

# The Epistle

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

**FRIENDSHIP • MISSION • SPIRITUALITY    July 2022**

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## **200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

We are excited to announce that 2022 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>. We were pleased to have several familiar faces in the congregation. The next event will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at the 10:30am worship service. Our final event will be held on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for details!

## **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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Greetings members and friends of St. John Church,

Summer is certainly the most wonderful time of the year. Traditionally, it begins with Memorial Day weekend and ends on Labor Day. But in the middle we have the 4th of July. Our nation will turn 246 years old this year. The United States of America do not seem to be as united as they have at other times in our history. I would describe our government currently as dysfunctional. There is a whole lot of talking, but not a lot of action. I certainly do not have the answers to solve many of the problems that face our great nation, but I know that when we have a common cause we are able to overcome great obstacles. It seems that when America faced it's most difficult times in war, our country came together and worked together to meet the challenge.

Christianity, our faith that is built around Jesus, has been around for approximately 8 times longer than the USA. It too has struggled over the years to overcome issues and problems that to some extent continue today. Even Jesus's disciples failed to get it right when they were with Jesus. Part of the human nature is that we want to be right, as much as possible. However, that often means that someone else who thinks differently than us is wrong. There are many churches today who claim they have the true message, the true hope, and the truth of how we are to live our lives. There are many difficult issues facing our nation politically that have further divided us as Christians. Despite this, we are called to continue to dialogue and listen to one another. When someone is shouting, it is nearly impossible for them to listen. I am pleased to share that no one is shouting at anyone in our church.

St. John United Church of Christ is celebrating 200 years of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to the Bolivar community. I am told that over the years there have been many disagreements that at times have caused great hurt to individuals. This is not unique to our church. For anyone who has been hurt, before or after I came to St. John, I apologize. It has been my goal since I came to be the pastor of this church to not only lead, but also to listen. This has become very important to understand what is being said and why. It is highly unlikely that we're going to agree on several subjects each year. But what we can do is to listen and learn from each other and to look for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

For our church to move forward beyond year 200 we need to listen and also look for God's direction and how we can most effectively serve those in our community. I invite you to join me in this journey of celebration and service. I look forward to seeing you in church. If you desire a visit please feel free to give me a call at 330-844-1377.

Pastor Jeff

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July 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  <i>Julia Felgenhauer</i>	2 All you can eat Country Breakfast 8:00am-11:00am  <i>Ron Gauding</i>
3 Altar Communion 10:30am	4 Independence Day	5  <i>Adam Regula</i>	6	7	8	9  <i>Colin Kuharich</i>
10 Liturgist: Ryan Kuharich	11 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm  VBS @ St. Paul 6:30pm-8:30pm	12 VBS @ St. Paul 6:30pm-8:30pm	13 VBS @ St. Paul 6:30pm-8:30pm	14 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm  VBS @ St. Paul 6:30pm-8:30pm	15 VBS @ St. Paul 6:30pm-8:30pm	16
17 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  Liturgist: Becky Wolf  <i>Ryan Kuharich</i>	18	19	20	21 Free Community Lunch @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	22  <i>Rose Brinkman</i>	23  <i>Birdie Wilt</i>
24 Liturgist: Dale Duerr	25 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	26 Epistle Items Due	27	28	29  <i>Rob Lee</i>	30
31 Liturgist: Carolyn Birk  <i>Maggie &amp; Leah Hamilton</i>	<i>Birthdays are listed on the 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 & Joyclin Ely, Missy Jones

**Medical:** Kasie Atkins, Becky Miller

**Cancer:** Missy Horn, Maddy Jones, Matt McNutt, Holly Myers, Kathy Sanders, Peter Stenz

**Nursing Home:** Barb Goldsmith

## COUNTRY BREAKFAST

The all you can eat breakfast has returned! Our next breakfast of the summer will be held on Saturday July 2nd 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.



## COMMUNITY VBS



Community Vacation Bible School will be held this year at St. Paul Lutheran Church July 11-15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-8:30pm every night. It is held for children age 3 through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Older children and adults are welcome to help out. Please contact the church office for more information and to get a registration form.

## THANK YOU

Dear Congregation, We very much appreciate your generous donation of \$100 to the Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County. Your gift will be used to provide meals to those in need. Thank you and God bless, Calvin A. White, Executive Director



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## CONSISTORY MEETING SUMMARY

Consistory and Pastor Jeff met on May 19th. Building and grounds committee is working on getting estimates for painting in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Old business discussed was the Strawberry Festival Parade. Volunteers are needed to prepare the candy and to walk the parade. The Mother Daughter Banquet is planned and 44 tickets were sold. New business discussed was the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Confirmation meeting. Consistory will provide a pizza lunch and the planned a walk on the Towpath following the meeting. There will be refreshments provided at Dale Duerr's farm to conclude the day's events. June 4<sup>th</sup> will be the first Country Breakfast of the season. July 29<sup>th</sup> will be a meeting for Consistory to start reviewing/revising the church constitution. The basement sale will be held Sept 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Donations will be accepted starting August 29<sup>th</sup>. Mary Elaine Metzka will again play the organ for the summer to give Mary Birk a break.

## FINANCIAL REPORT – MAY 2022

<u>May Income</u>				<u>Year-to-Date</u>
5/01/22	\$ 1,402.00	Income	\$ 7,983.00	\$ 32,494.83
5/08/22	\$ 2,982.00	Expenses	<u>\$(6,763.32)</u>	<u>\$(35,954.82)</u>
5/15/22	\$ 1,057.00			
5/22/22	\$ 1,092.00			
<u>5/29/22</u>	<u>\$ 1,450.00</u>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,983.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,219.68</b>	<b>\$ (3,459.99)</b>

If you would like further details, please feel free to contact the church office.

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## 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

### OFFICE HOURS

**Kaley Hamilton, Secretary** (Tues-Thurs)

9:00am – 12:00pm

### LET'S COMMUNICATE

OFFICE – 330-874-2822

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

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

### PASTOR

Pastor Jeff Shultz

(330) 844-1377