

Christmas Worship

Two Christmas Eve Services:

5:00pm - Family-Oriented Worship including Kids' Christmas Program;

7:30pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Worship.

Both services will include Candlelighting and Communion.

December 25 – Celebrate **Christ's birthday** in worship!

Open House at Parsonage December 11 from 2-4 pm (pg 17)

From Pastor Dave's Desk – pages 2-3

Dec. Worship Participants – page 11

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Winter Weather Guidelines – page 19

Giving Envelopes – page 20

Marriage Congratulations – page 22

Advent Devotional Books – page 25

Birthdays – pages 26-27



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Advent 1 9am - Confirmation II-church visit 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - FH Reserved	28 7pm - DEcorating Team	29	30 9am - Sit & Fit 6pm - Handbell choir 7pm - Sanctuary choir	1 6:30pm - Consistory Orientation @	2	3
4 Advent 2 9am - Confirmation I 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30am - Confirmation I	5 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	6 SHALOM Delivery In am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry 6pm - CEBoard	7 9am - Sit & Fit 5:45pm - Finance Team 6pm - Handbell choir 7pm - Sanctuary choir	8	9	10
11 Hold Fellowship Hall for Shalom Christmas Advent 3 9am - Confirmation II 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation II 2pm - Open House at Parsonage	12 6:15pm - Deacons 7pm - Consistory	13	14 9am - Sit & Fit 6pm - Handbell choir 7pm - Sanctuary choir	15	16 9am - Newsletter Articles Due	17 9am - Cheeseball making
18 Advent 4 9am - Confirmation I 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Cheeseballs delivered 11:30am - Confirmation I 2pm - Siberian Solstice - set up 5:45pm - Siberian Solstice recep. 7pm - Siberian Solstice Concert	19	20 SHALOM Delivery In am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	21 9am - Sit & Fit 6pm - Handbell choir 7pm - Sanctuary choir	22	23	24 5pm - Fam.-oriented 7:30pm - Christmas Eve worship
25 9am - NO SS/Confirmation 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - FH reserved	26 Office Closed	27 8am - Newsletter printing 1pm - Newsletter mailing	28	29	30	31

The Sentinel

St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
DECEMBER 2022

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Interim Pastor: David A. Voll - Cell Phone: 419-410-4090
 Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
 Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
 Church e-mail: holgateucc@metalink.net
 Pastor e-mail: pastordave.voll@gmail.com
 Financial Administrator e-mail - Kristine Maas: 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 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

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

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MUSINGS ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



Happy New Year! What's that.....you think I'm too early? Yes, I know, Thanksgiving is this week (I'm assuming most of you will receive this a day or two after Thanksgiving) and Advent is just starting. But even though January 1 is over a month away, it's still appropriate for me to greet you in this way.

Why? Because the Church's New Year's Day is this Sunday, November 27! The First Sunday of Advent begins the new church year. How befitting for the Christian calendar to start before the birth of the Founder of our faith.

Advent is a time of preparation and expectancy. God, in the person of the Christ-Child, is coming into the human situation. Or, we might say, that God in Christ has come, is coming, and will come! As Christians we're called to prepare the way for him in our lives ("Let every heart prepare Him room...") and in the life and work of His church. Advent offers a wonderful opportunity to prepare for Jesus' "spiritual invasion" of our hearts and homes.

Great expectancy of the gift of Christ, messages of His Second Coming, repentance and forgiveness, joy in making ready – these are the attitudes and actions of Advent.

Some of my favorite Scripture passages are read during Advent: the Old Testament prophecies in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Malachi, and Zechariah of the Messiah's birth. This year I've planned each December Advent service's first Scripture reading to be from Isaiah. One of them will include Isaiah 9:6-7...

Continued On Page 3

MUSINGS ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



Continued From Page 2

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'"

It was these words that gave Jews in the centuries before Christ's birth hope that God hadn't forgotten them, that He would make a new covenant with His people. It is these words that continue to ring out like beautiful bells to a world in need. Their hope was fulfilled when, in the songs of the angels, the same joyful sounds reverberated throughout the hills surrounding Bethlehem when Jesus was born.

