

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

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Save the Date
Annual Congregational
Meeting January 30, 2022

Farewell from Pastor Orr – page 2 -3

New baby – page 6

Kids' Corner – purple insert

From the Pulpit – page 10

Worship Participants – page 11

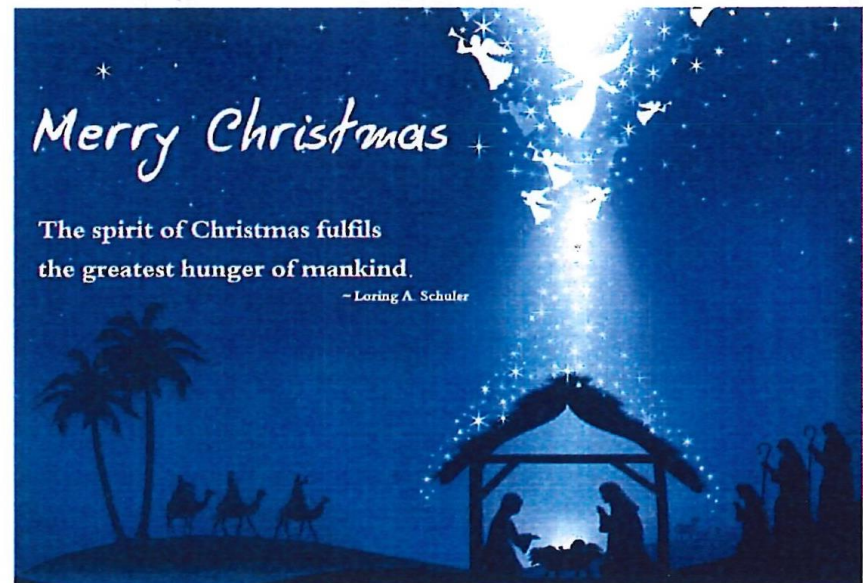
Cheeseballs – page 16

December Mission – 17

Retirement Reception – page 19

Birthdays and Anniversaries – pages 22, 26

Thank you's – pages 13, 22, 24-25



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Confirmation 9am - Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation	29	30	1 6:30pm - CardioDrumming 6:30pm - Handbell choir	2	3 4:30pm - Pastor Orr	4 9am - Cheeseballs
5 9am - Sunday 10:15am - Worship 12pm - FH reserved	6	7 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food 7pm - Spiritual Council	8 6:30pm - CardioDrumming 6:30pm - Handbell choir	9 5:45pm - Finance Team @	10	11
12 5pm - Shalom Christmas- Fellowship Hall booked 9am - Confirmation 9am - Sunday 10:15am - Worship - Kids' 11:30am - Confirmation 11:30am - Mission and 7pm - Deacons	13 7pm - Consistory Zoom	14	15 6:30pm - CardioDrumming 6:50pm - Handbell choir	16	17	18 12pm - Fellowship Hall
19 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - CE Board	20	21 SHALOM Delivery in am 9am - Newsletter mailing 4:30pm - SHALOM Food	22 6:30pm - CardioDrumming 6:30pm - Handbell choir	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship -	25
26 10:15am - Worship	27	28	29	30	31	1

The Sentinel

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

DECEMBER 2021

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
Pastor David Orr - Cell Phone: 419-966-2781
Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
Church e-mail: holgateucc@metalink.net
Pastor e-mail: stjohnpastor@metalink.net
Financial Administrator e-mail - Kristine Maas: stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net
Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
Church Website: www.stjohnsucchohio.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 and Youth Bell Choir 6:30 p.m.
Sanctuary TBA

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Parting Words

"And now I commend you to the care of God and to the message of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you the blessings God has for all his people. Acts 20:32 TEV



Since I announced my resignation last spring, many people have said, "Congratulations on your retirement!" Sharon and I appreciate your kind words and prayers, but it is a bit of a bittersweet transition. We are looking forward to new possibilities but it is not easy to leave a wonderful church like St. John's. Serving here has been a great privilege and a complete joy.

