

**Annual Congregational
Meeting February 7, 2021**

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*St. John's United Church of Christ
1-946 St. Rt. 108
Holgate, Ohio 43527*

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10:15am - Worship 1pm - Zoom Chat @https:	28	29 9am - Newsletter mailing	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2
3 10:15am - Worship 1pm - Zoom Chat	4	5 SHALOM Delivery in am @ 4:30pm - SHALOM Food 7pm - Spiritual Council	6 7pm - Kid's Zoom	7 5:45pm - Finance Team	8	9
10 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Confirmation 1pm - Zoom Chat 7pm - Deacons Zoom:	11 7pm - Consistory Zoom	12	13 7pm - Kid's Zoom	14	15	16
17 10am - Newsletter Articles 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Confirmation 1pm - Baby Shower 1pm - Zoom Chat	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food	20 7pm - Kid's Zoom	21	22	23
24 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Confirmation 1pm - Zoom Chat	25	26 9am - Newsletter mailing	27 7pm - Kid's Zoom	28	29	30
31 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Confirmation 1pm - Zoom Chat	1 First Day of Black History	2 SHALOM Delivery in am @ 4:30pm - SHALOM Food 7pm - Spiritual Council	3 7pm - Kid's Zoom	4 5:45pm - Finance Team	5	6

The Sentinel

St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
JANUARY 2021

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: Temporarily Suspended
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Pastor David Orr - Cell Phone: 419-966-2781
 Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
 Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
 Church e-mail : holgateucc@metalink.net
 Pastor e-mail: stjohnpastor@metalink.net
 Financial Administrator e-mail - Kristine Maas: stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
 Church Website: www.stjohnsuccholgate.com
 SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

Betty (Bob) Rettig, Admin. Asst.
 Fax: (419) 264-1460

WORSHIP and ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL Cancelled - WORSHIP 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

Adult and Youth Bell Choir	No practice
Sanctuary Choir	No practice
Children's Zoom Session	7:00 P.M.

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Living in the World but not of the World



Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:2

We have all had to change our ways during the course of the pandemic. Our favorite restaurant was closed. Church was in the parking lot. We couldn't travel or get together with friends. And, of course, we all had to get used to masks. I don't know about you but I am really looking forward to the day when I'll be able to shake hands again, or maybe even hug.

The pandemic has taught us to be vigilant about our exposure to a virus that could cause us physical harm. Even if we escaped serious consequences, our lack of care could pass it on to others who might experience greater harm.

As we anticipate the end of Covid imposed social distancing and eagerly look forward to plunging back into our normal way of living, I wonder if we can take some lesson from this sabbatical time. Perhaps we should reflect on the need to be equally vigilant about our exposure to social and cultural influences that can damage our spirits, harm our relationships with others, and alienate us from God.

In our world today, kindness and civility are in increasingly short supply. Violence and threats of violence are common. Compassion and charity are viewed as weaknesses while the accumulation of wealth and power is admired.

As we return to normal we might ask ourselves,

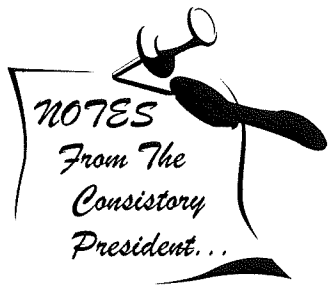
- Are we uncritically inhaling in the popular thinking of the world?
- Is popular culture choking off our ability to sense the breath of the Holy Spirit?
- In our daily life are we choosing the ways of the world over the way of Christ?

1 John 2:15-17 (The Message) cautions:

Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world — wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important — has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out — but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

Even when social distancing is no longer required, perhaps we should resolve to keep some small distance between ourselves and the prevailing culture so that we might live more fully in the love of God during 2021.

Your partner in Christ's work, Pastor David



Wow, what a year we have been through! As we begin a new year, we also begin with new leadership within our church. Let me first thank Christopher Clady for his service as Consistory President for the past year. Thank you, also, to everyone who has served our church the past year in any way as a Consistory member, Team member, the

Board of Education, or in any other capacity. Thank you to Pastor Orr and the church staff for their tireless work during a year like no other in the last one-hundred years. No matter how big or small the task you have done, you have helped accomplish what it has taken to get us through a tumultuous year.