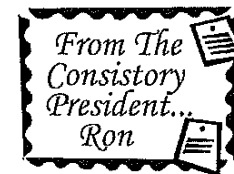
Each name that Isaiah gives to the Messiah is like a different note of prophetic chimes, describing the awesome majesty of our Saviour. (And elsewhere in this issue, note that on the Fourth Sunday of Advent I'll be touching on some of these names for Jesus.) As we enter Advent 2022 we still hear the echoes of those bells of prophecy.

As you have celebrated Thanksgiving this week, may these thoughts – and the recognition of your many blessings – create in you a grateful heart. And as the calendar moves forward into the Church's new year, may you have all the rich blessings of Advent and Christmas – as foretold by the prophets and as experienced anew this holiday season.

See you in church!

Pastor Dave

GENEROSITY FELLOWSHIP



Generosity

NOUN

the quality of being kind and generous
the quality or fact of being plentiful or large

Fellowship

NOUN

friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests
a group of people meeting to pursue a shared interest or aim

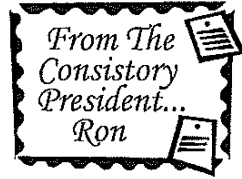
The month of November has come and gone, but did you see what took place, were you a part of it? November was a month of enormous generosity and fellowship by the St John's family/community. I will apologize up front, as I am sure that I do not know of everything that has taken place.

I do know that:

- The Confirmands went on a shopping spree to purchase presents for the Shalom families
- Shalom assisted 80 families and 288 individuals
- St John's Faith Family provided hot meals for all of the Shalom individuals
- Pastor Dave had Thursday Bible study
- Blood Drive
- Totenfest
- Observation and recognition of Veterans
- 2023 Budget proposal and acceptance
Election of new officers
- New members received
- Weekly fitness class
- Taste and Talent Revue

Continued On Page 5

GENEROSITY FELLOWSHIP



Continued From Page 4

I do know that:

- Soup and Dessert meal
- Sunday School Blanket Mission
- Heating/cooling project

Can you imagine trying to find food for your family? Do I turn the heat down to save money? How do I purchase clothes for my children? Christmas is coming, what do I do? The Shalom group is an amazing group that helps with some of these issues.

Sunday services, Sunday choir, Sunday School mission, maintenance, and church budget do not just happen automatically. I do not have an actual head count for all of those that are/were involved, but I guarantee you that the number is greater than two.

How great was it to get together for the Taste and Talent Revue and the Soup and Dessert meal? I can tell you that the talent portion of the evening was great. As for the food for both events, I can guarantee you that nobody went home hungry or lost any weight!

Heating system is almost complete and just in time. Snow in November - have not seen that in a while.

If it were not for your **GENEROSITY** and **FELLOWSHIP**, the above would not have been achieved. You are an amazing group of people.

I thank each and everyone for what you do!

*Ron Hoellrich
2022 Consistory President*



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

We have been very blessed with warmer weather while waiting for the new heating system.

Grateful for safe harvest

Wonderful time of fellowship with the Taste and Talent event

Thank you to everyone who participated in Taste and Talent, especially those who shared their talents on Saturday evening.

We are grateful to have had Sue Abshire as a part of Consistory during this past year. We will miss you, but understand that work commitments must be honored.

Thanks to Sue Abshire for her musical talents during church and for her accompaniment at the Taste and Talent

Thanks to Janise Voll for the trimming work she did around the church building

CHRISTMAS CDS AVAILABLE

Lynne Long, who along with her husband Joe has been attending St. John's and who played piano at the Taste and Talent Night, is donating some of her Christmas CDs as a fundraiser for the Heating Fund.

Lynne has a degree in piano performance from BGSU, has been a piano teacher for over 50 years, and has served in churches as an organist, pianist, and accompanist, including a stint at the former St. John's UCC, Archbold. Her CD, entitled "The Advent of Peace," contains 22 Christmas carols, songs, and hymns. These CDs are available in the Narthex for a \$10 donation. We're sure you will find her music beautiful and inspiring. Thank you, Lynne, for this generous gesture!

For those watching our **worship service online**, the announcement slides and gathering music begin 15 minutes before the start of worship. You can watch our service at

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUCCHolgate>.



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

November 14, 2022

We will tap into the Line of Credit as needed to pay the first invoice for the heating system by December 1.

