



POTATO BAKE

Potato with toppings, salad and dessert

CARRY-OUT ONLY – Free-will offering

FEBRUARY 20 after church

Proceeds to Youth Shalom Shopping



From Pastor Dave's Desk – page 2
From Consistory President Ron - page 3

From the Pulpit – page 8

Worship Participants – page 9

Births – page 11

Kids' birthdays – center

Memorials – pages 21-23

Birthdays – page 26

Thank yous – pages 18 and 25

As I write this, I have been at St. John's for one week as your Interim Pastor. The spirit and joy of my first Sunday (1/9) are still ringing in my ears! Thank you to those who attended, greeted and welcomed me, Janise, and our family who was visiting, stayed for the Reception after worship, and offered words of care and support. And I enjoyed saying "good morning" to those worshipping in their cars in the parking lot. I am grateful to God to be here!



We moved into your beautiful parsonage on Monday, 1/3. Special thanks to Kevin and Tammy Vajen and others who took care of carpet and drapery cleaning, some paint touch up, and other tasks before our arrival. Because of Janise, by Wednesday night we were mostly unpacked and placing decor around the house. And now it looks like home.

I'm very excited about beginning our mutual ministry. I look forward to learning more names (please bear with Janise and me!), making new friends, journeying with you in faith, and working with you during my time here in continuing what is already a friendly and Spirit-filled church family. I covet your support and prayers as I learn the ropes at St. John's, get settled, and determine how best to assist you while you seek a new settled pastor.

Special thanks to the Search Team and Consistory for their faith in me as shown in extending the invitation to me to serve St. John's as Interim Pastor; to those who planned, decorated, served, and baked goodies for the Reception after worship; and to Betty (Bob) Rettig for patiently answering questions and helping me navigate my first week in the office.

Feel free to stop by my office to say hello and to see some of my personal touches – if you don't mind a lot of Chicago Cubs baseball decor that is!

May God bless our time together!

See you in church....

Pastor Dave

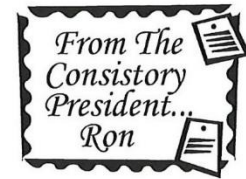
I hope this finds you and your family healthy and safe.

My name is Ron Hoellrich and I am the Consistory President for calendar year 2022. My contact information is as follows:

Cell phone: 419-439-3095

Email is: rjho@defnet.com

Please feel free to contact me with any issues or concerns that you may have.



The beginning of this year has already proven to present challenges to our everyday lives. The past two years have seen many changes and challenges in the way we live and think. It appears that we will continue to have many of the same this coming year.

Challenge

NOUN - 1. a call to take part in a contest or competition.

Change

VERB - 1. make (someone or something) different; alter or modify.
2. replace (something) with something else, especially something of the same kind that is

Change can be very frustrating as it may present an issue with the way we are accustomed to thinking or the ways we normally do things. Depending on your viewpoint, change can be viewed as good or bad.

A recent example of change is Pastor Orr's retirement,

the bad – we all liked him and he left a void leaving us to look for a replacement

the good – he has a chance to enjoy his family and to pursue any activities that he did not have time for. With this change another example of good, we have the opportunity to welcome Pastor Voll and Janise to our faith family where his insight will help guide us through these times.

The challenge is for each and everyone to be open to change. It is difficult for some people to understand and implement change. Thus, we must be aware of the people around us that are having difficulties and give them support in the adaptation of these new changes.

Looking forward to working with everyone.

Ron Hoellrich



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

1. Glad to have Pastor Voll and Janise with us.
2. Grateful that we have "call-em-all" to contact people when church is canceled.
3. Wonderful Christmas Eve worship services, really enjoyed the kids program.
4. People seemed to like the early service time on Christmas Eve.
5. We consistently have 14-15 households watching our livestream worship on Sundays.
6. The 5 p.m. Christmas service was very kid friendly
7. Wonderful food, decorations, and help for the reception for Pastor Voll and Janise.

