

# The Voice of Billingsville

December 2023

St. Johns United Church of Christ  
14191 Billingsville Road, Boonville, MO 65233-3408  
Email: [stjohnsbillingsville@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsbillingsville@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.stjohnsbillingsville.org/>  
Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnsbillingsville](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbillingsville) IG: [st\\_johns\\_bville](https://www.instagram.com/st_johns_bville)



Mark your calendars! Our annual Hanging of the Greens and Tree Lighting Ceremony will be **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am** followed by a carry-in dinner in Fellowship Hall.

The children will hang their picture ornaments on the tree during this service.

Dinner Committee #3 is in charge of the meal: Pat Friedrich, Scott & Peggy Grissum, Rhea Helmreich, Garrett Hundley, Jason & Melissa Hundley, Kamrynn Hundley, Ted & Billie Litton, Dave & Ann Muntzel, Abigail Pannell, Dalton & Bailey Pannell, George & Tracy Pannell, Don & Marg Scott, Ed Wassmann



The Christmas Eve Service and Pageant will be December 24 at 7:00 pm. (Anyone participating in the pageant should arrive at 6:30 pm.)

**Please Note: There will be no Sunday School or Morning Worship Services on Sunday, December 24.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, December 1:** Tree Decorating at 5:30 pm

**Sunday, December 3:** Hanging of the Greens Service at 10:30 am, followed by Carry-in Dinner in Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, December 6:** Men's Breakfast at Main Street Diner at 8am

**Wednesday, December 6:** Church Board meeting at 6:00 pm

**Sunday, December 10:** Holy Communion during Morning Worship; Penny Sunday and Benevolence Offering

**Sunday, December 24: NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES;** Christmas Eve Pageant at 7:00 pm

**Thursday, December 28:** Newsletter articles due

**Sunday, December 31:** Fifth Sunday Food Drive

## CONTACT US

### Church

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### Julie Kueckelhan, Editor

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## GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY!

### Declare His Glory Among the Nations, Psalm 96:30

That was the message on the T-shirts Rhea and I wore and that is what all of you did on November 5, when you prepared 149 boxes and donated more than enough funds to send all of those boxes! What a Blessing!

That is a record number of boxes and postage for our church! In 2021 we collected 122 boxes. The total number of boxes our church has sent is 1,764. So many children have received Joy and Jesus because of you!

Thank you!  
Marg



## *Thank You!*

Thank you to Mike & Susan Hayes for their donation to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Bob Gerhardt.

Thank you to Irene Finkbeiner for her donation to the Voice of Billingsville.

Thank you to Kenneth & Janet Stegner for their donation to the new storage building.

Thank you to Eddie & Linda Wassmann for their donation to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Bernadine Wassmann.

## LOOK BEYOND YOUR SHOEBOX

I packed a Christmas shoebox gift.  
I do it ev'ry year.

These gifts are sent around the world  
To bring a child some cheer.

I focused on my shoebox,  
And what I put inside,  
When God told me to look beyond  
And see the other side.

I looked beyond my shoebox,  
And there I saw a friend,  
Who helped to get my shoebox  
From here to journey's end.

In truth, there were so many  
Who worked along the way.  
They took these gifts around the world;  
They labored night and day.  
Some checked and taped and cartonized,  
And moved my box with care,  
While some raised hands of blessing  
And filled my box with prayer.

I looked beyond my shoebox  
And there I saw a child,  
Who received this gift of love  
While sitting meek and mild.  
She heard the gospel message.  
He listened quietly.  
While many prayed Jesus to save  
Their souls eternally.

Then it was time to open  
From me their gifts of joy.  
Such noise I can't imagine  
To see each treat and toy!

I looked beyond my shoebox  
And there I saw the Lord.  
He smiled, and said, "Well done, my child!  
Come, see now your reward."

And as I turned, I saw a line  
Far as the eye could see  
Of children coming to say thanks  
For boxes sent by me.

