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

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DON'T FORGET DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME RESUMES MARCH 12 "SPRING AHEAD" – SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD SO YOU ARE NOT LATE FOR CHURCH! DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE

From Pastor Dave's Desk – pages 2-3 Save the Dates – page 7 From the Pulpit – page 12 March Worship Participants – page 13 Prayer List – page 16 Selling Rada Knives – page 24 Easter Flowers and Memorials – page 26 Birthdays – pages 27 and 35 In Memoriam – page 30 Easter Cantata – purple insert We Are Working on a New Photo Directory – See details on page 19



St. John's UCC, Betty time sheet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fit	Sat
26	27	28	7pm - Lenten Worship 8pm - Sanctuary choir	2	3	4
9am - Confirmation II 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Lent Communion/Song 11:30am - Annual Cemetery 11:30am - Confirmation II 1pm - FH reserved Beth Saneholtz	6 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	8 9am - Sit & Fit 12pm - Red Cross Blood Drive 7pm - Lenten Worship 8pm - Sanctuary choir	5:45pm - Finance Team	10	<u>11</u>
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Potato Bake	6:15pm - Deacons 7pm - Consistory	<u> </u>	9am - Sit & Fit 9am - Lenten Worship 8pm - Sanctuary choir	16		18
9am - Confirmation II 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship-Gideon 11:30am - Confirmation II	20 -	SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	22 9am - Sit & Fit 7pm - Lenten Worship 8pm - Sanctuary choir	23	24	25
9am - Confirmation I 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - CEB 11:30am - Confirmation I	27	9am - Newsletter mailing	29 9am - Sit & Fit 7pm - Lenten Worship 8pm - Sanctuary choir	30 -	31	



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

Please Contact us at --

 Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Betty (Bob) Rettig, Admin. Asst.

 Church Phone; (419) 264-4401
 Fax: (419) 264-1460

 Interim Pastor: David A. Voll - Cell Phone; 419-410-4090
 Fax: (419) 264-1460

 Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
 Fax: (419) 264-1460

 Parsonage Address:13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
 Fax: (419) 264-1460

 Church e-mail: holgateucc@metalink.net
 Pastor e-mail: pastordave.voll@gmail.com

 Financial Administrator e-mail - Tyler Rue: stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net

 Church Website: www.stjohnsuccholgate.com
 SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP and ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. - WORSHIP 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

Midweek Lenten Services Sanctuary Choir 7:00 P.M. After Worship

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"GOD WITH US"

"...They will call him Immanuel'- which means, 'God with us'" Matt. 1:23).

"...Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

These aren't traditional Lenten passages, but in the very first chapter of Matthew's gospel to the very last, the same promise is affirmed that is a blessing to us in every season: God in Christ is with us always. Not some of the time; not occasionally – always. God is our only sure foundation. We need not look elsewhere. We don't need to seek new answers to old questions. We don't need to allow fear to control us. We don't need to give in to despair when we read the newspaper or the online newsfeeds or hear the news on TV or radio.

Whatever it is that happens to us, whatever we might have to face or suffer, whatever loss we might experience – whatever or whenever – God is with us! The Psalmist tells us: "I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalm 121). The apostle Paul promises us: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39). And the gospel of John assures us: "I will not leave you as orphans" (John 14:18). God doesn't want us to be alone, to suffer alone, or to feel alienated or desolate.

Sadly, we live in a world where too often we're seeing and hearing about tragedies – all too frequent shootings and more and more natural disasters. There's divisiveness and meanspiritedness, with an accompanying lack of respect and simple civility, which appears to be more normalized as the years pass. There's pain and suffering, calamity and unpredictability. Too often my heart and spirit ache! And sometimes it may seem like there's little we can count on, little that's sure and steadfast. But God knows our fears, our doubts, and our pain. That's why the message is repeated over and over again in the Scriptures – by the prophets, and the psalmist, the epistle writers, and the gospel writers: "God is with us!" Today and always!



"GOD WITH US"

Continued From Page 2

It's this promise, this presence that sustains us and gives us courage and hope. It's God's love for us expressed most clearly and tangibly in the life of Jesus. God loving us so much; God so intent on keeping His promise to be with us that He literally jumps right into the midst of our life.

This is the promise of Lent – even under the shadow of the cross. For right in the midst of the sorrow and pain; right in the midst of the world's violence, catastrophes, and unpleasantness – there stands God in Christ, with us! With us to show us a better way. With us to show us how we're to live and how we're to love and how we're to trust. Sometimes it may seem that there's little upon which we can rely. But God continually reminds us that we need no other.

That's the message we as Christians profess in word and deed. We not only know the words, we also know the action. And one of the "actions" is being part of this faith family. In community we each are called to be present with one other as God is present with us. We're called to seek out new ways to live out His promise – together. This song conveys it joyously: "That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it: You spread His love to everyone, you want to pass it on!"

What a blessing, in Lent or any season! See you in church.....

Pastor Dave

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UPON FURTHER REVIEW FARM ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTION



The farm distribution is a confusing subject. I am going to try to give you an explanation that will help clarify this matter.

