

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY August 2016

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

By the end of this month both of our nation's political parties will have chosen their nominees for our next president and vice-president. This is likely to become an increasingly contentious period as supporters of each party seek to gain the majority of the voters for their side. This can, unfortunately, lead to dissention between family member, neighbors, and even church members. We are called to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Jesus challenged us to love even our enemies. Let this, then, be a time of discussions, not arguments, of love, not hatred.

As some of you know, I'm a supporting member of the Center for Progressive Christianity (ProgressiveChristianity.org). The fourth of their eight tenets is: "By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean that we are Christians who know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe."

As we all follow our own path to Christianity, let us recall that Jesus:

Fed the hungry,

Touched and healed the physically and the mentally ill,

Spoke to and nurtured women, and

Sought to end oppression.

Let us pray for our church, our community, our nation, and our world.

Pastor David+

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August 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Kitchen Committee 10am	2 Study Group 7:00pm	3	4	5	6 Country Breakfast 8:00-11am
7	8 Christmas 2016 12:15pm Wendy's Set-Up for Give- Away this week Clothes Closet/ Pastor's Pantry 9:00-noon, 5:30-7:30pm	9	10 Bol. UMC Lunch, 11:30am	11	12	13 School Supply Give- Away 8:30- 4:00pm
14	15 Ladies Lunch, 11:30am, Wendy's Carpet Cleaning	16 Study Group 7:00pm	17 *Choir Practice 7:00pm	18 St. Paul Dinner 5:00-6:30pm Consistory 7:00pm	19	20
21	22 Clothes Closet/ Pastor's Pantry 9:00-noon, 5:30-7:30pm	23	24 EPISTLE ITEMS DUE Choir Practice 7:00pm	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Choir Practice 7:00pm	Notes: Communion Servers for August: Chris Stevenson and Cathy Fenstermaker		

*Choir Practice resumes in August – we will announce when the first choir practice begins – it will either be on Weds., Aug. 17 or Aug. 24. All are welcome to join choir.

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August Birthdays

Aug. 1 Pam Diehl	Aug. 19 Jean Gauding
Aug. 10 Min Lee	Aug. 22 Jeff Brinkman
Aug. 10 Nila Baad	Aug. 25 Rhonda Felgenhauer
Aug. 11 Jeremy Brinkman	Aug. 25 Gretchen Deubner
Aug. 17 Janet Yaeger	Aug. 25 Mishella Mase
Aug. 17 Dick Diehl	Aug. 28 Mark Brinkman

Serving in July

Liturgist

Aug. 7 Dale Duerr
Aug. 14 Carolyn Birk
Aug. 21 Ron Gauding
Aug. 28 Arline Mase

Acolyte

Aug. 7 Julia Felgenhauer
Aug. 14 Hallie Carpenter
Aug. 21 Deisy Felgenhauer
Aug. 28 Max McCoy

Coffee Hour

Aug. 7
Aug. 14
Aug. 21 Chris and Barb Berens
Aug. 28

Greeters

Aug. 7 Mary and Carolyn Birk
Aug. 14 Dale Duerr and Charles Regula
Aug. 21 Gretchen Deubner and Max McCoy
Aug. 28 Jack and Grace Renner

Bell Ringer

Aug. 7 Hallie Carpenter
Aug. 14 Max McCoy
Aug. 21 Julia Felgenhauer
Aug. 28 Camden & Luke McCoy

(Please try to find a replacement if you are unable to serve.)

Esther Simon
Helen Hall
Russell Ross
Ron Gauding
Fred Miller
Bill & Lucile Lebold
George Rootring

David Mase
Crystal Weaver
Robert Vandall
Scotty Trambaugh
Claudia Duerr
Tom Henry



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Serving our Country Here and Abroad



Gabe Hixenbaugh is the grandson of Chris and Clare Stevenson – recently deployed to Dubai – he should be home in October 2016.

Mike Fender has returned home safe and sound – Thanks Be to God!

If you have someone to add to our prayer list for active duty military, contact the church office.



CONDOLENCE

It is with a heavy heart we report the death of Esther Simon's Great Granddaughter, Khalessi Simon, age 3, due to a drowning. Our hearts and prayers go to Khalessi's parents, grandparents and great grandparents, and all other family and friends.

CHOIR - I read a quote from Kay Johnson that says, "The forest is a quiet place if only the best birds sing." All voices are welcome – and we encourage you to join the choir. If you don't want to sing then consider the Bell Choir. Choir practice is Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm beginning in August.



