

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

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#### **Holy Week Services**

**April 10 - Palm Sunday 10:15 am**

**April 14 -Maundy Thursday – Simple Meal @ 6:30 pm**

**Worship with Communion @ 7 pm**

**April 15 – Community Good Friday service @ St. Peter's Holgate 1 pm**

**April 17 – Easter Sunrise – Gather at cemetery 6:45 am**

**Sunrise Worship with Communion in sanctuary 7 am**

**Breakfast 8 am**

**Short message in Sanctuary 9 am before Easter Egg Hunt**

**Easter Worship with Communion @ 10:15 am**

Lenten Communion in Song – page 3

Membership Exploration – page 6

Communion and Lent – page 5

From the Pulpit – page 10

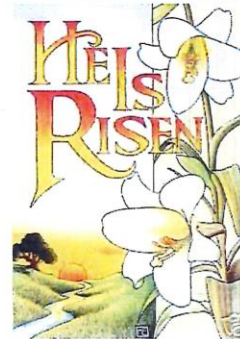
Worship Participants – page 11

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Tour of Crossroad Child & Family in Ft. Wayne page 26

Birthdays – pages 28 and 35

Memorials – pages 31 and 32



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					Clady/Kuhlman wedding 2 pm Sat	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Confirmation 9am - Sunday School 9am - Trustees @ 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation 11:30am - Trustees @		SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food 7pm - Spiritual Council	7pm - Midweek worship 8pm - Choir practice	5:45pm - Finance Team		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Palm Sunday 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - CE Board 7pm - Deacons	7pm - Consistory		7pm - Sanctuary Choir	6:30pm - Maundy Thursday 7pm - Maundy Thursday	1pm - Good Fri-St Peter's	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter Sunday 6:45am - Meet at Cemetery 7am - Sunrise service 8am - Breakfast 9am - SS&Easter Egg Hunt 9:30am - Newsletter 10:15am - Worship	Easter Monday Tax Day 3pm - FH reserved	SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food	6pm - Bellchoir practice 7pm - Sanctuary Choir			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship		9am - Newsletter mailing	6pm - Bellchoir practice 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	1:30pm - Vancrest Worship	Franz/Norden wedding Sat	Church reserved wedding 9:30am - NWOA meeting 3:30pm - Franz/Norden



## 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 **MAY** Newsletter is  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 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**



## April Mission

## OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

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

## The Sentinel

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

### 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  
Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201  
Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527  
Church e-mail: [holgateucc@metalink.net](mailto:holgateucc@metalink.net)  
Pastor e-mail: [pastordave.voll@gmail.com](mailto:pastordave.voll@gmail.com)  
Financial Administrator e-mail - Kristine Maas: [stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net](mailto:stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net)  
Newsletter Editor e-mail: [radurham703@bright.net](mailto:radurham703@bright.net)  
Church Website: [www.stjohnsuccholgate.com](http://www.stjohnsuccholgate.com)  
SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

## WORSHIP and ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

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

### Wednesday Night Schedule

Lenten Services (Final Wed. Service April 6) 7:00 P.M.

Adult and Youth Bell Choir

TBA

Sanctuary Choir

See Bulletin for time

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## Kid's Corner



### April

4 - 9	Levi Herman
4 - 11	Molly Rees
4 - 13	Lottie Mckenzie
4 - 20	Carmen Medina
4 - 23	Jacob Highfield
4 - 26	Ellis Moyer



## Kid's Corner



**St. John's UCC**

**Easter Egg Hunt**

**April 17, 2022 - at 9:00 a.m.**



**All children ages 0-13 invited**

**Gather in the Sanctuary**

**Hear the Easter Story told by a special guest!**

**Then proceed to the circle drive**

**The egg hunt will be held on the West lawn**

**Candy and prizes for all  
Parents-be sure to sign up your child for  
the special EASTER BASKET DRAWING!**

**(IF INCLEMENT WEATHER THE EGG HUNT WILL BE  
HELD INSIDE)**

**Sponsored by the Christian Education Board**



Holy Week – the last few days of Jesus' life – will soon be upon us. We'll journey with our Lord by way of worship and ritual as we remember his triumphal entry, Commune with him, consider his sacrificial love, and shed tears and be joyful as we experience a small portion of the emotion of it all.



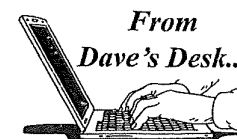
It was a wide range of emotions, to be sure. From the mountain-top highs of Palm Sunday in Jerusalem, with shouts of praise for Jesus..... To the creeping doubts in the Garden of Gethsemane ("Father, if it be Your will, remove this cup from me") and the feelings of desertion and betrayal (Peter's three-fold denial and Judas' willingness to "sell" our Lord for a price) on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. From what must have been nerve-numbing pain and heart-stopping agony on the cross..... To the surprise of Easter morning when our resurrected Lord greeted some of his friends and witnessed their stunned looks and sheer joy!

