale at our VBS collaborating congregations (see listing at <http://www.mcvbs.com>).

St. John's United Church of Christ
101 St. John Rd
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-9121



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2017 M.C. COMMUNITY-WIDE VBS FUNDRAISER EVENTS

- Port-A-Pit Chicken: Saturday, June 10th, 10 - 2:00 p.m. (at St. John's—see inside this Msgr.)
 - St. Stan's Farmer's Market Bake Sale: Saturday, July 1st, 8 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

On Franklin St., next to the tennis courts

2017 Michigan City Community-Wide VBS will take place

Monday, July 24th through Friday, July 28th; 5:30—8:30 p.m. each night here at St. John's!

PRESCHOOL NEWS: APPLICATIONS/ALUMNI

St. John's Preschool is still accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year. There are a few vacancies left in the T-Th class and the M-W-F afternoon class. Registration forms are available in the office.

Also, in preparation for our 40th anniversary celebration, we are asking all St. John's Preschool alumni to send us their current contact information. Please call the church office, 219-872-9121, and let us know your current mailing address or email address. We're looking forward to celebrating with you in 2017-2018!

CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our Christmas Child planning includes t-shirts and flip-flops, toothbrushes and bar soap. Please help fill our boxes for November distribution. There is a display outside Fellowship Hall to drop off your donations.

SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

St. John's will help bring the Kingdom at four Sunday Soup Kitchen events at St. Paul's:
~ July 2nd, August 6th, & Nov. 26th ~

At these events, we have access to St. Paul's at 9:30 a.m.. We serve about 50 homeless people at 11:00 a.m..

We need a few volunteers to help! Please sign up on our clipboard outside Fellowship Hall,
or call Don at 324-6117.

