

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

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Ladles Love Soup & Dessert – Rescheduled for March 2
 Ash Wednesday – March 5 @ 6:45 pm
 Daylight Savings Time begins – March 9
 Youth Potato Bake – March 16

From Pastor Jeff's Desk
 Worship Participants
 Cemetery Assn. Annual Mtg
 Lent Bible Study
 Cemetery Clean-up Time
 Birthdays

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St. John's UCC							Mar 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
							1	
2 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30am - Ladies of Love	3 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	4 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	5 Ash Wednesday 10am - Staff meeting - Church 6pm - Meal/Worship 8pm - Sanctuary Choir	6 10am - Bible Study 1:30pm - Van Crest Service 6pm - Finance Team	7			
9 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - CEB meeting	10 6pm - Deacons 8:30pm - Consistory	11	12 6pm - Meal/Worship 8pm - Sanctuary Choir	13 10am - Bible Study	14			
15 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Potato Bake - Youth	16 6:30pm - Sonnenberg Task Force	17 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	18 6pm - Meal/Worship 8pm - Sanctuary Choir	19 10am - Bible Study	20			
22 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Baptism	23	24 9am - Newsletter mailing	25 6pm - Meal/Worship 8pm - Sanctuary Choir	26 10am - Bible Study	27			
29 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship	30 Red cross blood drive	31 SHALOM Delivery in am	1	2	3	4	5	

The Sentinel

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

MARCH 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 (Peggy Schulte)
Pastor e-mail: jeffmccam@gmail.com
Financial Administrator e-mail: stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net (Carl Dettmer)
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.

Peggy Schulte, Admin. Asst.
Fax: (419) 264-1450

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday Night Schedule During Lent

Bells	To Be Announced
Light Meal	6:00 P.M.
Worship Service	6:45 P.M.
Sanctuary Choir	After Worship

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Pastor
Jeff's
Desk...

LENT

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6: 5-6 NRSV

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of Spring. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on personal relationships with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and to give of ourselves for others.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It is a time when we attempt to make room for deeper reflection and deepen our spiritual practices drawing us deeper into our faith. But sometimes faith can feel not as certain as we hoped for. We can feel "less than," feeling that others seem to be able to be more faithful in their practices and beliefs. This Lent, may we try to gain momentum one day at a time, "to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough" as Kate Bowler states in her Lenten devotional book *Good Enough*.

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LENT

Continued From Page 2

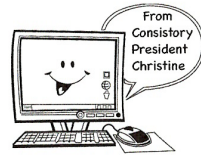
Bowler goes on to say, "We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility - climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do 'the right thing.' But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we've just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our 'good enough' lives."

As modern day Christians, we do not have to be like the religious leaders in our scripture above. We do not have to "put on a show" for God in our spiritual and prayer lives. If we do as Jesus instructed, then no matter what our spiritual and prayer practices are, as long as we have a spiritual and prayer practice, it is good enough for God.

Lent is about transformation, transformation one day at a time. We start with small steps to gain a bigger outcome. During Spring, the flowers slowly peek their heads out of the ground, one day at a time. This is how we should approach our spiritual and prayer practices, one day at a time knowing it is good enough, more than good enough for a God who is Love.

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCam*

REMEMBERING



March is here, and we look forward to days with longer daylight and the knowledge that Spring is coming!

March plays a significant role in my life here at St. John's, but it doesn't exactly have to do with the church. It has to do with a member of the church who asked me out on a blind date! Yep, Jim and I met on a blind date in the month of March, 1974. Everyone has to take chances in life, and we both were taking a chance on each other.

Well, it must have been meant to be, as we were wed here at St. John's in November of the same year. And last Fall we were able to celebrate fifty years together as husband and wife. The church has played, and continues to play, a significant role in our lives together.

Like most married couples, we have had ups and downs in our marriage. Our church family, no matter where we were, has been there for us throughout these past fifty years. The love, kindness, and support that a church family shows to each other is so important as we navigate through life.

In Proverbs 3:3 it says, "Let love and faithfulness never leave you, bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

We all need the love of our church family, whether you are single, in a relationship, married, or in a transition period of your life, and no matter your age. I am thankful that I belong to a church where the folks let love and faithfulness guide them each and every day.



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

1. A big thank you to Ruth Ann Durham for helping the Consistory with the Annual Meeting and set-up.
2. Thank you to Betty and Peggy for getting the Annual Report out in a timely fashion.
3. Thank you to everyone who supported the "Ladles of Love."
4. The lunch provided for the blood drive is always appreciated.
5. Thanks to Maggie Prigge for thinking of the office (and Bob) with cookies.
6. Grateful to Carl for making the form for members to get their financial statements.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for the prayers during the time of my sister-in-law's illness and words of condolence at the time of her passing.

