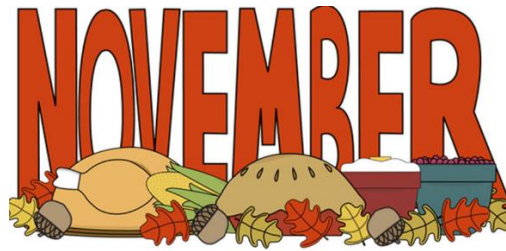


# NOVEMBER



**Special Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers and Approve the 2024 Budget - November 19, 2023  
Following Worship (see insert)**

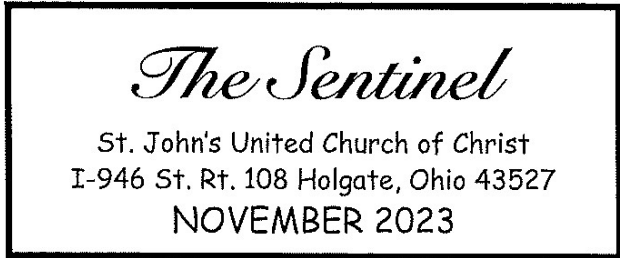
## **Soup and Dessert Meal to Follow**



**From Pastor Jeff's desk – pages 2-3  
From Consistory President Ron – pages 4-5  
Save the Dates – page 7  
November Worship Participants – page 11  
Fall Soup and Dessert Fundraiser – page 17  
Poinsettia order forms – page 19 and insert  
Birthdays – pages 21 and 23  
Invitation to dinner at the parsonage – see insert**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Choir practice		5pm - FH reserved Tyler Rue	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Saving time ends 9am - Confirmation/SS 10:15am - Totenfest 10:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30am - Confirmation II	6pm - Spiritual Council	Election Day SHALOM Delivery In am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Choir practice	6pm - Finance Team 6pm - Pastoral Relations Council	Veterans Day (substitute)	Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Veterans	12pm - Red Cross blood drive 6:15pm - Deacons 7pm - Consistory		6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Choir practice		6pm - Newsletter deadline	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9am - Confirmation/SS 10am - Newsletter Proofs 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Cong. Mtg 12pm - Soup & Dessert Meal 12:30pm - Shalom Shopping	12pm - Newsletter proofs due to	SHALOM Delivery In am 8am - Print newsletter 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	9am - Mail newsletter 6pm - Handbell choir practice 6pm - Holgate Thanksgiving 7pm - Choir practice	Thanksgiving Day 8am - hold for Diana Evers for		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship		9am - Newsletter mailing	6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Choir practice	6:30pm - Decorating Team		



**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](mailto:holgateucc@metalink.net)  
 Pastor e-mail: [revjmccarn@gmail.com](mailto:revjmccarn@gmail.com)  
 Financial Administrator e-mail - [stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net](mailto:stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net)  
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: [radurham703@bright.net](mailto:radurham703@bright.net)  
 Church Website: [www.stjohnsuccholgate.com](http://www.stjohnsuccholgate.com)  
 SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.



*Theology of Thanksgiving*

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."  
 (Matthew 6:21 NRSV)*

The origins of the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States are more complicated than most people think. Was the first Thanksgiving meal in Massachusetts, complete with buckled, wide-brimmed hats, in 1621? Or was it an English celebration on the shores of Virginia, in 1619? Or how about a Spanish gathering in what became Texas, in 1598 — or Florida, in 1565?

The reasons for those celebrations varied. The English colonists in Virginia, for example, declared the day a commemoration of their arrival, thanking God for safe passage across a forbidding ocean; likewise, the Spanish explorers thanked God for survival. On the other hand, after a 1637 massacre of Native Americans, the governor of Plymouth wrote that Thanksgiving Days would be "in honor of the bloody victory." In 1789, President George Washington declared a national Day of Thanksgiving to thank God for the birth of a new nation.

The holiday we inherit today and call Thanksgiving is complex. My question is, how will we celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

Here is a suggestion. Perhaps there is no better day than Thanksgiving to reflect on the power of gratitude to commit ourselves to cultivating it more intentionally in the coming year.