During the Annual Meeting a question arose referencing the distribution percentages. I said incorrectly that the percentages on page 36 of the Annual Report were correct for this year. My apologies. The percentages that are on page 1 are the correct numbers going forward until we vote to alter them.

We receive a farm payment typically in December for that year's revenues on our property (Shiarla farm). This money is held in the farm account until we receive property taxes in January. Once the taxes are paid, distribution of the monies takes place. There is more revenue generated during the year, but this is the largest. The percentages you see on page 1 of the annual report shows how the money received in December of 2023 will be distributed in January 2024. When we review/change distribution numbers at the Annual Meeting, they are for the upcoming crop year. This is to say that if we had voted this year to make a change, it would have been for the 2023 crop year which would be paid mostly in 2024.

Recent History of Farm Distribution

January 22, 2017

Adam made a motion on behalf of Consistory to change the distribution effective with the 2018 crop as follows:

10%	Love Gift
15%	C.U.E.
15%	SHALOM
20%	Parsonage Maintenance
40%	Crossroad

Eric seconded the motion and voice vote was affirmative.

JANUARY 28, 2018

Kevin Waisner then referred to the farm income distribution on page 3. Consistory suggests that the distribution stay the same for the 2019 crop year as in 2018:

10% Love Gift

15% C.U.E. (Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries)

15% SHALOM

Continued On Page 5

UPON FURTHER REVIEW FARM ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTION



Continued From Page 4

JANUARY 28, 2018 Continued

20% Parsonage Maintenance

40% Crossroad

Eric Shank moved and Bob Rettig 2nd to approve this distribution. Motion carried.

JANUARY 27, 2019

Farm distribution for 2019 Consistory recommends a change in the farm distribution for 2019, see page 3 – increase the Love Gift from 10% to 15% and decrease the Parsonage Maintenance from 20% to 15%. Kevin Vajen moved and Christine Rettig seconded to amend the motion to drop the term "Parsonage Maintenance" and insert "Major Maintenance." Discussion ensued regarding restrictions on use of these monies. Rick said the Will reads that farm proceeds may not be used for foreign missions and that the land can't be sold. The Amendment to the motion passed. Rick called for a vote on the amended motion, which passed.

- 15% Love Gift
- 15% C.U.E. (Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries)
- 15% SHALOM
- 15% Major Maintenance
- 40% Crossroad

January 26, 2020

Farm distribution for 2019: Consistory is recommending a change to the farm income distribution. This will actually apply to the 2021 income. Consistory recommends increasing the percentage of Love Gift from 15% to 20% of the profits and to reduce the percentage going to the Major Maintenance from 15% to 10%. Motion by Pam Desgranges to accept the recommendation. The motion did not need a second as the motion came from a committee. Motion passed.

- 20% Love Gift
- 15% C.U.E. (Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries)
- 15% SHALOM
- 10% Major Maintenance
- 40% Crossroad

UPON FURTHER REVIEW

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FARM ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTION



Continued From Page 5

Annual Congregational Meeting - February 7, 2021

Motion made on behalf of Consistory by President Christine Rettig to keep the farm distribution beginning with the 2022 crop year as presented with the Current Distribution as noted. Christopher Clady seconded. Scott Zimmer posed on behalf of the Shalom Team to make an amendment to this motion to decrease the farm distribution to Shalom from 15% to 10% and the 5% difference to be allotted to Major Maintenance which would be increased from 10% to 15%.

Kevin Waisner seconded this motion. Congregational approval given per horn honking. Motion was passed with the above amendment,

- 20% Love Gift
- 15% C.U.E. (Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries)
- 10% SHALOM
- 15% Major Maintenance
- 40% Crossroad

Annual Congregational Meeting - January 30, 2022

Ron Hoellrich noted financial reports between pages 26 through 33 of this Annual Meeting Packet. Ron noted the recommendation from Consistory to maintain the same level of Farm Distribution for the 2022 farm year profit the same as for 2021:

- 20% Love Gift
- 15% C.U.E. (Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries)
- 10% SHALOM
- 15% Major Maintenance
- 40% Crossroad

Hope this helps

Ron Hoellrich 2023 Consistory President



Grateful for a full corps of elected officers for 2023.

Great to be able to enjoy the Annual Meeting meal together.

Great turn out for the Annual Meeting meal.

Thank you to Carol Medina and Pam Murchek for providing child care at the Annual Meeting, the kids had a great time.

Great to see so many people attend the Soup and Dessert Luncheon.

- Thank you to the Clady/Sidle family for all their hard work and coordination to make the Soup and Dessert Lunch a huge success.
- Thank you to Pastor Voll for updating St. John's UCC's introductory paragraph for our open Pastoral position. It is very positive and informative.

Thank you to Kevin Vajen for the snow removal in the parking lots.

SAVE THE DATES

- March 1 Midweek Lenten services 7 p.m. Wednesday
- March 5 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting after worship
- March 8 Red Cross Blood Drive noon to 6 p.m.
- March 12 Potato Bake sponsored by Confirmation Classes
- April 16 Ordination Anniversary for Pastor Voll (details coming soon)

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

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CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS February 13, 2023

Approved a transfer of \$1,000 from tech account to the heating fund.

Approved recommendation to remove the dividers in Fellowship Hall.

