

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY October 2024

Hello Family,

I have been trying to take better care of myself, so I starting walking in the morning. My morning walk starts on the Tow Path Trail in front of Hattie's House and I try to walk four miles in an hour. I enjoy my time on my walk, it is quiet and I can pray and think about the day before me. But this week I was reminded of something new.

I started walking on this path this past March and this week I was startled by what I saw. All the corn is gone, the harvest has come. In early March as winter drew to a close the land lie dormant and dark. Then as spring began I watched as the dirt was being tilled and then I saw a plant burst from the ground and soon row after row filled the large fields with new life. I remember thinking to myself when June came the old saying, "the corn should be knee high by the fourth of July", and this corn was already knee high. Through July and August the stalks of corn grew taller and taller until I felt like I was in a corn maze each morning as I walked. And now the end of September is here and the harvest has come and the fields are looking like a tornado came through them. The stalks are gone and it looks dead.

This got me to thinking about the passage in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "***There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.***" I began to think of my life as the seed of corn I watched this past year. The planting of the seed and the sprouting of the plant from the earth would be my birth and early development, what I would call the spring time of life. It is a great time of celebration as we see and experience new life.

Once we see the new stalks sprout from the earth we then watch as these stalks grow and grow taller and taller. That is what children do. We watch and proclaim that they are growing up too fast. This is what would be the summer season of life, a time of health and growth. Then before we know it we begin to see a change on the stalks of corn, their color goes from green to a fading into yellow. The stalks are no longer getting taller they have stalled and the weather has begun to turn and we notice the cooler evenings. But one more thing happens in the fall, the harvest. This is happening to me in my life. I am experiencing a change in the color in my hair, I have stopped growing taller, and as a matter of fact, on the last trip to the doctor I found I had shrunk. I am in the fall season of life, a time of beauty and a time of harvest. I watch as I see my children succeed as parents and in their maturity. I admire the grandchildren in their summer season of life as they run and participate in sporting events and start college and begin new careers. I truly am enjoying this season of harvest.

There is a season of life for all of us, and I thank God for the opportunity I have to be able to enjoy this time of harvest. God is good.

Pastor Don

The Epistle

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bible Study 10:30am or 6:30pm	2	3 Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran 11:30am-1:00pm	4	5 Calling Hours/Funeral for Betty Schumaker 10:00am/11:00am
6	7	8 Bible Study 10:30am or 6:30pm	9	10 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	11	12 Country Breakfast 9:00am-11:00am Youth Event @ Fenstermaker's Cabin 3:00pm
13 Basement Sale Donation Drop off 3:00pm-6:00pm	14 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	15 Bible Study 10:30am or 6:30pm	16 Mission Committee Meeting 9:00am	17 Basement Sale 9:00am-6:00pm Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran 11:30am-1:00pm	18 Basement Sale 9:00am-6:00pm	19 Basement Sale 9:00am-3:00pm Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm
20 Congregational Lunch/Meeting following worship	21	22 Bible Study 10:30am or 6:30pm	23 Epistle Items Due	24	25	26
27	28 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	29 Bible Study 10:30am or 6:30pm	30	31		

The Epistle



BIRTHDAY LIST

- October 6 – Cam McCoy
- October 6 – Luke McCoy
- October 8 – Bob Ely
- October 8 – Chuck Fenstermaker
- October 9 – Lynn Rootring
- October 19 – Alana Deubner
- October 21 – Dutch Kocher

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), Cathy Birk, Willis Digman, Bob and Joyclin Ely, Missy Jones, Pam Miller, Clara Mae Millhorn, Holly Myers, Tyler Nathan, Jane Regula, Jack Renner, The Betty Schumaker Family, Sherry Sinclair, Harper Szendersi, Mary Timmons

IN SYMPATHY

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Betty Schumaker. She was the wife of former Rev. Don Schumaker who passed away in May. The funeral service will be held here at St. John on Saturday October 5th, with calling hours beginning at 10:00am followed by the funeral.



The Epistle

COUNTRY BREAKFAST



Our next breakfast will be held on Saturday October 12th 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.

YOUTH EVENT

A youth event will be held on October 12th beginning at 3:00pm. It will be held at the Fenstermaker's cabin. There will be fishing, pumpkin carving and hopefully a campfire! Please bring a friend(s) and join the fun!!



BASEMENT SALE



Mark your calendars for our annual basement sale. It will be held October 17-19. The hours of the sale are as follows: October 17-18 9:00am-6:00pm, October 19 9:00am-3:00pm. Donations will be accepted beginning October 6th. On October 13th from 3:00-6:00pm, items can also be dropped off. 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.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH/MEETING

On Sunday October 20th there will be a lunch served to the congregation immediately following worship service. After the lunch, there will be a short meeting to work on creating a Mission Statement for St. John UCC. We welcome all of our congregation to be a part of this discussion.



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CLOTHES CLOSET

In September the Clothes Closet was open on the 9th for a Dollar-a-Bag Sale and the 23rd when the Dollar-a-Bag sale was continued for summer clothing. We welcomed 28 customers and had receipts of almost \$88. All ten of the regular Clothes Closet workers were there to help on one or both of those days. Thank you to everyone on this committee for spending a few hours a month to help with this mission.



We also enjoy an hour or so of socializing after all the donated clothing has been sorted and hung up. You don't have to be a member of the committee to join us for a cup of coffee and some conversation. In October we will be serving hot spiced cider to our guests!

Our next open dates will be on Mondays, October 14 and 28. We will also be open on Saturday, October 19th from 9 to noon, during the last day of the Basement Rummage Sale.

A work day to remove the last of the summer clothing and put out the cold weather clothes will be held on Thursday, October 10, starting at 9 am.

Submitted by Cathy Fenstermaker

FINANCIAL REPORT – August 2024

		<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income – August (4 Sundays)	\$ 5,975.00	\$ 62,129.40
Expenses	\$(4,535.20)	\$(46,112.35)

If you would like further details and/or a copy of the complete Treasurer's Report, please feel free to contact the church office.

The Epistle

CHURCH INFORMATION

Help us keep our church roster updated. Contact the office with any address or phone changes. Thank you!

WORSHIP HOURS

Worship 10:30am

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 or if you no longer are interested in receiving the Epistle, please email stjohnsect@aol.com and you will be removed from our list.