

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

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Join us on May 19 at 10:15 am to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation with Natalie, Joey, Neveah, Tori, Eric and Griffin.

Summer Schedule begins May 26 with worship at 9:30 am

From Pastor Jeff – pages 2-3

“Moving On” From Consistory President Eric Shank – pages 4-5

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Save the Dates and Mudhens Game – page 14

Confirmation – page 15

Rummage Sale is Coming – page 16

Birthdays – pages 17 and 20



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 7pm - Choir practice	2 9am - National Day of Prayer -	3	4 10am - Fellowship hall reserved
5 9am - Confirmation/SS 10:15am - Worship- Conf Faith 11:30am - Confirmation II	6 12:30pm - Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	7 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	8 6pm - NO Practices	9 6pm - Finance Team 6pm - Pastoral Relations Council	10	11 11am - FH reserved
12 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Deacons	13 6:30pm - Consistory	14 6pm - College Planning	15 7pm - Choir practice	16 1:30pm - Vancrest - Angel Choir 5pm - College Planning	17	18 6pm - Conf practice 6:30pm - Conf Banquet
19 9am - Conf pictures 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship/Confirmation 11:30am - FH reserved Caryn	20	21 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	22	23	24	25
26 9:30am - Worship	27 Memorial Day - office closed	28 9am - Newsletter mailing	29	30	31	1

The Sentinel
 St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
MAY 2024

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Pastor: Jeff McCam - Cell Phone 812-202-9273
 Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
 Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
 Church e-mail: holgateucc@metalink.net
 Pastor e-mail: revjmcarn@gmail.com
 Financial Administrator e-mail - stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
 Church Website: www.stjohnsuccholgate.com
 SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

Betty (Bob) Rettig, Admin. Asst.
 Fax: (419) 264-1460

WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE
 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 A.M.
 MAY 26, 2024 SUMMER WORSHIP STARTS 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

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

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**FOLLOWING THE
RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

There was not a needy person among them.
 Acts 4:34a (NRSV)

Easter is over. Now what? St. John's UCC experienced two Easter worship services, enjoyed a tasty breakfast and watched the children hunt Easter eggs. The pomp and circumstance of this Holy Day is over, and as a pastor, I wonder how we can continue to be Easter people in our modern world.

Do not take me wrong, I truly enjoyed all the Easter festivities; however, I wonder how many of us will contemplate and reach deep into our souls and ask the questions, "What does Easter and the resurrection of Jesus mean to me and the modern church — St. John's UCC?" And "How will we share the good news?"

The first Christians certainly did. In Acts, whenever they met, "the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." Surely they included their own stories, like Peter's transformation from a fisherman into a preacher or Mary Magdalene's experience as the first witness to the Resurrection.

Yet, Acts 4:34 doesn't include such personal testimonies. Instead it tells of a community testimony. The first Christians gave up their possessions, just as Jesus had given up his life for others. The early church made sure no one was in need, just as Jesus ensured five thousand hungry people were fed, sick people healed and troubled people comforted and loved.

Continued On Page 3



FOLLOWING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Continued From Page 2

The new Christian community wasn't focused on seeing the Risen Body of Christ, but on **being** the Risen Body of Christ and **doing** what Jesus had done. They didn't just proclaim God's resurrection power. They became that power by offering new life to others.

St. John's does a great job at helping the needy during the operation of the Shalom food pantry. There are many other ways we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in our modern world. St. John's will have the opportunity to visit a sister church, Washington UCC in Cincinnati, the week of July 7. This mission experience will allow us to witness poverty firsthand and how poverty effects people's lives. It was my work as a social worker witnessing how poverty effects lives that led me to change my perception of the poor and enter the ministry.

Our world needs the power and witness of the resurrection more than ever. It also needs the church— St. John's United Church of Christ — to be an Easter people by giving of ourselves and our possessions. The first Christians knew they were living God's new life where no one was in need. They knew this was the way of the Risen Body of the Risen Christ.

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCarn*



Moving On

The same week that I am writing this article, in April, I attended the closing (sale) of my family's small farm just west of Dayton. For various reasons, the farm I always assumed that I would own someday, now belongs to someone else. Though I don't own that house and land that my father's parents moved to when he was two years old in 1923, I still have all the memories of my own and the stories I heard about that place.

