

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY December 2019



December 1 marks the first Sunday of Advent. On that day we begin a new liturgical year, Year A in the Revised Common Lectionary. We move from the Gospel scriptures recorded by Luke to those recorded by Matthew. Interestingly, those scriptures appointed for this Sunday concern events toward the end of Jesus's life, not the beginning. Matthew's birth narrative occurs on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and the visit to the young Jesus by the wise men is not included at all.

Instead, we are led from the birth directly to the "Escape to Egypt," and it is there that I want to focus our thoughts. "Now after they [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men." Matthew 2: 13-16

A couple with their young child flees from an oppressive society and perhaps even death, at least for their son. They are "aliens" yet they are welcomed. They have little or no money, yet they are accepted. They are not turned away. They are not imprisoned. Their son is not separated from them and locked in a cage. Instead they are allowed to live together in this foreign country until Herod has died, and it is safe for them to return to their home.

As we approach this Christmas season, let our prayers be with the many families who have not received this kind of welcome in our country.

Blessings,

Pastor David+

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December 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Deut 11-13 Hanging of the Greens 1 st Sunday of Advent	2 Deut 14-16	3 Deut 17-20	4 Deut 21-23	5 Deut 24-27	6 Deut 28-29	7 Deut 30-31 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm
8 Deut 32-34 2 nd Sunday of Advent Altar Communion 10:30am	9 Josh 1-4 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	10 Josh 5-8	11 Josh 9-11 Bolivar UMC @ 11:30am	12 Josh 12-15 Consistory Meeting @ Regula's 7:00pm	13 Josh 16-18	14 Josh 19-21
15 Josh 22-24 3 rd Sunday of Advent	16 Jud 1-2	17 Jud 3-5	18 Jud 6-7	19 Jud 8-9 St. Paul Dinner 5:00-6:30pm	20 Jud 10-12	21 Jud 13-15
22 Jud 16-18 4 th Sunday of Advent Youth Christmas Party 6:00pm	23 Jud 19-21	24 Ruth Christmas Eve Service @ Zoar UCC 7:00pm	25 1 Sam 1-3 Christmas Day	26 1 Sam 4-8 Epistle Items Due	27 1 Sam 9-12	28 1 Sam 13-14
29 1 Sam 15-17	30 1 Sam 18-20	31 1 Sam 21-24 New Year's Eve				

Communion Servers for December 8th are Becky Miller & Charles Regula
Daily Bible Readings are listed for each day

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December Birthdays

12/2 – Rev. Houdeschell
12/6 – Chris Stevenson
12/6 – Brody Wolf
12/9 – Jane Regula

12/12 – Becky Wolf
12/16 – John Stewart
12/22 – Anne Houdeschell
12/29 – Molly Steiner

Serving In December

Liturgist

12/1 – Carolyn Birk
12/8 – Dale Duerr
12/15 – Gretchen Deubner
12/22 – Becky Wolf
12/29 – Carolyn Birk

Greeters/Ushers

12/1 – Becky Miller & Charles Regula
12/8 – Carolyn Birk & Ann Scott
12/15 – Kaley & Maggie Hamilton
12/22 – Gretchen Deubner & Cam McCoy
12/29 – Missy Jones & Molly Steiner

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

PRAYER LIST

Nila Baad, Mary Birk, Neil Buchanan, Terry Carpenter, Diane DeLong, Bob Ely, Pam Farnsworth, Barb Goldsmith, Helen Hall, Patty Hartman, Anne Houdeschell, Missy Jones, Dick Lebold, Linda Levengood, Katie Miskell, Kim Moore, Thelma Morrison, Mike Mullett, Holly Myers, Jeanne Nalley, George Rootring, Charles Smith, Wanda Stucky, Crystal Weaver



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HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, December 1st, which is the first Sunday of Advent. Please join us in decorating the church after the worship service.



GUEST PASTOR

We welcome Lay Pastor, Arline Mase, back to St. John UCC, where she will be serving as our guest Pastor on December 1st, as well as December 22nd. Welcome home, Arline!