When Paul said goodbye to the Ephesians, in Acts 20, he told them they would never see him again. While Lima is not as distant as Rome and I am not facing imprisonment, as Paul was, it is true that our relationship will not be the same. The Consistory and I have adopted a Covenant of Closure, suggested by our Northwest Ohio Association. For the benefit of the congregation, we have agreed that I will separate myself from the church until the next settled pastor has had time to become established in the church. I have also promised to refrain from performing pastoral functions, and to decline invitations to preside at special services.

When I worked as a ride operator in an amusement park I spent a good part of my day saying, "Please wait until the ride comes to a complete stop." Fortunately, churches never come to a complete stop, which means there is never a perfect time for a transition. So, I regret work that is unfinished and all that could have been done better. Nevertheless, I am pleased and thankful for all that we have been able to accomplish together.

Continued On Page 3

Parting Words

"And now I commend you to the care of God and to the message of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you the blessings God has for all his people. Acts 20:32 TEV



Continued From Page 2

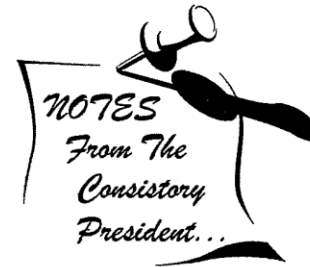
We don't know the future. We can't foresee the good times it will bring or anticipate the challenges it will hold. But, when I reflect upon the way the Lord has blessed and sustained this church throughout its history, I am certain that God will continue to use St. John's as a messenger of grace in this community, just as it has been for 161 years. In season and out, God will be with you and Christ will keep his promise to build his church.

When Sharon and I first set foot in St. John's to meet with the search team on September 24, 2014, you greeted us warmly with flowers, cookies, and openness. From that day to this, we have enjoyed your partnership, respect, and caring friendship. Thank you!

You will always be in our hearts and in our prayers.

Your brother in Christ,

David



LAST MONTH OF MY TERM

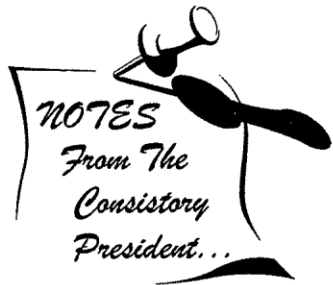
December, 2021 brings me to my last month as Consistory President, and my last month as a member of Consistory. I will say, I was nervous and a greenhorn when I attended my first Consistory meeting as a guest in December of 2018. The incoming members are invited to the last meeting of the year prior to becoming a Consistory member as a way to "get your feet wet". Now, here I am three years later, and about to become a former member of Consistory. The nervousness is gone as I have been guided by seasoned members of Consistory, and learned so much about workings of our church.

Little did I know what would lie ahead of me as Head Deacon in 2020, with the changes that needed to take place due to the Coronavirus. Who knew that we would still be dealing with the effects of the Coronavirus all the way through 2021. None of us really know if we will ever get back to the "old way" of how we do things, but, at least we have all been able to make things work in many different aspects of our lives.

Last year, I received a copy of the following poem in a Christmas card from a friend and former co-worker. I hung onto it, thinking that I might want to look back on it in the future. It has such a special meaning about this time of year, and I want to share it with all of you as a word of blessing during this Christmas season.

*Merry Christmas to all,
Christine Rettig*

Continued On Page 5



LAST MONTH OF MY TERM

Continued From Page 4

If You Look for Me at Christmas...

If you look for me at Christmas,
you won't need a special star,
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness,
as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

ATTENTION TEAM SECRETARIES or anyone responsible for
an article to be published in the January issue of the Sentinel.

Due to the Christmas Holidays the **DEADLINE** for the **January**
issue will be on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 at 6:00 p.m.**



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Nice stretch of good weather for harvest.
- Grateful to have an Interim Pastor to lead us when Pastor Orr retires.
- Beautiful colors in the trees as the seasons change.
- Family members felt the November 7 Totenfest service was beautiful.
- Thankful for the Search Team.
- Grateful for those who helped with Shalom, the need is there.
- Appreciate the work that Greg and Doug are doing.
- Appreciate the work that Shane Eberle is doing to keep up with the mowing at the church and parsonage.
- Glad to know the the temperature monitors in the freezers and refrigerators are working.

