

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

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24 – Palm Sunday – worship at 10:15

March 28 – Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm simple meal/worship

March 29 – Good Friday – 1 pm Community Worship

7 pm St. John's worship

March 31 – Easter – 7 am Sunrise service

8 am Breakfast

9 am Easter Egg Hunt

10:15 am Worship



From Pastor Jeff – pages 2-3

Cemetery Association Meeting – page 6

Worship Participants – page 10

Potato Bake – page 16

Afternoon of Games – page 17

Newsletter Deadline Change – page 17

Rummage Sale is Coming – page 18

Birthdays – pages 20 and 27

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Baptism Mateo Solis 10:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30am - FH reserved	4 6pm - Spiritual Council	5 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	6 12pm - Red Cross Blood Drive 6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Lenten Discussions @ 8pm - Choir practice	7 6pm - Finance Team 6pm - Pastoral Relations Council	8	9
10 Daylight savings time 9am - Confirmation/SS 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Potato Bake 12:30pm - Games in the afternoon 6:15pm - Deacons	11 6:30pm - Consistory	12 6:30pm - Cybersecurity Program	13 6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Lenten Discussions @ 8pm - Choir practice	14	15 12pm - Newsletter deadline	16 3pm - Newsletter proofs available
17 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship 3pm - Return proofs	18 2pm - FH reserved 3pm - Final newsletter to office	19 SHALOM Delivery in am 8am - print newsletter 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	20 9am - Mail newsletter 6pm - Handbell choir practice 7pm - Lenten Discussions @ 8pm - Choir practice	21	22	23
24 9am - Confirmation/SS 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation II	25	26	27 6pm - Handbell choir practice 8pm - Choir practice	28 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday	29 1pm - Community Good Friday 7pm - Good Friday Worship	30 10am - Decorating Team
31 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6



Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Pastor: Jeff McCam - Cell Phone 812-202-9273
 Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
 Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
 Church e-mail: holgateucc@metalink.net
 Pastor e-mail: revjmccam@gmail.com
 Financial Administrator e-mail - stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
 Church Website: 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 SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

Bells 6:00 P.M.
Lenten Discussions (through March 21) 7:00 P.M.
Sanctuary Choir 8:00 P.M.

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Waiting For Easter

On Ash Wednesday we began our journey to the empty tomb. Let's examine what Jesus' ministry was about in order to fully understand the impact of Easter and the risen Christ.

The economic, social and political situation in Galilee was one in which the rich and powerful, be they Romans, priests of the temple, or landowners, oppressed the poor, constantly demanding more in taxes and in crop share. Enter Jesus with his disciples, living and teaching an egalitarian community for all. His followers included women and men, slaves were non-existent, and the group shared whatever resources they possessed...quite the opposite of and challenging to the current social norms of that time. However seemingly insignificant the movement may have been, it posed a threat to the establishment. Therefore, Jesus was crucified, and the disciples were persecuted.

It was during his life that Jesus impacted many who then became his followers. Some stayed with him while others moved on. Why? Because he presented to them both an image of what human love means and also an image of a God separate from and independent of the constrictions of temple religiosity.

These concepts of loving humanity and loving divinity inspired and infused both groups of disciples. For those who stayed with Jesus felt him to be alive in their midst as they continued the community he had created.

It was a mystery beyond understanding and comprehension, but for them a certainty nonetheless. Jesus had lived, died and now lives again. They were convinced that the evil and death manifested on the cross was not the final word. Love overcomes evil and death. Ultimately, everything returns to God who makes all things right.

It was the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that allowed the followers of Jesus to keep moving forward with dreams of Jesus. These followers shared everything they had to keep moving in the direction that Jesus had instructed them. Like Jesus, they too were fighting an uphill battle. The religious elite, the wealthy and powerful attempted everything in their power to keep the status quo. Jesus' followers would have none of it.

Continued On Page 3



Waiting For Easter

Continued From Page 2

The bottom line...the disciples were re-born while they lived with Jesus, and his death neither deterred nor discouraged them. Instead, they turned to one another and embraced, fully aware in their hearts that he was not only still with them, but also that the newness he embodied embraced the universe. This was the bedrock of their faith and forms the foundation for the day we call Easter.

