



St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108
 Holgate, Ohio 43527
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St. John's UCC				Oct 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
28	29	30	1 10am - Staff meeting 4pm - Fellowship Hall Rental 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	2 6pm - Finance Team	3	4 2pm - Fellowship Hall Reserved	
5 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship & Communion 11:30am - Fellowship Hall 11:30am - Mission Team Meeting	6 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	7 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	8 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	9 1:30pm - Van Crest Service	10	11	
12 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - CEB meeting	13 6pm - Deacons 6:30pm - Consistory	14	15 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	16	17	18	
19 9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Pastor Out - Conference	20	21 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	22 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	23 6:30pm - Decorating Team meeting	24	25	
26 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Harvest Home 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Evangelism Team 3pm - Rev. Busch Farewell Service	27 9am - Newsletter printing	28 9am - Newsletter mailing	29 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	30	31	1	

The Sentinel
 St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
 OCTOBER 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 - stjohnsadmin@metalink.net (Carl Dettmer)
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: raduham703@bellsouth.net
 Church Website: www.stjohnsucchohio.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 Evening Activities
 Bell Choir 6:00 P.M. - Sanctuary Choir 7:00 P.M.

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Pastor
Jeff's
Desk...

**PAUL ADDRESSING
A COUPLE OF ISSUES**

Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servants?

But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God.

Romans 14:1-4;10 CEB

Paul is addressing a couple issues that have surfaced in the church at Rome. One is surrounding eating and the other festival days. Paul is informing the congregation at Rome to not judge one another because someone does or does not do something the way we do.

The way we address people, who may have a different opinion than ours, is very important. We must choose our words very carefully. This is a big problem within congregations and can cause very serious conflict among people within congregations when some people take sides aligning themselves with others of like mind. The church in Rome was using words like strong and weak believers. However, anytime we put ourselves in a situation where we feel we are right and they are wrong is a recipe for problems.

This is not unique to today's church. Jesus' community in the first century had the same issue, just ask his followers.

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Pastor
Jeff's
Desk...

**PAUL ADDRESSING
A COUPLE OF ISSUES**

Continued From Page 2

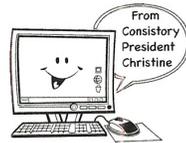
Paul is encouraging the congregation at Rome not to worry about who is strong or weak or right or wrong but to discover who has diverse thoughts, backgrounds and experiences so as to care, support and educate. Paul is encouraging the congregation of Rome to discover and then to honor the differences among the faithful, practicing compassion to those with radically different conceptions of holiness and discipleship.

What a thought! What if we humble ourselves enough to understand others, so that we can moderate our own opinions and seek to understand rather than to domineer?

In verse 10, Paul asks, "Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister?" Then Paul asks, "Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?" These are explosive and exposing questions. How different might life be if we asked ourselves these questions in the mirror as often as we interrogate others with our litmus tests and inquiries?

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCarn*

REMEMBERING



October is a wonderful time of the year, and I am sure you all have memories of Octobers past that stayed with you. Football game nights spent watching young folks grinding it out on the football field, watching cheerleaders interacting enthusiastically, or listening to the band as they bring musical entertainment to the crowd. Those are all part of my October memories, but I do have one other that I want to share.

Let's go back to Sunday, October 6, 1974. I will admit I did have to Google to see what the date was on the first Sunday of October, 1974! That day was the celebration of World Communion Sunday, when Christians all over the world celebrate Communion in their respective places of worship. Why does this stand out to me? On that day, I became a member of the St. John's faith family.

I was going to be married here at St. John's the following month, and it seemed fitting for me to join the church on a day that I could be united with the folks here at St. John's and united with Christians all over the world in receiving Communion.

I think of that special day on the first Sunday of October each year. Sharing in this meal at the Lord's table, as a new member of St. John's, where all are welcome, made me know I was making the right decision. Becoming a member of this faith family made me realize that I was joining with all of you, and that I would always have the support and love of the people of St. John's.

Ephesians 2:19 "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens and members of the household of God."

Here I am fifty-one years later, not amongst strangers, but among all of you, members of the household of God. I will joyously celebrate with all of you, and all the world, as we share in the table of the Lord.

