

# **"THE VOICE OF BILLINGSVILLE"**

## **DECEMBER 2018**

St. Johns United Church of Christ  
14191 Billingsville Road, Boonville, MO 65233-3408

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbillingsville>

Rev. James H. Elliott, Pastor

Home: 573-446-1497 Cell: 573-619-9701

Email: [jelliott1@centurytel.net](mailto:jelliott1@centurytel.net)

Laura Grathwohl, Editor Cell: [660-888-8129](tel:660-888-8129)

E-mail: [grathwohlfarms@gmail.com](mailto:grathwohlfarms@gmail.com)

**"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."**



**"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"**

**Join in the joy of the season with the following activities:**

Nov. 30: 5:00 pm - Sunday School/Youth Fellowship will decorate the tree followed by a pizza dinner

Dec. 2: during Sunday School 9:30 - Fitting of pageant participants for their costumes

Dec. 2: during Worship 10:30: Hanging of the Greens Service by the Women's Guild, children will hang their ornaments on the tree and provide special music. Carry-in dinner will follow worship, Committee #2 is in charge. There will also be a "special guest" arriving after dinner. 😊

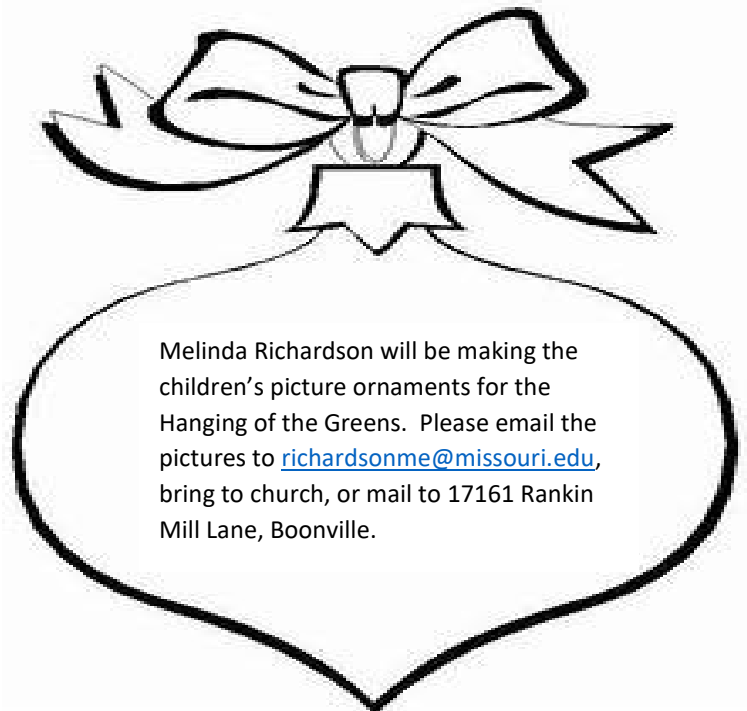
Dec. 9, 16 & 23: during Sunday School - Pageant practice

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Pageant 7:00 pm  
Children need to arrive by 6:30.



### **Dinner Committee #2**

Don & Marg Scott  
Nick, Laura & Jessica Grathwohl  
Nancy Meyer  
Rhea Helmreich  
Jason & Melissa Hundley  
Pat & Vicki Hilden  
Ryan & Emily Rapp  
Pat Friedrich  
George & Tracy, Dalton & Abby Pannell  
Volunteers



Melinda Richardson will be making the children's picture ornaments for the Hanging of the Greens. Please email the pictures to [richardsonme@missouri.edu](mailto:richardsonme@missouri.edu), bring to church, or mail to 17161 Rankin Mill Lane, Boonville.

## JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME. LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

Indeed, it was a joy brought to the World's Children on Sunday, November 4! It was 51 days before Christmas, but everywhere you saw green and red boxes being carried into the sanctuary. The children and young people had fun carrying the gifts to the chancel area. They then placed their hand on a box and we prayed a prayer dedicating the boxes to God so Jesus could come to the children around the world through the stories of Jesus in each shoe box.

We collected 78 boxes this year. This is our 19th year to collect the shoe box gifts. During that time, our church has prepared and sent 1174 boxes. ISN'T THAT FANTASTIC! Just think of all the smiles and giggles you have provided to children who probably have never received a present before! THANK YOU for all the time, energy and money you gave for this project. Thanks also to the church for giving \$250 for postage funds. It takes all of us working together to brighten children's lives. May they come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior because of your act of kindness.