I want to use this January newsletter article to introduce myself as the 2021, Consistory President. Thank you all for your vote of confidence in electing me to this office. With the support of all of you, we will have a great year.

I want you all to know where I have come from in getting to this point in my life. I first came to St. John's in the Spring of 1974, accompanied by my now husband of forty-six years, Jim. I joined St. John's on World Communion Sunday in 1974, and a little over a month later, was married here. For a period of time, Jim and I attended St. John UCC in Defiance, but in 2014, we felt the tug to return to our "home church". We were welcomed with open arms by everyone here and feel so blessed to be a part of this faith family.

Over the years, Jim and I have welcomed into our family, through adoption, a daughter, Michelle, and a son Christopher. Now after many years, we have two granddaughters. The big news of this year is that our son and daughter-in-law, Felicia, are expecting a baby in April, and our granddaughter is also expecting a baby in April.

I have been a registered nurse since 1973, working for over forty-four years. I made the hard decision to retire in 2018, leaving the work I felt called to do. But, with that retirement, I have found so many other ways to use my time and talents. God has blessed me in ways that have allowed me to serve others through the work I have been involved with here at St. John's.

I want to share with you words from a booklet I have kept over the years, "The Art of Caring," a Holistic Approach to Professional Nursing, by E. Ronald Fishman. "The greatest needs of a patient are: Love, Hope, Faith, and a Positive Attitude."

Aren't these the greatest needs of all humanity? What can each of us, as followers of Christ, do to help fulfill these needs in the lives of our family, friends, and all whose lives we touch?

As we begin this year, let's all focus on doing for others, as we would want them to do for us.

Christine Rettig



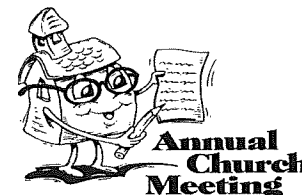
Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Grateful for the folks who set up Drive-in church each Sunday and for the faithful song leaders and other worship leaders.
- Good to see the kids involved in Children's Time.
- Glad for continued attendance at Drive-in worship.
- Great financial support despite the circumstances.
- Gratifying to see smiling faces at Drive-in worship services.
- Thanks to Christopher Clady for the new platform.
- Thankful for Pastor Orr and Betty (Bob) for online services.
- Enjoy the devotions in the bulletin.
- Grateful to Pastor Orr and Sharon for deferring their time away during these troubled times

Mark Your Calendar

**ST. JOHN'S
ANNUAL
Congregational
MEETING**

February 7, 2021





CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

December 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order on Zoom and Pastor Orr led us in prayer.

Outgoing Consistory members were thanked and new members were welcomed to the December meeting.

Reorganization for 2021 – Positions were filled for the coming year by Elders and Deacons.

Installation of Officers – January 10.

Sanctuary carpet to be installed in January.

Stained glass insurance assessment done.

Re-insulating around pipes of the heating system in progress.

Nominating team – still need a 3-year CE Board member and a 3-year Evangelism member.

Recommendation from Pastoral Relations Council to appoint new members for 2021- Rolie Rettig and Tammy Vajen; motion accepted.

Financial Team Report: November month-end report showed a GAIN of \$1,070.54.

Annual Meeting – set for February 7.

Prayers and Concerns were shared, and meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Lori Clady - Scribe



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

November 3, 2020

Present: Pastor, David Orr Confirmation: Betty (Bob) Rettig (2022)
Scribe: Pam Desgranges (2023) Visitation: Scott Zimmer (2021)
Head Elder: Betty (Don) Rettig (2022)
Communion: Randy Lambert (2021) Membership Rick Fruth (2022)
New Council Members: Kevin Waisner and Maggie Prigge

- Pastor led our meeting with prayer.
- We welcomed our new members and gave thanks for those who have completed their term of service.
- Discussed congregational concerns, and Pastor gave his report.
- Confirmation is going well, however, when one is absent that only leaves one for class. So it has been decided that when one is out, they will cancel and double up the next week.
- Thanksgiving Community Service was viewed by many who followed online.
- Our C.E. Board is delighting our families with children with their creative ideas to keep kids engaged..
- Many thanks to Christopher Clady for building us a platform to use for parking lot worship.
- With our current COVID situation, Henry County moved to Red as of November 8. We decided to go back to parking lot worship only at this time, and we are planning for our Christmas Eve Service to be a Drive-In service on December 24 at 7 p.m. with Candlelight and Communion. We also discussed concerns for parking lot worship and inclement weather.
- Our Baptisms have been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.
- We have a couple who are interested in membership – having conversations with them instead of the traditional “Membership Exploration” class.
- We will have Communion on January 3, 2021, and Installation of Officers on January 10.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5 at 7 p.m.
- Meeting ended with a closing prayer.