During these final days of Lent and into Holy Week, we journey with Jesus to the cross with the privilege of knowing the ending. But let's imagine, if we're able, what it would be like for those journeying with Jesus without knowing the end. What do you suppose the disciples were thinking and feeling during these last days? Only upon the arrest of Jesus in the Garden and the events of the next 12 hours did they comprehend the importance of the situation and the weight of Jesus' words about his death. They must have felt as sheep without a shepherd – aimless, wandering, and wondering "What do we do now?" It was life-changing, for they would never be the same again. Had God somehow forgotten them? Deserted them?

How could they go on? Where would they get the strength? How could they bear this pain? What now?

Many of us have asked these or similar questions. Life has a way of throwing us back on our haunches, causing such queries to be raised. We wonder, perhaps we try to run away, or maybe we lose faith. It may be a sudden health problem or a terminal illness, a family problem, or the betrayal of a friend. It may be the lingering effects of the pandemic and the continuing exercise of caution in response to it, or the ongoing grief we feel because loved ones and friends succumbed to it. It may be the "growing pains" being felt due to the

***Continued On Page 3***



***Continues From Page 2***

change in pastoral leadership at St. John's. Or it may be some other event in the week in/week out, month in/month out, year in/year out moments of living life that cuts us to the heart and causes us to ask: What now? What will tomorrow bring?

The answer, friends, is the same as it was for the disciples: God has a plan. The disciples couldn't see it, but they needed only 3 days for their sadness and darkness to be turned to gladness and divine light! They needed only 50 days for the questions of "What next?" to be answered – and on the day of Pentecost, when they helped birth the church, those answers came in miraculous ways upon 3000 people.

Our answers may not be so dramatic, nor perhaps come within 3 or 50 days or the span of time we'd prefer, but know this: God has a plan! He created you; He has sustained you thus far; and He'll keep you always!

It is with this faith and this promise that we journey with Jesus during these last days of Lent and ultimately celebrate the resurrection of our Lord during a joyous Easter season!

*See you in church...*  
**Pastor Dave**

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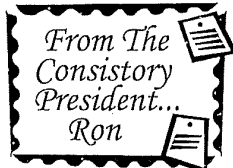
## **LENTEN COMMUNION IN SONG**

During worship on Sunday, April 3 the words of much of the Communion service will be set to the tunes of familiar Lenten hymns.

Some will be sung in unison, some by Pastor Dave, and some will be sung responsively by the congregation with him.

Come to the Table to experience this meaningful and unique service during your Lenten journey.

## EMPATHY



I was searching the internet for an idea for an article for the newsletter this month and I came across an article that was discussing empathy. I did some further searching and I have copied some of what I found.

empathy

[NOUN

1. the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

*synonyms:*

compassion · sympathy · pity · feeling · concern  
· considerateness · consideration · tenderness  
· tender-heartedness · kindness · kindheartedness  
· sensitivity · insight · fellow feeling · brotherly  
love · neighborliness · decency · humanity  
· humanitarianism · humaneness · charity · goodwill  
· mercy · mercifulness · gentleness · tolerance · lenience  
· leniency · warmth · warm-heartedness · affection · love

Empathy is the ability to recognize, understand, and share the thoughts and feelings of another person. Developing empathy is crucial for establishing relationships and behaving compassionately. It involves experiencing another person's point of view, rather than just one's own, and enables prosocial or helping behaviors that come from within, rather than being forced.

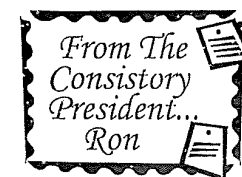
### Forms meaningful connections

When we are genuinely empathetic to someone, it leaves a lasting impact on them. Think about a time when you felt understood without any visible misgivings by the other person or when you felt that your situation and emotions were received with care and openness. It's golden, isn't it? It's one of the most deeply meaningful experiences of life.

As you become more empathetic, you'll be able to become a better person in every relationship of your life, be it with a friend, family member, colleague, partner, stranger, or even the world at large.

*Continued On Page 5*

## EMPATHY



*Continued From Page 4*

### Develops wisdom without first-hand experiences

Empathetic people are great listeners. And, listening is a very effective way of learning.

Since empathy makes you put yourself in the place of others without actually experiencing their situation, you are able to learn lessons without even engaging in them.

### Creates a humane society

Imagine a world full of empathetic people. People who reach out to one another. People who choose to accept more than expect. Those who don't look out for only themselves.

Think of bosses who don't treat their employees like machines, of parents who know their children aren't the carriers of their unfulfilled dreams, politicians who use their power to bring promised change, of partners who shove their ego down and make room to understand, of people who acknowledge others' limitations.

What an amazing world it would be if everyone could/were to be more empathetic !!!

## Communion and Lent

If you will be worshipping online on the remaining holy days in Lent (Maundy Thursday, April 14; and Easter Sunday, April 17), you are invited to contact the church office to pick up **Communion elements** so you can join in the worship. Please call ahead so we can have them ready for you when you arrive. Office hours are 8-noon Monday through Friday.

