

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

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We enter a new chapter in the life of St. John's UCC as we welcome our new Settled Pastor, Jeff McCarn and his wife Bobbie as partners in Christ's ministry.

From the Pulpit – pages 2-3

From Consistory President Ron – page 4 and insert

October Worship Participants – page 9

Birthdays – pages 16 and 19



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

The Sentinel

St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
OCTOBER 2023

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Pastor: Jeff McCarn - 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: revjmccarn@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

WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. – WORSHIP SRVICE 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

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

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A New Chapter



Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 NRSV

*From
Pastor McCarn*

I love to read. I read all of the time. Of course, I read to prepare for my role as a pastor. I also love to read and explore new places. I love a book that I do not want to put down — one that I am compelled to continue to the next page and to the next chapter to see what will happen next. One of my favorite books is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Barnes and Noble's website describes the book: "*Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps."

The disciples, St. John's UCC and I are all turning the page to a new chapter.

The disciples were not far from the death of Jesus followed by the Holy Spirit of Pentecost directing them to preach the gospel to all nations. The disciples were starting a new chapter of their lives with the turn of each page to an unknown adventure. The disciples also knew that the Holy Spirit would always be with them to assure positive outcomes.

St. John's UCC started a new chapter with my calling to be the new pastor. At this time, many probably feel as if a mystery novel has started. My prayer is that soon St. John's UCC will clearly know that this chapter is the beginning of a wonderful love story filled with humor, good food, good fellowship and most importantly good ministry to the community.

I am writing this article among both packed and unpacked boxes waiting for the moving company to arrive and send us on our way to a

Continued on Page 3

A New Chapter

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 NRSV



*From
Pastor McCarn*

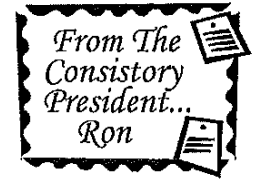
Continued From Page 2

new chapter in ministry at St. John's UCC. This chapter is one that I am very excited to start. I look forward to new adventures as each page is turned to a more exciting one than the previous page as we work together at being the hands and feet of Christ.

I pray that the Holy Spirit descends upon us breathing life into us just as the Holy Spirit did with the early church. May we continue to listen to the Still Speaking God as we begin our new chapter into a successful and exciting ministry.

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCarn*

Budget Spending 2021 - 2022 - 2023



It is that time of the year that the Deacons will put together the budget for the fiscal year 2024. I thought that I would share with you our past few years of spending. You will notice that I did not include staff financials.

Our budget for propane 2024 is \$11,472.00 which is a decrease of approximately \$3,000.00.

**SEE THE FOUR PAGE INSERT
FOR BUDGET SPENDING
2021 - 2022 - 2023**

Ron Hoellrich

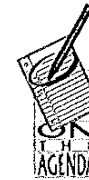
2023 Consistory President



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

1. Grateful to Worship and Music Team for preparing meaningful worship during this time.
2. Congrats and thanks to all who worked on the Eyes to the Skies event and the untold hours and money spent preparing the Tomato Festival Parade Entry.
3. Grateful to those who work in the Peace Garden and the North flower bed to keep the church looking beautiful. Thanks also to Lennie Prigge for planting the cannas along the West side of the Sunday School wing.
4. Grateful to those who are stepping up to do the yard work at the church and parsonage that Janise Voll did while they were here.
5. What a great church family to support our faithful camera person Cody Coppes by preparing and attending the "Taste of Germany" event to help him raise funds for the school trip!
6. Great food, people, and turn out for Rally Day. Thank you to all who provided pies and cakes and worked. Thanks for Greg and Franell for traveling to get the ice cream.
7. Thank you to Pastor Plant for the great Rally Day message, tying things together well.
8. Thanks to Holgate Lumber for the new door and lock set for the kitchen.
9. Thanks to Buckeye Builders for the new fencing at the parsonage.

