

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY March 2020



If you've ever been to an auction, you know there's no telling how much something will sell for. Something you think valuable might go for a song, but another item you think worthless might bring many times its estimated value.

Recently a chalk sketch of a face, with the simple title "Head of an Apostle," created around 1519 or 1520, was auctioned off. Simply due to its antiquity, its estimated value was between \$16 million and \$24 million! But when it was revealed that it had been drawn by the Italian painter known as Rafael, it went for the staggering price of \$47.8 million!

Obviously, the touch of that master's hand was one reason it proved to be worth far more even than the experts had thought!

That sketch was made as a study for the magnificent painting titled "The Transfiguration," which now hangs in the Vatican Museum. Rafael's masterpiece actually tells two stories. In the upper portion of the painting there is the transfigured Jesus, flanked by Moses and Elijah. Unlike many older paintings, no one wears a halo in this one, but there is no need. All three are backlit by a heavenly light, and all three are floating several feet off the earth. The apostles, stunned, are lying on the ground, barely able to raise their eyes. Then below, there are the same apostles, speaking excitedly to a crowd of men, women, and children about the Transfiguration.

The point of the picture, of course, is that it's not enough that something extraordinary happened. We need to tell people about it.

Initially, the three apostles who witnessed this revelation about Jesus in the Transfiguration were told to keep it a secret. That might seem odd since so much of the ministry of Jesus was public, but this event occurred at a crucial time in his life, when it seems Jesus was trying to make it clear exactly what it meant for him to be the Messiah.

The Transfiguration is the third of a cluster of three events that Matthew, Mark and Luke all relate. The first event begins with Jesus asking the disciples what people are saying about him. Perhaps unsure of themselves and not wanting to give the wrong answer, they beat around the bush. Jesus is said to be Elijah or a prophet from old or John the Baptist come back to life. But Simon asserts, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." In response, Jesus gives him nickname-- *Cephas*, in Greek, or *Petros/Peter*, in Latin. Since that is the same root from which we derive the word "petrified," today we would probably call him "Rocky."

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However, in the very next scene, Jesus reveals that part of being the Messiah involves a brutal death at the hands of the authorities, against which Peter protests. This leads to a harsh rebuke from Jesus, who calls upon his disciples — and us — to pick up our crosses to follow him. He also assures them, in the midst of this dark prophecy that the story will end in glory.

This leads to part three of this mini-drama, where Jesus, the Messiah, is revealed in the Transfiguration as who he has been all along: the Son of God. This personality of the Risen Jesus, the Resurrected Christ, is not something that happened only after his death. The Transfiguration shows us that Jesus was, is, and will always be the figure of glory long anticipated by the people of God in the Hebrew Scriptures and in their yearnings and prayers. To emphasize this there is then a voice proclaiming from a bright cloud, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”

At the conclusion of the Transfiguration, Jesus tells the apostles to say nothing about this until after his resurrection — and ultimately, this is what they did. And yet part of our response has to be the telling of this story. But more important is that we live it, and that in proclaiming Jesus, we reveal *that* part of Jesus that is hidden — sometimes deeply — in all of us. We are, all of us, eternal creatures, bearing the image of God. We ourselves are transfigured, transformed, by the touch of the Master’s, Jesus’ hand. Thanks be to God.

Pastor David+

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Of you

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March 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Job 1-4 Pew Communion 10:30am	2 Job 5-7	3 Job 8-10	4 Job 11-13 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ St. John UCC 11:30am	5 Job 14-16	6 Job 17-20	7 Job 21-23
8 Job 24-28	9 Job 29-31 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	10 Job 32-34 Mission Committee Meeting 10:00am	11 Job 35-37 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ Bolivar UMC 11:30am	12 Job 38-39 Consistory Meeting 7:00pm	13 Job 40-42	14 Ps 1-8
15 Ps 9-16	16 Ps 17-20	17 Ps 21-25	18 Ps 26-31 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ St. Paul Lutheran 11:30am	19 Ps 32-35 Dinner @ St. Paul Lutheran 5:00-6:30pm	20 Ps 36-39	21 Ps 40-45
22 Ps 46-50	23 Ps 51-57 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	24 Ps 58-65 Homeless Shelter Meal Epistle Items Due	25 Ps 66-69 Lenten Service/Luncheon @ Mineral City St. Paul Community Church 11:30am	26 Ps 70-73	27 Ps 74-77	28 Ps 78-79
29 Ps 80-85	30 Ps 86-89	31 Ps 90-95	Daily Bible Readings are listed for each day			

Communion Servers for March 1st are Dale Duerr, Becky Miller, Becky Wolf & Chris Stevenson

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March Birthdays

3/3 – Cathy Fenstermaker	3/17 – Kyle Mizer
3/11 – Karen Gartrell	3/19 – Forrest Holdsworth
3/13 – Paula Goudy	3/19 – Clare Stevenson
3/15 – Cathy Brinkman	3/20 – Josh Felgenhauer
3/15 – Allen Wolf	3/21 – Dr. Darrell Filler
3/16 – Nika Mase	3/31 – Willie Hamilton
3/16 – Steffani McCoy	

Serving In March

Liturgist

3/1 – Dale Duerr
3/8 – Carolyn Birk
3/15 – Gretchen Deubner
3/22 – Dale Duerr
3/29 – Becky Wolf

Greeters/Ushers

3/1 – Dale Duerr, Becky Miller, Chris Stevenson, and Becky Wolf
3/8 – Steffani and Luke McCoy
3/15 – John and Janet Stewart
3/22 – Chris and Beth Carpenter
3/29 – Rose Brinkman and Ann Scott

(Please find a replacement if you are unable to serve.)