REMI ELIZABETH RUE

November 6, 2021

Parents: Tyler and Jillian Rue

Grandparents: Christopher and Lori Clady, Jason
and Mindi Rue, Dave and Shannon Sidle

Great-Grandparents: Carolyn Clady, Forrest Clady,
Larry and Anita Sidle, Regina Harshman,
Cindy Sterling, Tom Rue

Great-Great Grandparents: Ira Perry, Blanch Rue



*VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service*

*St. John's Not Scheduled
for December*

November 8, 2021

- Respectfully submitted, Maggie Prigge*

This allows those who wish to worship from home to join with others virtually at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays. The service is also recorded, so you can watch it at your convenience.

November 2, 2021

Pam Desgranges, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH

November 7 2021
Lori Clady, Scribe

The Deacons met via Zoom on November 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Pat Kirk, Christine Rettig, Ron Hoellrich, Jeri Hoellrich,
John Hahn, Amanda Rettig
Absent: Rick Desgranges, Lori Clady, Christopher Clady

The remaining Deacon schedule for November was reviewed.

Volunteers were secured for the Thanksgiving Eve service here at St. John's on November 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Deacon schedule for December was completed. Orientation for new Deacons will be scheduled.

Liaison reports:

Mission and Stewardship Team: Christine, will meet on December 12 after worship.

Christian Education Board: Christine, will meet on December 19 after worship.

Finance: John Hahn: clarified that the playground fund has close to \$15,000.

Decorating: Christine, will decorate for Harvest Home Sunday, November 21, set-up Advent wreath for November 28, and Decorating Team will meet on November 29 at 6:00 p.m. to complete Christmas decorating.

Memorial Team: Rick, reported by email that Memorial Team will donate \$2,000 to the playground fund.

Next meeting: Sunday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Christine Rettig, Vice-chairman

From the Pulpit...

Worship Services 10:15 a.m.



December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent - Communion

Luke 3:1-6

Get Ready!

We prepare our hearts to receive the Savior.



December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent Sunday School Christmas Program

Luke 3:7-18

What Should We Do?

John lays the ethical foundation for the coming of the kingdom of God.



December 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent Pastor David will share some parting thoughts.

Luke 1:39-55

Joyful Expectation

Mary anticipates the saving work of Christ.



December 24 - Christmas Eve - Communion

Luke 2:1-20

The Christmas Story

We meditate on the familiar but amazing birth of Jesus.



December 26

**Release of David Orr from pastoral ministry
at St. John's**

Colossians 3:12-17

Benediction

When we are God's people, everything is different.

DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

USHERS	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
Dec. 5	Nick Evers	John Hahn Amanda Rettig
Dec. 12	Zoe Lulfs	Ron Hoellrich Jeri Hoellrich
Dec. 19	Nick Evers	John Hahn Pat Kirk
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	Zoe Lulfs Nick Evers	Christopher Clady Lori Clady
Dec. 26	Ethan Saneholtz	Christine Rettig Pat Kirk

Shalom FROM THE SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - October 2021

INCOME

St. John's September Giving	\$ 740.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	165.00
Chief Receipts	<u>92.55</u>

Total \$ 997.55

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...

Rose Marie Durham in rehab after hospitalization
Herb Fruth recovering from outpatient procedure
Rachel Thomas recovering from outpatient procedure
Kay Armbruster back problems
Janet Scheele Hospice care
John Wilcox (Patsy Yaicher's brother) Rehab for COVID effects
Tim Meyer awaiting a liver transplant
Wayne Ziegler (Betty (Don) Rettig's nephew) new shunt and port
Esther Bischoff recovering from hip replacement
Millie Holzer home following hospitalization
Miriam Kibisu (2 years old) broken tibia - in leg cast
Randy Lambert clots behind knee
Ruth Medina recovering following hospitalization

Other Members of our Faith Family who are dealing with COVID

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 procedures

- 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.



