

# The Epistle

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St. John UCC; 409 Park Ave., P.O. Box 156; Bolivar, Ohio 44612

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY April 2017

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## Before It's Too Late

Prayer/poem© Bishop LaTremme Miller Easterling

I do not know exactly what lies ahead;  
How far we will have to travel on the road of unrest.  
I cannot foretell the number of bombs that will have to explode  
Or the lives that will have to be lost before...  
Before we understand that we cannot  
kill each other into the future we think we have imagined.  
You cannot hate enough to make yourself happy.  
You cannot destroy enough to make yourself feel secure.  
You cannot oppress enough to make yourself feel superior.  
You cannot commit enough evil to make yourself feel holy.

I do not know exactly what lies ahead;  
How far we will have to travel on the road of unrest.  
I cannot foretell how many rights will have to be taken away,  
Or how much progress will have to be reversed before...  
Before we understand that we cannot  
persecute each other into the future we think we have imagined.  
We cannot neglect each other enough to feel worthy.  
We cannot starve each other enough to feel full.  
We cannot silence one another enough to feel heard.  
We cannot fragment each other enough to feel whole.

I do not know exactly what lies ahead;  
How far we will have to travel on the road to unrest.  
I cannot foretell how many baby's bodies will have to float  
on the sea of greed and vainglory before...  
Before we understand that we cannot  
bully our way into the future we think we have imagined.  
We cannot bury each other deep enough to feel alive.  
We cannot rape each other enough to feel loved.  
We cannot infect each other enough to feel well.  
We cannot enslave one another enough to feel free.

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Before it is too late may we understand that the call is coming from inside the house.

Before it is too late may we comprehend that the

Stench

Rot

Brokenness

Emptiness

Insecurity

Woundedness

Disease

Is from within and not without.

Erasing you will not heal me.

May we understand before it is too late.

God, help us to understand before it is too late. Amen

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So Sorry For Your Loss

Three of our St. John UCC family have suffered the loss of a loved one. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and love to Jeanne Nalley, Fred Miller, and Barb and Chris Berens. Jeanne lost her brother, Robert Numbers, on March 12, 2017. Fred Miller lost his sister, Elizabeth Zimmer, on March 22, 2017. Barb and Chris Berens lost a dear family friend, Jason DeLong (son of Dawn Johnson) on March 16, 2017.

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

**Matthew 5:4**



In remembrance of my brother Bob I would like to thank Pastor David for attending the funeral and for the many cards I received from all my church family and friends. Thank you again, Jeanne Nalley and Family.



**St. John is pleased to announce that Hallie Carpenter and Julia Felgenhauer will be confirmed and received as members of St. John UCC at the 7:00am service on Easter morning.**

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April 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sign up for pictures begins.	3	4 Study Group, 7pm	5 St. Paul's Lent Service, 11:30am Choir 6:30pm	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday	10 Clothes Closet/ Pastor's Pantry 9-Noon, 5:30-7:30pm	11	12 Bolivar UMC Lunch 11:30am Choir 6:30pm	13 Maundy Thursday Service at St. John, 7:00pm	14 Good Friday	15 Holy Saturday
16 Easter Sunday 7am Con- firmants rec'd, Light Break- fast, 10:30 am Service	17 Ladies Luncheon, 11:30am Wendy's	18 Study Group, 7pm	19  Choir 6:30pm	20 St. Paul's Dinner, 5-6:30pm  Consistory 7pm	21 Deadline for Epistle	22
23	24 Clothes Closet/ Pastor's Pantry 9-Noon, 5:30-7:30pm	25 Homeless Shelter Meal	26  Choir 6:30pm	27	28	29
30	<b>Notes:</b> Communion Servers for April: Chris Stevenson and Birdie Wilt					

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## April Birthdays

Chris Berens (April 1)  
Russell Ross (April 4)  
Joyclin Ely (April 13)  
Chris Carpenter (April 13)

Liz Snedeker (April 15)  
Mary Birk (April 16)  
Becky Miller (April 22)

