

St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108
 Holgate, Ohio 43527
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Dec. 1 - Siberian Solstice concert 7 pm
Dec. 19 – “Blue Christmas” service – see page 17
Dec. 22– Sunday School Christmas program during worship
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve service 7 pm – Communion and candlelighting

From Pastor Jeff – pages 2-3
 Consistory President Eric Shank – page 4
 Worship Participants – page 9
 Financial Summary – page 13
 Save the Dates – page 15
 Blue Christmas – page 17
 Birthdays – pages 20 and 22



St. John's UCC							Dec 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Communion 2pm - Siberian Solstice Setup 5:45pm - Siberian Solstice 7pm - Siberian Solstice Concert	2 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	3 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	4 12:30pm - Pastor McCarril/Area 6pm - Charitable Gift Giving 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	5 Decorating Team 6pm - Charitable Gift Giving 6pm - Finance Team 6pm - Pastoral Relations Council	6	7	8 FH reserved for Shalom Christmas	9	10	11 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	12 Deadline Memorial Gifts	13 12pm - Newsletter articles due	14 12pm - newsletter proof copies
15 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship 6pm - newsletter proof copies	16	17 SHALOM Delivery in am 9am - Newsletter printing 1pm - Newsletter mailing 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	18 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	19 7pm - Blue Christmas	20	21	22 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Kids'	23	24 Christmas Eve 7pm - Worship w/ Communion	25 Office Closed 10am - FH reserved	26 Office Closed	27	28
29 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship	30	31	1	2	3	4							

The Sentinel

St. John's United Church of Christ
I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
DECEMBER 2024

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
Pastor: Jeff McCam - Cell Phone 812-202-9273
Personage Phone: 419-264-5201
Personage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
Church e-mail: holgateucc@metalink.net (Peggy Schulte)
Pastor e-mail: jeffmccam@gmail.com
Financial Administrator e-mail: stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net (Carl Detmer)
Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
Church Website: www.stjohnsueholgate.com
SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

Peggy Schulte, Admin. Asst.
Fax: (419) 264-1460

WORSHIP 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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CHALLENGE
SLOW DOWN.
BE STILL.



CHALLENGE
SLOW DOWN.
BE STILL.

Continued From Page 2

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help
in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...*

Psalm 46:1-2

I have a challenge. Slow down. Be still. I know many of us are thinking, "Are you crazy?"

We have just gone through our Thanksgiving traditions. Many of us got up early to prepare the turkey and all the other food we ate. Some of us watched the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. Some watched football. All of us ate more than was humanly possible.

Thanksgiving is an appropriate time to be thankful for the blessings God has bestowed upon us. We have been blessed beyond what we deserve. Thanksgiving is a time to slow down and enjoy our family and what God has given us. When we slow down from our daily hectic routine, we can find many blessings. Just pause and take a deep breath.

Following Thanksgiving, Christians begin Advent — a time for preparation and hope for the birth of Jesus bringing light into the darkness. There is no better time than the Advent season to center our thoughts around hope. Again, we can find hope and see the blessings of light coming into our lives if we just slow down and feel the Spirit of God surrounding us.

The Spirit is like water, and we cannot live without water. How do we find the Spirit? We find the Spirit in the stillness of our lives. In 1 Kings Chapter 19, God did not come in the wind, the earthquake, nor the fire. God comes in the stillness, the calm, the silence. We can find God speaking in our stillness — offering us refuge, strength and hope.

I know that the Advent and Christmas seasons are a very busy time for people with parties to attend, gifts to buy and wrap, decorations to be put on display. However, we can still be thankful. Find hope and know that God is still our refuge and strength. I encourage each of us to find our sacred space. Stop, be still and listen for God to say, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Blessings,
Rev. Jeff McCam

Continued On Page 3

GIFTS



Different things come to mind when we see this word in association with our Church Family. All are absolutely correct. Some of us may have more money to share. With others it may be time or talent. I won't list any names in this article, but hopefully some names and faces will come to mind as you are reading it.

Many of our group have musical talents that are shared on a regular basis. I was the only one of six kids not to take music in school. Lack of talent or lazy, take your pick. Even though we have musicians that share every Sunday, don't think that you wouldn't be welcomed if you have the urge to share.

Others may have the ability to lead or organize. Always welcomed. Please consider saying "yes" the next time you have an opportunity to help. No one is asked to do more than they are able.