From Terry and Sue Rettig: The **Red Cross Blood Drive** on Tuesday, January 11, was very successful. We had a total of 39 units. I believe we broke our record with six power reds. Thanks to all who donated and thanks for all the cookies.

The next Red Cross blood drive at St. John's is on May 9.

For those watching our **worship service online**, the announcement slides and gathering music begin around 10 a.m. and run continuously until worship begins at 10:15 a.m. You can watch our service at <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUCCHolgate>.



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

January 10, 2022

- Motion passed for St. John's to be placed on the schedule for 2022 performance with Siberian Solstice and that we will let them know if COVID would impact this decision as the year/season progresses.
- Motion passed to take the 2021 Consistory Actions and Motions to the Annual Meeting.
- Motion passed to accept the recommended farm distribution for 2023 as distributed.
- Motion passed to approve the costs for replacement of two steam release valves.
- Motion passed that the Trustees can spend up to \$1,000 per incident without Consistory approval.
- Motion passed to accept these fundraisers for 2022: Soup and Dessert luncheon February 13, Potato Bake March 20 with these two potentially trading dates due to COVID, and Ice Cream Social for September 11.
- Agreed by consensus, due to the high numbers of COVID cases in the community and at St. John's, **to cancel the traditional potluck before the Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary directly after the service.**

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Prigge

Henry County Health Department now recommends that everyone wear masks when indoors in public settings regardless of vaccination status. Please use your best judgment to protect yourself and others while in the building.

Our worship service will be available on Facebook Live. **You do not need a Facebook account to view this.** Go to the St. John's UCC Facebook page at

[Facebook.com/StJohnsUCCHolgate](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUCCHolgate)

This allows those who wish to worship from home to join with others virtually at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays. The service is also recorded, so you can watch it at your convenience.



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

January 4, 2022

Present: Pastor Dave Voll Communion: Rick Fruth (2023)
 Head Elder: Maggie Prigge (2024) Visitation: Eric Shank (2025)
 Scribe: Pam Desgranges (2023) Membership: Greg Nelson (2025)
 Confirmation And CE Board: Kevin Waisner (2024)

Our meeting began with our introduction to Interim Pastor Dave Voll, who led us in prayer.

Betty (Bob) Rettig attended as a resource for Pastor Voll. We reviewed the list of members for the visitation call/card list. It was also decided to continue with the Call-em-All service that lets us contact folks quickly when services are cancelled due to inclement weather.

The Spiritual Council decided to focus on the anniversary loss of loved ones again this year as folks were touched by the remembrance this past year. Betty (Bob) Rettig will generate a list of people who died and contact information for their families.

We reviewed the list of duties for Elders for funerals. Kevin Waisner will be contacting our previous Elders to see what duties they may be comfortable continuing.

Pastor then discussed Elder responsibilities when serving as Elder of the month. Pastor's cell is 419-410-4090 and his e-mail is pastordave.voll@gmail.com. After discussing congregational concerns, Pastor Voll led us in closing prayer and our meeting adjourned.

Upcoming Communion dates: January 9 with Pastor Voll,
 February 6, March 2 (Ash Wednesday,) and March 6.

Our next meeting is February 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Pam Desgranges, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH

December 9 2022
Jeri Hoellrich, Scribe

All Members present:

John Hahn (22), Amanda Rettig (22), Rick Desgranges (22),
 Pat Kirk (23), Ron Hoellrich (23), Jeri Hoellrich (23),
 Carol Medina (24), Sue Abshire (24), Kevin Vajen (24)

- Meeting was called to order by Head Deacon, Rick Desgranges.
- A review of the Christmas Eve was discussed.
- Acolyte schedule was shared as filled for the next couple of months by Head Deacon, Rick Desgranges.