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

September 11, 2023

Motion to transfer the remaining balance of the COVID funds to the Operating Fund, approved.

Motion to approve cashing in CD's contingent on need for Pastor McCarn's moving expenses, approved.

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Prigge



*VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service*

*Thursday, October 26
at 1:30 P.M.
Singers Needed!*

Thank You

Dear St. John's,

Many thanks to our former Pastor Voll for his prayers and visits while I was in Henry County Hospital from my back injury. Thank you Deb Waisner for checking in on me, Sue and Terry Rettig for the food, and all who sent cards or phone calls.

I feel so blessed.

Thanks again, Patsy Yaichner



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts
September 11, 2023

Pastor:	Confirmation: Kevin Waisner (23)	Head
Elder: Maggie Prigge (23)	Backup Head Elder: Eric Shank (24)	
Scribe: Bob Rettig (25)	Backup Scribe: Kevin Waisner (23)	
Communion: Greg Nelson (24)	Asst. Communion: Mike Haldy (25)	
Membership/Visitation: Eric Shank (24)		

This meeting being somewhat of an informal meeting, there were no devotions. All Elders were present. Concerns of the congregation included several members of the congregation who are ill or are scheduled for surgery.

There was no Pastor's Report.

Maggie Prigge is Elder of the Month for September. Kevin Waisner will serve in October.

The worship schedule was reviewed. A speaker from Crossroad, a Back Bay Mission presentation, as well as the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Reverend David Orr's ordination will be on September 17. Elleigh Franz will do the "time with kids" that day.

Communion is scheduled for October 1, Pastor McCarn's first day in the pulpit.

Confirmation orientation was on Sunday, August 27, at 8:45 with some input from Pastor McCarn. He, with Franell and Kevin, will be teaching this year.

In regards to visitation, Maggie had visited several of the shut-ins.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 2.

Bob Rettig, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH

September 11, 2023
Jeri Hoellrich, Scribe

Deacons:

Pat Kirk (23), Ron Hoellrich (23), Jeri Hoellrich (23),
Carol Medina (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Adam Stevenson (24)
Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)

Members present: Pat Kirk (23), Ron Hoellrich (23) by phone,
Jeri Hoellrich (23) by phone, Adam Stevenson (24),
Chris Coppes (25), Ben Thomas (25)

Meeting was called to order by Head Deacon, Adam Stevenson.

Discussion of notes of previous meeting reviewed and deemed correct.

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

Discussion about removal of cement from 1/2 of tennis court (Ben heading that project)

Discussed budget plan from Kinsmen Propane

Deacon Schedule for October see Worship Participants page 9

Next Deacon's meeting scheduled for October 9, 2023,
at 6:15 p.m.

OCTOBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
Oct. 1	Neveah Evers Tori Kobilis	Ron Hoellrich Jeri Hoellrich
Oct. 8	Eric Rettig	Chris Coppes Jeri Hoellrich
Oct. 15	Griffin Tanner	Pat Kirk Jared Clady
Oct. 22	Natalie Borck	Kevin Vajen Adam Stevenson
Oct. 29	Tori Kobilis	Carol Medina Adam Stevenson



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - AUGUST 2023

INCOME

Individual Donation	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$ 25.00

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...
Those on our hearts and minds**

Scott Sidle diagnosed with ampullary cancer
Kameron Maurer in a car accident
Bill Kerr (pastor at Wauseon Congregation UCC) battling cancer
Janice Rettig, recovering from heart cath with stent placement
Shalom Client Danny health issues
Tammy Miller recovering after surgery for a broken arm
Don Rettig recovering after cataract surgery
Andrew Fox (Don and Betty Rettig's grandson) recovering
 from a serious accident
Gene Crawford in hospice
Leland Rettig recovering at home
Mason Franz recovering after surgery
Sue (Amanda) Rettig recovering from shoulder surgery
Blake Badenhop recovering from a serious accident

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 those who died or were displaced by earthquakes in Syria and Turkey

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



EVANGELISM TEAM
PURPOSE STATEMENT
THIRD ITEM

Over this year, the Evangelism Team has been giving you some insight into the points of the purpose statement of the team. The third purpose of the Evangelism Team is to: Seek opportunities within the community to tell others about our ministry.

