

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

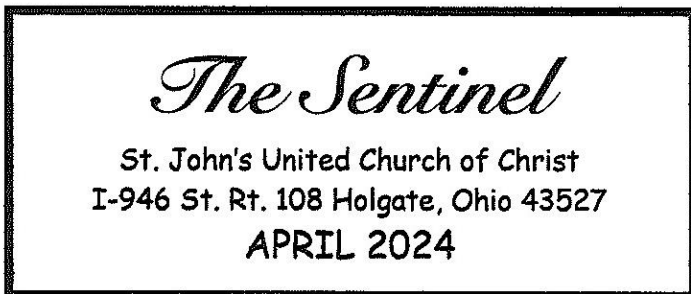
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**From Pastor Jeff – pages 2-3
Consistory President Eric – pages 4-5
Worship Participants – page 10
Families Feeding Families – purple insert
Holy Week Schedule – page 14
From the Decorating Team – page 13
Vancrest Service – page 20
Rummage Sale is Coming – page 20
Birthdays – pages 18 and 23**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	2 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	3 6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Choir practice	4 1:30pm - Vancrest 6pm - Finance Team 6pm - Pastoral Relations Council	5 3pm - FH reserved	6 11am - FH reserved
7 9am - Confirmation/SS 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation II	8 6:30pm - Consistory	9	10 6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Choir practice	11	12 11am - ACS phone call	13
14 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Deacons 11:30am - Evangelism Team	15 3pm - FH reserved-dinner 630	16 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	17 6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Choir practice	18	19	20 7am - Shalom Breakfast 3pm - FH reserved
21 9am - Confirmation/SS 9am - Elder Interviews 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation II	22	23 9am - Newsletter mailing	24 6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Choir practice	25	26	27
28 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship	29	30	1	2	3	4



EASTER

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Pastor: Jeff McCam - Cell Phone 812-202-9273
 Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
 Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
 Church e-mail: holgateucc@metalink.net
 Pastor e-mail: revjmccam@gmail.com
 Financial Administrator e-mail - 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

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him."
 John 20:1-3 CEB

Several times during my message, I encourage us to engage our minds as fully as possible into the scripture. If we engage our minds or try to place ourselves in the story, we may better understand what is taking place. It is my hope and prayer this task allows us to dive deeper into our interpretation of the text studied.

We draw closer to Easter Sunday. On Easter Sunday we will enter into our sacred space and sing *Christ the Lord Has Risen Today* in a joyous, festive mood. However, let's place ourselves in Mary's situation or imagine if we were the other person going to the tomb with her (in John's gospel Mary goes alone). Imagine our reaction finding the tomb empty.

Imagine the setting. Darkness surrounds Mary. Violence and fear hang like a dark cloud over her once adventurous life of following and learning from Jesus. The light that once shone on her extinguished on a Roman cross. Not only was it dark in the world that morning, darkness fills her soul. Where there had once been a glimmer of hope, only despair wrenches her very being.

Upon finding the tomb empty, Mary runs back to tell Peter and the others what she finds. When Peter arrives, he leaves too. At this time Mary encounters the one she thinks is a gardener but really is Jesus. This is the moment in history as to why we attend church on Easter Sunday. We come hoping that Jesus' transformation spills over to us.

Continued On Page 3

WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. – WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

Bells	6:00 P.M.
Sanctuary Choir	7:00 P.M.

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EASTER

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Mary's garden encounter with the risen Christ is familiar to us in different forms today — when we experience resurrection and new life, when we encounter the risen Christ in our own lives.

Along with Mary Magdalene's joy, our joy that Jesus lives is a claim about Jesus today in our own life. Like the earliest Christians, we follow "The Way," a way that leads to our transformation.

This transformation provides opportunities for new life and new possibilities. The power of the resurrection is hope for the future if we are quiet long enough to hear the soft, still speaking voice of our God.

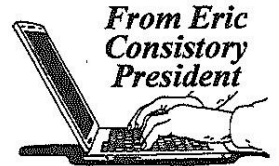
Easter is the promise that nothing in our past, present or future has the ultimate power to define us. We are defined by the light of God that flows through us and through all creation making all things new!

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCann*



The Lord is Risen!

4 Keys To Effective Church Communication



Quality of Decisions

A good communication process begins before there is anything to announce. This fact is particularly true when communication includes information about a change or something new. Church initiatives and changes almost always come from a decision. Quality decisions include as many people as possible in the development stage.