Voted to hire Tyler Rue as Financial Administrator, contingent on his BCI check, for a maximum of 25 hrs per month starting January 1, 2023.

Approved recommendation from Spiritual Council to treat grandchildren of members the same as children of members for wedding fees.

Maggie Prigge, Scribe

CHIEF RECEIPTS

I recently submitted Chief cash register receipts in the amount of \$60,697.95. For that amount, we received a check in the amount of **\$303.49** to be donated to the Shalom Food Pantry. Such a simple thing for a person to do is saving cash register receipts and dropping them off in the basket at church. We appreciate Chief for allowing us to do this as a fundraiser. Keep those receipts coming in!

Carol Lulfs, Tabulator





Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts February 5, 2023

Interim Pastor: Dave Voll Head Elder: Maggie Prigge (24) Scribe: Bob Rettig (26) Communion: Greg Nelson (25) Membership/Visitation: Eric Shank (25)

The meeting began with Greg Nelson leading devotions. Mike was absent due to the mission trip to Honduras. Congregational concerns included our members experiencing travel difficulties to Honduras as well as those hospitalized and those anticipating surgery.

Pastor's report was reviewed with no major questions or comments.

February Elder of the month is Greg Nelson and Mike Haldy will serve in March. Ash Wednesday on February 22, will begin the Lenten season with the imposition of ashes and Communion. Communion will also be offered on Sundays, February 5 and March 5.

Kevin questioned if one of the Confirmands will meet the Sunday worship attendance requirement agreed to by the Confirmand and his/her parents when starting Confirmation classes. The Elders will support the decision made by those leading the Confirmation program. Essays prepared by the Confirmands will be reviewed prior to interviews with the students on April 16.

Eric has sent cards to those families on the anniversary of a loved one's passing.

The Spiritual Council reviewed those of our membership who are not meeting at least one of the three active membership requirements, which include attendance, financial support, and receiving Communion. Rather than move those who have not met these requirements from active to inactive status, a letter will be drafted to inquire of those members what their desires might be. This discussion was tabled.

The paraments have been ordered with hopes that the white ones will arrive before Easter. When all those ordered have arrived, a service of dedication will be held and the new flags will be placed in the sanctuary.

Pastor Dave recommended a change in the fee schedule for the use of the church facilities and services to include grandchildren of members with the rate charged to a child of a member. All were in favor of this change and recommendation will be made to Consistory to adopt.

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

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

Bob Rettig Scribe

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DEACONS' BENCH

February 13, 2023 Jeri Hoellrich, Scribe

Deacons:

Pat Kirk (23), Ron Hoellrich (23), Jeri Hoellrich (23), Carol Medina (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Adam Stevenson (24) Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)

Members present: Pat Kirk (23), Ron Hoellrich (23), Jeri Hoellrich (23), Carol Medina (24), Adam Stevenson (24), Chris Coppes (25), Ben Thomas (25)

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

Minutes of previous meeting reviewed, motion to accept, and accepted.

Discussion Of Old Business:

Preventive Maintenance Contract for Earl Mechanical discussion - decided to forgo this year

CAUV paperwork to be checked by Bob Rettig, Elder

Slate roof yearly maintenance discussion, additional information needed to make decisions. Betty will contact Durable Slate and obtain answers to our questions. Discussion to continue next month.

Discussion Of New Business:

Chairs in Narthex will increase from limit of 3 to 6 based on needs.COVID team will be made aware of the change.

Giving envelopes: There are a few boxes that have not been picked up by individuals. The envelopes are located in the cubby near the sanctuary entrance, allowing easy access for Deacons to deliver to appropriate individuals. A sign out sheet will be located there as well for undesignated envelopes that may be given to members, who for whatever reason, do not have an envelope box assigned to them.

Removal of dividers in Fellowship Hall was discussed and Deacons confirmed that all dividers in Fellowship Hall are to be removed. Many are dry rotted and not feasible to repair. Open discussion about needs for some type of room divider for families and funerals. Options will be brought to the Deacons within the next several meetings.



DEACONS' BENCH

February 13, 2023 Jeri Hoellrich,Scribe

Continued From Page 10

Discussion started about surface area of present tennis courts. Several options were discussed. Additional information is needed. Further discussion will take place in upcoming Deacons' meetings.

A request was brought to the Deacons to look at the sacristy area. This member pointed out that, during streaming, we may want to create a more aesthetically pleasing view. Deacons are now aware and will be discussing options in meetings to come.

Deacons approved moving to digital banking instead of online banking, which would require a \$5.00 fee per transfer of funds. Deacons will send this recommendation to Consistory for discussion.

Discussion of an FYI that PerryProtech shipping fees for supplies may increase in the near future.

Deacon Schedule for March 2023 - See Worship Participants on Page 13.

Motion to adjourn brought to floor and seconded. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Next Deacons' meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2023, at 6:15 in Fellowship Hall.

Cemetery Clean Up Time

When the snow does decide to leave this year, we may only have a short time until mowing begins.

That brings us to the clean up issue. Please go to the cemetery to check on any decorations you have placed on graves. The decorations most likely will not be looking nice after the Winter and will need to be removed. They may be put in the dumpster.

