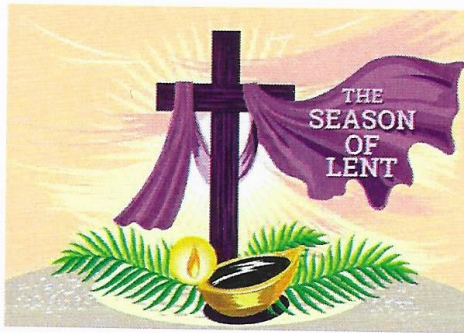


*St. John's United Church of Christ  
1-946 St. Rt. 108  
Holgate, Ohio 43527*

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Holgate, OH  
Permit No. 3

**FEBRUARY**



**Ash Wednesday – Feb. 22 @ 7 pm  
Worship/Communion  
Lenten Worship Wednesday evenings 7 pm  
Lenten Devotionals – page 18**

**From Pastor Dave's Desk – pages 2-3  
From the Pulpit – page 10  
Feb. Worship Participants – page 11  
Financials – page 15  
In Memoriam – pages 20-22  
Birthdays – page 27**

**Join us for the Soup and Dessert  
Luncheon – February 12 - page 17**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 9am - Sit & Fit 7pm - Sanctuary choir	2 10am - Bible Study	3	4
5 9am - Confirmation II 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30am - Confirmation II	6 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	7 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	8 9am - Sit & Fit 7pm - Sanctuary choir	9 10am - Bible Study	10	11
12 9am - Confirmation I 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation I	13 6:15pm - Deacons 7pm - Consistory	14	15 9am - Sit & Fit 7pm - Sanctuary choir	16 10am - Bible Study	17	18
19 9am - Confirmation II-church visit 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - CEB	20	21 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	22 Ash Wednesday 9am - Sit & Fit 7pm - Worship with Communion	23 10am - Bible Study	24	25
26 9am - Confirmation I 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation I 11:30am - Evangelism Team	27	28 9am - Newsletter mailing	1	2	3	4

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

**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](mailto:holgateucc@metalink.net)  
 Pastor e-mail: [pastordave.voll@gmail.com](mailto:pastordave.voll@gmail.com)  
 Financial Administrator e-mail - Kristine Maas: [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.

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**

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

**In This Issue**

From Dave's Desk.....	2,3	Soup and Dessert Luncheon.....	17
From Consistory President Ron.....	4,5	Lenten Devotional Books .....	18
Positive Things Seen and Heard .....	6	The Evangelism Team.....	18
Worship Service on Line.....	6	Worship Service On Facebook.....	18
Consistory Highlights.....	7	50+ Anniversary .....	19
Spiritual Council.....	8	Lent Begins .....	19
Deacons' Bench .....	9	United in Marriage.....	19
From The Pulpit.....	10	Memorial - Sharon Hoff .....	20
February Worship Participants .....	11	Memorial - Gwen Rohrbaugh .....	21
From The SHALOM Pantry .....	11	Memorial - Shirley Huber.....	22
Prayer Chain.....	12,13	Thank You.....	23 - 26
Births .....	13	February Birthdays .....	27
Shut-Ins.....	14	Prayer Chain Contacts.....	Back Cover
Purple Kids Corner Page.....	1	Meeting Information.....	Back Cover
Financial Summary.....	15	Newsletter Deadline.....	Back Cover
February Mission.....	16	Missions Schedule.....	Back Cover
Giving Statements.....	16		



**THE CHURCH YEAR**

The passage of time has been very apparent to me lately. We just celebrated our first year together in our covenant as congregation and interim pastor. A week or so before you're reading this, I celebrated my 64<sup>th</sup> birthday. And, as a pastor, the time between Christmas/Epiphany and Lent seems to get shorter and shorter.

But time marches on....and waits for no one, as they say. So does the church year. In the past two months we've journeyed through three seasons and are fast approaching a fourth and fifth. So, I'm using this space to share information with you about the Liturgical Year or the Church Year. This material may also be helpful as the Elders have just facilitated a gift of two colors of new paraments (altar, lectern and pulpit cloths) for our Chancel.

Week in and week out, you see the different colored paraments and the "title" of a particular Sunday on the front page of the bulletin. You may wonder what these are about. Our Confirmation II students just learned about this, but here's a brief explanation for you all.

The Christian year is a reenactment of Jesus' life from his birth through his ministry, death, and resurrection, to the birth of the church and its witness in today's world.

