

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY September 2021

Dear members and friends of St. John UCC,

I want to begin by thanking everyone who called, sent a card, or attended my installation this past Sunday. I am humbled by the warmth and kindness that continues to be shown to your newly installed pastor. I look forward to many years of serving both St. John and the Zoar United Church of Christ.

Pastoral care will continue to be a priority for me throughout my ministry. I am very appreciative of our members keeping me informed of calls that need to be made and how I may better serve the church. I have enjoyed attending track meets and football games to see our youth running, jumping, cheering and tackling at our Tusky Valley High School. We certainly have a very active congregation. Community activities are also a priority for me to be involved with in our area. It gives me a chance to see our members and to enjoy the activities that they enjoy. Thank you for keeping me informed about what is going on in our community.

It appears that COVID is coming back in a surge to be more prevalent than earlier this year. It will take some discipline, but we must be diligent in our social distancing and refraining from handshakes and hugs once again. Many local churches are talking about mask mandates and possibly closing once again in the future. I am confident that Consistory will offer guidance to our church that will ensure safety and opportunities for us to continue to worship together on Sunday mornings. Several churches in our area have already experienced COVID outbreaks with members and are exercising appropriate caution. The Delta variant has been highly contagious even among those who have been vaccinated. However their symptoms are generally mild, but the lingering effects of COVID may continue for some time. I can't wait for the day when we will be able to plan more fellowship and education opportunities with one another

This Sunday we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion once again. When we share in this sacrament we are indeed celebrating Jesus' sacrifice and his resurrection. I hope you will be able to join us.

Pastor Jeff

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September 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1 Cor 12-14 <i>Richard McFeeders</i>	2 1 Cor 15-16 <i>Jordan Felgenhauer</i>	3 2 Cor 1-4 <i>Laine Bradford</i>	4 2 Cor 5-9 Country Breakfast 8:00am-11:00am
5 2 Cor 10-13 Liturgist: Laine Bradford Communion 10:30am	6 Gal 1-3 Labor Day	7 Gal 4-6	8 Eph 1-3	9 Eph 4-6 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	10 Philippians	11 Colossians
12 1 Thess Liturgist: Becky Wolf Rally Day Sunday School begins @9:30am <i>Ken Bee</i>	13 2 Thess Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	14 1 Tim 1-6 <i>Barbie Harrower</i>	15 2 Tim 1-4	16 Titus/Phile	17 Heb 1-6	18 Heb 7-10
19 Heb 11-13 Liturgist: Dale Duerr	20 James	21 1 Peter	22 2 Peter <i>Dale Duerr</i>	23 1 John	24 2 John/Jude	25 Rev 1-3
26 Rev 4-8 Liturgist: Carolyn Birk <i>Kody Mizer</i>	27 Rev 9-13 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	28 Rev 14-18 <i>Chris Scott</i>	29 Rev 19-20	30 Rev 21-22	Daily Bible Readings are listed for each day. Birthdays are listed in italics.	

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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! 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.

Please remember the following in your prayers:

All frontline/healthcare workers,

Nila Baad, Bob and Joyclin Ely, Pam Farnsworth, Barb Goldsmith, Missy Jones, Holly Myers, Family of Jeanne Nalley, George Rootring, John and Wanda Stucky, Crystal Weaver

Prayer list update: Nila Baad is now at home. We offer our sympathy to the family of Jeanne Nalley, who passed away on August 10th.

ALL YOU CAN EAT COUNTRY BREAKFAST

Saturday September 4th from 8:00am-11:00am is the next country breakfast. There will be scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, breakfast bakes, grits, fruit, sweets, biscuits and sausage gravy, pancakes, juice and coffee. Cost: \$7.00 ages 11 and up, \$3.00 ages 6 to 10, Under 6 – Free. Please join us!



RALLY DAY

September 12th will be Rally Day here at St. John UCC. Sunday school will start up again for the year and will begin at 9:30am. To celebrate Rally Day, we will serve refreshments between Sunday school and church worship service. We are planning on having the refreshments as well as the worship service outdoors, weather permitting. Brenda Widder will be singing during worship service. We hope you will join us as we kick off a new year of Sunday school. Bring a friend!



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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We would like to know who would be interested in attending an adult Sunday school class this year. If you have any interest, please let a member of the Christian Education committee know, or call/email the church office. The members of the committee are: Beth Carpenter, Gretchen Deubner, Kaley Hamilton, Becky Miller, Chris Stevenson and Becky Wolf.



HAYRIDE/WIENER ROAST



On October 3rd, the church is having a Hayride/Wiener Roast at Dale Duerr's farm. This is an event for all members and friends of St. John UCC. Please bring a covered dish to share. There will be lots of fun and fellowship and we hope to have a big turnout. The event will start at 3:00PM.

RUMMAGE SALE

There will be a Rummage Sale held at the church in October. It will be open on Fri. Oct. 15th and 22nd from 9:00am-5:00pm, and Sat. Oct. 16th and 23rd from 9:00am-3:00pm. All proceeds from this sale will benefit the Tusky Valley Affordable Christmas Project. Donations can now be dropped off in the church fellowship hall. To set up a time for drop off, please call Chris Stevenson or the church office.



CLOTHES CLOSET



We had all of our regular helpers show up to help during the last two months, plus Maggie Hamilton came to help on July 12. On July 26th, the seven regulars decided to socialize a little longer by going out to lunch right after closing up the closet. We went to the East Main Kitchen and Coffee in Baltic. (Formerly it was Miller's.) We had a great time and decided to "do lunch" again sometime after we close up for the day.

In July and August we had a total of 25 customers. We had receipts of over \$41 in July and over \$34 in August. Our next open date will be September 13 and 27. We will be having dollar-a-bag sales to reduce our inventory of summer clothing and make room for cold weather items. In October, we will be open on the Saturday of the church rummage sale (in addition to our regular Mondays). Perhaps we will see some new people at that time.

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EPISTLE COMMUNICATION

We currently send the monthly Epistle by email and regular mail. Please let the office know if you want to change the method in which you receive yours. The office can be reached by 330-874-2822 or stjohnsect@aol.com.

CONSISTORY MEETING SUMMARY

The Consistory and Pastor Jeff met on July 10th. Pastor Jeff expressed his thankfulness on being able to pastor 2 churches. Old business discussed was the Personal Committee completing staff reviews, passing out candy during the Strawberry Festival parade, and repairs that need made around the church. New business discussed was donating to the Community VBS program, revising the to do list of what the church needs to do should a member pass away, and purchasing a tv for the social hall to play videos during special events. Dale Duerr will be hosting a hayride/wiener roast in October. Consistory plans on incorporating some special music into worship services.

FINANCIAL REPORT – JULY 2021

<u>July Income</u>			<u>Year-to-Date</u>
7/04/2021 \$ 767.00	Income	\$ 9,704.05	\$ 49,588.15
7/11/2021 \$ 4,002.00	Expenses	<u>\$(6,468.96)</u>	<u>\$(42,673.94)</u>
7/18/2021 \$ 2,653.00			
<u>7/25/2021 \$ 2,282.05</u>			
Total \$ 9,704.05	Total	+\$ 3,235.09	+\$ 6,914.21

If you would like further details, please feel free to contact the church office.