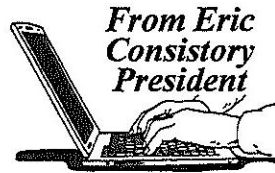
Quantity of messages

Communication experts estimate that it takes telling a message 16 times for the information to spread throughout an organization.

Today, people get their news from a variety of sources. In the same way, church members get their information about congregational life in many ways. Therefore, effective church communication is multi-channel: Facebook page, newsletter, group texts, bulletin, and targeting small group leaders who can help disseminate information.

Continued On Page 5

4 Keys To Effective Church Communication



Continued From Page 4

Clear and accurate information

Accurate facts and clear information are basic components of healthy communication. As we use more channels to share information, the harder it is to keep facts accurate across them all. The process of checking and rechecking times and locations is as mundane as it is important. Facts must be accurate. Changing the time of a meeting or event may not seem like a significant issue, but it is to individuals who are embarrassed when they arrived late because they received inaccurate communication from another source.

Consistent practices

The next component of healthy communication is consistently doing what we say. Policies and procedures must be equally applied to all. If not, relationships and trust may be damaged.

All of the 4 components above are parts of the same process. They are interrelated and require constant coordination. Meetings and calendar coordination may seem boring, but are they necessary and essentials part of caring for our congregation and each other. None of us are perfect and good communication requires **Practice** and **Understanding**.



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

Enjoyed the unexpectedly nice weather in February

Awesome family support for Mateo Solis's Baptism

Great Potato Bake dinner with all the fixings! Thanks to all who helped.

Enjoying the midweek discussions

The Mission team in Honduras was able to do many projects

Appreciate Kirk Fruth for volunteering to be the Cemetery Association President

Thank you to all who fixed soups and desserts and those that stayed and ate.

Nice to see a few children and adults who stayed for the games after the potato bake.

Evangelism Team Meeting

April 14, 2024

After Worship

Thank You, Christine

For those watching our **worship service online**, the announcement slides and gathering music begin 15 minutes before the start of worship.

You can watch our service at

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUCCHolgate>



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

March 11, 2024

- February 12 minutes and the electronic vote from February 23 to accept a preventative maintenance contract for the heating system were accepted and approved. Eric Shank had a short explanation of the electronic vote.
- Upcoming fundraisers were discussed: Easter Breakfast on March 31 and Families Feeding Families breakfast and food drive on April 20. These are church wide events and Consistory members should be involved as able.
- Spiritual Council supported Diana Evers proposal to start a post-Confirmation/High School Sunday School class and youth fellowship. Consistory affirmed this plan.
- Additional enhancements were made to the sound system.
- Kevin Vajen would like to have a family fun day at a Mud Hens Game and Consistory voted to support his efforts.
- Affirmed recommendation from Pastoral Relations that Pastor McCarn will prioritize visiting with people who are home-bound or who have been hospitalized. People who are able to attend worship will be visited on request.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to all those who sent cards, visited me at The Laurels, and those who held me up in their prayers since my shoulder surgery. This has been a tough road for me, and I appreciate all of you, most especially my family who I couldn't have gotten through this without. Blessings to you all.

Carol Lulfs

Thank you to the St. John's Faith Family for continuing to support your local mission, Shalom Food Pantry! \$4,016 was collected in February to help feed Henry County families in need!

The Pantry Team



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

March 4, 2024

Pastor: Jeff McCarn
 Head Elder and Evangelism Liaison: Kay Armbruster (26)
 Scribe: Bob Rettig (25) Worship and Music Liaison: Greg Nelson (24)
 Communion Stewards: Greg Nelson (24) and Mike Haldy (25)
 Confirmation and Backup Scribe: Eric Shank (24)

Those present: Pastor Jeff McCarn
 Greg Nelson (24) Eric Shank (24) Mike Haldy (25)
 Bob Rettig (25) Kay Armbruster (26)

- The meeting was called to order by Pastor Jeff. Eric Shank led devotions.
- Diana Evers was present to propose a post-confirmation program for youth to encourage them to remain active members. Spiritual Council wholeheartedly supports this effort.
- Pastor's Report was reviewed with no questions or comments.
- Worship schedule is as follows:
 - Maundy Thursday in Fellowship Hall – 6.30 Seder Meal - 7:00 Worship with Communion by intinction at the tables and the Altar will be stripped
 - Good Friday – Community service at 1:00 with area Pastors officiating at St. John's UCC
 - Good Friday – St. John's service at 7:00 in the Sanctuary with Pastor Jeff
 - Easter sunrise – 7:00 with Communion
 - Easter worship – 10:15 with Communion
 - April 7 - Communion
- Pastor will be leaving after worship on March 10 and will be out of the office for two days to help his son move.
- Confirmands continue to work on their statements of faith journey. Pastor is discussing Jesus and the four gospels with them. He will also be talking about the Sacraments with them.
- Pastor spent much time in preparing and conducting the funeral service for Geri Ripke's sons.
- Not a lot of feedback on Lenten services, but group discussions have encouraged thoughts.
- CE Board has requested Pastor's input for the Christian Ed. / youth program.
- The next meeting will be on April 1, at 6:30 p.m.. Pastor led in prayer to close our meeting.

