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

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# Congregational Meeting November 17 after worship: Election of 2025 Officers and review/approval of 2025 budget (page 11) Fall Soup and Dessert Meal to follow the meeting

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Nov 2004 (Ensteen Time - New York) St. John's UCC Tue Wed The . PH. 29 0 Teaming 6:30pm - Spiritual Council SHALON Delivery in are 12:30pm - Pastor McCanolArea 1:30pm - Vancrest - Angel Choir Spm - Handbells Spin - Finance Team 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Punky Sum - Sunday School 7pm - Sensitivery Chair Sper - Posteral Ratetions Council 10:15am - Worship 19:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30em - Evangelium Team 13 15 6pm - Duscons 6pm - Handfells Sem - Durnlay School 19:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Consistory 7pm - Banchuary Chole 22 23 21 12pm - Red Cross Blood Drive Sam - Sunday School SHALOM DERVEY IN SIN 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Parity Stam - Nevaletter Articles Due 16:15am - Worship 11: Stare - Congregational 11:30um - Soup and Descert meal 25 29 tem - Neveletter matting For responsed for Wallace's Sam - Sunday School 10:15em - Wership Tom - Community Thanksglving

## The Sentinel

St. John's United Church of Christ I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527 NOVEMBER 2024

#### Please Contact us at --Betty (Bob) Rettig, Admin. Asst. Peggy Schulte, Admin. Asst Fax: (419) 264-1460

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, CH 43527

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Financial Administrator e-mail - stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net

Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net

Church Website: www.stichnsucchologite.com SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

6:00 P.M.

Sanctuary Choir

7:00 P.M.

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#### FALL SEASON

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it."

And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.

And God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1:11-12 NRSV)

If someone were to ask me what my favorite season is, I would say Fall. I see and feel the beauty of God's creation in the vibrant array of Fall colors, the cool, crisp air and all of the tasty food. In the Fall, it is easy to see that God is a divine artist.

This time of year, the leaves are putting on a spectacular show of color from bright yellows and oranges to brilliant shades of red. With all these brilliant colors surrounding us in God's creation, have we every thought about the theology of Fall?

Fall is a good time to examine not only the beauty of God's creation, but to also see how God is a transformative God. God changes leaves from green to a vast array of colors in a way that allows us to see how God turns less into something that is equally as beautiful..

To better understand, we must go back to science class and understand what is taking place when leaves change colors. The following explanations are from the authors at the Salt Project.

"Many leaves contain yellow and orange pigments all year round, but in the spring and summer they're masked by the vivid greens of chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for the absorption of light to provide energy for photosynthesis. But as the days shorten and the temperature falls, the chlorophyll breaks down and drains away — and those yellows and oranges begin to shine through. They were there all along, quiet and unnoticed, but now they emerge as the green curtain fades."

Continued On Page 3



#### FALL SEASON

#### Continued From Page 2

This explains yellow and orange colored leaves, but what about the reds? "Those pigments appear when the leftover sugars in certain leaves are transformed into anthocyanins, red and purple pigments. And that transformation, incidentally, is most intense where there is the most light — which is why the leaves (or even the parts of leaves) most bathed in sunlight are the most deeply red of all. Ditto for the sunny sides of apples; that's where the crimsons emerge. Like coral in the ocean, the reds and purples help protect leaves from the sun's power as the chlorophyll drains away."

We see examples throughout the Bible of God's mission of subtraction where less is more. God says many times that the people with less will gain more. If God is a painter of autumn trees, what we see is an art not of addition but of subtraction. It is an art of revelation, of revealing the hidden beauty of what was already there.

God transforms and protects us from reducing, taking away and subtracting what we do not need. Just a few weeks ago, I talked about the man who Jesus asked to give up his possessions to be a better follower of Jesus. Jesus was teaching this man that less is more in the kingdom of God.

Take a walk through God's landscape of vivid colors remembering God's glory and power of transformation. This will truly be a divine sermon.

Grace and peace, Rev. Jeff McCam

#### Be Thankful



In the 60's (that's the 1960's, kids), my Dad became interested in Mexico: it's people and culture. Many vacations followed by our extended family and friends from the church where I grew up followed. My Dad had the general opinion that the folks in the US had limited knowledge of the average folk in other parts of the world and, just maybe, took for granted how good we have it.