## Serving in April

### Liturgist

April 2 Carolyn Birk  
April 9 Ron Gauding  
April 16 Chris Berens  
April 23 Arline Mase  
April 30 Dale Duerr

### Acolyte

April 2 Hallie Carpenter  
April 9 Deisy Felgenhauer  
April 16 Max McCoy  
April 23 Julia Felgenhauer  
April 30 Hallie Carpenter

### Coffee Hour

April 2 Duerr's  
April 9 Renner's  
April 16 Easter  
April 23  
April 30

### Greeters

April 2 Rose Brinkman & Julia Felgenhauer  
April 9 Dick & Pam Diehl  
April 16 Fred & Becky Miller  
April 23 Chris & Hallie Carpenter  
April 30 Arline Mase & Tonya Winters

### Bell Ringer

April 2 Max McCoy  
April 9 Camden & Luke McCoy  
April 16 Hallie Carpenter  
April 23 Max McCoy  
April 30 Julia Felgenhauer

Esther Simon  
Helen Hall  
Russell Ross  
Fred Miller  
Bob & Joyclin Ely  
Linda Levengood & John Stevenson (Clare's brother and sister)  
In Dover), Family of Barb and Chris Berens,  
Family of Jeanne Nalley, Family of Fred Miller

Scotty Trambaugh  
Crystal Weaver  
Bill & Lucile Lebold  
Clare Stevenson  
Barb Goldsmith (Hennis)  
Betty Cummings (Hennis)



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## Farewell from John and Wanda

To all our church family at Bolivar St. John:

Wanda and I want to thank you for the wonderful send off you gave us the last Sunday we attended on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It was with heavy heart that we had to leave our friends in Bolivar and those at St. John in particular. The warmth in your personal farewell and the many cards we received was heartwarming. We will miss you. It has been hard to leave but we have been welcomed at our new home here in Lexington. Life moves on but we will never forget our friends at St. John. Let's stay in touch. Our new address is: 1125 Lexington Rd., Suite 2004, Wilmore, KY 40390.

May God Bless you all,  
John and Wanda Stucky



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## CONGREGATION JOINS TOGETHER FOR CHRISTMAS 2017

We just finished an amazing project, the **I'm so lucky** cups. We were encouraged to put a coin or two in our cup each time we were reminded of how lucky we really are. This was a project for Christmas 2017. Don't ever think coins don't add up. The total was..... \$241.50. Thank you to everyone who made this SO successful.

## CHRISTMAS 2017 PLANS ITS NEXT PROJECT

As you're doing your Spring cleaning, or just deciding to get rid of some things, please **bring** them to the church. We will again be having a **Basement Sale in May**. Everything will be accepted except **clothing items**. Please put your items in boxes or bags and then put the boxes on the pews in the Social Hall, starting on the very back pew. Last year people commented how nice and clean our items were and that they were very organized on the tables. All items seemed to go well, especially toys, kitchen goods and holiday items. If you have some larger items such as bikes, a grill, mowers, etc, please wait to bring them to the church. Last year this project brought in over \$700. Let's do it again. Watch for the dates to be announced.

## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Lifetouch Pictures will be here on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to take pictures for the new directory. Appointments will be scheduled from 2pm until 9. Anyone may schedule a photo appointment (even non-members.) Invite your family members to come for a studio portrait. Each family will get a free 8x10 photo (and a free directory for those whose pictures are included.) We need to have a least 30 families register for appointments and get pictures taken to get the

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directories. Please help us by having your picture taken and inviting family to take advantage of this opportunity.

We will also be asking for a few volunteers to help on May 15 and 16 as people come to the church to be photographed. Registration for appointments can be made before and after church starting in April. You will also be able to sign up online during the week.

## **CLOTHES CLOSET**

In March we had Dollar-a-Bag sales to reduce our winter inventory before putting out the warm weather clothing. MaryAnn Jerles from Bolivar Wesleyan Church and Marcia Howenstine from St. Paul Lutheran came to help. Barb opens the Closet in the evening as well as the Pastor's Pantry and she has had some high school students helping her. We can use a lot more help in April and June when we pack up some of the winter clothes and unpack summer things. If you have an hour or two to spare on April 10 or 24 please let Jane or Cathy know. We would love to have a few more volunteers. A dozen people stopped by the Clothes Closet in March and we had receipts of over forty dollars. Remember that the money collected goes toward other community mission projects in which our church is involved.

