



# Leap of Faith

## January 2024

Welcome to a new year! After the celebrating and watching the ball drop, how do you spend a new year? It is indeed a new beginning. We are no longer limited by our past.

Have the courage to turn the page. It will be blank. We can write anything on it that we want to. What do you want to change this year? What do you want to try?

Whatever you choose to do, let God in on it. If you do, He promises to be with you all along the way. Ask God to help you. Ask God to heal you. Ask God to give you the courage to start anew.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight". Surely that is how to have a happy new year!

Rev. Laura Doty

E. R. O. G.  
Forever Relying On God



### COME TO WORSHIP WITH US ON ZOOM!

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here at St. John's United Church of Christ.

Contact [stjohnsucelkhart@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsucelkhart@gmail.com) for service information.



ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Christmas Eve

Fourth Sunday in Advent – LOVE

December 24, 2023

10:15 am

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Requests - If you have a prayer request you can tell our pastor or one of our members. You can also go to [www.stjohnsucelkhart.com](http://www.stjohnsucelkhart.com) and click on Church Prayer Requests and then click on Submit a prayer request.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR JANUARY

- 1 – New Year's Day
- 6 – Epiphany
- 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

### CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Mary Ellen Harris (Pres)	Wayne Knudson
Jean Quillin (VP)	Edward Quillin
Kelly Harris (Sec)	Courtney Papa
George Adamson (Treas)	
Dennis Harris	

### CONSISTORY MEETING

Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 pm on Zoom. If you would like to join please contact Mary Ellen Harris.

# Bible Quiz: Angels Announce the Birth of Jesus

**1) When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, first one angel then a great company of angels appeared to shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem to tell them the good news of the birth of Jesus. What did the angels say to the Shepherds?**

- "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."
- "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
- "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
- All of the above

**2) What were the shepherds doing when they heard the good news?**

- Searching for lost sheep
- Keeping watch over their flocks at night
- Passing through Bethlehem on their way to Jericho
- Sleeping in the pasture with their sheep

**3) When the shepherds heard the good news of Jesus' birth, they decided to go see the wondrous event for themselves. How did they find Jesus?**

- They were told to look for a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.
- They were told to ask the innkeeper to direct them to the holy child.
- They followed a bright star in the sky.
- They were told to search for the child then report his whereabouts to King Herod.

**4) The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem to see the child the angels had told them about. What else did they do?**

- They brought gifts to the Christ child.
- They told many people what the angels had said.
- They sent word to King Herod that they had seen the Christ child.
- All of the above.



## THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Reverend, Guest Speakers and all our Consistory members from 2023 for their service. A big thank you to all who helped with our in-person services as well as our online services.

## JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

**07 Laura Doty, Reverend  
Liturgist – Kelly Harris**

**14 Laura Doty, Reverend  
Liturgist – Mary Ellen Harris**

**21 Jamelle Godlewski, Guest Speaker  
Liturgist – George Adamson**

**28 Laura Doty, Reverend  
Liturgist – Courtney Papa-Abell**

Thank you to everyone for helping out!



On January 13 we are starting a support group for those with chronic pain. It will be the second Saturday of every month at 10am in the clubhouse at Brentwood Assisted Living. All are welcome to come. The first meeting will be to get to know each other and to inform you on how we will conduct our meetings. I will be using the book "Broken & Mended" by David Heflin as a guide.

Looking back at the past year we made donations to CCS, CWS, Saving Grace, Bashor Children's Home, 4 teachers, UCC disaster fund and 2 families. We made Blessing Bags for the homeless. We got a cover for the podium and Kelly put our church name on it.

Other things we did were garage sale, attendance contest, music / pastor appreciation Sunday, took cookies for residents, helped residents with crafts, donated prayer shawls to General Synod for people with mental health issues, donated candy to Brentwood for Easter egg hunt and Halloween. Our biggest event was celebrating Laura's ordination and installation.

If you would like to help us with our charitable giving you can make out a check to St. John's UCC and put in the memo line "charitable". It is true that we don't have the expenses of owning a building, but we have the pastor's salary, guest speakers, special music, web domain, as well as regular office expenses. If you would like to give to our general fund, just put "general" in the check's memo line. Send checks to: St. John's UCC c/o Laura Doty, 55839 Rivershore Lane, Elkhart, IN 46516.