For us today, we wait for the empty tomb. We travel through the wilderness knowing that our God is with us. As disciples living today, we, too, turn to one another and embrace our faith just as Jesus' followers did long ago moving in the direction Jesus instructed.

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCann*

Lent 2024

March 6 - Bible Study: Discipleship (Worship) 7 p.m. (F H)

March 13 - Bible Study: Discipleship (Service/Justice) 7 p.m. (F H)

March 20 - Bible Study: Discipleship (Giving) 7 p.m (F H)

March 24 - Palm Sunday

March 28 - Maundy Thursday Seder Meal/Worship 6:30 p.m. (F H)

March 29 – Community Good Friday worship at 1 p.m.- St. John's UCC

St. John's UCC Good Friday Worship (Pastor will continue the story from Maundy Thursday's service) at 7 p.m.-Sanctuary

March 31 - Easter Sunday – Sunrise worship at 7:00 a.m., Breakfast at 8:00 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m., and 10:15 a.m. worship service.

Teamwork



In my opinion, this body of people, your church, is a team. Following are some thoughts on teamwork. Mostly borrowed from Rick Warren.

T – Trust

Trust among your team is the glue that holds them together. Trust is essential in producing confidence in each other. Three factors create trust within a team:

Consistency – People will trust you if, time after time, they see you responding in a consistent and reasonable manner. You also need to be readable, in the sense that they need to know where you are coming from in your decisions and responses.

Loyalty – Defend members of your team when they are criticized. Any fact checking should be done later, in private, always assuming the best.

Delegation – When you delegate to your team member, you are telling them: "I trust you!"

E – Economy of Energy

Even the greatest athlete can't go at full speed all of the time. The quickest way to burn out a team is to never let them take a break. Proverbs says "A relaxed attitude lengthens a persons life".

Some ways to promote economy of energy:

Allow for things outside of this team, such as family life and illness. Different team members have different energy levels. Allow for flexibility. Try to make the work fun!

A – Affirmation

Everyone wants affirmation. A smile and a simple word of encouragement can change someone's entire day. Value their ideas. Appreciate their uniqueness. Commend their efforts. Praise their loyalty.

Continued On Page 5

Teamwork



Continued From Page 4

M - Manage Mistakes

The bible says: "Even though a good man fails seven times, he rises again." Mistakes are not failures, they are how we learn. Make new mistakes and try to stop repeating old ones.

W – Weekly (or regular) meetings

Meetings can be formal or informal. Even just a text or call. Information given should be simple and brief: What are we making progress with? What is causing difficulty? What decisions need to be made? I'm thankful for ____?

O – Open Communication

This is the cornerstone of great teamwork. Proverbs says "Reliable communication permits progress." Three barriers to communication are: Presumption, impatience and pride. Don't assume. Be patient. When you think you know all the answers, you become resistant to feedback.

R – Recognition and Reward

The more credit you give to others, the more you develop team spirit. Romans says "Give honor and respect to all it is due."

K – Keep on Learning

All contributing team members are learners. Proverbs says "The intelligent person is open to new ideas." Encourage your team members to keep growing, developing and learning.

Thank you all for your continued contribution to this team.

Eric



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Grateful for a mild winter
- Glad we had "Call'em All" service to notify people when we had to cancel church because of icy parking lot
- Grateful to have Pastor McCarn installed as our settled pastor
- Really enjoyed the Pastor's installation service
- Prayers for the missionaries who are leaving this week for Honduras; noted that they are able to take power tools for the people to keep in Honduras.
- Greg, Sue and the choir for Marlene Rettig's songs during her funeral service
- It's really nice to see young people on Consistory
- Happy to see more people attending the worship service

Cemetery Association Annual Meeting

March 3, 2024



The St. John's UCC Cemetery Association Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, March 3, after worship.

The Cemetery Association is led by President Larry Hockman, who will be retiring after the Annual Meeting. We do have a candidate for the position of president.

All cemetery lot owners are members of the Association. Come to the meeting and give your support to the leadership of our Association.

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>.