On recommendation from Hastings Mutual Insurance, sub-contractors working on the property will be asked to supply current certificates of insurance. A list of current vendors will be created and letters sent to each. We will do this annually. Volunteers will be covered by the church liability. Fire doors (doors to sanctuary, stair well, and furnace room) need to be closed when not in use. Signs will be placed on the doors and appropriate people will be notified.

To assist in decision-making relating to bad weather, the following guidelines were proposed:

Henry County Level 1 – Worship and church activities will be held as usual – use common sense and precaution.

Henry County Level 2 – All non-worship activities before and after worship are cancelled – this means no Sunday School, Confirmation, church dinners, or meetings that may be scheduled, etc. The worship service will be held for those who choose to attend and feel they can travel safely.

Henry County Level 3 – No worship service or church-related activities.

All agreed with the proposed wording. Notice will be put in the upcoming newsletter and the policy manual will be updated.

Honorarium will be sent for Kyle Zanker's (Crossroad Child and Family Services) retirement.

Affirmed list of memorials and missions for 2023 as recommended by those teams

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Prigge

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.



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

November 7, 2022

Present: Interim Pastor Dave Voll Communion: Rick Fruth (2022)
Head Elder: Maggie Prigge (2023) Visitation: Eric Shank (2024)
Scribe: Pam Desgranges (2022) Membership: Greg Nelson (2024)
Confirmation And CE Board: Kevin Waisner (2023)

Our meeting began with devotions from Kevin Waisner. Bob Rettig was a guest as an incoming Elder starting in January 2023. Rick Fruth was absent due to traveling. We discussed congregational concerns.

Christine Rettig was a guest in attendance to discuss our green and white paraments. Our current ones have been in service since 1979 and 1980 and are stained and in need of being replaced. This is not a quick process and will take a couple months once they have been ordered as they are all custom-made. A donor has stepped forward so there will be no expense to the church. A big thank you to our donor!

Pastor's report was reviewed. Elder of the month of November is Kevin Waisner and our Elder for December is Greg Nelson. Reminder to Elder of the month to please adjust the lectern mic and do a sound check with Linda before service. Community Thanksgiving is set for Sunday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at Pleasant Bend United Methodist Church.

Upcoming Communion is December 4 and will be "Advent Communion in Song."

Confirmation continues to go well. The confirmands did their Christmas Shalom Shopping and wrapping. Everyone enjoyed this. Nothing to report from our visitation team. We had six new members received during worship on October 16. A big welcome to our newest members!

We discussed the six Elder duty positions and possibly combining a couple and/or creating new ones. We felt now was the time to do it before reorganizing for next year. We concluded the meeting with a brief discussion of Lifewise Academy in Holgate. At this time we are not recommending this as a congregationally supported mission; however individuals are free to support Lifewise Academy at their own discretion.

There being no further business, our meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. **Next meeting** is December 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Pam Desgranges, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH

November 14, 2022
Jeri Hoellrich, Scribe

Deacons:

John Hahn (22), Amanda Rettig (22), Rick Desgranges (22),
Pat Kirk (23), Ron Hoellrich (23), Jeri Hoellrich (23),
Carol Medina (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Sue Abshire (24)

Members Present: John Hahn (22), Amanda Rettig (22),
Rick Desgranges (22), Ron Hoellrich (23), Jeri Hoellrich (23),
Carol Medina (24), Sue Abshire (24)

Invited Guests, incoming members: Adam Stevenson (24),
Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)

- Meeting was called to order by Head Deacon, Rick Desgranges. He welcomed guests.
- Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

New Business:

- **Deacon Schedule** for December - See Worship Participants Page 11.
- **Roof damage of Fellowship Hall** was discussed, and we are waiting for a quote from Tri-County Roofing.
- Kevin Vajen is looking into tree replacement along Road J.
- Discussion of possible reorganizational chart for 2023 Deacons
- Discussed water analysis information.
- Discussed fire blanket location and special needs for Christmas Eve services. Betty will secure needed Fire Marshals for Christmas Eve services.

Next Deacons' meeting scheduled for December 12, 2022, at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Meeting adjourned.

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



December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent Advent Communion in Song

Isaiah 11:1-6
Matthew 3:1-12

How are you preparing during Advent?

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Where do you see Jesus in the world today?

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14
Matthew 1:18-25

What's in a name? For Jesus, a lot!

