



1548 South Hart St Road Vincennes, IN 47591

812-882-2220

[www.communitychurchofvincennes.org](http://www.communitychurchofvincennes.org)



**Sunday Worship 9:30am**  
**Sunday School Classes 10:45am**

Check out the [church calendar](#)  
on our website.

The new church web site: [www.communitychurchofvincennes.org](http://www.communitychurchofvincennes.org)

### New e-mail addresses:

[office@communitychurchofvincennes.org](mailto:office@communitychurchofvincennes.org)(general)  
[cindy@communitychurchofvincennes.org](mailto:cindy@communitychurchofvincennes.org)  
[darren@communitychurchofvincennes.org](mailto:darren@communitychurchofvincennes.org)  
[rex@communitychurchofvincennes.org](mailto:rex@communitychurchofvincennes.org)  
[shelly@communitychurchofvincennes.org](mailto:shelly@communitychurchofvincennes.org)  
[sue@communitychurchofvincennes.org](mailto:sue@communitychurchofvincennes.org)

The church will be closed on Monday December 26.

Community Family...  
**Merry Christmas!**

Thank you for your prayers,  
support and friendship this  
year! Praying for a wonderful  
2023 for all of us!

In Him...  
Pastor Darren & Cheryl



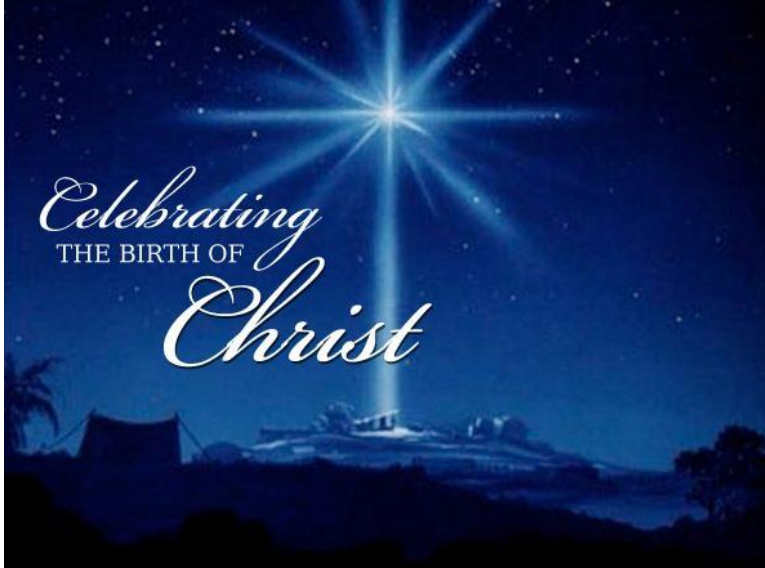
Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

**December 24 at 7pm**



**Christmas Morning Worship Service 9:30am** (No Sunday School Classes)



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## HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

*It has come to my attention that some of you have favorite hymns you would like to have sung during our worship services. If you have a favorite and would like to make a request, please email me at [shelly@communitychurchofvincennes.org](mailto:shelly@communitychurchofvincennes.org). During the first week of January, I will also place a box in the front office where I will collect your suggestions. I will keep a list in my office and plug them into the worship services when appropriate. (Your suggestions do not have to be from our blue hymnal.)*

*Please note that when music is selected, it is carefully thought out and prayed about. Even though about 95% of the hymns chosen are from our blue hymnal, there is a myriad of wonderful sacred music, hymns, and choruses out there. It is my job as your music director to not only help the worship services flow by planning appropriate music, but also to act as an agent to help you grow in your walk with Jesus. One way this can be done is to introduce you to a variety of music or hymns you might not be familiar with. Yes, we all love the old favorites, but we might even find some new favorites!*

*Thank you for your support and encouragement!*

*Shelly*

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## **Bottle Cap Sort Day Planned**

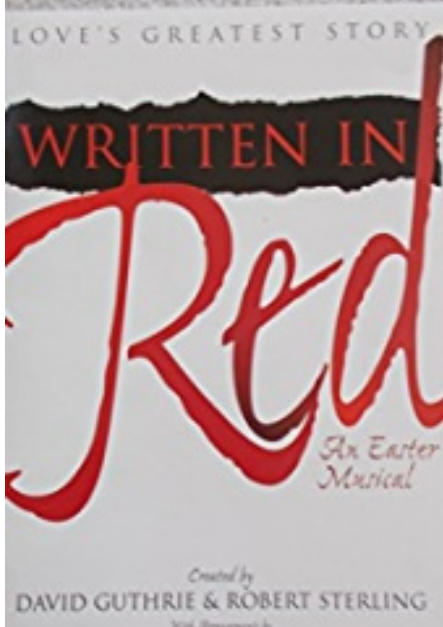
A bottle cap sort is planned for December 28, 2022 at the pavilion from 1—2pm. All are welcome to sort and possibly clean. Our current count is 205lbs. We are collecting these for a bench.

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**WHAT?!?** Jesus hasn't even been born yet and you want to talk about His death and resurrection? That's right. The Easter season will be upon us before we know what happened.