Summarized by Pam Desgranges, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH

December 13, 2020
Lori Clady, Scribe

Head Deacon – Christine opened the meeting with a prayer.

Christine thanked the outgoing Deacons and welcomed the incoming members.

Rick Desgranges made the motion to accept the November minutes, Mary Kay seconded. Motion passed.

Deacons schedule for January was filled. Christmas Eve service will be in the parking lot at 7 p.m.

Liaison Reports:

Finance: Monthly income \$15,682.31, Monthly expenses \$14,611.77 Monthly GAIN (\$1,070.54).

Worship and Music: – 2 Sundays to cover for Pastor Orr's vacation.

Reorganization of Deacons was discussed and officers and liaisons were appointed.

Mary Kay Altman made the motion to adjourn the meeting, John Hahn seconded. Meeting adjourned.

***Next meeting:** January 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. **via Zoom**

The Church office is open by appointment only. Pastor Orr continues to meet with people and is staying in contact with a number of others by phone. Betty (Bob) Rettig is mostly working from home.

Please call before coming to the church to be sure someone will be there.

From the Pulpit... Worship Services 10:15

January

January 3 - Second Sunday of Christmas - Communion

John 1:1-18

Jesus Makes God Known

While our human minds cannot fully comprehend God, we can know Jesus Christ.

January 10 - Epiphany Sunday

Renewal of the Pastor/Congregational Covenant

Installation of Deacons, Elders, and CE Board Members

Matthew 2:1-12

Where Is He?

Finding Jesus

January 17

John 1:35-51

Come and You Will See

If you want to know Christ, you have to follow him.

January 24

Guest Speaker - Rev Dan Busch

Rev. Busch is the Association Minister of our Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ.

January 31

Laity Sunday



JANUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	USHERS	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
Jan. 3	No Ushers In January	No Acolytes In January	John Hahn Christine Rettig
Jan. 10			Rick Desgranges Amanda Rettig
Jan 17			Christopher Clady Lori Clady
Jan. 24			Amanda Rettig Rick Desgranges
Jan. 31			Christopher Clady Lori Clady



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - November 2020

INCOME

St. John's UCC October Giving	\$ 2233.00
Individual Donation	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$ 2333.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



Remember Those Who Are Ill,
Undergoing Treatment,
In Grief, Or Are Recovering
With Prayers, Cards, And Visits

Within the Fellowship:

Please hold the following persons in your daily prayers...

- Shanna Sidle's sister-in-law**, recovering at home of Shanna's brother
- Larry Donaldson**, hospitalized in Ft. Wayne
- Lori Slocum**, friend of Kirk Fruth, heart condition improving slowly
- Karen Gilliland**, anticipating heart surgery
- Marlene Rettig**, dealing with Covid-19
- Chuck English**, recovering at home
- Grace Zachrich**, Ryan Zachrich's daughter, undergoing extensive testing
- Sharon Badenhop**, friend of Ginny Rettig, at St. V's for treatment for newly diagnosed leukemia
- Destin Evans**, nephew of Dan and Tammy Hall, testing at Mayo Clinic at the end of December
- Pastor Glenn**, Jerry Evers' friend, who is being treated for blood disorders and recently fell and broke his hip
- Patsy Yaichner**, recovering from a broken hip
- Janet Bichan**, recovering from an eye infection
- Thelma Breece**, at Indian Hills nursing home in Wauseon and on dialysis
- Lynette Abke**, Janet Bichan's daughter, recovering from hospitalization

Please pray for our **members and others who are isolated at home or in care facilities**. They would welcome a phone call or card.

Prayers for church members who are working with or near COVID-19 patients and all healthcare workers.

Please contact the church office if you have a prayer request!