The church year begins with **Advent**, a season of four Sundays preceding **Christmas**, when we prepare for Jesus' birth. The color is royal blue, symbolizing royalty and preparation. The **Christmas Season** lasts from December 25-January 6 and is a time to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth – God with us. The color is white.

During the **Epiphany Season**, which begins January 6 with the visit of the Wise Men and continues until the beginning of Lent, we often read of Jesus' baptism, his first miracle, the beginning of his public ministry, the calling of his first disciples, and his examples of love and healing. The liturgical color is green, except for the first and last Sundays of the season, when it is white. Epiphany is an "accordion" season in that its length varies according to the beginning date of Lent.

**Continued On Page 3**



## THE CHURCH YEAR

*Continued From Page 2*

**Lent** is a season of forty days and six Sundays preceding Easter. Beginning with **Ash Wednesday**, it is a time of penitence, decision, and commitment, as well as preparation for Easter. The color violet reminds us of the passion of Jesus' suffering and death. This season culminates with **Holy Week** and its emotional remembrances: **Palm Sunday** and the Jerusalem parade; **Maundy Thursday**, when Jesus had his Last Supper with his disciples and was arrested; and **Good Friday** and the "trial" and crucifixion of Christ.

Then we rejoice on **Easter**, or Resurrection Sunday, when Jesus rose from the grave. He Lives! The joy continues through the **Easter Season**, the fifty days from Easter to Pentecost, a time to celebrate the resurrection appearances of Christ, when we see the power that Jesus embodied being passed-on to the disciples. White is the color – a reminder of the risen Christ's purity and radiance.

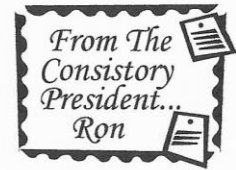
The Easter season ends on **Pentecost Sunday**, which is the birthday of the church. The liturgical color is red, symbolizing the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the **Season After Pentecost**, we look at what it means to be the Church, Christ's body, carrying on His work in the world. Green is this season's color, signifying life and growth. This is the longest time of the church year, lasting from Pentecost to Thanksgiving.

As the seasons and colors repeat each year, perhaps we can better understand the rhythm of our lives as the followers of Jesus Christ.

See you in church.....

**Pastor Dave**

## 2022 PROJECT UPDATES



As 2022 has come to a close, This is an to update on the projects that were undertaken.

### HEATING/COOLING

The office heating/cooling project has been completed and paid for in its entirety. The excess funding was transferred to the church heating fund.

The Fellowship Hall cooling project is finished as of 1/9/2023, and the last payment will be made shortly. The excess funds from this project will be transferred to the heating fund.

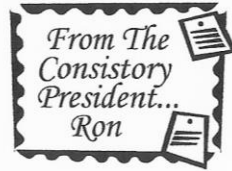
The Church heating project is complete with the exception of a faulty sensor. This sensor is under warranty and will be replaced when a new sensor arrives. This sensor is not affecting the operation of the system. An agreement has been entered into with a water treatment company to monitor the fluid in the heating system to maintain the fluid quality. This will prevent the issues that we have had with the old system. This should help extend the life of the new system as well.

Now for the big question. Where do we stand with the funding. Your generosity has been overwhelming. I woke up numerous times thinking that to ask for financial support was crazy. But we are almost there. The quote for the system is \$164,900 and on or around December 1, we made a payment of \$123,675 (first invoice). At that time, we had not yet collected enough funds to cover the first invoice. We had 2 CD's at Henry County Bank (one for a little over \$11,000 and one for a little over \$5,100) totaling a little over \$16,000. They both came up for renewal in October with renewal interest rates being low. Consistory voted to not renew these CD's and to hold the money in reserve. This decision was based on the fact that the money could be used as a loan to ourselves for the heating project and would be paid back once funding for the projected was completed. The \$11,000 CD was loaned to the fund to cover the first payment. Jeff Earl has reduced the original cost by \$2,500, since volunteers did the demo. The new project cost is \$162,400. As of the end of December, we have \$144,974.58 (includes the \$11,000 CD) in funding with \$124,877.31 in expenses leaving \$20,097.67 in the heating fund account.

Discussion surrounding the remaining funding requirements took place in the 1/9/2023 Consistory meeting. January giving brought in approximately \$10,000 (1/9/2023). Consistory voted to access \$7,512.53 from the farm account. This money had been set aside to insure the accounts associated with the farm distribution could be funded. There was a

*Continued On Page 5*

## 2022 PROJECT UPDATES



### Continued From Page 4

concern that the pipeline project would reduce revenue. At this time, Consistory felt there is no longer a threat to these funds and approved releasing the money to the heating fund. Excess money from the Fellowship Hall project is approximately \$3,500. With that being said, we have enough to pay the balance due. But, and there is always a but, Consistory, in its agreement to not renew the CDs, said that any money that was utilized to pay for the heating system would be considered as a "loan to ourselves" and require payback.