Christine Rettig



Spiritual Council Meeting Excerpts September 3, 2025

Those present: Pastor Jeff McCam

Bob Rettig (25)
*Kay Armbruster (26)
Christine Rettig (27)

Mike Haldy (25)
Rolie Rettig (26)
Kirk Fruth (27)

- The meeting was called to order by Pastor McCam at 6:00 p.m.
- Pastor's Report was reviewed and accepted with some discussion regarding the recovery of one member after surgery and the upcoming surgery of another.
- Rally Day and 165th Anniversary Celebration worship plans were confirmed with Rev. David Orr reading the scriptures, Rev. Marv Rettig making some comments and Kay reading a letter from Rev. John Fruth.
- When worshipping in the sanctuary, juice and wine will be offered for Communion.
- Confirmation orientation on August 24 went well and Confirmation classes will begin on September 14. There are six students enrolled in the class.
- Visits by Pastor to those in need of pastoral care were reviewed.
- About 25 Advent booklets are left from previous years. They will be distributed to interested Shalom clients. Fifty will be ordered for the upcoming season.
- Pastor's proposed compensation package was reviewed for recommendation to Consistory.
- Pastor's vacation will begin on September 9, and he will lead worship on September 28. An infant will be baptized that day.
- Another child will be baptized on October 5.
- Pastor will be participating in a continuing education program October 19-23.
- Totenfest is scheduled for November 2.
- We will hold an evening Thanksgiving worship on Sunday, November 23.
- Comments were made regarding the participation of Shalom clients with the meals offered and the resulting friendly conversations.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. and Pastor led in prayer.
- Next meeting will be Monday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m..

Bob Rettig, Scribe



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

1. Thanks to the choirs for the luncheon/ice cream social that was great and well attended.
2. Great fellowship during the float building.
3. Thanks to the 165th Anniversary Team for making the celebration a memorable event, especially Franell Nelson for all the many hours (days probably) in researching and assembling the materials, history, etc.
4. A note of gratitude goes to Linda Arreguin for all the photography she did for the 165th. Many posts on Facebook are her expertise.
5. A note of thanks to Kay Armbruster for all the time and work she dedicates to the office. Her help and knowledge help the secretary bunches.
6. Thanks to those chosen to be Spiritual Angels for the Confirmands.
7. Appreciation for all those who volunteer to participate in the various ministries of the church.
8. Thanks to the Clady family for the demolition of the concrete of the old tennis court.

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>



DEACONS' BENCH

September 8, 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)

Members Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. The previous month's minutes were approved.

Old Business

Outside – The basketball court tear out is complete. The concrete was moved to the ditch bank.

Insurance – A follow-up with Frost Insurance will be conducted as the November renewal rates should be available in the month of September.

New Business

Outside – Options for the torn out basketball space are being explored.

Financial – The Financial Administrator, Carl Dettmer, has proposed a change in restricted fund policy. Upon reviewing the policy, the Deacons have made a recommendation to Consistory.

A special budget meeting between the Deacons and Financial Administrator took place on September 11.

Adjournment at 6:21 P.M.



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS
September 8, 2025

- New chairs for the Chapel have been delivered.
- Plans for the office remodeling are progressing.
- During remodeling, the office will be moved under the balcony.
- The Congregational Meeting will be November 9 with the Soup/ Dessert luncheon to follow.
- Approval was given for solicitation from the congregation of socks, blankets, coats, hats and gloves for a Christmas gifting at Washington UCC. Donations are accepted now through November 23.
- The Cemetery Association will be selling crocheted stocking caps and washcloths for a free will donation as a fundraiser.
- Some financial accounting changes will be proposed to the congregation for approval.
- The North parking lot drain repair was done by Jerry Hillis.
- The November 30 Siberian Solstice performance will be coordinated by Betty (Bob) Rettig with Jeri Hoelrich coordinating the reception.
- Updating the policy handbook will be done by Chris Rettig, Kay Armbruster, and Amanda Rettig.
- The resignation of Linda Rettig as AV coordinator was accepted.
- The hiring of Cody Coppes to fill that position is in process pending the required background check and a positive interview.
- The 165th Anniversary Celebration/Rally Day was deemed a huge success with great attendance at both worship and the ice cream social.
- A credit card was obtained to be used primarily for vendors who do not accept a debit card.
- The church's financial records have been converted to the Realm accounting system.
- Deacons met on September 11 to prepare the 2026 budget.
- A contract for 7,500 gallons of propane has been signed for the year costing \$961 monthly. The price per gallon will not exceed \$1.46.