If each person takes responsibility for decorations they have placed on the cemetery, the clean up process will be swift. When this job is left for one person, it is a major job! Please do your part to keep our cemetery looking beautiful.

Norma Nagel, Cemetery Association Secretary

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

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March 5 – Second Sunday in Lent / Lenten Communion in Song Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:13-18 John 3:1-17 "God So Loved the World...."

March 12 – Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 17:1-6 John 4:5-30, 39-42 *"It's Not Enough to Just Jiggle the Wires"*

March 19 – Fourth Sunday in Lent Scriptures TBD

Gideon's Speaker

March 26 – Fifth Sunday in Lent Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 11:1-45

John 11:1-45 "Hope and New Life"

Midweek Lenten Services

From March 1 through March 30, Midweek Lenten Services will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, during which Pastor Dave will present a series of teaching lessons. During this time of showing PowerPoint slides and interacting with the congregation, his theme will be the "I Am..." sayings of Jesus – there are seven of them, including "I am the Bread of Life," "I am the Light of the World," and "I am the resurrection and the life" (the verse imprinted on the Chancel wall above the choir loft.) These midweek gatherings will be relatively informal and will start with hymn sing each week.

Please consider making these Wednesday evenings a part of your Lenten journey!

MARCH WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS				
Mar. 5 Mar. 8 (Wed.)	Nick Evers Neveah Evers Deacon	Carol Medina Kevin Vajen Carol Medina				
Mar. 12 Mar. 15 (Wed.)	Griffin Tanner Deacon	Chris Coppes Adam Stevension Chris Coppes				
Mar. 19 Mar. 22 (Wed.)	Nick Evers Deacon	Ben Thomas Jared Clady Jared Clady				
Mar. 26 Mar. 29 (Wed.)	Natalie Borck Deacon	Adam Stevenson Pat Kirk Pat Kirk				



FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - JANUARY 2023

INCOME

St. John's December 2022 Giving Pleasant Bend UMC

\$690.00 ____<u>584.00</u>

Total \$ 1,274.00 Submitted by Norma Nagel

On Our Lenten Journey - by Wesley Taylor

Fast from words that pollute. Feast on words that are kind. Fast from judging others. Feast on building others up in love. Fast from discontent. Feast on an attitude of gratitude.

Fast from the thoughts of illness. Feast on the healing power of God. Fast from death. Feast on life. Fast from worry. Feast on hope and calmness.

Fast from anger. Feast on patience. Fast from pessimism. Feast on optimism. Fast from little things. Feast on doing great things.

Fast from saying "no." Feast on saying, "Yes, I can help!"Fast from complaining. Feast on appreciation.Fast from being negative. Feast on believing all good things are possible.

Fast from bitterness. Feast on forgiveness. Fast from dwelling on the past. Feast on being open to the future. Fast from feelings of sorrow. Feast on the goodness of the Gospel.

Fast from being a discourager. Feast on being an encourager. Fast from gossip. Feast on purposeful silence. Fast from placing self first. Feast on placing God number one.

Fast from needing to be in control. Feast on being guided by God's Spirit.

Fast from dwelling on differences. Feast on the unity of all life. Fast from hostility and divisiveness. Feast on being a peacemaker.

Fast from sorrow. Feast on joy. Fast from dullness and routine. Feast on enthusiasm. Fast from going it alone. Feast on prayer and meditation.

And always feast on our Lord Jesus Christ.



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

NURSING HOMES

- GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES, 1036 S. Perry Street, Napoleon, OH 43545 Sue Mohr - #126 Geri Ripke - 221
- SKLD, 28546 Starbright Blvd., Perrysburg, OH 43551 Betty Yaichner
- Don Huber Cards or notes may be sent care of his daughter Dawn Boozer, PO Box 420, Jarales, NM 87023-0420

ASSISTED LIVING

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES, 1032 S. Perry Street, Napoleon, OH 43545

Gib Sonnenberg - #413

- GEORGETOWN PLACE, Apt. 226, 1717 Maplecrest Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46815 Ken Rayle
- KINGSBURY PLACE, 245 West Rosewood Ave., Defiance, OH 43512 Rose Marie Durham - Apt. 142
- VANCREST NURSING HOME, 600 Joe E. Brown, Holgate, OH 43527 Marlene Rettig - #13

HOME - Send a greeting to these folks or drop by and visit!

Peggy Franz	15396 St. Rt. 281	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Herbert Fruth	13567 Co Rd. H	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Jim and Sue Waisner	1542 St. Rt. 108	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Bernard Zimmer	1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37	Napoleon, Ohio 43545

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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

Larry Hockman recovering from foot surgery
Sara Erb from Senior Center, recovering from surgery for breast cancer
Stephany Hall recovering after hip replacement
Skylar Smith PH 2nd grader with brain tumor
Peg Snyder recovering after knee replacement
Gene Crawford recovering after hospitalization
Janise Voll recovering after foot surgery on February 24

Other Members of our Faith Family who are dealing with illnesses

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

Prayers for those who died or were displaced by earthquakes in Syria and Turkey

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



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

Within the Fellowship

- Let us pray for those of St. John's Faith Family who are dealing with health issues or other changes in their lives.
- · Let us pray for the church and its leaders and people.
- · Let us pray for our service men and women and their families.
- · Let us pray for the Search Team

Sympathy To:

- *Rev. Marvin and Brenda Rettig* on the passing of Marv's sister Joann Schroeder on January 29.
- The Family of **Doug Armbruster**, who died unexpectedly on February 10.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOK

To help during this upcoming season of Lent, we have a **Lenten Devotional** book entitled "Amazing Grace" in honor of the 250^{th} anniversary of the writing of this beloved song.

