

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

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**JOIN OUR FAITH FAMILY IN CELEBRATING THE CONFIRMATION OF
NICK EVERS, ZOE LULFS, AND ETHAN SANEHOLTZ**

10:15 a.m. May 14, 2023

**From Pastor Dave's Desk – pages 2-3
Presentation Sunday – page 7
Worship Participants – page 13
Summer Worship Schedule – Page 17
Photo Directory – page 20
Cemetery Association News – pages 22 and 23
Rummage Sale – page 26
Birthdays – pages 30 and 31**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30pm - Spiritual Council	SHALOM Delivery In am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	9am - Sit & Fit 6:30pm - Sanctuary choir	6pm - Finance Team	Cinco de Mayo	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am - Confirmation I 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30am - Confirmation I	12:30pm - Red Cross Blood Drive 6:15pm - Deacons 7pm - Consistory		9am - Sit & Fit 6:30pm - Sanctuary choir			6pm - Conf. Practice 6:30pm - Conf. Banquet
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship w 12pm - FH reserved		SHALOM Delivery In am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	9am - Sit & Fit 6:30pm - Sanctuary choir			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9am - Confirmation I - discussion 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - CEB		9am - Newsletter mailing	9am - Sit & Fit 6:30pm - Sanctuary choir			
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9am - Summer Schedule begins 9:30am - Worship Pentecost	Memorial Day Office Closed		9am - Sit & Fit			

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



“EASTER PEOPLE”

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Interim Pastor: David A. Voll - Cell Phone: 419-410-4090
 Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
 Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
 Church e-mail: holgateucc@metalink.net
 Pastor e-mail: pastordave.voll@gmail.com
 Financial Administrator e-mail - Tyler Rue: stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
 Church Website: www.stjohnsucchohgate.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 10:15 A.M.
Wednesday Night Schedule
 Sanctuary Choir 6:30 P.M.

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“Calvary led to glory because the heart of God was in it! Any human experience becomes glorious to the extent that our hearts rein the experience. We do not give anything buoyantly unless our hearts are in the gift. We cannot truly give ourselves until we give our very hearts.”

(Rev. Dr. G. Ray Jordan, The Supreme Possession)

We Christians are an Easter people. Our faith is built upon the cross of salvation and the empty tomb, because God put His heart into the crucifixion/resurrection event! Those of us who were present at our Holy Week services know what I mean. God's presence, the Spirit's presence, was palpable, at least to me, and to many of you, judging by your comments. Were that more of you were there on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to experience our encounter with the heart of God....

The other side of this story is that for those of us who shared worship, fellowship, hymns, Communion, and even tears together during Holy Week, our hearts were really in it! Among other things, worship is a gift – an offering we make to God. I felt like our hearts were in our gifts of worship!

The first-century Christians, among others, are a good example for us. After Jesus rose from the grave, for them every Sabbath was a celebration of the resurrection – every Sunday was a “little Easter.” They put their hearts into their worship, their fellowship, their service, and their example of love for others.

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"EASTER PEOPLE"



Continued From Page 2

An Easter song that we sang during late worship on Resurrection Sunday, "Ev'ry Morning is Easter Morning," says it well. Consider the lyrics:

- (Chorus) Ev'ry morning is Easter morning From now on
Ev'ry day's resurrection day The past is over and gone
- 1) Good-bye guilt good-bye fear Good riddance Hello Lord hello sun
I am one of the Easter people My new life has begun
 - 2) Daily news is so bad It seems the Good News Seldom gets heard
 - 3) Get it straight from the Easter people God's in charge spread the word
 - 3) Yesterday I was bored and lonely But today look and see
I belong to the Easter people Life's exciting to me

(Avery & Marsh)

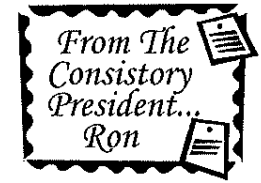
We're an Easter people! We celebrate the resurrection power of Christ and worship the risen Saviour each Sunday during these weeks following Easter...and beyond. Our "Eastertide" celebrations will continue in worship through the day of Pentecost (May 28), when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as their promised "helper" and the Christian church was born.

Come and worship with us! Come to find new life; come to deepen your faith; come to say to God "I'm sorry" and "Thank You;" come to give to God, experience His presence, and put your heart into it!

See you in church!