**I am going to repeat myself** - Consistory, in its agreement to not renew the CDs said that any money that was utilized to pay for the heating system would be considered as a "loan to ourselves" and require payback.

St. John's has taken out a loan for \$9,000. The holder of this loan is St. John's UCC at a much lower interest rate than we were going to be charged. I hope you see it in your heart to continue to fulfill the financial obligations that we made at the beginning of these projects.

The second CD for \$5,100 has not been utilized for anything. Hopefully the loan gets paid off, and we can develop a plan for the CD money.

### ROOFING UPDATE

An area of the flat roof required repair as it was becoming "spongy". Also, there was a bullet hole that required repair. What goes up must come down!! Both are completed and paid.

We have committed to do some slate repairs and flashing around the bell tower. We have put a deposit down to get us on Durable Slate's list, but they have not started any of the work.

The wind damage to Fellowship Hall has been repaired and paid.

### PARKING LOT

The parking lot has numerous cracks. We contacted Hill's paving, and they resealed the cracks. The Trustees were not happy and requested that Hill's come back to retreat some areas. This has also been paid.

*Ron Hoellrich  
2023 Consistory President*



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

1. We are so blessed with faithful volunteers!
2. Grateful for a full corps of officers for 2023
3. Great Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, in spite of the weather!
4. Positive feedback from online viewers of our services
5. Glad for strong financial support for the heating project
6. Grateful to the Sidle family for replacing the tree by the county road in memory of Larry.



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

January 9, 2023

**Elders present:** Kevin Wasiner (23), Eric Shank (24), Greg Nelson (24), Mike Haldy (25), Bob Rettig (25)

**Deacons present:** Pat Kirk (23), Jeri Hoellrich (23), Ron Hoellrich (23), Adam Stevenson (24), Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)

Consistory Chair, Ron Hoellrich called the meeting to order and welcomed new members.

Devotions and prayer were shared.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved, and Pastor's report was reviewed by all members.

**The farm report** was reviewed and discussion took place concerning distribution of funds and possible release of reserve funds (established in 2016).

**Heating and cooling project** updates were given with action to approve an Environmental Water contract.

The format for the Annual Meeting was discussed with approval taken on reports submitted under Consistory President, Consistory Actions taken in 2022, Spiritual Council, and Deacons. Food provided by Consistory and childcare provided were discussed and assigned.

**Search team** shared that they will meet in January.

**Upcoming fund raisers** were discussed along with discussion concerning the status of a replacement for the vacancy in the Financial Administrator's position.

Positive things seen and heard were shared along with written reports from CEB, Deacons, Shalom, Spiritual Council, and Trustees.

Upcoming dates were shared with the group along with prayer concerns.

Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting** February 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m, Fellowship Hall.

*Respectfully Submitted by Jeri Hoellrich*



# Spiritual Council

## Meeting Excerpts

January 5, 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)

Bob Rettig led with devotions. Welcomed to the Spiritual Council were new Elders Mike Haldy and Bob Rettig. Maggie was absent due to illness. Congregational concerns were discussed centering on those currently hospitalized and those anticipating surgery. As Pastor will be unavailable several days next week, he requested the Elder of the Month to follow up with the member undergoing surgery.

Pastor's report was reviewed with some discussion regarding the Christmas services. Pastor outlined the upcoming installation of officers and the ordination of Elder Mike Haldy. Eric suggested using the kneeling bench for the ceremony. Kirk Fruth and Maggie will assist in the services on Sunday.

**Communion is scheduled** for February 5 and February 22, Ash Wednesday. With about 60 personal Communion packets on hand, it was decided to order 200 of wine and 100 juice. The intentions are to pass the Communion trays as usual, but these are to be held in reserve if needed.

Kevin brought forth information concerning Confirmation Camp. which will be July 9 – 15, 2023.

Liaisons to several committees not previously appointed were made. Greg will serve as liaison to Worship and Music and Maggie will serve with the Evangelism Committee.