Those who are anticipating procedures, testing, and/or test results, or recovering from procedures

- Let us pray for those of St. John's Faith Family who are dealing with health issues or other changes in their lives.
- Let us pray for those family and friends who are battling cancer.
- Let us pray for the church and its leaders and people.
- Let us pray for our service men and women and their families



Notes from the Office

Need Community Service hours for school or just want to help? If you can spare a couple hours on a Tuesday afternoon, Shalom needs you. The process for food pantry distribution has changed because of COVID-19. We need people who are willing and able to act as runners for Shalom on the first and third Tuesdays. The only requirement is that you wear a mask and are able to move back and forth between the kitchen and the Shalom room. Contact Kirk Fruth or Scott Zimmer if you can help.

If you or someone you know needs help with raking leaves or snow removal, there are youth who have to do court-ordered community service who can help. Contact the office if you could use this service.

Many of us have developed an interest in Prayer Plan Missions where Chad Lulfs, Rick Fruth, Mike Haldy and Pastor Orr have taken mission trips to Honduras. People there barely scrape by under the best of conditions and the impact of COVID-19 along with 2 hurricanes has devastated the area. It does not appear that our team will be able to make their traditional trip there in 2021. If anyone feels moved to help through prayer or financially, you can visit their website at ppmissions.org or give a check to the church clearly indicating that it should go to Prayer Plan Missions.

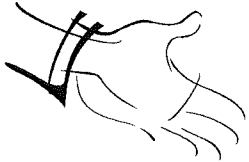
Offering envelopes for 2021 are now ready for pickup. Weather permitting on Sunday mornings, we will have the envelopes set up on tables at the circle drive in alphabetical order. We ask that people maintain physical distancing at the tables. If you have made offerings using giving envelopes in the past year, there will be a box labeled for you. If you have not had envelopes previously and would like to have a set for 2021, please also let the office know and a box will be prepared for you. If it is easier for you to pick up the envelopes during the week, please call to be sure someone will be in the office to let you into the building.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY NOVEMBER REPORT

ST JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
Fund: GENERAL FUND
November 2020

Accounts	NOVEMBER	2020 YTD	2020
	2020 ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME			
Total OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$15,682.31	\$163,135.45	\$205,113.67
EXPENSES			
Total BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,351.81	\$27,242.31	\$38,000.00
Total MINISTRIES	\$219.36	\$3,683.60	\$7,800.00
Total MISSIONS	\$537.50	\$5,912.50	\$6,950.00
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$4,546.51	\$51,186.24	\$62,422.34
Total PASTORIAL	\$6,956.59	\$77,889.05	\$89,941.33
Total EXPENSES	\$14,611.77	\$165,913.70	\$205,113.67
Net Total	\$1,070.54	(\$2,778.25)	\$ -
Operating Checking Account Balance as of 11/30/20			
Mission Giving – SHALOM \$1,910.00			

USHER TEAM NEWS



Greetings and Happy New Year
to the Usher Team members!

Unfortunately, we have not been able to gather for in-person worship due to the pandemic. Even when we were in the sanctuary for that brief time in the Fall, we felt it to be the safest practice to limit the number of persons involved in the worship services, and altered the normal practices we do for our worship services.

As we look to this new year, 2021, we just are not sure at this point when we will get back to what we would call "normal" practices for our worship services. There may be a "new normal" for how we do many things within our building. Whatever happens in the future, decisions will be based on making sure that congregation members, worship leaders, Deacons, Ushers, musicians, choir...basically **everyone** will be **safe**.

I want to let all of the Usher Team members know that, hopefully, we will eventually get back to a schedule of Usher Team members serving each Sunday.

If you served as a part of the Usher Team, and feel that you can no longer be a part of that team, please let me know. If you have not been a part of the Usher Team, but would like to serve our faith family as an Usher, please let me know. The more folks we get involved, the easier it is for everyone to make the commitment. I know everyone gets bogged down with the busyness of life, but the time involved is reasonable and there are no meetings of the team!

You can contact me by phone 419-395-1055, 419-438-3042 (call or text), or email me crettig53@gmail.com.

Mask up, back up, and wash up to stay safe! Thank you.

Christine Rettig, Chair of the Usher Team



Kids Corner



JANUARY

1 - 14	Dawson Clady
1 - 19	Brady Fruth
1 - 19	Kennedy Fruth
1 - 26	Aiden Coulter



Mission and Stewardship Team Message



The Mission and Stewardship Team met via Zoom on December 6.