December 24 – Early Christmas Eve Service (5:00 p.m.)

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Luke 2:1-20

*Family-Oriented Service with Kids' Christmas Program,
Communion, and Candlelight*

December 24 – Late Christmas Eve Service (7:30 p.m.)

Passages from Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and John

Traditional Service of Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

December 25 – Sunday / Christmas Day

Luke 2:1-20

Jesus' birth is significant for God's people TODAY!

DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES		DEACONS
Dec. 4	Griffin Tanner Tori Kobilis		John Hahn Amanda Rettig
Dec. 11	Neveah Evers		Ron Hoellrich Jeri Hoellrich
Dec. 18	Eric Rettig		Pat Kirk Carol Medina
Dec. 24	Nick Evers Joey Coppes	5:00 p.m.	Kevin Vajen Rick Desgranges
		7:30 p.m.	Amanda Rettig Jeri Hoellrich
Dec. 25	Joey Coppes		Kevin Vajen Rick Desgranges



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - OCTOBER 2022 INCOME

Pleasant Bend UMC	\$182.05
Emanuel's Christian Church	<u>75.00</u>
Total	\$ 257.05

Submitted by Norma Nagel

Advent Begins



On Sunday, November 27, we begin the season of Advent – preparing to celebrate Christ's birth. During our morning worship services on each of the four Sundays before Christmas, we'll light a candle on the Advent Wreath to mark the weeks until the arrival of the Christ-child. Each week members of our faith family will lead the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

During this holy season of Advent we use Scriptures, hymns, carols, sermons, and anthems to help us get ready for the celebration of Christmas.

Advent Communion in Song

On the Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, during our morning worship at 10:15, our celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will consist of Pastor Dave leading Advent Communion in Song. Many of the parts of the Communion Service have been re-written in the form of songs or hymns and have been set to the tunes of familiar Christmas carols. Some will be sung in unison, some will be sung by Pastor Dave, and others will be sung responsively between Pastor and people. What a great, "seasonal" way for a musical congregation such as ours to celebrate the Sacrament!

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

The Faith Family is invited to express their appreciation to the **paid staff with a monetary gift at Christmas** beginning on November 20. There are 9 staff who will share in the offering: Musicians Sheri Plotts and Sue Abshire, Choir Director Greg Nelson, Custodian Dawn Fry, Media Coordinator Linda Rettig, Newsletter Editor Ruth Ann Durham, Financial Administrator Kristine Maas, Administrative Assistant Betty (Bob) Rettig, and Pastor Dave Voll. Gifts can be put in the decorated box or can be included in the offering envelope, marking the amount to be designated to "Staff Christmas."

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES 5:00 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M.



With Advent preparations completed, God's promise is fulfilled as we celebrate anew the birth of our Saviour! Worship services will be at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. during which we will hear and tell the Christmas Story in Word and song, experience the joy and praise of seasonal music, light the Christ candle on the Advent Wreath, share in Holy Communion, and conclude with the traditional candlelight service while singing Silent Night.

The 5:00 p.m. service will be family-oriented, have a Children's Moment, a Living Nativity during the reading of the Christmas story, and will include the Kids' Christmas Program.

The 7:30 p.m. service will be traditional in nature and will include Scripture lessons, carols, a choir anthem, and special music.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

With Christmas falling on a Sunday this year, we will offer the opportunity to worship at our regular time of 10:15. There will be no Sunday School before church, but we will enjoy a festive service with a special message. Come and enjoy the beauty and meaning of this day of celebration as we honor the birthday of Jesus – God's gift of love to us and to the world!

NEW YEAR'S COMMUNION - JANUARY 1

The first Communion service of 2023 will be held during 10:15 a.m. worship on New Year's Day – Sunday, January 1. What a meaningful way to begin the new year as we gather at the Lord's Table to seek His blessing and forgiveness. There will be no Sunday School this day.