PRAYER LIST

Nila Baad, Mary Birk, Neil Buchanan, Terry Carpenter, Diane DeLong, Bob Ely, Bill Emley Sr., Pam Farnsworth, Barb Goldsmith, Helen Hall, Patty Hartman, Anne Houdeschell, Missy Jones, Carol Kinsey, 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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LENT/EASTER SERVICES

Lenten Service/Luncheon – Mar. 4th @ St. John UCC 11:30am
Lenten Service/Luncheon – Mar. 11th @ Bolivar UMC 11:30am
Lenten Service/Luncheon – Mar. 18th @ Bolivar St. Paul Lutheran 11:30am
Lenten Service/Luncheon – Mar. 25th @ Mineral City St. Paul Community Church 11:30am
Lenten Service/Luncheon – Apr. 1st @ Zoar Holy Trinity 11:30am
Palm Sunday Service – Apr. 5th @ St. John UCC 10:30am
Lenten Service/Luncheon – Apr. 8th @ Bolivar Community Church 11:30am
Maundy Thursday Service – Apr. 9th @ Zoar UCC 7:00pm
Easter Service – Apr. 12th @ St. John UCC 9:00am ***note the time***

THANK YOU

St. John UCC,
Thank you so much for all of the cards that have been sent and for the beautiful Valentine's bag of cookies that was delivered to me while I was in Hennis Care Centre. They were all very much appreciated. From Jeanne Nalley



Dear Friends,
Thank you for the delicious Valentine treats. Everything tastes so good. I'll have homemade goodies to enjoy for quite a while. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Kathy Buchanan

St. John UCC,
Bob and I are enjoying the bag of Valentine treats that were brought to us. We have some very good cookie bakers in the church. They were all very good. It was a nice treat to remember old folks like us.
Thank you again, The Elys

A belated, but very heartfelt "Thank You" for all you did for Dick Lebold, both for his funeral and for his time on earth. We know you collected his mail and brought it to him and Rev. Houdeschell was an important part of Dick's spiritual life. Thank you for that, for donating food to the post funeral luncheon and for countless things of which we are undoubtedly unaware. From the Family of Dick Lebold

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MISSION/KITCHEN COMMITTEES

Thank you to all who baked cookies or bought candy to put in the Valentine bags or helped to deliver them. Twelve bags were delivered to our church members and community friends who were on our prayer list. Thanks also to the Sunday School class for decorating the bags.

In February the Clothes Closet had fifteen customers and receipts of a little over forty dollars. Workers included Chris Stevenson, Becky Miller, Becky Wolf and Cathy Fenstermaker. Jane is still on our injured reserve list. Clothes Closet dates for March are the 9th and the 23rd.

The Kitchen committee (and anyone else who can lend a hand) will be setting up for the Lenten Luncheon on Tuesday, March 3rd at 10 a.m. Preparations for the soup and sandwiches will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4th. Please let us know if you can help set up, prepare food, serve or help clean up. Volunteering for even one of these things will be a tremendous help. Supplies for baking the pineapple cakes will be handed out on Sunday, March 1st.

The next Mission Committee meeting will be March 10th at 10 a.m. The next Homeless Shelter meal will be prepared on March 24th.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Christmas project committee will be holding a Rummage Sale. The sale will be held on Friday May 1st from 9-5 and Saturday May 2nd from 9-12. 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. They will begin taking donations on Monday March 23rd and any donations can be left in the church social hall. Please see Chris Stevenson or Pam Diehl if you have any questions.



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!!

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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.

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.



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.

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.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Have you visited our website recently? The site is updated weekly. Visit stjohnbolivar.org.

CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Meeting minutes were unavailable at time of printing.