The team members present for the meeting were Chairman: Jim Rettig (2021), Scribe: Christine Rettig (2020) and Consistory liaison, Jerry Evers (2020), Adam Stevenson (2021), Chris Coppes (2022). New members Rachel Thomas (2023) and Nancy Thomas (2023) were welcomed. New member Chad Lulfs (2022) was unable to be present due to a family commitment. Retiring members Jerry Evers and Christine Rettig were thanked for their service.

The functions of the Mission and Stewardship Team were reviewed for the benefit of the new members. The team functions under the guidance of the Consistory of St. John's to promote the Missions and to promote Stewardship of our members.

The mission focus months were explained so the members could have a better understanding of each Mission, its importance in meeting needs of folks locally, within our state, within our country, and within our world.

The team reviewed the yearly Mission Focus schedule and members selected Missions that they will promote for each of the months.

The team appreciates the generous support of our Missions by the members and friends of St. John's.

Leadership for the 2021 year will be Chairman: Adam Stevenson and Scribe: Jim Rettig.

REMINDER: Health Department COVID-19 regulations require that our drinking fountain be taken out of service.

If you expect to need water while at church, please consider bringing your own bottled water.



Trustees Report for November 2020

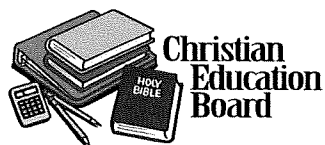
1. Most of the heating pipes are insulated. Job will be finished after replacement of pipes leading to the boiler.
2. New piece of pipe replaced leading to boiler. Now 4 pieces of schedule 80 pipe installed.
3. When boiler 2 started up a few weeks ago, there was a steam leak in back corner. We let it go for a while to see if expansion would seal it. It didn't. Upon inspection by Earl Mechanical that boiler was shut down. We have operated on one boiler since then. Earl's came December 9 to take it apart. Looks as if new gaskets are needed. (at least no cracks were found). Boiler has been repaired and is working well. Insulation job will be finished Wednesday, December 23. The replacement of more boiler pipe was done Monday, December 21.
4. While "baby sitting" with the insulator, cleaned out some trash in the boiler room, painted the scuffed door jams in SS wing, bathrooms and walls, installed storm windows in the offices. Not quite done with the painting.
5. Thanks to Earl Abshire for installing the storm windows on the Shalom and Chapel windows.

Please remember to turn off the lights before you leave the church!!



*VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service*

*Due to health restrictions
the Worship Service
is cancelled*



Highlights

December 6, 2020
Submitted By Caryn Tanner

In attendance: Katie Borck, Franell Nelson, Jeri Hoellrich, Deb Waisner and Caryn Tanner

- DIY ornament kits will hopefully go out next week to Sunday School Students. Plastic bulbs for the younger kids and glass for the older kids. Jeri will get to CE Board members to deliver to our families.
- Candy bags are ready to go for Christmas Eve service. Books still need to be prepared.
- If kids are not at Christmas Eve service the books will be delivered the week after Christmas
- Jeri's spot on the CE Board needs to be filled. Need to nominate a new president, vice president, and secretary for next calendar year. This will be done at the meeting in January.
- Next meeting is planned for January at a date and time to be determined.



Pastoral Relations Council

December 2, 2020

- Meeting began with prayer.
- Pastor reviewed ministry activity and the impact the pandemic has had on it and shared his personal reflections.
- Agreed upon the nominations of prospective Pastoral Relations Council Members to be presented to Consistory for acceptance.
- Next meeting will be held on March 4.



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Sue Waisner

will celebrate her
81st Birthday
on January 3

1542 St. Rt. 108
Holgate, OH 43525

Larry Hockman

will celebrate his
83rd Birthday
on January 6

854 W Graceway Dr
Napoleon, OH 43545



Annual Reports due no later than Wednesday, January 17, 2021

Written Reports The secretary will take them early!

President of the Consistory
Consistory Actions taken and motions made in 2020
Deacons (received)
Pastor's Report
Sanctuary and Bell Choirs
Christian Education Board
Mission and Stewardship
Audit Team
Technology (received)

Spiritual Council
Evangelism Team
Memorial Team
SHALOM (received)
Worship and Music
Cemetery Association
Trustees (received)
Fellowship
Endowment
Reopening Team (received)

Financial Reports as soon as bank statements have been balanced.

