

# The Epistle

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

**FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY    January 2020**

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## 2020 Vision



We live in an imperfect world with a huge imbalance of wealth and power. God is a God of justice and wants God's people to make a difference in the world, standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves and sharing what we have with those who have nothing. Here are some examples of what God expects of us:

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. (*Deuteronomy 15:7-8*)

Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place. (*Jeremiah 22:3*)

[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (*Micah 6:8*)

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? (*1 John 3:17*)

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? (*James 2:15-16*)

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. (*Isaiah 1:17*)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (*Luke 4:18-19*)

Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other. (*1 Corinthians 10:24*)

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. . . . Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. (*Romans 12: 9-10, 13*)

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate [deny them their "day in court"]; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them. (*Proverbs 22:22-23*)

May the year 2020 bring clearer vision to us and remind us all of what it means to be Christians.

Blessings, Pastor David+

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Of you

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January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 1 Sam 25-27 New Year's Day	<b>2</b> 1 Sam 28-31	<b>3</b> 2 Sam 1-3	<b>4</b> 2 Sam 4-7
<b>5</b> 2 Sam 8-12 Pew Communion 10:30am	<b>6</b> 2 Sam 13-15 Epiphany	<b>7</b> 2 Sam 16-18	<b>8</b> 2 Sam 19-21 Lunch @ Bolivar UMC 11:30am	<b>9</b> 2 Sam 22-24 Consistory Meeting 7:00pm	<b>10</b> 1 King 1-2	<b>11</b> 1 King 3-5
<b>12</b> 1 King 6-7	<b>13</b> 1 King 8-9 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	<b>14</b> 1 King 10-11 Mission Committee Meeting 10:00am <b>YEAR END REPORTS DUE</b>	<b>15</b> 1 King 12-14	<b>16</b> 1 King 15-17 Dinner @ St. Paul 5:00-6:30pm	<b>17</b> 1 King 18-20	<b>18</b> 1 King 21-22
<b>19</b> 2 King 1-3	<b>20</b> 2 King 4-5	<b>21</b> 2 King 6-8	<b>22</b> 2 King 9-11	<b>23</b> 2 King 12-14	<b>24</b> 2 King 15-17	<b>25</b> 2 King 18-19
<b>26</b> 2 King 20-22 Annual Congregational Meeting 11:30am	<b>27</b> 2 King 23-25 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	<b>28</b> 1 Chron 1-2 Homeless Shelter Meal <b>EPISTLE ITEMS DUE</b>	<b>29</b> 1 Chron 3-5	<b>30</b> 1 Chron 6	<b>31</b> 1 Chron 7-8	

Daily Bible Readings are listed for each day

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## January Birthdays

1/7 – Lindsey Goudy  
1/15 – Beth Carpenter  
1/16 – Virginia Regula  
1/17 – Don Baad

1/18 – Charles Regula  
1/27 – Zach Brinkman  
1/28 – Rod Cropper  
1/30 – Ann Scott

## Serving In January

### Liturgist

1/5 – Dale Duerr  
1/12 – Carolyn Birk  
1/19 –  
1/26 – Becky Wolf

### Greeters/Ushers

1/5 – Consistory  
1/12 – Cathy Fenstermaker & Shirley Holdsworth (Cathy & Chuck, ushers)  
1/19 – Chris Stevenson & Becky Miller  
1/26 – Mark & Paula Goudy

**(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, Jane Regula, George Rootring, Charles Smith, Wanda Stucky, Crystal Weaver



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## CLOTHES CLOSET/PASTOR'S PANTRY

November and December were busy months for the Mission and Kitchen Committees.

The Clothes Closet was open on one day in November and two days in December. Helpers on those days included regulars: Cathy, Jane and Charles R., Chris S. Birdie, Becky M., and Becky W. (also at the Pastor's Pantry.) On Saturday December 7, we were joined by Kaley, Maggie, Leah and Kate Hamilton, as well as Karma Burton from Mineral City Nazarene Church. There were 9 customers in November and 20 in December. Our receipts totaled almost \$140, which will be used for other community projects. In 2019, donations were made to the Homeless Shelter, The Bolivar Community Church, the Lenten Luncheons, school supplies, the community Thanksgiving Meal Project, and the Community Christmas Project (Affordable Christmas.)

Thank you to all who made cranberry relish for the Community Thanksgiving Meal Project. I seem to have misplaced the sign- up sheet so I cannot thank the individuals who processed all those cranberries and oranges! On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jane and Charles, Birdie, Becky Wolf, Chris Stevenson, Lyn Rootring and Cathy got together to dish up 180 servings of relish which were delivered to Holy Trinity. We worked with the Zoar U.C.C. church to make relish for 340 people. It turned out that 375 meals were delivered. Dale Duerr, Chris S. and Cathy went to Holy Trinity after church on November 24 to help package and deliver meals.

