



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	6:30pm - Spiritual Council Meeting	10am - Book Study 6pm - Finance Team	8am - Independence Day - Office	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am - Worship/Communion	5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal			10am - Book Study 1:30pm - Van Crest Service		10am - FH - Reserved
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am - Worship 11:30am - CEB meeting	5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal 7pm - Deacons 7:30pm - Consistory	SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry		10am - Book Study		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am - Worship 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 11am - Fellowship Hall Reserved	5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal			10am - Book Study		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30am - Worship/Baptism 10:30am - Fellowship Hall	9am - Newsletter printing 5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal	9am - Newsletter mailing		10am - Book Study		

The Sentinel

St. John's United Church of Christ
1-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
JULY 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: revjmc@metalink.net
Financial Administrator e-mail: stjohnsadm@metalink.net (Carl Dettmer)
Newsletter Editor e-mail: padurham703@bright.net
Church Website: www.stjohnsucchoholgate.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

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 A.M.

Monday Night Schedule Conversation and Meal

Meal 5:30 - 7 P.M.
Youth and Adult Activity 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

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SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL ACTION

*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your being, with all your strength, and with all
your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."*
Luke 10:27 CEB

We are called to live out the the two greatest directives from Jesus in Luke Chapter 10. How few of us actually follow this directive from Jesus in our daily lives? We must follow Jesus' command if we are to reach our full human potential as a follower of Jesus. This is how we encounter God in God's fullness. Only God can make us whole, satisfied or fulfilled. God wired us to be in relationship with God. We achieve our full potential when we are in right relationship with God.

Why would God want to be in relationship with us? We may feel that God has better things to do. We may feel that we are not worthy of a true relationship with God. It is not about our being worthy, but of God choosing to be in a relationship with us traveling through the joys and challenges of life. This is God's Grace. God chooses ordinary people to be in relationship with God and to work towards a better life for all in this world.

From the beginning of my ministry at St. John's UCC, a goal of the church has been to increase our presence in the community. St. John's UCC has a very well established presence with Shalom; however, St. John's UCC has wanted to do better with its community presence. Since the start of my ministry, St. John's UCC has made great strides in increasing community presence. We have a booth at the "Eyes to the Skies" celebration in Holgate giving out cold water, we have increased our presence on social media, and we have started our Monday meals.



SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL ACTION

Continued From Page 2

The meals on Mondays in the months of June and July are a great way to increase our community exposure. St. John's UCC has seen people from outside the walls of this brick and mortar building we call church enter our presence and share a meal. Gathering around the table is a form of worship. Jesus used the table many times in his ministry. St. John's UCC is following the example of Jesus and extending the table to all of God's beloved children.

How does St. John's UCC continue to increase its presence in the community? The first step to accomplish this goal is to be spiritually grounded. Spirituality and social action go hand in hand. Without one, there is no other. When we open ourselves to God's love with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we find it becomes infectious, filling us and spilling over to infect others. We discover we are able to connect to other people's hopes, fears, joys, and disappointments.

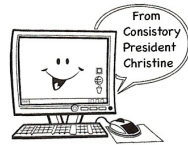
Warmer weather is upon us. There is energy at St. John's UCC! Together, this is a perfect recipe to increase our spirituality and increase our social action in the community.

Prayer

*Loving God, may we ground ourselves in your love,
so we can become the hands and feet of Christ in
our community. Amen*

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCam*

REMEMBERING



July is here...celebrations of the Fourth of July, swim parties, and backyard barbecues are what this month is all about. For my family, this month marks the celebration of our son's birthday.

When I look back at his birth, there are many circumstances that were a part of the story. Our daughter's adoption in 1987 changed our lives forever. During our daughter's adoption process, we met with a counselor, Marilyn. Fast forward to May of 1988, and we got a phone call that would change our lives, again. Marilyn called with a question...would we be interested in adopting a baby due in two months? That phone call meant that a birth mom was making an adoption plan, and we were going to be parents to a second child. This again was something that would change our lives forever.

Some folks say that things happen for a reason. Our daughter came into our lives for a reason. Marilyn came into our lives for a reason. Our son's birth mom came into Marilyn's life for a reason. And the fact that our second adoption occurred had to have been for a reason. I hope those reasons were so that God could be a part of all our lives through the love that guided each person involved in the formation of our family.

In Mark 9:36-37, it reads, *He took a little child and put it among them and taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."* NIV

We all welcome people into our lives for different reasons, and just remember when you do, you are welcoming Jesus and his Father into your lives.

