

# The Voice of Billingsville

September 2022



St. Johns United Church of Christ  
14191 Billingsville Road, Boonville, MO 65233-3408  
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“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

## *From The Desk of Pastor Melody*

Good morning and God Bless YOU!!!

As usual, I am into the Word of God, and discover something new all of the time. Today in particular, I was into Psalm 111, and a light bulb went on, and as I read it, I discovered a verse that I have read a few times, vs. 10, “Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.”

I don’t know about you, but I am hungry all the time! No, not just for the edible kind, but the spiritual kind, the daily manna that I sit down to.

This scripture is one of those that I was seeking confirmation. You see, we need spiritual food. It comes from different directions all through the Bible. We can find answers for everything that we would ever want to know more about, except, well, the digital world we live in. And there is probably something there about it as well.

We can find comfort in the Psalms, Wisdom in the Proverbs, but there is so much more between the covers of the Bible, and on bended knees, and your hands clasped as we seek him. Oh yes! He knows what we want before we ever seek his face, but He still wants us to come to him.

In Worship, we minister’s only touch a few cords of the Word, in hopes that you will be hungry to know more on your own. That is what happened to me only a few short years ago, when I came to know Jesus as my personal Savior, in the year of 1991. And since April of that year, I just can’t get enough! I hunger for more and more of his goodness, his mercy, and his grace.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, September 4:** Holy Communion during morning worship

**Wednesday, September 7:** Men’s Breakfast at Main Street Diner at 8 am

**Wednesday, September 7:** Church Board meeting at 6:00 pm

**Sunday, September 11:** Penny Sunday for ECH; collection of Benevolence Offering

**Thursday, September 22:** Newsletter articles due

**Sunday, September 25:** Pastor Melody’s installation at EUCC at 3:00 pm

## CONTACT US

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They do abound in every day that He gives us, preparing us for that day when we go home to be with the Father.

Some of us open the Bible, and not knowing where to go we may just lie it down to gather more dust, or we may say, “Lord, where do I go from here?” He will show you. All you must do is ask him. Today was one of those days for me. I went for the Psalms, and lo and behold God led me to Psalm 111. Isn’t God good?!?!

I would like to ask you, please pray for your church family, your own family, your government officials, your children/grandchildren’s schools, and your heart to grow fonder for the Word of God.

*Blessings to you all from Pastor Melody and Roger Smith*

## Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Kickoff Sunday will be October 9 during Children’s time, but there are boxes in the hall if you wish to start packing them now. Give Joy and Jesus to a child and change their life eternally.

VIKTORIA TITOVA

### Thankful for a Shoe Box

**T**HERE WAS a huge bag of Skittles, that much she remembers. Who could forget the little pink teddy bear? Oh, and that big bar of Dove soap—she’ll never forget that first smell.

It’s been 12 years since Viktoria Titova opened her Operation Christmas Child shoe box, but to this day she can vividly recall almost every detail inside.

Especially the soap.

“I had never seen Dove soap, and it smelled so nice,” said the 23-year-old,



now a Christian journalist.

To hear Viktoria tell it, that OCC distribution at a friend’s church in Tallinn, Estonia, saved her life.

“We got tickets to this Christmas event and we thought it was going to be a puppet show,” she said. “It ended up being about Jesus.”

The hope and excitement that shoe box delivered ignited a flame in Viktoria at a time she had shunned God. She rededicated her life to the Lord, and soon her family started forming lasting Christian relationships and realizing where true value lies.

“My family was very poor growing up,” she said. Once again in church, Viktoria started volunteering on a regular basis. “First I was cleaning the toilets, then they gave me more responsibility,” she said. “That helped me root myself in Christ.”

Viktoria stayed in touch with the family who sent her the OCC shoe

box—the Heafners from Wilmington, N.C.—writing letters back and forth for 10 years. Her family had the opportunity to visit the Heafners at their home last year.

And God opened the door for Viktoria to attend a Christian college in Lakeland, Fla.

On June 9—a dozen years after that shoe box landed on her lap—Viktoria found herself interviewing Franklin Graham at the Baltic Youth Festival in Latvia for Estonia’s youth-infused Pluss Meedia. Here she was, talking to the person behind the special gift that changed her life.

“Young people are searching,” Franklin told her. “They’re looking for answers to life. Is there a God, and does He care about me?”

That question was answered for Viktoria more than 12 years ago. And Franklin’s comments brought back the significance of that shoebox gift, with the Dove soap and the teddy bear, for that was the moment she, as an 11-year-old, realized that the God of the universe loved her. **D**

Robert Friedrich will turn 95 on September 15! We'd like to have a card shower for Robert and also encourage people to visit Robert at Riverdell. He enjoys visitors, but if that isn't possible, please try to send a card to:

Robert Friedrich  
Riverdell Care Center  
1121 11th St.  
Boonville, MO 65233

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Meeting was called to order by President Jared Kueckelhan, members present were Scott Grissum, Linda Burnett, Ed Schler, Vicki Hilden and special guest Don Scott.