What caused me to write this article was some recent experience with the "skilled trades". We have a group of folks here that have the skill and ability to work on things that will always need fixing on our property and building. In the process they are effectively contributing additional money. (the money we save by not hiring a contractor.) They take a lot of time and energy to investigate various issues and then form a plan to fix them. One thing that I have learned in my life is that if someone has the ability and desire to do a job, GET OUT OF THEIR WAY!

We all have different things to give. The important thing is that we share them freely. Thank you all for sharing your gifts.

Eric

God has given us two hands - one to receive and the other to give. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.
- Billy Graham



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Tori Kobilis placed First in the Dept. of Ohio American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Poster contest and her poster will compete on the National level in August.
- Good turnout for Visioning Sessions
- Great Weather for Harvest/safe Harvest
- Blessed with a new Administrative Assistant, who is learning the job quickly and very well. A joy to work with!
- Thank you to Kevin Vajen for his work on the entry mats. They look great!
- The coffee bar and new table look great!
- Good turnout for Trunk or Treat!
- We are blessed with the talented and skilled people of our church who share those talents and skills with the church to keep in running smoothly!
- A previous member of the church has been worshipping with us recently and really enjoyed Pastor McCarn's message

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 NOVEMBER 11, 2024

- Preparing for the Congregational meeting on November 17
- Unfortunately, due to work scheduling conflicts, Chris Coppes will not be able to step up as Consistory President. A new President and Vice President will need to be elected in December.
- New Consistory members are invited to the December meeting.
- Entry Mats are finally in place!
- Siberian Solstice reception preparations are underway!
- Fundraisers being planned for 2025 include a silent movie event and a Community "Breakfast for supper" meal.
- As requested, Jeri Hoellrich was given permission to prepare a raffle basket in the name of St. John's UCC for a fundraiser at Tinora.
- Pipes in the kitchen have been repaired.
- Kevin Vajen brought landscaping to the attention of Consistory. He was authorized to work on a process for congregational members to sign up to care for each small portion of the landscaping each year.
- Kevin also had some concerns about the condition of the sign at the south entrance. It needs some brick and mortar work and he will look into getting it repaired.
- Community Thanksgiving Service is November 24 with the offering going to the UCC Disaster Relief fund.



Spiritual Council Meeting Excerpts NOVEMBER 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 Eric Shank (24)
Mike Haldy (25) Bob Rettig (25)
*Kay Armbruster (26) Rolie Rettig (26)
- Pastor's report was reviewed with no questions or comments.
 - St. John's will host the Community Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m. Consistory will assist with refreshments after the service. A Blue Christmas Service will be provided on Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m.
 - Communion will be offered on Sunday, December 1, and on Christmas Eve. Eight Elders will serve Communion with exception of the summer months.
 - No leadership has come forth for the Confirmation program. Finding a leader(s) will become a priority after January 1.
 - Pastor commented on his visitations of members, noting the difficulties a few are experiencing.
 - A list of those members who have not fulfilled at least one of the requirements for active membership (attend, commune, and/or financial support) for several years was reviewed regarding their membership status. A letter will be sent to those from whom we have no evidence of support prior to 2020. If no positive response is returned, they will be moved to inactive status.
 - Seven members attending college or serving in the military will be sent a Christmas card and \$25 gift certificate.
 - The visioning summit in October was determined to be a success. Pastor will bring more details to Consistory and the upcoming Congregational meeting on November 17.
 - With the upcoming retirement of the Administrative Assistant, it was the consensus that she continue to serve as a resource person to the Spiritual Council and Consistory as well as support the new Administrative Assistant as needed. As others take on more responsibility, the need for her assistance should decrease.
 - The meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m. by Pastor leading in prayer.
 - The December meeting will be on Monday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Bob Rettig, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH

November 11, 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), Adam Stevenson (24), Kevin Vajen (24),
Ben Thomas (25), Jared Clady (25), Janice Rettig (26),
Linda Arreguin (26), Mark Vajen (26)

Others in attendance: Pastor Jeff McCarn

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by head Deacon Carol Medina.

Minutes of previous October 14 meeting were approved.

Old Business

The new entry mats were received and have been put in place! They look great and really catch attention of folks entering the building.

The South wall kitchen sink pipes have been repaired. They were rusted through and completely gone.

New Business

It has been noticed there are some landscaping areas around the church that are being neglected. There was a plan brought forth covering 10 areas of the church, to rejuvenate and bring back to life those areas. Will be taken to Consistory.

The welcome sign at the south door is in need of some repair, as the mortar holding the bricks and blocks together is falling out. It will need to be repaired. Will be taken to Consistory.

Motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
DEC. 1	Deacons	Adam Stevenson Ben Thomas
DEC. 8	Deacons	Jared Clady Mark Vajen
DEC. 15	Deacons	Chris Coppes Janice Rettig
DEC. 22 DEC. 24	Deacons	Linda Arreguin Carol Medina
DEC. 29	Deacons	Jared Clady Adam Stevenson



FROM THE SHALOM FOOD

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - OCTOBER 2024

INCOME

St. John's UCC September Giving	\$ 775.00
Hamler Summerfest Worship Service	680.00
Chief Receipts	538.84
Individual Donation	100.00

Total \$ 2,093.84

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

- Greg Nelson recovering after hospitalization
- Sonya Eitzman health issues
- *Denny Fry (nephew of Bill and Florence Snyder) cancer returned
- Terry (Linda) Rettig recovering after eye procedure
- George Medina recovering after hospitalization
- Norma Nagel preparing for surgery on November 21
- Donna Abshire preparing for surgery on November 25
- *Ann Pyle (friend of Mary Kay Altman) heart issues
- *Vickie DeLeon needs prayers
- *Russel Dockery cardiac issues
- *Mary Brubaker cancer has spread
- * Sunny and Robert VanHoy heart issues
- * Brenda Clevenger liver issues
- Jay Slagle hospitalized in Toledo
- *Paula Greenler Shrader (former Member) in Lima Memorial ICU with heart issues
- *Josh Barry again dealing with health issues

(*Non-member family and friends)

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 in areas of conflict throughout the world

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:

Natalie Borck on the death of her great-grandmother Sharon Leverton. The funeral was October 25.

Family of former member - Michael A. Rettig, (son of Lee and Violet Rettig) who died on October 24.

Family of Betty Yaichner who died on October 31 and was buried in our cemetery on November 4. She leaves behind a son James, and a daughter Karen (Deb) Yaichner.

Family of Keith Eberle who passed away on November 4. He leaves a niece and nephews in our Faith Family including Lynn Gilliland, Tim and John Eberle, Tom (Deb) Eberle, Robert Eberle and Nancy Thomas.

New Phone Listing

We try to print a new phone listing every few months to keep up with address and phone number changes. If you have dropped your landline phone, please let us know. Pastor Jeff and others rely on the printed information when trying to contact folks. Also, letting the office know when people move helps avoid postage due fees which can be nearly \$1 for each piece of mail that is returned or each notice of a change of address. That may not seem like much but it adds up over the course of a year. Thank you in advance for helping us to keep our records as accurate as possible.



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 Geri Ripke - #221

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

TRUSTWELL LIVING AT KINGSBURY PLACE,
245 West Rosewood Ave., Defiance, OH 43512
Rose Marie Durham - Apt. 142

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

Janell Honeck - 6919 Mountain Creek Lane,
Missouri City, TX 77459-5786

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

- Peggy Franz 15396 St. Rt. 281 Holgate, Ohio
43527
- John & Shirley Tobias 10011 Co Rd Y Hamler, Ohio
43524
- Sue Waisner 1542 St Rt 108 Holgate, Ohio

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
OCTOBER 2024
CORRECTED COPY**

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Revenues and Expenses
Operating Fund**

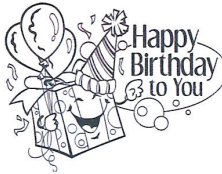
	2024 Actual	2024 Year To Date	2024 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete	Actual YTD
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$11,894	\$153,771	\$226,450		68%
EXPENSES					
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$4,639	\$29,780	\$48,172		62%
MINISTRIES	\$917	\$5,462	\$9,700	83%	56%
MISSIONS	\$538	\$4,838	\$6,450		75%
ADMINISTRATION	\$5,734	\$61,271	\$75,334		81%
PASTORAL	\$7,037	\$67,030	\$84,409		79%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,865	\$168,919	\$224,064		75%
NET OPERATING TOTAL	-\$6,971	-\$15,148			

Mission and Restricted Fund Giving of Note for October:

- Heifer Fund (Including Kids' contributions): \$135 YTD: \$1,485
- Monthly Mission - Neighbors in Need: \$795
- Shalom Food Pantry: \$615
- Major Maintenance: \$1,077
- N.C. Hurricane Relief: \$1,815
- Youth Fund: \$320



Kid's Corner



December

- 12 - 4 Adalynn Borck
- 12 - 7 Cassidy Houchins
- 12 - 21 Emmeline Haver
- 12 - 23 Bradlee Roberts
- 12 - 24 Ashton Vajen
- 12 - 26 Lexington Eberly
- 12 - 28 Joseph Coppes

*Open House for Betty Rettig,
Our Retiring Administrative Assistant
Saturday, January 11, 2025
5-8 p.m.
At St. John's United Church of Christ
to honor and celebrate Betty
Please hold the date and plan to join us!*

AED TRAINING

You are invited to be part of the group receiving training on the use of the AED.