If we think of gratitude primarily as a kind of duty to do something such as write a "thank you" note, we are missing the boat entirely. Effectively, we reduce one of life's wonders to mere good manners. On the contrary, gratitude is a vital force in the world, an act that builds relationships, communities, and healthy human hearts.

I like what one of my favorite websites *The Salt Project* says about gratitude, "The science on this subject is overwhelming: in study after study, gratitude has been shown to lead to stronger relationships, better sleep, lower blood pressure, fewer trips to the doctor, fewer depressive symptoms, more patience, and more perseverance, among other benefits. In one particularly intriguing study, gratitude turns out to be a powerful antidote to the 'Headwinds/Tailwinds Asymmetry,' our all-too-common tendency to focus on the obstacles in our lives (headwinds) and overlook blessings (tailwinds), an imbalance that over time leads to feeling aggrieved and resentful. In short, focusing on headwinds breeds bitterness; focusing on tailwinds breeds appreciation — and the act of thanksgiving helps call our attention to the winds at our backs."

**Continued On Page 3**

**WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE**  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. – WORSHIP SRVICE 10:15 A.M.  
**Wednesday Night Schedule**  
 Bells 6:00 P.M.  
 Sanctuary Choir 7:00 P.M.

**In This Issue**

From Pastor Jeff's Desk .....	2,3	Purple Kids.....Insert.....Pages	1,2
From Consistory President Ron.....	4,5	Shut-Ins.....	14
Positive Things Seen And Heard.....	6	Financial Summary.....	15
Daylight Saving Time Ends .....	6	Congregational Meeting.....	16
Worship Service Online.....	5	Thank You.....	16
Consistory Highlights.....	7	Replacement of Entry Mats .....	16
Save The Dates .....	7	Fall Soup/Dessert Fundraiser.....	17
Spiritual Council.....	8,9	Dinner At The Parsonage.....	18
Newsletter Deadline Changes.....	9	Cheese Balls For Sale.....	19
Deacon's Bench .....	10	Order Christmas Poinsettia .....	19
November Worship Participants.....	11	CE Board Highlights .....	20
From The SHALOM Pantry .....	11	Birthdays 80+.....	21
Prayer Chain.....	12,13	Anniversary 50+.....	21
United In Marriage.....	13	Thank You - Crossroad.....	22
Dinner At Parsonage Form.....	Insert	November Birthdays.....	23
Cheese Ball Order Form.....	Insert	Prayer Chain Contacts.....	Back Cover
Poinsettia Order Form.....	Insert	Meeting Information.....	Back Cover
Congregational Meeting.....	Insert	Newsletter Deadline.....	Back Cover
		Missions Schedule.....	Back Cover



## Theology of Thanksgiving

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

(Matthew 6:21 NRSV)

### Continued From Page 2

Gratitude is powerful — but how do we make more of it in our lives? It turns out that some of the most effective tools for increasing gratitude are also some of the simplest and most familiar. First, the basic act of not just counting our blessings but also recording them in a form we can revisit later — such as in a journal or notebook — has been shown to significantly enhance feelings of thankfulness over time.

Second, another simple action has been shown to be even more effective: writing a letter of thanks to a friend, family member, acquaintance, or even a stranger. That is right — thank you notes can change your life! Indeed, we should write the humble thank you note not merely as a way to inform others about how grateful we are, but also as a way to help strengthen how grateful we are in the first place.

A third practice isn't only effective, it is downright fun: connecting with a friend once a week for coffee, lunch, phone, online or a walk and intentionally devoting at least part of the conversation to sharing what we are thankful for these days. When it comes to gratitude, just saying it out loud to someone we like and respect is a powerful step toward noticing and experiencing the blessings in our lives.

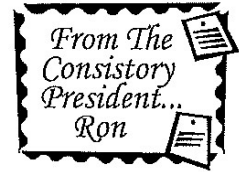
The power of these practices makes sense. One of our most precious treasures is our time-and-attention and how we spend that treasure will directly determine the health of our hearts.

