

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY July 2024

Hello family from Pastor Don,

The other day I called my mechanic to set a date to have some work done on my truck. They are a family owned business and they were closed the week before for vacation. I asked the secretary how their vacation went and she told me they were very busy all week. I thought that was a strange reply since vacations were supposed to be for relaxation.

In another conversation, I have had recently with my daughter, who is a young parent, she told me of her schedule for the next several weeks. She said they would not have one night off because of baseball and softball games, and practices for cross country and volleyball and camps for baton, football and basketball. I was exhausted just listening to her.

For Donna and I, our spring and summer schedule can get a little hectic just trying to make all the games and recitals. But we love being able to cheer on our grandkids and to be present to encourage them as much as we can. My guess is some of you can relate. We tend to think that once school is over for the year, things will slow down. But that is not the case any longer.

As I was reflecting on the busyness of life that I am experiencing and many other people I know, two thoughts came to mind, "Are you tired yet?" And this verse of scripture, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). What was God trying to say to me? I don't think it was a condemnation for being busy, I think it was more of a gentle reminder. I think the Lord was reminding me to not forget Him in my busyness, and that it is very important that I set aside time to remember the Lord and spend some quiet time with Him.

I am not sure why, but it is hard for me to just be still. I am used to running and doing and staying busy, that is what my life is and that is what people expect. But I think the Word of God is trying to teach me that to constantly be on the run is not healthy for me or my family. Taking time to be still needs to be intentional and helps me to get back to where I want to be, less anxious, calmer, and it helps me to keep my priorities straight.

So let's practice being still this summer. Let's take some time **daily** to just focus on God. Let's take some time **weekly** to enter into worship and spend some time with God's family. And maybe take some time for **vacation** and just have fun with people you love. You may find that these practice will help you to regain a little more control of your life and feel like you may some control instead of being controlled. Let's be still and know that He is God.

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July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	9	10	11 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	19	20
21 Guest Speaker Captain Andrew Behr from Salvation Army 10:30am	22 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	23	24	25 Epistle Items Due	26	27 Canoe Trip 9:00am/Church Picnic/Baptism 1:00pm @ Wolf's Cabin
28 VBS @ Holy Trinity 6:00pm-8:00pm	29 VBS @ Holy Trinity 6:00pm-8:00pm	30 VBS @ Holy Trinity 6:00pm-8:00pm	31 VBS @ Holy Trinity 6:00pm-8:00pm			

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BIRTHDAY LIST

July 9 – Colin Kuharich
July 17 – Ryan Kuharich
July 22 – Rose Brinkman
July 23 – Birdie Wilt
July 24 – Jon Nedele
July 25 – Mia Deubner
July 29 – Rob Lee
July 31 – Leah Hamilton
July 31 – Maggie Hamilton

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, Mary Birk, Zach Brinkman (mission trip), Michael Digman, Bob and Joyclin Ely, Missy Jones, Mike Koch, David Mase, Pam Miller, Clara Mae Millhorn, Holly Myers, Tyler Nathan, Jane Regula, Clare Stevenson, Harper Szendersi, Mary Timmons

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JULY CHURCH EVENT



On Saturday July 27th, St. John UCC will be having a full day of fun events! The day begins at **9:00am** with a canoe/kayak trip for the youth. The trip should take a few hours and then the entire congregation (friends and family, too!) are invited to the Wolf's Cabin in Port

Washington for a covered dish picnic at **1:00pm**. The address to the cabin is 1698 Fillman's Bottom Road SW, Port Washington, OH 43837 and from there you will follow the signs. Bring a covered dish and a lawn chair.

Following the meal, Pastor Don will be baptizing anyone who wishes to or anyone who wishes to reaffirm their faith. The

baptism will occur in the river at the cabin. If you are interested in the baptism, you must talk with Pastor Don ahead of time. Also, anyone who would like to participate in the canoeing must RSVP by July by emailing (stjohnsect@aol.com) or calling the church office (330-874-2822) so we can be sure to have enough canoes/kayaks.



IMPORTANT VBS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The dates for Community VBS have been changed to Sunday July 28th – Thursday August 1st. Location will remain at Holy Trinity Church in Zoar. The time will be as usual from 6:00pm-8:00pm. St. John will be handling the snacks. Due to the change in dates, Chris Stevenson needs someone to oversee serving snacks for 2 nights when she cannot be there. Helpers are also needed in the kitchen preparing and serving snacks. Please see/call/email Chris if you are able to help.



"I will be stepping down as VBS Coordinator for St. John UCC after this year! VBS is important to the children in the community and plays an important part in giving kids a balance in their lives. You will be working with great members full of enthusiasm from other churches, who have made this part of their lives. I, of course, will be available to help you understand how the program works and what to do. Please consider being a part of this program and keeping St. John involved! It is not a 24 hour a day job that goes on all year!"

Sincerely, Chris Stevenson 330-243-2816/csstevenson41@yahoo.com

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THANK YOU

Dear St. John UCC, Thank you for your recent gift of food for the Community Food Pantry. Your kindness is always appreciated.
From Bolivar UMC Mission Committee



FINANCIAL REPORT – May 2024

<u>May Income</u>			<u>Year-to-Date</u>
05/05/24	\$ 2,390.00	Income	\$ 39,379.40
05/12/24	\$ 900.00	Expenses	<u>\$(28,317.36)</u>
05/19/24	\$ 1,399.00		
<u>05/26/24</u>	<u>\$ 1,993.00</u>		
Total	\$ 6,682.00	Total	\$ 11,062.04

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 10:30am

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.