Under New Business

- Deacon's schedule for February was set - see February Worship Schedule on page 9.
- A discussion took place concerning what to do with the old playground equipment when the new arrives.
- Rick Desgranges brought dates to the group for upcoming fund raisers to be sent on to Consistory for approval.
- Rick also mentioned to the group to keep in mind that Lenten services begin in with Ash Wednesday on March 2.

Liaisons' reports were given from the following teams:

Audit - Pat Kirk
 Endowment – Kevin Vajen
 Janitor – Sue Abshire

- Kevin Vajen shared with the group an update to the parsonage prior to the Pastor Voll's arrival that included: painting in the bathroom, cleaning of the drapes by Tammy, fixing of dishwasher racks, and a plan to spray the ivy growing on the house in the near future. Rick thanked Tammy and Kevin for their accomplishments and service to the upkeep of the parsonage.

Next meeting time set for February 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

From the Pulpit...
Worship Services 10:15 a.m.



February 6 – Communion

Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11
Miraculous Catch of Fish/Calling of First Disciples
 Becoming fishers of people and saintly ambassadors

February 13 – Love Sunday

1 John 4:7-12; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
The Excellence of Love
 Receiving and giving the often indescribable gift of love

February 20 – Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Ephesians 4:17-24; Luke 6:27-38
Be Renewed and Love Your Enemies!
 Re-committing to and renewing our Christian faith

February 27 – Transfiguration Sunday

2 Peter 1:16-18; Luke 9:28-36
Transfiguration and Mountaintops
 Enjoying the top of the mountain....and coming
 back down



FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	USHERS	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
Feb. 6		Nick Evers	John Hahn Amanda Rettig
Feb. 13		Ethan Saneholtz	Ron Hoellrich Jeri Hoellrich
Feb. 20		Zoe Lulfs	Rick Desgranges Carol Medina
Feb. 27		Ethan Saneholtz	Pat Kirk Sue Abshire



**FROM
 THE SHALOM
 FOOD PANTRY**

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - December 2021

INCOME

St. John's November Giving	\$ 1,065.00
St. John's Lutheran Sunday School	400.00
Holgate Firefighters Association	200.00
St. Paul's Catholic Church	220.00
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	530.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	<u>120.00</u>

Total \$ 2,535.00

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...

Rose Marie Durham Lutheran Home Room 226 for rehab
Marilyn Abshire recovering from shoulder surgery
Ruth Medina recovering at home with pneumonia
Kay Armbruster upcoming doctor appointments
Christy Stober (Jeff Stober's daughter-in-law) recovering from major surgery
John, Jacob and Kortney Hahn recovering from COVID
Devin Abshire recovering from a second back surgery
Tim, Brooke and Logan Eberly recovering from COVID
Sueann Bidlack diagnosed with multiple myeloma
Rory Prigge preparing for surgery in February
Darlene Babcock upcoming hip surgery
John Saneholtz hospitalized

Other Members of our Faith Family who are dealing with illnesses

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

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



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

Within the Fellowship:

Sympathies to:

Josh and Sara Bortz, Jennifer (Bortz) Koketko and Jacob Bortz on the passing of their step-grandmother Linda Lee Bleschke on December 14

To the family of Norma Eldridge on her passing on December 21

Charlotte Rettig, Natalie, Rebecca, Anthony and Shelby Meyer as well as siblings **Andy and Robin** and their families on the untimely death of Tim Meyer on December 22

Shanna Sidle, Madison and Sheldon Burke, Logan and Garrett Sidle on the passing of Shanna's grandmother Betty Gise on January 4

Husband Tim Eberle, brother-in-law John and sisters-in-law Becky Hurst and Bonnie Imbrock and their families on the untimely passing of Sandy Eberle on January 18, 2022