Even though I never experienced the depression of the 1930's, I learned of it through my father's stories. Stories of how they made do. My father's dad suffered from crippling arthritis in his 40's, making small time farming more difficult than I can imagine. But somehow they survived by everyone else in the family doing more. I haven't milked many cows by hand, but I remember what my grandfather, Harry O. Shank's hands looked like a gnarled mess not very good for milking. But they had an advantage of being within six or eight miles of the street market in Dayton. So, they worked, milked, grew feed, made butter, gathered eggs and in my dad's words "stood on market" and sold what they had. One thing that he taught me about the depression was that growing food and feeding yourself was good, but if you had something you could sell for a little cash, it made all the difference in the world. They certainly weren't rich, but he told me stories of having a nickel to go see a movie and even get a bottle of pop. Something that many couldn't afford.

Continued On Page 5

Moving On



Continued From Page 4

I also learned that they did what they could for others. A family we grew up with in our church, Bear Creek Church of the Brethren, had six children, same as our family, with similar ages. The parents are still alive, in their mid-nineties and the father still recalls walking to our farm in the 30's and receiving milk and whatever could be spared. His parents didn't farm, so they had very little. He grew to be a very successful business owner and they always did a lot for us, because he remembered. His son stopped at the farm on one of my last days there while I was clearing some things out, allowing me to use their business scrap collection to save me a lot of time. I was reaping the grace paid forward by my ancestors.

The land that I helped my father farm, then farmed myself for 14 years, will be cared for by someone else now. The house that my father was raised in, as well as myself and my 5 siblings, now belongs to others. It belongs to a good man from a good family someone that rode the school bus with my brother and sister. I went with my Mom to buy eggs at his parent's farm when I was a kid. Time moves on and we change, but I will remember.

Eric Shank
Consistory President



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Great Worship experiences during Holy Week
- Grateful for the work the Fellowship Team did to make Maundy Thursday meal special
- Thanks to everyone who helped with the Easter Breakfast and the nice turnout of people who stayed to enjoy it
- Thankful for the donations of the four very large Easter Baskets for the Sunday school kids Easter Egg Hunt
- Grateful for Mary Kay for filling hundreds of eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt
- Thankful for the several large donations to the Shalom food pantry: lots of mushrooms, cauliflower and 10,000 pounds of cans from Silgan.
- The choirs, all ages, are always a delight to have in service!



We will be hosting a
**Red Cross blood drive on
Monday, May 6 from 12:30 – 6 p.m.**

Attention Cookie Bakers – folks who attend our blood drives love the homemade treats!

For those watching our **worship service online**, the announcement slides and gathering music begin 15 minutes before the start of worship. You can watch our service at <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUCCHolgate>



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

April 8, 2024

- Pastor will be taking a few days off to visit family.
- Families Feeding Families Fundraiser is April 20. Sign up sheets in narthex. If you'd like to help or make donations see Chris Coppes or Jeri Hollerich.
- Spiritual Council recommending six Confirmands for the Rite of Confirmation. Consistory affirmed the recommendation.
- Asking Consistory members to help assure that the fire doors are shut when the building is not occupied. The doors entering the Sanctuary, the door to the stairwell and the furnace door are all fire doors.
- Pastor will be taking a group to Washington UCC, July 7- 11. Anyone 12 or older interested in going, please see Pastor Jeff.
- Kevin Vajen has scheduled a Faith Family Fun Day at the Mud Hens for June 2.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Medina



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

April 7, 2024

Pastor: Jeff McCarn
 Head Elder and Evangelism Liaison: Kay Armbruster (26)
 Scribe: Bob Rettig (25) Worship and Music Liaison: Greg Nelson (24)
 Communion Stewards: Greg Nelson (24) and Mike Haldy (25)

Those present: Greg Nelson (24) Eric Shank (24)
 Mike Haldy (25) Bob Rettig (25)
 Rolie Rettig (26) Kay Armbruster (26)

- A brief meeting was called after church by Head Elder Kay Armbruster to prepare for interviews of Confirmation students on Sunday, April 20.

Bob Rettig, Scribe

Mission opportunity to Washington UCC in Cincinnati

We have an opportunity for **people aged 12 and older to have a short mission experience close to home**. Our team will go to Washington UCC after church on July 7 and will return home on Thursday, July 11.