Pastor Dave

IMPORTANCE OF BEING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS



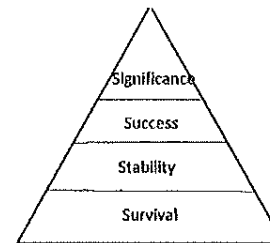
Needing to find an idea for the newsletter I stumbled across this website, "Thrive Global" ([Thrive Global – Medium](#)). I thought this article by Chad E. Cooper dated March 20, 2017, to be interesting. This is not the complete article, but is the main portion. This website has interesting articles on various subjects. Need something to do, check it out.

The importance of being in service to others for your own success.

Contributing beyond yourself creates the positive in you!

I believe to be truly successful and live a legendary life you must be in balance with all aspects of life and being of service is a big part of that balance. This means being of service to others in whatever way fits your lifestyle. Whether it's mailing a check to your favorite charity, donating time to the homeless, or assisting in your community as a mentor; it's as important to you as to those you may serve. Contribution beyond yourself keeps your life in check, where you form a good foundation to build your successes upon. When you just take from the world you live in and choose not to contribute to it, it keeps you in a state of surviving no matter how much you have or how much money you make.

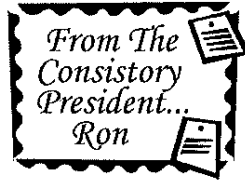
If you look at Maslow's hierarchy of needs...



Much of the world still lives in survival. Even in the United States, because of the standard of living, too many are just surviving from paycheck to paycheck. It may seem that compared to most of the world, we're thriving but we must compare that to what our standards are and what our surrounding is. As you can see from the picture, jumping from survival to success is a mistake and will land you back in survival. However, when you contribute beyond yourself at each stage of progression, you are consuming and contributing which creates balance. Contribution doesn't happen at the top of the pyramid; it occurs throughout every stage. If you make it only about yourself, you won't

Continued On Page 5

IMPORTANCE OF BEING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS



Continued From Page 4

stay in success or significance and feel fulfilled. Success does not always mean making lots of money alone so keep that in mind. Success includes having all aspects of your life working together. Job, family, faith, and your place in your community.

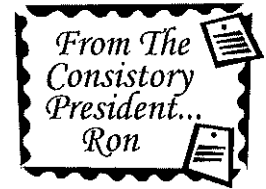
People say things to me like, my goal is to *have my home paid for, I just want to own my own home, or I just want to have a nice vehicle that is paid off.* But the challenge is then your neighbor gets a new car, you may have the desire to compete with them. After a certain point, when money no longer becomes a factor, then we're left with ourselves.

We all have periods of happiness in life, but then we reach a point of saturation, no matter what we're doing it does not feel like enough. For example, I can say I will pay you one million dollars and all you must do is once a day go out chop some wood and bring in some water, and I'll pay you a million dollars. It's not likely that a single person out there would refuse this offer unless they were mentally ill. Yet, even after accepting the deal, there's going to become a period where you say or feel... there has got to be something more to life. You may be stable, but you have not reached being successful, you get frustrated and do something that allows you to fall back to survival again. Perhaps you have heard of the lottery winners who within a couple years are broke again. Lottery winners go bankrupt at twice the rate of the broader population over 5 years (Marketwatch March 2011). Those people have not learned how to climb the pyramid in a way to reach the top and stay there.

When somebody has been successful in business, when somebody has been successful in their relationships or in their fitness, we always want more. The reality is for us to be truly fulfilled and not just have moments or periods of fleeting happiness, we cannot just be self-serving, we also need to be servant leading to be truly fulfilled. When we're service supporting, we get out of the focus just being about ourselves. When we look at Maslow's hierarchy of needs. There gets to a point when we become altruistic and make it about others. Which by the way, when we redirect that focus to others, we're still being very self-serving. Because serving other people is a different vehicle to make ourselves feel good. Just like when we buy ourselves that fancy new car, a new smart phone, or a new whatever it is, that's just a vehicle that makes us feel good about who we are. But at a certain point we need that next high. And when we can serve other people, we are not only able to see

Continued On Page 6

IMPORTANCE OF BEING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS



Continued From Page 5

outside ourselves but we are able to see the beauty and good that brings us beyond ourselves. For anyone to have true fulfillment, we must continue to grow, we also must be willing to make it about more than just ourselves.

There are so many ways of being of service... Maybe you're talented in your business, you could mentor students at your local community college or local university. Perhaps you could volunteer for a troubled youth program. For others, maybe it's being involved in a choir or something within their religious community. How about joining the local organic farm or Japanese garden and doing some work there? It's about volunteering in a way that honors you. I hear many successful people say... *you're so busy just write a check, and go for whatever is going to get you the biggest exposure or tax write off.* If writing a check is the right thing for you and it aligns with your values then do what fits your life. There's nothing wrong if your time allotment or your lifestyle happens to be where sending a check is what you can do or want to do, it isn't any bigger or less than going and volunteering someplace.