Christine Rettig



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Thanks to Tammy Vajen for filling in for Pastor Jeff.
- Thanks to all the Red Cross Blood Drive coordinators, cooks, cookie providers, and helpers.
- Thanks to Jared and Christopher Clady for breaking up the concrete on the basketball court.
- Wonderful to see new faces at our community meal.
- Lottie sang wonderfully on Sunday.
- Jeri and her helpers do a fantastic job with their meal preparation.

Staffing the Henry County Fair Gates

St. John's United Church of Christ has committed again this year to staff the fair gates on the last day of the Henry County Fair, Thursday, August 14. This service to the fair board results in \$1200.00 being raised for our church. The funds raised will go to the Operating Fund as approved by Consistory at the June meeting. St. John's has been involved in staffing the fair gates for the last several years, and Consistory approved for this service to be done again this year. This project means that we need volunteers to sign up for time slots that will be covered throughout the day, from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Please consider being a volunteer for this project this year. The more folks we can get involved, the less hours folks will need to work at a gate. Please look at the sign-up sheets that will soon be in the narthex, and give of your time to help out the fair board and benefit St. John's.

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 June 9, 2025

- The outside review of financial transactions is completed with no issues identified, but there may be some recommendations forthcoming.
- Regarding the Task Force for building improvement, a contract with Killian painting has been signed. A 24,000 BTU unit was chosen for air conditioning of the chapel. Office remodeling will not begin until later in the year. Roller shades are being purchased for the Chapel.
- With significant increases in the valuation of the church and parsonage since the last valuation done in 2017, the annual insurance premium increases as well. While the Deacons recommended increasing our coverage, it was suggested to investigate the difference in premium cost if the deductible was raised to \$5,000 or \$10,000.
- A new Building/Fellowship Hall reservation and rental form was reviewed, but action was tabled until the next meeting.
- Proceeds from fair gate coverage will go to the operating fund.
- Commemorative plates with photos of our current and previous church buildings will be available to anyone who would like them on Anniversary/Rally Day. Remaining plates will be repurposed to an organization to use for art projects.
- It was stressed that leaders of all teams and boards be aware that the pastor and chairperson of Consistory are ex-officio members of all boards and teams and are to be notified in advance of all meetings.
- Funds in the Shirla farm account have been disbursed to the recipients as outlined in the Annual Report.
- Ministerial CD - This CD matures in mid-July and Bob questioned whether to reinvest the interest earned. There are potential uses being investigated and contacts will be made with other individuals prior to deciding.
- On Sunday, September 7 (Rally Day) Funday for children will begin at 9:00 AM. Sunday School begins on September 14. Mike is to check on availability of the pool for outdoor worship services during the summer of 2026.

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CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS June 9, 2025

Continued From Page 6

- Deacons - The septic tank at the church was pumped and the riser for the top installed. The peroxide pump on the church water system will be replaced. Repair and possible stretching of the carpet at the Fellowship Hall entrance is being investigated.
- Evangelism Team - Plans are to distribute bottled water and small gifts to children at the Holgate Eyes to skies event on the last Saturday in June and to enter a float in the Tomato Festival parade.
- Spiritual Council - It is proposed to purchase new red paraments to replace the current badly worn ones. Memorial funds are the suggested source of funding being investigated.

Bob Rettig, Scribe

Thank You!

Thank You to everyone for all the prayer and cards that we received on the passing of our son, Daniel.

Bill and Florence
Snyder and Family



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

June 4, 2025

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

- The meeting was called to order by Pastor McCarn at 6:25 p.m..
- Pastor's Report was reviewed and accepted with some discussion regarding thoughts conveyed by several authors of books he has read recently.
- There was discussion regarding the replacement of the red paraments. The Memorial Team will be contacted to determine if undesignated memorials might be used to fund the replacement.
- On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, Communion will be served.
- Plans are ongoing for the Confirmation program. Kevin Waisner and Franell Nelson will be invited to assist by providing logistics support for the program. Confirmation classes will begin in September.
- Visits by pastor to those in need of pastoral care was reviewed.
- There was discussion of the Monday night meals program which just began.
- Better utilization of "Love Gift" monies was discussed. A meeting with the Holgate superintendent of schools is planned to determine the feasibility for a summer lunch program for children in need.
- During the June 22 worship service there will be a commissioning of those going to Washington U.C.C. in Cincinnati.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m..