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**

Jaidyn Medina ongoing need of prayers - preparing for surgery on December 8

Courtney Goldsmith (Lynette (Rettig) Goldsmith's daughter, Don and Betty Rettig's granddaughter) recovering from major surgery

Patty Schaefer (friend of Kirk Fruth) young woman severely affected by long COVID

Geri Ripkie transferred to Geracross, Room 207

Wally Snyder waiting to see outcome of injection to help with his spinal issues

Rosa Kee Hensley (Earl Abshire's sister in Kentucky) serious health issues

Gary Jones (friend of Kirk Fruth) broke his arm falling from combine

Ken Crawford (Gwen Rohrbaugh's friend) transferred to Cleveland following surgery

Pastor Bill Kerr (Wauseon) recovering at home after hospitalization
Jerry Rettig respite stay and PT at Northcrest, Napoleon

Orville Benskin (Deb Waisner's father) recovering at home of Deb
Barbara Voss grandmother of Lacey Erickson (Serapio Medina's

fiance) who will soon be starting chemo and radiation for cancer

Donald and Heather McDougle who lost their home and all belongings in a fire on November 4

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 a 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:

Randy and Marsha Lambert and their family on the untimely passing of Randy's nephew Jared Lambert on October 15.

To The Family and Friends of **Rev. Fred Zimmerman, Sylvania.** Rev. Zimmerman served as an interim at St. John's in the late 1960's. He passed away on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at the age of 105.

Thank You

Thank You For Your Recent Gift!
Dear Friends at St. John's, It was such a pleasure to visit with you in August! Thanks for caring about "the Kids!" You truly make a difference!

Thank You! Bless You!
Crossroad Child and Family Services

Thank you from *Courtney Goldsmith and Lynette (Rettig) Goldsmith* for thoughts and prayers during Courtney's surgery and recovery. Prayers make a difference!

Thank you for the prayers for my brother during his recent illness. He will be able to finish his rehab at home. We are grateful for all of the prayers!

Patsy Yaichner



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

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

Sharon Hoff - #110

Don Huber - has moved to New Mexico. Cards or notes may be sent care of his daughter Dawn Booser, 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
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



YOU'RE INVITED!

As a gesture of gratitude and community,
and so you may see the parsonage decked in its holiday finest...

Pastor Dave and Janise Voll
are opening the doors of our hearts and our home
to the faith family and friends of St. John's UCC
for a Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 11 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
13039 County Road J – Across from the church

Please come and share the gifts of love and friendship,
and the gift of Christmas! No need to bring anything – just come!



Congregational Bible Presented to Oldest Member

Recently the Consistory agreed to begin a new tradition in our faith family by presenting a Congregational Bible to our oldest member. That person will be asked to care for it and preserve it on behalf of St. John's UCC. Inscribed in the front of the Bible are these words: "Presented to the oldest member of our church family by St. John's UCC, Holgate on the day we 'live out' the ideal found in Leviticus that we 'show respect for old people and honor them.'"

On Sunday, November 20, Gib Sonnenberg was surprised during worship by being invited forward for the presentation and to become the caretaker of our new Congregational Bible. Gib is our oldest member, having celebrated his 95th birthday, on November 18.

When Gib is called home some day, his family will be asked to return the Bible to St. John's where it will be presented to the oldest member at that time.

God bless you, Gib, and thank you for your love for the Lord and for St. John's UCC!

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
OCTOBER REPORT**

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

	OCTOBER 2022 ACTUAL	2022 ACTUAL YTD	2022 ANNUAL BUDGET
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME			
Total OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$16,206.00	\$170,862.78	\$232,186.44
EXPENSES			
Total BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$4,748.90	\$31,834.38	\$38,399.00
Total MINISTRIES	\$316.36	\$3,184.75	\$7,850.00
Total MISSIONS	\$537.50	\$5,375.00	\$7,004.00
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$4,992.44	\$52,623.08	\$69,924.44
Total PASTORIAL	\$8,016.06	\$80,265.93	\$109,009.00
Total EXPENSES	\$18,611.26	\$173,283.14	\$232,186.44
Net Total	(\$2,405.26)	(\$2,420.36)	
Operating Checking Acct. Balance as of October 31, 2022			\$ 24,051.20
Mission Giving:		\$ 720.00	
SHALOM		\$ 788.00	
HOUSE OF RUTH		Balance	\$ 76,241.67
Heating Project Revenue for October	\$ 26,366.09		

FINANCING OUR PROJECTS

Thanks to the generosity of our Faith Family, both the office and Fellowship Hall projects have been fully funded. The heating system replacement is now the only remaining project.

See the “thermometer” on the office window for a quick visual update.