Shut-ins who have access to Facebook Live but who are not able to get to the church to pick up their elements are invited to call, and we will arrange to have the elements delivered to you. Pastor Dave will also be bringing Lenten Communion to shut-ins.

This same offer is available when Communion is observed on the first Sunday of each month.



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

- Great Lenten service last Wednesday.
- Good news - the easing of COVID restrictions.
- Great that families are using Fellowship Hall for gatherings.
- Glad for the progress on improving WIFI at the church and parsonage.
- Great to see the number of those attending church is increasing.



**NEW  
ADDRESS**

PFC Meyer, Anthony  
2122 Longfellow Rd.  
Yorktown, VA 23691  
MCSFR  
H+S

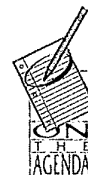
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## MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about becoming a member of St. John's, please contact the church office to get more information, including a membership exploration packet. If there is sufficient interest, three Membership Exploration Sessions will be scheduled.

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For those watching our **worship service online**, the announcement slides and gathering music begin around 10 a.m. and run continuously until worship begins at 10:15 a.m. You can watch our service at <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUCCHolgate>.



## CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

March 14, 2022

**Motion approved** that Trustee purchases totaling \$1,000 or over would be brought to Consistory to take out of the Major Maintenance Fund; purchases under that amount would be taken out of the Routine Maintenance Operating Fund.

**Motion approved** to ask the congregation for sealed bids from anyone interested in purchasing and removing the playground equipment that is being replaced (does not include the swing set).

**Motion approved** that rent received from the recently purchased farmland minus the property tax to go to the heating fund for the church.

**Motion made** to allow the tech team to spend up to \$1,500 from the Technology Fund for a modulator and for a new screen for the chancel to complete the streaming update.

**Motion passed** for St John's to adopt the updated COVID recommendations as presented by the COVID team.

*Respectfully submitted, Maggie Prigge*

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Our worship service will be 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 at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays. The service is also recorded, so you can watch it at your convenience.



## Spiritual Council

### Meeting Excerpts

March 1, 2022

Present: Pastor Dave Voll      Communion: Rick Fruth (2023)  
 Head Elder: Maggie Prigge (2024)      Visitation: Eric Shank (2025)  
 Scribe: Pam Desgranges (2023)      Membership: Greg Nelson  
 (2025)      Confirmation And CE Board: Kevin Waisner (2024)

**All members were present** for this meeting, Betty (Bob) Rettig attended at the invitation of Rev. Voll. Maggie Prigge opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer. Congregational concerns were discussed. Rev. Voll then gave his report for the month: All shut-ins have been visited as well as hospital visits and phone visits. He is continuing wedding meetings with two couples, who will be married here in April. We discussed how we might serve Communion as we had traditionally before COVID-19 struck. There are ways we can do this in a safe manner and with social distancing.

**Confirmation class** is going well. Attendance is good, and they are good participants. The baked potato carryout was well received, and they made good money for SHALOM Christmas Shopping

Things are going well with our **Visitation Team**. Folks are enjoying the visits. Cards are also being sent out on the anniversary of our faith family members who passed away last year.

We discussed the possibility for a need to have a **Membership Class**. There is a couple interested in becoming members and there may be a possibility for others as well. We discussed which version of the Apostles Creed we may like to use and memorials and/or flowers for Pastors and former Pastors and staff who have loved ones that passed. Betty (Bob) will draft guidelines to be used for the memorials for Consistory approval as a recommendation from Spiritual Council.

**UPCOMING COMMUNION DATES:** March 2 Ash Wednesday, March 6, April 3 Lenten Communion in song.

Our meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Our next meeting** is April 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room

Pam Desgranges, Scribe



## DEACONS' BENCH

March 13, 2022  
 Jeri Hoellrich, Scribe

### Members Present:

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

Meeting was called to order by Head Deacon, Rick Desgranges.

Minutes of previous meeting reviewed and accepted as written.

### Old Business:

**Trustee spending** was discussed with recommendation to be sent to Consistory.

**Heating and Cooling** projects discussed

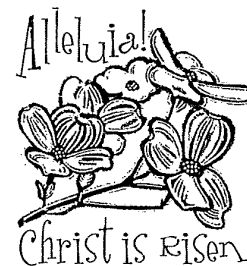
### New Business:

**Deacon Schedule** for April: See Worship Participants on Page 11.

Rick and Kevin volunteered to repair pews that are loose

An issue was discussed about wax dripping on floor and concerns about the lighting flames and wicks. Deacons will make sure they are assisting acolytes and help them so this does not become an issue.