Bob Rettig, Scribe

JULY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
July 6	Deacons	Janice Rettig Rory Prigge
July 13	Deacons	Jared Clady Mark Vajen
July 20	Deacons	Amanda Rettig Jay Slagle
July 27	Deacons	Linda Arreguin Ben Thomas



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - MAY 2025

INCOME

Farm Income	\$ 2,658.81
Pleasant Bend UMC	60.00
Total	\$ 2,718.81

Submitted by Norma Nagel



DEACONS' BENCH

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)
 Janice Rettig (26) Mark Vajen (26)
 Rory Prigge (27) Amanda Rettig (27) Jay Slagle (27)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04. The previous month's minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Septic Inspection and Riser Update - has been completed and the bill will be paid when received.

Removal of Old Vinyl Sign - will be completed soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Frost insurance coverage changes - more information has been requested before any decisions will be made.

The carpet by Fellowship Hall is ripped. Possible solutions are being reviewed.

Parking Lot Storm Drain - currently being studied.

Church Water System - a pump needs to be replaced. The service contract is being consulted to see if the pump is covered.

Adjournment at 7:33



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

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

Don Huber - Cards or notes may be sent care of his daughter
 Dawn Booser, 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
John & Shirley Tobias	10011 Co Rd Y	Hamler, Ohio 43524
Bernard Zimmer	1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37	Napoleon, Ohio 43545



Remember Those Who Are Ill,
Undergoing Treatment,
In Grief, Or Are Recovering
With Prayers, Cards, And Visits

Within the Fellowship:

Please hold the following persons in your daily prayers...
Those on our hearts and minds

Annisah Franz's Family needs prayers
Kathy Finkenbinder health issues
* Vickie DeLeon health issues
* Tom Ramsey health issues
* Deb Nation health issues
* Mike Allen at home with health issues.
* Bob Schiebert health issues
* Margaret Harmon 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:

The Family of Nancy Gerken, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Please keep her family in your prayers.



SAGE ELISE RUE
June 2, 2025

Parents: Tyler and Jillian Rue

FINANCIAL SUMMARY MAY 2025

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Operating Fund Revenue and Expenses				
	May 2025 Actual	2025 Year To Date	2025 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete YTD
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$12,557	\$93,663	\$238,988	39%
EXPENSES				
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,979	\$18,741	\$46,996	40%
MINISTRIES	\$69	\$2,478	\$9,500	26%
MISSIONS-OPERATING	\$540	\$2,700	\$6,480	42%
ADMINISTRATION	\$6,043	\$31,085	\$79,909	38%
PASTORAL	\$7,432	\$36,671	\$96,853	38%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,064	\$91,675	\$239,738	38%
NET OPERATING TOTAL		-\$4,507	\$1,988	

Mission and Restricted Fund Activities of Note for May:
Mission of the Month - Strengthen the Church:

Shalom Food Pantry Giving: \$494
Crosroad: \$4,293
C.U.E. Seminary: \$7,090
Love Gift: \$2,659
Major Maintenance: \$1,773
Cemetery Association: \$3,384

Note: several items above include receipt of Farm Account disbursement totaling \$17,725.
Shalom includes \$959 contribution from Hope Lutheran that passed through church books.

Sonnenberg Donation Task Force

The Sonnenberg Donation Task Force met with Gib Sonnenberg and his son John on May 19. The purpose of the meeting was to go over the plans that have been developed to utilize the donation from Gib and the late Dona Sonnenberg.

The plans thus far have been approved by Consistory, and include the following: Repair and painting of the ceilings in the chapel, Sunday school hall, coat room, narthex and Fellowship Hall; installation of an air conditioning/heat pump unit in the Chapel; the purchase of additional chairs for the chapel; installation of a remote controlled shade for the window in the Chapel; a complete renovation of the church office, including new cabinetry and flooring; painting of the walls and ceilings in the office, pastor's study, and pastor's restroom.

With this work being done, there will be some of the donation money in reserve to cover overages in costs of the work. If there are funds left over after the completion of the work, The Task Force will go back to the donor for additional guidance on projects that the family may also want to see completed.

The Task Force appreciates everyone's cooperation while the work will be in progress. There will need to be a temporary relocation of the office when the demolition and reconstruction takes place.

On behalf of the Task Force, Consistory, and the entire congregation, we thank Gib and Donna Sonnenberg, along with their children, for the decision to donate these funds, and for their input to the Task Force of their desires to see the donation utilized for the betterment of our church building.

