

*St. John United Church of Christ  
301 S. Market Street  
New Athens, Illinois 62264*

*"But my work seems so useless!  
I have spent my strength for  
nothing and to no purpose.  
Yet,  
I leave it all in the Lord's hand;  
I will trust God for my reward."*



*Isaiah 49:4*

God is never satisfied with us as we are,  
but constantly calls us to a deeper faith  
and more compelling witness.

*The Second Sunday  
After the Epiphany*

*January 19, 2020*

*Worship and Grow Today*

*Traditional Worship  
8 am*

*Contemporary Worship  
9:15 am*

*Sunday School Classes, 9 am*

*Learn More About Us*  
*stjohnuccnewathens.com*

*Contact Our Staff*

*Bob Koch, Pastor  
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*Tarrah Vaupel, Student Pastor  
tarrahsv@gmail.com*

*Beth Buettner, Office Staff  
stjucckdesknaill@att.net*

*Cindy Vogler,  
Director Christian Education  
dcecindy@att.net*

*Melinda Milligan, Director  
New Beginnings Daycare  
new-beginnings@att.net  
475-2969*

*Church Office Phone  
(618) 475-2947*

**Please fill out and tear off** your Attendance/Prayer Concern slip before worship begins. Pass it to the center aisle while the church calendar is being discussed. Our ushers will collect it there.

**Please note that large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices** are available from our ushers.

**New members are welcome and received regularly** at St. John's. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our worshiping family, speak to Pastor Koch as you leave today, or check the appropriate box on your attendance card.

**If this is a Communion Sunday** (generally the first Sunday of each month) we invite all Christians welcome at Christ's table in their own family of faith to join us here. The inner circle in each tray of glasses contains grape juice.

**Children are always welcome** in worship at St. John's. Live closed circuit TV broadcasts of our services are available in the foyer fellowship room, though, for parents who may decide that their child needs a break from worship temporarily.

**Pastor Koch** is always available to help those seeking answers, comfort, or guidance. He is usually in his office all day Monday, and at various other times throughout the week. If you'd like to see him, feel free to stop by, or call the church office at 475-2947 to make an appointment.

**We cordially invite all members and guests** to participate in the on-going ministries of St. John church. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our church office, which is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. till Noon and 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. It is staffed through the week by Beth Buettner.

**Please join us** for coffee, juice, and doughnuts in the foyer after worship.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by the Schmierbach family in memory of Dolly Schmierbach.

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## *Gathering Together*

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### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" (Vs. 1)

*Beginning five minutes prior to worship*

Pew Booklet, p. 31

### THE CHURCH CALENDAR

*(Please pass your Attendance/Prayer Concern slips to the center aisle.)*

### THE MORNING PRELUDE, CALL OF THE BELL

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## *Seeking God's Presence*

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### CALL TO WORSHIP *(From Psalm 40)*

I put all my hope in you, Lord.

**You leaned down to me; you listened to my cry for help.**

You lifted me out of the pit of death, out of the mud and filth, setting my feet on solid rock and steadying my legs.

**You put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise for you, our God.**

Many people will learn of this and be amazed; they'll trust in you.

**Those who trust you, Lord, who pay no attention to the proud  
or to those who follow lies, they're truly happy!**

You, Lord my God, have done so many things—your wonderful deeds and your plans for us—no one can compare with you!

**If I were to declare and talk about all of them, there'd be too many to count!**

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Isaiah reassured those in exile that what they saw  
as an end to both their faith and nation was, for you, O God,  
the beginning of a new, world-shaping destiny.

We gather for worship as those who face or have faced  
more seemingly dead ends than we care to remember.

In Christ, we see crucifixion's loss overcome by resurrection's restoration.

May we, like those long-ago exiles, let the hope that is ours as people of faith  
free us from exile and lift us to renewed faith and service. Amen.

