

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY April 2024

Hello family,

I have a small workshop at home that I like to spend time in and make sawdust. I've watched some YouTube videos and read some articles on how to best set up your shop for it to be most efficient. There are questions that almost always come up in these presentations. "What do you want to produce in your shop?" "Do you want your shop to be a showroom or a workspace?" "What are the essential tools, machines needed in the shop to do what you want it to do?" The presenters go on to say that every shop needs a plan. Plan your work and work your plan is the motto I see and hear most often.

This got me to thinking about the church. I find myself wondering if what is true in the shop might also be true in the church. What is the church here for is a question I ask myself regularly. Is there a purpose for our meeting or do we just do what we have always done without a purpose in mind? What is it that we are producing, and what is it that we want to produce? What do we expect will happen to a person who sits in our worship service Sunday after Sunday? Do we expect people to experience change? According to Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20, we are called to make disciples who will change the world. So, if we are to be about the business of disciple making, is the church a museum for what has happened in the past or a workspace for training and equipping Christians to be change agents in the world? And if we are to be making disciples, what tools do we need to accomplish our mission? Then there is the big question, do we have a plan on how we are going to do what we believe we have been called to do?

I once heard someone say, "Either you are growing or you are dying, there is no standing still", and I believe that is true. As the Church of Jesus Christ, we can celebrate all that God has done in the past, but we must also continue to grow and move forward. I am sure you may have noticed the world has changed over the last 50 years and it will continue to change. The church has the same message that she has proclaimed for 2000 years, but our work is not finished and we must be diligent in the work God has called us to and equipped us with the Holy Spirit to accomplish.

As you can probably tell, I am feeling a little passionate about what lies ahead for us as St. John United Church of Christ. I think we need a plan for moving forward and I would love to hear your thoughts about what that might look like.

Pastor Don

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April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Free Community Lunch @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	5	6
7 Communion After Church Committee Meeting/Lunch	8	9	10	11 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	12	13
14	15	16 Bible Study 11:00am-12:00pm or 6:30pm-7:30pm	17	18	19	20 Youth Mulch Day 10:00am
21 Spring Hike after Church	22 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	23 Bible Study 11:00am-12:00pm or 6:30pm-7:30pm	24 Epistle Items Due	25	26	27
28	29	30 Bible Study 11:00am-12:00pm or 6:30pm-7:30pm				

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BIRTHDAY LIST



April 5 – Corinne Hamilton
April 13 – Chris Carpenter
April 13 – Joyclin Ely
April 15 – Liz Snedeker
April 16 – Mary Birk
April 17 – Kate Hamilton
April 22 – Becky Miller
April 24 – Laylah Bradford
April 24 – Debbie Lundenberger
April 26 – Mia Kuharich

PRAYER LIST/CARD MINISTRY

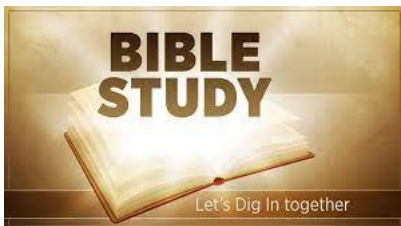
Every week, our prayer list is updated to the best of our ability. Please notify the office if you have any additions, deletions or suggestions! Please remember those on the prayer list. “Thinking of you” cards, a note, or a telephone call means so much. Contact the church office if you need addresses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



Please remember the following in your prayers:

Tusky Valley Band, Students, Staff and Families, Zach Brinkman (mission trip), Michael Digman, Bob and Joyclin Ely, Missy Jones, Pam Miller, Clara Mae Millhorn, Holly Myers, Tyler Nathan, Jane Regula, Linda Sanko, Don Wagler

BIBLE STUDY



Ready to learn more about the bible?? Join this 6 week “Bible for Dummies” Bible Study! The study will be offered at two different times on Tuesdays beginning April 16th. The first one will be from 11:00am-12:00pm and the second one will be from 6:30pm-7:30pm. We will meet in the fellowship hall. Please sign up with Pastor Don if you are interested. The class will run 4/16-5/21.

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APRIL YOUTH EVENT



On April 20th, there will be a youth service event. We will be gathering to spruce up the church with mulch. The event will begin at 10:00am and afterwards we will enjoy a provided lunch together. Last month's scavenger hunt was a HUGE success and everyone had a lot of fun. We look forward to continuing monthly youth events here at St. John.

BAPTISM OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in getting baptized? Let us know!! Pastor Don would like to offer the opportunity of baptism to anyone who is interested. Please see him or Kaley Hamilton if you would like more information.



THANK YOU



St. John UCC, Thank you for the contribution of \$100 given to the Christian Outreach Food Pantry. Blessings, Janice Currence, Treasurer

Dear St. John UCC, We very much appreciate your generous donation of \$600 to the Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County. Opening in 2005, the shelter has now provided over 175,000 nights to those in need. Your donations will help us continue to provide our guests with weekly case management, referral services, and a safe place to stay as they continue their journey to independent living. Also thank you for the donation of blankets, pillows, toilet paper, paper towels, etc. God Bless. Matt Rizert

SPRING HIKE

It's already time for our annual spring hike! We will have lunch in the fellowship hall after church on Sunday April 21st. After that, we will gather at the Towpath Trailhead at 1:00pm for a hike on the Towpath. We will meet out at Dale Duerr's farm for some goodies to conclude our day. Please join us, we always have a great time!



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CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes Closet was open for a second day in March on the 26th. Cathy, Chris, Lynn, Ginny, and Jane H. were there to sort clothes and take care of customers. Because we are still trying to reduce the amount of winter clothing, all cold weather clothing was on sale for a dollar-a-bag or half price if there was not a bag full. We had 10

customers and receipts of a little over thirty-three dollars.

Because we are only going to be open on one day in April (because of the eclipse), and one day in May (because of Memorial Day), we decided to open on the Saturday before Mother's Day. May 11 is the date of the Wilkshire Hills community garage sale, so we thought that would be a good day for us to be open also. A Saturday might be a good day for you to visit the closet to see what we're about. We know Mondays are not good for everybody.

Next open dates. April 22, May 11, and May 13.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school begins at 9:30am every Sunday. There are two classes. Gretchen Deubner leads the children class, which is for children 6th grade and down. There is also an adult class in the parlor, which is for 7th grade through adults. Please join us!



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FINANCIAL REPORT – February 2024

<u>February Income</u>				<u>Year-to-Date</u>
02/04/24	\$ 2,660.00	Income	\$7,997.40	\$ 15,940.40
02/11/24	\$ 1,322.00	Expenses	<u>\$(5,896.70)</u>	<u>\$(11,780.91)</u>
02/18/24	\$ 2,367.00			
02/25/24	\$ 1,633.40			
<u>02/01/24</u>	<u>\$ 15.00</u>			
Total	\$ 7,997.40	Total	\$ 2,100.70	\$ 4,159.49

If you would like further details, please feel free to contact the church office.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Help us keep our church roster updated. Contact the office with any address or phone changes. Thank you!

WORSHIP HOURS

Sunday School (Sept-May)
9:30am – Adults and Children
Worship 10:45am

LET'S COMMUNICATE

OFFICE – Kaley Hamilton, Secretary 330-874-2822
EMAIL – stjohnsect@aol.com
WEBSITE – www.stjohnbolivar.org

PASTOR

Pastor Don Perks
740-310-4557
pagaperks@gmail.com

If you know someone interested in receiving the Epistle by mail or email, please contact the church office.