The dates for the Clothes Closet in January are the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup>. Please consider coming in to help sort and hang up clothes, cut out coupons, or just visit at the Clothes Closet. We always have coffee, tea, and cookies. The next Mission Meeting will be January 14.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> immediately following the worship service. **YEAR END REPORTS** from every committee are due to Kaley no later than Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.



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## THANK YOU

Dear Friends at St. John,  
On behalf of the Dover/New Philadelphia Ministerial Association, let me express my thanks to you for your donation to our efforts to provide socks, underwear, hats, gloves and mittens to needy children in Tuscarawas County this Christmas. Your kind consideration will enable us to be able to provide “Hope for the Hurting” at a time when many families are struggling. The goal of the Share-A-Christmas program has always been to help provide a merrier Christmas to those who might otherwise have to go without. Your partnership with us is greatly appreciated! Blessing to you and your this holiday season,  
Travis Wright (President)  
Dover/New Philadelphia Ministerial Association



## YOUTH NEWS



In December, the youth group had a Christmas party. There was pizza and cookies. The kids played a few Christmas themed games and won prizes. A gift exchange game was held as well. The kids had a great time gathering together in fellowship to wrap up the year. The youth also participated in a Christmas hymn sing held before the worship service on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 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.



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## **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 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](http://stjohnbolivar.org).

## **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 – DECEMBER 8, 2019

- 1) **Call to order** – Charles Regula called the meeting to order. Members present, President Charles Regula, Vice President Dale Duerr, Becky Miller, Becky Wolf, Dick Diehl and Pam Diehl secretary. Absent Birdie Wilt.
- 2) **Meditation**- in form of the sermon.
- 3) **Corrections or additions to the Agenda** – None
- 4) **Approval/corrections of previous meeting minutes.**
- 5) **Approval/corrections of the Treasurer's report.**  
The previous meeting minutes and Treasurers report were combined for approval/corrections. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Becky Miller and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick Diehl. All approved by verbal agreement.
- 6) **Correspondence** – None.
- 7) **Pastor's report** – The pastor's report was presented on paper. Reviewed. Christmas Eve service needs to have an announcement, so people are aware that the service is a Joint service in Zoar. Ask Chris Stevenson to put it on the outside bulletin board.
- 8) **Old Business** – Status of the snow blower, Dick Diehl stated that it is working. Also, the organ has been checked. The amplifier is making the noise. The shed where the snow blower is kept has a combination lock. Chris Carpenter will clear sidewalks of snow this season, if not out of town. Christmas Eve service is to be at Zoar as a joint service. Revised Call Agreement – accepted by the congregation at the meeting.
- 9) **New Business** –  
New Consistory and Terms

	Elected	Terms Begins		Term Ends
Dick Diehl	11/2017	1/2018	12/2020	
Birdie Wilt	11/2017	1/2018	12/2020	
Becky Miller	11/2018	1/2019	12/2021	
Becky Wolf, appointed	10/2019	10/2019	12/2021	
Dale Duerr	11/2019	1/2020	12/2022	
Chris Stevenson	11/2019	1/2020	12/2022	

- 10) **Other Business** – Note that the budget for 2020 was approved. Gift cards for employees.

Adjourn w/Lord's Prayer  
Next Consistory Meeting – January 9, 2020

Respectfully  
Secretary Pam Diehl

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

10/31/2019	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$	2,071.08			
	General Fund Deposits	\$	6,855.00	YTD	\$	59,354.72
	Other Deposits			YTD	\$	24,939.45
	Transfer from Money Market Acct			YTD	\$	10,500.00
	Balance and Receipts	\$	8,926.08	YTD	\$	94,794.17
	Disbursements	\$	(7,154.40)	YTD	\$	(97,082.53)
11/29/2019	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$	1,771.68			

Envelope Offering	\$	6,799.00	Transfer-UnitedChurchFunds	
Plate Offering	\$	56.00	Anonymous Donations	
Initial			Miscellaneous	
Total General Fund	\$	6,855.00	Total Other Deposits	\$0.00