**Next Deacon's Zoom meeting** scheduled for April 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.





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

**APRIL**

**April 3 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – Lenten Communion in Song**  
 Isaiah 53 and Revelation 5 – selected verses; Luke 22:14-20  
*Communion Is: Remembering*

**April 10 – Palm Sunday**  
 Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11  
*A Parade Fit for a King*

**April 14 – Maundy Thursday**  
 Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; Matthew 26:17-19, 26-29  
 6:30 p.m. – *Simple Meal in Fellowship Hall*  
 7:00 p.m. – *Communion Service and Office of Tenebrae in Sanctuary*

**April 17 – Easter Sunday – Communion at Both Services**  
**7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service**  
 Colossians 3:1-4; Mark 16:1-8  
*A Special Easter Story*  
**10:15 a.m. Easter Worship**  
 Luke 24:1-12; Acts 10:34-43  
*The Rest of the Story*

**April 24 – Second Sunday of Easter**  
 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31  
*Sunday School Skit; Sermon With Lessons From Thomas*



**FINAL MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE**

Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. will be our final Midweek Lenten Service. Pastor Dave will conclude his series of teaching lessons on the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7. Our gathering will be informal and will include a brief hymn sing.

You need not have been in attendance at the other Midweek Lenten Services in order to participate in this last one. Please consider making this a part of your Lenten journey!

**APRIL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

USHERS	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
April 3 and 6	Zoe Lulfs	Rick Desgranges Amanda Rettig
April 10 and April 14	Nick Evers	John Hahn Carol Medina
April 17 Sunrise-10:15	Zoe Lulfs Nick Evers	Ron Hoellrich Jeri Hoellrich
April 24	TBA	Kevin Vajen Pat Kirk

**Shalom**

FROM  
 THE SHALOM  
 FOOD PANTRY

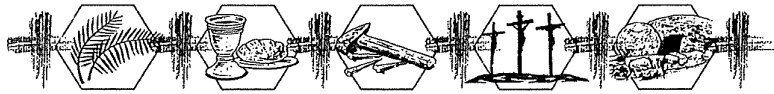
**FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - February 2022**

**INCOME**

St. John's January Giving	\$ 380.00
Farm Distribution	1,379.01
Holgate Lions Club	150.00
St. Paul's Lutheran Church	90.00
Individual Donation	<u>100.00</u>

**Total \$ 2,099.01**

*Submitted by Norma Nagel*



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday**, April 10. Our focus is on the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where he was greeted with shouts of "Hosanna!" Our choir will return and will be joined by Sunday School children in a special processional and palm branches will be distributed to add to the festive atmosphere of worship.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 14, we remember Jesus' gathering with his disciples in the Upper Room for the Last Supper. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a simple meal in the Fellowship Hall. Then at 7:00 p.m. we'll gather in the sanctuary for a special service to include Communion, Candlelight, and Tenebrae.

Our thoughts turn to the crucifixion of Jesus on **Good Friday**, April 15. Our faith family is invited to the Community Good Friday Service at 1:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Holgate. Pastor Dave will be participating with other clergy who will be leading the service focusing on The Stations of the Cross.

Sadness is turned to joy and the resurrection promise is fulfilled as we worship and celebrate together on the holiest day of the year – **Easter Sunday**, April 17. The morning will begin with all being invited to gather outside at 6:45 a.m. for sunrise over the cemetery (at 6:54), after which we'll assemble indoors at 7:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter in the sanctuary for our **Sunrise Service**, which will include Communion.

At 8:00 a.m. we are all invited to enjoy the return of our annual **Easter Breakfast** in the Fellowship Hall.

Then Sunday School students and all who are interested are invited to go back into the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. for **music and a first-person portrayal** of Mary Magdalene by Beth Waisner. After this the kids will be taken outside for an **Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Basket Raffle** – parents and all members are invited to watch!

Our second **Easter Service** (different from the Sunrise Service) with Communion at 10:15 a.m. will be in the sanctuary and will include a choir anthem. Come and celebrate the resurrection amidst the special Scriptures, hymns, and Easter garden of flowers – He lives!

## JOIN US FOR EASTER BREAKFAST



**When:** Easter Sunday, April 17  
Immediately Following the Sunrise Service  
Until 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Menu:** Egg Casseroles, Sausage Gravy and Biscuits,  
Cereals/Yogurt, Coffee Cakes, Juice, Milk,  
Coffee

**Sponsored by:** The Consistory

**Free will offering  
will support  
the Heating and Cooling Funds**



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...**

**Rick Desgranges** recovering after surgery  
**Pam Desgranges** recovering with a broken foot  
**Wayne Stephens** (Christine Rettig's brother) diagnosed with amyloidosis  
**Lincoln Brown** recovering from surgery  
**Shirley Huber** at Vancrest for rehab after she broke her leg  
**Julie Rees** cancer has metastasized further, looking at new options  
**Sueann Bidlack** (friend of Betty (Bob) Rettig) preparing to resume chemo  
**Lexi Miller** (friend of Annissah Franz) in Peds ICU in Toledo with severe seizures

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 procedures**

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



Remember Those Who Are Ill,  
Undergoing Treatment,  
In Grief, Or Are Recovering

