

St. John's United Church of Christ
 1-946 St. Rt. 108
 Holgate, Ohio 43527
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St. John's UCC Feb 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Team to Honduras
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Team to Honduras						
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 10:15am - Worship/Communion	6:30pm - Spiritual Council	SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	12:30pm - Pastor McCarrn/Area 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	6pm - Finance Team 6pm - Pastoral Relations Council		
9 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - CEB meeting	10 6pm - Deacons 6:30pm - Consistory	11	12 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	13	14	15
16 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Evangelism Mtg 11:30am - Ladies of Love	17	18 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	19 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	20	21	22
23 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship	24	25 9am - Newsletter mailing 9am - Newsletter mailing	26 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	27	28	1

The Sentinel
 St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
 FEBRUARY 2025

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Pastor: Jeff McCarn - 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 (Peggy Schulte)
 Pastor e-mail: jeffmccarn@gmail.com
 Financial Administrator e-mail - sjohnfinadmin@metalink.net (Carl Dettmer)
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
 Church Website: www.stjohnchurchholgate.com
 SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. – WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

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

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EPIPHANY

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."
 Matthew 2:1-2 NRSV*

*On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
 Matthew 2:11 NRSV*

We are in the season of Epiphany. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek, "epiphaneia," meaning "appearing" or "revealing." Epiphany celebrates the Magi's journey to worship Jesus. It represents the coming of Jesus to all – to Gentiles and Jews alike. The Magi saw the star from afar and traveled to worship Jesus.

In this lectionary cycle, ministers had a choice of preaching about the Magi's visit to see Jesus or preaching from the first chapter of John's gospel on the first Sunday of the new year. I chose to preach based on John's gospel. The season of epiphany between Christmas and Lent is important as it reveals who Jesus is.

Matthew 2:1-12 is the only gospel text that mentions the Magi. Over time, Christian tradition added bits and pieces to the account, including certain details about who the men may have been. Here is some information that the Bible does tell us about the Magi:

- They were called Magi, which means "wise men" in Greek. Reading the text closely we can be pretty certain they were astrologers.

Continued On Page 3



EPIPHANY

Continued From Page 2

- Magi came from the East when they sought Jesus during the time of Herod, which means they likely came from somewhere in modern-day Iraq, Iran, or Saudi Arabia.
- They brought very expensive gifts for Jesus. They gave generously.

Here are some misconceptions about the Magi:

- Contrary to our Christmas nativity story, the Magi were not there for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1 tells us they arrived in Jerusalem after Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- Matthew never records how many wise men came to honor Jesus. We know there was more than one because of the plural use of "men." Most people assume there are three because of the three gifts they gave, as recorded in Matthew (gold, frankincense, and myrrh).
- Many people believe that the wise men were kings, which isn't supported by what Matthew wrote. This idea is more related to the popular Christmas song We Three Kings than it is to the biblical account.

There are three important takeaways we can learn from the Magi's visit to see Jesus.

One: The Magi worshipped Jesus. This is the first recorded worship in the Bible. The Christmas story provides profound and inclusive accounts of worship. Jesus was worshipped by the poor (shepherds) and the rich (Magi). Both came to celebrate and honor Jesus. The story of the Magi searching and worshipping Jesus is a way that God shows us that all are welcomed.

Continued On Page 4



EPIPHANY

Continued From Page 3

Two: The Magi gave generously. They brought rare and expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as gifts for Jesus. They chose to visit Jesus who they did not know or owe their allegiance. The Magi discovered by giving their time and possessions creating great joy to form in their hearts. God calls us to give generously and joyfully from our hearts, not because of reluctance or obligation.

Third: The Magi were obedient. They listened to the angel's warning to go back home a different way and not allow Herod to know where Jesus was. These Magi were familiar with the Torah and knew they should listen and obey this warning of the angel.