May God richly bless you for your generosity, Marg Scott



**SAMARITAN'S PURSE®**

**OPERATION Christmas Child**

**please pray**

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."  
—COLOSSIANS 4:2, NKJV

**call to prayer**

Pray for Operation Christmas Child during National Collection Week, the third week in November. Find out more about our Prayer Network at [samaritanaspurse.org](http://samaritanaspurse.org).

### daily prayer guide

#### SUNDAY

Thank God for blessing Samaritan's Purse with more than 113 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts since 1993. Pray that millions more children will experience the love of Jesus Christ through these simple gifts.

#### MONDAY

Ask God to bless the labors of local volunteers who serve year-round to collect, process, transport, and deliver shoebox gifts around the world.

#### TUESDAY

Pray that the Lord will use Operation Christmas Child to bring joy to boys and girls in developing countries who face difficult circumstances such as poverty, disease, famine, and war.

#### WEDNESDAY

Pray that every child who receives a shoebox gift will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### THURSDAY

Pray that every girl and boy who receives a shoebox will experience God's unconditional love and provision through the gifts they receive.

#### FRIDAY

Pray that the children who enroll in The Greatest Journey, our follow-up discipleship program, will come to faith in Jesus and share the Good News with their friends and family.

#### SATURDAY

Pray for the safety of Operation Christmas Child volunteers who are serving in areas of the world where people may be hostile toward Christians.



Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse,® Franklin Graham, President.  
1-800-353-5949 | [samaritanaspurse.org](http://samaritanaspurse.org)

08-07-345



Thank you, Marg for your dedication  
to this  
Mission Project!

To my church family I send a heartfelt thank you for recognizing my service as Secretary/Bookkeeper and presenting me with tickets to the Lyceum Theatre upon my recent retirement. I am so excited to be going to the Lyceum and looking forward to seeing what their 2019 productions will be.

Thanks to Pastor Jim for making me a special card. From the kind words and best wishes to the church picture and picture of Dalton and I, it was heartwarming, cute and funny.

God's blessings,  
Pat Friedrich



# Hymn History



The hymn, “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” was written by John Francis Wade, an 18th century Catholic layman involved in the music business in France. Copies of the hymn migrated to Portugal and then to England. First written in Latin — the original version begins with the words, *Adeste Fideles* — an Anglican clergyman, Frederick Oakley, translated it into English. Today it is one of the most popular Advent/Christmas hymns, and is sung by Christians around the world.

One of the reasons for its popularity is the joyful character of its words and music. “O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,” it says — and the music has a joyful, triumphant lilt to go with the joyful, triumphant words.

The hymn calls us to come to Bethlehem to behold the baby Jesus. It calls us to come and adore him. It reminds us of the angel choir that accompanied Jesus’ birth — and of the shepherds who gathered around his cradle. It reminds us that God calls us, too, to sing Christ’s praises — and to give him glory in this Christmas season.

Christmas is a busy season, and we have a thousand things on our minds and a thousand things to do. But through it all, let us remember to come and adore the Christ who came into the world in this season to bring us light for our darkness — and joy — and life eternal.

~ Written by Richard Niel Donovan

## *Memorial Fund Donations in Memory of Katherine (Kitty) Kenney*

Marilyn Baab, Van & Susan Donley, Geraldine Ferguson & Family, Jeanne & DJ Muse, Bonnie Marshall, Brenda Chrisman Humphrey, Carl & Judy Gerhardt, Don & Debbie Gerhardt, Linda Burnett

## *St. Johns Cemetery Donations in Memory of Andrew Helmreich*

Kenneth & Janet Stegner, Dick & Beth Royston, Linda Burnett, Eddie & Linda Wassmann

## *St. Johns Cemetery Donation in Memory of Rev. George & Elsie Schler*

Barbara Schler Rodriquez

## HEALTH FACTS - MENIERE’S DISEASE

Meniere’s disease is a disorder of the inner ear that causes episodes in which you feel as if you’re spinning (vertigo), and you have fluctuating hearing loss with a progressive, ultimately permanent loss of hearing, ringing in the ear (tinnitus), and sometimes a feeling of fullness or pressure in your ear. In most cases, Meniere’s disease affects only one ear. It causes you to lose balance and fall.

The cause of Meniere’s disease isn’t understood. One popular theory, that hasn’t been proved, is that it appears to be the result of the abnormal amount of fluid in the inner ear.