When I get in an ornery mood (infrequently;) I like to ask people "are we rich"? The usual answer is "no." However I tend to believe, if we realize what the average person in the world has or has access to, we might change our answer. I prefer to think that I was lucky to be born in 1961 in the U.S. We have so much that sometimes we just might take it for granted. One stark reminder for me is when the power goes out for more than a few hours. "Oh, it's ok, we have flashlights." "Wait, the well pump won't run, so the toilet won't flush!?" (I treasure our 33 year old GE gas range. It has heated the house on many occasions.)

Sorry, old guy likes to tell stories. My point is, you and I need to take the time to realize all that we have and give thanks to God for it. Also, share it where we can and show and share joy with ALL those we meet.

Eric

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." — William Arthur Ward.

"We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction." - Harry A. Ironside



#### Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Enjoying the weather
- Praying for a safe harvest
- Grateful for the work of the Personnel and Nominating Teams
- Glad to see a good response for the youth group
- Visioning Summit went well and all were engaged
- Total giving in September was very good
- Great response by the church and community to help the flood victims

The Visitation Team is looking for an individual or a couple to join the group to visit shut-ins.

Generally, this would involve visiting 1 or 2 people each month or sending cards. If you are interested or want to learn more,

Contact Maggle Prigge at 419-789-2797.

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

OCTOBER 14, 2024

Present along with Pastor McCarn were six Elders and five Deacons.

- Rachel Moll from Frost Insurance came and reviewed our insurance coverage.
- After talking to Rachel, the Deacons recommended a small increase in the budget for insurance, and Consistory approved the change.
- There was an affirmation of the slate of officers for 2025.
- Entry mats have been ordered.
- Personal Team made a recommendation for a new Administrative Assistant and Consistory approved the hiring of Peggy Schulte effective October 21, 2024, contingent on completion of the BCI check.
- 165th Anniversary for St. John's will be held on Rally Day 2025.
- Staff appreciation gift for Christmas will be collected November 17 - December 15.
- A Love Gift was sent to Orphan Grain Train for Hurricane Relief.
- ABCCM Hurricane Fund was added as an October Mission.



#### **Spiritual Council**

#### Meeting Excerpts OCTOBER 7, 2024

Pastor: Jeff McCarn Visitation: Rolie Rettig (26)
Head Elder and Evangelism Liaison: Kay Armbruster (26)
Scribe: Bob Rettig (25) Worship and Music Liaison: Greg Nelson (24)
Communion Stewards: Greg Nelson (24) and Mike Haldy (25)
Confirmation and Backup Scribe: Eric Shank (24)

Present were Pastor Jeff, Kay, Greg, Mike, Rolle and Eric.

- The Pastors Report was received and appreciated.
- Mike Haldy gave a devotion centered on John 3:13.
- Reviewed plans for upcoming services: Harvest Home, and Totenfest (November 3) Plans for loved ones participation.
- November 10 service will include recognition of our Veterans.
- November 17 service will be followed by Congregational Meeting with a fixed agenda of Election of Officers and Presentation/Approval of 2025 budget. Soup and dessert luncheon will follow.
- November 24 (Sunday 7:00 p.m.) St. John's is hosting the Community Thanksgiving worship service. Related plans were discussed.
- Confirmation planning was discussed.
- Prayer concerns of the congregation and friends were reviewed.
- Review of the upcoming Visioning Summit procedures and assistance were reviewed. Participation by all is much appreciated. A thanks also to those working on the included meal.
- Pastor reviewed their recent vacation South with devastation which followed from Helene's horrible rains. Discussion followed about a few possible support agencies that might be recommended for congregational giving.
- Meeting was closed with prayer for congregational needs as well as strength of our group.
- The November meeting will be on Monday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Eric Shank Sub-scribe



#### DEACONS' BENCH

October 14, 2024 Adam Stevenson, Scribe

#### Deacons:

Carol Medina (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Adam Stevenson (24) Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25) Linda Arreguin (26), Janice Rettig (26), Mark Vajen (26)

#### Members Present:

Carol Medina (24), Adam Stevenson (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Ben Thomas(25), Janice Rettig (26), Linda Arreguin (26), Others in attendance: Pastor Jeff McCarn

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Head Deacon Carol Medina.

