



*St. John's United Church of Christ*  
*I-946 St. Rt. 108*  
*Holgate, Ohio 43527*  
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## 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— **THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.**  
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



## 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](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  
**MAY 2025**

### 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](mailto:holgateucc@metalink.net) (Peggy Schulte)  
Pastor e-mail: [revjmccam@gmail.com](mailto:revjmccam@gmail.com)

Peggy Schulte, Admin. Asst.  
Fax: (419) 264-1460

Financial Administrator e-mail - [stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net](mailto:stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net) (Carl Dettmer)  
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 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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## 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	5-23	Andy Brinkman
5-5	Glynnis Dunfee	5-24	Daniel Martin
5-6	Wally Snyder	5-24	Tia Waisner
5-8	Greg Fruth	5-25	Stacy Eberle
5-10	Joe Long	5-26	Michelle Shank
5-13	Alisa Fry	5-27	Dan Brown
5-13	Dave Snyder	5-29	Marilyn Watson
		5-30	Sarah Rozevink

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.)



## THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS

### *Continued From Page 2*

I began to think, "What better way to worship God than to actively be the hands and feet of Jesus?" It is good to come together and worship learning about God and what God wants from us. However, what would be the ultimate praise to God would be to do something that is tangible and concrete, not just talking about doing good and being the hands and feet of Jesus.

During April's Spiritual Council meeting, I was going to propose my plan for the summer. While the opening devotion was being read, I knew God was speaking to me and supporting my idea. Babbie Mason wrote a response to the Matthew 10 scripture and it was being read aloud, *"But what is church for? We are the hands and feet of Christ. We need to do what Christ would do. If the people are hungry, feed them..."*

The plans for this Summer were enthusiastically received by the Spiritual Council. This Summer, in lieu of a traditional worship service during the week, St. John's UCC is going to actively be the hands and feet of Jesus. Here is how...

Each Monday evening during the months of June and July (nine Mondays), a hot meal will be served at no cost and with no donation basket. During the summer, our focus will be our Shalom clients; however, the entire community will be invited. Our worship will be to feed the community (church community and community at-large) *but also* to sit down with ALL people and share a meal, getting to know people St. John's UCC does not know, getting to know their story, and allowing them to know they are truly welcome and loved at St. John's UCC.

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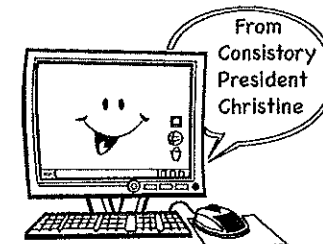
## 2025 Easter Flowers Memorials/Honorariums

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

### Flowers

In Memory Of	Given By
Hilda Rettig and <b>In Honor of</b> Earl and Marilyn Abshire	Sue Abshire
Douglas Armbruster	Kay Armbruster
Lester and Genevieve Durham, Stephen and Callie Durham	Ruth Ann Durham
Wayne and Mary Fruth, Lloyd and Margie Moneghan, and Audrey Buckmaster	Kirk and Lynette Fruth
Loved Ones	Franell and Greg Nelson
Dallas and Wilma Rettig, and Edward and Elaine Beauch, <b>In Honor of</b> Christa Jones family, and Cheryl and Brian Koenig family	Bob and Betty Rettig
<b>In Honor of</b> Our children – Michelle, Christopher and Felicia, and Grandchildren – Abigail, Mikayla, Michael and Aaliyah	Jim and Christine Rettig
Brandon Schulte and Ruth and Luke Wilcox, <b>In Honor of</b> Lillian, Collin, and Shannon Schulte	Daniel and Peggy Schulte

## REMEMBERING



Here it is...the month of May! Things are in full swing with Spring school activities, our farming families are getting planting done, seniors are anticipating graduation, and on the second Sunday, we celebrate Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis helped establish the first celebration of Mother's Day in 1907, at the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, VA. The celebration was a liturgical observance, and a far cry from the commercialization of Mother's Day that we see now. Some see Mother's Day as the highest church attendance day after Christmas Eve and Easter. I think that would make Anna Jarvis proud for what she did to establish Mother's Day.

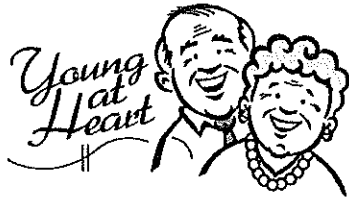
For me, it was a long road before I celebrated my first Mother's Day as a mom. It finally happened in May of 1987, when we went to court and the adoption of our daughter Michelle was finalized. I legally became the mom I had already been for many months before. It was a day of joyful celebration.