*Within the Fellowship:*

**Sympathies to:**

**Pat, Sheila, Morgan and Collin Parcher and their extended families** on the passing of Senior Saint Tony Parcher

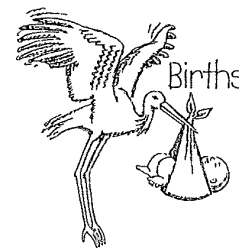
**Rolie and Janice Rettig and their family** on the passing on March 14 of Carolyn Slagle, Janice's brother Jay's wife

**Phyllis Crawford, Junior Hoff, and Kay Winnie** and their extended families on the passing of their sister Janet Hoff (Scheele)

**Sawyer Alston**

February 23, 2022

**Parents:** Taylor and Kyle Alston  
**Grandparents:** Dan and Tammy Hall



**Logan James Waisner**

February 23, 2022

**Parents:** Colin and Emily Waisner  
**Grandparents:** Mark and Tia Waisner  
**Great-Grandparents:** Jim and Sue Waisner



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

### **NURSING HOMES**

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

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

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

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

**VANCREST NURSING HOME**, 600 Joe E. Brown, Holgate, OH 43527  
*Shirley Huber -*

### **ASSISTED LIVING**

**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 - #33*

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

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

## **UPDATED COVID RECOMMENDATIONS MARCH 14, 2022**

In 2020, the COVID group pledged to make recommendations based on data. Initially, there were a number of restrictions and some of those (every other pew blocked, banning group meetings, etc.) were eliminated earlier. We are grateful that folks used caution and we had no outbreaks. Changes have been made to ease those restrictions over the past two years. Today, the team is making new recommendations based again on data trends.

- Resume sanctuary choir practice/performance
  - Mask brackets will be provided for choir members who elect to wear masks for practice and/or performance and who wish to use the brackets to make breathing easier.
- Remove mask signs and other signage.
  - Will retain the hand washing signs as they apply with or without COVID
  - Continue to have masks and hand sanitizer available near entrances
- Resume congregational meals with attention to avoiding crowding.
- Eliminate restrictions on number of people at meetings. This applies to weddings and funerals as well.
- Will continue to use the gratitude box for offerings, not because of COVID but rather to avoid a lengthy period of little action on live stream.
- Resume a modified version of passed communion with some continued precautions by the Elders who are serving.
- Ask that everyone be sensitive and accepting of people who elect to continue to wear masks.

Consistory approved these changes while encouraging people to continue to use good judgment and to be accepting of people who elect to continue to use precautions.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY FEBRUARY REPORT

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

	FEBRUARY 2022 ACTUAL	2022 ACTUAL YTD	2022 ANNUAL BUDGET
Accounts			
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME			
Total OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$11,593.20	\$35,095.85	\$ 235,186.44
EXPENSES			
Total BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$4,116.97	\$6,240.80	\$38,399.00
Total MINISTRIES	\$259.16	\$403.19	\$7,850.00
Total MISSIONS	\$537.50	\$1,075.00	\$7,004.00
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$5,066.97	\$7,178.08	\$69,924.44
Total PASTORIAL	\$5,022.45	\$20,944.30	\$112,009.00
Total EXPENSES	\$15,003.05	\$35,841.37	\$235,186.44
Net Total	(\$3,409.85)	(\$745.52)	\$ 0.00

Operating Checking Acct Balance as of February 28, 2022

\$ 26,388.19

Mission Giving

\$ 1,640.00

SHALOM



## PLAY SET FOR SALE

Thanks to your generosity, we soon will have a new play set at St. John's. The wooden play set is being replaced by a new, modern unit.

The playground team, with the approval of Consistory, will be taking sealed bids from members of St. John's for the purchase of the existing wooden play set with accessories.

- **The metal swing set is NOT included in the sale.**
- The successful purchaser shall remove the entire wooden structure at their expense by a date agreed upon with the playground team.
- **Sealed Bids will be accepted until noon Sunday April 10, 2022.**
- Being sold as is where is.
- Place bids in a sealed envelope marked **"Play Set"** and place in the office in the Endowment box on the counter.

If anyone has questions contact any playground team member, Kevin Vajen, Katie Bork, or Jenny Kobilis.

*Submitted by Kevin Vajen*  
419-769-2626

## Thank You

Dear Friends

Thank You so much for the generous memorial gift in Mom's memory. I have passed it on to Hospice.

We can't tell you how much the ongoing support and friendship of our church family means.

David and Sharon Orr

Dear UCC family at St. John's UCC

Thank you for caring and Bless you for your gift of \$1,237.15 to help the Crossroad Kids! You make a difference!

Yesterday I was in our lobby when one of our residential boys was being discharged. He asked me what I do here and I was telling him about my work. When I said I get to thank people for their donations, he said, "Tell them thanks! I didn't know it cost to be here!" I love that! So thanks from me and "J".

Kyle Zanker



*Mission and  
Stewardship*



## OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

### APRIL MISSION

#### What does Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) support?

In the national setting of the United Church of Christ there are four Covenanted Ministry partners who are supported by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission is one of these. We work together to change lives!