As modern day followers of Jesus, we should follow in the footsteps of the Magi. We need to worship Jesus with the reverence the Magi did. We should also give of our tithes, time, and talents to generously work toward Jesus' mission. We should be the hands and feet of Jesus listening to God's Still Speaking voice. Epiphany reveals Jesus for who he is. Modern day Christians should recognize this and live out Epiphany everyday.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCarn



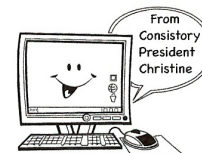
*Positive Things Seen and Heard
from the
Congregation and Consistory*

- Positive comments about Advent Bulletin covers.
- Grateful for Blue Christmas service.
- Wonderful attendance at Kid's Christmas program.
- Beautiful decorations and music.
- Awesome Christmas Eve service.
- Inspiring Mission to Go Mission Moments by Mark Vajen and Chad Luffs.
- Thanks to Phil and Doug Rettig for fixing the kitchen sink drain.
- Thanks to those clearing snow from parking lots and sidewalks.
- Great reception for Betty's retirement and Peggy's meet and greet. (A thank you card was received from Betty)

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>

REMEMBERING



Here we are in the throngs of winter. It can be hard to find activities that are enjoyable when it is cold, blowing, and snowy outside. I want to share with you some tidbits about my life that went on during this season of the year.

In the mid 1970's we lived back a long lane from the road. When heavy snow hit, we had to put tire chains on the car so that I could get out to go to work. At times, we had to park the car along the road and walk back the lane to get to the house. Jim even carried me back through the field one time, so we could get to the house! Picture that in your mind, or maybe you better not!

Then, came the snowmobiles! We bought two old sleds that got us started with the activity. Over the years, we were able to get some upgraded sleds. That eventually led to a number of years of family trips to Michigan to ride trails. We have fond memories and many pictures of our Michigan adventures.

Well, fast forward many years...we are getting older and are beginning to realize that things we did in our younger years don't come as easy as they did back then. Life circumstances have made us realize that our lives won't ever look the same as they did during the younger years of our lives. So, we make changes, and learn to do other things to have enjoyment in life.

Jeremiah 29:11 states, "I know the plans I have for you", announces the Lord. "I want you to enjoy successes. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come." NIRV

Even though we can't do some of the things we did in the past, we plan ways to enjoy life in these years and hopefully in the years to come. Our God is with us, and we will succeed in living our lives to the fullest.



**CONSISTORY
HIGHLIGHTS
JANUARY 13, 2025**

Present in addition to Pastor Jeff McCarn were 5 Elders and 8 Deacons.

Rob Rettig presented and discussed the annual farm report. The income realized by the church for 2023, was \$359.90 per acre.

Arrangements and responsibilities for the January 26 Congregational Meeting were discussed and assigned.

The annual reports for Consistory, Spiritual Council, and Deacons were reviewed and accepted.

In regards to the revaluation of the church and parsonage for insurance purposes, Pastor is waiting for a return call from the appraiser as the proposed November date was declined.

Mike Haldy had contacted Kent Beilharz regarding a review of our financial records. A motion was made and passed that we conduct a bi-annual review.

The potato bake fundraiser on March 16 for the youth was approved.

The proposed date of November 30, 2025, to host the Siberian Solstice was approved.

Chris Rettig volunteered to check the new AED monthly for readiness.

It was agreed to again work the gates at the Henry County Fair.

\$725 will be set aside annually as per Pastor's call agreement to a Sabbatical for the Pastor after five years of service



Spiritual Council
Meeting Excerpts
JANUARY 6, 2025

Those present: Pastor Jeff McCarn
 Mike Haldy (25) Bob Rettig (25)
 *Kay Armbruster (26) Rolie Rettig (26)
 Christine Rettig (27) Kirk Fruth (27)

- Pastor's Report was reviewed and accepted. It was requested that in his report include those shut-ins, who receive Communion during the month.
- The installation of new Christian Education Board members, Deacons, and Elders will be during worship on January 12.
- Communion will be offered on Sunday, February 2, and on Ash Wednesday, March 5.
- Attempts to recruit someone to lead Confirmation have not proven successful. Ideally a male and female adult would teach the class on three Sunday mornings with Pastor teaching on the fourth. This is a priority at future meetings.
- Pastor met with the family of Michael Rettig and conducted his graveside service.
- It was reported that Maggie Prigge is setting up a visitation schedule for shut-ins.
- A review of the list of those, who have not attended or supported the church in recent years in one of the ways needed to maintain active membership, was briefly discussed. The wording of this section of the by-laws of our Constitution dealing with this issue needs to be updated to more accurately reflect our current practice.
- Pastor was questioned regarding the progress of the transition to the new office administrator. He reported it was going well.
- Positive comments were made regarding the Christmas Eve worship service with a few suggestions on how some minor hiccups can be remedied.
- Even though attendance at the Blue Christmas worship service was less than might be expected, it was very meaningful to those who attended (in person or on line). Pastor Jeff related that numbers are not that important for this service, but if one person is helped in accepting the loss of a loved one, the mission has been accomplished.
- Monthly staff meetings will be conducted by the Pastor.
- The meeting was closed at 8:45 p.m. by Pastor leading in prayer.
- The February meeting will be on Monday, February 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Bob Rettig, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH
 January 13, 2025
 Amanda Rettig, Scribe

