

The Voice of Billingsville

August 2024

St. Johns United Church of Christ
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LORD, WON'T YOU BUY ME A MERCEDES BENZ

The title of this week's article comes from a 1970 song by the late Janis Joplin. The song is a parody prayer in which the singer asks God to give her a luxury car. Well, we know she ain't going to get that car, at least not from the Lord. The reason being, it is a prayer of selfishness and greed. The Bible says it best in James 4:3, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." To be self-centered and consumed with worldly desire is sinful, thus the Psalmist said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear." (Psalm 66:18) To pray that the Lord bless us with a luxury home, expensive car, or a fat bank account is asking for trouble. The sin of materialism, especially for those of us who live in such a rich country, can quickly lead the Christian away from God and down the path of spiritual destruction. (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16)

So how should the Christian handle their wants and desires for all of the "good things" in life? The answer may well be that we first redefine for ourselves what the "good things" in life really are.

- First, we must transform our thinking. (Romans 12:1-2)
- We can pray that God will help us develop self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Practice giving to God first as we've been blessed. (2 Corinthians 9:6-9)
- Realize that contentment with godliness is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6)
- Grasp the fact that you'll carry nothing to the grave. (Job 1:22)
- Realize that Jesus Himself was poor and homeless. (Matthew 8:20)
- Learn that what we do for others, not ourselves will weigh heavily in the Great Judgment. (Matthew 25:31-46)

Jay Launius – 2022 Maud Church of Christ Maud, Texas

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 1: Friends, Fellowship and Fun at 1:00-3:30 pm

Sunday, August 4: Holy Communion during morning worship

Wednesday, August 7: Men's Breakfast at Main Street Diner at 8:00 am; Church Board meeting at 6:00 pm

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

Sunday, August 18: Sunday School Kickoff Fellowship Breakfast at 9:30 am

Thursday, August 22: Newsletter articles due

Sunday, August 25: Regular Sunday School Classes resume at 9:30 am

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God Uses a Gift and a Letter to Change Lives

As a 7-year-old in Mongolia, Jargalmaa (pictured left) described one particular day as "unexpected." After school, her teacher invited her to a church where she received her very first gift! This Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift included, among other fun toys, stationery, and a set of hairclips. Inside, she also found a letter that said, "You are valuable and so loved by God." Jargalmaa cherished this message because her parents and grandparents had never told her that they loved her.

Jargalmaa went on to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program where she especially appreciated the lessons about God as Creator. Later in 10th grade, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Through her testimony, five of her family members and two close friends also made this life-changing decision.

Now 15 years after receiving her shoebox gift, Jargalmaa, her husband, and two young children (pictured above) have recently moved to a new community where they are ministering to youth in hopes of starting a church.

"I would like to challenge people who are preparing shoebox gifts to also write a letter showing God's love," Jargalmaa said. **"What's written there may be very simple, but those simple words could completely change somebody's life."**



It is August again and we will start preparing our shoeboxes again for the 25th time! We are excited to be bringing JOY AND JESUS to children around the world! As you have read above, the letter and/or picture of your family makes an impact also to a child who has never had anyone care about them. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, and maybe you will get a message from someone who received your box!

The boxes are on the bench in the hall at the west entrance. Please look inside the box for a list of items that can be put into the boxes. Take a minute to look at the list as you may already have some of the items (in excellent condition) that you can use in your boxes. Take as many boxes as you want and if you don't have time to fill all of them, please return them as they are usable next year.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Many thanks and God's blessings for all of the boxes and postage funds that all of you have faithfully contributed in the past 24 years.

Love in Christ, Marg Scott and my helpers, the "R" Ladies, Rhea, Rita, and Ruth Ann

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
July 10, 2024**

President Jared Kueckelhan called the meeting to order. Members present: Scott Grissum, Ed Schler & Linda Burnett

The minutes from the June meeting were read and approved.

The treasurers' reports were reviewed and approved.