Don brought up a few items to the Council: protecting the septic tank, options to add to the beginning of the Church Service with the bells, organ and the PA system. All these topics were discussed and will be looked into further.

Received thanks you notes from Abby Pannell for the scholarship and from Earl Haller from the Gideons.

Julie will be ordering communion wafers and the Council members signed up to prepare communion.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Vicki Hilden*, Secretary

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS FOR SEPT		
	Worship Leader	Greeters & Ushers
04	Janet Stegner	Rhea Helmreich Volunteer
11	Rhea Helmreich	Bill Geiger Melissa Hundley
18	Cathy Bail	Kenneth Stegner Janet Stegner
25	Marg Scott	Donna Kammerich Volunteer

AUGUST STATISTICS			
	Offering	Benevolence	Attendance
07	\$1948	\$75	28
14	\$754	\$25 Penny Sun: \$40.18	38
21	\$1047	\$25	31
28	\$656	\$75	No record

### HEALTH FACTS DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

Living wills and other advance directives are written, legal instructions regarding your preferences for medical care if you are unable to make decisions for yourself. Advance directives guide choices for doctors and caregivers if you are terminally ill, seriously injured, in a coma, in the late stages of dementia or near the end of life.

The power of attorney is an advance directive in which you name a person to make decisions for you when you are unable to do so.

You can complete this directive by getting a booklet or completing one on-line. The forms are available on The Missouri Bar website at [www.mobar.org](http://www.mobar.org). You can also find booklets at the courthouse, library, and University of Missouri Extension Center, all free of charge.

Nancy Meyer, Health Minister

A little boy opened the family Bible and was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found!" the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" asked mom.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, her answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Johnston	02
Fletcher Grissum	03
Nancy Kueckelhan	09
Paul Carlson	10
Lisa Simmons-Alvis	12
Lachlen Alvis	14
Robert Friedrich	15
Steele Hawley	15
Kent Kammerich	16
Julie Kueckelhan	16
Edison Baker	17
Jim Farris	20
Melissa Hundley	20
Jason Hundley	21
Dalton Grissum	22
Madilyn Carmichael	24
Karen Johnston	26
Mary Bail	30
David Muntzel	30

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jody & Mariah Carmichael	09
Tyler & Brittany Stretz	21
Jerred & Tricia Robinson	22
Kevin & Heather Simmons	22
George, Jr. & Tracy Pannell	25

## ✠ BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES ✠

Mark Lee Dick	01
William Kelly Hackman	02
Mark Kenneth Cary	03
Megan M. Kammerich Kosnopfal	04
Alexander Dean Rapp	06
Max Joseph Rapp	06
Molly Jane Rapp	06
Jared Timothy Kueckelhan	20
Edison Joseph Baker	30
Jenna Nicole Helmreich	30

**Please let these homebound and nursing home friends know you are thinking about them with a visit or a card.**

**Arlene Friedrich**

*Katy Manor P.O. Box 8, Pilot Grove, MO 65276*

**Rob Friedrich**

*Riverdell Care Center 1121 11th St, Boonville, MO 65233*

**Lyndall Galloway (Laura's father)**

*MO Veterans Home 1 Veterans Way, Mexico, MO 65265*

**Shirley Schmidt (Vicki's mother)**

*Nye Point 2700 Laverna St, Fremont, NE 68025*

**Ruth Searfoss**

*Hartmann Village 615 Rankin Mill Ln, Boonville, MO 65233*

**Dorothy Vieth**

*Lenoir 3710 Lenoir St, Columbia, MO 65201*

**Bernadine Wassmann**

*Katy Manor P.O. Box 8, Pilot Grove, MO 65276*

### PRAYER CHAIN

Angie Carmichael, cancer  
 Roy Cary  
 Jim & Sharon Elliott  
 John Ferguson, heart issues  
 Eula Brown Gowan  
 Joey Hoflander, recovering from stroke  
 Todi Hughes (Holly's mom)  
 Shelley Jennings  
 Nancy Kueckelhan  
 Ava LeCave  
 Chris (Ann Muntzel's nephew), chemotherapy  
 Marilyn Rethmeyer, cancer  
 Karen Schnetzler  
 Hunter Simmons, 5<sup>th</sup> grader with Leukemia  
 Vicki Simmons, cancer  
 Carol Snyder, lung cancer  
 Cora Louise Wisdom  
 The people of Ukraine

**MARK 11:24 "Listen to Me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it."**

**Serving in our military:**

Landon Bail      Cliff Burgoyne      Jeff Burgoyne  
 Tony Davis      Natalie Meng      Blayne Vickery  
 James Walker

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



BALLOONS  
BIRTHDAY  
CAKE  
CANDLES  
CANDY  
CARDS  
DECORATIONS  
FRIENDS

FUN  
GAMES  
HAPPY  
HATS  
MUSIC  
PRESENTS  
SONGS  
SURPRISE



St. Johns United Church of Christ  
"Billingsville"  
14191 Billingsville Rd.  
Boonville, MO 65233  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Return Service Requested

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Boonville, MO