## **OUR MONTH TO SUPPLY THE BOLIVAR FOOD PANTRY**

Each year we have two months to really focus on supplying the Food Pantry, and April is one of those months. The Mission Committee decided to spice it up just a bit and ask that each week you bring in specific items. (Of course any items will gladly be accepted!)

- April 2 - 8      BREAKFAST items...cereal, graham crackers, breakfast bars
- April 9 - 15    SOUP, CRACKERS and PASTA
- April 16 - 22   MAIN DISH... tuna fish, Spam, Hamburger Helper, mac and cheese
- April 23 - 29   FRUITS and VEGETABLES

Each Sunday there will be a small display to help us all remember which items to shop for, or to simply remember the Food Pantry. Also, we need a volunteer, or some volunteers, to take the items up to the Methodist Church. Please see Chris Berens if this is something you would help with.

## **PASTOR'S PANTRY**

The Pastor's Pantry continues to thrive. In addition to our "Regulars" we are welcoming new shoppers as well as some sporadic returnees. We have just finished our third year in operation and feedback remains totally positive as to price and helpfulness of this mission project.

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Currently we have three high school students working as volunteers for their required Community Service hours. While we laugh and have fun when cutting and preparing coupons for our military, they immediately become totally businesslike when a shopper enters the building. They are extremely kind and courteous to each and seem to enjoy helping them with their shopping experience. The adult volunteers and I enjoy each of the three for their individual personalities and their willingness to interact with us and our shoppers. They're a real JOY to have around and much appreciated!

I am extremely lucky to be surrounded by a great group of volunteers who have bonded so well that we decided to go to dinner together in January. It was such a fun experience that we have now made it a quarterly event. Being in a different setting stimulates new discussion topics and deeper insight into each others' lives. Personally I think it's wonderful to have conversations involving our teens up through those of us half way through our sixties. We're NOT really that different!!!

Our fifth package of coupons has been mailed off to a Naval Station. Unfortunately, we have still not heard anything from any recipients. Please continue to bring in your coupons. I'm sure more of you receive them than I see being placed in the collection box. All you have to do is bring them and we'll handle the rest.

The Pantry can always use donations of toilet paper and tissues. It would be nice to offer sunscreen during the Summer months if anyone would like to donate some of that. Cash donations are always well spent and can be given to me if you don't want to shop.

Here's hoping Year 4 brings continued growth and more blessings to those we strive to help and to those of us who volunteer. Barb



## The Season of Lent

Lent began on March 1, 2017. Weekly services on Wednesday's during Lent at 11:30am followed by lunch are as follows:

**April 5 St. Paul Lutheran church**

## Easter Week Services at St. John in April

***Maundy Thursday Service, April 13 at 7:00pm***

***Easter Sunrise Service, April 16 at 7:00 am and 10:30 am***

**There will be a light breakfast between the two Easter morning services.**

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## HOMELESS SHELTER MEAL

Thanks to those who helped with the meals for the Tuscarawas Co. Homeless Shelter on January 24 and February 28, 2017 by donating money, food, or meal preparation and delivery. Those who assisted were Joyclin Ely, Esther Simon, Paula Goudy, Chris Stevenson, Rose Brinkman, Charles & Jane Regula, Dale & Claudia Duerr, Cathy & Chuck Fenstermaker, Janet Stewart, Pam Diehl, Susan Henry, and Mary Birk. We served ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans w ham, buns, hot dogs, homemade cookies (January), and jello with Cool Whip for dessert (March). Dale delivered the January meal, and Chuck Fenstermaker delivered the March meal. The next scheduled meal is set for May 23, 2017.