ASHTON JAMES (AJ) VAJEN
December 24, 2021

Parents: John and Erika Vajen

Grandparents: Kevin and Tammy Vajen



DEAN ALAN HOUCHINS
January 12, 2022

Parents: Chris Houchins and Jordan Riegsecker

Grandparents: Cindy Mengerink and
Alan and Tammy Riegsecker



**Remember With
Prayers, Cards and Visits
Those Not Always With Us
Especially For Services**

NURSING HOMES

INDIAN MEADOWS NURSING HOME, 303 West Leggett,
Wauseon, OH 43567
Thelma Breece

THE LUTHERAN HOME, 1036 S. Perry Street, Napoleon, OH 43545
Sue Mohr - #116A *Rose Marie Durham - #223*

NORTHCREST, 240 Northcrest Dr., Napoleon, OH 43545
Don Huber - #107

SKLD, 28546 Starbright Blvd., Perrysburg, OH 43551
Betty Yaichner

ASSISTED LIVING

GEORGETOWN PLACE, Apt. 226, 1717 Maplecrest Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46815
Ken Rayle

VANCREST NURSING HOME, 600 Joe E. Brown, Holgate, OH 43527
Marlene Rettig - #33

HOME - Send a greeting to these folks or drop by and visit!

Peggy Franz	15396 St. Rt. 281	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Herbert Fruth	13567 Co Rd. H	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Shirley Huber	E251 St. Rt 108	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Janet Scheele	1173 Indiana Ave.	Napoleon, Ohio 43545
Jim and Sue Waisner	1542 St. Rt. 108	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Bernard Zimmer	1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37	Napoleon, Ohio 43545

POTATO BAKE

February 20, 2022

Carry Out Only

Right After Worship



BAKED POTATOES AND ALL THE TOPPINGS

Salad and Dessert

Free will offering

**Sponsored by the Youth
Proceeds go to youth
SHALOM Christmas Shopping**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY DECEMBER REPORT

ST JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
Fund: GENERAL FUND
December 2021

	DECEMBER 2021 ACTUAL	2021 ACTUAL YTD	2021 ANNUAL BUDGET
Accounts			
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME			
Total OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$21,055.72	\$187,262.54	\$211,835.69
EXPENSES			
Total BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$3,866.69	\$34,042.81	\$39,000.00
Total MINISTRIES	\$564.75	\$3,874.84	\$7,800.00
Total MISSIONS	\$537.50	\$6,450.00	\$6,950.00
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$9,024.31	\$62,927.10	\$64,565.51
Total PASTORIAL	\$4,783.99	\$79,427.44	\$93,520.18
Total EXPENSES	\$18,777.24	\$186,722.19	\$211,835.69
Net Total	\$2,278.48	\$540.35	\$ -
Operating Checking Account Balance as of 12/31/2021			\$ 26,815.17
2021 We covered our expenses with income by \$540.35 God is so good.			
December Mission 2021 Giving			
The Christmas Fund (VOC)	\$ 1,175.00		
SHALOM	\$ 667.00		
Farm Rent Income sent the following to Missions:			
C.U.E.	\$ 463.93		
Crossroad	\$ 1,237.15		
Love Gift	\$ 618.58		
SHALOM	\$ 463.93		



*Mission and
Stewardship*



SHALOM FOOD PANTRY FEBRUARY MISSION

According to Wikipedia, **Shalom** (Hebrew: שָׁלוֹם *shalom*; also spelled *sholom*, *sholem*, *sholoim*, *shulem*) is a Hebrew word meaning *peace*, *harmony*, *wholeness*, *completeness*, *prosperity*, *welfare* and *tranquility* and can be used idiomatically to mean both *hello* and *goodbye*. As it does in English, it can refer to either peace between two entities (especially between man and God or between two countries), or to the well-being, welfare or safety of an individual or a group of individuals.

Scripture teaches us that the true nature of God is to heal the broken spirit and repair the broken life. He is revealed as the One who is able to satisfy our hunger and our thirst. According to John 6 1-15, the disciples didn't quite fully understand this. As the multitude pressed them for food, they didn't quite know how to respond. They had only five loaves of bread and two fish among them. "But what is that among so many?"