Minutes of previous September 9 meeting were approved.

#### Old Business

Discussion was brought forth regarding the entry mats. They have been ordered - Recommendation to take to Consistory to pay for the order once received was approved.

Rachel Moll from Frost Insurance will be joining Consistory tonight, to discuss our current coverage and premiums.

#### **New Business**

There were some questions raised regarding a few line items in budget specifically pastor salary and benefits, will be brought to Consistory for further discussion.

Motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

Next Deacon's meeting: November 11 at 6:00 p.m.

#### NOVEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
NOV. 3	Deacons	Janice Rettig Kevin Vajen
NOV. 10	Deacons	Linda Arreguin Jared Clady
NOV. 17	Deacons	Carol Medina Mark Vajen
NOV. 24	Deacons	Adam Stevenson Ben Thomas



#### FROM THE SHALOM FOOD

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024

#### INCOME

St. John's UCC August Giving Pleasant Bend UMC \$ 775.00

Total \$1,075.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



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

Larry Hockman knee problems

\*Larry Slagle VA hospital in Ann Arbor
John Hahn recovering after outpatient procedure
Earl Abshire recovering after hospitalization
Bryce Kobills recovering with a broken arm

\*Carson Mengerink and Fred Mengerink (both older brothers of Cindy Mengerink) who are hospitalized due to each of them falling.

\*Sandy Snyder (daughter-in-law of Bill and Florence Snyder) diagnosed with bone cancer

(\*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 throughout the world

Those who are anticipating procedures, testing, and/or test results, or recovering from procedure



Remember Those Who Are III, 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.



#### Fall Congregational Meeting

#### November 17 Following Worship

This is typically a brief, but important meeting, where Consistory and CE Board Members are elected along with Delegates to represent St. John's at the NW Ohio Association Meeting.

The proposed budget for 2025 will also be presented for discussion and approval.

The Soup and Dessert meal will follow the meeting.



#### 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

Geri Ripke - #221

SKLD, 28546 Starbright Blvd., Perrysburg, OH 43551 Betty Yaichner

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 Glb 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 Tobi	as 10011 Co Rd Y	Hamler, Ohio 43524
Sue Walsner	1542 St Rt 108	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Bernard Zimmer	1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37	Napoleon, Ohio 4354

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2024

Or is	SELECTION S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Revenues and Expenses Operating Fund	UNITED CHUKCH O enues and Expense Operating Fund	P CHRIST		
	September 2024 Actual	2024 Year To Date	2024 Year 2024 Annual % of Year Actual To Date Budget Complete YTD	% of Year Complete	Actual
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$20,221	\$141,877	\$226,450		63%
EXPENSES					
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,391	\$25,141	\$48,172		52%
MINISTRIES	\$627	\$4,545	\$9,700	12%	47%
MISSIONS	\$538	\$4,838	\$6,450		75%
ADMINISTRATION	\$5,416	\$55,537	\$75,334		74%
PASTORAL	\$7,039	\$59,993	\$84,409		71%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,011	\$16,011 \$150,054	\$224,064		87%
NET OPERATING TOTAL	\$4,209.86	-\$8,176.69			
Mission and Restricted Fund Giving of Note for September:	of Note for Septe	mber:			
Heifer Fund (including Kids' contributions):	ntributions):		\$716		
Major Maintenance Fund			\$1,350		
Shalom Food Pantry			\$775		
Canethian Choirfien Course Could	- field		04 300		



### Daylight Saving Time Ends NOVEMBER 3

## Thank You

Dear St. John's

Thank You very much for the "Thinking of You" cards of Gene's passing away a year ago. It made me feel good knowing he wasn't "just forgotten" but still in our memories.

Much love to all Phyllis Crawford

#### Save The Dates

November 3 - Totenfest Sunday

November 17 – Congregational Meeting/Soup and Dessert Meal

November 24 – Community Thanksgiving service 7:00 p.m. Host Church: St. John's UCC

December 1 – First Sunday of Advent/Siberian Solstice concert 7:00 p.m.