"Thank you for your gift of love  
And for the gospel too.  
Because you filled a shoebox,  
I'm now in heav'n with you."

by Allen Heindel, Great Lakes

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**  
**November 8, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Jared. All members were present.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were reviewed and approved.

We received a thank you card from the Gideons.

We received a request from the River of Life Church for a donation to their Christmas Giving. The Council approved sending them \$200.

Kamrynn Hundley requested \$200 for Young Life Camp. The Council approved this request from the Wilma Lou Helmreich Church Camp Fund.

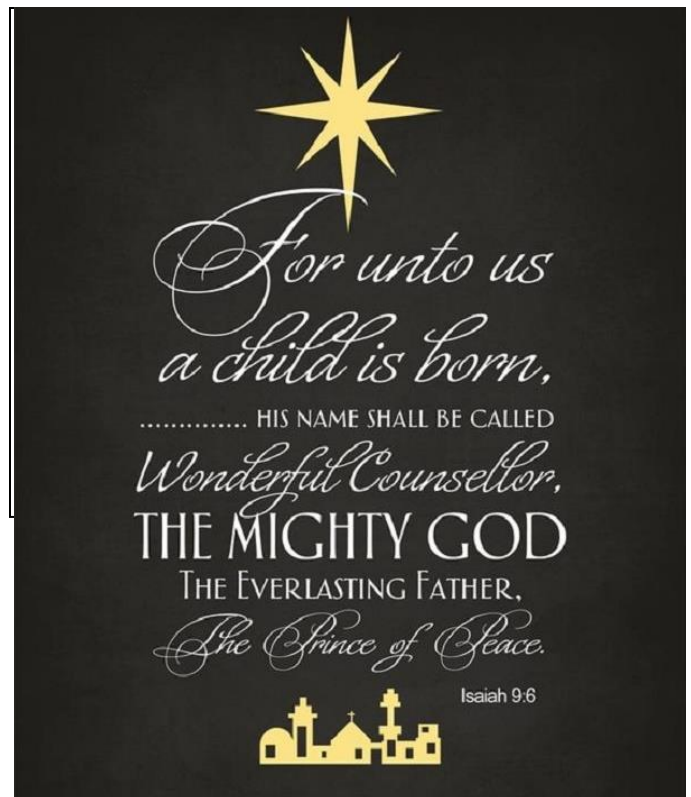
We will receive Donnie Helmreich as a transfer member.

The Hanging of the Greens service will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by a carry-in dinner. Committee #3 is in charge of the meal.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Vicki Hilden, Secretary*

**FRIENDS, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!**

Friends, Fellowship, and Fun will meet Thursday, Dec. 7, at St. Johns parking lot at 12:30 p.m. to carpool to Charles and Holly's house on Bellair Road for our party, depending on the weather. Please bring a snack or cookies. We will provide games, cards, dominoes, plates, cups, napkins, forks, drinks, and rides to Charles and Holly's.



**HEALTH FACTS**  
**FALLS**

Three million people over the age of 65 go to the hospital each year with injuries from falls.

Why? Slower reaction time can affect the ability to recover from a stumble. Bone and muscle loss can mean a fall causes more damage. Worsening eyesight and hearing can make it harder to pick up fall-risk cues. Blood-thinning medications can make it hard to stop bleeding. Medication can affect balance.

How to prevent falls: Keep active by walking or do exercises that tone muscles. A physical therapist can create a custom exercise program aimed at improving your balance, flexibility, and muscle strength. Wear properly fitting, sturdy shoes with nonskid soles. Keep your home brightly lit to avoid tripping. Turn on lights when going from room to room. Check your bathroom to determine if grab bars are needed.

Remember that an investment in fall prevention is an investment in independence.