### Money Market Account Fund

<b>Memorial Fund</b> (Memorial-School Supplies- Funeral Lunch Donations and Stain Glass)	Beginning Balance	\$	29,529.24	
	Transfer to Checking			
	Check #			
	Contribution			
	End of month balance	\$	29,529.24	
<b>Mrs. Floyd Burris Mission</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$	762.43	
	Check #			
	End of month balance	\$	762.43	
<b>Christmas 2019</b>	Beginning Balance	\$	165.00	
	Contribution	\$	446.00	Includes \$250 from Clothes Closet Donation
	End of Month Balance	\$	611.00	
<b>Homeless Shelter</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$	405.42	
	Check # 1073	\$	(22.04)	
	Contribution	\$	20.00	
	End of Month Balance	\$	403.38	
<b>Pastor's Pantry</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$	511.00	
	Check #			
	Contribution	\$	1.25	
	End of month balance	\$	512.25	
<b>Clothes Closet</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$	1,296.49	\$50 T4C-\$106.57 Thanksgiving Reimbursement
	Check # 1072-1074-1075-1076	\$	(406.57)	Includes \$250 transferred to Christmas 2019
	Contribution	\$	51.00	
	End of month balance	\$	940.92	
<b>Capital Fund</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$	(48.71)	
	Check #			
	Contribution	\$	53.00	
	End of month balance	\$	4.29	
<b>Interest</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$	317.39	
	Service Charge			
	Interest	\$	2.73	
	End of month balance	\$	320.12	

**TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT FUND** \$ 33,083.63

### 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

NOVEMBER 2019

<b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>Monthly Expenditures</b>	<b>Year-To-Date</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
101a Pastor's Base Salary - Gross	\$ 2,224.18	\$ 31,655.59	\$ 34,165.00
101b Pastor's Travel Expense	\$ 622.90		
102a Pastor's Housing Allowance	\$ 1,513.32	\$ 16,646.68	\$ 18,160.00
102b Pastor's FICA Allowance	\$ 214.58	\$ 2,360.42	\$ 2,575.00
104 Pastor's Hospitalization Allowance	\$ 158.32	\$ 1,741.68	\$ 1,900.00
106 Pastor's In-Service Training			\$ 50.00
107a Pastor's Books & Periodicals			\$ 50.00
108 Secretary Wages - Gross	\$ 356.50	\$ 3,921.50	\$ 4,278.00
109 Custodian Wages - Gross	\$ 421.58	\$ 4,687.38	\$ 5,059.00
110 Organist Wages - Gross	\$ 150.00	\$ 2,775.00	\$ 3,959.00
111 Choir Director Wages - Gross			\$ -
112 FICA/Workmen's Comp	\$ 71.01	\$ 1,220.73	\$ 1,222.00
Employee Taxes WH	\$ (1,502.85)	\$ (16,593.92)	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,229.54</b>	<b>\$ 48,415.06</b>	<b>\$ 71,418.00</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
203 Telephone	\$ 133.38	\$ 1,432.35	\$ 1,500.00
204 Postage & Office Supplies	\$ 12.25	\$ 1,406.56	\$ 1,500.00
207 Maintenance of Equipment	\$ 120.82	\$ 1,463.75	\$ 1,600.00
208 Outreach & Church Growth	\$ 43.03	\$ 425.39	\$ 225.00
209 Altar Committee			\$ 50.00
210 Worship	\$ 288.33	\$ 858.85	\$ 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 597.81</b>	<b>\$ 5,836.90</b>	<b>\$ 6,575.00</b>
<b>BUILDING/GROUNDS OPERATIONS</b>			
301 Building/Grounds Operations	\$ 153.77	\$ 1,688.10	\$ 4,000.00
302 Insurance & Taxes		\$ 4,765.00	\$ 4,700.00
303 Utilities	\$ 750.27	\$ 8,512.36	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 904.04</b>	<b>\$ 14,965.46</b>	<b>\$ 18,700.00</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>			
400 Christian Education		\$ 260.00	\$ 200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 260.00</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>BENEVOLENCES</b>			
503 OCWM			\$ 1,000.00
504 T-4-C			\$ 100.00
505 Food Pantry			\$ 400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 5,731.39</b>	<b>\$ 69,477.42</b>	<b>\$ 98,393.00</b>

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ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 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	
603.3 Offering - The Christmas Fund		\$ 30.00	
606 Memorial Fund Transfers		\$ 10,300.00	
608 Local Projects Non Budgeted		\$ 678.09	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 11,248.09</b>	
State Income Tax Withheld - paid qtrly		\$ 437.79	
City Income Tax Withheld-paid qtrly		\$ 287.85	
Federal Tax Withheld - paid qtrly	\$ 1,423.01	\$ 15,631.38	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,423.01</b>	<b>\$ 16,357.02</b>	
<b>NET DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 7,154.40</b>	<b>\$ 97,082.53</b>	<b>\$ 98,393.00</b>