Where do you say yes and where you do say this is my limit of what I can do? I can do it x number of days or x number of hours and then I need a break. Maybe it's bringing your entire family to a soup kitchen, ringing the bell at the Salvation Army every year or participating in a Secret Santa. But, frequency is something that YOU must decide. Pick things that align and fit within your life and overall isn't a burden or it will have the opposite effect and will build resentment for the time you spend.

Once you start thinking of others you can get addicted to being of service very quickly and find it makes you feel so good you become better at everything else including work, family, even your health can improve.

Also remember being of service is about being realistic for your lifestyle.

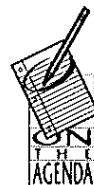
Ron Hoellrich - 2023 Consistory President



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

1. Grateful for safety of all during recent storms
2. Thank you to Steve Waisner, Doug Rettig, and Phil Rettig for assuring that there was power to the parsonage following the storm.
3. Thanks from Shalom Team to those who set up emergency power for the Shalom freezers.
4. Thank you also to Earl and Marilyn Abshire (and perhaps others) who moved frozen items from Shalom room to the other freezers so very little product was lost.
5. Thank you to Norma Nagel for her work during Dawn's extended absence.
6. Two great Easter Services
7. Fun Easter Egg Hunt
8. Great Easter Breakfast
9. Thankful for the warmer weather
10. Glad to see a love gift was given to the Skylar Smith Benefit
11. Thanks to Jared Clady for acting as scribe for last month's Deacons' meeting. Also a big thanks for sending the newsletter info to Ruth Ann.
12. Thanks to Pastor Dave for all of his time to create fabulous and meaningful Holy Week Services.
13. Thanks to all who assisted with the setup for all of the Holy Week events.
14. Thank you to Pastor Voll for the excellent Lenten services.

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

April 10, 2023

- Appointed Tammy Vajen as delegate to the NW Ohio Association Annual Meeting.
- Received final statement from Earl's Mechanical for \$40,081.50. The bad sensor was replaced, Deacons recommend to pay Earl's Mechanical in full, approved.
- Motion approved for St. John's to set December 3 as the date for the Siberian Solstice concert.
- The estimate from Durable Slate for replacement of 75 slates on the roof was for \$4,400 (considered "Memral Maintance.") Deacons recommended and Consistory approved for Durable Slate to replace \$5,000 worth of slates with money to be taken from unused COVID funds. Approved.
- Recommendation from Spiritual Council to approve Zoe Lulfs, Nick Evers, and Ethan Sanholz to receive the Rite of Confirmation, pending completion of the remaining requirements. Approved.

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Prigge



DEACONS' BENCH

April 10, 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), Kevin Vajen (24), Adam Stevenson (24),
Jared Clady (2025), Ben Thomas (2025)
Guest: Confirmand Ethan S.

Meeting was called to order by Head Deacon, Adam Stevenson.
Minutes of previous meeting reviewed and accepted as written.

Old Business:

Slate roof discussion to approve \$5,000.00 for repairs this Spring.
Dividers in Fellowship Hall removed with thank you to all that made
that happen.
Update on new back kitchen door

New Business:

Sensor arrived for heating system. Pay off recommended
Update on Financial with no report due to power outage.
Next Deacons' meeting scheduled for May 8, 2023, at 6:15 p.m.



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts
April 3, 2023

Interim Pastor: Dave Voll
Head Elder: Maggie Prigge (24)
Scribe: Bob Rettig (26)
Communion: Greg Nelson (25)
Confirmation: Kevin Waisner (24)
Backup Head Elder: Erick Shank (25)
Backup Scribe: Kevin Waisner (24)
Asst. Communion: Mike Haldy (26)
Membership/Visitation: Eric Shank (25)

Present at meeting: Interim Pastor: Dave Voll, Maggie Prigge (24),
Kevin Waisner (24), Greg Nelson (25), Eric Shank (25),
Mike Haldy (26), Bob Rettig (26)

The meeting opened with Eric Shank leading devotions reading from
John 3 and Galatians 5. Pastor Dave and Janise graciously invited the
Council to the parsonage due to a power outage. All Elders were
present. Congregational concerns included a member who required
emergency surgery the previous Saturday and one anticipating
surgery on April 5.

Pastor's Report was reviewed with no questions or comments.