Deacons:
 Christ Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)
 Linda Arreguin (26), Janice Rettig (26), Mark Vajen (26)
 Amanda Rettig (27), Rory Prigge (27), Jay Slagle (27)

Members Present:
 Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25), Linda Arreguin (26),
 Janice Rettig (26), Mark Vajen (26), Rory Prigge (27),
 Amanda Rettig (27), Jay Slagle (27)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by chair Jared Clady.

Minutes from the December 9 meeting were approved.

Old Business:
 The basketball court tear out will not be completed until the weather warms up.

Shingle replacement on the Northeast side of the roof will be addressed during the regularly scheduled annual maintenance.

Jared will be contacting families with children who are of age to acolyte. Until a schedule is made, Deacons will continue lighting the candles on Sunday for worship.

New Business:
 Office heat was checked over by Knueve & Sons. Nothing major was wrong, the system was on the wrong setting. The payment needed to be completed in the '24 fiscal year, so a check for \$165 was written out of Major Maintenance to cover the service.

It was approved by Deacons that Siberian Solstice donations will be given back to the Fellowship Committee once expenses have been taken care of.

Motion to adjourn at 6:23 P.M.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
FEB. 2	Deacons	Amanda Rettig Janice Rettig
FEB. 9	Deacons	Linda Arreguin Chris Coppes
FEB. 16	Deacons	Rory Prigge Jared Clady
FEB. 23	Deacons	Jared Clady Jay Slagle



FROM THE SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - DECEMBER 2024

INCOME

St. John's UCC November Giving	\$ 670.00
St. Stephen's Sunday School	574.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	300.00
St. John's Lutheran Sunday School	155.00
St. Paul's Catholic	45.00
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	300.00
St. Mary's Catholic Church	20.00
Ham Reimbursement Shalom Christmas	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,264.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



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

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

VANCREST NURSING HOME, 600 Joe E. Brown, Holgate, OH 43527
Herbert Fruth - #9

Janell Honeck - 6919 Mountain Creek Lane, Missouri City, TX 77459-5786

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

Peggy Franz	15396 St. Rt. 281	Holgate, Ohio 43527
John & Shirley Tobias	10011 Co Rd Y	Hamler, Ohio 43524
Sue Waisner	1542 St Rt 108	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Bernard Zimmer	1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37	Napoleon, Ohio 43545



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

- New born Linkin Dunfee** recovering after hospitalization
- ***Peggy Schulte's Sister** for upcoming surgery
- * **Sunny VanHoy** health issues
- * **Robert VanHoy** chest pain following double bypass surgery
- Darlene Hockmn** health issues
- Pam Desgranges**, recovering after hospitalization
- Jim Yocom** recovering after hospitalization
- Anita Sidle** recovering from surgery
- * **Bernadette Stephens** (sister-in-law of Christine Rettig) pancreatic cancer

(*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 areas of conflict and disasters throughout the world

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:

The Family of former member, **Jo Lyn Nye**, who passed away on December 10, 2024.

Theodore Jeff Thomas
December 19, 2024

Parents: Ben and Taryn Thomas
Sister: Annabelle
Grandparents: Nancy Thomas,
Jeff Conklin and Traci Conklin



Linkin Lee Dunfee
January 7, 2025

Parents: Glynnis and Dustin Dunfee
Grandparents: Maggie and Lennie Prigge
Herbert and Annabell Dunfee

SELF-SERVICE AVAILABLE ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

Members looking for their 2024 Annual Giving Report can help our new Administrative Assistant by utilizing self-service in Realm, our web-based system for tracking offerings.

By visiting onrealm.org on your computer or phone, you can generate your own Annual Report by logging in with your email address and a password that you create.