Christine and Jim Rettig

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 FEBRUARY 10, 2025

- There was brief discussion regarding the annual meeting with a review of the minutes to be approved at our next annual meeting. Appreciation was expressed to Ruth Ann Durham and others for their direction and guidance in regards to setting up, preparing and serving the meal.
- The reappraisal of our parsonage, church and assets for insurance coverage needs to be scheduled.
- The outside review of financial records and practices has begun.
- Chris Coppes submitted a letter of resignation as Deacon effective February 28, 2025, due to a change in his work schedule. The Deacons recommended that his resignation be accepted and to not appoint another Deacon to replace him.
- A policy will be developed for fundraising events, detailing their purpose, nature, date, time and the necessary approval of Consistory.
- A task force was appointed to act on the substantial donation given to the church. Chris Rettig will serve as chair. Ben Thomas will be vice-chair with Rolie Rettig (Elder), Jared Clady (Deacon), Caryn Lulfs (congregation), Doug Rettig (trustee) and Pastor as ex-officio serving on the team. A request was made that individuals using specific areas of the building be consulted before remodeling begins.
- The Tech Team will be restructured into Audiovisual and Information Technology sections. Responsibilities, tasks and needs for each section were outlined.
- There are 13 people who have not yet completed Safe Church Training. Amanda Rettig will be conducting a class after church on Sundays, February 16 and March 16.

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CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS February 10, 2025

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- The church will be preparing Disaster Buckets, Hygiene Kits and Lady's Kits to be delivered to the Association office in Tiffin. They can be taken to the Association annual meeting or delivered by September 1. The Association helps support this ministry financially. Tammy Vajen volunteered to coordinate this mission.
- While giving for January exceeded most Januaries in recent years, expenses did exceed income, primarily due to property and liability insurance being paid.
- Parents of students who could serve as acolytes have been contacted and all have responded with the exception of one.
- Clutter in some of the storage areas next to water heaters or breaker/fuse boxes is a fire hazard and needs attention.
- The Decorating Team has made arrangements for the ordering of Easter flowers. Payment must accompany the order placed no later than March 16.

Scribe, Bob Rettig



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

Those present: Pastor Jeff McCarn

Bob Rettig (25)

Rolie Rettig (26)

*Kay Armbruster (26)

Christine Rettig (27)

- Pastor's Report was reviewed and accepted with a few additions.
- Ash Wednesday and Lenten worship will be conducted in the sanctuary and will be a mirror image of the Sunday service. Plans are being formulated to serve a meal prior at all Wednesday services to promote fellowship. The meal will be at 6:00 p.m. with worship at 6:45 p.m.
- Pastor is organizing a Bible study during Lent centered on a book he is reading. This will be scheduled for Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion will be offered on Sunday, March 2 and on Ash Wednesday, March 5 by intinction.
- Alexa Brown has consented to teach the Confirmation program with Lisa Haldy as a backup. Several male prospective teachers have been approached to assist, but have yet to agree to help. Classes will be on Sundays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and Pastor will teach in the rotation of every fourth Sunday.
- Pastor discussed recent visits and those planned in the next few weeks.
- A letter to those who have not recently supported the church and a response form was reviewed with little additions or corrections needed. Composed by Kay, she will also sign the letter on behalf of the Spiritual Council and send to those on the most recent list.
- Thank you notes from Ashlyn Highfield for her Christmas gift and from Betty Rettig for her retirement gift from the Spiritual Council were read. Rolie continues to send cards to members on the anniversary of the passing of a loved one.
- A task force is being considered for appointment to determine the best use of a significant sum of money donated by the Gib Sonnenberg family.
- The meeting was closed by Pastor leading in prayer.
- The March meeting will be on Monday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Bob Rettig, Scribe

MARCH WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
MARCH 2	Deacons	Janice Rettig Linda Arreguin
MARCH 9	Deacons	Jared Clady Mark Vajen
MARCH 16	Deacons	Rory Prigge Jay Slagle
MARCH 23	Deacons	Mark Vajen Amanda Rettig
MARCH 30	Deacons	Ben Thomas Rory Prigge



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - JANUARY 2025

INCOME

St. John's UCC December Giving	\$ 2,570.00
Holgate Firefighters	200.00
Individual Donation	20.00
Excess Pop Money	12.00
Total	\$ 2,802.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



DEACONS' BENCH

February 9, 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 6:06 P.M. by chair Jared Clady.