## Kid's Corner





#### November

11 - 6 Remi Rue

11 - 11 Natalie Borck

11 - 12 Bryce Kobilis

11 - 13 Neveah Evers

11 - 18 Jose Hernandez IV



VanCrest of Holgate Worship Service

Thursday, November 7 at 1:30 P.M.

Angel Choir Needed



Oliver Earl Clark October 4, 2024

Parents: Jacob and Rachel Clark

Grandparents: Rick and Pam Desgranges Dave and Theresa Drewes

Matt Clark

Great-grandparents: Larry and Darlene Hockman

#### YOUTH SHALOM SHOPPING NOVEMBER 24

Youth - 6th grade through high school are invited to participate in the annual SHALOM shopping event.

We will head to Defiance after worship on Sunday, November 24, have lunch, then shop at Meijer. After shopping, we will come back to the church and wrap the gifts.

Permission slips are mandatory and should be turned in by Sunday, November 17. Adult drivers are needed. See one of us if you would like to drive.

Thank you for your participation in this youth mission.

Kevin Waisner and Franell Nelson

Fall Soup/Dessert Fundraiser
November 17, 2024
After Worship and
Congregational Meeting
Come and Enjoy
30 Soups And 30 Desserts
Freewill Donation
Proceeds To
Operating Fund









Soups And Desserts

#### Calling All St. John's Cooks

The Clady Family is once again coordinating the Fall Soup and Dessert Luncheon. It cannot be a successful event without your help. They will need donations of soups and desserts on Sunday, November 17.

There is a sign-up sheet located in the gathering area. Your participation (by donating soups and desserts, and by attending the event) will help the Operating Fund.



#### Mission and Stewardship



#### HENRY COUNTY CASA MISSION FOR NOVEMBER

Northwest Ohio CASA is a non-profit organization that recruits and trains community volunteers to advocate for children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect in Defiance, Henry, Paulding, and Williams Counties. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. Northwest Ohio CASA has a vision of a world where every abused or neglected child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

What makes CASA so special is it is built on volunteers who truly want to make a difference in the lives of children in their community. CASA volunteers complete their own independent investigation, getting to know individuals involved, gathering information, and most importantly ascertaining the child's wishes to report to the court. CASA volunteers will use the information gathered to make recommendations specific to the family's needs and the child's wellbeing. Volunteers make sure the child's voice is heard in the countroom and in the community.

Advocacy can look many different ways, but the child is always at the forefront. CASA volunteers meet with the child monthly, attend supervised visits, speak to teachers, doctors, social workers, family members, and other important people involved in the child's life. CASAs ensure the child has all the resources and tools necessary to be successful while in care, and upon placement in a safe, permanent home. That includes mental health support, medical treatment, educational advocacy, mentorship, and transitional support. At times, the CASA volunteer can be the one consistent, stable adult in a child's life when they are experiencing many changes and uncertainties.

In 2023 Northwest Ohio CASA advocated for 100 children across the 4 counties. Those are 100 children who experienced abuse or neglect. 100 children who have faced challenges no child should have to face. And 100 children we were able to provide a voice for. In 2024 Northwest Ohio CASA has advocated for 84 children so far, with referrals continuing to come in.

With the help of a CASA volunteer children are more likely to find a safe, permanent home. Children are half as likely to re-enter the foster care system. Children are less likely to experience multiple school changes and placements. And children are less likely to spend long-term time in foster care. Volunteers remain with the child until their case is closed. That could be safe family reunification, custody to a family member or caregiver, adoption, or support as the child ages out of the foster care system.

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#### Mission and Stewardship



#### HENRY COUNTY CASA MISSION FOR NOVEMBER

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

No special background or experience is needed to get involved- just a caring heart and a willingness to help! Whether you're retired, working full-time, or managing a household there is a place for you to be the voice for a child in care. Our program provides all the training needed to become a confident and impactful advocate.

Volunteers must complete an online application, complete a one-on-one interview, and pass a background check prior to completing the 30 hours of pre-service training. During training topics such as the child welfare system, juvenile court, mental health, substance use, domestic violence, and more are covered. Additional information can be found by visiting <a href="https://www.nwocasa.com.com/www.nwocasa.com/wwww.nwocasa.com/www.nwocasa.com/www.nwocasa.com/www.nwocasa.com/www.nwocasa.com/w

Together we can be the voice and change a child's story.

