

The Sentinel

St. John's United Church of Christ
I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
APRIL 2026

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
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Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
Church Website: www.stjohnsucchohio.com
SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday Evening Activities

Bell Choir 6:00 P.M.
Sanctuary Choir 8:00 P.M.

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THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

(John 20: 1-3 NRSV)

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

(Matthew 28:1 NRSV)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

(Mark 16:1)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

(Luke 24: 1 NRSV)

We are coming closer to Easter Sunday. On Easter Sunday we will enter into our sacred space and sing "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today" in a joyous, festive tone.

Let's place ourselves inside the story of the empty tomb.

Each gospel writer has a different number of women going to the tomb of Jesus only to find it empty. John's gospel has only Mary Magdalene going to the tomb. Matthew has Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. Mark has Mary Magdalene the mother of Jesus and Mary the mother of James and Salome. The fourth gospel writer, Luke, uses the word "they" to describe the number of people who discovered the empty tomb.

Continued On Page 3



THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Continued From Page 2

Although the gospel writers have differing numbers of people going to the tomb of Jesus and finding it empty, they all agree that it was a woman or women who first found the tomb to be empty. Although Luke uses "they", it is widely agreed that the "they" were women.

All the gospel writers agree...the tomb is empty. In all four gospels the result is the same, Jesus was not there. In all four gospels, the women who found the tomb empty were radically transformed.

The women who found the tomb empty were filled with great joy because they believed Jesus had risen from the dead. We also celebrate our great joy that Jesus lives. Like the earliest Christians, we follow "The Way," a way that leads to our transformation.

This transformation provides opportunities for new life and new possibilities. The power of the resurrection is hope for the future if we are quiet long enough to hear the soft, still speaking voice of our God.

Easter is the promise that nothing in our past, present or future has the ultimate power to define us. We are defined by the light of God that flows through us and through all creation making all things new!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCam



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Ash Wednesday was a meaningful service.
- Wednesday Lenten Services in the Chapel, great turnout, the Chapel was full.
- A big thank you to the Clady family for coordinating the Ladies of Love, Times 2!
 - They know how to NOT blow the circuits
- Thank you to the guys who transferred the pianos out
- The Vancrest residents really love when we do the chapel service
- Thanks to Diana and her crew for organizing the bowling outing for the youth
- Thank you to the Fellowship Team, Carol Lulfs, and everyone who supports our families for funeral luncheons

NEWSLETTER SURVEY

Enclosed in the newsletter is an inset that explains changes to mailing "The Sentinel".

Please fill in the information and return to the church office.

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>



Spiritual Council Meeting Excerpts February 23, 2026

Those Present: Rev. Jeff McCarn

*Kay Armbruster (26) Roland Rettig (26)
Kirk Fruth (27) Tammy Vajen (28)
Franell Nelson (28)

- Tammy led devotions with an inspirational prayer for our current times.
- Accepted Rev. McCarn's written report for February.
- Wednesday night Lenten worship will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel, including the Wednesday of Holy Week.
- Kirk shared a list of Elders, which he uses to contact to serve Communion.
- We discussed options for summer camp and church visits for the Confirmands.
- Love Gift needs were discussed.
- Our membership roster was reviewed.
- Monday night summer meals will be held in June and July, with special activities for children and adults.
- Sunday scriptures will continue to be shown on the screens, but not printed in the bulletin. The scripture chapters and verses will still be listed in the bulletin.

