

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY October 2023

Hello Family,

Thank you! Thank you for extending the call to invite me to be your Pastor. I truly count it as an honor to receive your call and I am really excited about what lies ahead for us as we move forward as a church to follow the Lord.

In my former church, we worked under an appointment system. The bishop and his/her cabinet sought the Lord's guidance and after much prayer and consultation they determined which church would receive which Pastor. The church was not given much input into who their next pastor would be, so for me this is a first time to receive a call from a church, so thank you.

With this call, I have also been thinking about the call found in Matthew 4:18-22. In this passage, Jesus calls Andrew, Peter, James and John to "come follow Me." As they left their fishing boats and their families, they started on a journey that would change the world and have an impact on you and me. As these four fishermen followed Jesus they saw miracles, they heard teachings, they faced opposition and they even saw people who had died brought back to life.

You and I have been called by Jesus to follow Him as well. And I can't help but wonder what exciting things we will see in our journey. Will we see miracles, will we hear Jesus as He teaches us through His words found in the Bible, will we face opposition? My response is yes. But all of that is part of the call.

In the days of the first disciples, they received the same call that we have received. They did not know where the call would take them but they knew that Jesus would be with them. We have that same assurance today. We do not know where the Lord will lead us as a church, but we do know that Jesus will be with us and we do know that where Jesus leads us will have an impact on those who will come after us.

There is an old hymn that says, "Where He leads me, I will follow, Where He leads me, I will follow, where He leads me, I will follow, I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way."

I am inviting us as a church to follow where Jesus is leading us, knowing that as He leads, we will see amazing things happen in us and through us, and knowing He will go with us all the way.

Pastor Don

The Epistle

October 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pew Communion 10:45am Basement Sale Donation Drop Off 2:00-6:00pm	2	3	4	5 Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran 11:30am-1:00pm	6	7 Country Breakfast 8:00am-11:00am
8	9 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	10	11	12 Mission Committee Meeting 5:30pm	13 Basement Sale 9:00am-5:00pm	14 Basement Sale 9:00am-1:00pm Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm
15	16	17	18	19 Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran 11:30am-1:00pm Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	20 Basement Sale 9:00am-5:00pm	21 Basement Sale 9:00am-1:00pm
22 Hayride @ Dale Duerr's Farm 3:00pm	23 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	24 Epistle Items Due	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

The Epistle



BIRTHDAY LIST

October 6 – Cam and Luke McCoy
October 8 – Bob Ely and Chuck Fenstermaker
October 9 – Lynn Rootring
October 19 – Alana Deubner

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:

Bob and Joyclin Ely, Kate Hamilton, Missy Jones, Stacie Metcalf, Pam Miller, Clara Mae Millhorn, Holly Myers, Jane Regula, John Stucky, Fern and Warren Stutzman

COUNTRY BREAKFAST



Our next breakfast will be held on Saturday October 7th 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.

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!



The Epistle

BASEMENT SALE

Mark your calendars for our annual basement sale. The dates and hours for the sale are Oct. 13 from 9-5, Oct. 14 from 9-1, Oct. 20 from 9-5, Oct. 21 from 9-1. We are accepting donations now. They can be dropped in the fellowship hall. Arrangements can be made with the church office or with Chris Stevenson for drop off. All proceeds from this event go to the Tusky Valley Affordable Christmas project which gives a “hand up, not a hand out” to families in the district to assist with their Christmas.



CLOTHES CLOSET



In September we had 21 customers and receipts of fifty-seven dollars. September 11 was a dollar-a-bag sale which continued to September 25 for summer clothing. We sold 27 bags of clothing plus many items for half price. When a customer does not have a full bag we charge half price for each item if that amount comes to less than a dollar. Our

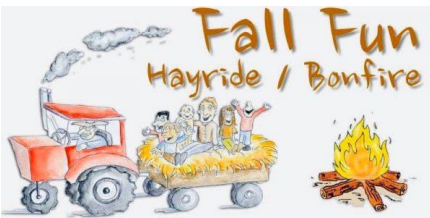
workers for September were Cathy, Chris, Becky M., Lynn, Jane H., Ginny and Birdie.

Reminder: On Monday, October 2 we will have a work day to clear out the remaining warm weather clothing and put out more of the cold weather wear. We will start at 9 am and continue till we get tired. Afterwards, we may go to lunch at the new Mexican restaurant in Zoar (probably between 12:30 and 1 pm.) If you can't make it at nine, come when you are able. You are welcome to join us for lunch regardless. If you plan on staying (or joining us) for lunch please let someone in the Clothes Closet group know. If we have a large group, we will need to let the restaurant know ahead of time. I will text the members of the group to get a count of about how many will be there for lunch.

Our open dates for October will be: Mondays, Oct. 9 and 23 and Saturday the 14th during the basement sale.

HAYRIDE/FALL PARTY

On Sunday, October 22nd, the church is having our annual hayride/fall party 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.



The Epistle

FINANCIAL REPORT – August 2023

<u>August Income</u>				<u>Year-to-Date</u>
8/06/23	\$ 1,870.00	Income	\$ 7,139.85	\$ 56,633.50
8/13/23	\$ 1,375.00	Expenses	<u>\$(5,684.34)</u>	<u>\$(42,440.88)</u>
8/20/23	\$ 890.00			
8/27/23	\$ 1,055.00			
<u>8/28/23</u>	<u>\$ 1,949.85</u>	Transfer from MMS Acct – In/Out		
Total	\$ 7,139.85	Total	\$ 1,455.51	\$ 14,192.62

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