Why do we get too much fluid in the inner ear? Possibly improper drainage or blockage; abnormal immune response, allergies, viral infection, genetics, or head trauma.

See your doctor if you have signs of Meniere’s disease because it also could result from another illness. ~Nancy Meyer, Health Minister



### Kids Say the Funniest Things About Christmas...

Two little girls were looking at a picture of the Virgin Mary holding Baby Jesus. "That's Mary," said the older girl, "and that's her baby Jesus in her arms." "Where's Jesus's dad then?" asked her little sister. "Oh, he is the one taking the picture!"

A little boy wrote a letter to Santa listing some things he wanted for Christmas and the last line said, "And if you bring me something that needs batteries, will you bring the batteries because my parents never have any."



Congratulations to Jonathan & Patricia Sayegh on the birth of their daughter, Islay Patsy Anne Sayegh on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Rhea Helmerich is the proud Grandma!

May God bless our military and their families this Christmas season and all year long!



### Winter Weather

Church "snow days" will be announced on the TV Stations: KOMU TV and KRCG TV and by Facebook and email.



We have amazing and generous people in our church. I witness it daily, but especially when we prepare and serve funeral dinners to the family and friends of those who were loved and have passed on to eternal life. I want to thank everyone for preparing food, helping with set up, and clean-up. I am grateful for your love and warmth.

Nancy Meyer

### NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - NOVEMBER 7, 2018

A thank you note was received from the Andrew Helmreich family for St. Johns' prayers and desserts prepared for his celebration of life.

Financials reports: Offering \$5,751.00 plus other income of \$385.00 made total income for October \$6,136.00. Total expenses: \$5,177.98. The balance as of 10.31.18 in the checkbook is \$16,311.99. Two items to be discussed at the Annual Meeting in January: Planning of the 2019 Harvest Festival, including changing the date and discussion as to locking the doors of the church when the service begins.

Entrance to the church during inclement weather will be the East and West side entrances only. Updated guidelines from the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the UCC for minimum compensation of ministers have been made available. This points out that there has been a 2% increase in pastor salaries.

The next council meeting will be December 5 at 6:00 pm.

~Submitted by Nancy Meyer

## Jesus, God's Promises Fulfilled – One for Each Day of December

1. **The Promise of His Presence**, The virgin will give birth to a Son and they will call Him Immanuel – which means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23
2. **The Promise of a Savior**, Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11
3. **The Promise of Light**, I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:1 2
4. **The Promise of Rest**, Come to Me and I will give you rest. My yoke is easy and My burden is light. Matthew 11:28, 30
5. **The Promise of Friendship**, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. John 15:15
6. **The Promise of Joy**, The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10
7. **The Promise of Truth**, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6
8. **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**, God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. Romans 5:5
9. **The Promise of Wise Counsel**, For to us a Child is born...and He will be called Wonderful Counselor. Isaiah 9:6
10. **The Promise of Hope**, “For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11
11. **The Promise to be Filled**, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry. John 6:35
12. **The Promise of Victory**, Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. I John 5:5
13. **The Promise of Faithfulness**, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8
14. **The Promise of Purpose**, “Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19
15. **The Promise of Glory**, We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2
16. **The Promise of Forgiveness**, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Acts 13:38
17. **The Promise of Every Need Met**, My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19
18. **The Promise of Eternal Life**, Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.” John 11:25
19. **The Promise of Adoption**, You received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” Romans 8:15
20. **The Promise of Perfect Love**, This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. I John 3:16
21. **The Promise of Grace**, I always thank God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus. I Corinthians 1:4
22. **The Promise of Wisdom**, Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3
23. **The Promise of Possibility**, Jesus replied, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.” Luke 18:27
24. **The Promise of New Life**, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! II Corinthians 5:17
25. **The Promise of Peace**, Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. John 14:27

I received this from friends but I do not know the origination to put it on here. It's just too good not to share!

# **DECEMBER**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Joan Pannell	1
Jason Gerhardt	3
Lori Woods	3
Kevin Simmons	4
Alexis Rama	9
Carol Fowler	10
Haley Woods	11
Pat Hilden	11
Cody Gerhardt	11
Jim Friedrich	16
Noel Schler	16
Cole Allen Custer	17
Chad Stegner	17
Jeremy Gerhardt	17
Austin Edwards	20
Jeff Hibbard	21
Cliff Smith	21
Charlie Smith	21
Dee Ann Riley	22
Jessica Grathwohl	22
Ruth Searfoss	23
Kim Searfoss	25
Tracy Pannell	26
Jamie Swalwell	26
Nancy Meyer	29



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Sarah & Collin Marriott	15
-------------------------	----

## **In Sympathy**

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Linda Leach who passed away on November 10<sup>th</sup>. She fought a tough battle with cancer with strength and grace.