Franell Nelson, Scribe



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS March 9, 2026

Consistory met on March 9th beginning at 6:33 p.m. Items to note are as follows:

- The new Rental Agreement form was approved.
- There will be a survey conducted to determine the need/want for a mailed copy of the Newsletter. The goal is to cut down on current total cost which is nearly \$220/month.
- The new garage door openers are up. The left side is working, but the right side is a work in progress.
- A motion was made and carried to approve the Monday Summer Meals. Monday nights will also include VBS run by Carol Medina.
- The new keyboard is installed and sounds amazing! The old keyboard has made its way to its new home.
- A motion was made for Water Solutions to repair or replace the water softener tank at the parsonage as it has been leaking. The water softener tank has since been replaced.
- The Financial Team Report was accepted pending audit.
- Prayers and concerns were shared with the Consistory and were included in the closing prayer.
- The next Consistory meeting will take place on April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Scribe, Amanda Rettig



March 9, 2026
Amanda Rettig, Scribe

Deacons:

Linda Arreguin (26), Janice Rettig (26), Mark Vajen (26)
Amanda Rettig (27), Rory Prigge (27), Jay Slagle (27)
Chris Clady (28), Lori Clady (28), Caryn Lulfs (28)

Members Present: Janice Rettig (26), Linda Arreguin (26),
Amanda Rettig (27), Jay Slagle (27),
Christopher Clady (28), Lori Clady (28), Caryn Lulfs (28)

Old Business

→ The window covers are set to be removed April 4th.

New Business

→ Pew Repair-options are being explored

→ The backrest project will be started soon

→ The parking lot is due to be sealed. Estimates are being gathered.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Cemetery Association will meet Sunday, April 19, after worship in the Chapel.

Mission Team to Washington UCC

In three months a Mission Team will be traveling to Washington UCC in Cincinnati. A specific week has not been selected. The end of June is probably the best choice. We will depart Sunday morning and return Thursday afternoon. It will be a week YOU will make a difference in a student's life. Please see me if additional information is needed.

Linda Arreguin

APRIL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
April 2--Maundy Thursday		Linda Arreguin
April 5--Sunrise	Bella Rettig	Lori Clady Christopher Clady
10:15	Bella Rettig	Linda Arreguin Mark Vajen
April 12	Summer Haldy	Rory Prigge Jay Slagel
April 19	Zy'Aier Scott	Lori Clady Christopher Clady
April 26	Mason Franz	Amanda Rettig Caryn Luifs



FROM THE SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - FEBRUARY

INCOME

St. John's January Giving	\$ 490.00
Pleasant BendUMC	47.00
Holgate Lions Club	400.00
Memorial	100.00
Excess Pop Money	12.00
Total	\$1,049.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



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

NURSING HOMES

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

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



VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service

Thursday, April 9
at 1:30 P.M.

Angel Choir Needed



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...

Scott Sidle recovering from surgery
Lynne Long recovering from surgery

- * **Sharon Coressel** (niece of Esther Bischoff) health issues
- * **Amy English** (daughter-in-law of Judy English) health issues
- * **Josh Berry** prayers for improved health
- * **Bob and Sunny VanHoy** health issues
- * **Brenda Clevenger** (daughter of Bob and Sunny VanHoy) critical health issues
- * **Shelli Cochran** health issues

"Prayers for family, friends, and acquaintances with strength, comfort, and peace in their lives at this time."

(*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 the family of **Karen Marlene Bankey** (Daughter of Harvey and Edna Rettig) who passed away on Friday, March 13, 2026. Funeral services were held at St. John's UCC Friday, March 20, 2026, with burial in the church cemetery.

BIRTH



Athena Rose Sidle
March 3, 2026

Parents: Garrett Sidle and Makenzie Boucher

Grandparents: Shanna Sidle, Scott Sidle
Kyle and Amber Boecker



Kid's Corner



April

- 4 - 3 Annabelle Thomas
- 4 - 4 Sophia Snyder
- 4 - 9 Levi Herman
- 4 - 13 Lottie Mckenzie
- 4 - 19 Millie Brown
- 4 - 20 Carmen Medina
- 4 - 26 Ellis Moyer
- 4 - 27 Harmony Hahn



Kid's Corner

St. John's UCC

Easter Egg Hunt

April 5, 2026 - at 9:00 a.m.