Scott Buddlemeyer from the South Joint Ambulance District and his crew will offer AED training at 7 p.m. on December 16. Anyone who is interested is invited and encouraged to attend.

Please let the office know if you will be attending.



QR CODE

A reminder to all that you can use the QR Code for you giving to St. John's. If you have any questions contact Carl Dettmer.

New Administrative Assistant



Hello,

I am the new Administrative Assistant (replacing Betty) in the Church office and I would like to give you a little background information on myself and my family. I am Peggy (Wilcox) Schulte, and I grew up in Defiance. My husband, Daniel Schulte, grew up in Kalida, but was working in Defiance when we met on a blind date, being introduced by friends. I used to work with Betty (Bob) Rettig at the Defiance Hospital in the 90s, so we did recognize each other from the beginning.

Our family lives in New Bavaria and we have 4 children. Our first son, Brandon, is deceased. We also have 2 daughters, and another son. Their names are Lillian, Shannon, and Collin. All of the kids have graduated and are working, or starting to work in the area. We have 2 cats, and a dog.

Our family is Catholic, and my husband and I just celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary in May, and the picture listed on the directory is from the "Celebration Mass" for anniversary couples at the Rosary Cathedral Parish in Toledo, Ohio.

Thanks to the parishioners who have introduced themselves in the office, and I look forward to meeting other members of the congregation in the months and in the next year to come.

Thank you. Peggy Schulte



Mission and Stewardship



THE CHRISTMAS FUND MISSION FOR DECEMBER

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided assistance to United Church of Christ ministers, church workers, and their families. Last year, over 1,800 congregations joined together to secure the physical, financial, and spiritual health of those engaged in the Life of the Church. Thank you to our community for your continued support.

St. John's Mission Team has designated the month of December for The Christmas Fund. This year's Christmas Fund theme is "The Glory of God shone around them..." Luke 2:9

The Rev. Charles Busch, (the founder of the Peace Village program that teaches nonviolence to children,) found his call to the ministry in rural parish work. Busch retired after a long career in small-church ministry in order to spend more time with his family, who had challenging health and disability needs. He found retirement to be financially difficult, but is managing today thanks to annual "Christmas thank you" gift checks.

Receiving The Christmas Fund this year ensures that more ministers, church workers and their families receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need.



Thank you to everyone for the cards and greetings as we celebrated our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on November 16. We are blessed to be a part of this caring faith community.

Jim and Christine Rettig

Save The Dates

December 1 – First Sunday of Advent Worship with Communion

December 1 - Siberian Solstice concert 7 p.m.

December 19 – "Blue Christmas" service (See Page17)

December 22– Sunday School Christmas program during worship

December 24 – Christmas Eve service 7 p.m. – Communion and candle lighting

Monetary Gift At Christmas

The Faith Family is invited to express their appreciation to the paid staff with a monetary gift at Christmas. Money will be collected through December 15. There are 11 staff who will share in the offering this year: Musicians Sheri Plotts, Sue Abshire and Lynne Long, Choir Director Greg Nelson, Custodian John Hahn, Media Coordinator Linda Rettig, Newsletter Editor Ruth Ann Durham, Financial Administrator Carl Dettmer, Administrative Assistants Peggy Schulte and Betty (Bob) Rettig, and Pastor Jeff McCarn. Gifts can be put in the decorated box or can be included in the offering envelope, marking the amount to be designated to "Staff Christmas."

Office Manger To Retire

Joan Davidson, long-time office manager for the NW Ohio Association in Tiffin, is retiring at the end of the year. There will be a farewell reception on December 8 from 2-4 p.m. at the Association Office. We have also been invited to be part of a card shower for Joan. Please consider remembering Joan and thanking her for nearly 30 years of dedication to our Association. Cards may be sent to Joan at the office, 416 Wentz Street, Tiffin, OH 44883.



