

The St. John's Messenger

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THE VOICE (OF GOD)

You have probably seen the television show "The Voice." It is a showcase for new vocal talent. Professional singing artists sit as vocal coaches who evaluate and assess the contestant's voice.

The Lord wants us to hear His voice. His voice is perfect and exactly suited to draw each one of us to Him.

Just read the following scripture passage from Rev. 3:20:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me."

This scripture verse is part of a message to the church in Laodicea. Apparently this congregation believed they were well off and didn't need anything. The problem was this church didn't realize what they were missing by not having a close relationship with God. God was urging them to turn away from their indifference to Him. The Lord invited them into a deeper relationship if they would desire to hear His voice.

God intends for His children to hear His voice. Just as children know the voice of their parents and grandparents, all who love God are to know His voice when He speaks.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 3:20)"

So I ask this question, "Do you hear the Lord's voice in your life?" Are you daily aware of how the Lord is directing you and speaking into your life? Thankfully, God wants to be intimately involved in our life. He wants to share all of life with us now and forever.

One of the main instruments God uses to speak to modern-day believers is His Word. Just as we look forward to enjoying a meal when we are hungry, it is also fulfilling to spend time reading God's word.

'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' (Deut. 8:3)

We can easily live on one meal a day, but we cannot survive in this wicked world unless we feast on Scripture. The result of regular consumption of God's Word is a discerning spirit. A discerning spirit hears the voice of God.

No matter how loudly God speaks, we won't hear unless listening is a priority. We must ask the Lord to teach us to hear and then work at having a quiet attitude. An internal "receiver" tuned to the Father develops only through committed prayer, meditation, and practice at listening. In addition, we need a spirit of submission to obey His commands.

Dr. Charles Stanley wrote these words in one of his devotions:

"God's goal for us is a lifestyle of sensitivity so we can hear Him in noisy or calm situations. Listening is a critical skill for ensuring that our hearts are open to divine guidance in every circumstance. In addition to the nourishment provided by our feast of Scripture, there is also "dessert"—recognition of our Father's voice."

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, Pastor Bill

RITTENHOUSE MINISTRY—PLEASE JOIN US!

Our next meeting at Rittenhouse will be Thursday, October 19th (we meet the third Thursday of every month). This is a time of worship and fellowship with the residents. All are welcome!! Please come join us in this outreach ministry!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

You will be receiving your October Messenger shortly. Please note, a Stewardship letter from Pastor along with your pledge cards are included in the Messenger. Stewardship Sunday will be Sunday, October 15th.



*A single day in Your courts
is better than a thousand anywhere else!*

Psalms 84:10



FOOD BANK

Thank you for continuing to contribute to the Food Bank! Your donations of any soaps, toilet paper, macaroni & cheese, tuna, mayo, and peanut butter & jelly are always greatly appreciated!

OFFICE HOURS

We will continue our September office hours through the month of November: the office will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The office will close at noon. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you very much!

MANHOOD INITIATIVE

LifePointe Church 2017 Calendar

The Manhood Initiative is designed to engage, empower and establish men who have the ability to function in the current world. All men are welcome to join every third Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Meetings are held at the St. John Campus in the Youth Lounge.



For additional questions or if you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Vernon Jones by email at vernonjonesjr@yahoo.com.

Upcoming 2017 meetings will be:

October 21st, November 18th, December 16th

CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please help us fill our Christmas Child boxes with t-shirts, small toys, and bar soap. They will be distributed in November. There is a display outside Fellowship Hall to drop off your donations. Thank you for your generosity!

NOISY OFFERING

Since there are five Sundays in October, we will be collecting our Noisy Offering on Sunday, October 29th. Your generous donation will go towards helping our Sunday School program. Let's make a joyful noise!



DISCOVERY DINNERS

Join us for our Discovery Dinner which takes place each Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m.. A variety of nutritious meals are planned and free-will offerings are taken to help pay for the ingredients. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Call Beth Ann (872-5292) or the office (872-9121).



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!! PEANUT BRITTLE, ANYONE?

Join our Guild project by eating peanut brittle, selling peanut brittle, or making peanut brittle!

All together we can contribute to agencies in our community which serve others. We can make a difference right here in Michigan City! St. John's will begin offering its famous peanut brittle at \$8.50 per pound and just in time for Thanksgiving! Orders can be placed in the church office. Tell your family and friends that once again all profits from the sale will be donated to community agencies or to St. John's projects. We will be accepting orders for our work dates of:

November 16th and 30th,
and December 7th & 14th.

If you would like to be a part of our team, a sign up sheet will be posted beginning Nov. 1 or you may talk with Judy Kerestury.

Thank you for your continued support!

MICHIGAN CITY PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

The Michigan City Parents Support Group offers parents of children with disabilities a safe environment to connect and learn how to advocate for their children.