Thank you, Mary Ellen Harris

# Answers to the Bible Quiz

**1) When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, first one angel then a great company of angels appeared to shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem to tell them the good news of the birth of Jesus. What did the angels say to the Shepherds?**

The correct answer is: All of the above

[Luke 2:8-14](#). Instead of "peace, goodwill toward men!" modern Bible translations say something like, "peace among men with whom He is pleased." The difference is due to a single letter in different versions of ancient Greek manuscripts.

**2) What were the shepherds doing when they heard the good news?**

The correct answer is: Keeping watch over their flocks at night

[Luke 2:8](#). The angels announced Jesus' birth not to kings, princes and chief priests, but to the poor and lowly shepherds. This event foreshadowed Jesus' ministry; Jesus' message was accepted by the common people but rejected by the wealthy and powerful.

**3) When the shepherds heard the good news of Jesus' birth, they decided to go see the wondrous event for themselves. How did they find Jesus?**

The correct answer is: They were told to look for a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

[Luke 2:12-13](#). The angels announced that Jesus is the long awaited Christ, Savior and Messiah. However, many people had expected a Messiah who would restore the political and military glory of Israel rather than a spiritual leader. They didn't understand the extraordinary gift of the Kingdom of God that Jesus brought to earth.

Swaddling clothes were bands of cloth wrapped around an infant to restrict movement. It was believed at the time that swaddling helped the arms and legs develop correctly, and it was a sign of parental love and care.

**4) The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem to see the child the angels had told them about. What else did they do?**

The correct answer is: They told many people what the angels had said.

[Luke 2:15-20](#). The shepherds did not hesitate to share the joyous news of the Savior's birth. They became the first preachers of the gospel.

<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Year B</b>	<b>First reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>First Sunday after Christmas Day</b> December 31, 2023 <u><a href="#">ART -- PRAYER</a></u>		<u><a href="#">Isaiah 61:10-62:3</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Psalm 148</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Galatians 4:4-7</a></u> <u><a href="#">Luke 2:22-40</a></u>	
<b>Holy Name of Jesus</b> January 1, 2024 (Mary, Mother of God) <u><a href="#">ART -- PRAYER</a></u>		<u><a href="#">Numbers 6:22-27</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Psalm 8</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Galatians 4:4-7</a></u> <b>or</b> <u><a href="#">Philippians 2:5-11</a></u> <u><a href="#">Luke 2:15-21</a></u>	
<b>New Year's Day</b> January 1, 2024 <u><a href="#">ART -- PRAYER</a></u>		<u><a href="#">Ecclesiastes 3:1-13</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Psalm 8</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Revelation 21:1-6a</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Matthew 25:31-46</a></u>

<b>Epiphany</b> <b>Year B</b>	<b>First reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> January 6, 2024 <u><a href="#">ART -- PRAYER</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Isaiah 60:1-6</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Ephesians 3:1-12</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Matthew 2:1-12</a></u>
<b>Baptism of the Lord</b> January 7, 2024 <b>First Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <u><a href="#">ART -- PRAYER</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Genesis 1:1-5</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Psalm 29</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Acts 19:1-7</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Mark 1:4-11</a></u>
<b>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> January 14, 2024 <u><a href="#">ART -- PRAYER</a></u>	<u><a href="#">1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</a></u>	<u><a href="#">1 Corinthians 6:12-20</a></u>	<u><a href="#">John 1:43-51</a></u>
<b>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b> January 21, 2024 <u><a href="#">ART -- PRAYER</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Jonah 3:1-5, 10</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Psalm 62:5-12</a></u>	<u><a href="#">1 Corinthians 7:29-31</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Mark 1:14-20</a></u>
<b>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> January 28, 2024 <u><a href="#">ART -- PRAYER</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Deuteronomy 18:15-20</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Psalm 111</a></u>	<u><a href="#">1 Corinthians 8:1-13</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Mark 1:21-28</a></u>



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Face Book - *St. John's United Church of Christ*

Northwest Association IKC - [www.nwaikucc.org](http://www.nwaikucc.org)

Indiana-Kentucky Conference - [www.ikc.org](http://www.ikc.org)

United Church of Christ – [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)