**The Office of General Ministries** houses the President and General Minister who serves in many ways. One strategic role of the President is convening leaders in conversations on what it means to be a faithful, vital, and healthy church. These conversations take place in many and various settings of conference boards, local churches, seminary trustees and Mission Planning Council. The aim is to collaboratively develop new forms of cross setting resourcing, engagement and sharing.

All of this work - being long-term mission - is accomplished through over 70 trusting partnerships, 90 full-time deployed **volunteer** staff, 88 educational mission trip host sites, and shared resources for supporting those in need. We also gather mission reports from 164 UCC groups with over 5,500 service and learning sites to offer leverage and systemic support for wider ecumenical host sites, grassroots initiatives and mission trip participants.

**Wider Church Ministries** is most widely known for the mission outreach work of the UCC because of our **disaster ministries**. This arm of the church also serves congregations and other settings of the church who strive to be inclusive weather it is multicultural/multiracial, open and affirming, global or accessible to all.

In partnership with the Disciples of Christ, **Common Global Ministries** is the ecumenical global sharing of resources and prophetic vision of a just and peaceful world order, joining with God's concern for the poor and oppressed.

*Continued On Page 23*



*Mission and  
Stewardship*



## OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

### APRIL MISSION

*Continued From Page 22*

**Local Church Ministries** supports the local church in many ways. The **Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Ministry Team** (MESA) team is designed to support Authorized Ministers (Ordained, Licensed and Commissioned) in our denomination from the first inklings of their calling through a healthy retirement. MESA'S ministry is a collaborative effort intertwined with Conferences, Associations, and Committees on Ministry.

The vision of **Justice and Witness Ministries** is of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world that honors all of God's creation. Leaders are needed throughout our churches and communities to help share, pursue and achieve this vision.

## CHANGING LIVES THAT'S OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION



### Trustees Report March

Doug and I have been keeping up with small items:

1. **Replaced** toilet seats in women's bathroom
2. **Repaired** sprayer in kitchen
3. **Oiled** door locks
4. **Worked with two companies** about heating and AC quotes
5. **Cleaned stain** on narthex carpet

**Boilers** have been working well....twice daily inspections continue. **Thanks** to Kevin Vajen for snow removal. **New snow shovels** work great.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Nelson*

## ONLINE REALM ACCOUNT

We are asking that people who have internet access consider creating an account in Realm, our online membership program. On April 4, we will send email invitations to those who do not have a log-in, asking them to create an account. It should only take a few minutes to set up your account but doing so will help us in the office. This will allow you to:

1. See information we have in the database and update addresses, phone numbers and other information.
2. Search for contact information for others in our Faith Family, unless they have asked to have their information available only to those in the office.
3. See photos of other St. John's folks.
4. Track your giving in real-time and, if you wish, use online giving.

### To create an account,

1. On April 4, you will receive an email from Realm with a link to sign in and create an account. If you don't see an email, please check your junk mail folder.
2. When you receive your email, click on the link.
3. In the "Create Password" field, type in a password you want to use and can remember then enter the password again in the "Confirm Password" field.
4. Click "I'm not a robot", so the browser knows that you are a person. Then, once you have clicked "Register", you will be asked to "Please check your email to activate your account."
5. Your email will contain a link to the sign in page. Click the link to sign in.
6. IMPORTANT NOTE; THIS LINK WILL ONLY BE ACTIVE FOR 72 HOURS.
7. Your email address should automatically be in the email address field. Type in your password, and then click "Sign In" to get started.

*Continued On Page 25*

## ONLINE REALM ACCOUNT

### *Continued From Page 24*

8. The next page asks you to "Please Verify Your Birthday (or phone number)". Complete the requested fields and click "Verify Me." This is an important step – if you do not verify, your account will not be activated.
9. Now that you are set up, look around to see what you can do in Realm!
10. If you have questions or difficulty, please let Betty in the office know. Several years ago there were some glitches which, we are told, have been corrected. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to noon.

### Online Giving

For some people, paying bills online has become a way of life. You can do this now with your church offerings. Online giving allows people to direct gifts to the various funds. Contributions can be weekly, monthly or some people use the one-time option to give while they are unable to be in church.

If you would like to use online giving, just log in to your REALM account and select the option "Giving" and proceed from there. It is quick, easy, and you are able to contribute as often or whenever you would like. If you want to direct your giving to a fund that you don't see, call Betty Rettig or Kristine Maas to let us know where you want your money to go.

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## Thank You

A very big THANK YOU one and all. To those who came to visit, those who made phone calls, and those who sent cards.

The people at St. John's are the best. May GOD BLESS one and all!

*Ken Rayle*

## Confirmation News



Confirmation is held every other week. We have class at 9:00 a.m. attend worship, have lunch, and then another class until about 1:00 p.m. During year one we study Bible stories from Creation through the Beginning of the Church and talk about what these stories say to us.

At the end of the year we will choose a verse from the Bible that we connect with and write a few paragraphs about it. This will become our Confirmation verse when we are confirmed next Pentecost.