What the disciples have is obviously not enough to feed the large crowd. It is hardly enough to feed just a few hungry people. But, and this may be a lesson for us, in the hands of Jesus, what little they have to offer is multiplied. The loaves and the fish miraculously satisfy the multitude.

What if the disciples had said to one another: "What we have is so little; it is pitifully small. Should we even bother to give Jesus the five loaves we have and the two fish?" But what appears to them to be so small is, in the hands of Jesus, enough to feed the great crowd, according to our story. We are not told how this happens. It is enough to know the lesson it teaches; that the little we think we have can be, in God's hands, enough, and more than enough, to do marvelous things. Or, to put it another way, our modest faith, our fragile hope, our tender love, incomplete and as imperfect as it may be, is more than we might ever possibly imagine, if we entrust who we are and what we have to God.

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*Mission and
Stewardship*



SHALOM FOOD PANTRY FEBRUARY MISSION

Continued From Page 15

We may be tempted to think that, in comparison to the needs of the world around us, the faith we have to share is so modest, so insignificant, so small, that it is hardly worth offering to anyone. But what appears so small to us, may, by the grace of God, be great to others. (Trost, 2021)¹

At St. John's, we fully believe in and carry out that message in our Shalom Food Pantry. We come together to meet hunger related issues within our community. Without the faithful support of our congregation we would not be able to take the small gifts given to us and have them multiplied into abundance by God.

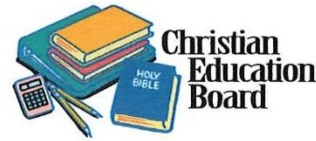
¹ Trost, F.R., (2021). *Lift Up Your Hearts. I Universe.* (pp 78-79).



Trustees Report December

1. **Boilers inspected** and we need to replace a steam release valve. It is on order and due to arrive early January.
2. **Water level in condensate tank** was fluctuating so replaced the inlet valve. Still a problem so ordering the float valve inside the tank.
3. Pastor's bathroom sink was leaking. Pipe plugged going into the wall..Cleaned out and fine now.
4. Replaced pastor's bathroom sink handle assembly.
5. **Earl Mechanical** visited with mechanical engineer to measure for future replacement of the boilers with a water system. Waiting results of that visit.
6. Heater plugged in to maintain warmth in the "garage".
7. Got salt for the sidewalks from Holgate Lumber.
8. Continue checking boilers twice a day.

Greg Nelson



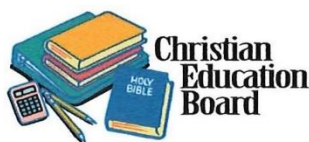
Highlights

December 19, 2021
Submitted By Caryn Lulfs

Present: Franell, Caryn, Katie, Chris (Consistory Liaison), and Diana via phone due to quarantine.

- Franell opened the meeting with prayer.
- VBS was discussed. Caryn Lulfs and Jen Rettig would like to pass VBS on to someone else. Both Caryn and Jen will be working this summer, and their children are aged out of VBS. There was a starter kit purchased in 2020, and that theme can be used if materials are still available for purchase. The starter kit is in the Sunday School supply room.
- Three new CEB members will be starting in January: Lucy, Brooke, and LaTasha. Kevin Waisner will be serving as the new Consistory Liaison. Caryn and Deb will be exiting, as well as Chris as Consistory Liaison.
- Diana will make sure all new members and Pastor Voll are aware of the next meeting.
- Diana has all of the Winter session Sunday School materials to put into the teacher binders for January.
- The sign up sheets for teaching Sunday School are out on the Library counter. Caryn would like to only be contacted to teach if it is an emergency. Deb has agreed to continue to teach for the rest of the year.
- Christmas Eve children's program: 4:00 p.m. the children will meet in the Sanctuary to do a run through. After practice, they will come to the preschool room to put on their costumes. When the program is over, the children will come back to the preschool room to take off their costumes. At this time they will be given their Christmas gifts from the CE Board. They will return to the Sanctuary for the rest of church service.

