

The Voice of Billingsville

September 2020

St. Johns United Church of Christ
14191 Billingsville Road, Boonville, MO 65233-3408
Website: <https://www.stjohnsbillingsville.org/>
Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnsbillingsville](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbillingsville)
Twitter: @st_johns_bville IG: st_johns_bville



“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

Prayer for Back to School

Lord, please bless all our teachers, friends, and relatives as they make their way back to their classrooms for another year.

Help them to feel excitement and joy in the promise of a new start.

Give them everything they need to start their classes.

Give them imagination and creativity to make wonders out of what they do have.

Help them stretch their budgets and their supplies.

Give them wisdom all year.

Help them quickly spot the little souls who are going to need something extra from them this year.

Help them have just the right words of encouragement for each student.

Give them patience with students, with parents, and with their administration.

Please keep the students and teachers safe this year.

Keep them safe from accidents or evil intent.

Let the students be excited about this wonderful world and all there is to learn about it.

Help them to be interested in each other, for there is a wealth to learn about and from each other.

Give the parents willing hearts to be involved in their children’s homework.

Let this be a truly wonderful year for everyone involved in education.

Let everyone feel, at the end of the year, that they learned all they could and gave the best they had. Amen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 6: Holy Communion during morning worship

Wednesday, September 9: Church Board meeting at 6:00 pm

Sunday, September 13: Penny Sunday for ECH and collection of Benevolence Offering

Thursday, September 24: Newsletter articles due

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On Sunday, August 30, the newly repaired stained-glass windows were re-dedicated with the following litany during worship service:

LEADER: Stained glass windows are found in some Christian Churches, but not in others. Historically, congregations from the Congregational-Christian side of the United Church of Christ did not include stained glass windows with any sort of images. On the other hand, German churches, especially from the Evangelical side of the United Church of Christ, usually had at least a few stained-glass windows picturing something about Jesus or about one or more of the parables which Jesus told. Congregations from the German Evangelical side of the church were strongly influenced by the Lutheran branch of the church back in Germany.

PEOPLE: We give thanks for the gifts of the arts which we have inherited.

LEADER: St. Johns United Church of Christ, Billingsville, falls into this latter side of the United Church of Christ. When the members of the congregation built the present structure in the early 1900's, they were immediately determined to include such stained-glass windows that they realistically thought they could afford. Such windows are expensive to purchase and expensive to maintain. But with proper care, they can last for a very long time. The windows of St. Johns Church are already more than 100 years old. Are these picture windows to be worshiped somehow? No, of course not! They are merely symbols which remind us about something important in our historic faith. Every time we enter the worship area, we probably unconsciously look at one or more of the windows, and some sort of memory or memories flash into our minds. They may be memories from our childhood, our adulthood or both. These memories may change with the passing of the years of our lives. Our ancestors at St. Johns cared about their faith, and they cared about the ways they wanted to share their faith with those who followed in their steps.

PEOPLE: We give special thanks for the gift given by the youth of the congregation of Jesus as "The Good Shepherd" in the large theme window.

LEADER: Where did stained glass windows originate? Many scholars believe the use of stained glass was an accidental discovery made by potters in ancient Egypt, possibly as early as 2700 B.C. The Romans were developing/using stained glass by 1 A.D. From there, stained glass gradually became a focused art when huge church buildings

began to evolve. It was necessary for artisans to take small steps in this process before they were finally able to create the masterworks of Europe. Typically, bright colors of red, blue, and green tended to dominate the church art. The colors in the silica sand, plus potash and lime, were created by adding certain metallic oxides, such as gold, copper, etc. Heated in clay pots to about 3,000 degrees, the liquid was then poured out onto a special table to cool and to be cut into desired shapes. Some of the very early Christian churches from the 4th and 5th Centuries still have some remaining windows which were filled with thinly sliced alabaster, set into wood frames, which gave a stained-glass effect.

PEOPLE: We give thanks for the artists and craftsmen of the past, who make the artwork of the present possible. We also give thanks for present day artists in our midst, who help prepare the way for future art which is yet to be created. We give thanks for Charles and Holly and their special skills with art forms.

LEADER: The true stained glass, as an art form, developed between 950 to 1240 A.D., for use in the large cathedrals of Europe. In the 1800's, the German glass tended to move toward painted glass, and some of these German studios still existed in 2016. The basic process remains the same, with the molten glass being poured onto a special table for cooling. Then the figures are painted with a special paint before being inserted into a special oven to fuse the paint to the glass, to make the paint durable. When the glass is cut into the final shapes, the pieces are inserted into lead strips in the shape of the letter "H". These are called "comes". The lead strips are very flexible, so that the several ends can be bent to a point where they can be soldered together before being placed into a metal frame. As you will notice, the color of the stained-glass windows in St. Johns are more subdued. So, the emphasis here is not upon the color but rather upon the truth of the symbol itself.