Prayer is a kind of spoken gratitude journal, an intimate thank you note or thankful conversation with God. And so is worship.

In the end, we are all "pilgrims" after all. Start a gratitude journal. Try writing a simple thank you note. Connect with a friend for coffee. Recommit to a practice of prayer. Let this year's Thanksgiving be not just a day of gratitude, but a springboard into a new life of gratitude.

*Grace and peace,  
Rev. Jeff McCarn*

## To Keep You Updated



### Looking for help Financial Administrator

We are looking for a Primary Financial Administrator. Kristine has us caught up with the financials. She has put in many hours to accomplish this task and has asked us to find an individual to be the primary/lead Financial Administrator. She is willing to train and work with an individual. Once this individual is comfortable, she will become the backup and fill in when necessary. Time requirement is an average of 25 hours per month.

Eric Shank has become familiar with the Realm software package at this time. Thanks Eric.

### Scanner help

We have paper Consistory packets that date back 20-30 years, and we are looking for individuals to volunteer to scan these items. We also have papers/photos that members have dropped off that need to be scanned. It is my understanding that there are boxes in the attic that have been accumulated.

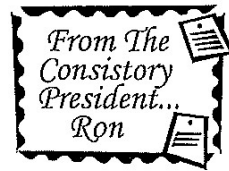
Jeri Hoellrich and Maggie Prigge have volunteered to do some of this. We are looking additional volunteers.

### Heating /Cooling Update Congratulations

We, of course, have paid Earl's Mechanical in full a while back. To accomplish that, we had cashed in a CD last October for an amount of \$11,025.54. Basically, we (Consistory) looked at this CD as a loan to the church. At this point in time, we have accumulated this amount and more. The extra monies will be put into the operating funds to pay the expenses associated with our new settled Pastor. So, ***Thanks to each and everyone of you for your support.***

Continued on Page 5

## To Keep You Updated



Continued From Page 4

### Finance

The above CD will not be reinvested. We are utilizing the \$11,025.54 and the extra monies to cover the cost associated with our new settled Pastor.

It is the time of the year that the Deacons put together a budget for the 2024 financial year. Unlike past budgets, the Deacons increased the routine maintenance amount from previous budgets. Why? We have, for the past few years, been doing roof repairs that have become "routine". So going forward, we will do routine slate roof repairs from the operating fund. Major maintenance will remain as a separate fund. When making your offering, please take this into account.

The budget was approved by Consistory and you will be seeing a high-level description of it for your review. If you desire more details behind the numbers, please ask for a more detailed description or ask a member of Consistory. We look forward to answering any and all questions at the upcoming congregational meeting.

### Changing of the Guard

With the end of 2023 fast approaching, numerous individuals will be fulfilling their service on numerous teams. **Thank you for your service.** These team positions have been filled with new nominees from our family. Please join me in thanking these individuals.

We will introduce the new nominees at the upcoming congregational meeting.

### **Special Congregational meeting November 19**

Ron Hoellrich, 2023 Consistory President



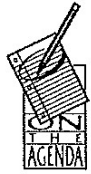
## Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Grateful for Fellowship Team's work to provide Pastor Orr's Celebration of Ordination reception and a welcome reception for Pastor Jeff and Bobbie McCarn.
- Glad to have our new settled Pastor here.
- Good to have the choir at worship again.
- Pastor McCarn doing a good job.
- Thank you to all of the individuals that plant and keep all the wonderful flowers blooming around the church. All of their love and hard work is shared with us daily.
- Thanks for the beautiful music with which we are blessed on Sundays. Appreciate everyone's talent and dedication.



Daylight Saving  
Time  
Ends  
NOVEMBER 5

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

October 9, 2023

Proposed budget and Budget as discussed then approved for recommendation at Special Congregational Meeting on November 19.

Approved motion to use leftover money from Heating and Fellowship Hall expenses to help pay for Search Team expenses.