### \*OPENING HYMN

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

Hymnal, No. 48

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## *Asking God's Forgiveness*

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### CALL TO CONFESSION

Time of Silent Confession

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Together*

It was a weary, discouraged prophet who came to you in Isaiah, holy God.  
“In spite of my hard work, I feel as if I haven’t accomplished anything,” he said.  
“I’ve used up all my strength. It seems as if everything I’ve done is worthless.”  
Many of us understand how he felt. The few who don’t are fortunate indeed.  
We confess to you that, unlike the prophet,  
when we hit rock bottom, exhausted and despairing,  
it's hard for us to take hope in the future, even one promised by you.  
Forgive us. When we find ourselves isolated and alone,  
in an exile either self-imposed or forced upon us by others,  
help us find purpose and strength in you,  
that the light of our faith may dispel our own darkness  
and be a sign of hope for others similarly distressed. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon  
Gloria Patri  
Passing the Peace

Hymnal, No. 493

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*Hearing God's Word*

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**THE MORNING COLLECT**

Isaiah brought hope to exiles mired in hopelessness,  
and a vision of the future to those who believed that they had none.  
May the power of your Word, holy God, challenge us in similar ways,  
driving out our cynicism and distrust while leaving in its place  
a renewed and strengthened faith. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Isaiah 49: 1-7

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**THE SERMON**

“Caught Between Verses”

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**HYMN**

"God, We've Known Such Grief and Anger"

Bulletin, p. 6

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*Responding With Our Prayers*

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**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR WORSHIPING FAMILY**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you.

**And with you also.**

Let us pray....

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

*Together, Words on Screen*

**RESPONSE**

"Hear Our Prayer"

Hymnal, No. 501

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***Responding With Our Gifts***

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**MORNING MISSION MOMENT, OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Hymnal, No. 551

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Isaiah urges us not to be content with small things,  
but to dare greatly for the sake of our faith.

That's hard for us, generous God, especially when it comes  
to what we place in these plates.

Accept our offerings, some daring acts of generosity,  
others but small steps on a much longer path of discipleship and giving. Amen.

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***Responding With Faithful Service in the World***

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**BENEDICTION**

**HYMN**

"Love Lifted Me"

Pew Booklet, p. 30

**POSTLUDE**

**HOPE**

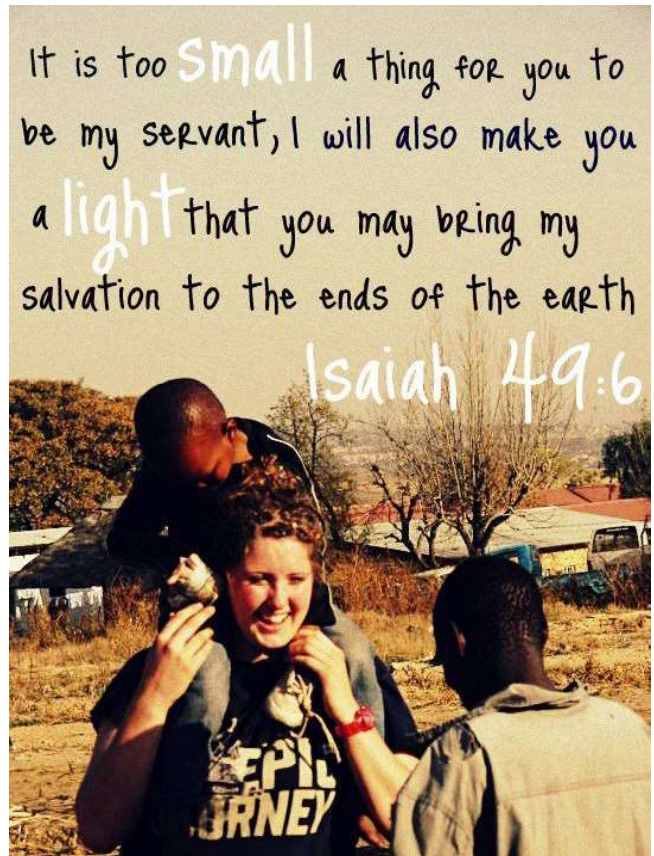
## **God, We've Known Such Grief and Anger**

(Tune: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus")

God, we've known such grief and anger  
As we've heard your people cry.  
We have asked you, "How much longer?"  
We have sadly wondered, "Why?"  
In this world of so much suffering,  
May we hear your word anew:  
"I will never leave you orphaned;  
I will not abandon you."

By your grace comes resurrection;  
By your love, you cast out fear.  
You give strength and sure direction  
As we seek to serve you here.  
You give comfort to the grieving,  
And you bless the ones who mourn.  
May we trust in you, believing  
Out of chaos, hope is born.