For those needing assistance with logging in to Realm or who do not have access to a computer, please complete the brief form available in the narthex and leave it with the office. Staff will contact you as soon as possible to assist.



Kid's Corner



FEBRUARY

- 2 - 2 Nicholas Evers
- 2 - 16 Brooke Squires
- 2 - 16 Izabelle Waisner
- 2 - 23 Logan Waisner
- 2 - 23 Elleigh Dunfee
- 2 - 26 Hazel Kibisu

FINANCIAL SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2024 CORRECTED COPY

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Revenues and Expenses Operating Fund

	November 2024 Actual	2024 Year To Date	2024 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete	Actual YTD
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$20,016	\$173,787	\$226,450	77%	
EXPENSES					
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,022	\$31,802	\$48,172	66%	
MINISTRIES	\$602	\$6,165	\$9,700	64%	
MISSIONS	\$538	\$5,913	\$6,450	92%	
ADMINISTRATION	\$5,323	\$66,494	\$75,334	88%	
PASTORAL	\$6,944	\$73,974	\$84,409	88%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,429	\$184,348	\$224,064	82%	
NET OPERATING TOTAL	\$4,587	-\$10,560			

Mission and Restricted Fund Giving of Note for November:
 Helifer Fund (including Kids' contributions): \$266 YTD: \$1,750
 Monthly Mission - Henry Co. CASA: \$715
 Shalom Food Pantry: \$670
 Missions To Go: \$1,550
 N.C. Hurricane Relief: \$550



- ♥ Ladles Of Love ♥
- ♥ Soup And Dessert Luncheon ♥
- ♥ February 16 - 11:30 A.M. ♥
- ♥ 30 Soups And 30 Desserts ♥

This is a fundraiser sponsored by the Board of Christian Education for St. John's **Sunday School**. Not only does the Board of Christian Education members appreciate your willingness to cook for us, but also all the people who stay for food and a great time of fellowship.

**Plan to come to church
and then stay for the luncheon.
Freewill offering will be taken to
support our Sunday School**



To Provide Soups And Desserts

- ♥ Ladles Of Love Soup and Dessert Luncheon needs **YOUR** help.
- ♥ **Thirty soups and thirty desserts are needed.** Sign up sheets will be in the narthex area for you to volunteer to bring your favorite soups or desserts. All Homemade by the Great COOKS at St. John's Church.
- ♥ If you have any questions, contact a Christian Board of Education member.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY DECEMBER 2024

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Operating Fund Revenue & Expenses

	DECEMBER 2024 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL YTD	2024 ANNUAL BUDGET	% of Year Complete	Actual vs. Budget
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$24,304	\$198,091	\$226,450	87%	
EXPENSES					
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,095	\$33,897	\$48,172	70%	
MINISTRIES	\$71	\$6,236	\$9,700	64%	
MISSIONS	\$538	\$6,450	\$6,450	100%	
ADMINISTRATION	\$6,373	\$72,867	\$75,334	97%	
PASTORAL	\$7,805	\$81,779	\$84,409	97%	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$16,882	\$201,230	\$224,064	90%	
NET OPERATING FUND TOTAL	\$7,422	-\$3,139			

Mission and Restricted Fund Giving/Income of Note - December, 2024:

Heifer Fund - including children's contributions \$31.04 All of 2024: \$1,785.51
 The Christmas Fund (VOC) - Mission of Month \$1,225
 Shalom Food Pantry \$2,570
 Missions To Go \$1,625
 Cemetery Fund \$950
 Major Maintenance \$3,130
 Farm Account \$12,227



*VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service*

*Thursday, March 6
at 1:30 P.M.*

Angel Choir Needed



To the St. John's Faith Family,

It has truly been a pleasure for me to serve this congregation as Administrative Assistant since 2015. The rewards have been outstanding, and I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

For many years, my work schedule limited my ability to be involved in the actual "work" of the church. We attended regularly but that was the extent of my involvement until around 2011 when I first worked as a volunteer in the church office and then joined Consistory in 2012. Both of those opportunities allowed me to learn about the behind-the-scenes efforts it takes to support our worship services and out-reach efforts. The best part was having the chance to work closely with some of the kindest and best-hearted people around! I got a chance to learn who is related to whom (what a web of relationships!), special skills, talents, and passions of our folks. I have come to appreciate the wisdom and forethought of those who founded St. John's, who built buildings with an eye to the future, and to recognize some of the challenges they faced along the way. I was also blessed to have been able to work with five pastors during those years, and I learned new things from each of them.