Nancy Meyer  
Health Minister

## **In Loving Memory of Bernadine Ordell Wassmann**

### **To the Cemetery Fund**

Keith & Cathy Bail	Don & Diane Kammerich
Mary Bail	Donna Kammerich
Dale & Mary Bechtel	Darryl & Nancy Kempf
Glen & Elke Beltz	Greg & Lana Kempf Jerry & Denise Kempf
Boonslick Animal Hospital	Jerry Ray Kempf
Eddie & Karen Brickner	Jim Kendrick
Danny & Bernita Bright	Wayne & Diane Klein
Gary & Mary Brush	Raymond & Birdie Kueckelhan
Bill & Joyce Bryan	Tim & Julie Kueckelhan
Linda Burnett	Nancy Meyer
Paul & Teresa Carlson	David & Ann Muntzel
Linda Derendinger	Nancy Poulsen
Adrienne Fairley	Ron & Rita Rapp
Jim & Sonya Farris	Mary Beth Royston
Alan Ferguson family	Steve & Joyce Saltzman
Cheryl Valiquette family	David & B.J. Salyer
John & Stacie Friedrich	Ed & Lynnd Schler
Oscar & Arlene Friedrich	Leola Schler
Patricia Friedrich	Jerry & Maryann Schuster
Steve & Sarah Friedrich	Kim & Rosalie Searfoss
Tony & Carolyn Friedrich	Linda Simmons & Donnie Helmreich
Glenn & Donna Frieling	Steve & Sharon Smith
Bill & Marilyn Geiger	John & Gail Sponaugle
Jerry & Joyce Golden	Ken & Janet Stegner
Elaine Gramlich	Virgil & Delores Stegner
Laura Grathwohl	John & Carol Stupica
Brad Grissum & family	Duane & Shirley Timm
Glenn Grissum & family	Tom & Sharron Toellner
Larry & Linda Grissum	J.D. & Gretchen Twenter
Scott Grissum & family	Linda Twenter
Jason & Angie Hackman	James Vieth
Tim & Karen Harvey	Ernie & Sharon Walther
Carol Hasenbach	Jerry & Sondra Wassmann
Rhea Helmreich	Donald & Kathy Wilmsmeyer
Pat & Vickie Hilden	Larry & Rosemary Wilmsmeyer
Keith & Joyce Hodges	Cora Wisdom
Harold & Kay Hoflander & family	Jeff & Lisa Wyatt
Dallas & Flo Howard	
Jason & Melissa Hundley	

## **In Loving Memory of Bernadine Ordell Wassmann**

### **To the Women's Guild**

Carol Fowler



**If you are planning to  
bring a poinsettia in  
memory of loved ones,  
please let Julie know by  
Sunday, December 17.**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP	
<b>Church Council</b>	
Jared Kueckelhan, President jkueckelhan1@gmail.com	
Scott Grissum, Vice Pres/Schler Fund Treas smgrissum@gmail.com	
Vicki Hilden, Secretary pthilden01@gmail.com	
Linda Burnett, Treasurer ljburnett@live.com	
Ed Schler, Memorial/Benevolence Treasurer lynndoras@yahoo.com	
<b>Board of Christian Education</b>	
Melissa Hundley, Superintendent mhundley77@gmail.com	
Tracy Pannell, Secretary queenofcrockpots@gmail.com	
Cathy Bail, Treasurer kclcbail@gmail.com	
Abigail Pannell, Youth Director apannell1473@gmail.com	
<b>Cemetery Board</b>	
Kenneth Stegner jestegner@yahoo.com	
Ed Wassmann lindawassman@yahoo.com	
George Pannell	
<b>St. Johns Search Committee</b>	
Abigail Pannell, Co-Chair apannell1473@gmail.com	
Rhea Helmreich rhlreich@gmail.com	
Keith Bail kclcbail@gmail.com	
Ginger Wenger gingerwenger@yahoo.com	

NOVEMBER STATISTICS			
	Offering	Benevolence	Attendance
05	\$1805	\$75	47
12	\$756	\$25 Penny Sun: \$66.07	31
19	\$950	\$50	37
26	\$606	\$0	29

### SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastor Search Committee has added a new member---Keith Bail from St. Johns UCC has joined the committee. The Committee continues its work and will be meeting to update the profile and review the congregational survey.