Bob Rettig, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH

March 10, 2024
Adam Stevenson, Scribe

Deacons:

Carol Medina (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Adam Stevenson (24)
Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)
Linda Arreguin (26), Janice Rettig (26), Mark Vajen (26)

Members Present:

Carol Medina (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Adam Stevenson (24),
Chris Coppes (25) Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25),
Linda Arreguin (26), Mark Vajen (26)
Janice Rettig (26) in Arizona

- Meeting was called to order by Head Deacon, Carol Medina.
- Discussion of February 11th meeting minutes were discussed and approved as written.

Old Business:

- No new information on entry mats. Could possibly have them personalized. Discussion on what to do with flooring under mats.
- Discussion of a second dumpster took place. Tabled, to see how another month goes? Going to be another cost incurred if second dumpster or can is used.
- Discussion on dishwasher for kitchen. Need to look into more prices and styles. Would possibly go in place of east sink? Also like to get opinions of other folks who use the kitchen and wash dishes.

New Business:

- Septic System permit (inspection and pumping) for parsonage fee discussed and will be paid when the valid date of April 1st comes.
- CEB would like to see a pavilion or covering over the remaining tennis court area. The area of the court that will be removed will be filled with peace garden.
- Mud hens baseball day was discussed. Dates will be investigated.
- Deacon Schedule for April: See Worship Participants
- Motion to adjourn.
- **Next Deacon's Meeting: April 7, 2024 at 11:45 a.m.**

APRIL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
April 7	Natalie Borck Eric Rettig	Carol Medina Mark Vajen
April 14	Joey Coppes	Jarad Clady Adam Stevenson
April 21	Eric Rettig	Chris Coppes Linda Arreguin
April 28	Neveah Evers	Ben Thomas Linda Arreguin



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - February 2024

INCOME

St. John's UCC January Giving	\$ 615.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	160.00
St. Paul's Flatrock Lutheran Church	<u>51.00</u>
Total	\$ 826.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



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

Within the Fellowship:

- 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 the church and its leaders and people.
- Let us pray for our service men and women and their families.



Mateo Marcelo Santiago Solis
March 3, 2024

Parents: LaTasha and Isaac Solis

Sponsors: Carol Medina
Pam Murchek

From The Decorating Team

During the process of obtaining orders for the Easter Flowers, after three weeks into the ordering, the orders in the collection box in the narthex disappeared. Announcements were made in worship and via a mass email in order to let folks know so that we could make sure that everyone knew that the orders were missing. Unfortunately, we never heard from anyone who might have placed an order that consequently disappeared.

Our order process had been changed during COVID to eliminate someone sitting at a table to take the orders. Beginning with the Christmas order for 2024, the process will change so that it will eliminate the chance for this to ever happen again. Thank you all for your understanding.

Christine Rettig, Chair of the Decorating Team



Zoey Jean Vajen
March 9, 2024

Parents: John and Erica Vajen

Grandparents: Kevin and Tammy Vajen

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK

March 24 - Palm Sunday worship

March 28 - Maundy Thursday Seder Meal/Worship 6:30 p.m. (FH)

March 29 - Community Good Friday worship at 1 p.m.
at St. John's UCC

Good Friday Worship 7 p.m. in Sanctuary (Note that
Pastor Jeff will continue the story that began with the
Maundy Thursday service)

March 31 - Easter Sunday

7 a.m. Sunrise worship with Communion

Breakfast following worship

9 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

10:15 a.m. service with Communion

Families Feeding Families— HELP NEEDED
Saturday, April 20

servicing from 7 a.m.-noon or until sold out

We are looking for people to help coordinate the many aspects of preparing the breakfast and associated food drive to support our own Shalom Food Pantry. If you are interested and willing to help in any way with this fundraising project, please talk with Chris Coppes. His phone number is 419-439-7874 and his email is

cpcoppes@hotmail.com.