Elders for the months for 2023 are as follows:

<b>January</b> – Bob	<b>May</b> – Kevin	<b>September</b> - Maggie
<b>February</b> - Greg	<b>June</b> - Bob	<b>October</b> - Kevin
<b>March</b> – Mike	<b>July</b> - Greg	<b>November</b> - Mike
<b>April</b> - Eric	<b>August</b> - Eric	<b>December</b> - Maggie

Decisions were made on the symbols to be used on the new green and white paraments being ordered.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting is February 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room.

*Bob Rettig, Scribe*



### DEACONS' BENCH

January 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), Jared Clady (25), Ben  
Thomas (25)

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

Minutes of previous meeting reviewed, corrected, and accepted.

Discussion of roof repair completed by Tri-County. Approval to pay bill.

Discussion of Water Analysis with approval to pay the bill for this year.

Discussion of completion of project in Fellowship Hall with approval to  
pay final bill.

Discussed recommendations from Finance Team to complete final  
payment of heating project.

Motion was made to table Maintenance Agreement with Earl  
Mechanics until additional information can be obtained and  
clarified.

Tree replacement was discussed with a special thank you to the  
Sidle family and the Clady family for purchase of the  
replacement tree and the planting of the tree. The Deacons  
truly appreciate their generous gift to the St. John's Faith  
Family.

Deacon Schedule: February 2023 - See Worship Participants Page 11

Discussion took place reminding Deacons that one assigned Deacon  
needs to cover the midweek service as well as the assigned  
Sunday.

Adam Stevenson reminded the group about Annual Meeting  
summaries, altar cloths, and set up and tear down for Annual  
Meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Passed.  
Meeting adjourned.

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

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



#### February 5 – Fifth Sunday After Epiphany / Communion

1 Corinthians 2:10b-16  
Matthew 5:13-16  
....*On Being a Light-Giver*

#### February 12 – Sixth Sunday After Epiphany / Love Sunday

1 John 4:7-12  
1 Corinthians 13:1-8a  
John 15:9-17  
*"Look How Those Christians Love Each Other!"*

#### February 19 – Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18  
1 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9  
*Following Jesus on the Mountains and in the Valleys*

#### February 22 – Ash Wednesday / Communion

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
1 Corinthians 1:18-24  
*What God Wants....and What God Gives*

#### February 26 – First Sunday in Lent

Psalms 25:1-10  
Matthew 4:1-11  
*Temptation: The Devil to Get Rid Of!*

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
Feb. 5	Nick Evers Neveah Evers	Ron Hoellrich Jeri Hoellrich
Feb. 12	Eric Rettig	Ben Thomas Jared Clady
Feb. 19	Zoe Lulfs	Kevin Vajen Pat Kirk
Feb. 26	Griffin Tanner	Adam Stevenson Chris Coppes



FROM  
THE SHALOM  
FOOD PANTRY

### FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - DECEMBER 2022

#### INCOME

St. John's September Giving	\$810.00
St. John's November Giving	790.00
St. Paul's Catholic Church	215.00
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	485.00
Holgate Firefighters Association	200.00
St. John's Lutheran Sunday School	295.00
Hope Lutheran Church	800.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	200.00
Individual Donation	5.00

**Total \$ 3800.00**

*Submitted by Norma Nagel*



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

### *Within the Fellowship:*

**Please hold the following persons in your daily prayers...  
Those on our hearts and minds**

- Bonnie Horstman** recovering from heart surgery
- Linda Arreguin** recovering at home from bypass surgery
- Ruth Medina** recovering at home from back surgery
- Tim Brinkman** (friend of Rick Desgranges) beginning radiation for a brain tumor
- Paula Maurer** recovering from recent surgery
- Lauri (Haldy) Powasli** undergoing chemo and radiation
- Dawn Fry** dealing with health issues
- Betty (Bob) Rettig** recovering from procedure
- Kip Froelich** (infant son of Kurt and Vanessa Froelich) home following hospitalization
- Wayne Stephens** (Christine Rettig's brother) prostate cancer
- Mark Stephens** (Christine Rettig's brother) pacemaker was implanted January 20, 2023
- Grandma Virginia** (Shalom client) asking for prayers with a brain aneurysm

Other Members of our Faith Family who are dealing with illnesses

Please pray for our **members and others who are isolated at home or in care facilities.** They would welcome a phone call or card

Prayers for church members who are working with or near COVID-19 patients and all healthcare workers

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

The Family of **Sharon Hoff**, who passed away on January 2, 2023.

The Family of **Gwen Rohrbaugh**, who passed away on January 10, 2023.

The Family of **Shirley Huber**, who passed away on January 10, 2023.