This month our activities will be helping to serve the Maundy Thursday meal and helping with the Easter egg hunt. We also plan to go to on the Crossroad field trip May 1.

On May 15 we will talk with the Spiritual Council about what we learned this year and what is ahead for us next year.

Please hold us in your prayers as we learn about our faith.

*The Class of 2023*

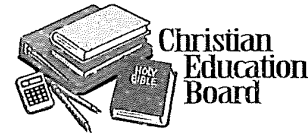
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### **YOU'RE INVITED - CROSSROAD TOUR SUNDAY, MAY 1**

Are you curious to see firsthand what Crossroad Child and Family Services is all about? This is your chance. Come along with us on May 1 after worship.

We'll travel to Fort Wayne, have lunch and tour the facility at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to accompany our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and Confirmands on this outing.

We will deliver all the items we've collected for the children throughout the school year. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



## Highlights

March 13, 2022

Submitted By Franell Nelson

The Board met on March 13 after worship. Lucy Coppes led devotions and prayer.

- The children are learning about Jesus every Sunday, and we always have room in the class for more. Encourage your little ones to join us!
- Children in Grades 1-6 have been practicing to present a skit on April 24 during worship. The Prek/K class will celebrate mothers during worship on May 8 with song and finger plays. Please come and show your support.
- The Crossroad mission item for April is Activity books of any kind for children ages 6-18. Dollar Store items are great. Take your kids shopping for the Crossroad kids. The entire Faith Family is encouraged to contribute. The items we have gathered this year will be dedicated during worship on May 1 and taken to Crossroad that afternoon.
- Children grades 5 through Confirmation will be touring Crossroad May 1 at 2 p.m. All are invited to join us. There is a sign-up sheet on the board in the Narthex.
- The Board is preparing for the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held at 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday. There will be a gift basket raffle and other prizes. All kids ages 0-13 are invited to hear the Easter Story and then join in the hunt. Thanks to all who donated candy for this event.
- Our last day of Sunday School will be celebrated with an end of the year party on May 22.
- The Board will host a gathering one Sunday in June, July and August right after worship. Stay tuned for more next month.
- Our next meeting is April 10 after worship.





*"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members*

**Roland Rettig**

will celebrate his  
83rd Birthday  
on April 1

K402 County Road 14  
Napoleon, OH 43545

**Shirley Huber**

will celebrate her  
85th Birthday  
on April 2

E251 St. Rt. 108  
Holgate, OH 43527

**Jerry Waisner**

will celebrate his  
81st Birthday  
on April 15

1622 Hwy 630 W Lot R11  
Frostproof FL 33843



*"Senior Saints" On Their 50+ Anniversary*

**John and Shirley Tobias**

will celebrate their  
61st Wedding Anniversary  
on April 9

10011 Co Rd Y  
Hamler, OH 43524

**Larry and Anita Sidle**

will celebrate their  
58th Wedding Anniversary  
on April 11

665 W Maumee Ave  
Napoleon, OH 43545

**Terry and Linda Rettig**

will celebrate their  
50th Wedding Anniversary  
on April 22

PO Box 361  
Holgate, OH 43527

**William and Florence Snyder**

will celebrate their  
62nd Wedding Anniversary  
on April 23

14224 Co Rd L2  
Napoleon, OH 43545

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The Fellowship Team is asking for **20 loaves of quick**

**(sweet) breads** for the meal on

**Maundy Thursday (April 14).**

Please NO NUTS. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Please have the breads at the church by 9 a.m. on April 14.

Thank you!

## Message from Pastor Jane Hillman

Good evening, Family and Friends:

Tonight, I gave our Church Council a letter of resignation indicating my plan to retire from full-time ministry on July 31. My last Sunday here at Trinity in Jasper will be on June 26, 2022.

(I have been granted 5 weeks of unused vacation/unused sabbatical.)

I am on my way to mail the letters to the congregation.

Unfortunately, in this town it may take until the end of the week for everyone to get the news.

Tomorrow and Wednesday, I will be visiting the shut-ins hopefully, before they read the letter.

If all goes well, I plan to close on a villa in O'Fallon, Illinois on June 1st and move the last week of June. More details of the journey ahead will be shared as I know them. As I shared with our leadership, 40 years ago, when inflation was at a record high, I left my teaching job to answer God's call to ministry.

So, I guess it seems fitting that when inflation is once again at an all-time high, I will retire.

After 40 years along God's highway filled with many mountain-top joys but much deep sorrow, it is time!

Note: Tonight, one church leader suggested that I may be like Tom Brady and by June - change my mind. I told them not to count on it.

Thank you one and all for your love and support.

Love – Jane

Addendum:

Indeed you have lost some wonderful and faithful saints. Between the Facebook posts and your on line services I have been able to give thanks for the ways these saints touched my life. I am praying God will call another Pastor to lead the flock. Know I think of you and the congregation often especially when I worship with you from afar. Holgate was one of 4 Christmas Eve services I watched before I lead ours at 9 p.m.