Correspondence was read. A building request and a scholarship application were approved.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Hilden, Secretary

**QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING NOTES
July 21, 2024**

President Jared Kueckelhan called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the Annual Meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurers' reports were reviewed and approved.

The condition of the parking lots was discussed.

The storage building is completed and there will be a celebration to christen it after harvest.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Hilden, Secretary

**HEALTH FACTS
OVARIAN CANCER**

Ovarian cancer grows in the ovaries which are located on the right and left sides of the uterus (womb) of women. They function to store eggs and make female hormones.

Because of the location of the ovaries, women don't feel enlargement or changes such as cancer growing inside of them, until the cancer has spread.

Most cases of ovarian cancer occur after menopause. High risk cases are women who have had family members with ovarian or breast cancer before the age of 45, women who have taken hormones for more than five years post-menopause, and obesity.

Genetic testing is available should you be high risk for ovarian cancer. Talk to your health care provider if you are concerned. The American Cancer Society has information:
<http://cancer.org/cancer/ovariancancer/index>

Nancy Meyer,
Health Minister

St Johns UCC,

I was recently given the opportunity to travel to Timberwolf Lake Michigan. I explored my faith in Christ and in doing so, made many friendships and participated in fun activities. Young Life is a group of high school students, made for leading teens toward their faith and trust in God. I am very thankful I had the opportunity to attend camp with the generous donation from the church.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kamrynn Hundley

FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild want to thank everyone for their donations to the Country Store and those who purchased items. We collected \$570.00 as a result of everyone's generosity.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's ice cream social, brought homemade ice cream or other desserts, and to everyone who volunteered to help with serving or clean-up.

We had a wonderful turnout, serving over 140 people. We had several homemade ice cream choices from vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, and banana to butter pecan, mint chocolate chip, cookies and cream, and new this year moose tracks. Thank you so much for attending and supporting Shelley Kueckelhan Jennings. \$2,800 was raised to help with her fight against cancer.



The Board of Christian Education received \$60. from the collection of Best Choice Labels. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who saves and turns in the labels for us. Please continue to collect them and give them to Marg or Ruth Ann.

In Christian Sympathy

Amy Michele (Inskeep) Boyer, age 43, passed away Saturday, July 6, 2024. She was the sister of Andrew Inskeep. Please keep Andrew and Cayley and the rest of Amy's family in your prayers.

MORE MOTHER'S DAY STORIES From the Sunday Service of Sharing

"My Mom, Joan Dusenbergh Bradshaw, was truly an angel God placed on earth to take care of her family and others. Mom ALWAYS put other people's needs in front of her own and lived the Golden Rule each day. Her unwavering faith in our Lord, was displayed in Mom's love for other people and made her the perfect example of Christ's outstretched arms to all she knew.

In 2 Corinthians 4, we hear these words surrounding faith: "We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see..." In having, a lady named Joan Dusenbergh Bradshaw, as my earthly mother I could LITERALLY SEE CHRIST each day! I love you, MOM!!"

Russ Bradshaw

Thank you for everything you do for us. Thank you for always letting us stay at your house and thank you for always being so loving and kind. I hope you have the best Mother's Day ever! Love, Grace

I am thankful for my grandma and for the love that she gives me. She is very kind and loving to and always cares about what is going on. She cooks great food and I am very grateful for her. Love Henry

Mom, Happy Mother's Day! I hope you feel all the love today and know how much you mean to us. We are grateful for the love and faith you show, as well as always making the drive to support our family. Love, Brooke & Aaron

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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Cemetery Board

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 Ed Wassmann
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 Tim Kueckelhan
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St. Johns Search Committee

Abigail Pannell, Co-Chair
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 Keith Bail
 kclcbail@gmail.com
 Rhea Helmreich
 rhlreich@gmail.com
 Ginger Wenger
 gingerwenger@yahoo.com

JULY STATISTICS

	Offering	Benevolence	Attendance
07	\$1,880	\$75	29
14	\$552	\$70 Penny Sunday: \$38.02	30
21	\$581	\$150	37
28	\$1,620	\$25	38

FRIENDS, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

Friends, Fellowship, and Fun will meet on Thursday, August 1 at 1:00-3:30 p.m. at St. Johns. Come and enjoy playing pitch, Rummikube, and other games. Bring a snack. We will provide water and lemonade.



