

# The St. John's Messenger

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## Revive Northwest Indiana

You may have heard in the news about the Revive Indiana movement that began in Goshen/Elkhart and is spreading to other cities in the state. It is a movement of the Holy Spirit to unite all congregations as one body of Christ to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God's favor has brought vitality to churches by strengthening our bonds in Christ to labor together as witnesses for Christ. There is a revival of love for brothers and sisters in Christ and a rekindled commitment to share the love of Christ with others who don't know God loves them.

Revive Northwest Indiana will launch an outreach on June 8<sup>th</sup> in LaPorte, Porter and Lake counties. This outreach may last at least two weeks. Churches in all three counties will be interacting together in this effort. In LaPorte County, the churches in LaPorte and Michigan City continue to meet together planning for prayer gatherings, meal sites, worship and outreach teams. You are certainly welcome to be a part of this exciting mission.

A typical day looks like this:

- 7 a.m.: Prayer at a designated church
  - 8 a.m.: Breakfast at a designated church
  - 9 a.m.: Organize into teams and go out
  - 12 p.m.: Testimony sharing and lunch at a designated church
  - 2 p.m.: Organize into teams and go out
  - 4:45 p.m.: Teams check-in at evening location
  - 5:30 p.m.: Dinner at LaPorte Civic Center
  - 7 p.m.: Worship at the LaPorte Civic Center
- More details will be forthcoming.

People are encouraged to participate as they are able any part of the day or any day of the week. When you see God moving it is vital to make time to follow.

St. John's Church will host lunch on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and we need your help setting up, preparing food, prayer, or financial gifts to support this mission. Prayerfully listen to the Holy Spirit to direct you in how to support this mission.

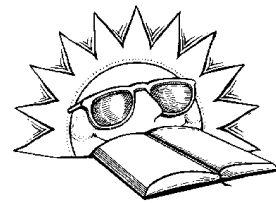
On May 28<sup>th</sup> I will drive to South Bend with Pastor Mike Sutton from Liberty Church in LaPorte to participate in their Revive Indiana mission so I will have an experience as to how this all works.

This is truly a step of faith for me and I hope you will be a part of this move of God also.

*In Faith, Hope and Love, Pastor Bill*

## CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

If you have not already done so, please call the office as soon as possible if you or someone you know will be graduating this year. Graduates will be honored at the 10 a.m. service June 7th.



## BEACH, BOOK & BOARDWALK – PART 4

We will be getting together once again this summer on the boardwalk, at the beach, for a book study. The book, *One Perfect Word*, by Debbie Macomber, focuses on "how one word can make all the difference." Tentative plans are to begin our study on Tuesday, June 16th at 4:00 p.m. If you would like to join us, please let Debbie Dill know as soon as possible or no later than June 9th so books can be ordered. You can reach Debbie at 219-362-4345 or [dillml@hotmail.com](mailto:dillml@hotmail.com).

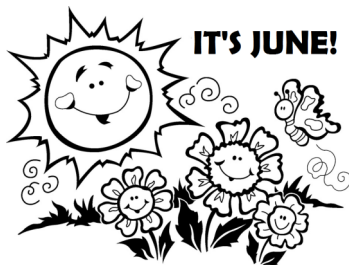
## USHERS

Ushers for the month of June are:  
Joe Dabkowski, Paul Steinheiser, Arnie Bos,  
and Mike & Debbie Dill.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Vacation Bible School theme for this summer is Mount Everest, Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power, July 27-31. Please consider helping by donating new book bags and supplies. A red collection box is in the hallway. Plastic gallon milk jugs are also being collected in a box outside of Dave's office.



## COMMUNION & SPECIAL OFFERINGS

June 7, Communion: Heifer Project

July 5, Communion: Stepping Stone Women's Shelter



## KEYS TO HOPE WISH LIST

Our community's new resource center Wish List: laundry detergent, deodorant, men's underwear & socks, and double-edged razors.

## COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

We continue to support and write to Ingabire Clementine of Rwanda through Compassion International.