PEOPLE: Our ancestors had to make sacrifices to make these windows possible for us to enjoy in the year 2020. Apparently, they felt it was important.

LEADER: If we begin with the window nearest the lectern, we find a **white lily**, a traditional symbol of resurrection and eternal life. Live lilies typically grace most of our churches as part of our Easter celebration. The major theme window is next, showing Jesus as "**The Good Shepherd**", tenderly caring for his flock of sheep. This is one of several favorite themes for major theme windows, picturing the tender, caring nature of Jesus for his followers, and thus by implication, the tender, caring nature of

the heavenly Father. The sheep learn by association that their shepherd will lead them to places where there is food to eat and water to drink. The sheep, because of this long-term association, learn to trust the shepherd routinely, and without reservation.

The **Cross and the Crown** are traditional symbols indicating that if we want to receive the ultimate crown of eternal life, we must be prepared to suffer for our faith.

The **Harp (or lyre)**, common to Old Testament times, was a small stringed instrument which a shepherd could carry on his back to create songs or to possibly soothe the sheep as they prepared to sleep for the night. David used the small harp to help create at least some of the Psalms that many people remember and treasure.

The **dove**, pictured in a north window, is pictured flying horizontally. In most traditional symbols, the dove, representing the Spirit of God, is pictured as descending. In this particular window, it may be that it was intended to be a reminder of the dove, which was set free by Noah, to see if they were near dry land. When the dove returned with a piece of a branch in its mouth, Noah knew that dry land was near.

The **wheat bundle (or sheaf)** not only represents basic food, but also reminds some people of the wheat becoming bread, which Jesus then used for the sacrament of communion: "I am the bread of life. This bread is my body. As often as you eat this bread, do it in remembrance of me."

PEOPLE: These smaller symbols are quick reminders of what we feel or believe. Thank you, Lord!

LEADER: One of these small symbols contains the tablets of the 10 Commandments. An interesting question for which there is no answer is: "What language was used by God in writing the '10 Commandments' on the stone tablets. If it was written in Egyptian hieroglyphs, Moses could have read it, but the Hebrews could not have read it. If it was written in Hebrew...well, the Hebrew language hadn't been created yet. Nevertheless, the stone tablets remain an important symbol and reminder of how the people of God are to behave, even in 2020.

The Lamb with the cross/banner: The banner includes the Latin phrase "ecce Agnus Dei" or in English, "the Lamb of God". The Lamb of God was victorious over death! Probably, most of our members have never noticed the Latin phrase. It was part of a symbol used by the Western Church in defiance against the Eastern Church. The Eastern Church opposed picturing Christ as a sacrificial lamb. The Western Church incorporated

the symbol into part of the liturgy for the Roman Catholic Mass. This symbol carried over eventually into the communion liturgy for the Anglican/Episcopal Church and into the communion liturgy of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church.

The **Anchor Cross**. Probably, most of the members of St. Johns do not know where this stained-glass symbol is located. It is a bold symbol, located in the Sunday School classroom on the main floor. This symbol originated with the early Church, suggesting that Christ is our only hope during persecution, just as the anchor was a symbol to sailors, that the anchor frequently kept their ship from being destroyed during a powerful storm. The anchor includes a "Latin cross" as part of the symbol.

The **Greek Cross**, with directional arrows (N/S, E/W). This stained-glass symbol is similar to the one located above the altar, except it includes a Greek cross, with arrows travelling away from it in all directions. Take the "good news" of the gospel to the whole world (the Great Commission given by Jesus). This stained-glass window is located in the Chapel room, located on this floor.

The **Bible window**, above the altar, with arrows pointing into all the world. This symbol is a consistent reminder to St. Johns people to take seriously the Great Commission, where Jesus directs the disciples to take the "good news" of his teachings into all of the world!

This variety of symbols from both the Old Testament and the New Testament are "faith statements" presented to us by the early families of St. Johns Evangelical Church (St. Johannes Evangelische Kirche) to the families who would follow in their steps: this place is holy! We struggled to make it so. We hope that those who follow us will feel the same way.

PEOPLE: Over a period of almost two years, these windows have been removed, cleaned, and repaired. These windows are back where they belong, after the work was completed. They are more beautiful than ever. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the gift of these windows, sacrificially presented by the early members of this congregation, and lovingly repaired in the present time. These repairs were made possible by many smaller memorial gifts. But added together with new gifts in 2020, they became powerful gifts! We rededicate these windows to the mission of Jesus Christ, for the years which are to come! "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest!" Amen and amen!