	Total Cost of Project	YTD Gifts	Needed to Finish Funding as of 11/13
Church Heat Upgrade	\$164,900	\$92,626.38	\$72,273.92

Office Winter Weather Reminder

As winter weather nears, just a reminder that we take our cue from Holgate schools. If they are delayed or cancelled, we MAY do the same. Please call the office before coming out if there is any question whether someone will be here.

New Guidelines For Weather Cancellations At St. John’s UCC

The Consistory has approved the following new, simple yet specific plan for handling possible cancellations due to winter weather:

Henry County Level 1 – Worship and church activities will be held as usual – use common sense and precaution.

Henry County Level 2 – All non-worship activities before and after worship are cancelled – this means no choir practices, Sunday School, church dinners or meetings that may be scheduled, etc. The worship service will be held for those who choose to attend and feel they can travel safely.

Henry County Level 3 – No worship service or church-related activities.

Confirmation I and II News



The Confirmation I parents met on November 6 to plan the upcoming cheese ball sale. The kids will take orders on Sunday mornings through December 11. Parents and kids will make the cheese balls at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 17 at the church. Distribution will be Sunday, December 18.

The class went SHALOM Christmas shopping on November 6 after lunch at Asian Buffet in Defiance. We shopped for six children and came back to the church to wrap the gifts.

In class they are learning about God’s promise to Abraham and will begin the Moses story.

The Confirmation II class visited a Roman Catholic church on November 27.

In class they are learning about Protestantism, UCC history, and St. John’s history.

Both classes will participate in the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family oriented worship service.



GIVING ENVELOPES

Reminder: If you have used your **giving envelopes** in 2022, we will have a set of 2023 envelopes labeled for you. If you have not had envelopes and would like to have them, please let the office know! If you are using online giving or do not want envelopes for 2023, please let us know by November 27 so we don’t label a box for you. Otherwise, we hope to have envelopes available in early December.



**CHEESE BALLS
FOR SALE!**

The Confirmation I Class is making and selling
cheese balls for the Christmas Season

Buy a couple for your holiday gatherings

**Chipped Beef - Cheddar Bacon Ranch
Oreo**

8 oz cheese ball - \$8.00

Available Sunday, December 18

See the order form insert
in this Newsletter



Items Left In The Office

We sometimes find "interesting items" in the office, left by unknown people and it is not always clear what we are supposed to do with the items. We DO like memorabilia but please leave your name with items and let us know if they are ours to keep or just for show.

Reorganization Of Groups And Teams

As groups and teams reorganize with new members for 2023, please let the office know names of those who will be the leader and scribe. This way we will know who to contact if there are questions.



*Congratulations to
Kelsey Herman*

and

David Rettig

On their Marriage - October 22



*Congratulations to
Rachel Desgranges*

and

Jacob Clark

On their Marriage - November 5



*Congratulations to
Kristen Anderson*

and

Davontae Royster

On their Marriage - November 12

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS NEEDED

We send newsletters to about 215 households each month. Because they go by bulk mail, we pay about \$.21 each to mail them. But, if someone moves and their newsletter is either forwarded or cannot be delivered, we pay \$.70 each for the address correction! Please help us be good stewards of the gifts given to St. John's by letting us know about address changes as soon as possible. Many thanks for your attention to this request.



Mission and Stewardship



**THE CHRISTMAS FUND
MISSION FOR DECEMBER**

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 for 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. Your care and compassion are also greatly 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.



News and Notes
Submitted By Franell Nelson

The Christian Ed. Board met on November 1 at 6:00 p.m.

- All children through Confirmation are involved in the Christmas Eve play and live nativity. We will practice during the Sunday School opening. Parents, please let us know if your child will not be at the 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. It is important for those participating to come as many Sundays as possible to be prepared.
- Our first set of tie blankets has been blessed and will be taken to Henry County Foster Care. We will continue this mission through the school year.
- Sunday School material has been ordered for the Winter quarter, keeping with the "SPARK" curriculum.
- Our next meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

**ATTENTION CHAIRPERSONS
AND SCRIBES**

The newsletter deadline for articles in the January edition of the Sentinel is moved ahead to **Friday, December 16**. This is to allow time for the newsletter to be drafted, proofed, printed and ready to mail after the Christmas. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation.



