

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY April 2025

Hello Family,

Welcome to April and the celebration of Easter, or Resurrection Day. On Easter we will celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and be reminded that because He lives, we also will live.

There are some who say that Christmas is the highlight of the Christian year. I would disagree, although I love Christmas. I would claim the most important event in the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In this dramatic event of resurrection, we are taken back to the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus, for the forgiven of our sins and to the triumphant victory over death. The Apostle Paul says the gospel message is three fold, Jesus died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day (I Corinthians 15:3-5). But then Paul continues to say that if Jesus was not raised from the dead, our preaching is useless and our faith is futile, or empty. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people to be pitied (I Corinthians 15:12-19). In essence Paul is saying we have no hope of heaven or eternity if Jesus was not resurrected, we only have hope in this world not the next.

When I think of Jesus' resurrection, there are many words that come to mind, but the one that stands out for me today is hope. The hope that we have because God kept His word. Jesus said He would be put to death but on the third day He would be raised to life. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, and if Christ has been raised we have this hope that we too will be raised to new life. So what is hope anyway? Hope is trusting in something that has not happened yet but believing that it will happen because God promised that it will. We do not hope for things that have already happened, we hope for what is yet to come. One of the symbols in the church is the symbol of an anchor. An anchor is something you find on a boat or a ship that is heavy, solid and dependable. It gives the captain of the ship confidence that it can be trusted to allow the vessel to stay steady in a time of great storms. The anchor is dropped to keep the vessel from drifting into dangerous waters or even into the rocks on a sea shore. So the idea is that our faith gives us hope, and that hope gives us confidence that no matter what we may face we can endure to the end. Like an anchor, our hope is in the promises of God, will keep us steady and grounded. Our hope, like an anchor, keeps us from drifting away from our faith and from crashing into the rocks that present themselves as obstacles on our path in following Jesus.

I look forward to you joining me on Easter to celebrate and worship our Risen Savior, Jesus, and to renew our hope in the faithful God who always keeps His promises.

-Pastor Don

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April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	2 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ St. John UCC 11:30am	3 Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	4	5
6 Communion 10:30am Youth Bible Study 6:30pm	7	8 Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	9 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ Holy Trinity 11:30am	10 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Youth Bible Study 6:30pm	14 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	15 Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	16 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ Bolivar Community Church 11:30am	17 Maundy Thursday Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	18 Good Friday	19 Holy Saturday
20 Easter Sunday Youth Bible Study 6:30pm	21	22 Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	23	24 Epistle Items Due	25 Tusky Valley Pay It Forward Day	26
27 Youth Event @ Dale Duerr's Farm Time TBD	28 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	29 Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	30			

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BIRTHDAY LIST

- April 5 – Corinne Hamilton
- April 13 – Chris Carpenter
- April 15 – Liz Snedeker
- April 16 – Mary Birk
- April 17 – Kate Hamilton
- April 22 – Becky Miller
- April 24 – Debbie Lundenberger
- April 28 – Mia Kuharich

PRAYER LIST/CARD MINISTRY

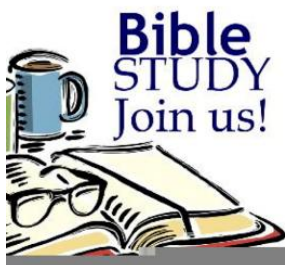
Every week, our prayer list is updated to the best of our ability. Please notify the office if you have any additions, deletions or suggestions! Please remember those on the prayer list. “Thinking of you” cards, a note, or a telephone call means so much. Contact the church office if you need addresses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



Please remember the following in your prayers:

Tusky Valley Band, Students, Staff and Families, Cathy Birk, Rhonda Bowe, Rose Brinkman, Bob Ely, Sarah Goff, Missy Jones, Carol Kinsey, Raine Millhorn, Holly Myers, Jane Regula, Courtney Schlabach, Sheree Sinclair, Clare Stevenson, Harper Szendersi, Mary Timmons

BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS



Adult Bible study continues to be held every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. The study will be held at 10:30am and 6:30pm. Please bring your bible and a pencil.

Cassie Brown leads a Youth Bible Study every Sunday for grades 7-12. This study will be held in the Parlor and begins at 6:30pm.

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LENT SERVICES

Here is a list of upcoming services here and around the community.



Lenten Service/Luncheon – April 2nd @ St. John UCC 11:30am

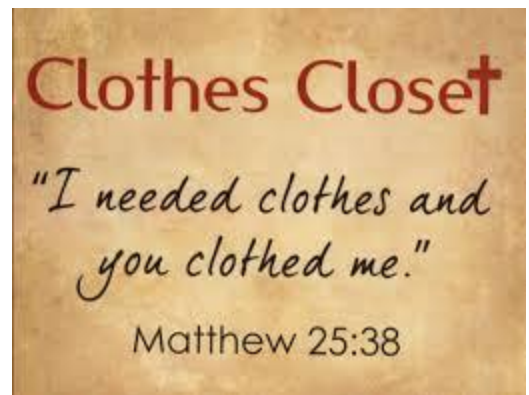
Lenten Service/Luncheon – April 9th @ Holy Trinity Catholic Church
11:30am

Lenten Service/Luncheon – April 16th @ Bolivar Community Church
11:30am

CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes Closet was open three times since my last Epistle article: Feb. 24, March 10 and March 24. On March 24 we had a Dollar-a-Bag sale to reduce our winter inventory. On those three days we had a total of 18 customers and receipts of a little over forty-seven dollars. We sold 14 bags of clothing on March 24. Our helpers were Cathy, Chris, Lynn, Jane, Debbie, Ginny, Susan and Jean.

A new, heavy duty, clothes rack has been ordered to replace one or two of our older, rickety racks which are increasing difficult to move without toppling over. (I mean the racks topple over not the helpers!) It should be here by the time of our scheduled "sorting day." On April 7th we will meet at 10 am to remove any remaining winter clothing and decide what to keep and store and what to pass along the donation trail. We may go to lunch afterward depending on how long we work. If you are interested in joining us for lunch, let a Clothes Closet worker know so we can let you know our plans.



YOUTH EVENT



There will be a youth event held on Sunday April 27th at Dale Duerr's Farm. Time is to be determined

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FINANCIAL REPORT – February 2025

		<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income – February (4 Sundays)	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 16,268.02
Monthly Expenses	\$ (7,025.89)	\$(12,429.19)

If you would like further details and/or a copy of the complete Treasurer's Report, 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

Worship 10:30am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30AM Sept-May

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

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