All children ages 0-11 are invited

sidewalk chalk and bubbles

Easter Egg Hunt

Drawing for Gift Baskets

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

Sponsored by the Christian Education Board



"THE SENTINEL" Your Newsletter, Your Name _____
Changes are coming due to the cost of mailing the newsletter. The Sentinel has been an important part of the history of St. John's. Keeping people informed of activities going on, and news about members' lives. While there is no intent to discontinue having the Sentinel be a part of our church's communications, taking a realistic look at the current costs is necessary. The mailing permit cost is \$370 per year presently; monthly fees for mailing 200 newsletters (minimum needed to mail with permit) is around \$44; printer paper, ink, staples, mailing labels and mailing stickers cost at least \$150 per month. That is \$225 per month or \$2700 per year which does not include labor and donated hours.

At present do you read the newsletter and how:
mailed copy _____ on Keeping in Touch _____ not at all _____ (check one)
If you have not read Keeping in Touch, this is in your e-mail each week, usually by Friday evening. It could be in your regular e-mail or it might come as Spam. This gives you the announcements and the Weekly Planner for each week. At the bottom of Keeping in Touch you will find links to the weekly Bulletin and the current Newsletter.

It will also be available on the church website: www.stjohnsuccoholgate.com or with the QR code shown here.



If you do not have access to the internet, we will take care of you by mailing a newsletter to you, but we will need to know who you are and an address or you can pick up a copy in the Narthex.

Please bring or mail to church office, Your name _____
Your address _____

For those of you who prefer to read the newsletter in paper form, there will be a few copies on the table in the Narthex for you too.

Ruth Ann will still be our Editor, and she will need announcements, articles from teams and individuals, minutes from team scribes and anything else for the good of the church.
Please help the office make this a successful transfer.

This is coming from your Consistory and Peggy, your Administrative Assistant.

Please return to church office your wishes by June 1st 2026 so we can prepare for the July Newsletter.

St. John's United Church of Christ, I-946 St. Rt. 108, Holgate, OH 43527 Church Phone: 419-264-4401

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2026

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

	Feb. 2026 Actual	2026 Year To Date	2026 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete	Actual YTD
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$12,452	\$26,367	\$229,950		11%
EXPENSES					
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$4,317	\$10,050	\$41,606	17%	24%
MINISTRIES*	\$382	-\$1,332	\$7,500		-
MISSIONS-OPERATING	\$540	\$1,080	\$6,480		17%
ADMINISTRATION	\$4,812	\$10,591	\$77,004		14%
PASTORAL	\$7,577	\$15,003	\$97,359		15%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,629	\$35,391	\$229,949		15%
NET OPERATING TOTAL	-\$5,177	-\$9,024			

* Includes funds transferred from inactivated Funeral Dinners account.

Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 02/28/2026: \$26,915

Mission and Restricted Fund Activities of Note for February:

Farm Income Distributed

Crossroad	\$4,300
Shalom Food Pantry	\$1,613
Major Maintenance	\$1,613
C.U.E. Seminary	\$1,613
Love Gift	\$1,075
Parsonage Maintenance	\$538

February Congregational Giving

Shalom Food Pantry	\$1,285
Major Maintenance	\$1,565
Disaster Buckets (50% of Luncheon Fundraiser)	\$432

GIVING

JOIN US FOR EASTER BREAKFAST



When: Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026
Immediately Following the Sunrise
Service Until 9:30 a.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Menu: Egg Casserole, Scrambled Eggs,
Sausage Gravy and Biscuits,
Cereal, Yogurt, Coffee Cake, Fruit
Juice, Milk, Coffee

Sponsored by: The Consistory

**Free will offering
will support
DISASTER KITS/OPERATING FUND**

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday Service at 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday, April 1 - Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday meal 6:00 p.m.
followed by Worship and Communion

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Service - Sunrise at 7:00 a.m.
Easter Breakfast after Sunrise service
Regular Worship at 10:15 a.m.