Mother's Day is joy-filled for some, but not for others. Sons or daughters who have had a difficult relationship with their moms, who have felt abandoned, or who have lost their mother due to death can have a difficult time around this holiday. And the same goes for moms out there who have gone through difficult situations. For birth moms who have either made an adoption plan for their child or due to life circumstances, have had their children removed from the home, this day can be overwhelming. We must also take into account women who are not mothers, either by circumstances or by choice. No matter the situation, we are all children of a loving God.

In Jeremiah 29:11 it says, "for I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." NIV

Let's celebrate Mother's Day as we honor moms and all women who play an important role in other's lives. And please pray for those women who will have a difficult time on this day. By doing this, we honor what the Lord has declared.

*Christine Rettig*



### "Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

#### **Betty (Don) Rettig**

will celebrate her  
91st Birthday  
on May 1

15976 St Rt 281  
Holgate, OH 43527

#### **Delmar Tilse**

will celebrate his  
83rd Birthday  
on May 18

11770 Co Rd H  
Holgate, OH 43527

#### **Marilyn Watson**

will celebrate her  
81st Birthday  
on May 29

M687 Co. Rd. 17D  
Napoleon, OH 43545



#### **Lynn and Karen Gilliland**

will celebrate their  
62nd Wedding Anniversary  
on May 11

1778 Chinook Trail Ct  
Defiance, OH 43512

#### **Jerry and Joan Waisner**

will celebrate their  
60th Wedding Anniversary  
on May 15

12519 Co Rd J  
Napoleon, OH 43545

#### **Don and Betty Rettig**

will celebrate their  
73rd Wedding Anniversary  
on May 25

15976 St Rt 281  
Holgate, OH 43527



### CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

**April 14, 2025**

- The revaluation of church and parsonage has been completed; awaiting suggested revisions to our policy from Rachel Moll/Frost Insurance.
- Work is progressing with the outside review of financials with only minor issues discovered.
- Stained glass windows were inspected by Bigelow Glass and found to be in good condition. Recommend another inspection in ten years (2035).
- A very good performance evaluation for the Administrative Assistant was reported. Per the employment agreement, a salary increase to \$15 per hour after six months was approved.
- Volunteers to share in landscaping chores around the church are to contact Kevin Vajen.
- Plans are to man the fair gates on Thursday, August 14, earning \$1200 for the church.
- Money in the library account will be used to fund the Summer meal program.
- The decision was made to reinvest two CD's in the Cornerstone Fund.
- To clarify the timing of disbursements from the farm account (Shiarla farm) to the various recipients, a disbursement policy was developed.
- Plans are being laid for Confirmation to begin in September.
- Repairs to the roof on Fellowship Hall were made and the quote was approved to repair the leaking roof on the Sunday School wing.
- Annual inspection of the heating system to be done by Earl Mechanical.
- Approved the purchase of a new computer for the office.
- Financial records of the Endowment Team have been submitted to the Beilharz Company for review
- The Evangelism Team has ordered a welcome banner for the narthex.

*Scribe, Bob Rettig*

## Cemetery Guidelines

Our St. John's Cemetery is a beautiful place that honors our loved ones who have passed and have chosen our cemetery as their final resting place. We want to keep the cemetery as a pleasant place for loved ones and friends to visit, and also want to ensure that our lawn care provider can mow and trim safely and efficiently.

Therefore the cemetery association has the following policy in place for our cemetery. Please help keep our cemetery beautiful for all who visit, and safe for our lawn care provider staff.

Decorations placed in the cemetery between April 1 - November 30 must be placed in a manner that will not impede mowing or trimming. Examples are lights, shepherd's hooks, and wreaths that are placed in the grass in front of, beside or behind a foundation that impede the mowing.

Decorations will be removed and disposed of if not maintained to such a degree that they become damaged, unsightly, or prove to be a danger to the mowing/trimming crew. Items place on foundations can cause injury to the mowing/trimming crew as they can become projectiles during the mowing/trimming process.

No planting of trees, bushes, or flowers on any gravesite is allowed.

## FAMILY MEMBER GRADUATING

If you have a family member who will be graduating from High School, College, Technical Training, or other education, please let the office know so we can acknowledge their accomplishments in the bulletin and newsletter.

## MAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
MAY 4	Deacons	Janice Rettig Mark Vajen
MAY 11	Deacons	Amanda Rettig Jared Clady
MAY 18	Deacons	Linda Arreguin Jay Slagle
MAY 25	Deacons	Rory Prigge Ben Thomas



FROM  
THE SHALOM  
FOOD PANTRY

### FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - MARCH 2025

#### INCOME

St. John's UCC February Giving	\$ 1,270.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	115.00
Emanuel's Christian Church	268.00
Individual Donation	<u>50.00</u>

**Total \$ 1,703.00**

*Submitted by Norma Nagel*

## News From The Cemetery Association

The St. John's UCC Cemetery is a separate but connected part of our church. The first burial at our church cemetery took place on January 18, 1909. We can be proud of the care that is taken by our trustees, sexton, and others to make our cemetery a pleasant, beautiful place for our faith families' final resting place. All members and former members of St. John's can purchase a lot in our cemetery.

The St. John's UCC Cemetery Association met on April 6, 2025, for their Annual Meeting. President Kirk Fruth presided at the meeting attended by twenty-one members of the Association. The business of the meeting included election of officers. The current officers are: President Kirk Fruth; Secretary-Treasurer Christine Rettig; Trustees: Kevin Vajen, Jim Rettig and Rory Prigge, and non-elected staff, Sexton: Adam Stevenson. Adam became sexton last Spring with the retirement of Earl Abshire. Earl Abshire was thanked for his long-time service to the Cemetery Association.

When a lot is sold, the money received goes to a perpetual care fund. The principal of the perpetual care fund cannot be used. Interest from the perpetual care fund is used as income for general expenses of maintaining the cemetery including mowing, trimming, weed control and the state licensing fee. Our Cemetery Association receives a small amount of income from the mortuary/cremation fee, which is paid by the family at the time of a burial. That income also helps with the general expenses each year. Expenses for goods and services have risen, and our mowing expense will go up this year. Shane Eberle and his crew do a great job maintaining our cemetery, and we are thankful to have him as our lawn care provider.

***Continued On Page 19***



## DEACONS' BENCH

April 14, 2025

Amanda Rettig, Scribe

Deacons:

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

***Continued From Page 10***

### New Business Continued

- ♦ Earl Mechanical Maintenance Contract
  - Preventive Maintenance Agreement will total \$2,010/year
    - Motion to approve: Janice
    - 2nd Jay
    - Approved
- ♦ Computer and Upgrade for Office
  - It was decided that a recommendation to Consistory would be made to order a new computer using the operating fund.
- ♦ St. John's vinyl signs
  - Motion to remove the signs: Jared
  - 2nd: Linda
- ♦ Parsonage items - water & garage doors
  - The water has a strong sulfur smell--Water Solutions to be contacted to test the water and perform any maintenance required
  - Garage door excessive squeaking and openers are sticking
- ♦ Monitors in the sanctuary--To be looked into by Linda Rettig and funded by the Tech Team
  - New monitor on the east side to replace the old one
  - Possible additional monitor to be added on the west side and existing monitor turned around.

Adjournment at 6:29 p.m.

- ♦ Motion to adjourn: Jared
- ♦ 2nd: Ben
- ♦ Motion approved

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY MARCH 2025

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

	March 2025 Actual	2025 Year To Date	2025 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete	Actual YTD
<b>OPERATING BUDGET INCOME</b>	\$25,419	\$60,670	\$238,988		25%
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>BUILDING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>					
MINISTRIES	\$2,920	\$11,271	\$46,996	25%	24%
MISSIONS	\$756	\$1,756	\$9,500		18%
ADMINISTRATION	\$540	\$1,620	\$6,480		25%
PASTORAL	\$5,651	\$18,158	\$79,909		23%
	\$7,341	\$21,911	\$96,853		23%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$17,208	\$54,716	\$239,738		23%
<b>NET OPERATING TOTAL</b>	\$8,211	\$5,954			

#### Mission and Restricted Fund Giving of Note for March:

Mission of the Month - One Great Hour of Sharing:

Shalom Food Pantry Giving:

Youth Fund Potato Bake Fundraising:

Sunday School Ladies of Love Fundraising:

\$975  
\$910  
\$729  
\$916



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 Minnie (Mick) Hoff**, who passed away on April 2, 2025.  
Funeral services were held Saturday, April 5, at the church.

**The Family of Diane Grimes**, sister of Bob Eberle, who passed away on March 24.

**The Family of Bernard Shock**, a former member and cousin of Don Rettig, who passed away on March 28.



**Oliver Earl Clark  
March 23, 2025**

**Parents:** Jacob and Rachel Clark  
**Grandparents:** Rick and Pam Desgranges  
 Matt Clark,  
 Dave and Theresa Drewes  
**Sponsors:** Angela Bockrath  
 Brenden Clark