*Respectfully submitted, Maggie Prigge*



**November 5** – Communion and Totenfest Sunday

**November 12** – Honoring Veterans during worship

**November 13** – Red Cross Blood Drive

**November 19** – Congregational Meeting following worship

**November 19** – Soup and Dessert meal following the meeting

**November 22** – Holgate Community Thanksgiving service

at St. Peter's with **Pastor McCarn** bringing the message

**December 3** – Worship/Communion

**December 3** - Siberian Solstice concert 7 p.m.

**December 17** – SS Christmas program during worship

**December 24** – Regular Sunday Worship in the morning

**December 24** – Christmas Eve service 6 p.m. – Communion and candle lighting



## Spiritual Council

### Meeting Excerpts

October 2, 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 opened with devotions by Kevin Waisner titled "Looking Ahead" based on scripture from Philippians All Elders were present. Concerns of the congregation included a member who is nearing the end of his journey on earth and another who is scheduled for surgery.

Pastor McCarn submitted his report outlining some of his past experiences and visions he has for his ministry with St. John's. Included was a detailed review of his activities of his first week with us.

Kevin Waisner is Elder of the Month for October. Mike Haldy will serve in November.

The worship schedule was reviewed. A letter drafted by Pastor McCarn inviting families of those who have gone to eternal rest during the past year to Totenfest worship on Sunday, November 5, was reviewed. Rev. McCarn will be meeting with Holgate pastors later in the week to plan the community Thanksgiving service. It was decided to have one Christmas Eve Worship at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24 with Communion. Communion will not be served at the morning service that day.

Communion will be served on Totenfest Sunday, November 5.

Pastor has met with Franell and Kevin regarding the Confirmation program and is impressed with the preparations for our Confirmands as they further their religious education to become members of the church. As would be expected, he may "tweak" a few aspects of the program.

Pastor has visited with Gene Crawford and will be in contact with Ken Rayle as well as others.

*Continued On Page 9*



**Spiritual Council**  
**Meeting Excerpts**  
October 2, 2023

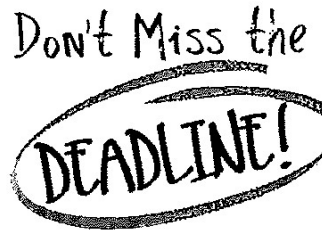
*Continued From Page 8*

In regards to new members, Pastor will invite those who have expressed an interest in becoming members to a light meal, most likely pizza, on Sunday evening, October 29, with an alternate date of November 12.

New business included an outline of Head Elder duties, the selection of an Advent devotional, a Blue Christmas worship service, and other potential programs to enhance our ministry at St. John's. More information will be forthcoming as plans are laid.

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

*Bob Rettig, Scribe*



**ATTENTION CHAIRPERSONS  
AND SCRIBES**

The newsletter deadline for articles in the November and December publications of the Sentinel is moved ahead to  
**Friday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. and**  
**Friday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.**

This is to allow time for the newsletter to be drafted, proofed, printed and ready to mail before the holidays.  
Thank you to everyone for your cooperation.



**DEACONS' BENCH**

*October 9, 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),  
Jeri Hoellrich (23), Adam Stevenson (24), Chris Coppes (25),  
Ben Thomas (25)

**Others in attendance:** Pastor McCarn, Eric Shank, and Bob Rettig  
Meeting was called to order by Head Deacon, Adam Stevenson.

Discussion of notes of previous meeting reviewed and corrected copy distributed.

**Old Business:** Checked with Pastor to see if he wanted a mower. He suggested a battery-operated mower and trimmer.

**New Business:**

Discussion of budget with recommendation to go to Consistory.

Discussion about signs on fire doors. The history of the signs was shared and Deacons felt it was okay to remove signs but make sure that all Deacons and Janitor are aware that they must be closed when area is not in use. This information will be shared with new Deacons and Elders at orientation meeting.

It was brought to our attention that the janitorial staff has been doing some extra cleaning after rental events. Deacons decided to form a committee that would look into the issue and bring back a recommendation to the Deacons. The committee is comprised of Adam Stevenson, Norma Nagel, Pastor Jeff, and Jeri Hoellrich.

Discussion took place concerning handing out bulletins. The Deacons decided to continue with the same process that we have been using.

Staff review summary was tabled.