### **Lexington Jay Eberly**

December 26, 2022

**Parents:** Tim and Brooke Eberly

**Grandparents:** Melanie Anderson,  
Craig Anderson, Dee and Greg Pepple

**Great-grandparents:** May Kay Altman,  
Gary and Cindy Anderson



### **Rhett Joseph Keetlerle**

January 3, 2023

**Parents:** Kyle and Jenna (Clady) Keeterle

**Grandparents:** Christopher and Lori Clady,  
Dave and Melissa Keeterle

**Great-Grandparents:** Anita Sidle, Carolyn Clady,  
Forrest Clady, Gene and Ann Grime



## **Kid's Corner**



## **February**

- |        |                |
|--------|----------------|
| 2 - 2  | Nicholas Evers |
| 2 - 16 | Brooke Squires |
| 2 - 23 | Logan Waisner  |
| 2 - 26 | Hazel Kibisu   |



**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 - #116A                      Geri Ripke - 207*

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

**Don Huber** - has moved to New Mexico. 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

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY  
DECEMBER REPORT**

**ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary  
 Fund: GENERAL FUND  
 December 2022

Accounts	DECEMBER 2022	2022 ACTUAL YTD	2022 ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>OPERATING BUDGET INCOME</b>			
OFFERINGS	\$ 24,016.71	\$ 198,273.97	\$ 231,186.44
FUNDRAISING	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ 45.67	\$ 11,068.07	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total OPERATING BUDGET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 24,062.38</b>	<b>\$ 209,342.04</b>	<b>\$ 232,186.44</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Total BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$ 3,318.37	\$ 38,742.50	\$ 38,399.00
Total MINISTRIES	\$ 887.67	\$ 4,155.41	\$ 7,850.00
Total MISSIONS	\$ 537.50	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 7,004.00
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$ 5,478.23	\$ 62,945.63	\$ 69,924.44
Total PASTORIAL	8418.09	96903.33	109009
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 18,639.86</b>	<b>\$ 209,696.87</b>	<b>\$ 232,186.44</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,422.52</b>	<b>\$ (354.83)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Operating Checking Acct. Balance as of 12/31/22			\$ 27,350.72
Mission Giving: CROSSRAOD		\$ 100.00	
SHALOM		\$ 690.00	
MISSION TO GO		\$ 650.00	
THE CHRISTMAS FUND (VOC)		\$ 1,185.00	
ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN		\$ 100.00	



*Mission and Stewardship*



**SHALOM FOOD PANTRY  
MISSION FOR FEBRUARY**

Shalom Food Pantry is starting its 20th year of providing help to Henry County families in need. Every month we as a church can see first hand how our donations help the lives of so many people! Shalom Food Pantry is our hands-on, local mission where we can volunteer and help families twice a month.

Having a line on our weekly giving envelopes, Shalom Food Pantry is easy to support. It's also easy to volunteer by simply calling Larry Hockman, our master scheduler. His phone number is located in our address directory. He knows first hand when there's an opening available for you to volunteer! Your main job when working at the pantry is to pack food boxes, usually two, for each family. There are numbers in front of the product that let you know how much to give each family based on family size.

Your support goes towards purchasing food weekly to stock our pantry, as well as transportation to pick up our food at the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank.

Last year we helped 710 families with 2,527 individuals! We look forward to another year of great support for Shalom Food Pantry from our Faith Family as well as our community!

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF YOUR GIVING STATEMENT FOR 2022. STATEMENTS CAN BE EMAILED IF YOU WISH OR PRINTED FOR YOU TO PICK UP. LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR STATEMENT MAILED.



♥ **Ladle Of Love** ♥

♥ **Soup And Dessert Luncheon**



♥ **February 12 - 11:30 A.M.** ♥

♥ **30 Soups And 30 Desserts** ♥

*This is a fundraiser sponsored by the Consistory to support our Heating and Air Conditioning Funds. Not only does the Consistory members appreciate your willingness to cook for us, but also all the people who stay for food and a great time of fellowship.*

**Plan to come to church  
and then stay for the luncheon.**



**To Provide  
Soups And Desserts**

- ♥ **Ladle Of Love** Soup and Dessert Luncheon needs **YOUR** help.
- ♥ **Thirty soups and thirty desserts are needed.** Sign up sheets will be in the narthex area for you to volunteer to bring your favorite soups or desserts. All Homemade by the Great COOKS at St. John's Church.
- ♥ If you have any questions, contact a Consistory member.