MISSION COMMITTEES

Mission Committee for August Epistle 2016

The Mission Committee met on July 18th with five people attending, Shirley Holdsworth, Joyclin Ely, Jane Regula, Barb Berens, and Cathy Fenstermaker. Claudia Duerr was unable to attend

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Mission Committee continued:

but had met with two committee members the week before to give information about the July homeless shelter meal.

The homeless shelter meal this month (July 26) will be a picnic style meal. We will provide hot dogs and bratwurst, macaroni salad, corn on the cob, coney sauce, brownies and ice cream.

An organizational meeting for a Kitchen Committee will be held on Monday, August 1st at 10 am. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend (men we need you too!) Topics to be discussed include, but are not limited to, organization and providing of supplies, meeting schedule, equipment, asking for volunteers and funeral meals. Please come and offer other topics which should be considered or, if unable to attend, write down your suggestions and give them to someone on the Mission Committee. The kitchen committee will not be a part of the mission committee we are just getting the ball rolling.

Barb Berens presented a plan for The Pastor's Pantry to take over the coordination of the coupons for the military program which had previously been handled by the Wesleyan Church. She had researched the program and will be giving more information about it to the congregation. The Mission Committee agreed to provide the money for the postage required to mail the coupons to various military bases. The funds will come from the Clothes Closet account.

In June the Clothes Closet served a total of 18 customers and had receipts of about 48 dollars. Helpers included our regulars Jane Regula, Cathy Fenstermaker, Jean Gauding, MaryAnn Jerles and also from the Wesleyan Church Sue Price, and from St. Paul Lutheran Church Marcia Howenstine. Thank you to all the volunteers and for the donations which make this community project possible.

Don't forget to sign up to help at the School Supply Give-Away scheduled for August 13th from 9am to 3 pm. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. The work times are divided into 2 hour segments. We also need help on August 12th at 10 am in making the final preparations.

The next Mission Committee meeting is scheduled for September 19th at 10 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

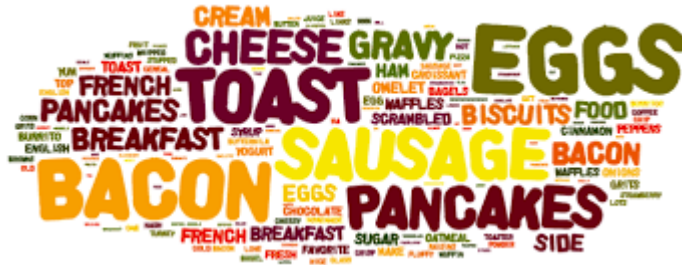
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CHRISTMAS 2016

A **BIG** thank you to our Consistory for planning and making the Brunch we had on July 10th. It was well attended and the free will offering was over \$200 which put our total over \$1,000.00.

Our next planning meeting will be **August 8 at 12:15 pm at Wendy's**. We really could use your input. Hope to see you on the 8th at Wendy's.



ALL - YOU - CAN - EAT COUNTRY BREAKFAST

St. John United Church of Christ
409 Park Ave., Bolivar

Saturday, August 6, 2016
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Breakfast will consist of:
Scrambled eggs, ham or sausage,
biscuits and sausage gravy,
pancakes, fruit,
juice and coffee.

Cost: \$6.00 ages 11 and up
\$3.00 ages 6 - 10
Under 6 free

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July 21, 2016- Consistory Meeting Minutes

Members present: Ron Gauding (Pres.), Cathy Fenstermaker (Vice-pres.), Chris Stevenson (Sec.) Missy Jones, Chris Carpenter, Carolyn Birk

Guest: Chris Berens

Ron called the meeting to order.

Chris Berens met with 2 companies concerning the cleaning of the carpet and pews in the sanctuary and the 2 offices. The estimates came in at \$890.00 and \$810.80. After some discussion, Chris Carpenter made a motion to hire Finishing Touch Flooring, at a cost of \$810.80, and Carolyn seconded the motion. Chris Berens will contact Finishing Touch to set up a date for the cleaning.