CONVERSATION AND MEAL



Please join us for conversation and a meal – Every Monday evening in June and July a meal will be served from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. We invite you for conversation and a meal at St. John's UCC. We are located at I-946 OH 108 Holgate, Ohio. We will provide a hot meal and drink at no cost to you.

The following activities are optional: **Youth activity** - will consist of a story, craft, song, and a snack – from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. **Adult activity** – will be a book study. Please join us for an enjoyable evening. If you have any questions, please contact the office at (419) 264-4401 from 8 am to Noon, Monday through Friday.

St. John's United Church of Christ
I-946 State Route 108
Holgate, OH 43527



News and Notes

Submitted By Nancy Thomas
June 8, 2025

Present for the June meeting was

Nancy Thomas (by phone) (2026), Lisa Haldy (2025),
Deb Stevenson (2027), Kirk Fruth (Consistory Liaison)
and Pastor Jeff

Sunday School curriculum was discussed for the next session. It was noted that the current Spark program was very good and would be continued in the Fall.

The first day of Sunday School will be September 14. Rally day will be September 7 and will be the kick off. There will be no official Sunday School on that day and thoughts were brought up to maybe have outside church and do some fun activities for the children.

Teachers will be contacted to see if they are willing to continue for the next session. If there is anyone who is willing to help us out please contact any CE Board member. We would love to have you!

Sunday School mission was discussed, and we tabled any ideas for the next meeting.

The Easter egg hunt was another success this year. Thanks to all who participated.



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Birthdays

Shirley Tobias

will celebrate her
85th Birthday
on July 4

10011 Co. Rd. Y
Hamler, OH 43524

Charlotte Rettig

will celebrate her
86th Birthday
on July 13

316 S. Wilhelm St
Holgate, OH 43527



Our Nursing
Home Ministry

VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service

Thursday, July 10
at 1:30 P.M.

Angel Choir Needed



JULY

7-1	Michael Haldy	7-13	Amanda Rettig
7-2	Frank Wetmore	7-13	Charlotte Rettig
7-4	Shirley Tobias	7-13	Robert Rettig
7-4	Karen Brown	7-13	Cheryl Colon
7-5	Sue Abshire	7-18	Kirk Zimmerman
7-5	Mike Plotts	7-18	Amanda Goheen
7-7	Ryan Fruth	7-20	Kortney Hahn
7-10	David Orr	7-20	Jen Rettig
7-10	Jared Clady	7-22	Rachel Clark
7-10	Lucy Coppes	7-27	Daniel Shank
7-11	Riley Miller	7-29	Linda Rettig
7-12	Kevin Vajen	7-30	Joan Waisner
7-12	Tom Eberle	7-30	Dennis Wetmore
7-12	John Squires	7-30	John Eberle

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.)



Kid's Corner



JULY

7 - 8	Ezra Medina
7 - 10	Ethan Saneholtz
7 - 20	Zoe Lulfs
7 - 24	Kennedy Shank
7 - 27	Lincoln Brown
7 - 31	Charlotte Whiteside

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Mission and Stewardship



OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION MISSION FOR JULY

The July 2025 mission for St. John's is OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission).

It is a mission familiar to this congregation as it is an integral vision of the United Church of Christ that as a member, we get to lend our church's voice to. It's an awesome thing as this congregation understands what it means. St. John's outreach doesn't end on a Sunday morning but through spaces like Shalom and the community meals, garage sales, CE board and the nourishment of the youth of this church and beyond and it comes in the giggles heard on the playground as it serves as a smile for this church.

Our mission is, like is written in our church's personal statement, faithfully serving God with our hands and feet throughout the world. We live this. OCWM takes our voice and amplifies it with the help of the United Church of Christ.

In isolation, no single congregation can completely answer God's call to love. Together we are a bold witness to God's extravagant love for all. We share resources to transform our vision into reality. OCWM's Basic Support makes it possible for our Conferences and the National Ministries to strengthen local churches and leaders and engage us in mission well beyond our community. Sr. John's dollars remain in our Conferences to help local congregations thrive.

St. John's UCC is recognized as a 5 for 5 church and means support to Our Church's Wider Mission Support including One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund.

When you consider where your dollars are spread this month, please consider OCWM and amplify the mission of the United Church of Christ, St. John's and change of the trajectory of the life a person who's name we may never know.

Thanks for your continued generosity in every facet of your giving heart,
The entire St. John's Mission Team.

If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way. – Gen. 18:1-8)



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 **AUGUST** Newsletter is—**SUNDAY, JULY 20, 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



JULY MISSION OCWM

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.