

The Epistle

St. John UCC, 409 Park Avenue, PO Box 156, Bolivar, Ohio 44612

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY April 2021

Easter greetings members and friends,

It has been a long journey through the season of Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we have been walking with Jesus on his mission. We have seen the disciples becoming fully aware of whom Jesus is, the Messiah. However, this was not the Messiah that they expected. Their idea of the Messiah was one who would overthrow the Roman Empire and liberate the Jews, as Moses had done with the Egyptians. This was not to be, obviously. Jesus' mission was not political, but personal. Jesus sought to provide people the opportunity to have their sins forgiven. To remove what divided us from God. When Jesus rose from the dead, it was mission accomplished.

Many people find Spring to be their favorite time of the year. Life explodes all around us. Flowers begin to bloom, grass turns green and soon the trees will fill with leaves. It is also a time when we plant. It may be flowers or a full-blown garden filled with plants that will produce delicious fruit and other produce. It is also a time of planting in our church.

Our church has been experiencing a consistent increase in attendance every week as people have become vaccinated and deem it to be safe to join in worship with others. I very much look forward to having fellowship and educational opportunities to discuss with one another how our relationship with God impacts our life and the lives around us.

If you are able, I hope that you will join us for worship on Sunday morning, as well as opportunities we will have to gather together outside of worship as well. We are the church and we are also family. I personally am looking forward to spending more time with my extended family in the months ahead. This is a restart for our church, as well as my ministry as we look to grow together.

I look forward to seeing you in church or if you wish I am available for home visits. You may reach me anytime at 330-844-1377.

Pastor Jeff

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April 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Ps 96-102 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm <i>Chris Berens</i>	2 Ps 103-105 Good Friday	3 Ps 106-107
4 Ps 108-114 Easter Sunday/Communion Service 10:30am	5 Ps 115-118 <i>Corinne Hamilton</i>	6 Ps 119:1-88	7 Ps 119:89-176	8 Ps 120-132 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	9 Ps 133-139	10 Ps 140-145
11 Ps 146-150 <i>Carol Cropper</i>	12 Prov 1-3 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	13 Prov 4-6 <i>Chris Carpenter/Joyclin Ely</i>	14 Prov 7-9	15 Prov 10-12 <i>Liz Snedecker</i>	16 Prov 13-15 <i>Mary Birk</i>	17 Prov 16-18 <i>Kate Hamilton</i>
18 Prov 19-21	19 Prov 22-23	20 Prov 24-26	21 Prov 27-29	22 Prov 30-31 <i>Becky Miller</i>	23 Ecc 1-4	24 Ecc 5-8 <i>Laylah Bradford</i>
25 Ecc 9-12	26 Solomon 1-8 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	27 Is 1-4 Epistle Items Due	28 Is 5-8 <i>Mia Kuharich</i>	29 Is 9-12	30 Is 13-17	

Daily bible readings are listed for each day.
Members and friends birthdays are now listed on the calendar.

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April Birthdays

4/1 – Chris Berens
4/5 – Corinne Hamilton
4/11 – Carol Cropper
4/13 – Chris Carpenter
4/13 – Joyclin Ely
4/15 – Liz Snedeker

4/16 – Mary Birk
4/17 – Kate Hamilton
4/22 – Becky Miller
4/24 – Laylah Bradford
4/28 – Mia Kuharich

Scheduled Liturgist

4/4 – Maggie Hamilton
4/11 – Dale Duerr
4/18 – Carolyn Birk
4/25 – Laine Bradford



Please remember the following in your prayers:

All frontline/healthcare workers,
Nila Baad, Bob and Joyclin Ely, Pam Farnsworth, Barb Goldsmith, Helen Hall, Mark Hickman, Missy Jones, Thelma Morrison, Holly Myers, Jeanne Nalley, George Rootring, John and Wanda Stucky, Crystal Weaver

Please contact the church office with any changes to the prayer list.

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EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service – Apr. 1st @ St. John UCC 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Service – Apr. 4th @ St. John UCC 10:30am

Communion will be served at both services.

CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes closet had lots of helpers in March: Cathy, Chris S., Becky M., Jane, Becky W., and Jean G. We met an extra time in early March to sort all the donations that had piled up during January and February while the Closet was closed. The Closet was pretty crowded with clothes so Jean and Chris started to “purge” some of the clothing that had been there a long time and some winter clothing that people were no longer buying. There were eight customers in March and receipts of a little over twenty-seven dollars.



Chris brought in some cupcakes and birthday cake for the workers and customers to enjoy and there was plenty of conversation as we welcomed Jane back to the Clothes Closet. Everyone is welcome to stop by for some coffee and a cookie (or whatever we have that day) and some conversation even if you don't want to shop. Our next open dates will be April 12 and 26 from 9am to noon.

EPISTLE COMMUNICATION

We currently send the monthly Epistle by email and regular mail. Please let the office know if you want to change the method in which you receive yours. The office can be reached by 330-874-2822 or stjohnsect@aol.com.

PRAYER LIST/CARD MINISTRY

Every week, our prayer list is updated to the best of our ability. Please notify the office if you have any additions, deletions or suggestions! Remember the shut-ins and those on the prayer list. “Thinking of you” cards, a note, or a telephone call means so much. Contact the church office if you need addresses or phone numbers.



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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

On the monthly calendar, every day has a passage from the bible. Follow this daily schedule and you will read the entire bible in one year! The schedule will also be listed by the week in the Sunday Bulletin.

CONSISTORY MEETING SUMMARY – February 11, 2021

Consistory met with Pastor Jeff this month on February 11th. Pastor Jeff discussed forming a St. John/Zoar UCC committee to facilitate the 2 churches working together on special events. He continues to reach out to members via phone, text and visits. He would like to focus on communication throughout the church. Consistory discussed having our social media account on Facebook updated more frequently. Starting an adult Sunday School class or discussion group was also discussed. Small group meetings throughout the week was also discussed. 2021 Committees were finalized and a list can be found on the church bulletin boards. If anyone wishes to be added to a committee, please let the office know.

FINANCIAL REPORT – February 2021

Offering

2/7	\$2,000
2/14	\$840
2/21	\$1,440
2/28	\$1,295
Total	\$5,575

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Income	\$5,575	\$14,376
Expenses	(\$5,197)	(\$12,462)
Total	<u>+ \$377</u>	<u>+ \$1,913</u>

If you would like further details, please feel free to contact the church office. Thank you for your support to help us get off to a great start in 2021.