A team was formed to look into creating a Financial Administrator job description for external and internal advertising purposes. The team consists of Pastor Jeff, Bob Rettig, Eric Shank, Adam Stevenson, and Ron Hoellrich.

An update from Finance Team was shared concerning Heating and Cooling project and moving expenses for Pastor McCarn.

**Deacon Schedule for November:** See Page 11.

**Next Deacon's meeting** scheduled for November 13, 2023, at 6:15 p.m.

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
Nov. 5	Natalie Borck Eric Rettig	Chris Coppes Carol Medina
Nov. 12	Joe Coppes	Jared Clady Kevin Vajen
Nov. 19	Tori Kobilis	Pat Kirk Adam Stevenson
Nov. 26	Neveah Evers	Ron Hoellrich Jeri Hoellrich



FROM  
THE SHALOM  
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

### INCOME

St. John's UCC May - August Giving	\$2,635.00
2022 Farm Crop Distribution - Initial	1,307.34
Pleasant Bend UMC	60.00
Hamler Summerfest	687.00
Transferred from Savings (closed account)	<u>170.30</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,859.64</b>

*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

**Kinley Brown** recovering at home after hospitalization  
**Gary Jones** recovering from shoulder surgery  
**Shelbly Shisler** (Chris Coppes' aunt) end stage liver failure  
**Steve Healy** on chemo for lung cancer  
**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  
**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**





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.

*Sympathy to:*

**Becky and Eldon Sickmiller** on the unexpected passing of Becky's brother Elmer "Jake" Bishop who died on Wednesday, September 27

**Taryn and Ben Thomas** on the passing of Calum Johnson, newborn grandson of Taryn's sister Becki, on October 10



*Cheryl Woodring  
and  
Jay Colon  
United In Marriage  
September 23, 2023*



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

**NURSING HOMES**

**GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES**, 1036 S. Perry Street, Napoleon, OH 43545

*Sue Mohr - #126*

*Gerri Ripke - #221*

**SKLD**, 28546 Starbright Blvd., Perrysburg, OH 43551

*Betty Yaichner*

**Don Huber** - Cards or notes may be sent care of his daughter Dawn Boozer, PO Box 420, Jarales, NM 87023-0420

**ASSISTED LIVING**

**GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES**, 1032 S. Perry Street, Napoleon, OH 43545

□ *Gib Sonnenberg - #413*

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

*Ken Rayle*

**KINGSBURY PLACE**, 245 West Rosewood Ave., Defiance, OH 43512

*Rose Marie Durham - Apt. 142*

**VANCREST NURSING HOME**, 600 Joe E. Brown, Holgate, OH 43527

*Marlene Rettig - #13*

**Janell Honeck** - 4828 LJ Pkwy, Apt. 328, Sugar Land TX 77479

**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

Jim and Sue Waisner 1542 St. Rt. 108

Holgate, Ohio 43527

Bernard Zimmer 1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37

Napoleon, Ohio 43545

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary  
 Fund: GENERAL FUND  
 January to August 2023

Accounts	AUGUST 2023 ACTUAL	2023 ACTUAL YTD	2023 ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>OPERATING BUDGET INCOME</b>			
Total OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$13,555.25	\$132,775.91	\$244,845.63
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Total BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$902.70	\$26,562.35	\$45,080.00
Total MINISTRIES	\$590.07	\$3,824.45	\$6,950.00
Total MISSIONS	\$2,150.00	\$4,837.50	\$7,016.00
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$5,942.90	\$46,108.82	\$75,939.73
Total PASTORIAL	\$1,771.57	\$59,220.96	\$109,859.90
Total EXPENSES	\$11,357.24	\$140,554.08	\$244,845.63
Net Total	\$2,198.01	(\$7,778.17)	
Operating Checking Balance as of August 31, 2023			\$ 17,644.53

## Congregational Meeting

November 19, 2023

Following worship



**Happening  
November 19**

### Agenda

- Election of members of our Consistory
- Election of others who are filling offices
- Discussion and approval of the budget as recommended by the Consistory

**This is a very Important Meeting!!!**

## Thank You

Thank you very much for all the support, love and prayers over the last 18 months. They are greatly appreciated and keep us connected. Thanks to Pastor Voll and Pastor McCarn's visits which were very much welcomed.