DEACONS' BENCH

February 11, 2024
Adam Stevenson, Scribe

Deacons:

Carol Medina (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Adam Stevenson (24)
Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)
Linda Arreguin (26), Janice Rettig (26), Mark Vajen (26)

Members Present:

Carol Medina (24), Adam Stevenson (24), Kevin Vajen (24),
Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25),
Linda Arreguin (26), Mark Vajen (26), Janice Rettig (26) in Arizona.

Meeting was called to order by Head Deacon, Carol Medina. Discussion of January 8 meeting minutes took place and were approved as written.

Old Business:

Basketball/Tennis Courts - Congregational member is going to take one basketball hoop and the fence is down. Vacant space would be filled in with additional peace garden.

Deacons met Monday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. with Jeff Earl and Jim Steers to discuss PM on boilers and a contract for next few years. Three years will be locked in and new contract wrote up to reflect this.

Entry mats were discussed, further information is required yet.

New Business:

Phone calls were received on digital/electronic sign out front. The matter has been looked into, sign automatically dims at certain time and colors have been changed to accommodate more easiness on the eyes. It is currently as dim as it will go without going totally blank.

Discussion on a dishwasher for the kitchen to help reduce the use of paper products, and allow use of the better dishes for events? Also give folks a break from washing dishes by hand.

First Finance team meeting with Carl went well. Reports up to date for the month of January. Farm distribution was discussed.

Deacon Schedule for February: See Worship Participants Page 10.

Motion to adjourn.

Next Deacon's meeting: March 10, 2024, at 11:45 a.m.

MARCH WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
March 3, March 6 Deacons Only	Griffin Tanner Tori Kobilis	Kevin Vajen Ben Thomas
March 10, March 13 Deacons Only	Natalie Borck	Kevin Vajen Chris Coppes
March 17, March 20 Deacons Only	Neveah Evers	Kevin Vajen Jared Clady
March 24, March 29 Deacons Only	Natalie Borck	Kevin Vajen Adam Stevenson
March 31 7:00 a.m.	Griffin Tanner ???	Both Services Carol Medina Linda Arreguin
10:15 a.m.	Nevah Evers ????	



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - January 2024

INCOME

St. John's UCC December Giving	\$ 2,375.00
Farm 2022 Final Payment	296.46
Hope Lutheran Church	150.00
Total	\$ 2,821.46

Submitted by Norma Nagel



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 **Ron Lulfs** who died unexpectedly on January 16. Ron leaves behind his wife **Carol**, children **Chad** (Caryn) Lulfs, **Dawn** (Brian) Fry, and **Brian** Lulfs, grandchildren **Michael** Bullock, **Alisa** Fry, **Owen** Fry, **Morgan** Lulfs, **Zoe** Lulfs, and **Griffin** Tanner and sisters-in-law **Marilyn** (Earl) **Abshire**, **Norma** Nagel, **Janice** Winch, and **Sue A. Rettig**.

The family and friends of **Marlene Rettig** who passed away on January 22. She is survived by **Roland** and **Janice Rettig** as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family and friends of **Mary Lee Eberle Hill** who passed away on January 26. She leaves behind siblings **Tom (Debbie)** Eberle, **Don** (Joyce) Eberle, **Charles** (Estelle) Eberle, and **Sheryl** (Jim) **Dobbeleare**.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Geri Ripke** who lost two of her sons, **Daniel** Sheller and **Keith** Sheller II, unexpectedly on Sunday, February 11.

Morgan and **Zoe Lulfs** on the passing of their grandfather, **William** Henry "Bill" **Yedica**. They have lost both grandfathers in the past month.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
DECEMBER 2023
JANUARY 2024**

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Revenues and Expenses
GENERAL FUND**

	December 2023	January 2024
REVENUE AND EXPENSES		
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$26,608.91	\$12,262.00
EXPENSES		
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,447.16	\$5,530.99
MINISTRIES	\$26.51	\$1,513.03
MISSIONS (expenses from General Fund only)	\$537.50	\$0.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$5,639.87	\$5,690.15
PASTORAL	\$8,679.20	\$6,465.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,330.24	\$19,199.21
NET TOTAL	\$9,278.67	-\$6,937.21