I thank you for the outpouring of support, well-wishes, cards, and gifts. Even more, thanks to each of you for your friendships and understanding throughout the years. Knowing our St. John's Faith Family, I trust that our new Administrative Assistant, Peggy Schulte, will have the same great experience.

Your partner in Christ's service, Betty (Bob) Rettig



News and Notes

Submitted By Nancy Thomas
January 12, 2025

Present: Nancy Thomas (26), Alexa Brown (26), Lisa Haldy (25), Lynette Goldsmith (27)
Consistory Liaison, Kirk Fruth and Pastor Jeff

Pastor Jeff led us in prayer

Officers were elected: Lisa and Alexia volunteered to be co-chairmans of the committee.
Nancy Thomas volunteered as scribe.

Lynette Goldsmith volunteered to take over sending the children's birthday cards out.

Discussed Ladels of Love - Had a discussion with the Clady family and set the date for February 16. Kirk will take to Consistory for approval.

We will continue to meet the second Sunday of each month.

Sunday School curriculum was discussed. It was decided to continue to use the unused winter material to get us through until summer.

Discussed whether if there are only a few students in the fourth to sixth grades, they would be willing to help with the smaller children during Sunday School.

Ideas were discussed about Confirmation Class. Still looking for teachers. Have asked a few to see if they would be interested.



*Mission and
Stewardship*



**SHALOM FOOD PANTRY
MISSION FOR FEBRUARY**

February's Mission is our own local mission, Shalom Food Pantry. This mission has been in existence since February of 2004. Its creator was Peg Snyder. She saw what was happening with people in our area who lost jobs, or had some kind of health or other crisis, struggling to make ends meet. She wanted to help people in their time of need and went to Consistory to see if the faith family could help start a food pantry.

She brought her idea to the annual meeting in January and shortly after, Consistory voted to give \$1,000 in seed money to help us start a food pantry. We have been helping Henry County families in need ever since. Last year we served 843 families, with 2,873 individuals.

We gave each family food according to the size of their family. Family size can range from one person to several. Sometimes there is more than one family living under the same roof.

Thankfully St. John's Faith Family isn't alone in it's quest to help families. We have several churches in the Holgate area who help us in our mission by providing food donations, monetary donations, volunteering and purchasing gifts for Shalom Christmas families children. Recently we accepted over 840 units of food donated from Holgate High School during a food drive!

In addition to the boxes of food we give to families monthly, we have also periodically been providing hot carry-out meals to the families when they check-in. This year, during the month of December, we had made up small gift bags for families and offered refreshments in the Fellowship Hall while waiting to get checked in or they could come in after picking up their food.

Shalom Food Pantry is always looking for more volunteers to help families in need. If this is a mission you'd like to volunteer in, contact John Hahn, Volunteer Coordinator at 419-591-9108.



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Junior Hoff
will celebrate his
82nd Birthday
on February 2

895 Kenilworth Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545-1207

Earl Abshire
will celebrate his
80th Birthday
on February 10

12411 County Rd H.
Holgate, OH 43527

Vandella Huber
will celebrate her
81st Birthday
on February 23

PO BOX 64
Holgate, OH 43527-0064

Minnie (Mick) Hoff
will celebrate her
80th Birthday
on February 26

895 Kenilworth Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545-1207

Thank You

Thank You for the get well cards and prayers when I had my shoulder surgery. It is uplifting to know people care. Thank You so much!

Norma Nagel

Many thanks to **Kay Winnie** who has made the roses for the altar for new babies. Kay has decided that it is time to pass this on to the next person. We are looking for someone to make up these rose vases ahead of time. Please let the office know if you are interested in taking on this project.

Thank you's from the Staff at St. John's UCC:

To St. John's UCC Congregation, Thank you for the greeting card. I truly appreciate your kind thoughts. It's been great working with many wonderful faith families over the years. Best wishes!
Joan Davidson, NWOA, UCC.

Many thanks to the St. John's Faith Family for the generous Christmas gift given to the staff. I have been humbled each year by the generosity of our folks and this year is no exception. It has been my pleasure to serve St. John's since 2015, and I have been blessed so many times by acts of kindness. With sincere gratitude.
Betty (Bob) Rettig.