Chris thanked consistory for the brunch which brought in \$226.00 to be used for the Christmas 2016 project. Chris also brought up the situation involving people coming to the church looking for help with gas or food. Chris spoke with the manager at the Marathon station and also someone at Dairy Queen concerning the purchasing of gift cards for people needing help. It was suggested by the manager at Marathon that the Church issue a letter for \$10.00 to be presented at Marathon and would be used only for the purchase of gas. Nine gift cards, each for \$6.00, will be purchased by the Church, to distribute to people asking for help with food purchases. A motion was made by Chris Stevenson and seconded by Cathy to purchase gas and food cards totaling \$104.00. Names of people asking for help will be recorded.

Chris also brought up the handling of funeral lunches. Chris Berens and Cathy are currently taking care of those funerals. There is currently a notebook listing volunteers who organize funeral meals.

REPORTS:

Secretary's report: After one correction to the previous meeting's minutes, they were approved.

Financial report: The report was accepted, following a discussion of the current finances.

Building and grounds: Chris Carpenter completed the installation of the air conditioners.

Carolyn said that someone told her that the one of the double doors was sticking.

Mission committee: Claudia and Joyclin have worked out the menu for the Homeless Meal.

Cathy has been working on a signup sheet for the kitchen committee. The committee will help organize the kitchen, checking supplies, and cleaning the appliances. A signup sheet will be available for the next several Sundays.

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CONSISTORY MINUTES – JULY 21, 2016 CONTINUED:

COMMUNICATION: Mary Birk has requested that consistory approve a reduction in her pay from \$90.00 to \$75.00 for each time she plays.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chris Carpenter is continuing to look for a music director through the A.G.O.

Chris Stevenson has looked into the cost and reviews of a steam mop that can be used in the kitchen and elsewhere. The mop will be purchased later.

Two bills concerning the accessibility plans have been received from Caplea Studio Architects. Ron will contact Caplea to clarify the bills.

Cathy has distributed and used the new Financial Committee Reports.

The Financial committee will be looking into transferring money into the Church's checking account to be invested into other funds with more substantial returns. Ron will be looking into other investments.

NEW BUSINESS:

Payroll for church employees was discussed by consistory. Since all employees are paid on the same day, and for the ease of bookkeeping, checks will be issued through direct deposit. This can be done through the QuickBooks system used by the Church.

A motion was made by Chris Carpenter and seconded by Missy to issue payroll checks by direct deposit.

The meeting was adjourned and concluded with the Lord's Prayer.



The next meeting will be on Aug. 18.

In God's Hands

Earthquakes and storms are
God's way of reminding us
That we don't have everything
Under control.

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**St. John United Church of Christ
Treasurer's Report
June 2016**

5/31/2016	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$ 660.09		
	General Fund Deposits	\$ 6,406.00	YTD \$	37,319.00
	Other Deposits	\$130.00	YTD \$	1,225.82
	Transfer from Money Market Acct	\$ 2,200.00	YTD \$	9,600.00
	Fidelity Transfer	\$ -	YTD \$	-
	Balance and Receipts	\$ 9,396.09	YTD \$	48,144.82
	Disbursements	\$ (9,232.30)	YTD \$	(48,990.52)
6/30/2016	Balance on hand - Checking Account	<u>\$ 163.79</u>		

Envelope Offering	\$ 6,279.00		
Plate Offering	\$ 127.00	Anonymous Donations	\$125.00
Sunday School		Miscellaneous	\$5.00
Total General Fund	<u>\$ 6,406.00</u>	Total Other Deposits	<u>\$130.00</u>

Money Market Account Fund

Memorial Fund - Balance beginning of month:	\$ 48,339.35	
Check #		
Transfer to Checking	\$ (2,200.00)	To cover funds
Contribution		
End of month balance	<u>\$ 46,139.35</u>	
Funeral Lunch Donations	\$ 742.45	
Contribution		
End of month balance	<u>\$ 742.45</u>	
Mrs. Floyd Burris Mission	\$ 750.68	
Check #		
Check #		
End of Month Balance	<u>\$ 750.68</u>	
Clothes Closet Fund	\$ 858.50	
Check # 1016 Loving Heart Foundation		
Contribution		
End of Month Balance	<u>\$ 858.50</u>	
Capital Fund - Balance beginning of month:	\$ 313.29	
Contribution	\$ 5.00	
End of month balance	<u>\$ 318.29</u>	
Savings Fund - Balance at beginning of month:	\$ 28.89	
Contribution		
Transfer to Checking		
Interest	\$ 4.16	
End of month balance	<u>\$ 33.05</u>	

TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT FUND **\$ 48,842.32**