Kids Corner

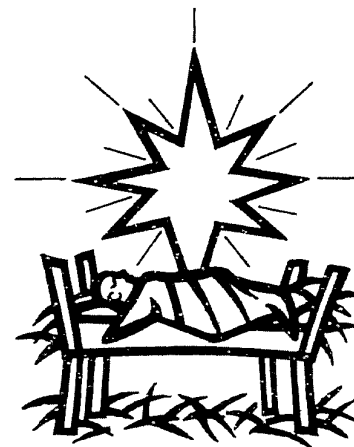


December

12 - 4 Adalynn Borck
12 - 11 Carter Franz
12 - 16 Emma Franz
12 - 19 Lily Morgan
12 - 19 Wila Morgan
12 - 23 Bradlee Roberts
12 - 28 Joseph Coppes
12 - 30 Brantley Koketko



Kids Corner



"A Savior is Born"

Sunday, December 12 - 10:15 a.m.

Presented by St. John's Sunday school children

Directed by Diana Evers and Gavin Miller

Music by Sue Abshire

Please join us as our children celebrate the birth of
Jesus with simple words and song



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

Within the Fellowship:

Sympathies to:

Lori and Eric Shank and their family on the passing of Lori's father,
Larry Bullen on October 26, 2021

**Lynette Bichan Abke and Pam Austermiller and their families and
sister-in-law Kay Armbruster** on the passing of Janet Bichen on
October 16, 2021

Brian and Dawn Fry and family on the passing of Brian's mother,
Diane Rippetoe on November 4, 2021

Mark Your Calendar



**ST. JOHN'S
ANNUAL
Congregational
MEETING
January 30, 2022**

Thank You

Thank You everyone from St. John's Faith Family for all of your
prayers, cards, and thoughts in regard to the passing of my brother
James L. Hockman. May God's blessing be with all of you.

*Larry and Darlene Hockman
and family*



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

NURSING HOMES

INDIAN MEADOWS NURSING HOME, 303 West Leggett,
Wauseon, OH 43567
Thelma Breece

THE LUTHERAN HOME, 1036 S. Perry Street, Napoleon, OH 43545
Sue Mohr - #116A

NORTHCREST, 240 Northcrest Dr., Napoleon, OH 43545
Don Huber - #107

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

ASSISTED LIVING

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

VANCREST NURSING HOME, 600 Joe E. Brown, Holgate, OH 43527
Marlene Rettig - #33

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
Shirley Huber	E251 St. Rt 108	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



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FINANCIAL SUMMARY OCTOBER REPORT

ST JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
Fund: GENERAL FUND
October 2021

	OCTOBER 2021 ACTUAL	2021 ACTUAL YTD	2021 ANNUAL BUDGET
Accounts			
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$16,807.60	\$151,628.35	\$211,835.69
Total OPERATING BUDGET INCOME			
EXPENSES			
Total BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,534.77	\$26,673.86	\$39,000.00
Total MINISTRIES	\$127.42	\$3,020.72	\$7,800.00
Total MISSIONS	\$537.50	\$5,375.00	\$6,950.00
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$5,388.13	\$50,010.06	\$64,565.51
Total PASTORIAL	\$7,072.28	\$67,297.25	\$93,520.18
Total EXPENSES	\$15,660.10	\$152,376.89	\$211,835.69
Net Total	\$1,147.50	(\$748.54)	\$ -
Operating Checking Account Balance 10/31/2021		\$ 24,776.30	
Total Mission Giving for October		\$ 1,760.00	

YTD Deficit is \$748.54 to balance income with expenses.
Thank you for supporting St. John's United Church of Christ.
We will continue to be good stewards.



CHEESE BALLS FOR SALE!

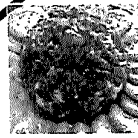
The Confirmands are making and selling cheese balls to raise money for camp.

Buy a couple for your holiday gatherings

Chipped Beef or Cheddar Bacon

8 oz cheese ball - \$8.00

Available December 5 and 12



Notes from the Office

We are currently mailing weekly bulletins to about 20 of our shut-ins each week. If you would like to be added to the list, please let the church office know. If you have been receiving the bulletins and no longer need the mailings, please let us know.

We send a weekly email that includes the announcements and a link to both the current bulletin and newsletter. If you have email and are not receiving this, please let the office know.