CHRISTMAS PROJECT 2019

This year, the Tusky Valley Ministerial Association, which consists of all churches in the school district, has partnered with Tusky Valley Schools Affordable Christmas Project. On December 7th, the event will take place. Invited families will be able to shop for affordable Christmas gifts at Tusky Valley Intermediate School, pick up free groceries and gift cards at the Bolivar UMC and shop at the Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry. A special thank you goes to Pam Diehl and Chris Stevenson for all of their hard work throughout the year in raising money to purchase gift cards to be distributed to families.

YOUTH NEWS



Last month, the youth met and traveled to Sky Zone in Canton for a fun-filled evening of jumping! They then went to dinner at Cici's Pizza. This month, they are planning a Christmas Party on Sunday December 22nd at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a small gift exchange, games and food. Everyone is welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Christmas Eve service will be held on Tuesday December 24th at 7:00pm at the Zoar UCC. Please join us in Zoar.



MOBILE MEALS

Mobile Meals of Dover-New Philadelphia, Inc., located at Union Hospital, delivers meals to those in need in your community Monday thru Friday. They deliver to Dover, New Phila, Strasburg, Sugarcreek and Bolivar. They are a non-profit, client pay program and the current weekly charge is \$32.50 for 2 meals Mon-Fri. They currently have several

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openings in most areas. If you or someone you know needs hot nutritious meals, contact Kim Harmon at 330-364-0870. Volunteers are always needed if you would like to give back to your community.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Have you visited our website recently? The site is updated weekly. Visit stjohnbolivar.org.

RUMMAGE SALE



In the spring of 2020, the Christmas project committee will be holding a Rummage Sale. All proceeds will benefit the Community Christmas Project. The committee is asking for donations of household items, decorations, games, books, etc. No clothing will be accepted. The date of the sale will be announced in the future. Please see Chris Stevenson or Pam Diehl if you have any questions.

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! Remember the shut-ins and 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.



COFFEE HOUR



On the bulletin board outside the front of the Sanctuary is the signup sheet for Coffee Hour this year. Please sign up for a Sunday or multiple Sundays to be our host/hostess. It is a great time of fellowship!!

LITURGISTS WANTED

Do you like to read scripture? You would be responsible for 1 Sunday per month (maybe less). Liturgists welcome the congregation, begin our service, and read scripture. Let Kaley Hamilton know if you are interested in sharing your faith as a Liturgist.

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

On the monthly calendar, every day has a passage from the bible. Follow this daily schedule and you will read the entire bible in one year! The schedule will also be listed by the week in the Sunday Bulletin.



CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2019

- 1) **Call to order** – Charles Regula called meeting to order. Members present, President Charles Regula, VP Dale Duerr, Becky Miller, Becky Wolf, Birdie Wilt, Pastor David and Secretary Pam Diehl. Absent - Dick Diehl.
- 2) **Opening Mediation** – Until the Morning Star Rising up in your Heart written by Vicki Kemper. Pastor David
- 3) **Corrections or additions to the Agenda** – none
- 4) **Approval/Corrections of previous meeting minutes** – Approved Budget Meeting and Oct 17, 2019 minutes. Dale motioned to approve both; Becky M seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- 5) **Approval/Corrections of the Treasurer's report** – Note that insurance had to be paid. Check was issued to friends of the homeless. Discussion followed. Birdie motioned to approve. Becky W seconded. All were in favor.
- 6) **Pastor's Report** – Thanksgiving services coming up on Nov. 24th, to be at St Paul's Lutheran at 7pm. Community Thanksgiving Dinner distribution, also on Nov. 24th, names to be submitted by Nov 17th. Christmas Eve service; combined with Zoar congregation at the Zoar church.
- 7) **Correspondence** – Kaley e-mailed Charles referring to Barb the custodian's concerns. The toilet seat in the women's rest room. Becky M. checked on it and it has been fixed. The other was the women's restroom by the social hall, leaking on the floor. Kaley received a notice from Finlayson towing pertaining to snow removal service.
- 8) **Committee Reports** – Received Combined Mission/Kitchen Committee Meeting Nov 12, 2019 report.
Thanksgiving Meal give away and
Christmas project see committee meeting report on details.
- 9) **Old Business:** Nominating committee report from Dale. Chris Stevenson is going to run. Dale is going to run also. Only need two on committee. Will open floor for nominees
Annual Meeting – discussion on approval of Nov 2018 congregational meeting.
Election of new consistory members. Do we have an election of Association delegate? We don't. We will appoint.