The devotions tie the words and history of the song to our lives today and to the lives of those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God revealed most profoundly in the salvation of Jesus.

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		Jan Budget																	
		YTD Actual		\$10,370.00	\$280.00	\$776.00	\$11,426.00		\$3,458.20	\$802.72	\$0.00	\$4,589.73	\$10.550.11	\$19,400.76		-\$7,943.08	\$22,696.18		
h of Christ nses - Summary	pur	Jan-23		\$10,370.00	\$280.00	\$776.00	\$11,426.00		\$3,458.20	\$802.72	\$0.00	\$4,589.73	\$10.550.11	\$19,400.76		\$7,943.08			\$6,855.77
St. John's United Church of Christ Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary Fund: General Fund January 2023		OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	OFFERINGS	Fundraising	MISC. INCOME	Total OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	EXPENSES	Total BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	Total MINISTRIES	Total MISSIONS	Total ADMINISTRATION	Total PASTORAL	Total Expenses		Net Total	Operating checking Acct Balance as of 1/31/2023	Mission Giving:	Mission -to-Go	



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

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

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

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

The goal will be to have this project complete by Pentecost (May 28).



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Mission and Stewardship



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MISSION FOR MARCH

One Great Hour of Sharing is part of our church's wider missions that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis or who are in need of extra love. Putting love into actions is a call to us to help our neighbors all around the world as we can. Your generous gift to this mission enables our church and our worldwide partners to help and make a difference in the lives of our communities around the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing helps people by responding to disasters, farming, health initiatives, emergency relief, and even supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Endowment Fund will ensure that the work of helping families worldwide continues. Through education, healthcare, and rebuilding communities, people are finding hope in their circumstances and hope for a better future.

One Great Hour of sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten offering supports disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

Your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing puts you in the right place at the right time for the relief, spiritual presence and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Thank You in advance for supporting this important mission.

Giving Statements for 2022

Please contact the church office if you would like a copy of your **GIVING STATEMENT FOR 2022**. Statement can be emailed if you wish or printed for you to pick up,

Let the office know if you need to have your statement mailed. You can actually request a statement at any time of the year. Page 22 - The Sentinel - March 2023

SUCCESSION PLANNING

At the Annual Meeting, Ron Hoellrich, Consistory President, talked about succession planning – grooming people to step into staff or other leadership positions. Kristine Maas' retirement made this a priority. At the February Consistory meeting, it was decided to ask our Faith Family to find the people who have an interest in learning the duties.

Priority Positions And Skills Needed:

- Financial Administrator become familiar with the accounting software, be able to print checks and do online banking, do monthly payroll, learn to enter offerings into accounts, prepare reports for Consistory.
- Administrative Assistant use Microsoft Office to prepare bulletins and music for worship services, prepare reports for Consistory and other teams, maintain membership database, handle mail, other general office duties; with an interim and a new settled pastor, having someone who knows the history of St. John's, the routines, and the people is especially helpful. People who fill in for vacation are paid.

For these two positions, ideally there would be at least one person who would have availability to fill in for vacations or other absences. More importantly, there should be someone who would volunteer to help with enough regularity to be able to step into the position on a regular basis if or when needed.

Technology – the immediate priority is for someone to prepare slides for worship when Linda is on vacation. We use PowerPoint for the slides and it mostly involves copy and paste. The other help needed is a few people to learn to run the slides, sound system, and broadcast software/cameras during worship. We are asking for people to commit to helping once/month to maintain skills. We currently have five people who rotate responsibility.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

Continued From Page 22

Other Important Staff Positions Include

- Director for Sanctuary and Bell Choirs Greg has directed the choirs for 30-some years. Pastor Voll stepped in recently when Greg was ill. Millie Holzer has also served as choir director and Sue Abshire has the background as well but they both also have other duties on Sunday mornings.
- Pianist/Choir Accompanist/Organist We are blessed to have Sheri Plotts and Sue Abshire who share musician duties. Millie Holzer has helped in the past but is currently playing on Sunday mornings for both St. Paul, Flatrock and St. Peter's in Holgate. If there are folks who are taking piano lessons or who would be willing to share their piano skills in worship, please let us know!
- Custodian Norma Nagel is currently handling custodian duties along with Dawn Fry who is on sick leave. If you have an interest in helping, there are often projects that are easier with two people working together. This could be a way to learn if you might be interested in being groomed as a paid substitute or volunteer.
- Newsletter Editor Ruth Ann Durham has been the editor for 20+ years and is still going strong. It would be great to have someone willing to begin learning what it takes to put the newsletter together,

Leaders don't know all of the skills and interests that people have. If you feel called to check into any of these positions, please talk with Ron Hoellrich, the people currently involved, or let the office know. Checking into any of these positions does not obligate you!!

