



THE REMINDER

April 5, 2024



Confirmation

Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

This Sunday, April 7, 2024, we are excited to celebrate Confirmation and membership with:

- Noah Bentley Clothier - Renewal of Commitment to Christ
- Brayden Allen Tucker - Membership by Profession of Faith
- Trenton John Kistner - Membership by Profession of Faith
- Chloe Jeanne Kurzym - Membership by Profession of Faith
- Zoe Jennifer Ritter - Membership by Profession of Faith
- Charlotte Elizabeth Wieggers - Renewal of Commitment to Christ

We ask everyone in the St. John's UMC congregation to pray for each of our Confirmands as they make this commitment to their faith journey. Would you ask God to fill them with overflowing faith? Will you pray for God to encourage them as disciples of Jesus Christ? Confirmation will take place at both of our worship services this Sunday. We hope you plan to join us!



SERMON NOTES

- I. Jesus provided evidence, joy, and assurance.
- II. Instead of shaming uncertainty, Jesus chose to show up.
- III. We continue to tell the Good News about Jesus so that new generations will also receive evidence, joy, and assurance.

FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

- Multiple choice: When I am uncertain, I: a) ask questions until I'm done, b) push ahead as though I'm certain, c) ignore the matter in hopes it goes away, or d) something else entirely.
- Why do you think it was important for the disciples to see Jesus' scars when He appeared with them? How might you have responded to His injuries?
- Did Thomas lack faith when telling the other disciples about his uncertainty? Why or why not?
- Why was it important for Jesus to respond to Thomas with evidence of His resurrection?
- What role does the church have in passing on the evidence, joy, and assurance of Jesus Christ? What is your part in that?
- What doubt do you feel like God is inviting you to bring to Him today? How do you hope God will respond?
- What is God saying to you through today's scripture?



Scripture of the Week

John 2.:19-31

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. 20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! 21 Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." 22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side. Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.



Helping Hallway has Moved!

The Helping Hallway is where we collect for many needs in our community. We currently have bins labeled with lists of needed items for street ministries, the Glen Ed Pantry, Support the Girls and Lions club glasses; throughout the year we participate in other seasonal collections.



The Helping Hallway has now MOVED to the northwest corner of Fellowship Hall (in the alcove where the soda machine used to be).



This should keep it visible and accessible to everyone, without adding to the Sunday morning traffic in the Sunday School hallway. Please pick up a list, familiarize yourself with some great ministries in our community, and see how you can donate items to help others!

JOIN THE ST. JOHN'S UMC TEAM!

PART TIME DIRECTOR OF CONNECTION AND DISCIPLESHIP:

Responsible for facilitating healthy and helpful first steps into the life of the church, following up with guests and visitors, and promoting discipleship through internal and invitational communication.



View full job description and apply: [Director of Connections and Discipleship](#)

Faith Formers Sunday School Update

The Faith Formers Sunday School class is beginning a new study on Sunday, April 7. It is called Bible Stories for Grown-ups by Josh Scott. In this study, we will look at familiar Bible stories such as Noah's Ark and Jesus healing a blind man. We will dig into the historical context and gain new insight into the character of God through these scriptures. All are welcome to join each Sunday morning at 10:00 in the choir room. For questions or information, please contact Amy Armstrong at Amy.Armstrong@hotmail.com 309-838-3096.

April 7 is the annual chicken and dumpling dinner after confirmation. On April 6 there will be a prep day for the dinner, people are needed for peeling potatoes and other jobs. Also workers and desserts are needed for the 7th. If you are willing to help let Hazel Loucks know 618-978-0131 or text her at drhazelloucks@gmail.com.

Tickets will go on sale March 31
\$14 for adults
\$7 for children
Children three and under free



Spring Quilt Retreat at St John's UMC

April 12, 2024
9am – 9pm
AND

April 13, 2024
9am – 4pm

*See Jan Denby for a flyer or
more information.*





Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings
First Sunday of Every Month
Next Screening: April 7, 10-11am
in or near the Fellowship Hall

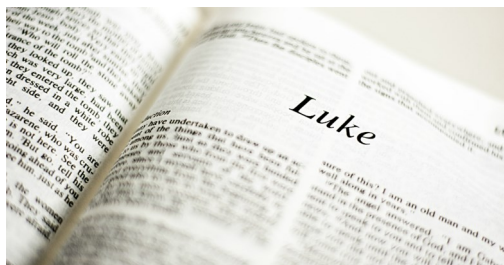
New Accessible Doors Installed

When the congregation of St. John's made the bold move to this location, accessibility was a major motivation. We're fortunate to utilize a building with a single level and a number of considerations for those who might have concerns about mobility. As part of that ongoing effort towards greater accessibility, the St. John's trustees approved the installation of a set of push-button automatic doors for the entryway nearest the worship center. When those doors are unlocked, it's our hope that the push-button entry will be a helpful tool for those who enter in with walkers, wheelchairs, strollers, or full hands. We're grateful for families who dedicated memorial gifts to help us make this a place of gracious hospitality for our community.



New Bible Study, April 14

April 14 a new Bible study will begin using the book of Luke with video by Adam Hamilton! Everyone is welcome!



• HEARTLAND CAMPS •

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Day Camp

June 10th-14th, 2024

HeartlandCamps.org/St-Johns-UMC



Prayer & Care

How can we pray for you? Submit a request at thenewstjohns.com/prayer

Prayers and Praises:

- All unspoken prayers and praises of our congregation.

Call (618) 792-0171 for Pastoral Care.

PRAYER

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECT with us:

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday.

7372 Marine Road - Edwardsville, IL

62025 (618) 656-1853 thenewstjohns.com



[/thenewstjohns](https://thenewstjohns.com)



St. Johns UMC

Access all happenings @ thenewstjohns.com/calendar



St. John's United Methodist Church

WORSHIP WITH US!

9:00 a.m. Traditional | 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

in-person & online at thenewstjohns.com/worship

Our Vision

to be a beacon of faith and service, focusing our passions and gifts to reflect Christ's love to the world.

Our Purpose

to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Values

knowing,
loving and
serving God.