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St John United Church Of Christ ~ Treasurer's Report ~ January 2020

12/31/2019	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$	2,245.10			
	General Fund Deposits	\$	7,613.00	YTD	\$	7,613.00
	Other Deposits			YTD		
	Transfer from Money Market Acct			YTD		
	Balance and Receipts	\$	9,858.10	YTD	\$	7,613.00
	Disbursements	\$	(7,753.85)	YTD	\$	(7,753.85)
1/31/2020	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$	2,104.25			

Envelope Offering	\$	7,430.00	Transfer-UnitedChurchFunds	
Plate Offering	\$	30.00	Anonymous Donations	
Initial	\$	153.00	Miscellaneous	
Total General Fund	\$	7,613.00	Total Other Deposits	\$0.00

Money Market Account Fund

Memorial Fund (Memorial-School Supplies- Funeral Lunch Donations and Stain Glass)	Beginning Balance	\$	27,529.24
	Transfer to Checking		
	Check #		
	Contribution		
	End of month balance	\$	27,529.24
Mrs. Floyd Burris Mission	Beginning Balance:	\$	762.43
	Check #		
	End of month balance	\$	762.43
Christmas 2019	Beginning Balance	\$	-
	Contribution		
	End of Month Balance	\$	-
Homeless Shelter	Beginning Balance:	\$	403.38
	Check #1077	\$	(30.76)
	Contribution	\$	10.00
	End of Month Balance	\$	382.62
Pastor's Pantry	Beginning Balance:	\$	538.20
	Check #		
	Contribution	\$	8.75
	End of month balance	\$	546.95
Clothes Closet	Beginning Balance:	\$	1,040.92
	Check #		
	Contribution	\$	25.00
	End of month balance	\$	1,065.92
Capital Fund	Beginning Balance:	\$	75.29
	Check #		
	Contribution	\$	8.00
	End of month balance	\$	83.29
Interest	Beginning Balance:	\$	322.88
	Service Charge		
	Interest	\$	2.60
	End of month balance	\$	325.48

TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT FUND \$ 30,695.93

UNITED CHURCH FUNDS:

St. John UCC Trust Fund	As of 12/31/19	\$	48,831.11
St. John UCC Housing Fund	As of 12/31/19	\$	63,388.97

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ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2020

SALARIES & BENEFITS	Monthly Expenditures	Year-To-Date	2020 Budget
101a Pastor's Base Salary - Gross	\$ 2,412.18	\$ 2,847.08	\$ 25,625.00
101b Pastor's Travel Expense	\$ 434.90		
102a Pastor's Housing Allowance	\$ 1,513.32	\$ 1,513.32	\$ 18,160.00
102b Pastor's FICA Allowance	\$ 214.58	\$ 214.58	\$ 1,935.00
104 Pastor's Hospitalization Allowance	\$ 158.32	\$ 158.32	\$ 1,900.00
106 Pastor's In-Service Training			\$ 50.00
107a Pastor's Books & Periodicals			\$ 50.00
108 Secretary Wages - Gross	\$ 356.26	\$ 356.26	\$ 4,275.00
109 Custodian Wages - Gross	\$ 421.66	\$ 421.66	\$ 5,060.00
110 Organist Wages - Gross			\$ 2,250.00
111 Choir Director Wages - Gross			\$ -
112 FICA/Workmen's Comp	\$ 59.51	\$ 59.51	\$ 1,355.00
Employee Taxes WH	\$ (1,526.40)	\$ (1,526.40)	\$ -
Total	\$ 4,044.33	\$ 4,044.33	\$ 60,660.00
ADMINISTRATION			
203 Telephone	\$ 132.26	\$ 132.26	\$ 1,550.00
204 Postage & Office Supplies	\$ 53.50	\$ 53.50	\$ 1,800.00
207 Maintenance of Equipment	\$ 120.20	\$ 120.20	\$ 1,650.00
208 Outreach & Church Growth			\$ 1,000.00
209 Altar Committee			\$ -
210 Worship			\$ 1,000.00
211 Tuning & Repair			\$ 150.00
215 Pulpit Supply			\$ 300.00
216 Special Music			\$ 200.00
217 Social Functions			\$ 200.00
218 Bell Choir Music			\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 305.96	\$ 305.96	\$ 7,900.00
BUILDING/GROUNDS OPERATIONS			
301 Building/Grounds Operations	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 3,000.00
302 Insurance & Taxes	\$ 1,236.00	\$ 1,236.00	\$ 4,700.00
303 Utilities	\$ 676.05	\$ 676.05	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 1,960.05	\$ 1,960.05	\$ 17,700.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
400 Christian Education			\$ 200.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
BENEVOLENCES			
503 OCWM			\$ 1,000.00
504 T-4-C			\$ 100.00
505 Food Pantry			\$ 400.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL BUDGET DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 6,310.34	\$ 6,310.34	\$ 87,960.00

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ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2020

NON-BUDGET - IN & OUT FUNDS			
SPECIAL EXPENDITURES	Monthly Expenditures	Year-To Date	
603 Special Offering - OCWM			
603.1 Offering - OGHS			
603.2 Offering - Neighbors In Need			
603.3 Offering - The Christmas Fund			
606 Memorial Fund Transfers			
608 Local Projects Non Budgeted			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	
State Income Tax Withheld - paid qtrly			
City Income Tax Withheld-paid qtrly			
Federal Tax Withheld - paid qtrly	\$ 1,443.51	\$ 1,443.51	
Total	\$ 1,443.51	\$ 1,443.51	
NET DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 7,753.85	\$ 7,753.85	\$ 87,960.00