Sanctuary Choir	Cemetery Assoc.	Memorial Fund
Endowment Fund	Bell Choir	SHALOM
SHALOM Beverage & Recycle		

If your report is already complete, please forward it to the office via email if possible, or leave it in the secretary's box.



In Loving Memory
Wilma I Rettig

August 28, 1927 - November 20, 2020

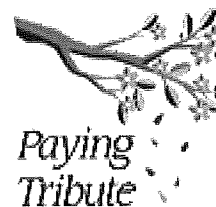
Wilma Iolean Rettig was born August 28, 1927, the eighth child born to William and Hazel Iolean Hampshire Perry in Cygnet, Ohio. She made her journey to God in the early morning of November 20, 2020, at Vancrest Health, where she had lived in Assisted Living since October 2019.

When she was 16, she moved to Flatrock, Michigan, where she lived with her sister Laura, and where she worked in a grocery store while finishing high school. After graduation, she worked for the phone company in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and eventually moved to Holgate, Ohio, to help her sister Donna Jean who had three young children. She later helped in the home of Harvey and Edna Rettig, where she met Harvey's brother Dallas. Wilma and Dallas were married in the parsonage of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Holgate, on October 19, 1947. They "set up housekeeping" (Wilma's words) in Holgate, moving to the farm in 1957.

Wilma enjoyed providing for her family and did quite a bit of canning and sewing. She did ceramics for a number of years and her children and grandchildren have special keepsakes with Wilma's initials on the bottom. Once the children were in school, Wilma went to work as a cashier in the cafeteria in the Napoleon schools. Many students were blessed with her quick sense of humor and caring heart.

Wilma was active in the Women's Guild at St. John's United Church of Christ, serving as treasurer for a number of years. Dallas and Wilma loved playing cards and Wilma's love for playing games like Aggravation, Rummicube and Skip-Bo with the kids and grandkids was legendary. After retirement, Dallas and Wilma enjoyed traveling with special friends Gene and Carolyn Hoffman - but they were always ready to get back home. Wilma was a 65-year member of Deshler Chapter Order of Eastern Star.

Continued On Page 21



In Loving Memory
Wilma I Rettig

August 28, 1927 - November 20, 2020

Continued From Page 20

Dallas and Wilma were proud of their four children: Robert (Betty), Carol (Barry) Finzer, James (Christine) and Douglas (Virginia). Wilma especially enjoyed spoiling her grandchildren: Christa Jones, Cheryl (Brian) Koenig, Kelly Finzer, Michelle Rettig, Christopher (Felicia) Rettig, Phillip (Jen) Rettig and David Rettig. She was just as excited to spend time with her great-grandchildren: Rachel (Ben) Jones, Alex Jones, Nicholas Koenig, Sarah Koenig, Abigail Goller, Mikayla Goller (Michael Gerken), Ethan Rettig, Eric Rettig, and Bella Rettig. Because of visitation restriction, Wilma missed out on the exciting news that Christopher and Felicia are expecting her great-grandchild in April and that Mikayla and Michael expect to welcome her first great-great grandchild, also, in April.

In addition to her parents, Wilma was preceded in death by her siblings, Leonard (Hazel), Adelia (Leland) Smith, Helen (Lavon) Grau, Lauren (Betty), Lura (Clarence) Brown, Velma (Kenneth) Gray, Donna Jean (Chuck) Gustwiller, Argyle (Carl) Gressler, Darrell (Anna), Joyce (Paul) Drain and Eva Mae (Leroy) Drake; as well as an infant grandson, Eric Adam Finzer.

Wilma will be remembered in the hearts and minds of her family and those whose lives she touched.

In keeping with current health advisories there was a private, graveside service with a public memorial service to be planned later.

The family was under the care of Zachrich Funeral Home.

*Memorial Contributions may be made to
St. John's United Church of Christ
Holgate, Ohio*



In Loving Memory

Lloyd R. Rettig

May 8, 1923 - December 10, 2020

Lloyd R. Rettig, age 97, of Defiance, Ohio, passed away Thursday, December 10, 2020, at Kingsbury Place.