*God's love to all  
Gene and Phyllis Crawford*

## REPLACEMENT OF ENTRY MATS

The Consistory has decided the Proceeds from the Fall Soup/Dessert Luncheon to go towards the replacement of the entry mats.

The intent is to remove the old mats, fill in the area with plywood to make the floor level, and buy a mat that will cover the entire area to include covering the asbestos tile.

*Ron Hoellrich*

# Fall Soup/Dessert Fundraiser

November 19, 2023

After Worship and  
Congregational Meeting

Come and Enjoy

30 Soups And 30 Desserts

Freewill Donation

Proceeds To

The Replacing Entry Mats Fund



**LOOKING  
FOR.....**

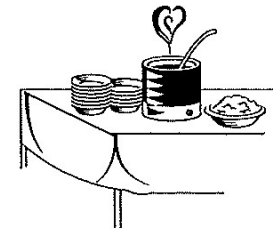
**Soups And Desserts**

### Calling All St. John's Cooks

The Clady Family is once again coordinating the Fall Soup and Dessert Luncheon. It cannot be a successful event without your help. They will need donations of soups and desserts on Sunday, November 19.

There is a sign-up sheet located in the gathering area. Your participation (by donating soups and desserts, and by attending the event) will help pay for the replacement of entry mats fund.

## Dinner At The Parsonage



Rev. Jeff and I are truly interested in getting to know the Holgate community and surrounding area! As a means to facilitate this happening, we are inviting you to Dinner at the Parsonage. Dinner at the Parsonage is informal. Think of it as a family dinner...come casual, come hungry, come ready to talk!

Dinner at the Parsonage is open to all - members of the church, family members or people from the community. All ages are welcome! The dinner group is formed by whomever would like to have dinner at the parsonage! Please gather a group of 8 to 10 people for your dinner party.

After gathering your group of 8-10, complete the "Dinner at the Parsonage" form (available in the newsletter or church office). I am asking for a contact person or group organizer. As I plan the dinners, I have 1 contact person for each group whom I can call to make plans. The organizer or contact person will be responsible in notifying their dinner group (think of the organizer working as a phone tree). I also ask for a little information to better prepare a meal that can be enjoyed by the entire dinner group. I will prepare 2-4 side dishes to go with the entree your group selects. I will cook the dinner. All you have to do is attend and enjoy!

My phone number is at the bottom of the form. If you have questions or requests, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you for your support!  
Bobbie McCarn  
336-596-5935 or Parsonage 419-264-5201



## CHEESE BALLS FOR SALE!

The Confirmation II Class is making and selling "cheese balls for the Christmas Season. Proceeds toward replenishing the Confirmation Camp Fund.

*Buy a couple for your holiday gatherings*

### Chipped Beef - Cheddar Bacon Ranch Oreo

**8 oz cheese ball - \$8.00**

Orders will be taken through November  
Available Sunday, December 3



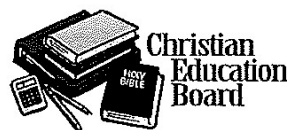
*See the order form insert in  
in this Newsletter or any Confirmation Student*

Order your Christmas  
Poinsettia



See the insert  
for ordering information

Deadline for Orders  
December 3, 2023



## News and Notes

Submitted By Lucy Coppes  
September 24, 2023

Present: Katie Borck (23), Elleigh Franz (25), Lucy Coppes (24),  
Lisa Holdy (25), and LaTasha Solis via telephone( 23)

Katie opened the meeting:

- **Consistory:** Nominating Team is looking for people to serve on Christian Ed as we have three terms expiring this year. Basketball Court remediation discussions are still ongoing. Have relayed to Consistory no changes in CE Budget for 2024.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmation has begun and following the meeting schedule as presented by Franell last meeting. Will be meeting with Pastor McCarn to see how he would like to participate with Confirmation.
- **Sunday School:** Sunday School is going well, most teacher spots are filled. Discussed holding Trunk and Treat this year as typically it is held every other year. Due to time constraints and the arrival of Pastor McCarn, opted to have a Harvest Party for Sunday School on October 29 with snacks and games.
- **Youth Ministry:** Christmas Play has been selected and practice began on October 1.
- **Birthdays:** Nothing new to report, cards continue to be sent to all active children at the beginning of the month.
- **Cradle Roll** - Nothing new to report.
- **Next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2023,** after worship.



