

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY September 2024

Hello family,

I have been thinking lately about Jesus. Now that is probably a good thing for a preacher to think about Jesus, but I was thinking more about why Jesus came to the earth? Now, much like you, many reasons come to mind. Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus came to show us the Father. Jesus came to call disciples who would in turn continue His ministry and grow the church. But the question then came to mind, “Why did Jesus say He came to the earth?” Some of the answers surprised me.

I decided to read through the gospel of Luke to see what Jesus said was the reason why He came to earth. The first reason Jesus gave was found in 4:18,19, “The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to ***proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.***” He continues in the fourth chapter to say in 4:43, “***I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.***”

Jesus says first of all He was sent and anointed to proclaim, (tell, preach, announce) good news. He did not come to preach damnation and condemnation, but good news. The message of Jesus is good news! When you are lost and someone comes along and says to you “I know the way out” or if you are in trouble and someone says, “I know the way to safety.” That is good news. In John 3:17 John says, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

Notice who Jesus says He came to share the good news with, the poor, the prisoners, the blind, the oppressed, and to other places and towns. Can we as a church make a commitment that we will be a church of “Good News”. There is way too much bad news all around us these days, people are longing to hear some good news. And can we agree that our message of good news about Jesus is intended for those inside the building of a church, but also for those outside the building who are poor, prisoners, blinded by the ways of the world and oppressed by the enemy of our souls?

I want us to be like Jesus and bring some much-needed good news to those who are lost and held captive by the ways of Satan. Jesus came to set people free and I think He calls us to be His messengers. If you agree with that say AMEN.

More about why Jesus came next time, Pastor Don

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September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 10:30am	2	3	4	5 Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	6	7 Country Breakfast 8:00am-11:00am
8 Worship Service in Fellowship Hall 10:30am	9 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	10 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	11	12	13	14
15 Worship Service in Fellowship Hall 10:30am	16	17	18	19 Free Community Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 11:30am-1:00pm	20	21
22 Rally Day Breakfast 9:45am	23 Clothes Closet 9:00am-12:00pm	24 Epistle Items Due	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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BIRTHDAY LIST

September 21 – Jen Beun
September 22 – Dale Duerr
September 22 – Dennisyn 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), 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

COUNTRY BREAKFAST



Our next breakfast will be held on Saturday September 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. **Also, just an advance notice that our October breakfast will be held on October 12th instead of the first Saturday of the month.

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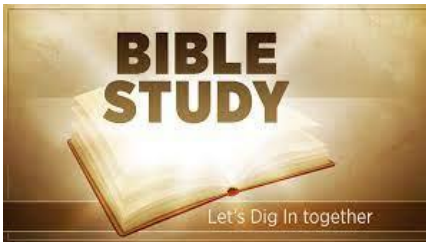
IN SYMPATHY

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 with calling hours beginning at 10:00am followed by the funeral.



BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Don's last bible study was a huge success! Thank you all who attended. It is time to begin another one! The study will be offered at two different times on Tuesdays beginning September 17th. The first one will begin at 10:30am and the second one will begin at 6:30pm. We will meet in the fellowship hall. Please join us! Bring your bible and a pen. If you attended last session, please bring your folder.



RALLY DAY

Rally Day this year will be held on September 22nd. To kick off the Sunday School year, the Christian Education Committee is hosting a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am. The Christian Education would also like to know of the congregation's interest in an adult Sunday School class. If you are interested, please fill out the survey that was emailed to you or there are hard copies in the sanctuary.



BASEMENT SALE

Mark your calendars for our annual basement sale. It will be held October 17-19. Donations will be accepted beginning October 6th. 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.



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CLOTHES CLOSET



I did not write an article for the July and August Epistle so I will try to catch up. In June, we had 14 customers and receipts of a little over \$54.00. In July, we had receipts of just under \$70.00 and 16 customers. July 8th was a particularly busy day!

Our workers for these two months included everyone on our Clothes Closet list for at least one and sometimes all four of the open dates. There are currently ten people on the Clothes Closet committee: Cathy Fenstermaker, Chris Stevenson, Lynn Rootring, Birdie Wilt, Jane Hough, Jean Gauding, Susan Nedele, Ginny Digman, Debbie Lundenberger and Becky Miller. Anyone is welcome to join us for a morning of sorting through donated clothes, greeting and socializing with customers, and a lot of socializing with each other. We always have coffee, tea, and snacks.

Our next open dates will be September 9th and 23rd. September 9th will be a Dollar-a-Bag Sale to reduce our summer clothing inventory.

Submitted by Cathy Fenstermaker

THANK YOU

St. John UCC, Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$344 to the Dover-New Philadelphia Salvation Army. Your donation will help greatly with the many ministries within The Salvation Army. By working together, we can improve the lives of those here in our community. While the Salvation Army strives to stand as a shield of protection to those who need it most, we know that we would never be able to serve our community without the support of those who give so unselfishly. While most see serving others as a 'large mass of people', we see ourselves serving individuals who need a helping hand during hard times, whatever the circumstances may be. If we can ever be of assistance to you, or if you would like more info on The Salvation Army, either in our area or worldwide, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. It is a pleasure to be able to serve our community with the help of our neighbors. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Captains Andrew and Lydia Behr



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FINANCIAL REPORT – July 2024

		<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income – July (4 Sundays)	\$ 8,771.00	\$ 56,154.40
Expenses	\$(7,867.27)	\$(41,577.15)
Transfers to Money Market Account		\$(30,000.00)

If you would like further details and/or a copy of the complete Treasurer's Report, 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

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, please contact the church office.