

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY October 2022

Dear Friends,

Let me say first how much I'm looking forward to our hayride this Sunday at Dale Duerr's Farm at 3 PM. Kathy, our dog Sherlock, and myself had a wonderful time last year despite challenging weather. Last year at this time I had only seen pictures of past hayrides but this year I have a different perspective. I've experienced it and want to have that experience once again.

Many of us have wonderful memories connected with our church. Growing up, the annual Christmas party was a fabulous experience for families and all ages. There were people who chose to attend this and other events because they were so much fun and had a powerful meaning attached to them. Christmas Eve, Easter sunrise, and Easter worship were also events that provided an experience that was positive and encouraging to build up our relationship with God.

It is urgent that we seek to provide these types of experiences for people who come to our church. Recently, we had special music with the saxophone player I went to high school with and had recently reconnected. That was a very powerful event not only because of his skill in playing the instrument, but also his selection of "He Lives". I hope to have him back once again and be able to let people know that he is coming. I am always looking for ways to lift us up in worship. I am certainly open to any suggestions that you may have as to what we may do in worship to inspire.

People who are looking for a church are not just looking for friendly people. They are looking for people who will be their friends. The way the church grew when I was growing up was through the friendships of members with each other and how people invited others to be a part of what was happening. Our church is on the right path, but we must be willing to risk and be bold in our decisions. Good things are happening.

I am also looking for input into new hymns and songs that we can sing in church that would be uplifting as well. Our hymnal is full of songs that are difficult to sing and are not familiar to those in attendance. I want you to feel that you have an opportunity to give input into making our worship service time something that people will not want to miss. I hope to hear from some of you with your suggestions.

Thanks to all those who worked so hard on our annual basement sale in raising money to support those in need locally. I am looking forward to seeing you in church.

Pastor Jeff

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October 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Country Breakfast 8:00am-11:00am
2 Communion Hayride @ Dale Duerr's Farm 3:00pm	3	4	5	6 <i>Cam McCoy/ Luke McCoy</i>	7	8 <i>Bob Ely/ Chuck Fenstermaker</i>
9 Rev. Dr. John States Guest Pastor <i>Barb Norman/ Lynn Rootring</i>	10 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	11	12	13 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	14	15
16 <i>Deisy Felgenhauer</i>	17	18	19	20 Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	21	22
23 Rev. Keith Stuart Guest Pastor	24 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	25 Epistle Items Due	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween	<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 and Joyclin Ely, Missy Jones
Cancer: Missy Horn, Cindy Kirkbride, Holly Myers, The Peter Stenz Family

COUNTRY BREAKFAST

Our next breakfast will be held on Saturday October 1st 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.



HAYRIDE/WIENER ROAST

On Sunday, October 2nd, the church is having our annual hayride/wiener roast at Dale Duerr's farm. This is an event for all members and friends of St. John UCC. Hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your own lawn chair. There will be pumpkins for the kids to paint, as well as cornhole. Let's make this a huge turnout, so bring your friends!!! The event begins at 3:00pm.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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



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CLOTHES CLOSET

In September, the Clothes Closet was open on three days. We had dollar-a-bag sales to reduce our summer clothing inventory. We will meet one more day in September to sort through the remaining summer clothing and put winter clothing that has been stored since April back on the racks and shelves. We also bought a “commercial grade” clothes rack to replace one of the old ones which was getting very wobbly.



We had a lot of people come to work in the Clothes closet in September: Jean, Jane, Cathy, Chris, Birdie, Becky W., Becky M., and Lynn Rootring, Joyclin Kocher, and Ginny Digman. We were grateful for the extra help especially when we were open on the same day as the basement sale.

We welcomed 24 customers over those three days and sold 35 bags of summer clothing. Our receipts were a little over eighty dollars.

Please come and visit if you have the opportunity. You can help or just sit and visit. We always have coffee (and most of the time cookies.) On October 24 we will have hot spiced cider!

Our next open dates will be October 10th and 24th.



THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you goes to Chuck Fenstermaker and Mark Goudy for all of their hard work in removing the overgrown trees around three sides of the church. It looks fantastic!!

CONSISTORY MEETING SUMMARY

The Consistory and Pastor Jeff met on August 12th. Pastor Jeff will be out for continuing education 10/3-10/9 and then on vacation 10/19-10/28. Old business discussed was the August 14th picnic lunch. Also, a confirmation class will begin on September 11th with a parent meeting. The basement sale will be held 9/17-18 and 9/23-24. New business discussed was reviewing Consistory members terms. The kitchen vent needs looked at by professionals to correct the extreme coldness. It was also decided to change our morning worship time from 10:30am to 10:45am to give the pastor adequate time to transition between Zoar's service and ours. Future social events for church fellowship were also discussed.

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FINANCIAL REPORT – August 2022

<u>August Income</u>				<u>Year-to-Date</u>
8/07/22	\$ 1,235.40	Income	\$ 4,912.79	\$ 51,263.62
8/14/22	\$ 1,352.00	Expenses	<u>\$(6,496.83)</u>	<u>\$(56,712.50)</u>
8/21/22	\$ 1,037.00			
<u>8/28/22</u>	<u>\$ 1,288.39</u>			
Total	\$ 4,912.79	Total	\$ (1,584.04)	\$ (5,448.88)

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

PASTOR

Pastor Jeff Shultz
330-844-1377

LET'S COMMUNICATE

OFFICE – 330-874-2822
EMAIL – stjohsect@aol.com
WEBSITE – www.stjohnbolivar.org

OFFICE HOURS

Kaley Hamilton, Secretary (Tues-Thurs)
9:00am-12:00pm