Members of the committee are: Abigail Pannell (SJUCC) and Lisa Street (EUCC): Co-Chairs, Jane Rodman (EUCC), Keith Bail (SJUCC), Rhea Helmreich (SJUCC), and Ginger Wenger (SJUCC). Please pray for us as we work together to find a pastor to lead both of our congregations.

<i>In the Mail</i>
Thank you for what you do to make the St. Johns Voice of Billingsville newsletter possible. I appreciate receiving a copy of it every month.
Enclosed is my gift check for church office supplies to help with printing and postage costs.
Sincerely yours, Irene (Grathwohl) Finkbeiner

	Worship Leader	Greeters & Ushers	Messenger
03	Women's Guild	Scott Grissum & Volunteer	Hanging of the Greens
10	Jason Hundley	Jim & Sonya Farris	Rev. Andy Mockridge
Communion Prep: Vicki Hilden    Communion Cleanup: Volunteers			
17	Donna Kammerich	Ginger Wenger & Rhea Helmreich	Jason Hundley
24	No Morning Worship Services		
31	Nancy Meyer	Volunteers	Vicki Hilden

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joan Pannell	01
Jason Gerhardt	03
Lori Woods	03
Kevin Simmons	04
Khale Bohlken	10
Carol Fowler	10
Bob Painter	10
Haley Floyd	11
Cody Gerhardt	11
Bill Forst	11
Pat Hilden	11
Jim Friedrich	16
Noel Schler	16
Pastor Mary Harris	18
Austin Edwards	20
Charlie Jean Smith	21
Cliff Smith	21
Jessica Grathwohl	22
Dee Ann Riley	22
Ruth Searfoss	23
Chris Hawley	25
Kim Searfoss	25
Tracy Pannell	26
Jamie Swalwell	26
Kyler Alvis	29
Nancy Meyer	29

## ✠ BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES ✠

Julie Ann Miller Kueckelhan	03
Melissa Sue Helmreich Hundley	04
Madilyn Maureen Carmichael	08
Mary Francis Friedrich Bail	11
Charles Edward Schler, Jr.	14
Janice Kathleen Gerhardt Cooper	16
Myrtle Joan Pannell	16
Aaron Luke Geiger	19
Jace Steven Hawley	22
Carson Reynolds Bail	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*

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

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

### **Ruth Searfoss**

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

### **Dorothy Vieth**

*Lenoir 3710 Lenoir St, Columbia, MO 65201*

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

Avery Beach, brain cancer  
 Angie Carmichael, cancer  
 Jim & Sharon Elliott  
 John Ferguson, heart issues  
 Courtney Franklin, brain cancer  
 Todi Hughes (Holly's mom)  
 Shelley Jennings, cancer treatments  
 Roger & Nancy Kueckelhan  
 Ava LeCave  
 Don & Mary Neckermann  
 Marilyn Rethemeyer, cancer  
 Clifford Richey (Charles' friend), moved to Katy Manor  
 Karen Schnetzler  
 Hunter Simmons, Leukemia (in remission!)  
 Vicki Simmons, cancer  
 Carol Snyder, lung cancer  
 Lincoln (Ginger's grandson), digestive issues  
 Shelly (Ginger's daughter), recovering from accident  
 Darrin Walker, cancer  
 Cora Louise Wisdom

### **Serving in our military:**

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



# CHRISTMAS DECORATING

## Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
vocabulary words  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.

ADVENT CALENDAR  
ANGEL  
BALLS  
CANDLE  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
FAKE SNOW  
FIGURINES  
GARLAND  
HOLIDAY LINENS  
LIGHTS  
MINI TREE  
MISTLETOE  
NATIVITY SCENE  
NUTCRACKER  
ORNAMENT  
PINECONE  
POINSETTIA  
RED BOW  
REINDEER  
SNOWFLAKE  
STAR  
STOCKINGS  
TINSEL  
TREE SKIRT  
TREE STAND  
WREATH



**LECTIONARY READINGS**

	<b>First reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126 <b>or</b> Luke 1:46b-55	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:46b-55 <b>or</b> Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38

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Boonville, MO

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