Our church is in a rural setting and reaching out to the community can prove to be a challenge. This year our reach out activities have included: inserting our church worship information in the bags as shoppers checked out of the rummage sale in June, participation in the parade for Eyes to the Skies in Holgate at the end of June, and our participation in the Henry County Tomato Festival Parade in August with a float.

We give a huge thank-you to everyone who participated in any way with those three events. If you donated to or worked at the rummage sale, folks were touched by our faith family. If you donated candy or participated in the Eyes to the Skies event, you were a link to one of the communities we serve. If you donated candy, worked on the float, or participated in the Tomato Festival Parade in Napoleon in August, you helped to get our message out to approximately 5000 folks who attended the parade.

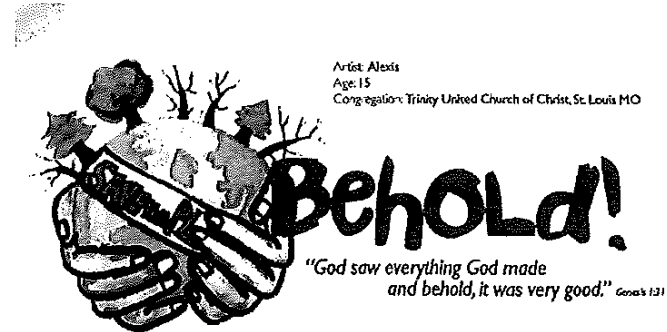
We each have the opportunity to evangelize for St. John's. The team appreciates all of the St. John's faith family in their efforts to fulfill our purpose of telling others within the community about our ministry.



Mission and
Stewardship



NEIGHBORS IN NEED
MISSION FOR OCTOBER



Young environmental advocates lead the way.

At First Congregational Church in Montclair, New Jersey, young climate leaders like Jey Cook and Simona Graceffo have played a leading role in advancing the care of God's creation both within and beyond their church. With a sense of passion and purpose, they created an uplifting video to kick-start the all-church process of becoming a UCC Creation Justice Church. Each of them was also a climate justice fellow at their church over the course of the summer as they engaged with efforts in the broader community to promote local sustainability and food security. Witness the leadership of Cook and Graceffo in their video: <https://bit.ly/CreationJusticeVideo>.

With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, though the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.



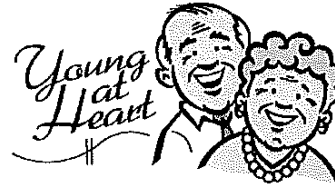
Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."

Copied from "ChurchArt.com" one of our online resources for bulletins and newsletters.



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Lynn Gilliland

will celebrate his
81st Birthday
on October 1

1778 Chinook Trail Ct.
Defiance, OH 43512-3498

Forrest Clady

will celebrate his
82nd Birthday
on October 19

16234 Charleston Ave.
Ft. Myers, FL33908-3522

George Medina

will celebrate his
88th Birthday
on October 21

226 S Turkeyfoot Ave
Malinta, OH 43535-9709

Janice Rettig

will celebrate her
82nd Birthday
on October 7

1162 Chelsea Ave
Napoleon, OH 43545

Ruth Medina

will celebrate her
82nd Birthday
on October 20

226 S. Turkeyfoot Ave
Malinta, OH 43535-9709

Gloria Zimmerman

will celebrate her
93rd Birthday
on October 22

5141 Emory Oak Cir Apt 514
Bessemer, AL 35022-5477

Gary Watson

will celebrate his
80th Birthday
on October 25

M687 Co Rd 17D
Napoleon, OH 43545



CROSSROAD

Greetings friend,

I hope this letter finds you in high spirits. I am writing to share with you that we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 140th Anniversary Gala, scheduled to take place on September 14, 2023.