Thank You

To Bonnie Marshall for her donation to the Cemetery Fund.

To Doris Oitzman for her donation to the Cemetery Fund and the Newsletter.

	Worship Leader	Greeters & Ushers	Messenger
04	Rita Kanenbley	Marg Scott & Rhea Helmreich	Pastor Kurt Grathwohl
11	Rhea Helmreich	Kenneth & Janet Stegner	Rev. Jeff Glandon
18	Marg Scott	Ted & Billie Litton	Russ Bradshaw
25	Janet Stegner	Scott Grissum & Ginger Wenger	Jason Hundley

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Alyssa Grissum	01
Debbie See	06
Braxten Inskeep	08
Buster Kueckelhan	08
Tyson Robinson	08
John Baker	09
Jason Helmreich	09
Scott Grissum	11
Ed Wassmann	15
Hattie Baker	17
Deanamarie Naylor	19
Ann Muntzel	21
Keith Bail	26
Morgan Hawley	27
Samie Gerhardt	28
Gerald Dick	29
Rita Kanenbley	29

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Wilbert & Nancy Meyer	03
Chris & Morgan Hawley	04
Ed & Linda Wassmann	07
Ted & Billie Litton	26
Charles Stegner & Holly Hughes	28

✠ BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES ✠

Karen Marie Bail Harvey	07
Trevor Jay Thurman	19
Kenneth Edward Stegner	26

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

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

Arlene & Sonny Friedrich

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

Ruth Searfoss

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

Dorothy Vieth

Lenoir 3710 Lenoir St, Columbia, MO 65201

PRAYER CHAIN

Family of Amy Boyer (Andrew Inskeep's sister) cancer
 Angie Carmichael, cancer
 Jack Deuschle, Parkinson's disease
 Jim & Sharon Elliott
 John Ferguson, heart issues
 Courtney Franklin, brain cancer
 Ayla (Pat Friedrich's niece), recovering from surgeries
 Marilyn Geiger, shoulder surgery
 Iris Gerhardt
 Jim & Sandy Helm (Stacy Friedrich's parents)
 Betty (Vicki's cousin), cancer
 Todi Hughes (Holly's mom)
 Holly's brother, open heart surgery
 Shelley Jennings, cancer treatments
 Jennifer Kirchner, chemotherapy
 Ava LeCave
 Joe Lohnes (friend of Donald & Ruth Ann) Lou Gehrig's
 Don & Mary Neckermann
 Marilyn Overstreet, broken hip
 Marilyn Rethemeyer, cancer
 Clifford Richey (Charles' friend)
 Karen Schnetzler
 Hunter Simmons, Leukemia (in remission!)
 Vicki Simmons, cancer
 Charles Stegner, recovering from stroke
 Mabel Vieth
 Lincoln (Ginger's grandson), digestive issues
 Shelly (Ginger's daughter), recovering from accident
 Shawn (Ginger's son), recovering from accident
 Darin Walker, cancer
 Cora Louise Wisdom

Serving in our military:

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



Donuts by the Dozen

Don't forget to celebrate National Doughnut Day, June 7th, with a little sweet something.



- APPLE
- BERLINER
- BLUEBERRY
- BOX
- CHOCOLATE
- CIDER
- CINNAMON
- COCONUT
- COFFEE
- CREAM
- CRULLER
- DONUT
- DOUGHNUT
- DOZEN
- ÉCLAIR
- FRIED
- FRITTER

- FROSTING
- GLAZED
- HOLE
- HOLES
- JELLY
- MAPLE

- OLD FASHIONED
- SPRINKLES
- STICKY
- SUGAR
- SWEET
- TWIST

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

U.S. Postage Paid
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Boonville, MO