

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY February 2024

Hello family,

There is an interesting verse of scripture found in Luke that whenever I read it, it causes me to stop and realize the love that Jesus has for us. Luke 9:51 reads, “As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”

This month we will be entering into the season of Lent. During the Lenten season, Christians are reminded of the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. Although we know that, it is necessary for us to take time every year to reflect and remember why Jesus went to the cross.

The verse reads, “As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven...”. What that says to me is this was part of God’s plan. The whole story of Jesus’ suffering and death was planned out long before the time that it actually happened. The Passion of Jesus was not a random set of circumstances and decisions by the ruling and religious people of the day. The death of Jesus was the only way for God to bring forgiveness and salvation to the world. The Old Testament teaches us that a sacrifice had to be offered for sins to be forgiven. But the sacrifice must be a lamb that was spotless, unblemished, perfect. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) Jesus was the only one who was perfect, without sin. Therefore, He was the only one who was qualified to be the sacrifice for the world.

The verse in Luke continues, “... Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem”. Knowing what lie ahead of Him, suffering, rejection, and even death, Jesus set His path to go to Jerusalem to die. There are questions that come to my mind as I think about what Jesus did, but the number one question has to be, “Why”? Why would Jesus, knowing what He was about to experience, agree to go to the cross? The only answer that comes to mind is found in John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Lent is a time for us to reflect on this plan of God to redeem us from sin and give to us eternal life through Jesus Christ. And all of this is a result of God’s unconditional love for all of us. A God who would do that is a God worth serving.

Pastor Don

The Epistle

February 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Free Community Meal 11:30am-1:00pm	2	3
4 Communion	5	6	7	8 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	9	10
11 Super Sunday Dream Day	12 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	13	14 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm	15 Free Community Meal 11:30am-1:00pm	16	17
18 Mission Sunday Guest Speaker Matt Rizert Friends of the Homeless	19 President's Day	20	21 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ St. Paul 11:30am	22	23	24
25	26 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	27	28 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ Bolivar UMC 11:30am	29		

The Epistle



BIRTHDAY LIST

February 11 – Kaley Hamilton
February 16 – Noah Carpenter
February 17 – Jack Renner
February 21 – Carolyn Birk
February 24 – Mark Goudy

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 and staff, Zach Brinkman (mission trip), Bob and Joyclin Ely, Missy Jones, Pam Miller, Clara Mae Millhorn, Holly Myers, Jane Regula, Fern Stutzman



SUPER SUNDAY DREAM DAY

On Sunday, February 11th following worship, we will meet downstairs for a “Dream Day”. A soup and sandwich lunch will be served and we will divide into groups to discuss what dreams we have for St. John UCC. EVERYONE is welcome and encouraged to participate! Please bring a can of soup which will be donated to the Community Food Pantry.

WINTER MISSION SUNDAY

February 18th is our Winter Mission Sunday. Matt Ritzert from the Friends of the Homeless will be giving a short presentation about the shelter. We would like to, as a congregation, have a donation for them. They are always in need of paper products such as toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels. They could also use handwarmers, blankets, mittens, gloves, hats, sturdy trash bags and coffee. The shelter can always use monetary donations as well. Please bring your donations to the church that Sunday or before.



The Epistle

LENT SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, February 14th, marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Here is a list of upcoming services here and around the community.



- Ash Wednesday Service – February 14th @ St. John UCC 7:00pm
- Lenten Service/Luncheon – February 21st @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am
- Lenten Service/Luncheon – February 28th @ Bolivar UMC 11:30am
- Lenten Service/Luncheon – March 6th @ Mineral City Nazarene Church 11:30am
- Lenten Service/Luncheon – March 13th @ St. John UCC 11:30am
- Lenten Service/Luncheon – March 20th @ Holy Trinity Catholic Church 11:30am
- Lenten Service/Luncheon – March 27th @ Bolivar Community Church 11:30am
- Good Friday Service – March 29th @ St. John UCC 7:00pm

CLOTHES CLOSET



The Clothes Closet was open on our two regular dates in January, the second and fourth Mondays. We had 15 customers and receipts of almost 56 dollars. We had eight out of ten of our regular volunteer helpers sorting clothes and keeping the Closet organized last month. Birdie is still enjoying the weather in Florida and Jane R. remains on the injured reserve list.

Please stop by, if you are free on one of our next open dates, to see what we are about and to have a cup of coffee (or tea!) We will be open on February 12 and 26 from 9 a.m. to noon.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends, Thank you for your donation to the Friends of the Homeless. We are grateful for your support. Thank you for helping us to help others. – Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County

Thank you

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday school begins at 9:30am every Sunday. There are two classes. Gretchen Deubner leads the children class, which is for children 6th grade and down. There is also an adult class in the parlor, which is for 7th grade through adults. Please join us!

The Epistle

FINANCIAL REPORT – December 2023

<u>October Income</u>				<u>Year-to-Date</u>
12/03/23	\$ 2,647.00	Income	\$15,036.27	\$ 93,819.77
12/05/23	\$ 1,540.00	Expenses	<u>\$(6,076.94)</u>	<u>\$(63,777.67)</u>
12/10/23	\$ 2,090.00			
12/17/23	\$ 2,649.00			
12/24/23	\$ 3,645.27			
12/24/23	\$ 500.00			
12/31/23	\$ 1,965.00			
Total	\$15,036.27	Total	\$ 8,959.33	\$ 30,042.10

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 10:45am

PASTOR

Pastor Don Perks

740-310-4557

pagaperks@gmail.com

LET'S COMMUNICATE

OFFICE – Kaley Hamilton, Secretary 330-874-2822

EMAIL – stjohnsect@aol.com

WEBSITE – www.stjohnbolivar.org

If you know someone interested in receiving the Epistle by mail or email, please contact the church office.