### Lenten Devotional Books

The word "Lent" is derived from a Latin word meaning "lengthen," due to the days growing longer in this season. As noted in Pastor Dave's column, it is the 40-day (plus Sundays) period before Easter for penitence, decision, and commitment as we prepare for Easter with introspection.

To assist in this important work, St. John's will be providing free Lenten devotional books, which will help give you a foundation of meaning and meditation during this sacred season. The theme is "Amazing Grace" to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the writing of this beloved hymn.

These devotional books will be available in the Narthex or in the Church Office beginning February 12. If you are not able to pick one up at church, please contact the office.

### The Evangelism Team

will meet on  
Sunday, February 26,  
11:30 a.m.  
Thanks, Christine



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.



### Gene and Phyllis Crawford

will celebrate their  
64th Wedding Anniversary  
on February 15

11708 Co Rd N  
Napoleon, OH 43545

### LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal, beginning with Ash Wednesday. During the succeeding 40 days Christians are urged to pray and to meditate anew on the Gospel accounts of Christ's redemptive passion and death.

Our Ash Wednesday worship on February 22 at 7:00 p.m. will focus on the themes of ashes, confession and Holy Communion. There will be a voluntary imposition of ashes for any who wish to receive them on their forehead.

*Congratulations to*

*Zachary Brown*

*and*

*Jenna Wyler*



*On their Marriage - December 31*



*In Loving Memory*  
*Sharon Lee Hoff*

*July 9, 1934 - January 2, 2023*

Sharon Lee Hoff, 88, of Holgate, Ohio, passed away on January 2, 2023, at Vancrest of Holgate.

She was born on July 9, 1934, to Harry and Myrtle (Rettig) Hoff. Sharon was Confirmed at St. John's United Church of Christ in 1948, and graduated from Malinta-Grelton High School in 1952.

Sharon was a lifelong member of St. John's United Church of Christ. She loved the holidays and family gatherings, and her contagious laugh will be missed. Sharon never forgot a birthday and enjoyed sending and receiving cards. She proudly shared photos of her great-great nephews and niece with everyone.

Sharon's second home was the Henry County Senior Center, where she enjoyed daily meals and great company. The Center brought her much joy and treated her with so much kindness. Sharon loved watching Hallmark movies and was an avid fan of the Cleveland Guardians.

She is survived by her niece, Kimberly (Dennis) Behnfeldt, nephew, Randy (Shirley) Hoff; great nephews, Brandon (Kara) Behnfeldt, Carson Hoff, Jacob (Kortney) Hahn; great niece, Kelly Hoff; great-great nephews, William Behnfeldt, and Drew Behnfeldt; and great-great niece, Harmony Hahn.

In addition to her parents, Sharon was preceded in death by her brother, Robert (Patsy) Hoff; niece, Pamela Hahn; and great niece, Brooke Behnfeldt.

Friends and family were received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, on Thursday, January 5, 2023, from 3 - 7 p.m. Funeral services were held at St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, on Friday, January 6, 2023, at 11 a.m. with an hour of visitation prior to services. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

*Memorial contributions may be made to*  
*Henry County Senior Center or*  
St. John United Church of Christ - Heating Fund



*In Loving Memory*  
*Gwendolyn Ann Rohrbaugh*

*May 13, 1951 - January 10, 2023*

Gwendolyn Ann Rohrbaugh, 71, of Napoleon, Ohio, died Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at the Toledo Hospital.

She was born May 13, 1951, in Napoleon, Ohio, to the late Robert and Margaret Ann (Franz) Vajen.

Gwen was a 1969, graduate of Napoleon High School and attained her beautician's license. Working for over 40 years, she owned and operated Gwen's Nu-U and also worked at other local hair salons.

She was a life member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, where she was a member of the Bell Choir and volunteered in the church office.

She was an active auxiliary member of the Napoleon Moose Lodge, American Legion, and V.F.W. She also tended bar at the Amvets and V.F.W. and was known for recreating the infamous Idle Hour pizza for patrons.

Gwen had an enthusiastic outlook on life and loved spending time with her family and Ken.

She is survived by her children, Lauri (Tim) Stannard, Anne (Jim) Klausing and Chad Rohrbaugh (Jackie Brown); grandchildren, Jacquyn Stannard (Jen), Calvin (Brooke) Stannard, Katelyn (Dillon) Terry, Austin, Sarah, Grace, and Evan Klausing, Madison and Mason Rohrbaugh; Great-grandchildren, Addison, Calin, Kahli, Hank, Natalie and Graham; soulmate of over 25 years Ken Crawford; siblings, Tom Vajen, Jan (Sue) Vajen, Kevin (Tammy) Vajen, and Denise (David Chrislip) Vajen.