Ministries: received proceeds in December from Siberian Solstice reception: \$951.12
 Operating Checking Account Balance on 1/31/2024: \$35,349.96

Mission Giving - December and January:
 C.U.E. Seminary Fund \$444.68
 Crossroad Child & Family Services \$1,285.82
 Shalom Community Outreach & Food Pantry \$2,671.46
 The Christmas Fund/VOC \$925.00



Kid's Corner



March

- 3 - 3 Mason Franz
- 3 - 12 Archie Bockrath
- 3 - 21 Coralynn Medina
- 3 - 28 Cole Haver
- 3 - 28 Maxwell Kibisu



Kid's Corner



Sunday School

Crossroad Child And Family Services in Fort Wayne

Monthly Mission Donation

Crossroad uses these items as Christmas and Birthday Gifts, Behavior Incentives, and More.

Items can be new or gently used.

MARCH

- * Body Wash (Men's and Women's)
- * Lotion
- * Deodorant (No Aerosol)
- * Toothbrushes (Spinbrush and Regular)

The Sunday School Sunday Morning Offering will be given to Mission-To-Go, so we can help send our congregation members on mission trips to help families who are in need.

Ava Jayne Pruett-Shank

January 21, 2024



Parents: Daniel and Mallory Pruett-Shank

Sister: Kennedy

Grandparents: Eric and Lori Shank

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP TIME

As spring approaches, it won't be long until the cemetery mowing will start!

That brings us to the cemetery clean-up issue. Please go to the cemetery to check up on any decorations you have placed on graves. The decorations most likely will not be looking very nice after the winter we have had, and will need to be removed. They may be placed in the dumpster behind the church.

If each person takes responsibility for decorations they have placed on cemetery lots, the clean up process will be swift. When this job is left to one person, it is a major job. If it is not done at all, it makes it difficult for our lawn mowing service to get the mowing done. We appreciate having Shane Eberle and his crew at I'm There Lawn Care contracted to do the mowing. Let's all do our part to make his job easier, and to keep our cemetery looking beautiful!

*Christine Rettig,
Cemetery Association Secretary-Treasurer.*

Help Support The Mission-To-Go Fund

Join me on my journey to make a difference! I'm lacing up my running shoes for the Glass City Marathon on April 28 and I am inviting you to support me as I run for a cause. I'm raising funds for our church's **Mission-to-Go fund**, and every mile I complete will bring us closer to our goal. Whether you pledge per mile or make a one-time donation, your contribution will make a meaningful impact.

Let's run together for a cause that matters! Reach out to me to pledge your support. **Mark Vajen** (419)717-0751 or email vajenmark@outlook.com. Thank you for being part of this journey!



POTATO BAKE

March 10, 2024

Right After Worship



**BAKED POTATOES
AND ALL THE TOPPINGS
Salad and Dessert**

Free will offering

**Sponsored by the Youth
Proceeds go to youth
SHALOM Christmas Shopping**

Do You Like to Play Games?

We are planning an afternoon of games! It is scheduled for Sunday, March 10 following the Confirmation sponsored potato bake. Stay after the potato bake or come whenever it works for you. We will play games as long as people want to stay and play.

With card games and board games we could have as many tables going as we have players to fill them. You may bring a favorite game. We will also have many games to choose from.

Bring a friend who also likes games. This is not limited to members of our church, just game people. Bring the kids that like to play games, too. No age limit here! The more people we have - the more fun we have!

We are planning to provide some snacks. If you want to contribute something to the snack table, you may do so. Some drinks will be available, but you may bring your own also.

No fee - - - just fun!

ATTENTION!

CHAIRPERSONS AND SCRIBES

The newsletter deadline for articles in the March publication of the Sentinel is moved ahead to **Friday, March 15 at 12 Noon**

This is to allow time for the newsletter to be drafted, proofed, printed and mailed early with Easter information. Thank You to everyone for your cooperation.

Order Your Easter Flowers

It's that time already to grace our sanctuary with beautiful flowers for Easter to remember or honor our loved ones.