Dear Members and Friends of St. John's U.C.C.:

The Worship and Music Committee sincerely thank you for supporting the purchase of our new Kawai CA501 Digital Concert Piano. The former digital piano was no longer capable of providing sounds conducive to worship services. As you have been able now to appreciate the beautiful black satin finish, your musicians are enjoying the grade-weighted hammer-action wooden keys, grand feel pedal system, stereo sampled sounds, built-in speakers, and lovely organ settings. The purchase was made possible through the Endowment Team, so the money you donate to that committee has been put to good use.

We also appreciate your decision to purchase the *Worship and Rejoice* hymnals. The music is much easier to read in these books, and the 749 titles include many traditional and favorite hymns, along with 100 contemporary songs. This collection helps provide the blending of different styles of music. As we use this hymnal, the task of copying hymns from other sources will decrease, thus saving copying costs. The opportunity to purchase hymnals in honor or in memory of loved ones is an investment that will last many, many years.



**Christian
Education
Board**

News and Notes

Submitted By Nancy Thomas
March 8, 2026

March Meeting: attendance by: Nancy Thomas (2026)
Deb Stevenson (2027) Angie Bockrath (2028)
Lynette Goldsmith (2027) Kirk Fruth (Consistory Liaison)
Pastor Jeff McCarn

Opening prayer by Pastor McCarn.

After today's meeting we will start to clean and organize the resource room. We will also reorganize and label all the Sunday School material for future use. We will continue to work on this project after meetings until completed.

Easter plans were discussed. We again will have drawings for gift baskets thanks to an anonymous donor. A box is out for donations, and Mary Kay has again volunteered to fill the eggs. Thank you all! Bubbles and sidewalk chalk will be provided. There will also be a table of small giveaways for the children. Divisions of the children will be ages 0-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-11. We again will hide the eggs in the sanctuary for the older children and some in the preschool classroom for children kindergarten and under. We will gather all the children in the Chapel at 9:00 a. m. for directions.

Diana Evers is planning to have a program with the children on Mothers' Day, May 10, 2026. Thank you!

Confirmation Camp was discussed. The camp cost will be covered for the children, but there will be a \$75.00 refundable fee for each child. There are currently six children involved. The camp will be held in either June or July depending on which date the kids can determine would be better. Hopefully there will be a fundraiser to cover some of the expenses. This must be determined before May 1, when the cost is due.

Sunday School teachers were addressed. Katie would like to move out of preschool class to an older class next year. There should be enough children next year to break down the class currently grades 1-6 into two separate classes. Please put the word out that we are looking for a three year old to Kindergarten teacher.



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Roland Rettig

will celebrate his
87th Birthday
on April 1

1162 Chelsea Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545

Karen Gilliland

will celebrate her
83rd Birthday
on April 9

1778 Chinook Trail Ct
Defiance OH 43512-3498

Jerry Waisner

will celebrate his
85th Birthday
on April 15

1624 Hwy 630 W Lot P18
Frostproof FL 33843-2118

Donald Huber

will celebrate his
82nd Birthday
April 22

Cards in care of
Dawn Boozer
PO Box 420
Jarales, NM 87023-0420



In Loving Memory

Tara Eberle

April 19, 1983 - February 14, 2026

Tara Jeanette Eberle, 42, of Napoleon, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Hospice of Northwest Ohio in Perrysburg, surrounded by the love of her family.

Tara was born on April 19, 1983, in Defiance, Ohio, to Thomas and Debbie (Hardy) Eberle. She was a proud graduate of Napoleon High School and continued her education at Northwest State Community College before earning her cosmetology degree from the Salon Professional Academy. Tara went on to share her passion for the beauty industry as both a talented local hairstylist and an instructor, inspiring others with her creativity and dedication.

A gifted artist at heart, Tara wove creativity into every part of her life, and her love, kindness, and compassion touched everyone she met. Above all else, Tara's greatest joy and proudest accomplishment was being a mother to her three beloved sons, whom she loved and cherished deeply.