She was also preceded in death by sisters, Sue Huber and Margo Pichotta.

A celebration of Life service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 16, at St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, where a memorial gathering was held from 10 - 11 a.m.

*Memorial contributions may be made to*  
St. John United Church of Christ



*In Loving Memory*  
**Shirley A. Huber**  
*April 2, 1937 - January 10, 2023*

Shirley A. Huber, 85, of Holgate, passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

She was born on April 2, 1937, to Victor and Luella (Rabe) Rettig. She was married to Donald Huber who survives. Shirley was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ of Holgate. She worked for Campbell Soup Company for many years. She also worked at General Motors Company and Sagers Bar and Grill of Holgate.

Shirley was a lover of animals and enjoyed raising her dogs, horses, and cats. She collected angels, carousel horses and many other things. In her younger years she was a part of a traveling bowling league, competing alongside her sister and brother-in-law. She liked to watch game shows, her favorites being Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy and Family Feud.

She is survived by her husband, Donald Huber of Belen, New Mexico, children, Cathy (Jeff) Nofziger of Wauseon, Michael Rettig of Holgate and Dawn (Cody) Boozer of Belen, New Mexico, step-son, Tracy (Monica) Kruse of North Carolina, family friend, Lynn Williams, grandchildren, James (Elizabeth) Flory of Fostoria, Steven Flory of New York, Vicki Nofziger of Wauseon, Dustin Nofziger (Payton Robinson) of Wauseon, Jaylyn Boozer of Belen, New Mexico, Alijah Boozer of Belen, New Mexico and Donald Kruse of North Carolina, great-grandchildren, Tristan Flory, Maveric Flory, Archer Flory and Avery Nofziger. She is also survived by her sister, Darlene (Larry) Hockman of Napoleon. She is preceded in death by her parents, Victor and Luella Rettig and her brother, Ronald Rettig.

A memorial visitation was held on Monday, January 16, 2023, from 4 - 6 p.m. at St. John's United Church of Christ. Memorial services followed on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the church with an hour of visitation prior to the services. She was laid to rest at the church cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted with Snyder-Hoening Funeral Home of Holgate.

*Memorial contributions may be made to*  
St. John United Church of Christ



December 8, 2022

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

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,

The important ongoing support of donors makes an important difference for the children and families we serve. As a donor you are a vital part of our mission, helping to give hope, and healing to the many young people we serve each year.

With this gift you show how much you care about the youth and their needs. Your support is very much appreciated.

Crossroad has a legacy of being a haven of love, understanding, and hope. You have a special place in ensuring this continues.

Sincerely,

Kyle Zanker  
Chief Development Officer  
kzanker@crossroadcares.org  
260.484.4153 x2090

Mark Adang  
Donor Relations Director  
madang@crossroadcares.org  
260.484.4153 x2110

*We are so very grateful to all of you! You have been helping kids here since 1883- when you helped found us! I love so enjoyed getting to visit with you congregation over the past 27 years that I love being here! Thank you! Bless you!*



## Washington United Church of Christ

2950 Sidney Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45225

Phone (513) 541-7757 Fax (513) 541-7579

December 16, 2022

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

Dear Friends,



Thank you! We have received your generous check for \$810. With your permission, we would like to designate it toward our Fellowship of Friends, which supports all the outreach ministries at Washington United Church of Christ.

The *Gifts to the Manger* ministry was Dec. 11, when 93 families representing 370 children came to the church to pick up holiday food and clothes and gifts for their children.

Camp Cupboard and Closet distributes food and donated clothing and household items two days a week.

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

Homework Club, our after-school tutoring program, will start in the next semester. We are pleased to have volunteers from Xavier and University of Cincinnati – the kids like the younger tutors!

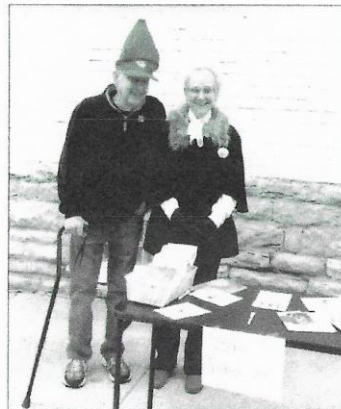
Thank you, on behalf of our new pastor, Rev. Melissa Stephens (pictured) and all those who benefit from your gift.