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Christmas Eve Service was discussed in Pastors report.

10) New Business: Hanging of the greens will be first Sunday of Dec., which is Dec 1st.

Authorized Finlayson for snow removal from parking lot. Becky M motioned to authorize Finlayson, Birdie seconded. All were in favor.

Clearing snow from sidewalks. Becky M will ask Chris Carpenter to do walks. Chris had cleaned them last year.

We have a snow blower in shed. Ask Dick to check it out and it is working.

Appoint committee to negotiate new agreement of $\frac{3}{4}$ time with Pastor David. Pastor David stated it needs to be done soon. He discussed his concern on the changes.

He presented the Call Agreement already made out. The one agreement was the proposal for three quarter time and the other was the current. Reviewed the agreements. Revised he would only preach 3 Sundays a month with special occasions. Requested Lent and Advent to be added to the special occasions. Discussed what to do with that 4th Sunday. Office duties would stay the same. Pastor David to make a few changes on Call Agreement pertaining to Lent and Advent.

To be presented to the congregation and voted on.

At the Congregational Meeting, Nov 17, 2019.

We will elect officers first.

Then discuss Call Agreement.

Then vote on Budget.

Date for Annual Congregational Meeting to be Jan. 26, 2020

11) Other Business – none

Adjourn w/ Lord's Prayer

Next Consistory Meeting – Dec 12, 2019, at the home of Charles Regula

Respectfully,
Secretary
Pam Diehl

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St John United Church Of Christ ~ Treasurer's Report ~ October 2019

8/31/2019	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$	6,459.48				
	General Fund Deposits	\$	3,704.00	YTD	\$	52,499.72	
	Other Deposits		\$520.68	YTD	\$	24,939.45	
	Transfer from Money Market Acct			YTD	\$	10,500.00	
	Balance and Receipts	\$	10,684.16	YTD	\$	87,939.17	
	Disbursements	\$	(8,613.08)	YTD	\$	(89,928.13)	
9/30/2019	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$	2,071.08				

Envelope Offering	\$	3,691.00	Transfer-UnitedChurchFunds		
Plate Offering	\$	13.00	Anonymous Donations		
Initial			Miscellaneous	\$	520.68
Total General Fund	\$	3,704.00	Total Other Deposits		\$520.68

Money Market Account Fund

Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$	29,529.24	
(Memorial-School Supplies- Funeral Lunch Donations and Stain Glass)	Transfer to Checking Check # Contribution			
	End of month balance	\$	29,529.24	
Mrs. Floyd Burris Mission	Beginning Balance:	\$	762.43	
	Check # End of month balance	\$	762.43	
Christmas 2019	Beginning Balance	\$	165.00	
	Contribution End of Month Balance	\$	165.00	
Homeless Shelter	Beginning Balance:	\$	405.42	
	Check # Contribution End of Month Balance	\$	405.42	
Pastor's Pantry	Beginning Balance:	\$	511.00	
	Check # Contribution End of month balance	\$	511.00	
Clothes Closet	Beginning Balance:	\$	1,321.49	
	Check # 1071	\$	(50.00)	
	Contribution	\$	25.00	
	End of month balance	\$	1,296.49	
Capital Fund	Beginning Balance:	\$	(116.71)	
	Check # Contribution	\$	68.00	
	End of month balance	\$	(48.71)	
Interest	Beginning Balance:	\$	314.47	
	Service Charge			
	Interest	\$	2.92	
	End of month balance	\$	317.39	

TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT FUND \$ 32,938.26

UNITED CHURCH FUNDS:

St. John UCC Trust Fund	As of 09/30/19	\$	45,943.25
St. John UCC Housing Fund	As of 10/03/19	\$	58,983.70

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ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

SALARIES & BENEFITS	Monthly Expenditures	Year-To-Date	2019 Budget
101a Pastor's Base Salary - Gross	\$ 2,081.50	\$ 28,808.51	\$ 34,165.00
101b Pastor's Travel Expense	\$ 765.58		
102a Pastor's Housing Allowance	\$ 1,513.32	\$ 15,133.36	\$ 18,160.00
102b Pastor's FICA Allowance	\$ 214.58	\$ 2,145.84	\$ 2,575.00
104 Pastor's Hospitalization Allowance	\$ 158.32	\$ 1,583.36	\$ 1,900.00
106 Pastor's In-Service Training			\$ 50.00
107a Pastor's Books & Periodicals			\$ 50.00
108 Secretary Wages - Gross	\$ 356.50	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 4,278.00
109 Custodian Wages - Gross	\$ 421.58	\$ 4,265.80	\$ 5,059.00
110 Organist Wages - Gross	\$ 150.00	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 3,959.00
111 Choir Director Wages - Gross			\$ -
112 FICA/Workmen's Comp	\$ 70.99	\$ 1,149.72	\$ 1,222.00
Employee Taxes WH	\$ (1,497.56)	\$ (15,091.07)	\$ -
Total	\$ 4,234.81	\$ 44,185.52	\$ 71,418.00
ADMINISTRATION			
203 Telephone	\$ 136.79	\$ 1,298.97	\$ 1,500.00
204 Postage & Office Supplies	\$ 180.25	\$ 1,394.31	\$ 1,500.00
207 Maintenance of Equipment	\$ 122.66	\$ 1,342.93	\$ 1,600.00
208 Outreach & Church Growth	\$ 50.00	\$ 382.36	\$ 225.00
209 Altar Committee			\$ 50.00
210 Worship		\$ 570.52	\$ 1,000.00
211 Tuning & Repair			\$ 150.00
215 Pulpit Supply		\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00
217 Social Functions			\$ 200.00
218 Bell Choir Music			\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 489.70	\$ 5,239.09	\$ 6,575.00
BUILDING/GROUNDS OPERATIONS			
301 Building/Grounds Operations		\$ 1,534.33	\$ 4,000.00
302 Insurance & Taxes	\$ 1,173.00	\$ 4,765.00	\$ 4,700.00
303 Utilities	\$ 669.80	\$ 7,762.09	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 1,842.80	\$ 14,061.42	\$ 18,700.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
400 Christian Education		\$ 260.00	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ -	\$ 260.00	\$ 200.00
BENEVOLENCES			
503 OCWM			\$ 1,000.00
504 T-4-C			\$ 100.00
505 Food Pantry			\$ 400.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL BUDGET DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 6,567.31	\$ 63,746.03	\$ 98,393.00

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ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

NON-BUDGET - IN & OUT FUNDS

SPECIAL EXPENDITURES	Monthly Expenditures	Year-To Date	
603 Special Offering - OCWM			
603.1 Offering - OGHS		\$ 157.00	
603.2 Offering - Neighbors In Need	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	
603.3 Offering - The Christmas Fund		\$ 30.00	
606 Memorial Fund Transfers		\$ 10,300.00	
608 Local Projects Non Budgeted	\$ 301.00	\$ 678.09	
Total	\$ 384.00	\$ 11,248.09	
State Income Tax Withheld - paid qtrly	\$ 144.07	\$ 437.79	
City Income Tax Withheld-paid qtrly	\$ 94.71	\$ 287.85	
Federal Tax Withheld - paid qtrly	\$ 1,422.99	\$ 14,208.37	
Total	\$ 1,661.77	\$ 14,934.01	
NET DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 8,613.08	\$ 89,928.13	\$ 98,393.00