Crossroad Child & Family Services has reached this remarkable 140-year anniversary due to individuals like you, who have recognized the importance of doing whatever it takes to provide hope for children and families experiencing some of life's most challenging circumstances.

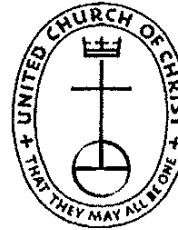
While we will not be gathering in person, we will be providing opportunities to celebrate from afar. Please continue to connect with Crossroad on social media and our website in the coming weeks to learn more.

We deeply value your unwavering support over the years, and I want to personally thank you for being a loyal advocate of our mission. Your continued generosity and belief in Crossroad have been instrumental in helping us provide the crucial services and support that countless children and families have come to rely upon.

Thank you for your understanding. I look forward to our continued partnership in the years to come.

Warm regards,

David Mullins
President & CEO
Crossroad Child & Family Services



Washington United Church of Christ

2950 Sidney Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45225
Phone (513) 541-7757 Fax (513) 541-7579

September 12, 2023

St. John's United Church of Christ
1-946 State Route 108
Holgate, OH 43527

Dear Friends,

Thank you! We have just received your generous gift of \$251. We are grateful. Only through the support of others can our outreach ministries continue.

In our Back-to-School ministry, we gave more than 60 students school uniforms or school clothes and backpacks filled with school supplies. These are children connected to the church through summer program and Homework Club, along with other children in our low-income neighborhood.

Homework Club, our after-school tutoring program, starts Monday. About 25 students come from 4-5:30 p.m. three days a week. Each session starts with a light meal. Our goal is one-on-one tutoring with volunteers.

We continue to serve carryout lunch on weekdays to anyone who comes, including low-income and homeless neighbors. Our lunch count continues to increase – some days to 70!

Camp Cupboard – where everything is free – is open two days a week for 'shoppers' to get food and donated clothes and household items.

Thank you, on behalf of all those who will benefit from your gift and our pastor, Rev. Melissa Stephens.

Sincerely,

Laurel Humes, Church Council, Washington UCC



OCTOBER

10 - 1	Lynn Gilliland	10 - 15	Carol Lulfs
10 - 2	Brian Rees	10 - 15	Alexia Roberts
10 - 2	Denton Waisner	10 - 17	Mark Vajen
10 - 5	Diana Evers	10 - 19	Forrest Clady
10 - 5	Kimberly Haver	10 - 19	Kenneth Huber
10 - 6	Terry (Linda) Rettig	10 - 19	Pam Desgranges
10 - 7	Doug Rettig	10 - 20	Ruth Medina
10 - 7	Janice Rettig	10 - 21	George Medina
10 - 7	Timothy (Brooke) Eberly	10 - 21	Steve Waisner
10 - 8	Christopher Clady	10 - 22	Gloria Zimmerman
10 - 12	Beth Waisner	10 - 24	Delaney Hall
10 - 12	Janet Hoffman	10 - 25	Gary Watson
10 - 12	Rick Fruth	10 - 26	Caleb Franz
10 - 14	John Huber	10 - 27	Jacob Clark
10 - 14	Lyndon Dietrich	10 - 28	Peggy Rettig
		10 - 30	Kailey Cutlip

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 **NOVEMBER**

Newsletter is **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023**

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



October Mission

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

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.



Kid's Corner



October

- 10 - 7 Tori Kobilis
- 10 - 9 Landree Clady
- 10 - 11 Jamison Morgan
- 10 - 22 Bella Rettig



Kid's Corner



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.

OCTOBER

* Board Games

- Life, Battleship, Clue, Sequence, Trouble, Chess, Checkers, Monopoly, Monopoly Jr., Jenga, Operation, Pictionary Jr., etc

* Card Games

- Uno, Phase 10, Skipbo, etc

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.