Orders will be taken through March 3.

See Order Information on Insert in newsletter.



*VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service*

*Thursday, April 4
at 1:30 P.M.*

Angel Choir Needed!

THE RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING!

St. John's is once again going to have a rummage sale. This is a big fundraiser for us, and this year we are going to donate the proceeds to our Shalom Food Pantry. We all know the cost of food has risen, and this includes the food that is purchased for distribution to our food pantry clients. Shalom can use our help, and the rummage sale will be a great way to help raise funds for Shalom.

I didn't think after last year's rummage sale that folks would have anything left to donate for a rummage sale this year! But...folks are telling me that, yes, we have items we are storing up just for us to put out for our sale! So...let's all start doing our Spring clean-out of closets, dressers, attics and garages, and get ready to bring them for our sale.

The rummage sale will take place on June 13, 14 and 15. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for further information for our sale.

Thank You

We thank everyone who helped us with Ron's passing. To Pastor for all his help and such a meaningful service, to all those who brought food to my house and to the ladies for a wonderful luncheon, and to all our friends and family for caring.

Carol Lulfs, Chad and Caryn Lulfs and family,
Brian Lulfs, Dawn and Brian Fry and family

We, the extended family of Marlene Rettig, wish to extend our sincere appreciation for all everyone has done for us at the passing of Marlene. Thanks to Pastor McCarn for his prayers and services as well. A special thanks to Millie Holzer for the organ music and the choir for the special music. The group of ladies that served the luncheon is much appreciated. Thanks to all the memorials given for Marlene. All of your prayers and condolences helped us through the time and know that you have Christ's faith in your hearts. Thanks again everyone.

The Family of Marlene Rettig



Mission and Stewardship



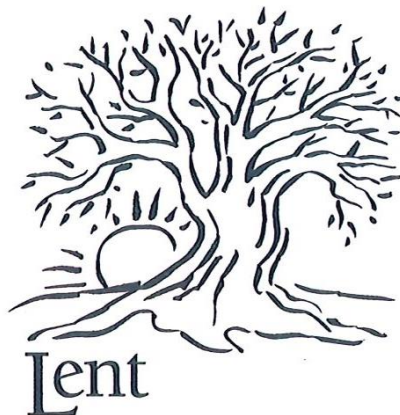
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MISSION FOR MARCH

Our mission for the month of March is One Great Hour Sharing. St. John's is a 5 for 5 congregation in the United Church of Christ and one of those five is One Great Hour of Sharing. This year marks the 75th year for OGHS .

This mission through the United Church of Christ supports disaster, refugee and development within the wider church ministries. Through this support, our denomination helps respond to needs in local, national, and international disaster and refugee needs such as flood and storm or war and famine.

It provided clean water, food, health care and education to those who because of crisis, need an extra helping hand. Please give as your heart commands and share the light of God's love.

*Yours in Christ,
Kevin Waisner, Mission Team*



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Rose Marie Durham

will celebrate her
82nd Birthday
on March 9

Kingsbury Place
246 W. Rosewood Ave. Apt. 142
Defiance, OH 43512

Phyllis Crawford

will celebrate her
85th Birthday
on March 14

11708 County Rd. N
Napoleon, OH 43545

Geraldine Ripke

will celebrate her
89th Birthday
on March 29

Genacross Lutheran Services
1036 S Perry St
Napoleon, OH 43545



Daylight Saving
Time
Begins
MARCH 10th



In Loving Memory

Ronald R. Lulfs

August 20, 1946 - January 16, 2024

His Legacy... He was born in Toledo on August 20, 1946, the son of August and Annabelle (Allen) Lulfs, and graduated from Malinta-Grelton School in 1964. Ron, known affectionately as "Rat," dedicated a significant portion of his life to his career at General Motors Central Foundry in Defiance, where he worked tirelessly for an impressive 33 years. His commitment and work ethic were respected by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Ron served in the US Army and was a member of the Holgate American Legion. Outside of work, Ron had a variety of passions and hobbies that brought joy to his life. He was an avid coon hunter and found solace in nature while trapping muskrats. Ronald also enjoyed hunting deer, finding peace and fulfillment in the great outdoors.