Thanks! Claudia

## MARCH 16, 2007- CONSISTORY MEETING

Members present: Rev. Houdeschelle, Barb Barens (Pres.), Chris Stevenson (Acting Sec.), Carolyn Birk, Chris Carpenter  
Absent: Birdie Wilt

Opening: Lord's Prayer

### **MINUTES: (MINUTES ARE PROVIDED IN THE EPISTLE)**

Sec. minutes: After review of the minutes by Consistory members, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Carolyn and seconded by Chris Carpenter.

### **Treasurer's report:**

One item concerning the cost of the payroll processing was discussed. Barb will talk with Mark about this item.

Following the review and discussion of the report, a motion was made by Chris Carpenter and seconded by Chris Stevenson to approve the minutes.

Rev. Houdeschell reviewed his report with consistory members. One item was added to the report. Rev. Houdeschell will be rotating with other Pastor's in the community to lead services at Hennis Care Center on Sunday's following the regular church services.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Nearly all of the Committees are currently functioning, except for the Pastor's Parish Relation Committee, which will be meeting in the near future.

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**Accessibilty committee:** Barb has contacted Caplea Atchitects to resend the bills that are currently due. She is waiting on these bills.

**Church Audit:** Barb will try and contact Bonnie, who has been off work, at the U.C.C. offices for help in finding someone to assist with the audit.

**Emergency call list:** The list will be forthcoming after the congregational information update is completed. Also, information concerning the “One Call Service” currently used by the school systems was discussed. More information will need to be gathered about the system.

**Personnel committee:** There has been no response to the advertisements for a choir director, organist , or secretary. The search will continue or options may be considered.

**Pastor’s Microphone:** The problem with Pastor David’s microphone has been resolved by simply moving a receiver in the sanctuary.

**New office phones:** Barb will be purchasing new phones for the Pastor’s and Secretary’s office after verifying the purchase with Mark.

**Consistory position:** The consistory position left open by the resignation of Fred Miller was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

A motion was made by Chris Carpenter to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Carolyn.

**CLOSING:** Pastor David closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting will be April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## St John United Church Of Christ ~ Treasurer's Report ~ January 2017

12/31/2016 Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$ 1,396.12		
General Fund Deposits	\$ 7,576.00	YTD \$	7,576.00
Other Deposits	\$ 138.00	YTD \$	138.00
Transfer from Money Market Acct	\$ 1,500.00	YTD \$	1,500.00
Balance and Receipts	\$ 10,610.12	YTD \$	<b>9,214.00</b>
Disbursements	\$ (7,859.42)	YTD \$	(7,859.42)
1/31/2017 Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$ <b>2,750.70</b>		

Envelope Offering	\$ 7,530.00		
Plate Offering	\$ 46.00	Anonymous Donations	
Sunday School		Miscellaneous	\$ 138.00
Total General Fund	\$ 7,576.00	Total Other Deposits	\$ 138.00

### Money Market Account Fund

<b>Memorial Fund</b> - Balance beginning of month:	\$ 43,132.55	
Check #		
Check #		
Transferred to Checking	\$ (1,500.00)	To cover funds
End of month balance	\$ <b>41,632.55</b>	
Funeral Lunch Donations	\$ 688.42	
Contribution/Check #		
End of month balance	\$ <b>688.42</b>	
Mrs. Floyd Burris Mission	\$ 750.68	
Check #		
Check #		
End of Month Balance	\$ <b>750.68</b>	
Clothes Closet Fund	\$ 753.55	
Check #		
Contribution		
End of Month Balance	\$ <b>753.55</b>	
<b>Capital Fund</b> - Balance beginning of month:	\$ 348.29	
Contribution	\$ 5.00	
End of month balance	\$ <b>353.29</b>	
<b>Savings Fund</b> - Balance at beginning of month:	\$ 63.57	
Contribution		
Interest	\$ 14.25	
End of month balance	\$ <b>77.82</b>	
<b>The Fund</b> - Balance at beginning of month:	\$ <b>40,970.29</b>	
<b>Fidelity</b> - Balance of beginning of month:	\$ <b>78,926.72</b>	

**TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT FUND**

**\$ 164,153.32**