Kid's Corner



Kid's Corner



April

- 4 - 3 Annabelle Thomas
- 4 - 4 Sophia Snyder
- 4 - 9 Levi Herman
- 4 - 13 Lottie Mckenzie
- 4 - 19 Millie Brown
- 4 - 20 Carmen Medina
- 4 - 26 Ellis Moyer
- 4 - 27 Harmony Hahn

Sunday School

Crossroad Child And Family Services in Fort Wayne

Monthly Mission Donation

Crossroad uses these items as Christmas and Birthday Gifts, Behavior Incentives, and More.

Items can be new or gently used.

APRIL

- * Basketballs
- * Footballs (Regular and Nerf)
- * Kickballs
- * Volleyballs

The Sunday School Sunday Morning Offering will be given to Mission-To-Go, so we can help send our congregation members on mission trips to help families who are in need.

Families Feeding Families

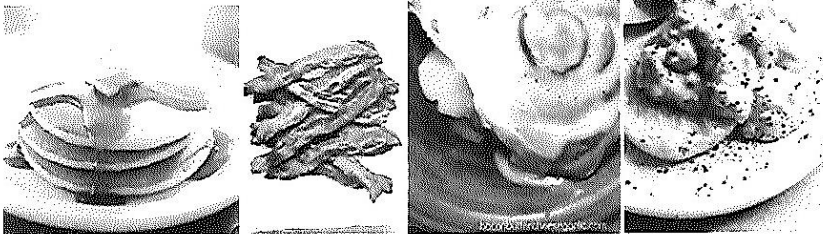
Come partner with St. John's UCC and Shalom Food pantry in a benefit breakfast to raise money for our community Food Pantry!

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2024 Time: 7 am until noon

St. John's United Church of Christ, I-946 SR 108, Holgate
Corner of SR 108 and County Road J

Menu

Eggs	Sausage Gravy & Biscuits
Bacon	Rolls
Sausage	Milk
Pancakes	Juice
French Toast	Coffee



Kid's Corner



St. John's UCC

Easter Egg Hunt

March 31, 2024 - at 9:00 a.m.



All children ages 0-13 invited

Gather in the Sanctuary

Hear the Easter Story told by a special guest!

Then proceed to the circle drive

The egg hunt will be held on the West lawn

**Candy and prizes for all
Parents-be sure to sign up your child for the special
EASTER BASKET DRAWING!**

**(IF INCLEMENT WEATHER THE EGG HUNT WILL BE HELD
INSIDE)**

Sponsored by the Christian Education Board



JOIN US FOR EASTER BREAKFAST



When: Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024
Immediately Following the Sunrise
Service Until 9:30 a.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Menu: Egg Casseroles, Scrambled Eggs
Sausage Gravy and Biscuits,
Cereals/Yogurt, Coffee Cakes,
Fruit, Juice, Milk, Coffee

Sponsored by: The Consistory

Free will offering
will support the
SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2024

ST JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Revenues and Expenses Summary
Fund: GENERAL FUND
February 2024

	February 2024 Actual	2024 YTD Actual	Annual Budget 2024
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$13,685.00	\$25,947.00	\$226,450.00
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$3,493.71	\$9,024.70	\$48,172.00
MINISTRIES	\$685.78	\$2,198.81	\$9,700.00
MISSIONS	\$537.50	\$537.50	\$6,450.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$6,380.47	\$12,070.62	\$73,833.51
PASTORAL	\$6,134.66	\$12,429.32	\$84,408.58
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,232.12	\$36,260.95	\$222,564.09
NET TOTAL	-\$3,547.12	-\$10,313.95	
Operating Checking Account Balance as of 2/29/2024		\$32,402.25	
Mission Giving:			
Shalom		\$4,016.00	
Missions To Go		\$1,840.00	



Notes from the Office

“KEEPING IN TOUCH”

If you previously received our weekly email “Keeping in Touch” but have not been receiving it recently, please check your junk mail. Around the beginning of February, several people contacted the church office to ask why they had not received the email. They appreciate seeing the announcements and knowing that the Sunday bulletin and current newsletter are attached. Since that time, a number of other people have contacted us with the same concern. We are working with mailchimp, the server that we use to send the bulk email, to find out what changed. In the mean time, there are things you can do to help the situation:

1. Go to your junk/spam folder, find the email, and then click on the menu line where it says “allow sender.”
2. If you previously marked this email as “spam,” please use the option to mark it as “not spam.” Then, if you prefer not to receive this every week, simply “unsubscribe” at the bottom of the email.

