

The Voice of Billingsville

January 2022

St. Johns United Church of Christ
14191 Billingsville Road, Boonville, MO 65233-3408
Website: <https://www.stjohnsbillingsville.org/>
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“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”



On Christmas Eve, the sanctuary of St. Johns was once again filled with family and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Linda Burnett & Abigail Pannell played a piano duet for the prelude followed by a trumpet solo by Dalton Pannell. The four Advent candles and the Christ candle were and then the children, directed by the Board of Christian Education, performed:

“The Birthday of a King”

Readers/Candlelighters: Garrett Hundley, Kamrynn Hundley, Abigail Pannell, Max Rapp, Molly Rapp, Cora Smith

Mary: Heather Simmons

Joseph: Kevin Simmons

Jesus: Remington Simmons

Kings: Will Hackman, Derrick Hundley, Alex Rapp

Shepherds: Caleb Smith, Beau Rapp, Macsen Simmons, Colt Walker, Kellen Walker

Angles: Cate Smith, Charlie Smith, Brooklyn Swalwell, Mikayla Bohlken, Vivienne Walker

Animals: Lachlen Alvis, Kyler Alvis, Ayven Inskeep, Braxton Inskeep

Trumpet & Piano Duet: “O Holy Night” by Dalton and Abigail Pannell

In a long-standing tradition, the evening concluded with a candlelight singing of “Silent Night.”

Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers, Board of Christian Education members, parents and children who helped make this an evening to remember!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 2: Holy Communion

Wednesday, January 5: Church Board meeting at 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 9: Penny Sunday for ECH; collection of Benevolence Offering

Thursday, January 13: Financial Reports due in the office

Sunday, January 16: Annual Congregational Meeting

Thursday, January 27: Newsletter articles due

CONTACT US

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The Christmas Package

The joy of Christmas has always seemed to be summed up beautifully in the carol, "Joy to the World." We sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come." and we think of the baby lying in the manger, our precious Savior. But most of us don't know that this was not written to be a Christmas carol at all. Isaac Watts penned these lyrics to reflect the second part of Psalm 98. He prefaced the song with the words, "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom." The song also refers to the creation – fields, floods, rocks, hills, plains repeating the sounding joy when Christ comes again.

Maybe this carol was a special treat in the Christmas stocking for all of us. It wasn't planned to be a Christmas gift by the composer. But the Father threw it in as a special treat because He delighted in the message, and He delighted in us. The song says, "He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found!" The curse is in all creation. We see the evidence of it every day – drug abuse, strife, pride, murder, despair, suicide. But like a healing balm His blessing of redemption flows and covers sin and the heaviness of the world. It is His core message. In Psalm 60:1, He cries out, "Arise, shine, for your Light has come!" With the coming of Jesus, we have redemption from the curse. The baby is the promise, in the flesh, that all will be well through the redemption.

Galatians 3:13 and 14 says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole. He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

That is our Christmas gift. We open that Christmas morning package by believing Jesus Christ paid the price by His sacrifice on the cross and instead of tossing the gift aside for another, we treasure it and take it to our heart.

<https://churchletters.org/>

Christmas Memorials

Poinsettias

In memory of **Rowdy and Wilma Cary** by Susan and Mike Hayes.

In Honor and Memory of the **Schmidt Family**.

In Honor and Memory of the **Hilden Family**.

In memory of **Marvin and Kathryn Schupp** given by Nancy and Wilbert Meyer & Shirley Schupp.

In memory of **Forrest and Kitty Kenney and other loved ones** - Barb and Doug Ayers and family, Steve and Sharon Smith and family.

In memory of **our loved ones** by the Beckers: Mindy, Martin, and Edgar.

In memory of **our loved ones** by the Vogels: Cindy, Jason, and Charles.

In memory of **our loved ones** by the Ed Schlers: Lynnd and Ed.

In memory of **loved ones** by Jason, Melissa, Garrett, Kamrynn, and Derrick Hundley.

In memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Muntzel** and **Mr. & Mrs. Peter Muntzel** by David and Ann Muntzel.

In memory of **loved ones** by Birdie and Buster Kueckelhan.

In memory of **Bob Simmons** from Linda, Jamie, Shawn, Brooklyn, Kevin, Heather, Macsen, Remington, Lisa, Cedric, Lachlen and Kyler.

In memory of **Charles Schler** from Leola Schler and Family.

In memory of **Carla and Andrew Helmreich** from Donnie and Lauren.

In memory of **Herb & Wilma Lou Helmreich** from Donnie and Lauren.

In loving memory of **Don Bail** by Mary Bail & Family.

In memory of **Brett Geiger, Charles & Dorothea Geiger, and Ernest Herigon** by Bill & Marilyn Geiger.

Memorial and Cemetery Fund Donations

In memory of **loved ones** by Donnie & Kathy Wilmsmeyer.