Minutes of the January 10 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

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

The families of potential acolytes have been contacted. The next step is to set up a schedule.

Hastings Insurance/Frost Insurance has not yet rescheduled a time for appraisal of the property.

New Business:

With much thought and consideration, Chris Coppes has made the decision to resign as a Deacon effective February 28. Thank you Chris for your work as Deacon, serving as a Consistory member, and your continued work at St. John's U.C.C.

This is the year Bigelow Glass is set to assess the stained glass. Contact has been made and a date will be set in the near future for assessment.

The room where the water heater is housed is in need of cleaning/organization. Items near the water heater and in front of the fuse box could be considered a fire hazard.

The Task Force for building improvement is set to complete a walk through with the Sonnenbergs in order to determine areas of need.

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 P.M.



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

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



Kid's Corner



MARCH

3 - 3	Mason Franz
3 - 8	Jessa Bortz
3 - 9	Zoey Vajen
3 - 10	McKenzie Boyd
3 - 12	Archie Bockrath
3 - 21	Coralynn Medina
3 - 28	Cole Haver
3 - 28	Maxwell Kibisu

1

Easter Flower Memorials / Honorariums

It's that time to grace our sanctuary with beautiful flowers for Easter to remember and honor our loved ones. We will be taking orders from February 23 through March 16. Kircher's will fill orders on a first come/first serve basis.

If you want to order flowers, complete the form below and return it no later than March 16. Please this in the gratitude box with your payment. All payment is due at the time of the order.

The plants will be placed in the Sanctuary for Easter services. Names will be placed on the back of each plant so you can take them home after the 10:15 am service.

____ In Memory Of _____

____ In Honor Of _____

As A Gift Given By _____

Total of Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Cash or Check# _____

Make Checks Payable to: St. John's UCC

ALL PLANTS Provided by Kircher's in Defiance

** If you prefer to provide your own plant, please fill out the "In Memory of" OR "In Honor of" section so the Office can include this dedication in the bulletin.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY JANUARY 2025

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

	January 2025 Actual	2025 Year To Date	2025 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete	Actual YTD
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$16,373	\$16,373	\$238,988		7%
EXPENSES					
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$4,344	\$4,344	\$45,996	8%	9%
MINISTRIES	\$914	\$914	\$9,500		10%
MISSIONS	\$540	\$540	\$6,480		8%
ADMINISTRATION	\$5,994	\$5,994	\$79,909		8%
PASTORAL	\$7,198	\$7,198	\$96,853		7%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,990	\$18,990	\$238,738		8%
NET OPERATING TOTAL	-\$2,617	-\$2,617			

Mission and Restricted Fund Giving of Note for January:

Monthly Mission - Missions To Go	\$3,615
Shalom Food Pantry	\$485
Major Maintenance	\$595
Technology Team	\$542
Youth Fund	\$703

Quantity	Plant	Price Each	Total \$\$
	Cyclamen (6" pot)	\$16.00	
	Tulips (6 Bulbs)	\$19.00	
	Daffodils (6 Bulbs)	\$19.00	
	Easter Lily (4 Blooms)	\$22.00	
	Providing My Own Plant **		

Some people prefer to make a memorial gift in honor of or in memory of someone rather than flowers. These will also be listed in the Easter bulletins. Please circle which fund you want your gift to support. Deadline to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin is April 8.

- ♦ Cemetery Association
- ♦ Confirmation Camp
- ♦ Endowment Fund
- ♦ Hand Bell Choir
- ♦ Love Gift Fund
- ♦ Major Maintenance Fund
- ♦ Mission-to-Go
- ♦ Peace Garden
- ♦ Roof Upkeep and Routine Maintenance
- ♦ Sanctuary Choir
- ♦ SHALOM Food Pantry
- ♦ Vacation Bible School / Summer Faith Family activities
- ♦ Undesignated (at discretion of Memorial Team)



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

Newborn Linkin Dunfee recovering after hospitalization
George Medina health issues
Darlene Hockmn health issues
Pam Desgranges, recovering after hospitalization
Jim Yocom recovering after hospitalization
Anita Sidle dealing with cancer and heart issues
* Carol Agler (Rick Desgranges's sister) recovering from surgery in Florida
* Joan Grahm (Rick Desgreages's sister) awaiting test results
* Connie Flores (Rick Desgranges's niece) recovering from surgery
* Marg Huber (Vandella Huber's sister-in-law) health issues

(*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:

To Christine and Jim Rettig and family on the passing of Bernadette Stephens, their sister-in-law.

To Earl, Marilyn and Sue Abshire and family on the passing of Earl's younger sister, Rosa Lee Hensley.