Despite his many achievements and interests, Ronald's greatest source of happiness came from spending time with his cherished family and friends. He held a deep and enduring love for each of them. Surviving Ronald is his wife Carol (Rettig) Lulfs, of 54 years, who stood by his side through thick and thin. Their bond was unbreakable, and they shared countless precious moments together since July 18, 1969. Ron was also a loving father to Chad (Caryn) Lulfs of Napoleon, Brian Lulfs of Columbus, and Dawn (Brian) Fry of Napoleon. Ronald will forever be remembered as a doting grandfather to six adoring grandchildren: Michael Bullock, Alisa Fry, Owen Fry, Morgan Lulfs, Zoe Lulfs, and Griffin Tanner. Each grandchild brought immense joy to his life, filling it with laughter and love. The loss of Ronald will be deeply felt by those closest to him, including his sisters Mary (Robert) Bunke of Holgate and Margaret (Larry) Gray of Malinta. Their shared memories and experiences will serve as a comforting reminder of the special bond they shared.

The Farewell Services To honor Ron's life and offering comfort to those who knew him, visitation services were held at the Zachrich Family Funeral Home in Holgate. The visitation events took place on January 19, 2024, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., and from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Additional visitation was held on January 20, 2024, from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. A Celebration of Ron's Life followed the final visitation at the funeral home on January 20 at 2:00 P.M. This event was an opportunity for friends and family to come together and reflect on the beautiful life that Ron lived.

Ron's unexpected passing has left a void in the lives of those who loved him dearly. However, his memory will live on through the stories shared and the impact he made on the lives of others. May he rest in eternal peace knowing that he was truly loved and cherished by all who were fortunate enough to know him.



In Loving Memory

Marlene J. Rettig

August 19, 1937 - January 22, 2024

Marlene J. Rettig, 86, of Holgate passed away Monday, January 22 at Vancrest Health enter in Holgate.

Marlene was born August 19, 1937, in Monroe Township, Henry County to Perry and Alma (Schaper) Rettig. She was baptized, confirmed and a lifelong member of St. John's United Church of Christ north of Holgate. She attended Florida School 12 years graduating in 1955.

Marlene was a long-term and loyal employee at Frost Insurance Agency in Holgate for 39 years.

Marlene enjoyed sports of all kinds both as a participant and observer. She was the first woman in Henry County to bowl a perfect 300 game on May 1, 1968, in Holgate. Playing baseball with the nieces, nephews and whoever else happened by out at the farm was a regular occurrence.

She and Vandella Huber also annually took those same nieces, nephews and friends to Cleveland Indians baseball games. As those kids grew older, she was a regular attendee of their ball games of every sport. Family cookouts and trips first to Indiana and then to Wisconsin to see Marwood's family were highlights.

Marlene was always quite active in the church. She loved music and sang in the sanctuary choir for over 60 years starting at age 14. She was often a soloist at weddings and funerals. She was a Deacon and served on countless committees.

Marlene and her circle of friends livened the social scene in Holgate. Van Huber, Carol Swihart, Judy Hohenbrink and Marlene among others were frequent bowlers, card players and restaurant patrons. In later years, the circle included Van, Millie Holzer, Carolyn Clady, Carol Lulfs and Norma Nagel.

In addition to her parents, Marlene was preceded in death by sister Fern (Lloyd) Yaichner, brother Reverend Marwood (Maxine) Rettig and an infant brother Franklin. She is survived by her brother Roland (Janice) Rettig. Surviving nieces and nephews include Mary (John deceased) Altman, Kathy (Mike) Finkenbiner, Cindy (Randy) Zachrich, Perry (Jeri-Mae) Rettig, Phil (Kathy) Rettig, Liz (Dave) Konczal, Rob (Brenda) Rettig, Nathan Rettig, Jeff Rettig and numerous grandnieces and grandnephews.

Visitation was on Friday, January 26 from 4-7 p.m. at the Zachrich Family Funeral Home in Holgate and an hour before the funeral service at the church. The service was held on Saturday, January 27 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's UCC with Pastor Jeff McCarn officiating. A luncheon followed the service at the church. Memorials can be made to the church Endowment Fund or Sanctuary Choir.



