

The Epistle

St. John UCC; 409 Park Ave., P.O. Box 156; Bolivar, Ohio 44612

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY September 2016

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Reverend Doctor Rita Root, our association General Minister wrote the following to pastors last month:

“People of faith can and do play an important role in the public square and the political life of our nation. What might that role look like, and how can people of faith and houses of worship engage in the electoral and political process in a healing, respectful and responsible way? What are some of the legal guidelines for participation by people of faith? What are some of the uses and misuses of religion in political campaigns, and how can people of faith promote civil, thoughtful dialogue across differences on critical issues of the day. In these difficult and challenging times for our communities, country and world, when divisive and heated rhetoric dominate the public dialogue, your voice and efforts are needed more than ever.”

Pastor Root continued with an invitation for pastors and church members to join in a discussion about a “faithful, nonpartisan, justice-seeking, hope-filled way forward in this pivotal election season.”

These discussions are to take place on September 6 and 7. While this notice is coming too late for any lay participation, I do plan to attend one of the sessions. I will share with you the things I have learned in next month’s Epistle.

In Christ,

Pastor David+

The Epistle

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg. 1	Pastor's Page	Pg. 5	Fall Hours, Rally Day
Pg. 2	Calendar	Pg. 5-6	Mission Committee Reports
Pg. 3	Birthdays, Volunteers, Thinking of You	Pg. 7	Country Breakfast
Pg. 4	Military, Thank You, Farewell	Pg. 8-9	Consistory Report
		Pg. 10	Treasurer's Report

September 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Country Breakfast 8:00-11am
4	5	6 Study Group 7:00pm	7 Choir Practice 7pm	8	9	10
11 Rally Day New Worship Hours	12 Clothes Closet/ Pastor's Pantry 9:00-Noon, 5:30- 7:30	13	14 Bolivar UMC Lunch 11:30am Choir Practice 7pm	15 St. Paul's Dinner 5:00-6:30pm Consistory 7pm	16	17
18 Christmas 2016 Lunch/Dessert	19 Mission Comm. 10:00am Ladies Lunch, Wendy's, 11:30am	20 Study Group 7:00pm	21 Choir Practice 7pm	22	23	24
25	26 Clothes Closet/ Pastor's Pantry 9:00-Noon, 5:30- 7:30	27 Homeless Shelter Meal	28	29	30	Notes:

COMMUNION SERVERS FOR SEPTEMBER: Chris Stevenson, Chris Carpenter.

The Epistle



September Birthdays

Sept. 1	Richard McFeeders	Sept. 22	Dale Duerr
Sept. 2	Jordan Felgenhauer	Sept. 26	Kody Mizer
Sept. 12	Ken Bee	Sept. 28	Chris Scott
Sept. 14	Barbie (Lee) Harrower		

Serving in September

Liturgist

Sept. 4 Chris Berens
Sept. 11 Carolyn Birk
Sept. 18 Dale Duerr
Sept. 25 Ron Gauding

Acolyte

Sept. 4 Julia Felgenhauer
Sept. 11 Hallie Carpenter
Sept. 18 Deisy Felgenhauer
Sept. 25 Max McCoy

Coffee Hour

Sept. 4 Barb and Chris Berens
Sept. 11 Lunch/Dessert
Sept. 18 Cook-Out
Sept. 25 anyone-anyone

Greeters

Sept. 4 Chris and Clare Stevenson
Sept. 11 Birdie Wilt and Janet Yaeger
Sept. 18 Rose Brinkman and Deisy Felgenhauer
Sept. 25 Chris and Noah Carpenter

Bell Ringer

Sept. 4 Hallie Carpenter
Sept. 11 Max McCoy
Sept. 18 Julia Felgenhauer
Sept. 25 Camden & Luke McCoy

(Please try to find a replacement if you are unable to serve.)

Esther Simon
Helen Hall
Russell Ross
John Stucky
Fred Miller
Bill & Lucile Lebold
George Rootring

David Mase
Crystal Weaver
Robert Vandall
Scotty Trambaugh
Claudia Duerr
Tom Henry
Family of Pat Gray



The Epistle

Serving our Country Here and Abroad



Gabe Hixenbaugh is the grandson of Chris and Clare Stevenson – recently deployed to Dubai – he should be home in October 2016.

Mike Fender has returned home safe and sound – Thanks Be to God!

If you have someone to add to our prayer list for active duty military, contact the church office.