Meetings: every last Thursday of the month

When: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Galveston Steakhouse

For more information, please contact Joanne Tedesco at 573.355.7855 or email at tedescofamily@outlook.com

PRESCHOOL NEWS

St. John's Preschool is off to a great start! We have 17 children in our beginner's class, 21 in our morning pre-kindergarten class, and 12 in our afternoon pre-kindergarten class.

We appreciate all of the donations we have received, and are putting them to good use. We are hoping to replace some of our used classroom toys. We will accept gently used toys such as baby dolls and clothes, Barbies and Barbie clothes, learning games, puzzles, play cars and trucks, big wheel bikes, balls, etc.

We will be participating in the Carson's Community Day's Sale in November. Coupons will be available in the church office for \$5.00 each.

The Preschool staff thanks you so much for your continued support!!

MICHIGAN CITY YOUTH GROUP

~ For 6th-8th graders ~

October 21st: "Superhero night" (dress up as your favorite superhero)

November 18th: "A warm Chili night"

Dec. 16th: "White Elephant Christmas"

Meet at New Creation Vineyard Church,

9009 W. Pals Road, Michigan City

6:00-8:45 p.m.

Please call Allison Harvey at 219.898.0501 (or email allisonmcyg@gmail.com) if you have any questions

MEN'S CHOIR

New members are always welcome! Please come join us for a "harmonic experience." We meet Sundays, 10:00 a.m., prior to the second service. Any questions, please call Dolores at 362-3665.



CHRISTMAS BOXES

On Sunday, November 5th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge, we will gather to pack boxes for



Operation Christmas Child and Operation Bendicion/Operation Blessing.

PRESCHOOL EMERGENCY FUND

This September the St. John's Preschool welcomes its 40th class of students! Later this year an official celebration and rededication of this Christian endeavor will take place.

During the school year, there sometimes are family situations which may occur like loss of a job, reduced work hours, a medical situation, etc. which affects our student's attendance. The Preschool Board maintains a fund to assist our families during such times. If you wish to give a gift or memorial to this fund in celebration of this anniversary, please send it to the St. John's church office with "Preschool Emergency Fund" noted on the memo line.

Thank you on behalf of our school children!

TREE OF LIFE

If you would like to donate a leaf in honor of, celebration of, or memory of a loved one, there are forms available in the church office.

Minimum donation is \$50.

ART ON DISPLAY!

First United Methodist Church

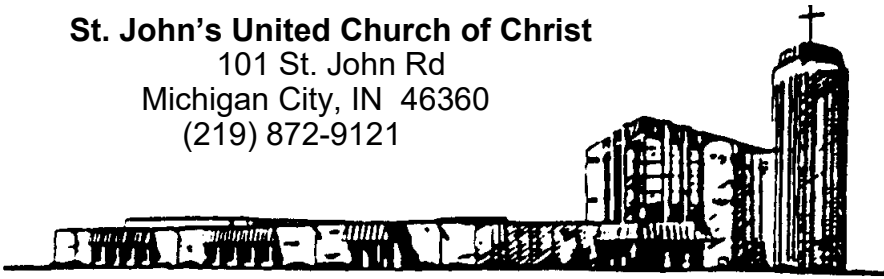
7th & Pine Streets, Mich. City

October 6th, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Come see inside the church art quilts and water color paintings!

Outside, see Pastor Nancy's Pumpkin Patch. The first 50 children will receive a free pumpkin to decorate! Live music from Dan Moser & friends. If raining, the outside Pumpkin Patch will be held on the lower level of the church.

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



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DISASTER RELIEF

The United Church of Christ asks us to donate to our UCC Disaster Relief fund. Checks payable to "St. John's UCC" with memos like "Hurricanes" or "Disaster," and donations through the web site:

(Hurricane Relief - International and USA (Irma, Maria) - United Church of Christ)

http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_2017_relief

100% will go to meet needs of the stricken people and communities.



OPERACION BENDICION/OPERATION BLESSING

St. John's will bless Eternal Anchor Adults at Christmas. St. John's has taken on a new mission with Eternal Anchor. Eternal Anchor cares for some disabled adults. Many of them have no family support. We will work with Kelli Kelly to match up St. John's people with Eternal Anchor's 20 Adult wards. Eternal Anchor will provide names, faces, and brief descriptions. We can choose a person to bless at Christmas time with a care package, as we do with Operation Christmas Child. Needs include:

(Ten for women, ten for men:) Hair brushes, hair combs, razors, deodorants, socks (size 5-8 for women), socks (size medium, 6-8, for men), hair ties & accessories (women), shaving gel, nail polish, sunglasses, Chapstick or lip gloss, baseball caps, body sprays, digital hand watch, scarves, hand cream, gloves, hats, nail clippers, and shower gel

On November 5, we will gather our Blessing boxes when we box up our Operation Christmas Child items. Our church office will work with Kelli to ship our boxes to Eternal Anchor.