*"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members*

**Delores Willamson**

will celebrate her  
87th Birthday  
on November 5

565 Rohm Dr  
Napoleon, OH 43545

**Gib Sonnenberg**

will celebrate his  
96th Birthday  
on November 18

1032 S Perry St  
Napoleon, OH 43545

**Bernard Zimmer**

will celebrate his  
96th Birthday  
on November 25

1040 S Perry St Apt. 37  
Napoleon, OH 43545



**Bob and Betty Rettig**

will celebrate their  
52nd Wedding Anniversary  
on November 20

12103 Co. Rd. L  
Napoleon, OH 43545-6565



1825 Beacon Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805-4750  
www.crossroad-fwch.org  
phone 260.484.4153 or 800.976.2306  
fax 260.484.2337 or 888.814.4521

September 14, 2023

St. John's United Church of Christ  
1946 State Route 108  
Holgate, OH 43527-9712

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,

Thank you for your gift of \$5,229.36 to Crossroad Child & Family Services. Your support allows our children to find hope through personalized treatment and engaging educational experiences, in a loving environment. Every single moment you spend cheering our children on, lifting them up, volunteering your time, or choosing to donate plays a vital role in our mission to provide promising futures for the children and families we serve.

This year, as we celebrate our 140th Anniversary, we honor the deeply impactful relationship we have with you, our donor community. Crossroad has a legacy of being a haven of love, understanding, and hope. You have a special place in ensuring this continues and providing access to vital services our children need and deserve.

Thank you for believing in our children. Quite simply, we couldn't do it without you!

With Gratitude,

*Liz Bergren*  
Liz Bergren  
Chief Development Officer  
ebergren@crossroadcares.org  
260.484.4153 x2090

*Thank you so much for a beautiful visit and such steadfast generosity! We appreciate you! Liz*

Visit us at [www.crossroadcares.org](http://www.crossroadcares.org) and follow along on social media to stay connected and learn more about how your support directly impacts the children and families we serve.

Retain this gift receipt portion for your records.

Crossroad Child & Family Services  
1825 Beacon St., Fort Wayne, IN 46805 • 260-484-4153 • EIN # 35-0869050

St. John's United Church of Christ • 1946 State Route 108 • Holgate • OH • 43527-9712

Date	Amount	Fund
9/14/2023	\$5,229.36	Unrestricted

No Goods Or Services Were Provided In Return For This Gift



# NOVEMBER

11 - 3	Shane Eberle	11 - 17	Robert Eberle
11 - 3	Caryn Lulfs	11 - 18	Gilbert Sonnenberg
11 - 5	Delores Williamson	11 - 18	Kathy Finkenbiner
11 - 6	Shanna Sidle	11 - 21	Jeff Stevenson
11 - 7	Emilio Medina	11 - 22	Nick Davis
11 - 9	Ron Hoellrich	11 - 22	Brooke Eberly
11 - 10	Krista Lawson	11 - 22	Nathan Meller
11 - 11	Lori Clady	11 - 25	Bernard Zimmer
11 - 12	Brian Tilse	11 - 25	Jillian (Clady) Rue
11 - 13	Gabriel Roberts	11 - 27	Amy Franz
11 - 14	Benjamin Thomas	11 - 28	Sydney Lawson
11 - 14	Leslie Dietrich	11 - 30	Owen Fry

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 **DECEMBER** Newsletter is ---- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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**



*November Mission*

**UNITED CHURCH HOMES**

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](http://www.nwoa.org), [www.heartlanducc.org](http://www.heartlanducc.org) and [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).