Thank you to Cassie, at Marathon Bell Store, for donating cups and lids to St. John. These can be used for coffee hour, outside events, and also craft projects.



We say a fond farewell to our friend, Janet Yaeger, as she has moved closer to her family.
We will miss you - it is not goodbye but until we meet again.

The Epistle

Be sure and mark your calendars – St. John will return to regular worship service hours at 10:30 a.m., Sunday school begins at 9:15 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2016.



On September 11th we will be changing back to our regular 10:30 am service. Sunday School will resume at 9:15 a.m. We will be having an abbreviated outdoor service at the church followed by a cook-out (grilled hot dogs and covered dish.) Everything will move inside in case of rain. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to bring something. Community members and friends who would like to join us for the service, meal or (hopefully) both will be welcome.

MISSION COMMITTEES

Clothes Closet

In August our helpers were Jane, Cathy, Jean, and Maryann. We were open an extra day, Saturday the 13th, so people coming for school supplies could also visit the Clothes Closet. We had a total of 16 customers in August and had receipts of over 58 dollars. Our next open date will be September 12th.

The Epistle

School Supply Project

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this day go smoothly. We served a total of 60 children from 26 families. Besides the many volunteers from our congregation we also had people from the UMC in Mineral City, St. Paul Lutheran, and the Bolivar Wesleyan Church come to help. A great many school supplies and \$405 in monetary donations provided most of the things we needed for grade K through 8. An additional \$229.95 was used from Clothes Closet funds to complete the shopping. Three bags per grade level (27 bags in all) were filled with supplies according to the teachers' lists and delivered to the Primary, Intermediate, and Middle Schools to give to students in need who enroll later in the year. We are also prepared to give supplies to those who call the church because they missed coming on Saturday.

Kitchen Committee

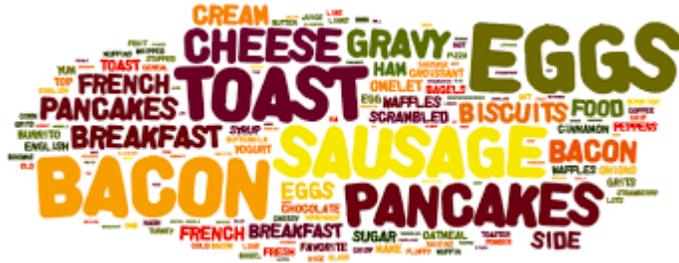
Eight people were present for the organizational meeting of the kitchen committee. Eight other people expressed an interest but were unable to come to the meeting (you are all on the list!) We discussed the things the committee would do. These included checking on supplies, making suggestions about needed equipment and repairs, helping with funeral meals, making decisions about "kitchen rules" and periodic cleaning of appliances and cupboards. It was decided that rather than having regular meetings, any member may request and organize a meeting when a decision needs to be made or help is needed on a particular project.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING. Christmas 2016 is going so well for St. John this year. Our \$1600 goal is down to \$320. We would love to meet that goal on September 18 at a lunch right after church. This will be a simple lunch with a special dessert plan. We will have different sign-up sheets at each door and would ask for your support. Looking forward to seeing you!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE CHILDREN IN OUR AREA

The Epistle



ALL - YOU - CAN - EAT COUNTRY BREAKFAST

St. John United Church of Christ
409 Park Ave., Bolivar

Saturday, September 3, 2016
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Breakfast will consist of:
Scrambled eggs, ham or sausage,
biscuits and sausage gravy,
pancakes, fruit,
juice and coffee.

Cost: \$6.00 ages 11 and up
\$3.00 ages 6 - 10
Under 6 free

The Epistle

Aug. 18, 2016 Consistory Meeting

Members present: Rev. Houdeschell, Ron Gauding (Pres.), Cathy Fenstermaker (Vice pres.), Chris Stevenson (Sec.), Missy Jones, Carolyn Birk,

Ron called the meeting to order.

Rev. Houdeschell opened the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES:

Secretary's report: After reviewing the minutes, they were approved.

Treasurer's report: After reviewing the report, a motion was made by Cathy and seconded by Missy to accept the report.

COMMUNICATIONS: None to report.

Pastor's report: The Pastor's report included the following: Rev. Houdeschell will be helping with the Wed. luncheons at the Bolivar U.M. Church offering the prayer in the absence of Pastor Bill Eckert.

Ron and Rev. Houdeschell will be discussing an after-school reading program with the school superintendent.