*Mission and
Stewardship*



THE CHRISTMAS FUND DECEMBER MISSION

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, administered by the Pension Board of United Church of Christ, is to provide direct financial assistance to UCC ministers and lay church employees dealing with a loss of income. This enables us to help provide to Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, special grants for emergencies, and Christmas "Thank you" Gift Checks to those individuals and families in need. Generous donations to the Christmas Fund are making a difference and the need for our resources to grow.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

Since 1902, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund — today one of four UCC Special Mission Offerings — has provided assistance to clergy and lay employees who, after years of service to others, now find themselves facing unexpected needs.

One of the four special mission offerings of the UCC, The Christmas fund has been received from congregates around the denomination for more than 100 years. It provides financial support to those who have served the church and are facing challenging and difficult situations. Emergency grants are also available to assist in covering costs that arise unexpectedly for example, large medical expenses, or home damage resulting from natural disasters.

Church Photo Directory



Photo Directory – We are working to update our photo directory – the last one was published pre-COVID. It will be nice to have pictures of new folks and especially to have pictures of our kids as they change so quickly.

Pastor and Sharon Orr will certainly enjoy being able to look back at these pictures and having up-to-date pictures of folks will help Pastor Voll and Janise to learn faces to go with names.

If you have digital pictures you can send to the church email at holgateucc@metalink.net, that would be ideal.

Linda Arreguin, Jim Rettig and Betty (Bob) Rettig will be available to take pictures before and after worship.

Please keep in mind that photos will be reduced to a 2" square.

Photos need to be received **no later than December 1** to be included in this edition.

Save the Dates

December 3 from 4:30-7 p.m. – Reception for Pastor and Sharon Orr Retirement
Program at 6:00 p.m.

December 5 - Siberian Solstice Concert
Due to concern for the typically large crowd in the sanctuary for an extended time, the **Siberian Solstice** concert scheduled at St. John's for December 5 has been **CANCELLED for this year.**

December 12 - 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School
Christmas Program



Annual Reports due January 9, 2022

Written Reports The secretary will take them early!

President of the Consistory
Consistory Actions taken and motions made in 2019
Deacons
Pastor's Report
Sanctuary and Bell Choirs
Christian Education Board
Mission and Stewardship
Audit Team

Spiritual Council
Evangelism Team
Memorial Team
SHALOM
Worship and Music
Cemetery Association
Trustees
Fellowship
Endowment

Financial Reports as soon as bank statements have been balanced.
Sanctuary Choir Cemetery Assoc. Memorial Fund
Endowment Fund Bell Choir SHALOM
SHALOM Beverage & Recycle

If your report is already complete, please forward it to the office via email if possible, or leave it in the secretary's box.

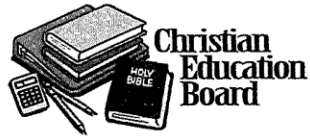
Retirement Reception for Pastor Orr

Friday, December 3, 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate this milestone in his life as we wish Pastor Orr and Sharon the best in their future.

Appetizer/Dessert Buffet served from 4:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
Program to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar, and we look forward to seeing everyone!



Highlights

November 7, 2021

Submitted By Caryn Lulfs

- There are currently 36 students enrolled in Sunday school plus 11 attending the adult class. All are welcome.
- Teachers - sign-up sheets to teach through May are on the library counter. We would love to have more volunteers to teach or help. See a CEB member if you are interested in teaching regularly or being a sub.
- Our Crossroad Mission item for November is construction paper, in December we will collect hats and gloves. Thanks to all the children who brought in composition notebooks in October.
- The Confirmands plan to help with the soup lunch and then go SHALOM Christmas shopping in Defiance on November 14. They are taking orders for cheese balls, will make them on December 4 for distribution on December 5 and December 12 to raise money for Confirmation camp.
- Advent calendar booklets will be given to each child on November 28. This is a great opportunity for families to share the anticipation of Jesus' birth.
- The children are working on their Christmas play, "A Savior is Born" which will be presented during worship on Sunday, December 12
- There will be a Sunday school Christmas Break on December 26 and January 2.
- Our next scheduled board meeting is scheduled on December 19 after worship.

Franell Nelson, Protem scribe

COVENANT OF CLOSURE

As he prepares to retire at the end of December, Pastor Orr has entered into a Covenant of Closure with Consistory, on behalf of the entire congregation, and the Northwest Ohio Association. It is common for people to wonder whether a former pastor can return to perform a funeral, wedding, baptism or other special event. The United Church of Christ, like most denominations, advises that, for the health of the congregation and the success of a new pastor, it is important for former pastors to decline these and other pastoral requests.