Please pray for the student center where she studies and stop by the bulletin board in the main hallway to read Ingabire's letters.



*Happy Father's Day!*

## ~ WANTED: OLD CELL PHONES! ~

We are working with Cell Phones for Soldiers and Compassion International. The proceeds from phones help both programs. Please put them into the box just inside the library.

*Thank you very much! Missions*

## CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

Please start focusing on how we can help fill the Christmas Child boxes. T-shirts, small flashlights & batteries, flip-flops, etc.

Our goal is to have 100 filled boxes!

## IKC NEWS

*(from the IK Conference UCC newsletter, "Inky E-News")*  
Dear Friends,

There are so many positive activities within the IKC, and I feel gratitude every time I think of them. First and foremost, I want to give you an update about a very exciting opportunity which the Board approved during their last meeting. On June 1, 2015, the Rev. Phil Hart will join the IKC staff as part-time conference minister to begin an experimental, shared administrative role.

The following describes the covenant, in which, we will be a first in the life of the wider church. I am very grateful for Phil's thoughtful, creative, inspiring approach and study regarding the Church and how it is changing. I believe this gives the IKC an active role in shaping our own conference, as well as conferences throughout the denomination. We all know we are in a period of change and that sometimes brings about fear, frustration and just plain angst. I hope you will join me in looking upon this adventure as a time of discovery, creative thought and hopeful implementation. I look forward to the new shapes that will evolve from this joint leadership and study. Please join me in welcoming the Rev. Phil Hart. More information about Phil will be posted on the IKC website.

### Description and Design of the Experiment:

The entire Church is in a period of change. We can see this from the local church setting to the National offices. The challenge is how to respond to these changes that do not simply "manage" our structure, but improve our ability to live out our mission. Both the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and the Ohio Conference are in unique positions. The opportunity is to try something different that has the real possibility of

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improving our work and collaboration, decrease our administrative costs, and increase funds available for our communities.

Guiding Question: Can two Conferences share Executive Leadership?"

Experiment: The Indiana-Kentucky Conference and the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ enter into a period where they share a Conference Minister.

Design:

- Indiana-Kentucky Conference (IKC) covenant with the Ohio Conference (OC) to share a Conference Minister.
- IKC covenants to share the costs for ¼ of the Conference Minister's package.
- IKC will also budget related costs such as travel, housing, etc. for the Conference Minister's work within the IKC boundaries.
- Additional funds will be sought from the National Church or other avenues to offset other costs of the project.
- The initial length of the project will be six months with a period of evaluation at the three month mark.
- The Conferences will continue to seek additional areas of collaboration and partnership that might be effective including, disaster ministries, outdoor/faith formation ministries, church development and work with the Innovation Lab project.
- A "Covenant Committee" will be developed with three members from each conference. The task of the Covenant Committee will be to oversee the project, quickly deal with issues as they arise, counsel the Conference Minister in his duties and work, facilitate and arbitrage differences among the two conferences.
- At the six-month evaluation, the Conferences will determine if:
  1. They end the project
  2. They extend the project
  3. They enter into discussions about making the arrangement more permanent

The National Offices of the UCC will assist the Conferences in these discussions and provide whatever services they can to ensure the success of the project.

As you can see, this is a very full plan for the six-month experimental period of time. The enthusiasm and thoughtful support by all of the IKC will bring opportunities that we have not had the time or energy to pursue during the past few years. I ask for support,

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many prayers and your thoughtful comments as we join in this venture with the Ohio Conference.