In memory of **Don Bail** from Keith, Cathy, Landon & Carson Bail.

THANK YOU

To Sharon Smith for her donation to the Women's Guild.

To Geraldine Ferguson for her donation to the Cemetery Fund.

To Patricia Friedrich for her donation to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Barbara Friedrich.

To Tim & Karen Harvey for their donation to St. Johns Memorial Fund in memory of Barbara Friedrich.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Blanket Sunday Fund. \$714 was collected so that means that 71 people will be a little warmer this winter. Blessings to you for your kindness to help others.

To Willie Branch for her donation to the newsletter.

To Louis & Patricia Muntzel for their donations to the shoebox postage, blanket offering, and newsletter postage.

To Steve and Darlene Kraus for their donation to the Cemetery Fund.

To Bert & Beth McClary for their donation to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Clinton & Helen Gerhardt McClary, August & Flora Stegner Gerhardt and Hubert Gerhardt.

DECEMBER STATISTICS

	Offering	Benevolence	Attendance
05	\$1639	\$50	64
12	\$821	\$55	31
19	\$1180	\$55	42
26	\$332	\$25	21

Notes from the Church Council Meeting December 8, 2021

Present Jared, Ed, Linda, Scott, Vicki, and Pastor Jim.

The trees by the parking lot have been taken down and will be burned when appropriate.

Scott said that the flue on the parsonage and the Church both need to be removed and we should have gutter guards placed as they are too dangerous to clean. After discussion the Council voted to proceed.

Distribution of \$1,000 of the Harvest Festival Funds to local Charities will be presented at the Congregational Meeting for approval.

The Congregational Meeting in April will be held April 24, the Sunday after Easter.

The furnace on the Sunday School side is not working; the igniter and thermostat will be replaced.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Hilden, Secretary

	Worship Leader	Greeters & Ushers	Scripture Readings
Jan 02	Nancy Meyer	Marg Scott & Volunteer	Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Jan 09	Rhea Helmreich	Jason Hundley & Volunteer	Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 16	Melissa Hundley	Volunteers	1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
Jan 23	Volunteer	Volunteers	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
Jan 30	Jason Hundley	Marg Scott & Volunteer	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Marty Eastman	01
Max Rapp	04
Thomas Grathwohl	06
Linda Potter	08
Holly Hughes	10
Daniel Viertel	11
Marilyn Geiger	12
Terry Schler	12
Greg Friedrich	18
Derrick Hundley	22
Ayven Inskeep	22
Melinda Richardson	22
Cora Louise Wisdom	22
Mark Dick	25
Pat Friedrich	25
Lynndora Schler	25
Melanie Scalia	30
Jenea Smith	31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Cedric & Lisa Alvis	01
Jim & Sonya Farris	21

† BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES †

Jason Wayne Gerhardt	18
Kevin Dale Simmons	24
Charla Jenae Fowler Smith	28

Happy Birthday to Kyler Alvis on December 29!

His name was accidentally left off the birthday list last month.

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 & Louise Friedrich

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

Lyndall Galloway (Laura's father)

MO Veterans Home 1 Veterans Way, Mexico, MO 65265

Louise Overstreet (Janet's mother)

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

Shirley Schmidt (Vicki's mother)

Nye Point 2700 Laverna St, Fremont, NE 68025

Marjorie Vieth Meyer

Ashley Manor 1630 Radio Hill Rd, 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

Carolyn Bunton (friend of Laura), hospice
 Angie Carmichael, cancer
 Pastor Jim & Sharon Elliott
 Carol (Pastor Jim's sister-in-law), lung cancer
 John (Sharon's brother-in-law), heart issues
 Ethan @ ECH (SS Sponsor Child)
 Eula Brown Gowan
 Joey Hoflander, recovering from stroke
 Todi Hughes (Holly's mom)
 Shelley Jennings
 Iva Mae Johnson (Vicki's aunt)
 Nancy Kueckelhan
 Ava LeCave
 Chris (Ann Muntzel's nephew), chemotherapy
 Marilyn Rethmeyer, cancer
 Karen Schnetzler
 Carol Snyder
 Sandy Upton (Dave & Ann's niece), chemotherapy

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
Lakoda Davis	Tony Davis	Chris Hawley
Natalie Meng	Blayne Vickery	James Walker



Growing Hope Globally – 2021

Farming here in the United States is so diverse and technology has certainly taken things to new levels. The GPS tells you what your land needs where, tractors that drive by themselves (mostly), combines that tell you the moisture of the seeds and bushels made in a specific tract of land. Yet so much has stayed the same. Generations of farmers have gotten up early, worked hard to plant seeds, do what they can to remove weeds and devastating insects to hopefully have a harvest...and there are some long hours getting that job done. Not to mention taking care of livestock, fighting the elements, and delivering a newborn calf on a cold winter's night. After all, that is their favorite time to arrive 😊 God puts the seed of hope in a farmer's heart and in turn, the farmer puts that seed into the ground with hope of a good crop. Prayers are sent for ample amounts of rain and sunshine and faith that everything will work out like it should. Some years are better than others but overall, they balance each other out. To watch a farmer plant the year after a devastating flood or a drought is faith and hope working together at their finest.