Experiences will include working as "buddies" for kids living in the urban core for breakfast and lunch, daily worship, crafts, story time, and recreation. Team members will go with them on field trips to local attractions. Other opportunities include serving at the shelter, poverty education and local projects. If you have ever thought about doing a mission trip close to home, this would be your chance.

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 2



We will open our church from
 9 – noon
 for anyone in the community who
 wishes to spend time in
 self-directed prayer.

MAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
May 5	Eric Rettig Griffin Tanner	Ben Thomas Chris Coopes
May 12	Joey Coppes	Mark Vajen Linda Arreguin
May 19	Deacons	Carol Medina Janice Rettig
May 26	Deacons	Jared Clady Adam Stevenson



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - March 2024

INCOME

St. John's UCC February Giving	\$ 4,016.00
Emanuel's Christian Church	50.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	200.00
Holgate Lions Club	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,416.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



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

Within the Fellowship:

**Please hold the following persons in your daily prayers...
Those on our hearts and minds**

- Leland Rettig health issues
- Earl Abshire undergoing testing
- Georgena Nanson difficult recovery from surgery
- *Dan Snyder (son of Bill and Florence Snyder) anticipating surgery
- *Skylar Smith 3rd grader we prayed for last year - her brain cancer has returned and has spread
- *Denny Fry (nephew of Bill and Florence Snyder) recovering from surgery
- *Judith Smith (niece of Bill and Florence Snyder) recovering from surgery
- *Josh Barry (son-in-law of Bev Junge) recovering after liver transplant
- Orville Benskin health issues
- Jay Slagle health issues
- *Ryan Klementz (local UPS driver) neck pain from auto accident

(*Non-member family and friends)

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 in the conflict in the Middle East

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.

Sympathy to:

Joan Davidson, NWO Association Office Manager, on the untimely passing of her husband Tim on March 14.

Caryn and Chad Lulfs and family on the passing of her grandmother Justine Sprow on March 26.

John and Shirley Tobias and family on the passing of John's brother Jim Tobias on March 29.

Mike and Sheri Plotts on the passing of Mike's brother-in-law Fritz Wolfram.

Kendra (Rettig) Allen (Kay and Keith Winnie's daughter) on the unexpected passing of her husband Steve Allen on April 10.



"Dear God..."

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
MARCH 2024**

ST JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Revenues and Expenses
Fund: GENERAL FUND
January to March 2024

March Actual 2024 YTD Actual 2024

	March Actual 2024	YTD Actual 2024
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$22,808.00	\$48,755.00
EXPENSES		
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$1,354.39	\$10,379.09
MINISTRIES	\$1,001.03	\$3,199.84
MISSIONS	\$0.00	\$537.50
ADMINISTRATION	\$6,590.87	\$18,661.49
PASTORAL	\$7,839.72	\$20,269.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,786.01	\$53,046.96
Net Operating Total	\$6,021.99	-\$4,271.96



Kid's Corner



MAY

- 5 - 3 Karson Cox
- 5 - 6 Roman Kobilis



Kid's Corner



2024 SUMMER CAMP AT TEMPLED HILLS

"Linked by Love"

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 10 – 14 YEAR OLDS

Templed Hills is offering a **half-week session** called "Pathfinder" for **10-14 year olds July 7-10.**

This is a general camp session. Youth will spend time getting to know each other and explore their faith while participating in various camp experiences including hiking, swimming, playing games, campfires, and more. This is ideal for new campers who would like to see what camp is about.

The cost is \$255. There are scholarships available through our camp fund, and first-time campers get a discount! If you have good memories of camp and would like your child to have that experience, this is the Summer to make it happen.

Other Summer camps are offered – check out the bulletin board in the Narthex. To register your child go to www.heartlanducc.org/templed-hills

Contact Franell Nelson or the church office if you have questions.



**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

Gerl 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

TRUSTWELL LIVING AT KINGSBURY PLACE, 245 West Rosewood
Ave., Defiance, OH 43512

Rose Marie Durham - Apt. 142

Janell Honeck - 4828 LJ Pkwy, Apt. 328, Sugar Land TX 77479

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
Sue Waisner (Staying with Mark and Tia) 1-379 Co. Rd. 12
 Holgate, Ohio 43527 Sue's cell number 419-591-6786
Bernard Zimmer 1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37 Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Save The Dates

May 2 – National Day of Prayer

May 5 – Confirmation Students' Faith Statements during worship

May 6 – Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30 – 6 p.m.

