

# The Epistle

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

**FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY February 2025**

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Hello Family,

Welcome to Valentine's Day, a time for a person to express their love to another person with gifts of chocolates and flowers. Or, for you cynics, the holiday that was created by companies like Hallmark and chocolate and floral shops to make more money.

But is it wrong to remind a society that expressing your love is a good idea and for us to remember and give thanks for those special people in our lives, and see them as gifts from God and cherish them?

I once heard a story of a little boy who wanted to make a Valentine for every member of his class at school. This was a time when students were not required to give Valentines to all their classmates, only to those they liked. The boy's mother was concerned because her son was not part of the "in" group in school and while other children in the neighborhood walked and played together, her son usually just followed behind. Mother and son worked on the handmade Valentine's and that morning he rushed off to school feeling very excited. But mom felt that when he came home he would feel very sad and disappointed that he did not receive very many Valentine cards if any at all.

As mom paced through the house she heard the kids from the neighborhood laughing and she knew her son would be coming through the door shortly. What would she say to her son that would take away the feeling of rejection and hurt? Sure enough the child walked into the house and all she could hear him say was, "Not a one, not a single one". Her heart broke as she walked over to console her child. He looked at his mom and continued, "Not a one Mom, I didn't forget a one, not a single one."

Jesus modeled for us and the Father teaches us in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave...". Just a reminder to you this February, love is not about what you receive but about what you give. God so loved you that He gave the very best He had when He gave us His Son. So don't be afraid to express your love to that someone special in your life, give the best you can and rejoice in the opportunity to love and be loved in return.

-Pastor Don

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February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Benefit Dinner for Courtney Schlabach 4:00pm-8:00pm
<b>2</b> Communion  Youth Bible Study 6:30pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran 11:30am-1:00pm	<b>7</b> Tusky Valley Senior Center Open House 10:00am- 1:00pm/4:00pm- 6:00pm	<b>8</b> Celebration of Life for Clara Mae Milhorn
<b>9</b> Souper Sunday Meal after worship  Youth Bible Study 6:30pm	<b>10</b> Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	<b>11</b> Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Youth Bible Study 6:30pm	<b>17</b> President's Day	<b>18</b> Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran 11:30am-1:00pm	<b>21</b> Epistle Items Due	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Youth Bible Study 6:30pm	<b>24</b> Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	<b>25</b> Mission Committee Meeting 9:30am  Bible Study 10:30am/6:30pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

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## BIRTHDAY LIST

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

## PRAYER LIST/CARD MINISTRY

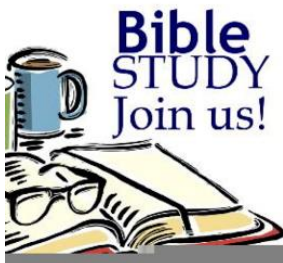
Every week, our prayer list is updated to the best of our ability. Please notify the office if you have any additions, deletions or suggestions! Please remember those on the prayer list. "Thinking of you" cards, a note, or a telephone call means so much. Contact the church office if you need addresses or phone numbers.



### Please remember the following in your prayers:

Tusky Valley Band, Students, Staff and Families, Don Baad, Cathy Birk,  
Bob Ely, Missy Jones, Carol Kinsey, Raine Millhorn, Holly Myers,  
Jane Regula, Courtney Schlabach, Sheree Sinclair, Clare Stevenson, Harper Szendersi, Mary Timmons

## BIBLE STUDIES



Adult Bible study continues to be held every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. The study will be held at 10:30am and 6:30pm. Please bring your bible and a pencil.

We are also pleased to announce that Cassie Brown will be leading a Youth Bible Study every Sunday for grades 7-12. This study will be held in the Parlor and begins at 6:30.

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## SOUPER SUNDAY



On Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>, following worship service, we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a soup and sandwich lunch and then be discussing a Mission Statement for St. John UCC. Please bring a can(s) of soup, any size, to be donated to the Food Pantry.

## THANK YOU

Dear St. John United Church of Christ,

We are deeply grateful for your generous donation to The Tusky Valley Affordable Christmas Program this year. Your kindness has brought joy and hope to those who need it most during this special season. Thanks to your support, children will experience the magic of opening gifts,

and families will feel the warmth of a community that truly cares. Your contribution is more than a gift-it's a reminder that compassion and generosity can make a lasting difference.

On behalf of all the families touched by your kindness, we thank you for making this holiday season brighter and more meaningful. Wishing you a joyful and prosperous New Year!

With heartfelt appreciation, Sarah Schoeppner and Erin Karolewski

*Thank you*

## TUSKY VALLEY SENIOR CENTER



A new branch of the Tuscarawas County Senior Center is opening February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Tusky Valley Administration Building (formerly the TV High School). The center will be open Tues-Fri from 8:30am-1:00pm. The center will be closed on holidays or if school is canceled due to weather. Entrance to the center will be through door 4 at the back of the building. Doors will open at 8:15am. There will be an open house held on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-1:00pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm. You can come anytime that week to see what the center has to offer and to join. The fee is \$10 a year and due when registering. Lunches

will be provided by the Tusky Valley Cafeteria at a cost of \$5 when the center is open at 11:00am and must be purchased by the previous business day. Any community member age 50 and older is encouraged to join! More information can be found on their Facebook page or at [www.tuscsc.org](http://www.tuscsc.org)

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## LENT SERVICES



Looking ahead, Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Here is a list of upcoming services here and around the community.

- Ash Wednesday Service – March 5<sup>th</sup> @ St. John UCC 7:00pm  
Lenten Service/Luncheon – March 12<sup>th</sup> @ Zoar UCC 11:30am  
Lenten Service/Luncheon – March 19<sup>th</sup> @ Bolivar UMC 11:30am  
Lenten Service/Luncheon – March 26<sup>th</sup> @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am  
Lenten Service/Luncheon – April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ St. John UCC 11:30am  
Lenten Service/Luncheon – April 9<sup>th</sup> @ Holy Trinity Catholic Church 11:30am  
Lenten Service/Luncheon – April 16<sup>th</sup> @ Bolivar Community Church 11:30am  
Good Friday Service – April 18<sup>th</sup> @ St. John UCC 7:00pm

## FINANCIAL REPORT – December 2024

		<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income – December (5 Sundays)	\$ 11,540.00	\$ 94,952.38
Monthly Expenses	\$ (4,958.81)	\$(67,560.61)

If you would like further details and/or a copy of the complete Treasurer's Report, 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

Worship 10:30am

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30AM Sept-May

### LET'S COMMUNICATE

OFFICE – Kaley Hamilton, Secretary 330-874-2822

EMAIL – [stjohnsect@aol.com](mailto:stjohnsect@aol.com)

WEBSITE – [www.stjohnbolivar.org](http://www.stjohnbolivar.org)

### PASTOR

Pastor Don Perks

740-310-4557

[pagaperks@gmail.com](mailto:pagaperks@gmail.com)