Yes, we will be preparing and collecting Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes again the year. Boys and girls around the world need joy and Jesus, despite the COVID virus. If you wish to start gathering items there are shoeboxes available in the west hallway on the bench. This is a good time to purchase school supplies as they are on sale in several stores. Dollar Tree store is a great place to find small toys. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you so much for all the boxes and postage all of you have contributed in the past.

May God bless you for your kindness and generosity.

Marg Scott

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

August 5th, 2020

Committee reports reviewed. No active business conducted this month. The next council meeting will be Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 6:00pm at the church

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Meyer, Secretary

AUGUST STATISTICS

	Offering	Benevolence	Attendance
02	\$2,670	\$50	34
09	\$510	\$25 Penny Sun: \$19.19	26
16	\$809	\$50	25
23	\$1,015	\$25	30
30	\$1,191	\$25	25

Sunday School News

On Sunday, August 23, Will Hackman and Derrick Hundley were presented with a Bible by Melissa Hundley, Board of Christian Education Superintendent.



Isaiah 54:13: "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

	Worship Leader	Greeters & Ushers	Scripture Readings
Sept 6	Melissa Hundley	Kamrynn Hundley & Volunteer	Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20
Sept 13	Sharon Elliott	Melissa Hundley & Volunteer	Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35
Sept 20	Angie Hackman	Volunteers	Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16
Sept 27	Janet Stegner	Rhea Helmreich & Jason Hundley	Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Johnston	02
Fletcher Grissum	03
Nancy Kueckelhan	09
Paul Carlson	10
Lisa Simmons	12
Lachlan Alvis	14
Robert Friedrich	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 & Tracy Pannell	25
Nick & Laura Grathwohl	28

✠ BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES ✠

Mark Lee Dick	01
Mark Kenneth Cary	03
Megan Marie Kammerich	04
Alexander Dean Rapp	06
Max Joseph Rapp	06
Molly Jane Rapp	06
Cody Wayne Gerhardt	07
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

Ashley Manor 1630 Radio Hill Rd. Boonville, MO 65233

Rob Friedrich

1331 Lyric Court Boonville, MO 65233

Louise Overstreet (Janet's mother)

Hartmann Village 615 Rankin Mill Ln Boonville, MO 65233

Kathryn Schupp (Nancy's mother)

Katy Manor 205 Prospect Pilot Grove, MO 65276

Shirley Schmidt (Vicki's mother)

Nye Point 2700 Laverna St, Fremont, NE 68025

Marjorie Vieth

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

Bernadine Wassmann

Hartmann Village 615 Rankin Mill Ln Boonville, MO 65233

PRAYER CHAIN

Kelly Lou Campbell
 Angie Carmichael, cancer
 Paula Darling
 Pastor Jim & Sharon Elliott
 John (Sharon's brother-in-law), heart issues
 Olivia (Sharon's niece), cancer
 Ethan @ ECH (SS Sponsor Child)
 Todi Hughes (Holly's mom)
 Lyndall Galloway (Laura's father)
 Laura Leach, recovering from aneurysm
 David Keltner (Jeanne's brother)
 Nancy Kueckelhan
 Ava LeCave
 Linda Lyles (Rhea's friend), heart and lung issues
 Chris (Ann Muntzel's nephew), cancer recovery
 Angie Nave
 Michael Pauley
 Marilyn Rethmeyer, cancer has returned
 Erika Sanderson (Pat's niece)
 Dan Schler
 Karen Schnetzler
 Shirley Schmidt (Vicki's mom)
 Lois Shaw
 Vicky Simmons
 Nancee Waibel, cancer
 Dave & Ginger Wenger

Serving in our military:

Landon Bail	Chris Hawley
Cliff Burgoyne	Natalie Meng
Jeff Burgoyne	Blayne Vickery
Lakoda Davis	James Walker

HEALTH FACTS

FACE MASKS

Face masks combined with hand-washing and social distancing; help slow the spread of the virus. This has been found to be true because sometimes people do have the virus without symptoms or can have the virus before they get sick with it. The mask is intended to trap droplets that are released from our mouth when we talk, cough, sneeze, and laugh. The CDC recommends that you wear a cloth face mask when you are around people who do not live with you and in public settings.

Here are a few pointers for putting on and taking off a cloth mask:

- Wash or sanitize your hands before and after putting it on and off
- Place your mask over your mouth and nose
- Do not touch your mask while wearing it. If you do, sanitize your hands
- Remove the mask by lifting it off the ears without touching the front
- Wash your hands immediately after removing your mask
- Wash the cloth mask daily. It is ok to wash by hand or in the washing machine with other clothes.

It does not cost a lot or take a lot of time, to protect each other.

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Boonville, MO

St. Johns United Church of Christ
"Billingsville"
14191 Billingsville Rd.
Boonville, MO 65233

Return Service Requested
Worship 10:30 a.m.