Community Church will be doing an Easter Cantata in the spring. It's a choir favorite: Written in Red. We really need YOU to come and sing with us. If you want a short-term commitment to choir, this is your chance. On Thursday evenings, we will begin rehearsal with Cantata music, and those singing only the cantata will be dismissed.

All part types are needed—especially altos.



Please respond to Shelly by January 8 so she can make sure there is a copy for you. Cantata rehearsals will begin January 19.



Thank you for all the cards, text, calls, and especially the prayers for recovery, that I received after my hip replacement. We appreciated each and every one of them.

Thankful and blessed,  
Tony Burkhart

Community Church Family,

Thank you for your continued support of the Vincennes Community Food Pantry. The generous monthly food collections and the use of the pavilion help those in our community. Plus the nearly daily help from Susie and Dennis greatly appreciated!!

Blessings,  
The Vincennes Community Food Pantry

## Faith in a Time of Transition



By Thomas Lambrecht

This is the final week of Advent, a season of preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and preparing for his coming again. Advent reminds us that we are in the time “between the times.” We are in the time between Jesus’ first and second Advents (comings). As Professor George Eldon Ladd reminded us, we are in the transition between the already and the not yet.

God’s Kingdom has already come to earth in the form of King Jesus and in the hearts and lives of Jesus’ followers, including us. But God’s Kingdom awaits its full

realization when Jesus comes again “to judge the living and the dead.” The book of Revelation and other Scripture passages paint a glorious picture of what the fullness of God’s Kingdom will mean.

But it is uncomfortable to be in between, to be in transition. We have an idea what is coming, but we are not there yet.

Some of my grandchildren have a problem with transitions. It is hard for them to stop doing one thing in order to do a different thing. My daughter has to prepare them for the transition by warning them, “We are going to stop playing and get in the car in five minutes.” That warning enables them to adjust their minds and expectations to what is coming next.

We are in a transition time in The United Methodist Church. At last count, over 2,000 congregations have disaffiliated from the denomination. That represents 6.6 percent of all United Methodist churches in the United States. It is estimated that about that many more are in the process of discernment toward disaffiliating next year before the opportunity to disaffiliate ends on December 31, 2023.

Those remaining in The United Methodist Church are in the process of revisioning what the church will look like and how it will operate with 10-15 percent fewer members and churches.

Those joining the Global Methodist Church are in the process of constructing new annual conferences in various parts of the U.S., as well as in countries overseas. Critical decisions have yet to be made, such as how to elect and assign bishops.

Those churches becoming independent are figuring out how to operate without the support of a denominational structure.

In all cases, we are leaving behind what is familiar and heading into uncharted territory. We have some idea what the future might look like, but there are also many unknowns.

It is tempting to want to stay with what is familiar, even though that world of the past is no longer available to us. The Israelites in the Wilderness longed to go back to slavery in Egypt, at times. Yet the slavery they would have gone back to would have been different from the slavery they left. There is no such thing as going back to what we once knew.

That is why Paul reminds us, “We live by faith, not by sight” (II Corinthians 5:7). Often, we cannot see the pathway to the future God has for us. However, we can trust the One who leads and guides us each step of the way. We can stay stuck in the past, or we can follow the living Lord into the incredible future he has for us. Each day, we can take the next step God has for us, knowing it will eventually lead us to our true home with him.

Mary and Joseph did not know what the future held when they agreed to become the human parents of the Savior of the world. No father or mother knows what the future will hold on the day their child is born. Yet, we have children in hope for the future and in faith that God will lead and guide us into and through that future.

The decisions we are making now in our churches, whether to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church or remain, are decisions guided by faith and hope in a future held by God. They are decisions that should not be guided by fear or a desire to cling to the past, but are decisions based on a confidence that God will not let us down.

Transitions remind us we are not in control. The wisest saying I have ever heard is, “God is God, and I am not!” That saying has become a mantra for me, acknowledging my life is not my own, but God’s. He is in control. My role is to respond to his leading and be faithful to what he is calling me to be.

Yes, transitions are uncomfortable. Journeying into an unknown future can be intimidating. We can walk through this transition with confidence by adjusting our expectations. Things will not be like they once were. In this season, there is no way to keep what once was. Our only course is to walk into a future we choose, guided and empowered by God, just as Mary and Joseph did. All the rest is up to the Lord.

I pray you experience a blessed and rich Christmas celebration, filled with the joy and peace of Christ.

Thomas Lambrecht is a United Methodist clergyperson and the vice president of Good News.

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A weekly video devotional designed to challenge and encourage believers in their daily walk with the Lord.

Thanks for stopping in and may the Spirit of God be with you as you seek his face and grow in the Spirit

"Word for the Week" by Pastor Darren.

Click [here](#) to watch this weeks word.

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For online giving click the [Vanco link](#)

You are welcome to mail contributions to the church at 1548 S Hart St Rd, Vincennes, IN 47591 Atten: Cindy

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Sign the online Pew Pad in our website by clicking [here](#)

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ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE :

[December 4, 2022 Worship Service](#)

[December 11, 2022 Worship Service](#)

[December 18, 2022 Worship Service](#)

To view past Worship Services and Sermons, go to [Community Church web page](#).

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Check out the [church calendar](#) page on the web site for meetings and happenings around the church.

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