April Elder of the Month is Eric Shank. Kevin Waisner will serve in
May. The schedule of Holy Week worship services was reviewed.
Maundy Thursday worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall
beginning with a simple meal at 6:30 p.m. and worship at
7:00 p.m. with Communion. Good Friday worship is at 7:00 p.m.
Communion will be served at both services on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Pastor and Kevin reported that the Confirmands are preparing for
their interviews with the Spiritual Council on April 16. There was
discussion concerning the interview process and some ideas on how
the students might be encouraged to express their thoughts regarding
becoming members of St. John's and the church universal.

In regards to visitation, pastor would like to organize a group visit
with a member who cannot attend worship. The member misses the
fellowship he once had with the members of St. John's and expresses
his disappointment that he cannot be a part of the church family.
Spiritual Council expressed unanimous support for this visitation and
will be contacting a person to organize the visitation to likely take
place this summer.

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Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

April 3, 2023

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Sixty letters were sent to those members who have not been active in the church for two or more years. To date nine members have responded and indicated their wishes regarding membership status. Hopefully more will return the card to give us direction on updating membership records.

In regards to new business, with the changes of Henry County Bank merging with Civista Bank and the employment of a new Financial Administrator, we dealt with the question of who should be authorized to write checks on an emergency basis or in the case of a "love gift". Considering the ramifications of making any changes, the Spiritual Council chose to continue as has been done in the past. Those authorized to sign checks in these cases will be the Treasurer and the two Consistory members appointed by Consistory. In addition to the Pastor, the Administrative Assistant may receive requests for "love gifts" and forward them to the pastor and/or the head Elder. Pastor reported that this procedure has been the practice of churches he has previously served in consideration of the confidential nature and sometimes necessary expediency of "love gift" requests.

It was a unanimous decision to give a "love gift" for the Skylar Smith benefit. Although the family is not a member of St. John's, an exception is being made as an expression of Christian love for a family in dire need of support.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the laying on of hands and prayer for Pastor Dave as he deals with health issues. The next meeting is May 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room.

Bob Rettig, Scribe

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



May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Communion

Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
New Life in the Lamb

May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – Rite of Confirmation Mother's Day

Psalms 66:8-20; John 14:15-21
Devotion, Not Just Emotion

May 21 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Guest Speaker from Camp Washington UCC, Cincinnati

May 28 – Pentecost Sunday – Communion Memorial Day Weekend – Summer Schedule

Acts 2:1-18, 37-47; John 7:37-39
Fulfilling the Miracle



Summer Schedule

Beginning on Sunday, May 28, our worship service will begin at 9:30 am. There will be no Sunday School during the summer. This Summer Schedule is in effect through Sunday, September 3.

MAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
May 7	Natalie Borck	Ron Hoellrich Jeri Hoellrich
May 14	Naveah Evers Joey Coppes	Jared Clady Ben Thomas
May 21		Pat Kirk Kevin Vajen
May 28		Chris Coppes Adam Stevenson

FINANCIAL SUMMARY MARCH REPORT

MARCH 2023 NOTES

Operating Checking Account Balance:	\$ 37,879.02
Congregational Checking Account Balance:	\$ 48,168.46
Other Restricted Checking Account Balance:	\$ 75,140.29
Mission Checking Account:	\$ 8,509.77

Monthly Income	\$16,139.45
Monthly Expenses	(\$12,465.47)
Monthly Gain	\$3,673.98

■ Mission Giving – Mission to Go	\$ 20.00
○ Expense of \$1,504.29	
■ SHALOM (Mission of the month)	\$ 1,010.00
O.C.W.M.	\$ 200.00
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	\$ 555.00
■ Cemetery Fund	\$ 145.00
■ Major Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,565.00
■ Sunday School Offering	\$ 135.00
■ Undesignated Memorial Gift	\$ 1,963.00
○ Expense of \$50	
■ Confirmation Camp	\$ 500.00
■ Peace Garden Fund	\$ 25.00



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - MARCH 2023

INCOME

Pleasant Bend Methodist Church	75.00
Memorial - Bill Schwiebert	610.00
Anonymous Donation	<u>50.00</u>

Total \$ 735.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel

Previous Balance	Collected	Expenses	Balance
			Church Heat Upgrade/New
\$ 41,021.11	\$710.00	\$0	\$41,731.11

*Tyler J Rue
Financial Administrator*



Mission and Stewardship



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH MISSION FOR MAY

Strengthen the Church is one of the "Five for Five" offerings of the United Church of Christ. St. John's has been a long-time supporter of the "Five for Five" offerings.

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership, development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation in existing congregations. This offering forms a "together we grow stronger."