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


Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to *Friends of the Mission* makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better.

Most importantly, your gift is making sure that Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for partnering with us through your generous gift. We – and those we serve – are ever grateful.

Grace and Peace


James Pennington
Executive Director

Date of Gift: 12/15/2023
Amount Received: \$100.00

For your tax records, and in compliance with 26 US Code §170(f)(8), this letter also serves as verification that no goods or services were given in exchange for your gift.

MAKING GOOD TROUBLE ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST FOR 100 YEARS

Back Bay Mission PO Box 288 Biloxi, Mississippi 39533
(p) 228-432-0301 (f) 228-374-2922 (w) thebackbaymission.org

A Letter of Gratitude from Prayer Plan Missions

January 20, 2024

Dear Friend of Prayer Plan Missions,

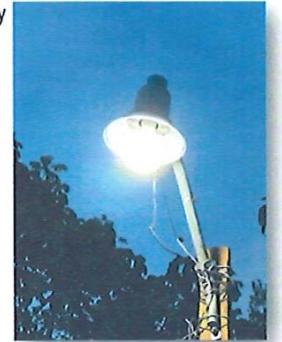
As we begin this new year, we have been reflecting on the blessings the Lord bestowed on our ministry in 2023. Here are three stories that demonstrate how God worked through your prayers and financial gifts to allow PPM to enhance our ability to minister in Honduras. Join with us in praise for all that Jehovah Jireh, God our provider, has done.

For the team,
Carol Lynne

The Lord Has Provided (for Electricity at the Finca)

And Abraham called that place Jehovah Jireh, "The-Lord-Will-Provide". Genesis 22:14

The Lord has given our Overseer Ed Shonkwiler a vision for a ministry to widows and children that will take place on the property (pictured below) that we are calling the Finca del Padre (the Father's Farm). A supporter came to Ed on an August trip last year and said, "You see the vision, but you can't fulfill it right now, can you? I know you need electricity on the land in order to develop it for your vision, and I want you to know that God has provided it." The next week, this friend provided the funds to install this huge transformer and this light pole which now lights up the whole area! Jehovah Jireh—He did provide!



(In case you're wondering about the cement channel in the photo, it was built by a couple of teams to direct water runoff to stop erosion of the property.)

So Far the Lord Has Helped (with the Well)

Samuel set up a stone as a reminder of the victory. He named the stone Ebenezer and said, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." I Samuel 7:12

A consistent supply of water has been an issue for the village of Chaguitillos, and for us as a ministry, both for the Casa de Charlie and for our clinic. We've sought several solutions and finally decided to dig



a well. It was a challenge to find a company willing and able to bring their huge equipment up the winding, narrow roads to do the digging. It was a challenge to have the funds to pay for this work. There were challenges of depth and rocks and collapsing sides. What we anticipated as a two week job turned into seven when the first site wasn't viable and a second site had to be chosen. As this comes to you, we are "this close" to having a successful source of water captured, pump installed, etc. How has the Lord helped so far?

- The men in the village widened the road at the tight curves so the truck could pass. *The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth. Luke 3:5*
- MANY prayers were offered by a host of people who heard about the project and its hiccups. They obeyed the injunction to *Pray without ceasing. I Thessalonians 5:16*
- So many hearts were moved to give that the amount we received exceeded the amount we first thought we needed. But the Lord knew we would need more, so His words to those who were praying resulted in donations that supplied even the overage. *Our God will supply all that you need, Philippians 4:19 and abundantly above all [you] ask or think. Ephesians 3:20*
- Our final challenge on the well is to get the appropriate pump in place and the walls shored up properly. And what is the Lord doing about that? He has gone ahead of us and introduced Jimmy and Sandra to some men of the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina (!) who are well experts and are going to Honduras in February to finalize the well for use! *I will go before you and give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places. Isaiah 45:2,3*

How the Lord Provided Needed Microscopes

Our third story recounts the provision of eleven microscopes for the high school classes that will be held at the Casa de Charlie beginning in February. We've been helping a dozen students with transportation to a village an hour and a half away for their final two years of high school, but this year the local teachers have applied to teach those classes in Chaguitillos. In order to get licensed by the government we needed to set up a science lab with at least ten microscopes. So the Lord supplied eleven! Supplying our need with extra as it says in **Luke 6:38: ..pressed down, shaken together and running over.** We are grateful to a retired science teacher who gave her own microscope and to another individual who arranged with her school system in Ohio to donate these ten still-in-their-boxes microscopes!