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CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS
September 8, 2025

Continued From Page 8

- Red Paraments have been ordered at a cost of \$1,360. Funds from one person's memorial fund will support most of the cost with a family member picking up the remainder.
- Mission and Stewardship Team will be meeting in October to recommend missions for the upcoming year.
- A volunteer(s) to do grass trimming along sidewalks and parking lots would be appreciated.
- There will be a speaker from Orphan Grain Train on September 14, and those who have participated in the Washington UCC Mission will be making a presentation on September 21.

Bob Rettig, Scribe

WASHINGTON UCC CINCINNATI

Thank you for your generous support over the past years towards Washington UCC in Cincinnati. Their outreach program is based on donations from multiple sources to provide care for the homeless plus educating their high risk community of students.

At the end of November, I will be heading back with donations for their Christmas Giveaway! They are requesting socks and blankets for the homeless. I was also asked by a member of our congregation to requests coats, hats, and gloves for the homeless.

A container marked Washington UCC will be placed in the narthex for donations. I will collect items until November 23. Thank you so much for your generous donations!

May God continue to bless you, Linda

OCTOBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
October 5	Deacons	Linda Arreguin Mark Vajen
October 12	Deacons	Amanda Rettig Rory Prigge
October 19	Deacons	Janice Rettig Jay Slagle
October 26	Deacons	Ben Thomas Jared Clady

Shalom FROM THE SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - AUGUST 2025

INCOME

St. John's July Giving	\$ 685.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	190.00
Total	\$ 875.00

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

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

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

Peggy Franz	15396 St. Rt. 281	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Anita Sidle	665 W. Maumee	Napoleon, Ohio 43545
(Call before visiting)		
John & Shirley Tobias	10011 Co Rd Y	Hamler, Ohio 43524
Bernard Zimmer	1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37	Napoleon, Ohio 43545



*VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service*

*Thursday, October 9
at 1:30 P.M.*

Angel Choir Needed

DECORATING TEAM

The Decorating Team will meet Thursday, October 23, at 6:30 p.m. to decorate for the Harvest Home Celebration.

Thanks, Christine

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

It is October but, believe it or not, it's time to think about Christmas poinsettia orders! Please watch for information in upcoming bulletins regarding ordering poinsettias for our Christmas Eve service. As soon as the information is received from the florist, we will get the information to everyone.

There will be a variety of poinsettias available, but, as in the past, the color varieties and sizes are on a first come/first serve basis. There may be substitutions needed if you order any color other than red.

The deadline for ordering poinsettias will be Sunday, November 23.

Thank you, The Decorating Team



Kid's Corner



OCTOBER

- 10 - 4 Oliver Clark
- 10 - 7 Tori Kobilis
- 10 - 9 Landree Clady
- 10 - 11 Jamison Morgan
- 10 - 18 Mateo Solis
- 10 - 22 Bella Rettig



**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...

- Larry Hockman** recovering from knee replacement surgery
- * **Lori Hopkins** cancer treatments
- * **Pati Stephens** (sister-in-law of Christine Rettig) diagnosed with cancer
- * **Floyd Cole** health issues
- * **Vickie (Shalom client)** 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.

**Graham Lee Norden
Born August 15, 2025**



Parents: Jacob and Taya Norden

Grandparents: Lee and Sheila Franz
Tim and Linda Norden

Great-grandparent: Imogene Dachenhaus

Congregation Members Information

We need your updated contact information such as: a new email address, phone number, street address, etc. so we can get our information updated. Please check your REALM account and verify that your information is correct. Please call or check with Peggy or Carl if you have any questions. Our church number is 419-264-4401. You can select who to speak with from the phone greeting recording.

Special Consistory Meeting, Sunday, August 24, 2025

A special consistory meeting was held for the purpose of review of the Beilharz Consulting Inc. (BCI) financial review recommendations. Financial Administrator Carl Dettmer was a guest.

Each recommendation noted by BCI was reviewed and discussed by the group, with input from Carl Dettmer as needed.

Carl Dettmer explained the recent conversion from ACS to Realm Accounting has eliminated and/or corrected some issues that were identified by BCI as problematic.