To Jody Dille, (former member and her family) whose mother-in-law, Carol Dille passed on February 11, 2025.

To the family of Gerry Ripke who passed away on February 11, 2025. Funeral service was held at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home in Napoleon at 10:00 a.m. on February 19, 2025. Entombment followed at Highland Memory Gardens, Waterville, Ohio.

To Nancy Thomas, Ben (Taryn) Thomas, and Rachel (Andy) Brinkman on the passing former member Juanita Schnitkey on February 14.



*VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service*

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

Angel Choir Needed

POTATO BAKE

March 16, 2025

**Right After Worship
Dine In Or Carry Out**



**BAKED POTATOES
AND ALL THE TOPPINGS
Salad and Dessert**

Free will offering

**Sponsored by the Youth
Proceeds go to youth
SHALOM Christmas Shopping**

Wednesday Night Service Starting Ash Wednesday (March 5) through April 9

Each Wednesday night, let us gather around the table for a light meal of soup and sandwiches (serving at 6:00 p.m. and then gather in the sanctuary to worship (service starts at 6:45 p.m.)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lent season, a time when we aspire to make some room for deeper introspection and practices that will draw us into the love and assurance of faith. But sometimes faith can feel not as assured as we hoped. We can feel "less than," perceiving that others seem to be able to be "more faithful" in their practices and beliefs. This Lent, rather than change for "the best," we will seek to gain momentum one day at a time, to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough.

Order Your Easter Flowers

Easter is coming! Order your flowers to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

You can use the insert in the newsletter or in the bulletins to place your order.
The deadline to order is March 16.

Hopefully with this early order date, we will be able to get the flowers that you select.
Thank you!



Cemetery Association Annual Meeting

The St. John's United Church of Christ Cemetery Association will have their Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 6, after worship. All lot owners are members of the association, are encouraged to attend.

Good Enough for a Life of Imperfection Lent Bible Study

Life is imperfect. Can we find a salve for our frustrated selves, inviting us to embrace the imperfections of life and faith, knowing that we are never alone? The Good News certainly is that God loves us deeply and is present to us powerfully, even and especially in the midst of the imperfect and down-right awful moments of life. We are only human – incurably human. And that is good enough!

Sometimes it is life itself that robs us of the shiny, perfect life that we had planned for ourselves. A diagnosis. A broken heart. A lost opportunity. This Lent, rather than change for "the best," we will seek to gain momentum one day at a time. Let's strive to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough.

You are invited to consider a Lent Season of "Good Enough," embracing the imperfections of life and faith. Bible Study will meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10.

Please sign up in the Narthex so that we will have ample materials available. You may also call the church office to sign up.

Safe Church Training

Safe Church Training will be held on Sunday, March 16, immediately after worship. This training is required for all who interact with minors at the church in capacities such as teaching Sunday School or involvement with minors during children and youth activities. It is also required for all church staff. This training allows our church to maintain our safe church status and comply with our liability insurance coverage. If you have not yet completed safe church training for 2025, please plan to attend on March 16.

Cemetery Clean-up Time

We are still in the Winter season, but Spring is coming! When Spring arrives, the grass in our cemetery starts growing, and that means our lawn care service will be on scene to keep our cemetery looking beautiful for family and friends to visit grave sites. This brings us to the clean-up issue.

If you have placed flowers or other decorations on grave sites, they will most likely not look very nice after months of harsh Winter weather. Artificial flowers fade, pieces fall off, items stuck in the ground have blown over and can make our cemetery unsightly. Wreaths and other items placed in front of headstones interfere with our lawn care service being able to run their mowers without hitting items. The Cemetery Association and the lawn care service are not responsible for damages to items that, due to their placement, interfere with mowing. Wind chimes can cause damage to trimming equipment. Items placed on foundations, such as decorative rocks, stones, or statues can get caught by the string of a trimmer and become projectiles. This can cause injury to the lawn care workers. Items removed from grave sites can be disposed of in the dumpster at the church. If the grave sites are properly cleaned before the mowing season begins, the lawn care crew can properly and safely mow and trim.

If each person takes responsibility for their decorations, the clean-up process can go very quickly. When the clean-up is left for one person, it is a major job. Please do your part to make it safe for our lawn care service and to keep our cemetery beautiful for all who visit.

CHIEF RECEIPTS

I recently submitted Chief cash register receipts and received a check in the amount of \$648.73 to be donated to the Shalom Food Pantry. Such a simple thing for a person to do is saving cash register receipts and dropping them off in the basket at church. We appreciate Chief for allowing us to do this as a fundraiser. Keep those receipts coming in!