This offering provides the financial resources for the United Church of Christ to be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. Strengthen the Church funds ministries that allow us to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the UCC.

Offerings have been blessed into new churches starting up, congregations have been revitalized, and leadership skills have been enhanced.



Reminder that we have wooden tables and folding chairs that can be borrowed for upcoming graduation parties and other gatherings. They are available on a first come, first served basis. Contact the church office to make reservations. There are also roasters and other kitchen items that can be borrowed. Again, please contact the office to make reservations.



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

- Mason Franz** recovering after surgery for a broken leg
- Chad Lulfs** recovering from knee replacement
- Brittany Badenhop** (Patsy Yaicher's granddaughter) surgery on her unborn child went well; she will be in Columbus until delivery
- Patty Schafer** dealing with long COVID, recovering from another round of COVID
- Mick Hoff** reehab at Henry County Hospital after surgery
- Lynne Long** (who has been worshipping with us) recovering from hand surgery
- Bev Gill** (friend of Kirk/Lynette Fruth) in ICU at St. Rita's Lima following a stroke)
- Heather Thomas Eiden** recent surgery and beginning chemo
- Gary Jones** fell several months ago, broke both arms - beginning therapy

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.
- Let us pray for **the work of the Search Team** and keep the members of the Team in your prayers.

Sympathy To:

Linda Arreguin and the family of her cousin John Clymer who passed away on April 11.



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

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

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

Thank You!

Note of Thanks From Pastor Dave

What a wonderful and memorable celebration was held on Sunday, April 16 to mark my 35th Anniversary of Ordination! During worship I was moved by the beautiful altar flowers as a gift from this faith family, by the remarks and presentation by Rev. Dan Busch, our NW Ohio Association Minister, by the special choir anthem with guest singers, and by having the opportunity to sing with my two sons for the Benediction in Song.

Then the reception after worship was delightful - I'm so grateful to the Kitchen Angels (and their set-up helpers) who planned such a stunning affair! From the homemade cakes and mints, to the samplings of some of my favorite sweet treats, to the smiles, greetings, and well wishes from those who attended - I was humbled and my heart was full!

In addition, Janise and I were blessed to have some family members present, along with special visitors from two of the congregations I previously served. But to know that St. John's planned this for me, as "only" an interim pastor, is very special. It made my spirit sing! So thank you TO you....and I thank God FOR you and for your generous gift of hospitality! You are all such a blessing!

~ Pastor Dave Voll



It has been a while since we last printed our **Pictorial Directory**. Children who were "babes in arms" are now running up for the Time with Children, families have welcomed new babies and folks have joined the Faith Family. This directory can be very helpful to help newer folks learn names and updated pictures will be extremely important when we call a new settled pastor.

So, Linda Arreguin and/or Betty (Bob) Rettig will be available before and after worship to take pictures. You are also invited to send selfies or formal pictures. Maybe you can get pictures at Easter or other Spring gatherings. The Peace Garden is a wonderful backdrop!

Betty can also take pictures during office hours, Monday through Friday. 8 to noon. We can scan good quality photos in the office or you can email pictures to holgateucc@metalink.net.

PLEASE keep in mind that the pictures will be cropped to a 2 ½" square so having the faces close together makes a much better picture than having everyone in a long row (although sometimes that's the best you can do). You might look through the current directory to get ideas.

The goal will be to have this project complete by Pentecost (May 28) pictures are needed no later than May 14.



*Confirmation
I and II News*



**RITE OF CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023
10:15 A.M.**

Dear St. John's Family and Friends,

Sunday, May 14 is Nick, Zoe and Ethan's Confirmation Day when they will be received into membership. Please join us on this special day in the life of these young people as they reaffirm promises made by their parents and sponsors at their baptism, will be welcomed into membership at St. John's, and will receive their first Communion along with the families and loved ones of these Confirmands. Let us continue to show them our love, support, and care and offer our congratulations and welcome.

The Confirmation Class of 2023

Nicholas Wayne Wallace Evers, son of Jerry and Diana Evers

Zoe Elizabeth Lulfs, daughter of Chad Lulfs and Amber Miller

Ethan John Saneholtz, son of Sean Saneholtz and Beth Saneholtz.



Parents/Grandparents: please help us **recognize our graduates** in May. Send names, when graduating and from where, as well as plans for after graduation to the office.