The following recommendation was found to be of importance in daily practice for Shalom and the Cemetery Association: the person doing bookkeeping and check writing tasks be separate from the person signing the check. This will be taken to the leadership of the Shalom Food Pantry and the Cemetery Association for their implementation. This is in the best interest of Shalom and the Cemetery Association for the protection of those handling the financial activities. As a matter of clarification regarding the funds of the church: the person doing the bookkeeping and check writing tasks is not the person who signs checks. This practice helps reduce the need to have two signs for a check, which can be logistically problematic.

The following recommendation was found to be of importance for the Endowment Team, Shalom and the Cemetery Association: the financial records should be given to the internal audit team on a quarterly basis for their review. These teams will be notified.

The following recommendation was deemed necessary for Consistory to take action: Financial Administrator lacks information regarding investments of all bodies of the church. This includes the Endowment Team, Shalom and the Cemetery Association which operate under the same federal tax ID as the church. It is important for the Financial Administrator to have this information available to have a complete picture. The Consistory would also have this information available through the financial reports that are submitted to Consistory each month for their approval pending audit. Consistory approved for this to begin on January 1, 2026.

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Special Consistory Meeting, Sunday, August 24, 2025

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The findings and conclusion from Beilharz Consulting Inc.:

"We are satisfied that St. John's United Church of Christ is acting with fairness, honesty, integrity and within the interest of the congregation. The St. John's United Church of Christ is in exceptional financial health. We were very impressed with how the accounting processes in the church are handled. We find that the church's leadership shows exemplary care in documentation, correction of mistakes, congregational involvement in decisions, and proper internal controls. The church is acting above and beyond the norm of others within their same field. We find that all current members of leadership in the church, relating to financial activity, have shown great pride and integrity in putting forth effort to maintain financial trust between the congregation and its leadership."

Consistory is pleased to receive this conclusion from BCI. All those involved in handling the financial transactions and record keeping of our church are to be commended, including our Money Counters, the Financial Administrator, Treasurer, Finance Team, Audit Team, members of Consistory, and all who manage finances for our various teams within our church.

Christine Rettig



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Lynn Gilliland
will celebrate her
83rd Birthday
on October 1

1778 Chinook Trail Ct.
Defiance, OH 43512-3498

Janice Rettig
will celebrate her
84th Birthday
on October 7

1162 Chelsea Ave
Napoleon, OH 43545

Forrest Clady
will celebrate his
84th Birthday
on October 19

16234 Charleston Ave.
Ft. Myers, FL33908-3522

Ruth Medina
will celebrate her
84th Birthday
on October 20

226 S. Turkeyfoot Ave
Malinta, OH 43535-9709

George Medina
will celebrate his
90th Birthday
on October 21

226 S Turkeyfoot Ave
Malinta, OH 43535-9709

Gary Watson
will celebrate his
82nd Birthday
on October 25

M687 Co Rd 17D
Napoleon, OH 43545



OCTOBER

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 10 - 1 Lynn Gilliland | 10 - 15 Carol Lulfs |
| 10 - 2 Brian Rees | 10 - 15 Alexia Roberts |
| 10 - 5 Diana Evers | 10 - 17 Mark Vajen |
| 10 - 5 Kimberly Haver | 10 - 19 Forrest Clady |
| 10 - 6 Terry (Linda) Rettig | 10 - 19 Kenneth Huber |
| 10 - 7 Doug Rettig | 10 - 19 Pam Desgranges |
| 10 - 7 Janice Rettig | 10 - 19 Linda Snyder |
| 10 - 7 Timothy Eberly | 10 - 20 Ruth Medina |
| 10 - 8 Christopher Clady | 10 - 21 George Medina |
| 10 - 12 Beth Waisner | 10 - 21 Steve Waisner |
| 10 - 12 Janet Hoffman | 10 - 24 Delaney Hall |
| 10 - 12 Rick Fruth | 10 - 25 Gary Watson |
| 10 - 14 John Huber | 10 - 27 Jacob Clark |
| 10 - 14 Lyndon Dietrich | 10 - 28 Peggy Rettig |

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 **NOVEMBER**
Newsletter is—**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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



OCTOBER MISSION
NEIGHBORS IN NEED

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.