

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY May 2024

Hello family,

I am sitting at my computer thinking about what I wanted to say to you as we enter into the month of May. I wrote down the things that will happen in May. For me, the first thing that comes to mind is Mother's Day. **I miss my mom!** I am glad we have a day to celebrate moms, we should take time to celebrate people God has placed into our lives.

I then began to think about graduations for some and the hunt for a new job or career for others and of course, Pentecost.

As I was thinking of May events, I thought of this expression, "April showers bring May flowers." It is a reality that in life the blessings we enjoy, more times than not, come at the conclusion of a long process that often times has been filled with struggle and even some pain. A mother will welcome her beautiful little child but only after she experiences morning sickness, uncomfortable nights of restless sleep and many hours of labor. But the first time she holds that precious little gift in her arms all the bad is forgotten.

Some students will be graduating from college this year. The hope of a new job, a vocation they have dreamed about and worked for will be within their grasp. But only after many hours of studying, testing, writing of papers and sitting in classrooms listening to some very interesting professors and sometimes not so interesting professors. Many hours and years of hard work has paved the way for the fulfillment of a dream.

On May 19th we will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday. For many people in the world, that day will not hold much significance. But for those who make up the church, this is our birthday. The church was birthed on Pentecost over two thousand years ago, in an upper room filled with one hundred and twenty followers of Jesus. Fifty days earlier these same followers watched as Jesus was nailed to a cross and died. He was placed in a borrowed tomb and the disciples were left to wonder about what will happen next. This was their hope, the Savior of the world, but now He is dead. What were they going to do now? But Easter Sunday changed everything and although they didn't understand it all immediately, the coming of the promised Holy Spirit brought new life and fresh hope.

Maybe you are going through a time of hardship and difficulty right now. Maybe you are wondering if the rainy season will ever end because all you can see are dark skies above. Let me remind you that your blessing is just ahead for you. God has not forgotten you and the prettiest flowers you have ever seen are awaiting you. That is God's promise for you. AMEN!

Pastor Don

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May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 St. Paul Rummage Sale 9:00am-4:00pm	4 St. Paul Rummage Sale 9:00am-1:00pm
5	6	7 Bible Study 11:00am or 6:30pm	8	9 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm AED Training 7:00pm	10	11 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm
12 Mother's Day Breakfast 9:30am	13 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	14 Bible Study 11:00am or 6:30pm	15	16	17	18 Manna for Many @ St. Paul 10:00am- 12:00pm Youth Event @ Fenstermaker's Cabin 3:00pm
19 Pentecost	20	21 Bible Study 11:00am or 6:30pm	22	23 Epistle Items Due	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

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BIRTHDAY LIST

May 2 – Carolyn Bee
May 6 – Joclyn Kocher
May 11 – Max McCoy
May 12 – Willis Digman
May 19 – Arline Mase
May 20 – Zach Beun
May 20 – Missy Jones
May 21 – Jase Deubner
May 27 – Ginny Digman
May 27 – Janet Stewart

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, Zach Brinkman (mission trip), Michael Digman, Bob and Joyclin Ely, Missy Jones, Pam Miller, Clara Mae Millhorn, Holly Myers, Tyler Nathan, Judy Nedrow, Jane Regula, Linda Sanko, Pat Stephens, Mary Timmons, Don Wagler

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AED



Several people in our congregation have graciously donated money for the church to be able to purchase an AED (automated external defibrillator). An AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. The device is located at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Lt. Jason Ely from the Bolivar Fire Dept. will be leading a training to learn to use the device on Thursday May 9th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is open to interested congregation members.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

In celebration of Mother's Day, St. John will be holding a breakfast for ALL ladies/girls of the church. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am for this event before worship.



MANNA FOR MANY

On May 18th, St. Paul Lutheran Church will be holding a "Manna for Many" event. They will be putting together 2,000 bags of food to send to many countries around the world. They are in need of A LOT of volunteers that day. Volunteers will be packing the bags from 10:00am-12:00pm. Please consider donating an hour or two of your time. Please call the Lutheran church to sign up at 330-874-4540.

MAY YOUTH EVENT



On May 18th, our youth event will be held at Chuck and Cathy Fenstermaker's cabin. The event will begin at 3pm. There will be fishing, hiking, food and fun! Bring your fishing gear.

BAPTISM OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in getting baptized? Let us know!! Pastor Don would like to offer the opportunity of baptism to anyone who is interested. Please see him or Kaley Hamilton if you would like more information.



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VBS

Community Vacation Bible School will be held this year July 14th-18th from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Holy Trinity in Zoar. The program theme this year is Stellar-Shine Jesus' Light. St. John will be handling the snacks. Helpers will be needed in various departments. More info to be announced.



THANK YOU

A BIG thank you goes to the youth and youth leaders here at St. John for the beautiful job they did mulching around the church. Members from the Strasburg Country 4-H Club also attended that day as a community service project for their club. The day concluded with a cook-out in the parking lot.

Another thank you goes to students at Tusky Valley Middle-High School who came to the church as part of the annual "Pay It Forward" Day. These kids cleaned and scrubbed the Clothes Closet as well as the church nursery as their way of giving back to the community. Thank you!



CLOTHES CLOSET

On Friday, April 19th, six students from Tusky Valley came to clean the Clothes Closet. They swept and mopped, dusted and cleaned the windows. There to help give directions and help move everything back into the closet were, Cathy, Chris, Kaley, Lynn, Ginny and

Susan. The kids did a very good job!

The Closet was open only one day in April. We had eight customers and had receipts of a little over \$51. This included several extra donations few of our customers made. Chris, Ginny, Jane H., Jane R., Becky M., Cathy, and Susan Nedele were on hand to help.

Our next open dates will be Saturday May 11 and Monday June 10.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school begins at 9:30am every Sunday. There are two classes. Gretchen Deubner leads the children class, which is for children 6th grade and down. There is also an adult class in the parlor, which is for 7th grade through adults. Please join us!



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FINANCIAL REPORT – March 2024

March Income

03/03/24 \$ 1,762.00
03/10/24 \$ 2,217.00
03/17/24 \$ 1,565.00
03/24/24 \$ 1,575.00
03/31/24 \$ 2,380.00

Income \$ 9,499.00
Expenses \$(5,194.70)

Year-to-Date

\$ 25,439.40
\$(16,975.61)

Total \$ 9,499.00

Total \$ 4,304.30

\$ 8,463.79

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 10:45am

LET'S COMMUNICATE

OFFICE – Kaley Hamilton, Secretary 330-874-2822
EMAIL – stjohnsect@aol.com
WEBSITE – www.stjohnbolivar.org

PASTOR

Pastor Don Perks
740-310-4557
pagaperks@gmail.com

If you know someone interested in receiving the Epistle by mail or email, please contact the church office.