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Highlights

December 19, 2021
Submitted By Caryn Lulfs

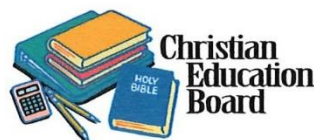
Continued From Page 17

- Diana has agreed to be the narrator, since Gavin is not available. Diana plans to stand in the choir area in front of the Christmas tree instead of the lectern. If for some reason Diana is not able to make it, Pastor Orr will fill in. A microphone will be passed around to children who have lines in the play. All children are asked to wear masks, and to not take them down to speak into the microphone.
- December's Crossroad Mission is hats and gloves, and January's mission is socks.
- There will be no Sunday School on December 26 or on January 2.
- Franell reported that the cheese ball fundraiser for Confirmation Camp went well. Pastor Voll will be participating in Confirmation Class beginning with the next class on January 9.
- The Annual CE Board report is requested by the Consistory by January 9. This should be submitted to Betty Rettig. Diana will be completing this document.
- Next CE Board meeting will be January 16 after church.

Thank You

The family of Tim Meyer thanks all for their prayers and concerns granted to him and our family during Tim's illness and death. Thanks to Pastor Orr for his words of comfort, Sheri Plotts for the music for the funeral, and the ladies of the church who provided food. To the Hamler Legion, New Bavaria VFW, and Napoleon Amvets for their closing service. A special thanks to Ryan Zachrich for all his words of comfort and care.

Tim's family: Charlotte, Natalie, Rebecca, Shelby, Anthony, Andy and Marsha, Robin and Ed, Franell and Greg, Terry and Linda, and Jerry.



Highlights

January 16, 2022
Submitted By Franell Nelson

- The CE Board reorganized on January 16 after worship. Welcome to our new members, LaTasha Solis, Lucy Coppes, Brooke Eberly, Consistory Liaison Kevin Waisner and Pastor Dave Voll. Continuing on the Board are Diana Evers, Katie Borck and Franell Nelson.
- Officers for 2022 are: Diana Evers-Chair, LaTasha Solis-Vice Chair and Franell Nelson-Scribe.
- We welcome all children ages 3 and up to attend Sunday school. Bring your friends! We offer adult Sunday school also.
- "Crossroad" continues as our mission focus. Children are encouraged to bring specific items to Sunday school each month for our Crossroad Box. February's item is crayons (no sharpeners.)
- We always welcome volunteers to teach. Sign up sheets are located on the Library counter in the Sunday school wing.
- We will be celebrating birthdays during our Sunday school opening so be sure your little ones are in attendance the week of their birthday to get a special treat!
- The Board made the decision to have a special family event each month of summer instead of VBS. Stay tuned for more information to come.
- Mark your calendar – on May 22 we will have an end of the year bash with food and fun for the entire family.



Gene and Phyllis Crawford

will celebrate their
63rd Wedding Anniversary
on February 15

11708 Co Rd N
Napoleon, OH 43545

Technology Report



With all of the new devices and now that we all are being cross trained on the three solutions, we realized we will need some backup help. Betty is there for when one of us is gone, but if she is busy or gone that day, we will need someone trained to at least help with slides or sound. We welcome anyone to the balcony to see what we do to make the 'magic' happen and if they would subsequently want to work with us. Most likely people will receive training on slides or sound and no previous experience is required. There is no weekly commitment, but it is a good idea to schedule time on at least one Sunday a month in order to keep skills sharp.

In addition to working in the balcony on Sunday, Linda creates the slides each week, and when on vacation she still creates and sends the slides. If anyone has any experience working with PowerPoint, or other presentation solution, and would be interested in learning this skill, please call the office or Linda.

If you are interested in joining the team in any position, please feel free to call the office and speak with Betty, call Ron (419-439-3095) or Linda (410-919-3956), or talk to one of us at Church. If you want to observe us during a service, please arrange to come ahead of time so we can give a 'tour' and explain the systems; someone is usually in the balcony an hour before worship. We do request that you wear a mask while in the balcony as we are in close proximity for over an hour.