## **PRAYER CHAIN**

Marcos @ ECH, SS Sponsor Child  
Thousand Oaks Shooting Victims  
California Fire Victims  
Vehicle accident involving the Girl Scouts  
Jackson Brinkman, Diane Gerke's grandson  
Angie Carmichael, cancer  
Jerry Davis, cancer  
Sharon Elliott, cancer  
Arlene Friedrich  
Esther Friedrich, Peace Corps  
Rob Friedrich  
Mary Ann Henke, (friend of Pat & Tracy)  
Warren Helmreich  
Vicki Hilden's parents  
Tody Hughes, Holly's mom  
David Keltner, Jeanne's brother  
Jenny Kirchner, cancer  
Dorothy Koestner, cancer  
Nancy Kueckelhan  
Ava LeCave  
The Family of Linda Leach  
Linda Lyles, bone marrow transplant  
Chris Maguire, follicular lymphoma  
Angie Nave  
Cathy Barton-Para, cancer  
Clifford Richey, friend of Charles Stegner  
Marilyn Rothemeyer, brain cancer  
Erika Sanderson, Pat's niece  
Kathryn Schupp, Nancy Meyer's mother  
Vicky Simmons  
Trevor Thurman, Linda Claas' grandson  
Bernadine Wassmann, Hartmann Village

### **Serving in our military:**

James Walker   Colin Jones   Craig Randall  
Cliff Burgoyne   Jeff Burgoyne   Natalie Meng  
Chris Hawley   Landon Bail   Blayne Vickery



Lord we pray for those with unspoken prayer requests, those whose hurts are too deep to be spoken, and those whose hearts are too broken. Let them feel Your presence, guidance and peace. Amen

<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Worship Leaders</u>	<u>Greeters/Ushers</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
2	Women's Guild – Hanging of the Greens	Marilyn Geiger & Cathy Bail	I Thess 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36
9	Ed Schler	Keith Bail & Tim Kueckelhan	Phil 1 3-11, Luke 3:1-6
16	Lynnd Schler	Jared Kueckelhan & Julie K.	Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18
23	Dalton Pannell	Nick & Laura Grathwohl	Heb 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45
24	Christmas Eve Pageant	Scott Grissum & Ed Wassmann	
30	Bill Geiger	Marg Scott & Melissa Hundley	Col 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52
	<b>Communion Servers:</b>	Jason Hundley*, Tim Kueckelhan, Cathy & Keith Bail	
	<b>Communion Clean Up:</b>	Ed Schler, Angie Hackman., Buster & Birdie Kueckelhan	

### NOVEMBER STATISTICS



**Dec. 2:** Hanging of the Greens, Carry-In Dinner following Worship, Committee #2 in charge of Meal

**Dec. 5:** Church Council Meeting 7:00

**Dec. 9:** Pageant Practice 9:30

**Dec. 16:** Pageant Practice 9:30

**Dec. 21:** Newsletter Articles Due

**Dec. 23:** Pageant Practice 9:30

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Service 7:00

**Jan. 1:** Happy New Year!

**Jan. 20:** Annual Meeting & Carry-in Dinner Following Worship

	OFFERING	BENEVOLENCE	ATTENDANCE
4	\$ 2,168	\$ 25	43
11	\$ 272	\$ 65	25
18	\$ 248	\$ 55	28
25	\$ 874	\$ 50	36
	Penny Sunday \$20	Blanket Sunday \$340	

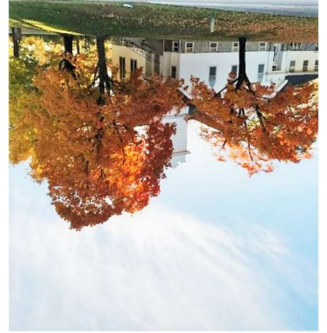
Stained Glass Window Repair Fund Balance \$26,609.46



Which one of Santa's  
reindeer is the best at  
football?  
**Blitzen**

Thank you to Cora Louise Wisdom and Tim Harvey for their donations to the Window Repair Fund!

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



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Return Service Requested

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.  
True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten not created;  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee with love and awe.  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

U.S. Postage Paid  
Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 404  
Boonville, MO