



*St. John United Church of Christ*

*204 Seventh Street, Lincoln, IL 62656 / 217.732.6957*

Dear Western Association Friends!

We are so very happy to welcome you to St. John United Church of Christ in Lincoln! We are eagerly preparing for your arrival. We are a recipient to the LEEAP grant and we want to show you how we've added technological and structural changes along with becoming **RADICALLY** welcoming!

Here's a trivia question for you! What was the original name of this town? It was "Postville". It was changed to Lincoln after our esteemed 16<sup>th</sup> president whose first law office was here before he ran for any civic positions. It is written that when he learned that the town was being renamed after him, he said (paraphrasing), "I'm not sure that's a good idea since nothing good ever came out of a Lincoln!" The "Postville Courthouse" where Lincoln tried cases still stands on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln as a museum. There is a wonderful Lincoln museum focusing on Lincoln's life in Illinois. Another celebrity went to grade school here; the poet Langston Hughes. The town of Lincoln is host to Lincoln College (whose student body consists of mostly Southern Chicago students) and Lincoln Christian University. We also host two prisons.

St. John UCC is known as the "Niebuhr Church". In the basement, outside of our offices, we have pictures of the Niebuhr family. Gustav Niebuhr (father of the famous Richard and Reinhold) was the pastor of St. John UCC. When Gustav died, Reinhold came back as an interim for awhile. The site of the church was a different place than it is now, however, much of the furniture is the same. The pulpit, lectern, etc. are the same ones he used. For those of you who aren't professional theologians, you will know Reinhold's most famous prayer called "The Serenity Prayer".

We are so glad you are coming and are excited to welcome you to our Church home! We hope you will feel welcome in our very handicapped accessible building, with an elevator. If there is anything you need when you are here, please don't hesitate to let us know! We will do everything we can to accommodate your needs.

With great anticipation,

*Rev. Laurie Hill*

Designated Pastor