May 12 – Sunday School end of year party/last Sunday School
for season

May 14 and May 16 – Tyler Rue – College Planning sessions -
6 p.m.

May 18 6/6:30 p.m. – Confirmation practice/Confirmation dinner

May 19 – Confirmation

May 26 – Change to summer worship schedule – **9:30 a.m.**

June 2 – St. John's Faith Family @ Mud Hens Game – 2:05 p.m.

June 13 - 15 - All Church Rummage Sale

July 7 - 11 – Mission Trip to Washington UCC in Cincinnati

Toledo Mud Hens Game

Kevin Vajen has again arranged for **St. John's at the Toledo Mud Hens on Sunday, June 2** with a start time for the game at 2:05 p.m.

You can sign up for tickets on the clipboard on the table by the office window. Cost is \$11 and everyone is on their own for transportation.

There are inflatables and activities for the kids before the game and kids can run the bases after the game. We will be on Summer schedule by then so church should be done around 10:30, allowing plenty of time for lunch and get to the game.



Confirmation News

Rite of Confirmation

Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024 - 10:15 a.m.

Dear St. John's Family and Friends,

You are invited to joyfully witness the Confirmands of 2024 reaffirm vows made at their baptism, become members of St. John's, and share Holy Communion. Let us show our support and love to these young people as they continue on their faith journey.

The Confirmation Class of 2024

- ❖ **Natalie Nichole Borck**, daughter of Andrew and Kathleen Borck, and Michelle Houston

- ❖ **Joseph Landon Coppes**, son of Chris and Lucy Coppes

- ❖ **Neveah Sue Evers**, daughter of Jerry and Diana Evers

- ❖ **Tori Jo Kobilis**, daughter of Sean and Jenny Kobilis

- ❖ **Eric Daniel Rettig**, son of David and Kelsey Rettig

- ❖ **Griffin Arthur Tanner**, son of Chad and Caryn Lulfs



***VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service***

***Thursday, MAY 16
at 1:30 P.M.***

Angel Choir Needed!

THE RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING!

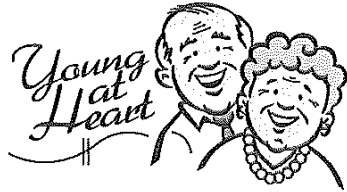
As you have probably heard, we will be having a rummage sale to benefit our Shalom Food Pantry. The Fellowship Hall has been reserved for the week of June 9-15. The sale will be held on June 13 and 14 from 9-5 and June 15 from 9-noon.

In conjunction with the rummage sale, we will have lunch and snacks available and a bake sale.

It is going to take lots of volunteers to make our fundraiser a success. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex for folks to sign up to help with the sale and lunch area and to donate items for the lunch and bake sale.

In order to have a successful sale, we need donations of items to sell. So... go through your closets, basements, attics, storage sheds, garages, toy boxes, and any where else that you have stashed items you no longer need! We ask that the clothing and other items be clean and ready to sell. We can take furniture, but no TV's or computers.

Watch the bulletin, announcements, and the Keeping in Touch email for the date to start dropping items off at the church.



“Senior Saints” Our 80+ Members

Betty (Don) Rettig

will celebrate her
90th Birthday
on May 1

15976 St Rt 281
Holgate, OH 43527

Delmar Tilse

will celebrate his
82nd Birthday
on May 18

11770 Co Rd H
Holgate, OH 43527

Marilyn Watson

will celebrate her
80th Birthday
on May 29

M687 Co. Rd. 17D
Napoleon, OH 43545



Lynn and Karen Gilliland

will celebrate their
61st Wedding Anniversary
on May 11

1778 Chinook Trail Ct
Defiance, OH 43512

Jerry and Joan Waisner

will celebrate their
59th Wedding Anniversary
on May 15

12519 Co Rd J
Napoleon, OH 43545

Don and Betty Rettig

will celebrate their
72nd Wedding Anniversary
on May 25

15976 St Rt 281
Holgate, OH 43527



**2024 Easter Flowers
Memorials/Honorariums**

Thank you to all who provided Easter flowers to decorate the church and for gifts to support missions and projects!