News from the Cemetery Association

The St. John's UCC Cemetery is a separate but connected part of our church. The church cemetery has been here for many years. Did you know that before the cemetery was started, deceased members of St. John's were buried at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Flatrock Township Cemetery? We are fortunate that our members now have a cemetery here at our Church. Our church was founded in 1860, and it was more than forty years before the Cemetery Association was established. The first burial at our church cemetery took place on January 18, 1909. We can be proud of the care that is taken by our Trustees, Sexton, and others to make our cemetery a pleasant, beautiful place for our faith families' final resting place. All members and former members of St. John's can purchase a lot in our cemetery.

The St. John's UCC Cemetery Association met on March 5, 2023, for their Annual Meeting. President Larry Hockman presided at the meeting attended by seventeen members of the association. The business of the meeting included election of officers:

- President: Larry Hockman,
- Trustees: Earl Abshire, Jim Rettig and Rory Prigge,
- Secretary/Treasurer: Christine Rettig
- non-elected staff, Sexton: Earl Abshire.

Punches Excavating will continue to do grave opening and closing, and Shane Eberle of "I'm There Lawn Care" will continue to do mowing and trimming.

Norma Nagel, outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, came on as an officer in 1991 for a three-year term. Well...after serving THIRTY-TWO years, Norma has been able to "retire" from her office. She was thanked for her dedicated service to the Cemetery Association.

Due to increasing costs for services such as mowing and trimming, the opening and closing of a grave, and the pouring of foundations in Section 3, the members of the association who were present voted to increase the mortuary fee (which covers the opening and closing of a grave, and sexton fee) and the cost of lots in Section 3. Pricing information is available for anyone interested by contacting the Secretary/Treasurer.

The members did some comparisons of costs years ago versus what they are today. Back in 1991, the cost of mowing and trimming was \$2,420.00 for the year. In 2022, those costs rose to \$5,400.00. And back in 2001, the cost we were charged by the excavating company to open and close a grave was \$175.00. That cost has gone up to \$350.00 as of March of this year. The Cemetery Association is taking the responsibility to pour foundations in Section 3, and, if you have done any home project involving concrete, you know the cost of concrete has risen.

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News from the Cemetery Association

Continued From Page 22

When a lot is sold, the money received goes to an annuity for perpetual care. Only the interest from the annuity can be used as income for general expenses of running the cemetery. Our Cemetery Association receives a small amount of income from the mortuary fee. In some years, not enough income is received to cover the expenses for the year.

Thanks to donations to the cemetery fund by designated giving through giving envelopes, or as a memorial or honorarium, the association was able to pay the expenses this past year. If you feel that our beautiful cemetery is important, as an extension of our church, we hope that you will consider giving a donation to our Cemetery Association.

ATTENTION!

Pentecost / Holy Communion / Memorial Day Weekend

On Sunday, May 28 be sure to wear red, symbolizing celebration and the Holy Spirit, as we observe Pentecost – the birthday of the Church – and participate in Holy Communion. This will be the first Sunday of our summer schedule, with worship at 9:30 a.m. The choir will sing for the final time this season. We will also have a brief observance of Memorial Day.

Our worship service is 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 starting 15 minutes before the start of worship. The service is also recorded, so you can watch it at your convenience.



News and Notes

Submitted By Lucy Coppes
March 26, 2023

Present: Pastor David Voll, Diana Evers (23), Katie Borck (23), Lucy Coppes (24) Elleigh Franz (25), Latasha Solis (23) and Lisa Haldy (25)

Katie opened the meeting and Diana led devotions from "How Great Is Our God: 100 Indescribable Devotions About God and Science" and opening prayer.

- **Consistory:** Nothing to report to Consistory at this time.
- **Easter Breakfast:** Consistory will be hosting/coordinating the Easter Breakfast Brunch with funds going to Summer Faith and Family events. Any available members of Christian Education are asked to help set up for the Breakfast on Friday, April 7, 2023, at 5 p.m. Tear down still to be determined. Members of CE Board were reminded to bring a casserole for Easter Brunch.
- **Confirmation:** Pastor Voll reported that Confirmation I is finishing up the last year of Jesus life and getting ready to meet with Elders after Easter and working on their Confirmation papers. Everything is going well. Pastor reminded CE Board that he will be on vacation on May 21.
- **Sunday School:** Feedback on Sunday School Curriculum has been positive, nice that lessons follow the Lectionary. Last day of Sunday School will be May 21. CE Board will be hosting end of Sunday School Celebration and will provide snacks. All open teacher spots have been filled. Faith and Family Summer Gatherings will be water theme, some potential topics include "Noah and the Ark", "Jesus Walking On Water". Pastor Voll stated that he has resources for the summer gatherings if additional ideas are needed and reminded the Board to look for inspiration in some of the resources provided in the Sunday School material.
- **Birthdays:** Nothing new to report, cards continue to be sent to all active children at the beginning of the month.