We continue to research ways to get the update to people’s inboxes. In the mean time, check your junk mail and know that we are trying to find a solution.

Note from Pastoral Relations and affirmed by Consistory:

In order to prioritize expectations, Pastor McCarn will visit folks who are home-bound and those who are or who have been hospitalized. Those who are able to attend worship will only be visited if they request a visit.



“Senior Saints” Our 80+ Members

Roland Rettig
will celebrate his
85th Birthday
on April 1

1162 Chelsea Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545

Karen Gilliland
will celebrate her
80th Birthday
on April 9

1778 Chinook Trail Ct
Defiance OH 43512

Jerry Waisner
will celebrate his
83rd Birthday
on April 15

1622 Hwy 630 W Lot R11
Frostproof FL 33843

Donald Huber
will celebrate his
80th Birthday
April 22

Cards in care of
Dawn Boozer
PO Box 420
Jarales, NM 87023-0420





"Senior Saints" On Their 50+ Anniversary

John and Shirley Tobias

will celebrate their
63rd Wedding Anniversary
on April 9

10011 Co Rd Y
Hamler, OH 43524

Terry and Linda Rettig

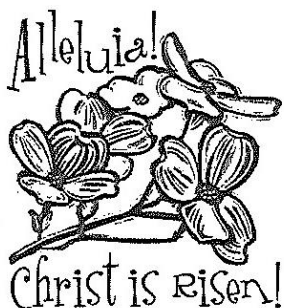
will celebrate their
52nd Wedding Anniversary
on April 22

PO Box 361
Holgate, OH 43527

William and Florence Snyder

will celebrate their
64th Wedding Anniversary
on April 23

14224 Co Rd L2
Napoleon, OH 43545



**VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service**

**Thursday, April 4
at 1:30 P.M.**

Angel Choir Needed!

THE RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING!

As you may have heard, we are having a rummage sale! The week of June 9-15 is when our Fellowship Hall will be a buzz of activity. The actual sale dates are June 13, 14, and 15. We are looking for all of you to be involved in whatever way you can! Whether it is donating items for sale, food donations for our lunch wagon, monetary donations to assist with expenses, or giving of your time in working in different aspects of the Rummage Sale...we need you!

Start looking at what items of clothing you no longer wear, toys that are no longer age appropriate for your kids, household items that you no longer use, garage and shed items that are taking up space you could be using for other things...I think you get the picture! Start stockpiling, and we will have a date near the end of May when you can start bringing items to the church.

In May we will have signup sheets for different tasks where we need help, and food items that can be donated to make our lunch wagon a success.

Most importantly...the proceeds from this years rummage sale are going to benefit our SHALOM FOOD PANTRY. The need for the food pantry is real. Just as an example, on Tuesday, we had forty-nine families and one hundred and forty individuals used our pantry, including seven new families on that evening. As expenses go up for families and the food pantry, more funding is needed.

The funds raised by the Rummage Sale will stay local and benefit those with food insecurity right here in Henry County.

News From The Cemetery Association



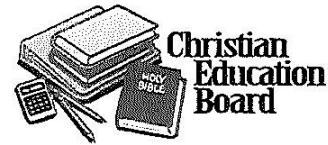
The St. John's UCC Cemetery is a separate but connected part of our church. Our church was founded in 1860, and it took more than forty years before the Cemetery Association was established. The first burial at our church cemetery took place on January 18, 1909. We can be proud of the care that is taken by our Trustees, Sexton, and others to make our cemetery a pleasant, beautiful place for our faith families' final resting places. All members and former members of St. John's may purchase a lot in our cemetery.

The St. John's UCC Cemetery Association met on March 3, 2024, for their Annual Meeting. President Larry Hockman presided at the meeting attended by twenty-one members of the Association. The business of the meeting included election of officers. The following were elected: President: Kirk Fruth, Trustees: Earl Abshire, Jim Rettig and Rory Prigge, Secretary/Treasurer: Christine Rettig and non-elected staff, Sexton: Earl Abshire. Punches Excavating will continue to do grave opening and closing, and Shane Eberle of I'm There Lawn Care will continue to do mowing and trimming.

Larry Hockman, outgoing president, was thanked for his service to the Cemetery Association.

When a lot is sold, the money received goes to an annuity for perpetual care. Only the interest from the annuity can be used as income for general expenses of running the cemetery. Our Cemetery Association receives a small amount of income from the mortuary/cremation fee. As we all have seen, expenses for goods and services have risen, and our mowing expense will go up this year. Shane Eberle and his crew do a great job maintaining our cemetery, and we are thankful to have him as our lawn care provider.