VanCrest of Holgate Worship Service

No Service In December

CHIEF RECEIPTS

I recently submitted Chief cash register receipts in the amount of \$53,883.79. For that amount we received a check in the amount of \$538.84 to be donated to the Shalom Food Pantry.

Such a simple thing for a person to do is saving cash register receipts and dropping them off in the basket at church.

To let you know how much we brought in this 2024 calendar year, we totaled \$1,184.92. When I took over this job from Marlene Rettig, we were receiving ½ percent back. Chief has since upped that percentage to a full 1%, so our reward has doubled. We appreciate Chief for allowing us to do this as a fundraiser. Keep those receipts coming in!

Carol Luifs, Tabulator

Blue Christmas Worship Service - December 19, 2024

Sometimes the holiday season magnifies grief - grief of loss, grief of change, grief of unresolved relationships. The holiday season isn't merry and bright for everyone. For some, it can be a season of stress, sadness and loneliness. Advent, Christmas and the New Year create opportunities to minister to people's spiritual, emotional and mental well-being. While we are decorating this sacred space during this holiday season, may we all be mindful of the pain in our congregation and community. We will be making space in our spiritual practices for those who may be grieving. I invite all to attend the Blue Christmas worship service on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary to be a comfort to all.

Rev. Jeff McCarn



**EVANGELISM TEAM
ARTICLE TWO**

Last month we introduced you to an article written by Rob Moss, and published on the website www.livinglutheran.org on June 22, 2016. The author of the article shared some suggestions that we want to share with our faith family. (Edited for space constraints)

Each congregation has a purpose within God's mission. Only when we are centered in this purpose can we become an inviting church. What does this look like in action? Something like this...

While waiting for your kids to get out of school, you talk with a friend about the struggles of parenting and invite their family to your congregation's upcoming family picnic.

When in the lunchroom chatting about the pressures of work, you invite a co-worker to your Bible study.

Being an inviting congregation involves sharing God's specific gifts—made real in your congregation—with people outside the walls of the church building. Perhaps you already do this, or perhaps you need this push to step outside your comfort zone.

It can be [intimidating] to step outside comfort zones and establish a pattern of inviting friends to attend worship. What if he laughs at me or thinks less of me? What if she labels me as narrow-minded, judgmental, hypocritical Bible-thumper? Or what if they actually come? Then what? Being invitational seems too big? How about breaking it down into bite-sized pieces?

Next month, we will share a few exercises that Rob Moss' congregation has tried in order to make inviting less frightening.

The Evangelism Team members: Christine Rettig, Kay Armbruster, Jim Rettig, Lori Clady, Morgan Luffs, Joe Long



News and Notes

Submitted By Lucy Coppes
November 10, 2024

Present: Pastor McCarn, Lucy Coppes (24 Elliegh Franz (25), Alexa Brown (26), Eric Shank, Consistory Liaison, Nancy Thomas (26) via telephone.

Lucy opened the meeting and led Devotions.

- **Consistory Updates:** Asked about the status of the basketball court, Eric stated that we would follow up on this project at the next Consistory meeting. The two new members of the CE Board will be Lynnette Goldsmith and Deb Stevenson. Will invite new members to December meeting so that they can become acquainted with duties and responsibilities. *Reminder that positions of President, Vice President and Scribe will need to be filled for 2025.
- **Sunday School:** Realignment of Sunday School to ease the burden of finding volunteers for teaching tabled until new members can be included in conversation. Winter curriculum has been ordered.
- **Youth Ministry and post-Confirmation group:** Nothing new to report. Things are going well.
- **Trunk or Treat:** Low attendance for Truck or Treat due to competing community activities, however, everyone who did attend had fun. Discussion on making this an annual event, maybe holding games and activities in Fellowship Hall or having "trunks" set up indoors in case of rain.
- **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.
- **Christmas Gifts for Children and Teachers:** Pre – K and Kindergarten teachers are already creating gifts for their children, Alexa and Lucy will see what gift ideas we can find at local stores for 1 – 6, will check with Diana with youth group to see if gifts are needed for older children. CE will continue to provide for teacher gifts.
- **Next meeting:** Board decided that meetings will be held on the second Sunday of the month for consistency. Next meeting December 8, 2024.



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

William Snyder
will celebrate his
89th Birthday
on December 2

14224 Co. Rd. L2
Napoleon, OH 43545



Roland and Janice Rettig
will celebrate their
64th Wedding Anniversary
on December 23

1162 Chelsea Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545



CHAIRPERSONS AND SCRIBES

The newsletter deadline for articles in the January Newsletter publication of the Sentinel is moved ahead to

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT NOON

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.