He was born May 8, 1923, in Bartlow Township, Ohio, to Ernest and Idella (Knipp) Rettig. He married Marjorie Durham on May 21, 1942, and together they enjoyed 63 years of marriage. Lloyd was drafted into the Army in 1943, and served his country with pleasure during World War II. He was a member of a combat unit under the command of General Patton, whom he translated for using his knowledge of the German language. Lloyd was awarded the Purple Heart and the Oak Leaf Cluster for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Lloyd was employed as the custodian for Holgate Schools and then the building and grounds supervisor for Four County Vocation School. In retirement his love for children lead him to driving a school bus for Holgate Schools. Lloyd loved to fish and will be remembered as a card shark. He was an amazing husband, father, grandfather and brother who will be greatly missed.

Lloyd is survived by his children, Marian "Marne" (Robert) Helberg of Perry, Florida, Terry (Sue) Rettig of Napoleon, Bert (Tim) Shiarla of Defiance, and Anthony (Patricia) Rettig of Fishers, Indiana; 18 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Marjorie on April 15, 2005; and siblings, Vida (Clarence) Huber, Orly Rettig, Elden Rettig, and Florence Rettig.

Lloyd was laid to rest privately by his family in St. John's United Church of Christ Cemetery, Holgate.

Arrangement were entrusted to Snyder-Hoening Funeral Home, Holgate.

*Memorial Donations May Be Given to
The SHALOM Food Pantry
at St. John's United Church of Christ
or
A Charity of the donor's choice.*



Poinsettias

Thank You to all who provided money for the artificial poinsettias to decorate the church and for gifts to support other projects!

Poinsettias In Memory Of

Given By

Lowell and Mary Hoellrich

Ron and Jeri Hoellrich

George and Marguerite Hahn

Ruth Ann Durham

Loved ones who have passed

Franell and Greg Nelson

Jerry and Eric Holzer

Millie Holzer

Elson and Marie Eberle

Rob and Diane Eberle

Morgan

**Dallas and Wilma Rettig and
Betty and Butler Stephens**

Jim and Christine Rettig

**Dallas and Wilma Rettig and
Edward and Elaine Beauch
and In honor of our daughters
Christa Jones and Cheryl Koenig
and their families**

Bob and Betty Rettig

TO THE SANCTUARY CARPET FUND

Perry and Alma Rettig,

Roland and Janice Rettig

Donald V. and Mildred Slagle and

Donald L. Slagle

TO THE CEMETERY FUND

Clarence, Vida, Charles and

Vandella Huber

Marvin Huber

TO THE SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

Jim Honeck

Janell Honeck and family



Shalom Food Pantry thanks the following churches for their participation In this year's Shalom Christmas:

- Sacred Heart-New Bavaria- monetary and gifts
- St. Paul's Catholic-Hamler-monetary and gifts
- St. Mary's Catholic-Holgate-monetary and gifts
- Pleasant Bend United Methodist-gifts
- Emanual's Christian Church-New Bavaria-gifts
- St. John's Lutheran-Holgate-gifts, hats, gloves, blankets and helping with the pack up
- St. Peter's Lutheran-Holgate-gifts and knitted hats
- St. Stephen's Lutheran-Hamler-gifts and blankets
- St. John's Faith Family-monetary and gifts

We would not be able to accomplish such great tasks every year without the great Support of the Holgate Community! THANK YOU!

Dear St. John's Faith Family,

Thank you so much for thinking of us this Christmas. It has been a long year! Both bells and sanctuary choirs are anxious to resume with our anthems. Please stay safe so all of us can meet again inside the sanctuary.

Greg Nelson

I truly believe that the paid staff at St. John's do their work because of their love for the church and for our Faith Family. The very generous gift of money reminds us that we are truly supported by this special family. I hope we are all able to use this gift to further bless others. Many thanks for your kindness!

Betty (Bob) Rettig

To the St. John's congregation,

Thank you so much for your generous gift! This has been a year of ups and downs, so this definitely helps end the year on an 'up'.

Linda M. Rettig



Dear St. John's Faith Family:

From the bottom of my heart, thank you SO much for your generous and thoughtful monetary Christmas gift. I will put the money to good use. It has been a privilege to be able to provide music for you this unusual year and I look forward to 2021. Again, thank you so much!

Sheri Plotts

To the St. John's Faith Family,

We thank everyone who donated to the Staff Christmas. This is very thoughtful this time of year. We hope everyone has a safe Christmas and New Year.