The Covenant is intended to make boundaries clear to both the pastor and people. It is important for a new pastor, whether Interim or Settled, to make connections with the people he/she will be leading. Being part of these special events helps a new pastor create those bonds. Consistory thought it would be helpful for people to know the expectations.





"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

William Snyder

will celebrate his
86th Birthday
on December 2

14224 Co. Rd. L2
Napoleon, OH 43545



Roland and Janice Rettig

will celebrate their
61st Wedding Anniversary
on December 23

K402 Co. Rd. 14
Napoleon, OH 43545

Thank You

To St. John's United Church of Christ,

Thank You so much for allowing Ryan to come speak with you. We are so blessed in the community we live in! We have been so excited to see the children coming to LifeWise. Thank You again!

Ellen Wehln, Director
Beth Downing, Asst. Director



In Loving Memory

Janet R. Bichan

August 28, 1937 - October 16, 2021

Janet R. Bichan, age 84, of Bellefontaine and formerly of Hamler, died Saturday evening at Logan Acres Care Center of Bellefontaine.

Her Legacy ... Janet was born August 28, 1937, to Howard and Laura (Rettig) Armbruster in rural Napoleon. She graduated from Florida High School in 1955. On December 6, 1958, she married Robert Warner Bichan in St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate.

Janet was a homemaker having raised two girls, Lynette Bichan-Abke, West Liberty, and Pam (Mike) Austermiller, Hamler; eight grandchildren, Amanda (Ryan) McClure, Emily Nagel, Audrey Austermiller, Matthias Abke, Ariel (Judah) Chadwick, Gabriel (Shelby) Abke, Nickolai Abke and Eliana (Joseph) Marshall; the three great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Robert on April 3, 2004, and her brother, James Armbruster.

Janet was a faithful member of St. John's United Church of Christ. She was active in the church, serving on the Board of Christian Education, helped with funeral dinners, and worked church bazaars. In addition to her work at home, she also was a bookkeeper at Napoleon Creamery and Bichan Chevrolet and a member of the Hamler Heritage Society, the Wide Awake Club and Hamler Fire Department Auxiliary.

Her Farewell Services ... Friends will be received in the Zachrich Family Funeral Home, Holgate, on Sunday, October 24, 2021, from 1 p.m. until the celebration of her life at 3 p.m. Interment will be private.

The family would like to thank everyone for their care for Janet over the years, especially her caregivers Beth, Bev, Dawn, and Angie of Bellefontaine

*Memorial contributions in Janet's honor
may be gifted to
Hamler Heritage Society
Friends of Hamler Public Library
or A Charity of your choice*

Thank You

Good Morning

And it is morning here on the West Coast.

Though it has taken longer than it should have, I need to express my thanks to St. John's and to all who participated in any way to so beautifully bring Cliff's Committal Service to us. I and the children and grandchildren in California, Utah, Arizona, and Texas along with some of the nieces, nephews, and friends around this great nation were all blessed to be able to share in the service and know that Cliff was not alone nor were we. I am not at all certain such efforts can be fully appreciated until they are felt personally—and they most certainly were.

To then receive Pastor Orr's letter regarding Totenfest only served to make St. John's more special. I will be watching the service even though I cannot physically be in Ohio. The days seem longer than they used to be and the world directly around me is too quiet, but I am grateful for the many years Cliff and I were granted to be together. Neither of us ever expected it. It sometimes still seems unreal that a boy from Brooklyn, New York and a girl from Holgate, Ohio could meet in California, marry at St. John's in Holgate, and share 49 years together. And all those mother-in-law jokes were never appropriate for either of us for we not only loved each other but we also loved each other's family and places of growing up. Yes, indeed, we most certainly were blessed. Thank you.