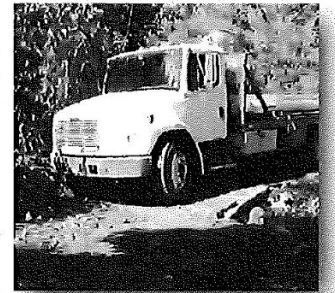
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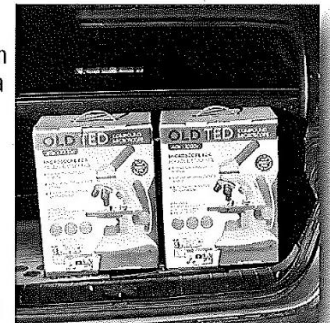
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January 31, 2024

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

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:8 (NRSV)

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 to United Church Homes through the Northwest Ohio Association. Your generous donation greatly impacts the lives of many older adults who benefit from United Church Homes' services.

Thanks to your support and others who partner with us in our mission, United Church Homes has experienced significant growth and is serving more people than ever in new and innovative ways. Your gifts make it possible to better support older adults who live in our communities and beyond.

We are grateful for contributions like yours that help us reach new milestones in our mission to transform agin

With Gratitude,



Rev. Beth Long-Higgins

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins
VP of Engagement and Director, Parker Center for Abundant Aging
United Church Homes

P.S. Visit unitedchurchhomes.org and [facebook.com/UnitedChurchHomes](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchHomes) to learn more about the Spirit that drives United Church Homes' mission "To transform Aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace."

United Church Homes is a 501(c)(3) organization. No goods or services were received in connection with your contribution. Please retain this letter for your tax records and consult with your tax adviser regarding the deductibility of your contribution.

Celebrating the Spirit

170 E. Center St., Marion, OH 43302 | p: 740.382.4835 | f: 740.382.4884 | w: unitedchurchhomes.org

A United Church Homes Community



MARCH

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 3 - 9 | Rose Marie Durham | 3 - 25 | Mary Kay Altman |
| 3 - 9 | Cody Woodring | 3 - 25 | Sharon Orr |
| 3 - 10 | Jeff Waisner | 3 - 26 | Michael Rettig |
| 3 - 14 | Phyllis Crawford | 3 - 26 | Jonathan Rozevink |
| 3 - 15 | Tammy Miller | 3 - 27 | Linda Arreguin |
| 3 - 16 | Betty (Bob) Rettig | 3 - 27 | Dawn Boozer |
| 3 - 16 | Nancy Zimmer | 3 - 29 | Kameron Maurer |
| 3 - 16 | Tammy Hall | 3 - 29 | Konner Maurer |
| 3 - 18 | Kay Winnie | 3 - 29 | Geraldine Ripke |
| | | 3 - 31 | Emily Fruth |

This is the list of birthdays that are recorded in the church office. If we have missed anyone, please contact the office so we can add his or her name to our list.

If anyone, for personal reasons, does not want his or her name and birthday listed, please contact the church office and make your wishes known.

(See the Kids Corner pages for the children and youth birthdays.)



PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

Contact the Prayer Chain if you have any needs.
This Prayer Chain has been updated; they will
faithfully pray for you. Contact one of the following persons:
Betty (Don) R. at 419-264-4321 Kay A. at 419-966-2389
Church Office at 419-264-4401

PLAN AHEAD FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS
See Calendar on Inside Mailing Cover

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for news articles to appear in the **APRIL**
Newsletter is---**FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024, at 12 NOON**
Please leave your article in the folder in the wall file
on the South Wall (Directly across from the door)
of the church office marked Newsletter



March Mission

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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.