PLEASE GIVE THIS PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION.

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Thank you for supporting St. John's UCC with your purchase!

Carol Medina, Coordinator

Parents, Guardians, and Grandparents - please let the office know if you have a student who will be graduating from High School, College or completing other educational milestones. We like to recognize these achievements during May each year and count on the graduate or their family to let us know.

Graduation Parties - we have wooden tables, folding chairs, roasters, and other kitchen items which can be borrowed by members on a first come, first served basis. Please check with the office if there are things you wish to borrow so we can reserve them for you.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

RICHARD COOK -- DESHLER -- CPA -- TAX PREP PHONE 567-230-0526 CALL FOR APPOINTMENT Will do taxes for people who cannot afford to get them done, for FREE Will take donations, but not necessary.

Can also go to the Senior Center and get taxes done for FREE Paul Heddaeus PH 419-599-5515

Thank You to Scott and The Shalom Team

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

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.

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It's time to Order Your Easter Flowers to remember or honor your loved ones or

In place of flowers, you may make a monetary gift to remember or honor your loved ones.

See the enclosed insert for information on memorials or honorariums of your choice

This will be a "self-serve" process. Check out the table with the flower sign. Please put your order with a check or cash into an envelope and put the envelope in the box on the table. We will also gratefully accept memorial gifts. Flowers and memorials will be printed in the Easter bulletins.

A VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The bench that sets at the North door is in need of attention. It needs to be cleaned, maybe a few screws, possibly some stain, and some wood sealer applied.

There is stain and wood sealer at the church. If you are interested in doing this project, let the office know. Presently the bench is in the cloak room, so stop and take a look.

Church Rummage Sale

Spring cleaning season will soon be upon us! When you are cleaning, and clearing out, box up those unwanted items and hang on to them for the church rummage sale! We are planning to have a rummage sale on June 15, 16 and 17.

The proceeds will benefit the heating fund. So...get started on your cleaning and decluttering projects, and hang on to them for the church rummage sale! More details will be forthcoming...watch the newsletter and bulletins as the dates get closer.





Rose Marie Durham

will celebrate her 81st Birthday

on March 9

Kingsbury Place

246 W. Rosewood Ave. Apt. 142

Defiance, OH 43512

Geraldine Ripke

will celebrate her

86th Birthday

on March 29

"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Ken Rayle will celebrate his 91st Birthday March 4

Georgetown Place, Apt 226 1717 Maplecrest Rd Fort Wayne IN 46815

> Phyllis Crawford will celebrate her 84th Birthday on March 14

11708 County Rd. N Napoleon, OH 43545 Genacross Lutheran Services 1036 S Perry St Napoleon, OH 43545

Cemetery Association Annual Meeting



March 5, 2023 After worship

The Cemetery Association will have their Annual Meeting following worship on March 5. It will be a short meeting, and we only have this one meeting a year. The rest of the year the Cemetery Trustees handle any issues that come up. If you are a lot owner you **are** a member and are welcome (and strongly encouraged) to attend this meeting. You will not be given an office unless you decide to volunteer. There happens to be an opening! Please come and see what we talk about.

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News and Notes

Submitted By Lucy Coppes January 15, 2023

Present: Pastor David Voll, Diana Evers (23), Katie Borck (23), Lucy Coopes (24), Elleigh Franz (25), LaTasha Solis (23), and Lisa Haldy (25) via telephone.

Diana opened the meeting and welcomed all new and returning members. Katie led devotions and opening prayer.

Folders were distributed containing CE Board roles and responsibilities. An active list of Sunday School children, Church Calendar of Special Sundays and agenda for the day were passed out. Review of 2022 Annual Report, addition/correction made to note that monies for Sunday School offering that was collected in 2021 and 2022, was divided between Crossroad and Washington UCC and was given in December of 2022.

Officers for 2023: Chair - Katie, Vice Chair - LaTasha, Scribe - Lucy.

Discussion was held to clarify of roles and responsibilities for the chair, which actions were official duties of chair verses actions that could be delegated. Diana volunteered to continue leading the Opening of Sunday School and was certain that Jeri would be willing to do the same. Reminded everyone of reimbursement policy and devotional schedule.

Sunday School: reviewed list of teachers. Weekly sign-up sheet is on the Library counter. Most spots were already filled; Janice Rettig has been picking up vacant slots. Diana volunteered to reach out and ask if people would be interested in teaching in additional openings. Spark Activate Faith (Year A) is the curriculum currently being used. Loose offering will continue to be donated to Washington UCC. Foster Care Blanket Ministry will continue to be the Mission Project for Winter and Spring of 2023.

Birthdays: Nothing new to report, cards continue to be sent to all active children at the beginning of the month.

Confirmation: Pastor Voll reported that Confirmation I students are currently studying the Babylonian exile and that the video series being used was helping to reinforce taught material. Confirmation II students are currently studying UCC History and going over topics such as worship, Christian Year, Sacraments, church symbols. Both classes are going well. Due to a generous gift from a member of the congregation, Confirmation Camp cost is covered this year.