Sincerely,

*Laurel Humes*

Laurel Humes  
Church Council, Washington UCC

P.S. We miss seeing you!



### Orphan Grain Train – Ohio

Warehouse: 500 Independence Dr.

Napoleon OH 43545

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 74

Ridgeville Corners OH 43555

Email: [OHIOOGT@rteceexpress.net](mailto:OHIOOGT@rteceexpress.net)



Orphan Grain Train

Nancy Helmke, President PH. 419.758.3539

Diann Meyer Grieser, Sec. / Treas. PH. 419.267.5710

Cindy Cline, Warehouse Coordinator/Board Member

PH. 419.261.3409

Vickie Grieser, Board Member PH. 419.572.9824

Lesa Bischoff, Board Member PH. 419.261.8138

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."*  
John 14:18 (NIV)

December 20, 2022

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,

Thank you for your gift to Ohio Division of Orphan Grain Train! We thank our Heavenly Father for placing people with a heart for service in our lives, for giving them gifts to share so that others may be blessed. We pray that God will continue to watch over the work of the Orphan Grain Train, and we ask for your continued prayers.

We continue to share items from our warehouse with residents of Kentucky who were devastated by tornadoes last December and now in other areas affected by recent flooding. We delivered more items to Madisonville KY recently as people are finally able to get back into their homes that were damaged (tornado relief) and to flood victims in the Chavies KY area.

In early March we sent two trailers of clothing and blankets to the Indiana OGT and those items were sent overseas for Ukrainian refugees. We continue to accept monetary donations for Ukraine relief. These monetary donations are used to purchase needed items or for shipping costs as we partner with our headquarters in Norfolk NE. There are several other Missions in S.E. Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana that we partner with and when we hear of a need that we can help with, we respond promptly.

On Oct. 23 we gathered items for three areas in Florida affected by hurricane Ian, and those items were delivered that same week to Ft. Myers FL and distributed through LERT. [Lutheran Emergency Response Team] Our Creator has taught us to love our neighbor and to respond in Christian love with resources that He provides, through you and many others!

Orphan Grain Train is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with people who are in need in the United States and around the world. Our volunteers gather donations of clean, gently used: clothing, working appliances, gently used furniture along with medical supplies, Christian literature, and other resources to meet real needs of God's people. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for all.

Sincerely,

*Diann*

Diann Meyer-Grieser

Sec. / Treas.

Ohio Division Orphan Grain Train

This letter is your official receipt. Our Federal Employer Information Number is 31-1614650.  
Receipt dated: 12/20/2022 Check #15552 in the amount of \$365.00 Dated: 11/30/2022

# Thank You

The family of Larry Sidle express their appreciation for Pastor Voll's kind words and help with arrangements, Sheri Plotts beautiful music, all the prayers, flowers, and cards sent and especially to the women who provided food and their time following the service. In the words of my ex brother-in-law "he knows why we go to church here - the food is fabulous".

*Thanks again.  
Anita, Lori and Christopher  
and Scott and Kim.*

---

Thank you to the Decorating Team members Jim and Chris Rettig, Chris and Lori Clady, Ruth Ann Durham, Phyllis Crawford, and Virginia Rettig, plus volunteers Franel Nelson and Jay Slagle who took down the Christmas season decorations. Terry and Linda Rettig, team members, were unable to be there due to illness, so the extra volunteers were greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work, and everyone worked together to get the tasks done.

*Thanks, Christine*

---

With gratitude we thank the family of Larry Sidle for the donation of the new maple tree planted on the North side of the church parking lot.

---

Thank you so much for the beautiful fleece blankets. These will mean so much to the children in our care.

We appreciate your donation very much! Thanks Again

*Henry County Children Services*



## FEBRUARY

2 - 2	Junior Hoff	2 - 16	Zachary Franz
2 - 3	Haley Kibisu	2 - 17	Jerry Rettig
2 - 5	Katie Borck	2 - 18	Sheila Franz
2 - 8	Scott Zimmer	2 - 19	Jeri Hoellrich
2 - 10	Earl Abshire	2 - 22	Tim Eberle
2 - 15	Sue Mohr	2 - 23	Vandella Huber
2 - 15	Rory Prigge	2 - 24	Sonya Eitzman
2 - 15	Lee Franz	2 - 25	Shaunda Squires
2 - 16	Chevelle Franz	2 - 26	Minnie Hoff

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 419-592-0589  
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 **MARCH** Newsletter  
is **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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**



*February Mission*

**SHALOM FOOD PANTRY**

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).