Rev. Houdeschell is suggesting a potluck type Rally Day event, with a service to be held before the luncheon. There would be an open invitation to the community and other churches in the area.

The Tues. study group will be meeting on Sept. 6 to study the final chapter of "Reading the Bible Again-for the First Time."

Rev. Houdeschell has visited the Bolivar Police Dept. and the Fire Dept.

He will be attending a two-day clergy training program on the needs of our veterans.

Added to the report was a letter which Rev. Houdeschell read to consistory. The letter from Association General Minister, Rita Root, was concerning our faith in combination with the political ideas of today. Seminars are scheduled, with the closest being in Wooster on Sept. 7th.

OLD BUSINESS: No further information on the Constitution update was available.

The carpet cleaning, which included cleaning the pews, was completed on Aug. 18th.

NEW BUSINESS: Lifetouch Studios has contacted the church with an offer to do photos and a church directory. Missy offered to contact Susan who can then contact Lifetouch concerning information about the photos.

The Epistle

Rally Day is scheduled officially on Sept. 11th. In keeping with the ideas presented by Rev. Houdeschell, there will be a service prior to a cookout type meal. Cathy will contact the kitchen committee for help with the cookout. Rev. Houdeschell will be acquiring a new headset which should take care of the sound problems being experienced in church.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Jack has completed the trimming outside and the other outside work.

Ron has acquired several sets of metal shelves to be used in the kitchen. The storage area in the social hall has been rearranged to accommodate some additional shelving. The extra school supplies have been moved into that area.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED.: Fred Miller contacted B.O.C.E. to offer to teach the Confirmation class. Rev. Houdeschell will also be involved with the class. The windowsills in the sanctuary will be decorated by the B.O.C.E. There will be a Rally Day event especially for the children on Sept. 18th.

MISSION COMMITTEE: Some reports for the Pastor's pantry are pending. Cathy reported a successful turnout at the Kitchen committee meeting with some additional support from those not able to attend. Discussed also was the use of the dishwasher. To avoid future problems with the dishwasher, a suggestion was made to put specific individuals in charge of its use. The School Supply Giveaway served 60 children. Additional bags were packed and sent to the schools for children coming into the school system at a later time. These bags would be given to families requesting assistance. A total of \$605.00 was donated with a total of \$634.95 being spent. The additional amount will be covered by a donation from the Clothes Closet. Churches in the community also donated items.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.
The next meeting will be held on Sept. 15, 2016.

The Epistle

**St. John United Church of Christ
Treasurer's Report
July 2016**

6/30/2016	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$ 163.79		
	General Fund Deposits	\$ 5,106.00	YTD \$	42,425.00
	Other Deposits	\$2,005.00	YTD \$	3,230.82
	Transfer from Money Market Acct		YTD \$	9,600.00
	Fidelity Transfer	\$ -	YTD \$	-
	Balance and Receipts	<u>\$ 7,274.79</u>	YTD \$	55,255.82
	Disbursements	<u>\$ (6,904.82)</u>	YTD \$	(55,895.34)
7/31/2016	Balance on hand - Checking Account	<u>\$ 369.97</u>		

Envelope Offering	\$ 4,986.00	Anonymous Donations	\$2,000.00
Plate Offering	\$ 120.00	Miscellaneous	<u>\$5.00</u>
Sunday School		Total Other Deposits	<u>\$2,005.00</u>
Total General Fund	<u>\$ 5,106.00</u>		

Money Market Account Fund

Memorial Fund - Balance beginning of month:	\$ 46,139.35	
Check #		
Transfer to Checking		
Contribution	\$ 226.00	Christmas 2016
End of month balance	<u>\$ 46,365.35</u>	
Funeral Lunch Donations	\$ 742.45	
Contribution		
End of month balance	<u>\$ 742.45</u>	
Mrs. Floyd Burris Mission	\$ 750.68	
Check #		
Check #		
End of Month Balance	<u>\$ 750.68</u>	
Clothes Closet Fund	\$ 858.50	
Check # 1016 Loving Heart Foundation		
Contribution		
End of Month Balance	<u>\$ 858.50</u>	
Capital Fund - Balance beginning of month:	\$ 318.29	
Contribution	\$ 5.00	
End of month balance	<u>\$ 323.29</u>	
Savings Fund - Balance at beginning of month:	\$ 33.05	
Contribution		
Transfer to Checking		
Interest	\$ 4.15	
End of month balance	<u>\$ 37.20</u>	

TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT FUND **\$ 49,077.47**