

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY August 2022

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We are excited to announce that 2022 marks the 200th anniversary of St. John UCC in Bolivar. To celebrate this milestone, we have planned several events throughout the spring and summer. Our first and second events took place on May 15th and June 19th. We were pleased to have several familiar faces in the congregation. Our final event will be held on August 14th. Details for the event can be found later in the Epistle.

A Short History of St. John UCC of Bolivar

Around 1819, there was a small community of settlers a short distance south of the present Bolivar. This Zutavern Community, by 1822, had a “Society of German and English Lutherans”. The Church Society met in homes until 1833 when a log church was built 2.5 miles southwest of Bolivar on the present County Road 422. Many people traveled from the new town of Bolivar to the Zutavern Church for services. In 1853, a group of members from the Bolivar vicinity left the Zutavern Church and organized an independent congregation known as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John in Bolivar which was formally incorporated in 1856. When St. John Church joined the German Evangelical Synod of North America, it changed its name to St. John Evangelical Church, the name still visible in large letters in the window over the entrance to the present building.

With the merger of the Evangelical Synod and the Reformed Church in the U.S. in 1934, St. John changed its name to St. John Evangelical and Reformed Church. Another merger came in 1957 with the Congregational Christian Churches and St. John became known as St. John United Church of Christ.

The original church was built in 1871. Later, two Sunday school rooms and a new entrance were added and in 1925, a basement was dug under the church by hand. In 1951, wings were added to the sanctuary and the basement was remodeled. The education wing, offices, additional bathrooms and a vestibule were added in 1968-1971. Extensive remodeling of the sanctuary and the basement fellowship hall and kitchen were completed in 1986.

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Dear members and friends,

On August 14, during worship we will have an opportunity to share with one another memories of the past of time spent at St. John UCC. We are inviting people to bring pictures, share a short story, and also what St. John has meant to us. This will be another service of celebration that we began in May to mark 200 years of ministry in Bolivar. Memories may be from the far passed or as recent as the past month. St. John has played an important role in our faith journey and it is good to share with one another not only what has happened, but what we hope for in the future.

When I visit our members, the discussion often revolves around the difference our church has made in people's lives. Our church is more than prayers, singing, and growing in our faith. It also included very meaningful relationships with one another that have also helped to propel us through life's challenges. What a difference it makes to know that others are praying for you in times of need. This was true for me this past winter.

Many of you know that I believe in following a version of the Farmer's almanac that provides for me the best times to plant, to trim bushes that they will not grow back quickly, to destroy (pull) weeds that they will not come back quickly, as well as the very best times to plant flowers. This information has been known to work for hundreds of years. My grandparents always followed this guide to help them choose the right time to care for plants and shrubs and to maximize their harvest. It even tells the best time to harvest what comes out of their gardens. I realize many people don't believe in this information. But I have followed it for over 10 years and it is a wonderful thing. I even choose to share this information with anyone who's willing to listen. Every year I buy several calendars to share with others. Inevitably, the next year folks are looking for another calendar because it simply works. Ask me and I'll tell you about it.

Just as the Farmer's almanac works, I believe that God is very real and active in our lives today. I also share this good news with anyone who is willing to listen. I also pray with anyone who requests help. I don't pray because it's what Christians do, but I pray because in my life I have repeatedly seen what difference prayer makes. I feel truly blessed to be able to lead worship in two different churches on Sunday mornings. People really are listening, learning, and growing in their faith. I fear though that many people no longer believe in God's power, just like people don't believe in the almanac. All I can say to everyone who is reading this is, it really works. If people just take the time to draw near to God in worship with other believers, miraculous things can and do happen.

I look forward to worshipping with you in person soon. Please let me know if you would desire a call. I am here for all of you.

Serving our Lord with excitement,
Pastor Jeff

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August 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Pam Diehl</i>	2	3	4	5	6 All you can eat Country Breakfast 8:00am- 11:00am
7 Altar Communion Guest Rev. Dr. John States 10:30am	8 Clothes Closet 9:00am- 12:00pm	9	10 <i>Min Lee</i>	11 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm <i>Jeremy Brinkman</i>	12	13
14 200 th Anniversary Celebration and Picnic Lunch	15 Tusky Valley Back to School Blast 5:00pm- 7:00pm	16	17 <i>Dick Diehl</i>	18 Free Community Lunch @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	19 <i>Jean Gauding</i>	20
21	22 Clothes Closet 9:00am- 12:00pm <i>Jeff Brinkman</i>	23	24	25 Epistle Items Due <i>Gretchen Deubner/ Rhonda Felgenhauer/Mishella Mase</i>	26	27
28 <i>Mark Brinkman</i>	29	30	31	<i>Birthdays are listed on calendar.</i>		