Now think of farming in the dry climate of Nicaragua with an inadequate quantity and quality of water. The farmers there get up early, work hard to plant seeds with hand tools, try to hold off weeds and pests, and hope for a harvest. All with knowing that their family is malnourished and that harvest determines their survival. That is a huge weight to bear day in and day out. This region has several complications with illiteracy, poor roads, high unemployment, and health problems. It's hard to imagine how they maintain any hope.

Do you remember a time when you felt hopeless? I know I have and at just the right time, someone shared their hope with me...it is truly a special gift. Our growing project at Rhea Helmerich's allows us to raise a crop and send the proceeds to this program. Since 2005, local partner Church World Services, has been working to reach the most food insecure families in Nicaragua. The current phase of their work reaches out to a third group of communities after two previous successful programs. They are working on conservation agriculture, planting fruit trees and patio gardens, gaining access to clean water, community advocacy, and coordinating with churches to be active in programs that build food security.

This year's 10-acre soybean crop made 538 bushels and allowed us to send \$5,700 to this program. None of this would be possible without our farmers, Eddie Wassmann and Kenny Stegner. They donate their time and machinery to tend to the crop like it was their own. We are grateful for the donations from Joe Miller (seed beans), Boonville Co-Op (chemicals), and MFA (fertilizer). This opportunity not only allows St. Johns UCC to help our world-wide neighbors financially, but to share hope. Please keep the people of Nicaragua Carazo Diriambo in your prayers.

Laura Grathwohl
GHG Treasurer



NEW FARMING PRACTICES IMPROVE FAMILY FINANCES

Ramona's family has always depended on agriculture to survive. With support and encouragement from local partner CIEETS, they're finally beginning to thrive.

She and her family used to plant only corn and beans. "Sometimes we had good results, sometimes not, depending on the weather," she says. They would have to sell some of their harvested grains in order to buy staples but were generally paid little for their produce. It was always a struggle to feed the family and meet basic expenses.

Things started to turn around for them when they joined the program, which uses an environmentally sound, multi-faceted approach to help farmers strengthen and revitalize their operations and living conditions. Farmers like Ramona receive training in farm diversification so that, if one crop fails, they have others to fall back on. They also keep careful records of rainfall and other weather patterns, so they have a better idea of when to plant their crops.

Ramona and her family now plant a variety of grains, vegetables, and fruits. Irrigation during the hotter months enables them to produce year-round and improve their soil fertility. Four years ago, she participated in a training module for raising broiler chickens. She started out with 25, and currently maintains about 50 birds.

"Besides all the knowledge we have gained about running our diversified farm, we have a good source of income from selling chicken meat in our community and in urban areas. Because we have that income to meet other needs, we don't have to sell as much of the food we raise, and we enjoy health benefits from the good diet we have now. We all work together as a family. There is no other source of work around here for a woman my age, but now I am proud to call farming, 'my job.' And it's finally paying off and helping us thrive. I thank God for the strength to do this work, and CIEETS for the support they give us to improve our lives."

**Nicaragua Carazo Diriamba Program
Led by Church World Service and Local Partner
CIEETS**

2022 Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 16. There will be a carry-in dinner following morning worship and preceding the meeting.

Committee #1 is in charge of the meal:
Carson Bail, Mary Bail, Keith & Cathy Bail, Landon Bail, Jim & Sonya Farris, Bill & Marilyn Geiger, Donna & Kent Kammerich, Megan Kammerich, Angie Hackman, Buster & Birdie Kueckelhan, Nancy Meyer, Bob & Mary Painter, Melinda Richardson, Kenneth & Janet Stegner, Volunteers

Jared Kueckelhan and Ed Schler are up for re-election to the Church Council.

Tracy Pannell is up for re-election to the Board of Christian Education.

Ed Wassmann is up for re-election to the Cemetery Board.

HEALTH FACTS

GOUT

Gout is a form of arthritis that can develop when urate crystals deposit in joints or soft tissue causing pain, swelling, and redness, usually in legs or feet. The pain is severe and may prevent walking. It can be diagnosed with a blood test for uric acid. An X-ray could show swelling of the painful joint. Treatment can be anti-inflammatory drugs such as Indocin or Naprosyn or use of Prednisone.

Chronic gout is treated with diet changes such as reducing red meat, seafood, and alcohol intake. Medications such as diuretics (fluid pills) should be stopped.

See your health care provider when you have symptoms of gout so you can be treated and learn how to prevent recurrences.

Nancy Meyer, Health Minister



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



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