THE ENDOWMENT FUND MEETING

October 30, 2022

The Endowment Committee met after church on October 30, 2022.

Those in attendance were Kevin Vajen, Chairman by phone facilitated by Tammy Vajen who attended the meeting. Rick Fruth as Consistory member, Mike Haldy and Rick Desgranges.

Kevin informed the group that Endowment has been approached about making a donation to the heating fund for the new hot water boiler system currently being installed in the church. After some discussion Rick Desgranges made a motion to donate \$10,000.00 to the heating fund, Mike Haldy seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously. A check was written for \$10,000.00 to be given to the offering counters immediately after the meeting.

It was decided to have another meeting in the not too distant future to review and discuss current investments.

There being no further business Kevin adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Desgranges, Scribe

Advent Devotional Books

Advent, derived from the Latin word for "coming," is the season before Christmas that has traditionally been a time to anticipate the coming of our Saviour, reflect on and remember Christ's presence in one's life, and deepen one's commitment to follow Christ and to live in hope of his return.

To assist in this important work, St. John's is providing free Advent devotional books, which will help give you a better understanding of the traditions and meanings of Christmas. Each page-a-day devotion features a Scripture passage, a brief meditation, and a prayer. This year's theme, "This Will Be A Sign," focuses on the Incarnation: God in the flesh, God with us. The daily reflections of Christopher Klofft are based on and motivated by the writings of Henri Nouwen, a well-respected Catholic priest, gifted preacher, spiritual thinker, and inspiring author. The faith-filled writings of both will guide us on our devotional journey toward the joy of Christmas.

Devotional books are available in the Narthex or in the Church Office. If you are not able to pick one up at church, please contact the office.



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

William Snyder
will celebrate his
87th Birthday
on December 2

Larry Sidle
will celebrate his
80th Birthday
on December 5

14224 Co. Rd. L2
Napoleon, OH 43545

665 W. Maumee Ave.
Napoleon, Ohio 43545



Roland and Janice Rettig
will celebrate their
62nd Wedding Anniversary
on December 23

1162 Chelsea Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545

TASTE AND TALENT NIGHT

The Taste and Talent event held on November 12 was a huge success. It was enjoyed by everyone attending. We served from 130 - 140 people including workers and entertainers.

To all entertainers, we have some good talent in our midst and a few from other near by towns. Keep up the good work!

The good news is that we made \$2,668.00 on the event going toward the new furnace. Thank You everyone who attended and helped in any way to make this happen. God bless you all.

Van Huber, Fellowship Committee



DECEMBER

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



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 **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022**
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**



MISSIONS CORNER

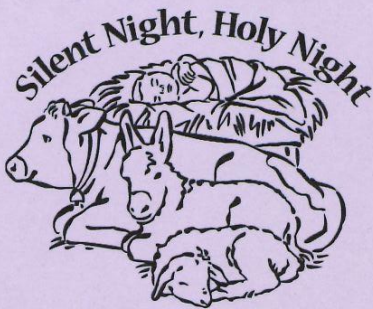
December Mission

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

St. John's is a member of the Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference United Church of Christ. Information and resources are available at www.nwoa.org, www.heartlanducc.org and www.ucc.org.



Kid's Corner



"The History of Silent Night"

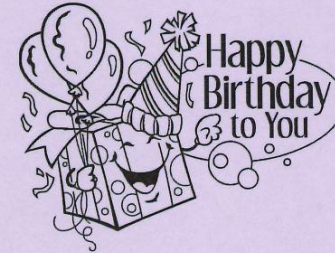
Please join us at the 5:00 p.m. Family-oriented Christmas Eve Worship including the Kids' Christmas Program to hear the story about how the beloved hymn, "Silent Night" was written and performed for the first time.

The children will present an original play written by Diana Evers, which incorporates the story of how WWI soldiers on both battle lines put down their arms to celebrate the birth of Jesus together.

There will also be a live nativity pageant.



Kid's Corner



December

- 12 - 4 Adalynn Borck
- 12 - 7 Cassidy Houchins
- 12 - 19 Lily Morgan
- 12 - 19 Wila Morgan
- 12 - 23 Bradlee Roberts
- 12 - 28 Joseph Coppes
- 12 - 30 Brantley Koketko