As you know, the Annual Gathering is quickly approaching which will provide ample time for comments, thoughts added to a Dream Board and reconnecting with friends we seldom have the opportunity to enjoy. I wish you a joyful Annual Gathering period, thank the planning committee profusely and look forward to many happy times as we prayerfully and gracefully engage in the work of the IKC. Best wishes to each of you and may you rejoice in the wonderful opportunities and challenges that God brings to this wonderful conference and the great people that make up the IKC. *Sincerely, Joyce A. Smidley, Chair, IKC Board of Directors*



### FISH FRY NEWS

Friday, June 19th, 2015

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- Cost: Adults (13 and over): \$9.00  
Children (12 and under): Free  
Includes all-you-can-eat white fish, potato salad, homemade coleslaw, bread, & beverage. Desserts: \$1.00  
Family bucket: \$30.00 (includes 12 pieces fish, 1 lb. each, potato salad & homemade coleslaw, 4 slices of bread  
Adult carry-out: 3 pieces fish, 6 oz. each potato salad & homemade coleslaw, 1 slice bread
- Tickets: 9 - 3 p.m. M., T., Th., F., in the church office; after services on Sunday
  - beginning May 24th; and at the door the night of the Fish Fry  
~ *We're looking for helpers!* ~

We need many generous people to help with selling tickets, set-up, serving, traffic control, and clean-up. **Please check the bulletin board outside the library and add your name to the list of distinguished helpers for our Fish Fry!** *Please know that your help is always very greatly appreciated!!*

**Containers still needed:** Please recycle *only* your 15 oz. or 16 oz. cottage cheese, sour cream or butter containers for the Fish Fry.

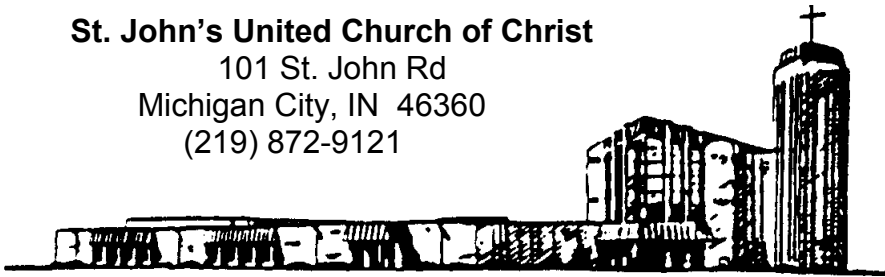
*Thank you very much for your generous contributions of sugar!!* We have enough sugar now due to your generous donations!

*Thank you very much!*

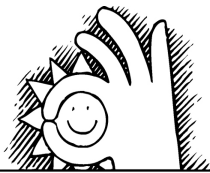
**St. John's United Church of Christ**

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*Thanks*  
Rummage Sale  
*Volunteers!*

**RUMMAGE SALE *THANK YOU!!***

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL who made the Spring Rummage Sale a huge success!  
A special thank you goes to the following who went the "extra mile:"

To Bob & Joyce Stallsmith—they were there to set up on Sunday until cleanup was finished the following Saturday and every day in between.

To Tom Cofer—for his support and help before and making sure everything was in its place for the service on Sunday.

To Greg Kearney and Roderick—for picking up some treasures.

To Esther—for the use of her truck!

To Debbie Dill and Linda Ferry—for lunches served to the workers.

Other workers throughout the week were:

|                  |                 |                 |                  |                |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Kent Lange       | Mike Dill       | Sue Swistek     | Pastor Bill Fine | Lisa Brown     |
| Judy Lange       | Bobbi Petru     | Beth Ann Ast    | Bob Johnson      | Arnie Bos      |
| Leni Barugh      | Sue Lied        | Jim Zemrowski   | Bob Alonso       | Jill Silhavy   |
| Linda Mrkva      | Steve Squires   | Jean Squires    | Dale Schultz     | Margene Bates  |
| Vi Beans         | Pat Turner      | Meredith Rumsey | Audrey Parkhouse | Judy Kerestury |
| Jerry Montgomery | Elaine Burkhart | Pat Farnier     | Phyllis Nowatzke | Mary Barr      |
| Irene Rosevear   |                 |                 |                  |                |

Many thanks to all those who donated their treasures, too! Items not sold were shared with LaPorte Grace Church, Life Care Center, River of Life Church, a church in Benton Harbor, and The Salvation Army.

I now turn the "reins" over to Judy Kerestury and her committee. Keep saving those treasures! Thank you for all your help and prayers over the many years.

*Blessings to all,  
Betty Johnson*