Carol Lulfs, Tabulator



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Rose Marie Durham

will celebrate her
83rd Birthday
on March 9

Kingsbury Place
246 W. Rosewood Ave. Apt. 142
Defiance, OH 43512

Phyllis Crawford

will celebrate her
86th Birthday
on March 14

11708 County Rd. N
Napoleon, OH 43545

Kay Winnie

will celebrate her
80th Birthday
on March 18

1518 Bristow Ct
Defiance, Oh 43512-6604



In Loving Memory
Geraldine "Gerry" Ripke
March 29, 1937 - February 11, 2025

Geraldine Ann (Fahrer) Ripke 87, of Liberty Center, Ohio, passed away peacefully February 11, 2025, on the one year anniversary of her sons deaths. Geraldine was born on March 29, 1937, to Albert P. and Helene (Mengerink) Fahrer and grew up in Malinta, Ohio. At the age of 14, her mother passed, leaving her duties to care for her father and brothers.

Geraldine, aka "Gerry," was a faithful member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, Ohio. Gerry married Keith Sheller in 1957, and he preceded her in death in 2016. Together they had five children, David, Julie, Daniel, Lisa, and Keith II. In 1956, they purchased the family business, Trucker's Paradise, outside of Liberty Center. Gerry loved owning the restaurant and served the patrons for over 54 years. Still to this day, many of her grandchildren refer to her as "Grandma Restaurant." She loved to make them Mickey Mouse pancakes, as well as a breakfast creation called "The Mess." Gerry enjoyed her patrons as they shared their stories and built lasting relationships over the years. She was well known over Northwest Ohio for her homemade pies with coconut cream always being the popular favorite.

Gerry married Lynn Ripke in 1981, and he preceded her in death in 2020. They shared 38 years together and enjoyed traveling to wherever her youngest son, Keith, was stationed. She enjoyed the simple pleasures of being surrounded by family and friends, pontoon rides down the river, and a big pot of stew on the riverbank are some of her favorite memories. She was fond of her cats and dogs.

She is survived by her children, David Sheller, Julie Hoffman, and Lisa (Brad) Whitford; 12 grandchildren, Cory, Jenna, Brent, Heather, Alisha, Joetta, Christina, Nicholas, Amy, Lea, Ashley and Alex; 21 great grandchildren with one on the way; and a brother George Fahrer; step children, Brad (Chis) Ripke, Bart Ripke, Marsha (Phil) Wharry, Brian (Pam) Ripke, Tom (Keasha) Ripke, and Tara (Scott) Buehrer; 22 step grandchildren; and 33 step great grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her sons, Daniel and Keith II; and brothers Albert and Lewis.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, February 18 from 2-8:00 p.m. at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home Napoleon.

Funeral Services were held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19 at the funeral home with visitation from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Entombment followed at Highland Memory Gardens, Waterville, Ohio.

Memorial contributions are suggested to a charity of the donors choice.

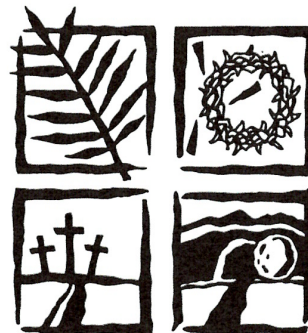


Daylight Saving
Time
Begins
MARCH 9



MARCH

3 - 6	Tom Bortz	3 - 25	Mary Kay Altman
3 - 9	Rose Marie Durham	3 - 25	Sharon Orr
3 - 9	Cody Woodring	3 - 26	Michael Rettig
3 - 10	Jeff Waisner	3 - 26	Jonathan Rozevink
3 - 14	Phyllis Crawford	3 - 27	Linda Arreguin
3 - 15	Tammy Miller	3 - 27	Dawn Boozer
3 - 16	Betty (Bob) Rettig	3 - 29	Kameron Maurer
3 - 16	Nancy Zimmer	3 - 29	Konner Maurer
3 - 16	Tammy Hall	3 - 31	Emily Fruth
3 - 18	Kay Winnie		



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

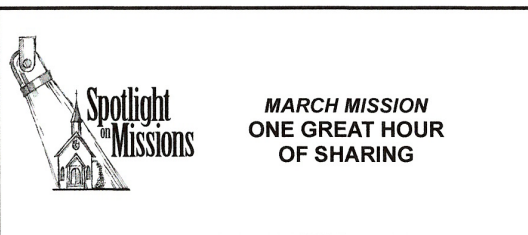
See Calendar on Inside Mailing Cover

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for news articles to appear in the **APRIL**

Newsletter is—**SUNDAY, MARCH 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.