The Fry Family

To St. John's Faith Family,

Thank you for your Christmas Gift. I enjoy serving everyone through the newsletter each month.

Thank You to all the scribes of the Teams of St. John's. You have all been prompt in submitting your highlights - making my job easy. It has been a pleasure to work with you this past year.

Ruth Ann Durham

Dear St. John's UCC,

It has been a very different year to say the least! I am so thankful to be a part of this congregation. Music is a big part of my life and I want to thank you for allowing me to express my joy when praising the Lord through my music. Even though it seems a little weird not having anyone in the Sanctuary when I play, I know we are connected through the radio and your ears are 'tuned' in. I cannot thank all of you enough for the generous gift you have given me this Christmas. Times are tough but your generosity is great! Thank you all so much!!

Sue Abshire

I C U E SEMINARIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 15, 2020

Saint John's UCC
1-946
Holgate, OH 43527

Dear Saint John's UCC,

In these extraordinary times, your generosity inspires us in the hope we share.

"and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Romans 5:5

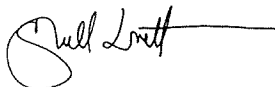
Your gift of \$2,880.31 in 2019 and \$625.00 in 2020 is an affirmation of hope, and expression of God's love that makes possible a seminary experience that will prepare the faith leaders of tomorrow to bring wisdom, healing, and creativity to the life of the Church. We invite you to give in 2021, your gift makes a huge difference in providing theological education.

The CUE seminaries, Chicago, United and Eden, have responded to the challenges of 2020 with deepened commitment, expansive creativity, and nimble flexibility to ensure that our seminarians—your future pastors, counselors, community leaders, and ethical guides—continue to receive all that they need to become what is needed in a world that is being reshaped forever by the pandemic and all it has brought to light.

Together, we are claiming a future of hope, born of the groanings, growth, and unexpected grace of these times. We are grateful for your gift of partnership as we bring this hope to life for all of our communities, and the world as God is bringing it into being.

We encourage you to give through your conference office or directly to CUE. If you have any questions or ideas, please be in touch with us at cue@vandersallcollective.com.

Blessings,



Rev. Campbell Lovett



Rev. Franz Rigert

P.O. BOX 120357, ST. PAUL, MN 55112

CUE@VANDERSALLCOLLECTIVE.COM



JANUARY

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------|----------------|
| 1 - 3 | Sue Waisner | 1 - 17 | Dawn Fry |
| 1 - 3 | Sue A. Rettig | 1 - 18 | Adam Bockrath |
| 1 - 4 | Greg Nelson | 1 - 19 | Janet Stoner |
| 1 - 6 | Larry Hockman | 1 - 22 | Erika Clady |
| 1 - 8 | Tiffany Fruth | 1 - 22 | Phillip Rettig |
| 1 - 8 | Adam Stevenson | 1 - 25 | Jacob Hahn |
| 1 - 11 | Randy Lambert | 1 - 25 | Larry Maurer |
| 1 - 11 | Lucinda Zachrich | 1 - 27 | Natalie Meyer |
| 1 - 12 | Jennifer Kirby | 1 - 30 | Tori Medina |
| 1 - 14 | Paula Maurer | 1 - 31 | Stacy LaPoint |

This is the list of birthdays that are recorded in the church office. If we have missed anyone, please contact the office so we can add his or her name to our list.

If anyone, for personal reasons, does not want his or her name and birthday listed, please contact the church office and make your wishes known.

(See the Kids Corner pages for the children and youth birthdays.)



PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

Contact the Prayer Chain if you have any needs.

This Prayer Chain has been updated; they will faithfully pray for you. Contact one of the following persons:
Betty (Don) R. at 419-264-4321 Kay A. at 419-592-0589
Church Office at 419-264-4401

PLAN AHEAD FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

See Calendar on Inside Mailing Cover

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for news articles to appear in the **FEBRUARY**
Newsletter is **Sunday, January 17, 2021**

Please leave your article in the folder in the wall file
on the South wall (Directly across from the door)
of the church office marked
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES



MISSIONS CORNER

January Mission

Mission-To-Go

St. John's is a member of the Northwest Ohio Association of the
Heartland Conference United Church of Christ. Information and
resources are available at www.nwoa.org, www.heartlanducc.org and
www.ucc.org.