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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:

Continued Prayers: Bob Ely, Missy Jones

Medical: Kasie Atkins, Becky Miller

Cancer: Missy Horn, Holly Myers, Peter Stenz

Nursing Home: Joyclin Ely

COUNTRY BREAKFAST

Our next breakfast of the summer will be held on Saturday August 6th from 8:00am-11:00am. Breakfast will include: Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, breakfast bakes, grits, fruit, sweets, biscuits and sausage gravy, pancakes, juice and coffee. Cost: \$9.00 ages 11 and up, \$4.00 ages 6 to 10, Under 6 – Free. All proceeds from this event benefit local mission projects.



200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



On Sunday August 14th, as we continue to celebrate our church's 200th year, we are asking everyone to share memories and photos of your family, as it relates to St. John UCC. Please give written memories and photos (which will be returned) to Dale Duerr, Carolyn Birk or Kaley Hamilton by August 8th. Items may be emailed to the church at stjohnsect@aol.com or mailed to the church PO Box 156, Bolivar, OH 44612 as well. Following the service on the 14th a picnic lunch will be held in the social hall. Please RSVP on one of the bulletin boards or by calling/emailing church office.

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THANK YOU

Dear Congregation, We would like to thank Pastor Jeff and all who sent cards, made phone calls, gave food, flowers and also visited during George's illness and passing. It was greatly appreciated by all of us.
From, The Rooting Family



St. John UCC, Thank you for contributing to the Christian Outreach Food Pantry. Your support is appreciated. Blessings, Janice Currance, Treasurer

CLOTHES CLOSET



The Clothes Closet was open on two days in June and two days in July. We had 16 customers in June and had receipts of a little over \$53. In July we welcomed 12 customers and had receipts of a little over \$35. Our helpers for those two months included Cathy, Birdie, Chris S., Jane, Becky Miller and Jean Gauding.

Thank you to those who donate clothing. We sort through the clothing, label some with size stickers or hang it up on racks labeled with sizes. We spend time talking, laughing and visiting with our guests, (and drinking coffee and eating whatever sweets we are offering that day!) Sometimes our guests sit down for a cup of coffee, a cookie, and some conversation. Sometimes they take a cookie and a coffee to go.

Please stop by if you are free on a Monday, to say hello and see what we do. We will be open on the Saturday of the church rummage sale for those of you who cannot stop by on a weekday. Our next open dates will be August 8 and 22.

BASEMENT SALE

The church's annual basement sale will be held on September 16th and 17th this year, with the possibility of extending the following weekend. All proceeds from this event go to the Tusky Valley Affordable Christmas project which gives a "hand up, not a hand out" to families in the district to assist with their Christmas. The church will begin accepting donations August 29th. Please see Chris Stevenson or call the church office to arrange drop off.



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CONSISTORY MEETING SUMMARY

Consistory and Pastor Jeff met on June 16th. It was discussed to add additional money to the budget for Christian Education. Old business discussed was the VBS in July at St. Paul. The prayer list has been revised. The church basement sale will be held September 16 and 17. New business discussed was having music provided for the 200th year celebration in June. The towel dispensers in bathrooms do not work and will be replaced with baskets and folded towels. Pastor Jeff will be in charge of unlocking doors on Sunday mornings. A new copier has been ordered for the office. Discussion was held about doing physical mission work in the community. Consistory will start finding opportunities.

FINANCIAL REPORT – June 2022

<u>June Income</u>				<u>Year-to-Date</u>
6/05/22	\$ 810.00	Income	\$ 5,507.00	\$ 38,001.83
6/12/22	\$ 1,333.00	Expenses	<u>\$(5,977.86)</u>	<u>\$(41,932.68)</u>
6/19/22	\$ 612.00			
<u>6/26/22</u>	<u>\$ 2,752.00</u>			
Total	\$ 5,507.00	Total	\$ (470.86)	\$ (3,930.85)

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 10:30am

PASTOR

Pastor Jeff Shultz
330-844-1377

LET'S COMMUNICATE

OFFICE – 330-874-2822

EMAIL – stjohnsect@aol.com

WEBSITE – www.stjohnbolivar.org

OFFICE HOURS

Kaley Hamilton, Secretary (Tues-Thurs)
9:00am-12:00pm