She is survived by her sons, Griffin, Grant, and Gunner; her parents, Tom and Debbie Eberle; her brother, Nick (Molly) Eberle; along with several aunts, uncles, and many cousins who will lovingly remember her.

Private services were held, with burial at Cole Cemetery.

*In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions
in Tara's honor may be directed to
Hospice of Northwest Ohio in Perrysburg.*



"Senior Saints" On Their 50+ Anniversary

John and Shirley Tobias

will celebrate their
65th Wedding Anniversary
on April 9

10011 Co Rd Y
Hamler, OH 43524

Terry and Linda Rettig

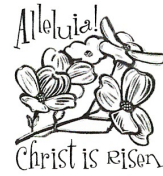
will celebrate their
54th Wedding Anniversary
on April 22

PO Box 361
Holgate, OH 43527

William and Florence Snyder

will celebrate their
66th Wedding Anniversary
on April 23

14224 Co Rd L2
Napoleon, OH 43545



In Loving Memory

Karen Marlene Bankey

September 17, 1939, - March 13, 2026

Karen Marlene Bankey, 86, of Napoleon, Ohio passed away peacefully on Friday, March 13, 2026, at Woodhaven Health Care under the care of Hospice of Northwest Ohio, with family by her side. Karen was born on September 17, 1939, in Defiance, Ohio to the late Harvey and Edna (Burrill) Rettig. She was a 1957 graduate of Holgate High School. Karen met Gene Bankey at the Henry County Fair, and they married on June 8, 1957.

Karen was a stay-at-home mom for many years enjoying sewing, baking, and babysitting. As her children grew older, she began working part time outside of the home, at Campbell's Research Center and selling Avon. In the early 80's, she became a sales representative for Western and Southern Life Insurance until her retirement in 2001.

She enjoyed camping, dining out, photography, scrapbooking, flower gardening, and talking to others. No one was a stranger. Throughout the years, she liked traveling to many places. Her favorite being to visit the Upper Peninsula, Soo Locks, Whitefish Point and Crisp Point. Spending time with her family, especially the grandsons, gave her the greatest pleasure of all.

Karen is survived by her children, Deb Bankey of Toledo, Jeff Bankey of Clear Lake, IN, Pam (Gary) Rutenbar of Sault Sainte Marie, MI, and Kirk (Cara) Bankey of Swanton; grandchildren, Chandler, Keegan, Andy and Jayden; and brother Gary (Barb) Rettig. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Gene; granddaughter, Brittany; and sister, Judy Paul.

Friends and family were received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, on Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Funeral services were held on Friday, March 20, 2026, at St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, at 11:00 A.M. with an hour of visitation prior to services. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

*Memorial contributions may be made to
Hospice of Northwest Ohio
St. Paul United Methodist Church or
St. John's United Church of Christ*



APRIL

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| 4 - 1 | Roland Rettig | 4 - 15 | Taya Norden |
| 4 - 4 | Kirk Fruth | 4 - 15 | Jerry Waisner |
| 4 - 4 | Logan Sidle | 4 - 16 | Collin Parcher |
| 4 - 5 | Jerry Evers | 4 - 17 | Tammy Vajen |
| 4 - 7 | Sue Rettig | 4 - 18 | Andrew Borck |
| 4 - 9 | Karen Gilliland | 4 - 22 | Don Huber |
| 4 - 9 | Tyler Rue | 4 - 23 | Christine Rettig |
| 4 - 10 | Heather Woodring | 4 - 23 | Jacob Highfield |
| 4 - 11 | Molly Rees | 4 - 27 | Tammy Martin |
| 4 - 13 | Millie Holzer | 4 - 27 | Peggy Schulte |
| | | 4 - 30 | Sean Kobiliis |



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 **MAY** Newsletter is—**Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.**
Please leave your article in the folder on the counter to your left as you enter the office marked Newsletter



APRIL MISSION
ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

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.