Continued On Page 29

Secretary, Norma Nagel



News and Notes Submitted By Lucy Coppes January 15, 2023

Continued From Page 28

Christmas Eve Services Feedback - Concerns were raised by Franell and other members of the Board about time of service, whether the Christmas pageant should be performed on a different day, and the timing of practices. Everyone was in agreement that the Christmas program was a bit chaotic this year and could use some adjustments. Will review options later in 2023.

New Business: Confirmed Potato Bake on March 12. Held discussion about Ladles of Love in February. Traditionally funds would be raised to support VBS, but last year funds went to Heating and Cooling Fundraising. Katie will check with Betty to see if the Clady's would be willing to host on February 12 and would ask Kevin to inform Consistory that CE would like to have the funds raised from the event donated back to the Summer Family Faith activities.

Youth Ministry: Discussed possibility of Youth singing The Lord's Prayer ("It's Yours") by Matt Maher. Option was brought up to split the younger and older children into different activities. Some ideas were having grades 4-5 perform sing alongs, having grades 1-2 do something different such as a finger puppet play. Also discussed ideas for youth to honor Mother's Day as well as End of Year Awards celebration.

Cradle Roll: Nothing new to report, everything is going well with this project.

Next meeting for February 26 with focus to be on preparation for Easter.

WANTED: CANDY FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT

The Christian Education Board is starting to think about and plan for Easter (April 9.) They are asking for donations of small Easter candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Bags of candy may be placed on the side table in the narthex or in the office.

Many Thanks in advance!

GE STALL GE ST

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In Loving Memory Douglas James Armbruster November 10, 1963 - February 10, 2023

Douglas James Armbruster, age 59, died unexpectedly on Friday morning, February 10, 2023, in his rural Napoleon home.

His Legacy... Doug was born November 10, 1963, to James L. and Kay (Watkins) Armbruster in Napoleon. He graduated from Napoleon High School in 1982. He graduated with his bachelor's degree from the Defiance College and his master's from the Eastern New Mexico University.

He worked for the Defiance Library. Doug was a journalist by trade. He worked for different newspapers including the Farmland News. In the mid 90's, he moved to Kansas. He was an instructor at the Coffeyville Community College. In 2008 he became the managing editor at the Coffeyville Journal. He was a staff writer and editor for the Independence Daily Reporter and Salina Journal.

He moved "home" in 2017 and filled in as a substitute administrative assistant at St. John's United Church of Christ. Doug was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ and the Holgate Lions Club.

Doug liked to listen to all genres of music...loud. He was an avid sports enthusiast, especially with the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Detroit Tigers.

His Family... He is survived by his loving mother and caregiver Kay; sister, Debra (Jeffry) Stevenson, Napoleon; nephew and nieces: Adam Stevenson, Kathleen (Andrew) Borck and Abigail Stevenson; and great nieces: Natalie, Jordyn and Adalynn Borck.

Doug was preceded in death by his father on February 28, 2020.

His Farewell Services... Friends were received in the Zachrich Family Funeral Home, Holgate on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, from 3-7:00 p.m. and one hour before the church service. The Celebration of Doug's life was held on Thursday in St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate at 11:00 a.m. with Reverend David Voll officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John United Church of Christ Holgate Lions Club or a charity of your choice

Thank You,

Thank you St. John's faith family. There are not enough words to describe how valuable you are to me. From Wednesday evening bell choir to Sunday school, and especially Sunday morning services, so much love and kind words have been spoken to me. The many inspirational cards, messages, and, of course, visits from Pastor Dave were very encouraging. My recovery is slow, but my sister told me I need to catch up on 30 years of sleep! God bless you all, and thanks again for the many prayers!

Linda Arreguin

CREATACARD

CAGCM, Inc.

Thank You...

The family of Douglas Armbruster express their appreciation for Pastor Voll's help along the way during Doug's illness, words of encouragement, and help with final arrangements. Sheri Plotts, the music was beautiful. We thank everyone for all the prayers, flowers, cards sent, memorials and especially to the women who provided food and served it following the service. Thank you all.

> Kay, Deb and Jeff, Adam, Katie and Andy, Abbie

As a grandmother I am so thankful for such wonderful grandchildren who all stepped up and made Uncle Doug's service very special. I especially want to thank Abbie for the song she recorded. It was "It's Quiet Uptown" from Hamilton, the musical. She changed the words slightly at the end to fit the picture of Uncle Doug and God being together in the garden of eternal Life.

Thank you Adam, Katie, and Abbie. You are all a blessing!

Grandma Kay





IT'S AMAZING HOW A LITTLE KINDNESS CAN MAKE SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE

Roger and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit at your church on February 5! We felt very welcomed by the many friendly greetings both before and after service. We also enjoyed all of the music, especially pre-service piano and anthem. I'm sure God blesses your work for him. P.S. Pretty good minister also! :)

Sinculy. Bonnie & Adgur Danielo

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Orphan Grain Train

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

Orphan Grain Train - Ohio

Warehouse: 500 Independence Dr. Napoleon OH 43545 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 74 Ridgeville Corners OH 43555

Email: OHIOOGT@rtecexpress.net

Nancy Helmke, President PH. 419.758.3539 Diann Meyer Grieser, Sec. / Treas. PH. 419.267.5710 Cindy Cline, Warehouse Coordinator/Board Member PH. 419.261.3409 Vickie Grieser, Board Member PH. 419.572.9824 Lesa Bischoff, Board Member PH. 419.261.8138

January 13, 2023

Dear St. John 's United Church of Christ.