Feel free to share my news.  
Blessings, Pastor Jane



*In Loving Memory*  
**Darryl R. "Tony" Parcher**  
September 9, 1934 - March 10, 2022

**Darryl Robert "Tony" Parcher**, 87, of Napoleon, Ohio died peacefully on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, Toledo, Ohio.

He was born September 9, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio to the late Port and Helen (Fout) Parcher.

Tony graduated in 1952 from the Defiance High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve in 1952, and then the United States Marine Corps in 1954, and served until 1957. He was a member of the Napoleon American Legion.

Tony was employed at Campbell Soup Company for over 37 years. After retirement, he worked part-time at his son Patrick's business, making many friends and acquaintances along the way. He was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, where he was a former Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, Consistory member and past President, Deacon, and Elder.

Tony married Janet Copeland on November 25, 1955, and she passed away on July 26, 2013. Together they had three children; David (Peggy) Parcher; Patrick (Sheila) Parcher, and Jody (Patrick) Dille; grandchildren; Michelle (Gordon) Krueger, Matthew (Lisa) Dille, Jenna (Christopher) Shuknecht, Stefanie (Conrad) Williams, Zachary Parcher, Morgan Parcher, and Collin Parcher, great grandchildren; Payton, Alexis and Avery Krueger, Aaron and Amelia Shuknecht, Olivia and Sunny Williams, and Cameron Dille.

He was also preceded in death by a grandson, Alexander Parcher.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

**Memorial Donations may be made to**  
*St. John's United Church of Christ, I-946 OH-108, Holgate, OH*



*In Loving Memory*  
**Janet Lee Hoff Scheele**  
*August 7, 1932 - March 17, 2022*

Janet Lee Hoff Scheele, 89, of Napoleon passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at Northcrest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, surrounded by her loved ones.

She was born on August 7, 1932, to Edward and Frances (Glanz) Hoff of Henry County, Ohio. Janet was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ of Holgate. She was a loving mother and caregiver to many.

Janet is survived by her children, Darrell Scheele, Jan (Linda) Scheele, Le Ann (Loyal) Logan; two grandchildren, Charlotte, Kevin, Jr. (Jessica); and great-grandsons, Braxton and Jaxon Scheele; and great-granddaughter, Arbor Ann Scheele. She is also survived by her siblings, Arlene Knapp, Phyllis Crawford, Virginia Gray, Junior E. Hoff and Kay Winnie; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Kevin Scheele; daughter-in-law, Peg Scheele; infant granddaughter, Alyssa Rene Scheele; and special friend, Ken Rettig.

Her funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at St. John's United Church of Christ Holgate, Ohio at 11:00 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. Reverend Dave Voll officiated. Burial followed at Riverview Memory Gardens of Defiance.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted with Walker-Hoening Mortuary of Napoleon.

*Memorial contributions in Janet's honor  
may be gifted to  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*



Dear St. John's UCC:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kyle Zanker  
Chief Development Officer  
kzanker@crossroad-fvch.org  
260.484.4153 x2090

Mackenzie Sharpe  
Gift Planning Director  
msharpe@crossroad-fvch.org  
260.484.4153 x2002

*Thank you  
for your support!*



HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

March 9, 2022

St. John's United Church of Christ  
I-946 State Route 108  
Holgate, OH 45805

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board and staff of Hospice of the Western Reserve, we thank you for the very generous gift of \$100.00 in memory of Elizabeth Orr. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent provided for by law as no goods or services were exchanged. We are grateful for your thoughtful tribute.

Your gift will help to ensure that Hospice of the Western Reserve may continue to provide care, comfort and compassion to people of all ages. It strengthens our capacity and broadens our reach of service to thousands of families throughout northeastern Ohio. Furthermore, your generosity enables Hospice of the Western Reserve to uphold its philosophy of providing care regardless of one's ability to pay.

Time and again we hear that our hospice care truly makes a difference to patients and their families who are coping with a serious illness. Your gift helps us provide this care. As is our practice, we will notify the family of your thoughtfulness but not the gift amount. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Laura K. Rayburn  
President, Hospice of the Western Reserve Foundation



APRIL

4 - 1	Roland Rettig	4 - 15	Taya Franz
4 - 2	Shirley Huber	4 - 15	Jerry Waisner
4 - 4	Kirk Fruth	4 - 16	Collin Parcher
4 - 4	Logan Sidle	4 - 17	Christine Badenhop
4 - 5	Janise Voll	4 - 17	Tammy Vajen
4 - 5	Jerry Evers	4 - 20	Andrew Borck
4 - 7	Sue Rettig	4 - 22	Don Huber
4 - 8	Madison Burke	4 - 22	Eldon Sickmiller
4 - 9	Karen Gilliland	4 - 23	Christine Rettig
4 - 9	Tyler Rue	4 - 24	Lydia Badenhop
4 - 12	Sheila Parcher	4 - 27	Tammy Martin
4 - 13	Millie Holzer	4 - 30	Sean Kobilis
4 - 13	Wendy Waisner		

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.)