Hope is ours for, God, you love us!  
You have claimed us by your grace.  
And through Jesus, you have called us  
To bring hope to every place.  
In each rescue worker's caring,  
In each faithful volunteer,  
In each Christian's love and sharing,  
God, we glimpse your kingdom here.



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***The youth group's annual spaghetti supper*** is February 2, following contemporary worship.

***There will be a fundraiser for Kim Juenger*** at the Nail here in New Athens February 22 beginning at 2 pm. Come and support Kim and her family in their battle against cancer.

***Our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper*** will February 25, from 5-7 pm.

***Our 2020 Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26,*** with worship at 7 pm. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

***All That We Are***  
***John 1:29-42***

***Second Sunday after Epiphany***  
***Ecumenical Sunday***

This is the symbol of the United Church of Christ. More than a logo, our symbol imparts the meaning not only of all that we are in the present day as a denomination, but all that we yearn to be in the future.

At the top of the symbol is a crown. By the use of the crown, we remind ourselves that Christ is the ruler, the head of all, greater than any earthly power or authority.

Below the crown is a cross. The cross reminds us of Christ's suffering in solidarity with the pain of victims of violence in all times and places. For many, the cross is a reminder of the redemptive power of life over death, and salvation over the powers of evil.

Below the cross is an orb divided into three parts, reminding us of Jesus' command to go out into the world in all directions, witnessing to his life-giving power.

Encircling these symbols are the words "That They May All Be One." (John 17:21). The words remind us of our history as a union of different Christian traditions. And it calls us to activism in the present. In the UCC, it is our calling to engage in ecumenical relationships that seek to heal the broken unity of the Body of Christ. And the words also call us to the future, to the time envisioned by Christ when "all may be one. "

"Ecumenical relations help us to learn from the spiritual traditions of other churches. They help us to serve the world more effectively in God's name. They remind us that while we are proud of the diversity of the Protestant traditions that have joined in our united church, there is an even greater diversity in the Body of Christ that can make us whole."\*

**Prayer for Ecumenical Sunday**

Christ - Remind us again and again that we who share your name share a oneness that goes beyond doctrine or creed. Give us wisdom, courage and curiosity to move into the world, ready to witness to the miracle of your work in our lives, even as we learn from our brothers and sisters in faith. In your name we pray, Amen.

\*Ecumenical and Interfaith Partners. Accessed July 24, 2019. <https://www.ucc.org/ecumenical>

*Please fill out this slip, noting prayer concerns on the back.  
Legible handwriting or printing is much appreciated!  
If you're a visitor with us today, we hope you'll come again!*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Member    Visitor    Child/Youth    Looking for a Church Home  
 Desire a Call

*Visitors--If you're comfortable doing so, please give us your address and phone.*

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

We want to know what you think! Please include comments, suggestions, or other feedback below:





**Pastor**  
Dr. Robert Koch

**Student Pastor**  
Tarah Vaupel

**Organist**  
Betty Rockford

**Ushers**  
Carol Prunty, Ryan Kinzinger

***Please pray for these churches, pastors, and friends:***

Hospitalized:

Julieann Main  
Mark Schlessinger

Memorial Belleville  
Memorial East

From the Illinois South Conference:

*Congregational, Godfrey*  
Rev. Richard McCreary, Pastor

*Evangelical, Godfrey*  
Rev. Jerald McCaskey, Pastor

Members and friends of St. John's:

Bob Matzenbacher and Family  
Shirley and Tom May  
Bryanne McBride  
Ellen McGee and Joseph  
Dixie and Barry Mehner  
Shannon Messina and Charlotte  
Sondra and Jim Meyer  
Paula and Jon Meyer and Family  
Karen and Tim Meyer  
Rachel and Tony Meyer, Gwen and Abigail,  
JoAnn Miller  
Melinda and Don Milligan  
Rhonda and John Morse

***Low-cost, Christian counseling is available through Family Care Ministries.***

Contact Pastor Koch or the church office to schedule an appointment.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

*Prayer Joys and Concerns*

Please pray for:

- Mention this joy/concern during morning prayers.
- Please pray for this joy/concern silently.

Sign me up for the following:



- Prayer Partners
- "Doughnut time" helper

I'm interested in these opportunities to serve and grow:

- Usher
- Teach Sunday School
- Youth group volunteer
- Attend Bible study
- Serve on a committee
- Join "Prayer Partners"