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

We share items from our warehouse with residents of Kentucky who were devastated by tornadoes December of 2021 and in other areas affected by flooding in 2022. We were able to send two trailers of clothing and blankets to Indiana OGT that were sent to the people of Ukraine, and we continue to assist monetarily through our headquarters in Norfolk NE to assist with relief for Ukraine.

There are other Missions in S.E. Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana that we partner with and when we hear of a need that we can help with, we respond promptly. In late October we gathered items for three areas in Florida affected by hurricane lan, and those items were delivered that same week to Ft. Myers FL and distributed through LERT (Lutheran Emergency Response Team) and NALC Disaster Response and recently sent each of these teams \$6,000,00 to be used as they continue their work in the clean-up/rebuild efforts there in Florida. We work with Maumee Valley Guidance Center and assist local Veterans with household items needed to establish their residence. Our Creator has taught us to love our neighbor and to respond in Christian love with resources that He provides, through you and many others!

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

Sincerely,

Diam **Diann Meyer-Grieser**

Sec / Treas Ohio Division Orphan Grain Train

This letter is your official receipt. Our Federal Employer Information Number is 31-1614650. Receipt dated: 1/13/2023 Check #15581 in the amount of \$100.00 Dated: 12/31/2022

January 24, 2023

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

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,

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Thank You! Your gift is a blessing. Thank you a million times over for the support that you give to Crossroad Child & Family Services, not just for your donations but for cheering us on and lifting us up. It's because of YOU, and people like you, that Crossroad has been able to serve children and families for 140 years.

Thank you for your generous gift of \$100.00. Because of you, St. John's United Church of Christ, clients are thriving every day! Your generosity is inspiring. You make an amazing difference to Crossroad Child & Family Services and the lives of the children and families we serve.

Our mission is to create promising futures for children in difficult circumstances by providing therapy, education, and family support services. You provide the promising future these children need and deserve. They come from difficult circumstances but with you by their side, these children have a chance. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in these children and the work that we do at Crossroad. You are a hero.

With Gratitude,

Both A. Mc

Beth McCord **Chief Development Officer** 260.484.4153 x 2090 bmccord@crossroadcares.org Mark Adang **Donor Relations Director** 260.484.4153 x 2110 madang@crossroadcares.org

PS -I would love to hear from you anytime, St. John's United Church of Christ, please reach congre out! gation

Visit our new website at www.crossroadcares.org · Please follow us on Facebook!

Retain this gift receipt portion for your records. **Crossroad Child & Family Services** 1825 Beacon St., Fort Wayne, IN 46805 · 260-484-4153 · EIN # 35-0869050

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

Date Amount Fund 1/24/2023 \$100.00 Unrestricted

No Goods Or Services Were Provided In Return For This Gift



www.crossroad-fwch.org

phone 260,484,4153 or 800,976,2306 fax 260,484,2337 or 888,814,4521



MARCH

- 3 4 Ken Rayle
- 3 4 Logan Badenhop
- 3 5 Chase Franz
- 3 6 Tom Bortz
- 3 9 Rosie Durham
- 3 9 Cody Woodring
- 3 10 Jeff Waisner
- 3 14 Phyllis Crawford
- 3 15 Tammy Miller
- 3 16 Betty (Bob) Rettig
- 3 16 Nancy Zimmer
- 3 16 Tammy Hall

- 3 18 Kay Winnie
- 3 25 Mary Kay Altman
- 3 25 Sharon Orr
- 3 26 Michael Rettig
- 3 26 Jonathan Rozevink
- 3 27 Linda Arreguin
- 3 29 Kameron Maurer
- 3 29 Konner Maurer
- 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 419-592-0589 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 APRIL Newsletter is SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023 Please leave your article in the folder in the wall file

on the South wall (Directly across from the door) of the church office marked NEWSLETTER ARTICLES



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 <u>www.nwoa.org</u>, <u>www.heartlanducc.org</u> and <u>www.ucc.org</u>.



1

The Luminary Seven of Hamler is sponsoring an

Easter Cantata

AT ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH 435 2nd Street (1 block east State Route 109 at Cleveland Street) Hamler, OH

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY CHOIR FROM AREA CHURCHES

Rehearsals will be held on the following dates: at St. Stephen Lutheran Church from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Sunday, February 26 Sunday, March 5 Sunday, March 12 Sunday, March 19 Sunday, March 26

The director will be Sue Abshire with Marilyn Abshire as accompanist

Any person interested in participating is asked to contact either Sue Abshire (419) 264–6896 <u>abshirehome@embarqmail.com</u> or Sandra Honemann (419) 274–7194 <u>sandyhonemann@gmail.com</u> ASAP

If you have questions, please call/e-mail either Sue or Sandra