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News and Notes

Submitted By Lucy Coppes
March 26, 2023

Continued From Page 24

- **Youth Ministry:** Youth Ministry Event scheduled for April 30, practices are going well. Nursery to Pre-Kindergarten to sing God Loves Me. 1 – 3 Grade Ancient Words and 4 -5 Lord's Prayer (It's Yours). Will coordinate with Linda Rettig with having words on slides for children to read lyrics.
- **Cradle Roll** - Latasha reported that she still needs to update the Cradle Roll and will be actively working on it over the next few weeks.
- **Easter Sunday:** Pastor Voll provided some resources for LaTasha's aunt for the Easter Sunday School Moment. Mary Kay has stuffed all the candy eggs, so no candy stuffing is necessary. Board confirmed set up for Easter Egg Hunt. Katie will dye Easter Eggs with Pre-schoolers Easter Day.
- **Next meeting scheduled for May 21, 2023, after worship.**

Thank You

Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you for your prayers cards, and good wishes during my recent hospitalization, rehab at Northcrest, and since my return home. Special thanks to Pastor Dave for his visits and calls.

Jerry Rettig

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, positive comments, visits, and cards. Although it was a journey with many hurdles, my knee surgery went very well. I will forever appreciate the positivity I felt from my faith family during this process.

Chad Lulfs



C H U R C H RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday - Friday - Saturday
June 15, 16, 17

The Rummage Sale is coming!

What exactly is a rummage sale, and why are we having one? By definition, a rummage sale is the sale of secondhand items, held specifically to raise money for a church, charity, or special event. And the why? We will use the proceeds of the rummage sale to help with the heating fund loan repayment.

So, this Spring, when doing your cleaning and you find decorations you no longer use, clothing that doesn't fit, shoes that are still good (but hurt your feet! Ouch!), furniture, lamps and decor that don't fit in your new house since you moved, dishes that you are no longer using, children's toys still in storage even though your kids are in high school or have all left the nest (yes, it is time to donate them!), extra linens that are overflowing your linen closet, or items from the garage or shed that no longer are needed, donate them to our rummage sale!

Our all-church rummage sale is going to be held June 15 through 17. On May 22, you can start bringing items to the church for the sale, and place them in the Sunday school room just south of the pastor's study, on the west side of the building. Besides donating items to sell, we will need folks to donate their time as we prepare and conduct the sale. It will involve setting up tables, sorting and placing items on tables and hanging racks, cashiers, folks to bag up purchased items, folks to help take large items to their cars, assisting shoppers with items that might need carried to the checkout, and most importantly...being the face of St. John's to the public! We will also have lunch available as a community service project for our shoppers and workers.

Please mark your calendars for the week of June 11 after church - June 17 after the cleanup! We are looking forward to this opportunity to raise funds to repay the heating fund loan. We need all of you to help us do it!

Thank you, Christine Rettig

April 10, 2023

Hallelujah Is Forever

Vince Amlin

*God's anger is but for a moment; God's favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning. -
Psalm 30:5 (NRSV)*

The other day, my wife made her famous apple pie. Only it wasn't. She took the recipe from a different place, thinking it was the usual.

When the pie came out, she knew something wasn't right. The apples had overcooked. The crust wasn't flaky. It tasted like nothing.

The next week she tried again and discovered her mistake. The two recipes were nearly identical. The difference just 1/4 cup of flour and 1/12 cup of shortening.

But from our first bites of the second pie, we knew: Yes! That's the way it's supposed to be.

Baking is a delicate balance. So is faith.

Easter, like Lent, is supposed to be a season: 50 days stretching to Pentecost; 7 weeks of celebration, resurrection, and joy. It's called Eastertide. Don't feel bad if you didn't know. No one does.

Many of us observe 40 days of solemn introspection at Lent. We give things up. We take things on. We remember we are dust. We bury our hallelujahs.

Then, for one glorious morning, it's lilies, and trumpets, and candy-filled plastic eggs: 40 parts Lent to 1 part Easter. That's the wrong recipe.

The original calls for 50x as much! 50x as many rolled away stones! 50x as many empty tombs! 50x as much death-defeating love!

Imagine the difference. In your life. In your church. In our world.

The balance is off. It's time to switch recipes. Welcome to Eastertide. God's anger is for a moment. God's favor for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

Prayer

Death has had its day. Hallelujah, forever!