Linda Rettig - For the Technology Team



In Loving Memory Norma Mae Eldridge

October 5, 1929 - December 21, 2021

Norma Mae Eldridge, 92, of Napoleon, Ohio, passed away peacefully at the home of her daughter, surrounded by her family

She was born October 5, 1929, in Rootstown, Ohio, to the late Harry and Anna (Anderson) Dundon. Norma married Curtis Eldridge on November 24, 1952, and he preceded her in death in 2008. They lived in Rootstown for 54 years before moving to Napoleon to be close to her daughters.

Norma graduated from Rootstown High School in 1947, and then attended Hiram College. She worked in the Clerk's office at the Portage County Courthouse for several years. After she took time off to raise her daughters, she began a second career as a Junior High School Secretary for over 20 years.

Norma was a people person. She was such a kind and loving lady who had many friends. Norma enjoyed playing the piano and played for the Malinta Methodist Church up until three years ago. She loved music and enjoyed sharing her talents. Norma was also an avid reader.

An important part of her life was participating in the Order of the Eastern Star, where she was a 70-year member. Her husband, Curtis and she were very active and traveled the district making long lasting friendships along the way. In 1970, Norma was selected to serve as Deputy for her district, which was an honor.

Most of all she loved her God and her family. Being with family on any occasion brought her such joy. She was able to make so many memories after moving to Napoleon with her daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Norma had such a strong faith. She showed us this faith and courage especially in the last several months. She knew she would be alright in whatever happened because of her faith.

Norma is survived by her daughters, Cindy (Rick) Brechmacher, Brenda (Tim) Zuch; son, Jeffrey (Kathleen) Eldridge; grandchildren, Kevin (Kim) Brechmacher, Jon Eldridge, Katie (Andrew) Young, Ryan (Rose) Brechmacher, Mandi (Judson) Lecklider, Allie (Zak) Foste,

Continued On Page 22



In Loving Memory
Norma Mae Eldridge
October 5, 1929 - December 21, 2021

Continued From Page 21

and Sami (Gus Hernandez) Zuch. She also leaves behind six great-grandchildren and two more on the way.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Curtis; sister, Phyllis Dundon; and brother Wayne Dundon.

Friends and family were received at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon on Monday, December 27, 2021, from 2-8 p.m. with an Eastern Star Service at 7 p.m. Funeral services were held at St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at 11 a.m. with an hour of visitation prior to services. Interment took place at Homeland Cemetery in Rootstown, Ohio, on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. All were welcome to attend the committal service in Rootstown, Ohio.

We would like to thank Bridge Home Health and Hospice of Findlay for the loving care and support they gave our mom and all of us.

*Contributions can be made in Memory of Norma to
Rootstown Congregational United Church of Christ
St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate or
Bridge Home Health and Hospice, Findlay, Ohio*



In Loving Memory
Timothy A. Meyer
February 24, 1968 - December 22, 2021

Timothy A. Meyer, age 53, of Holgate died Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at the Cleveland Clinic.

His Legacy ... Tim was born February 24, 1968, to Robert L. and Charlotte M. (Norrick) Meyer in Napoleon. He graduated from Holgate High School in 1986. He enlisted with the Marine Corps and was active for four years. He was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, and was a heavy equipment field mechanic, most recently employed with Towlift, Perrysburg. Tim has always worked with engines. When Tim was younger he enjoyed Motocross. He was a life member of the New Bavaria V.F.W., Hamler American Legion, and Napoleon AMVETS.

His Family ... He is survived by his mother Charlotte Rettig, Holgate; Children, Natalie Meyer, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rebecca Meyer, Cleveland, Shelby Meyer, Holgate, and Anthony Meyer, PFC, Fort Lee, Virginia; siblings, Robin (Ed) Seuc, Ballwin, Missouri, and Andrew R. (Marsha) Meyer, Napoleon, and step siblings; Franell (Greg) Nelson, Holgate, Terry (Linda) Rettig, Holgate, and Jerry Rettig, Holgate.