Thanks to donations to the Cemetery Fund by designated giving through giving envelopes, or as a memorial or honorarium, the Association was able to pay the expenses this past year.



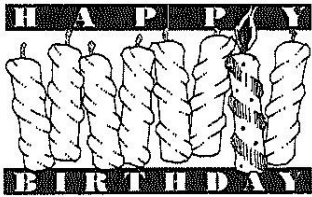
News and Notes

Submitted By Lucy Coppes
February 25, 2024

Present: Pastor McCarn, Elleigh (25), Nancy Thomas(26), Karen Brown (24), Lisa Haldy (25) and via telephone Lucy Coppes (24) and Eric Shank, Consistory Liaison

Lisa opened the meeting and led Devotions.

- **Consistory:** Ladles of Love earned \$916 dollars towards Faith and Family events. Lucy asked Eric to inquire with Deacons about the one basketball court potentially being made into a picnic/patio area with a pavilion so there is shade for summer events.
- **Confirmation:** Potato Bake will be held on March 10.
- **Sunday School:** Spring Sunday School Curriculum has arrived and has been passed out to teachers. Discussion on Easter Preparation: Lucy will ask Betty to put in the bulletin request for candy donations, Mary Kay will stuff eggs, need to arrange for prize baskets. Nancy will ask Carol or Beth to do opening Easter worship. Had discussion on recruiting more teachers for Sunday School.
- **Youth Ministry:** Diana informed CE board that two musical programs will be held by the Youth on March 17 and Mothers Day. Musical selections will include hand bells and cardio drumming.
- **Summer Faith Events:** It has come to the CE Board's attention that the pool reservations are filling up quickly. Lisa will check on dates and reserve the pool.
- **Birthdays:** Nothing new to report, cards continue to be sent to all active children at the beginning of the month.
- **Cradle Roll** - This position is still vacant.
- **Safe Church Training:** There are still some members of the CE Board and teachers who need the training. Lucy will follow up with Betty and Amanda for additional training dates.
- **Next meeting April 28** after worship (Brief meeting on March 17 to make sure we are ready for Easter)



APRIL

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| 4 - 1 | Roland Rettig | 4 - 15 | Taya Norden |
| 4 - 4 | Kirk Fruth | 4 - 15 | Jerry Waisner |
| 4 - 4 | Logan Sidle | 4 - 16 | Collin Parcher |
| 4 - 5 | Jerry Evers | 4 - 17 | Tammy Vajen |
| 4 - 7 | Sue Rettig | 4 - 20 | Andrew Borck |
| 4 - 8 | Madison Burke | 4 - 22 | Don Huber |
| 4 - 9 | Karen Gilliland | 4 - 22 | Eldon Sickmiller |
| 4 - 9 | Tyler Rue | 4 - 23 | Christine Rettig |
| 4 - 10 | Heather Ritz | 4 - 23 | Jacob Highfield |
| 4 - 11 | Molly Rees | 4 - 27 | Tammy Martin |
| 4 - 12 | Sheila Parcher | 4 - 30 | Sean Kobilis |
| 4 - 13 | Millie Holzer | | |

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 419-966-2389
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 **MAY** Newsletter is---**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024, at 12 NOON**
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



April Mission

NAZARENE FUND

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.



*Mission and
Stewardship*



NAZARENE FUND MISSION FOR APRIL

Jesus said In Luke 4:18 "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.

THE NAZARENE FUND MISSION

To liberate the captive, to free the enslaved, and to rescue, rebuild and restore the lives of Christians and other persecuted religious and ethnic minorities wherever and whenever they are in need.

The Threat

The ISIS threat is still very real. ISIS is still targeting and persecuting minorities in the region. Former ISIS members and radical Muslim groups have replaced ISIS power vacuum where they have been defeated. Also, nation states such as Iran are heavily involved in the area making the lives of Christians, Yazidis and other minorities very difficult and dangerous.

To Make money these groups are now involved in the international human trafficking markets which include the sexual slave trade and organ harvesting markets.

The Nazarene Fund is committed to continue supporting the persecuted minorities by searching for and liberating the captive.

The Nazarene Fund will continue evacuating and resettling those who cannot remain in their homelands due to threat of violence they face.

TNF has expanded operations in Africa, Asia, and Haiti. TNF will continue to grow and assist Christians and persecuted minorities who are facing displacement torture and death.