2023 Easter Flowers Memorials/Honorariums

**Thank you to all who provided Easter flowers to decorate the church
and for gifts to support missions and projects!**

Easter Flowers

In Loving Memory Of:

Given By:

Gwen Rohrbaugh

Kevin and Tammy Vajen

**James Armbruster
Doug Armbruster**

Their family

**Loved Ones and
In Honor Of Parents
Don and Betty Rettig**

Lynette Rettig-Goldsmith

Pamela Hahn

Jacob, Kortney, and
Harmony Hahn

**Wayne and Mary Fruth,
Lloyd and Margie Moneghan
and Audrey Buckmaster**

Kirk and Lynette Fruth

**Lillian Eberle
Sandy Eberle
and Liz Eberle**

Tim Eberle, John Eberle,
Bill Imbrock family, and
Becky Hurst family

Carolyn Walker Slagle

Jay Slagle

**Lester and Genevieve Durham
Stephen and Callie Durham**

Ruth Ann Durham

**Hilda Rettig
In Honor Of My Parents
Earl and Marilyn Abshire**

Sue Abshire

**Paul Murchek
In Honor Of
George and Ruth Medina
Muriel Murchek**

Carolina Medina and
Pam Murchek



2023 Easter Flowers Memorials/Honorariums

Thank you to all who provided Easter flowers to decorate the church
and for gifts to support missions and projects!

Easter Flowers

In Loving Memory Of:

Ryan Rosebrock,
Franklin Schnitkey
Frank Hess

Burnell Rettig,
Tim Meyer
Bob Meyer

Dallas and Wilma Rettig
Edward and Elaine Beauch
In Honor Of Our Daughters
Christa Jones
Cheryl Koenig and Their Families

In Honor Of
Our Children, Grandchildren
Great-Grandchild

Given By:

Nancy Thomas,
Ben and Taryn Thomas,
Rachel Thomas and
Andy Brinkman

Charlotte Rettig

Bob and Betty Rettig

Memorial Gifts

TO THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Dallas and Wilma Rettig
Butler and Betty Stephens

Jim and Chris Rettig

TO LOVE GIFT FUND

Clarence and Frances Prigge
Jack and Naomi Carr

Lennie and Maggie Prigge

TO THE SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

Nancy Haldy

Michael, Lisa and Summer Haldy

UNDESIGNATED (at the discretion of the Memorial Team)

Harold and Helen Brown
Harold "Gene" Brown

Georgena and Gregg Nanson



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Betty (Don) Rettig

will celebrate her
89th Birthday
on May 1

15976 St Rt 281
Holgate, OH 43527

Delmar Tilse

will celebrate his
81st Birthday
on May 18

11770 Co Rd H
Holgate, OH 43527



Lynn and Karen Gilliland

will celebrate their
60th Wedding Anniversary
on May 11

1778 Chinook Trail Ct
Defiance, OH 43512

Jerry and Joan Waisner

will celebrate their
58th Wedding Anniversary
on May 15

12777 Co Rd J
Napoleon, OH 43545

Don and Betty Rettig

will celebrate their
71st Wedding Anniversary
on May 25

15976 St Rt 281
Holgate, OH 43527



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 419-592-0589 Church Office at 419-264-4401



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

MAY

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| 5-1 | Betty (Don) Rettig | 5-20 | Brent Bartels |
| 5-2 | Erika Vajen | 5-20 | Angela Brockrath |
| 5-3 | Pat Parcher | 5-20 | Isaac Solis |
| 5-4 | Adrienne Waisner | 5-22 | Rebecca Sickmiller |
| 5-5 | Mark Waisner | 5-24 | Daniel Martin |
| 5-5 | Glynnis Dunfee | 5-24 | Tia Waisner |
| 5-6 | Wally Snyder | 5-25 | Stacy Eberle |
| 5-6 | Leland Rettig | 5-26 | Michelle Shank |
| 5-8 | Greg Fruth | 5-27 | Dan Brown |
| 5-13 | Alisa Fry | 5-29 | Marilyn Watson |
| 5-18 | Delmer Tilse | 5-30 | Sarah Rozevink |
| 5-19 | David Hall | | |
| 5-19 | Debra Stevenson | | |

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.)

PLAN AHEAD FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

See Calendar on Inside Mailing Cover

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for news articles to appear in the **JUNE** Newsletter is

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

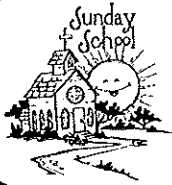
Please leave your article in the folder in the wall file on the South wall (Directly across from the door) of the church office marked **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**



May Mission

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

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



May

- 5 - 3 Karson Cox
- 5 - 5 Tauren Davis
- 5 - 6 Roman Kobilis