Tim was preceded in death by his father Robert in 1988 and his step-father Barney Rettig in 2017.

His Farewell Services ... Friends were received in the Zachrich Family Funeral Home, 114 William Street, Holgate on Tuesday from 3-7 p.m. and again one hour before the church service. The celebration of Tim's life was held Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, at 11 a.m.

*Memorial Contributions can be made to
the family to help with expenses.*



Notes from the Office

Call-em-All - On Sunday, January 2, the parking lot at church was essentially a sheet of ice. The decision was made to cancel worship for the safety of the worship leaders as well as those who might have come to church that morning. We use a service named "Call-em-All." The company calls or texts all of the numbers we provide them and we receive a feedback report that tells us the numbers where Call-em-All could not reach a person or leave a message. The important part of this message is that, if you did not receive a call, voicemail or text notifying you that church was cancelled, please contact the church so we can confirm that we have correct contact information on file for you.

RMD distribution - When people who have IRAs reach their early 70's, they are required to make withdrawals of funds (RMDs or Required Minimum Distributions) from these accounts. This is a reminder that RMDs can be directed to any charitable organization and avoid adding the distribution to your income for the year. Talk with the person who prepares your taxes - just be sure that the distribution goes directly to the charity (for example, to St. John's) and not to you. A few of our Faith Family do this. We ask that, if you are going to send your RMD to St. John's, please let us know so we can be sure that we make note that it is from you. You can also tell us if there is a fund you wish to support.

Weather - With NW Ohio weather, please call the church to check that someone is there before driving to the church when the weather looks bad. If Holgate Schools delay or close, the church office will likely do the same.

Giving Statements - We are going to try something different this year. Instead of automatically sending Giving Statements to everyone, if you want an Annual Giving Statement, please contact the office and we will print one for you or, if you have email, we can send it directly to your email. - **Your feedback will be appreciated!**

Thank You

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift of money. Your generosity is abounding. I enjoy praising God through my music and your appreciation of it makes me want to do it all the more.

Sincerely, Sue Abshire

Thanks to the congregation and Pastor Orr for the Christmas gifts. Even though the choirs could not sing or play most of the last two years, the desire has not diminished. We ended Easter time 2 years ago so let's pray we are more normal this coming Easter!!

Greg Nelson

To the congregation:

I am overwhelmed with your generosity every year. I continue to be amazed at the kind hearts and giving nature of St. John's congregation. The congregation carries the tenet of Christmas throughout the year and is always ready to help when needed, including acknowledging everyone's hard work throughout the year.

Thank you so much!
Linda Rettig (Media Coordinator)

To St. John's Faith Family:

Thank You for your generous Christmas Gift. It is a joy to serve this congregation each month with the newsletter. Thank you to the team scribes and anyone who is responsible for monthly articles without your help and cooperation my job would not be impossible.

Ruth Ann Durham, Newsletter Editor



FEBRUARY

2 - 1	Jeri Hoellrich	2 - 16	Chevelle Franz
2 - 2	Junior Hoff	2 - 16	Zachary Franz
2 - 3	Haley Kibisu	2 - 17	Jerry Rettig
2 - 5	Katie Borck	2 - 18	Sheila Franz
2 - 6	Su Jones	2 - 22	Tim Eberle
2 - 8	Scott Zimmer	2 - 23	Vandella Huber
2 - 10	Earl Abshire	2 - 24	Sonya Eitzman
2 - 15	Sue Mohr	2 - 25	Shaunda Squires
2 - 15	Rory Prigge	2 - 26	Minnie Hoff
2 - 15	Lee Franz		

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.)



Kid's Corner



February

2 - 2	Nicholas Evers
2 - 16	Brooke Squires
2 - 26	Hazel Kibisu