



Leap of Faith

DECEMBER 2011



A Christmas Message

What can I tell you about Christmas that you don't already know? You have probably celebrated it your whole life. Most of you know the Christmas Hymns by heart and you have heard the Christmas story about a hundred times or more.

Still, we need to go back and take a closer look at this important event to see if we have missed anything, look at all the characters and how they reacted that first Christmas.

I think you will see that all of them acted in faith even though they might not have understood everything that was going on. They all had faith in God and obeyed Him.

✦ Mary was told by an angel that she was going to give birth to God's Son. She didn't understand everything she was being told, but Mary responded "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." Luke 1:38

✦ Joseph didn't understand it when Mary told him she was pregnant with God's Son, but Joseph was visited by an angel in his dream and was told not to break off his engagement with Mary and that when the child was born he was to name him Jesus. "When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded." Matthew 1:24

✦ The shepherds were terrified when an angel came to tell them of the Savior's birth. The angel told them how to recognize the baby. The shepherds believed and went to Bethlehem to see the baby that the angel was talking about.

✦ Wise men were told of the newborn King and they followed a star to find Him. God told them to go back home by a different way and they did.

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COME TO WORSHIP WITH US AT THE ATRIA EASTLAKE TERRACE! EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:15 AM



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are meeting at Greenleaf Health Campus, 1201 E. Beardsley Street Wednesdays, 2nd & 4th weeks of the month at 2:30 pm (same time).

We are making hats, scarves & mittens for area children.

Or just come & join in the fellowship.



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

St. John's is collecting nonperishable food items for the Church Community Services Food Pantry.

We have a box designated at the front entrance of the Atria, if you would like to bring your items. Volunteers pick up donations 2nd Tuesdays. *Thank you!*

CHRISTMAS GIVING

We encourage you to donate to Toys for Tots (a box is located at the Atria) in lieu of St. John's adopting a family this year.

.....Christmas Message Continued

We already knew all this and yet, do we really understand it all? I doubt it. There is always more to learn, but even if we don't totally understand the Christmas story, we can still have faith like Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and the Wise men. We can believe what God is telling us and we can respond by obeying Him.

Merry Christmas!
Mary Ellen Harris



Consistory Meeting – Monday, Dec. 12 – 6:30 pm

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REPORT

St. John's Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, November 20th at Ryan's on CR. 6. The 2012 Budget was approved, Election of Deacons and Elders was held. The Constitution and By-laws were changed in order to change the number of Consistory members to 4 Deacons and 4 Elders. It was a very productive meeting and we are hopeful for the continuance of St. John's United Church of Christ.

CONTACT INFORMATION

St. John's UCC (Business Address) or 2328 Kenilworth Dr.
P.O. Box 509 Elkhart, In 46514
Middlebury, IN 46590

Phone: 574-266-9064 (Adamson residence)

Website: www.stjohnsuccelkhart.com

Email: stjohnsuccofelkhart@gmail.com

Face Book – Just enter St. John's United Church of Christ

ATRIA'S BAZAAR NEXT SATURDAY

December 3th – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

LITURGISTS NEEDED

We are in need of more volunteers to serve as Liturgists on Sunday mornings. Please sign up if you can take a turn in January or February. A signup sheet is available or email us at stjohnsuccofelkhart@gmail.com Thank You!



**COME JOIN US
FOR AN INSPIRING SERVICE
CHRISTMAS MORNING
DECEMBER 25TH – 10:15 AM**

NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Deacons

George Adamson

Sid Dew

Kevin Harris

Dennis Harris

Elders

Mary Ellen Harris

Courtney Papa

Jean Quillin

Jan Adamson

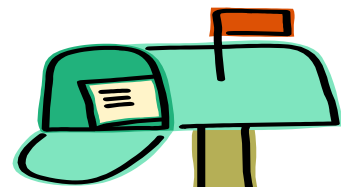
THANK YOU!

St. John's gave donations to 2 families at Thanksgiving. It was greatly appreciated!

NEW ADDRESSES

Wilhelmina Beber
Brentwood, Apt. #213
3600 East Bristol Street
Elkhart, IN 46514

Pastor Don Morgan
4 Sackett Hill Road
Warren, Ct. 06754
pastordonmorgan@gmail.com





OFFERINGS

In case you are wondering, we are now accepting offerings. If you haven't attended services, hope you can come during this Advent season. Thank you for your continued support of St. John's United Church of Christ whether attending, financial or prayers.



DECEMBER

Worship Leaders

- 4 - Rev. David Boothby (Communion)
- 11 - Rev. John van Lackum
- 18 - David Stahly
- 25 - Laura Doty - (Communion)
Courtney Papa

Liturgists

- 4 - Amanda Brown
- 11 - Loretta Tilford
- 18 - Kelly Harris
- 25 - Courtney Papa

A Very Happy Birthday To:

- 12/04 Ruth Welsch
- 12/05 David Papa
- 12/06 Gary Beber
- 12/17 Judy Helbling
- 12/19 Sara Bellotti
- 12/19 Armand Blenner
- 12/20 Kevin Harris
- 12/21 Chaise Weaver
- 12/23 Elmer Bachman
- 12/29 Hubert Couch
- 12/31 Kayden Harris



And A Happy Anniversary to:

- 12/21/11 John & Mary Lou Prah
- 12/30/11 Richard & Waneta Straw

INSTALLATION OF DEACONS AND ORDINATION OF ELDERS

will be next Sunday, December 4th at the 10:15 am Worship Service.



Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Isaiah 9:6 - For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;