I am attaching an item that I put together for history purposes—both of us were/are history buffs—that I thought some of you might like to see. After he retired in 1989, Cliff was not content just to stay home and read while I was still teaching. Six months later he saw an item in the paper stating that the Sheriff's Department was in need of a volunteer who was computer literate. He asked me what I thought, and I handed him the telephone. To make a long story a little shorter, he was "hired" almost the moment he first spoke to the department. He worked with users and equipment inside the administrative offices as well as the prison system itself. In 1992 Cliff was selected as the San Diego County Volunteer of the Year in Criminal Justice. It was indeed an honor and we were all very proud of him. The opportunity came to move closer to home for his volunteer work. He became part of the La Mesa Police Department's RSVP program in 1994. And, as the saying goes, "The rest is history."

Continued On Page 25

Thank You

Continued From Page 24

And this email is possible because of the very early part of computer history and its continuing growth! The United States Postal Service didn't get the call to deliver this message because the printer that goes with this computer for some reason is off line and I need to call my paid computer expert to please figure out why it keeps going off line.

Thank you again for all your efforts, help, and understanding.

Kay Snyder Raines

A STAR FOR CLIFF

Ten years ago on October 26, 2011, Cliff was honored by the La Mesa Police Department and the City of La Mesa when his star for community service was unveiled on the "Walkway of the Stars." The area was a pedestrian walkway which has been transformed into an urban park in downtown La Mesa. Citizens who have volunteered more than 10,000 hours of community service are recognized by having their own stone stars placed on the walkway. After receiving the star, Cliff continued his volunteer work. I have no idea how many total hours he contributed. Cliff was the fourth person so honored, and there have been no others since. Following his memorial service on September 10, 2021, his children, grandchildren, and friends once again recognized his star by walking the short distance from the Chapel to the star and placing flowers on it.



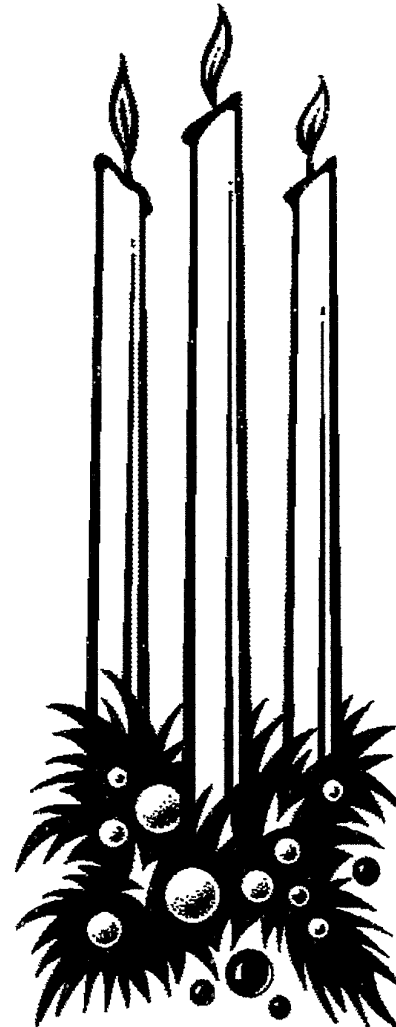
DECEMBER

12 - 1	Rob Lawson	12 - 19	John Hahn
12 - 1	Elizabeth Richnafsky	12 - 19	Terry Crawford
12 - 2	Carol Medina	12 - 19	Emma Rees
12 - 2	Marsha Lambert	12 - 21	Sandy Eberle
12 - 2	Bill Snyder	12 - 22	Sheri Plotts
12 - 4	Philip Kibisu	12 - 22	Keith Winnie
12 - 5	Larry Sidle	12 - 22	Kristi Pontious
12 - 6	Jim Rettig	12 - 23	Kennedy Hall
12 - 7	Joshua Bortz	12 - 24	Alexa Brown
12 - 8	Rachel Thomas	12 - 24	Hal Luebker
12 - 12	Brian Fry	12 - 26	Judy English
12 - 13	Garrett Sidle	12 - 26	Abigail Stevenson
		12 - 26	Lisa Haldy

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.)



Merry Christmas
From The Staff
At St. John's

Pastor David Orr
Betty (Bob) Rettig
Dawn Fry
Kristine Maas
Ruth Ann Durham
Sheri Plotts
Greg Nelson
Sue Abshire
Linda Rettig



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 **JANUARY**
Newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021**
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



December Mission

The Christmas Fund

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.