I gratefully thank the congregation for the Christmas Check this year. I am constantly amazed at the open hearts and generosity of this congregation. This is a tough time of year to give extra money, but a wonderful time to receive extra just in time to help with the bills. Again, thank you so much!
Linda M. Rettig

I thank the congregation for the Christmas check given to the staff as well as the other Christmas gifts that I have received in the office. I thank everyone for your generosity, and thanks for all of your help during this time of year.
Peggy Schulte

Thank you, congregation, for your generous employee appreciation gift. I am so grateful for the many forms of support provided by the St. John's UCC faith family.
Carl Dettmer.

Thank you to everyone for the generous Christmas gift, from the congregation. It was much appreciated. Hope you all had a great Christmas, and I wish you all a blessed and Happy New Year.
John Hahn

Thank you to the members of St. John's for the extra gift of money this Christmas. I love playing the piano for you on Sundays and knowing you appreciate it makes it more worthwhile. Yours in Christ,
Sue Abshire

 **Pastor Ed Shonkwiler, Overseer**
ed4unc2002@yahoo.com
 December 2024

Dear PPM Supporters and Cheerleaders,

Emmanuel! God with us!
 I love this name of Jesus—a name often associated with the Christmas season but experienced daily here at PPM through your faithful prayers and support.

This past year, we have seen and felt "God with us" in incredible ways. Thanks to your generosity, we have continued to provide support and provisions for over 90 widows. We have helped many children pursue their education and have offered life-changing care through our medical and dental clinics in the mountains. We also built a much-needed road to the *Finca del Padre*, celebrated mothers with joyful Mother's Day events, and added a vital well that now serves both our ministry and the village of Chaguitillos. None of this would be possible without your steadfast prayers and financial contributions.

Emmanuel! This Christmas, may you and your family experience the nearness of His presence, just as we have been blessed to witness it through your love and support throughout the year.

Thank you! **Live Full! Die Empty!**

Ed

Thank you's from the Staff at St. John's UCC:

Dear St. John's Faith Family, I sincerely thank everyone of you for your thoughtful and gracious Christmas gift. I appreciate your generosity very much. I feel very blessed to be able to praise God through music. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and have a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2025. May God bless you all, and thank you again!
Sheri Plotts

It is very kind of the St. John's congregation to remember staff members at Christmas. I sincerely thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness, and I am pleased to be part of the musical team. Joe and I are so thankful to be members of this loving, supportive church family. We wish you a blessed New Year!
Lynne Long

To St. John's Faith Family Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. It is my pleasure to serve the St. John's Faith Family each month with the newsletter. Thank you to all the team scribes or anyone who is responsible for monthly articles. Without your help and cooperation my job as newsletter editor would not be possible.
Ruth Ann Durham, Newsletter Editor

Thanks so much for the Christmas gift. You are truly a generous faith family.
Greg Nelson

Thank You for the Christmas Gift I received from the church. I was happy to fill in for Dawn as Janitor while she was dealing with medical issues. Pride in our facility by all is what keeps it looking so nice.
Norma Nagel

Dearest Church Family
 Thank you for the showering of cards, gifts, and well-wishes during the holiday season. We are truly appreciative of every kind thought and gesture. We thank you for the Staff Christmas Bonus, as well. We are blessed to be a part of this generous congregation.

Grace and peace,
 Rev. Jeff and Bobbie



FEBRUARY

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------|-----------------|
| 2 - 2 | Junior Hoff | 2 - 17 | Jerry Rettig |
| 2 - 3 | Haley Kibisu | 2 - 18 | Sheila Franz |
| 2 - 4 | Deb Waisner | 2 - 19 | Jeri Hoellrich |
| 2 - 5 | Katie Borck | 2 - 22 | Tim Eberle |
| 2 - 6 | Su Jones | 2 - 23 | Vandella Huber |
| 2 - 8 | Scott Zimmer | 2 - 24 | Sonya Eitzman |
| 2 - 10 | Earl Abshire | 2 - 25 | Shaunda Squires |
| 2 - 11 | Lynne Long | 2 - 26 | Minnie Hoff |
| 2 - 15 | Sue Mohr | | |
| 2 - 15 | Rory Prigge | | |
| 2 - 15 | Lee Franz | | |

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 **MARCH**
Newsletter is—**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025 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



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