Easter Flowers

In Loving Memory Of:

Given By:

**Ruth and Alfred Huneycutt and
In honor of
Paul and Mary Ruth McCarn**

Rev. Jeff and Bobbie McCarn

**Lester and Genevieve Durham
and Stephen and Callie Durham**

Ruth Ann Durham

**Ryan Rosebrock, Franklin Schnitkey,
and Frank Hess**

Nancy, Ben, Taryn, and
Annabelle Thomas, Rachel
Thomas, and Andy Brinkman

**Burnell Rettig, Bob Meyer,
and Tim Meyer
In honor of
Anthony Meyer**

Charlotte Rettig

Loved Ones

Kathy Finkenbiner

**In celebration of 40 years
of life together**

Greg and Franell Nelson

**In Honor Of
Our children, grandchildren,
great-grandchild and a
great-grandchild on the way**

Jim and Christine Rettig

**Dallas and Wilma Rettig
and Edward and Elaine Beauch
In Honor Of Our Daughters
Christa Jones and Cheryl Koenig
and their families**

Bob and Betty Rettig



2024 Easter Flowers Memorials/Honorariums

Thank you to all who provided **Easter flowers** to decorate the church
and for **gifts to support missions and projects!**

Memorial Gifts

TO THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

In Memory Of
Dallas and Wilma Rettig and
Butler and Betty Stephens

Jim and Christine Rettig

TO THE PEACE GARDEN

In Memory of
Carolyn Walker Slagle

Jay Slagle

TO THE SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

In Memory of
Nancy Haldy

Michael, Lisa and
Summer Haldy, and
Lauri Powaski

TO THE TECHNOLOGY FUND

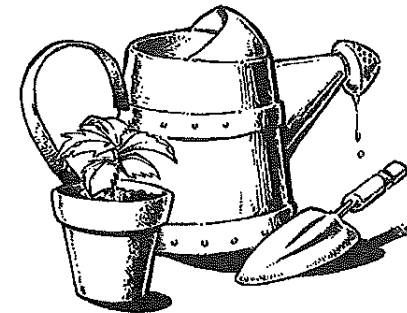
In Memory Of
Jim and Doug Armbruster

Their Family

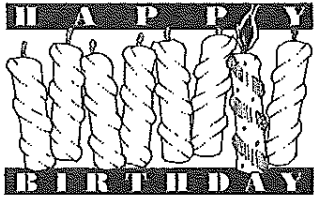
Thank You!

Thank You to everyone for their prayers and cards during my time of recuperation from hip and wrist surgeries. You will never know how much I appreciated them. Also, thanks to Rev. McCarns and Betty Rettig for their prayers and phone calls. I still have a ways to go in my recovery, but I know I'll eventually get there. Thanks again so much!

Thanks, Georgena Nanson



MAY



MAY

5-1	Betty (Don) Rettig	5-18	Delmer Tilse
5-2	Erika Vajen	5-19	David Hall
5-3	Pat Parcher	5-19	Debra Stevenson
5-3	Vickie Adams	5-20	Brent Bartels
5-3	Taylor Moyer	5-20	Angela Brockrath
5-4	Adrienne Waisner	5-20	Isaac Solis
5-5	Mark Waisner	5-22	Rebecca Sickmiller
5-5	Tauren Davis	5-24	Daniel Martin
5-5	Glynnis Dunfee	5-24	Tia Waisner
5-6	Wally Snyder	5-25	Stacy Eberle
5-6	Leland Rettig	5-26	Michelle Shank
5-8	Greg Fruth	5-27	Dan Brown
5-10	Joe Long	5-29	Marilyn Watson
5-13	Alisa Fry	5-30	Sarah Rozevink
5-13	Dave Snyder		

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

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

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



PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

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

PLAN AHEAD FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

See Calendar on Inside Mailing Cover

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for news articles to appear in the **JUNE** Newsletter is---**SUNDAY, MAY 19 2024, at 12 NOON**
Please leave your article in the folder in the wall file on the South Wall (Directly across from the door) of the church office marked Newsletter



MISSIONS CORNER

MAY Mission

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

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