In Loving Memory
Betty M. Yaichner
August 2, 1935 - October 31, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Elizabeth M. Yaichner, affectionately known as Betty, who left this world on October 31, 2024, at the Perrysburg Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center surrounded by her loving family. Born on August 2, 1935, in Hamler, Ohio, Betty lived a life filled with warmth, compassion, and a profound dedication to her family and community.

Betty's early education took her through the halls of Hamler High School, where she cultivated lifelong friendships and cherished memories. Her desire to help others led her to Owens Community College, where she became a Licensed Practical Nurse. For many years, she served diligently at the Henry County Hospital, touching the lives of countless patients with her gentle demeanor and unwavering commitment to care. It was here that her radiant smile and kind spirit became a source of comfort to those around her.

In her personal life, Betty was a devoted family woman. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Nelson, who was her partner in life and love. Together, they built a family that would continue to treasure their memories. She is survived by her cherished son, James Yaichner of Napoleon, and daughter, Karen (Deb) Yaichner of Napoleon. The legacy of her kindness and nurturing spirit continues through her five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, who will forever hold her memory close to their hearts.

Betty's personality was as vibrant as the smiles she shared. That same smile was evident within the walls of her church, as she was a faithful member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate. She had a unique ability to light up a room and was often seen with a smile on her face, radiating joy and kindness wherever she went. In her leisure, she found happiness in the sport of bowling, a pastime that offered her both joy and camaraderie with friends and family.

Betty's life was further enriched by the presence of her loving parents, Adolf and Clara (Garbers) Brandt, who instilled in her the values of compassion and community. She was also preceded in death by her dear great-grandson, Anders, and brothers Norbert, Rinehart, Richard, and Rudy Brandt, who together forged memories that will last in the hearts of their surviving family.

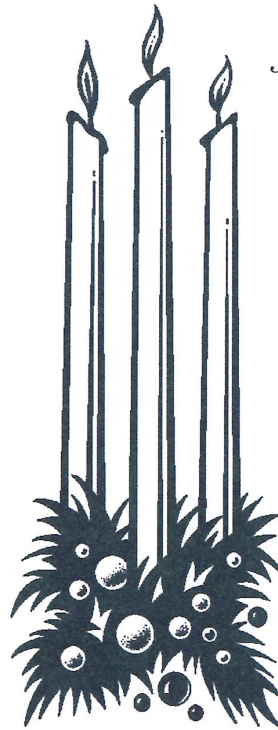
Her family invites you to gather and celebrate her remarkable life. A visitation was held at the Zachrich Family Funeral Home in Holgate, Ohio, on November 3, 2024, from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Following this, we honored her legacy with visitation from 10-11:00 A.M. and a Celebration of Betty's Life at St. John's United Church of Christ in Holgate on November 4, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Betty will be dearly missed but will forever remain in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her love, laughter, and unwavering spirit will continue to shine brightly through her family and friends.



DECEMBER

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 12 - 1 | Rob Lawson | 12 - 22 | Sheri Plotts |
| 12 - 1 | Jack Clady | 12 - 22 | Keith Winnie |
| 12 - 2 | Carol Medina | 12 - 22 | Kristi Pontious |
| 12 - 2 | Marsha Lambert | 12 - 23 | Kennedy Hall |
| 12 - 2 | Bill Snyder | 12 - 24 | Alexa Brown |
| 12 - 6 | Jim Rettig | 12 - 24 | Kelsey Rettig |
| 12 - 8 | Rachel Thomas | 12 - 26 | Judy English |
| 12 - 12 | Brian Fry | 12 - 26 | Abigail Stevenson |
| 12 - 13 | Garrett Sidle | 12 - 26 | Lisa Haldy |
| 12 - 17 | Pastor Jeff McCarn | | |
| 12 - 19 | John Hahn | | |
| 12 - 19 | Terry Crawford | | |
| 12 - 19 | Emma Rees | | |



*Merry Christmas
From The Staff
At St. John's*

- Pastor Jeff McCarn
- Peggy Schulte
- Betty (Bob) Rettig
- John Hahn
- Carl Dettmer
- Ruth Ann Durham
- Linda Rettig
- Greg Nelson
- Sheri Plotts
- Sue Abshire
- Lynne Long

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 **JANUARY** Newsletter is—**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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



**DECEMBER MISSIONS
 THE CHRISTMAS FUND
 (Veterans Of The Cross)**

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.