If you have any questions please contact Kirk Fruth.

Please Help the Mission and Stewardship Team by your support for this mission in November.



## FROM THE DECORATING TEAM

It's time to order poinsettlas for the Christmas Eve service!

You will find an insert in the newsletter and in upcoming bulletins with all the information you will need to order various colors and sizes available.

Please place any orders in the gratitude box. Our poinsettias will come from Kircher's Flowers in Defiance.

Deadline to order will be November 24

Love Gift – At their meeting on October 7, the Spiritual Council voted to make a love gift of \$1,000 to the Orphan Grain Train Hurricane Relief fund.

Tammy Vajen is helping coordinate our efforts and Jean Dietrich was able to purchase a great number of items on sale to be given to the Orphan Grain Train.

Thank you to Tammy and Jean as well as others helping with this relief effort.

#### NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are beginning to transition to Peggy Schulte as our new Administrative Assistant in the office.

If any of your contact information has changed or if we do not have your birthday or anniversary on file, please send that information as soon as possible so we can start Peggy with the most up-to-date contact information.



#### SHALOM CHRISTMAS

As the cold weather starts to creep in, it's time to remind everyone of the Big Event at Christmas time, SHALOM CHRISTMAS. Each year we get names of families from the southern Henry County area who are seeking help with Christmas. We provide food for a Christmas dinner, a warm homemade Blanket and three gifts (one toy, and a top and slacks) for each child in the families that we help.

This year our target number is 40. That's the number of families we want to help. Thankfully our Faith Family doesn't have to shoulder this burden alone. We give thanks to the three area Catholic churches: Holgate St. Mary's, Hamler St. Paul's and Sacred Heart New Bavaria; St. Peter's Lutheran - Holgate, Pleasant Bend United Methodist Church, St. Stephen's Lutheran Hamler, and our sister church, Emmanuel's New Bavaria.

Once again, due to the faithful giving of the St. John's Faith Family, Shalom will be purchasing all the food for the families. We will depend on the Faith Family as well as the other Holgate Area churches for gifts purchased for the children of the families we will be helping.

Providing the families get their applications in early, we should have gifts tags on the board in the Narthex by Sunday, November 17. All gifts will need to be back to the church no later than Sunday, December 8 so our Christmas elves can get all the food boxed up and gifts checked-in. The givesway will be Tuesday, December 10.

We look forward to another successful year!

The Shalom Leadership Team





#### **News and Notes**

Submitted By Lucy Coppes September 29, 2024

Present: Pastor McCarn, Lucy Coppes (24), Eric Shank, Consistory Liaison, Nancy Thomas (26), Karen Brown (24), Lisa Haldy (25) and Alexa Brown (26) via telephone

Lucy opened the meeting and led Devotions.

- Sunday School: Discussed possible realignment of Sunday School to ease burden of finding volunteers for teaching. Christmas play practice will begin on October 6.
- Youth Ministry and post-Confirmation group: Youth group is going well, currently hosting a naming/fundraising contest and will be selling Fall decorations.
- Faith Events: Messy Church was held on August 18. Had a good turnout.
- Trunk or Treat: Will be held on Saturday, October 26 from 4 – 6. Sign up sheet will be placed in Narthex for cars. Youth Group will help with pumpkin painting. CE to provide hot dogs and snacks. Possible havride and bonfire, weather permitting.
- Birthdays: Nothing new to report, cards continue to be sent to all active children at the beginning of the month.
- Cradle Roll Nothing new to report.
- Next meeting: November 10, 2024, after church.



#### EVANGELISM TEAM ARTICLE ONE

At a recent meeting of the Evangelism Team, Joe Long presented an article he found online. After sharing it with our team, we agreed that it was important to share it with our faith family. Over three months, we are going to share the article with you, and let you see how evangelism is an action that should come not from just the six members of the team, but from the entire faith family. The article was written by Rob Moss, and was presented on the website www.livinglutheran.org, on June 22, 2016. The following comes from that article. (edited for space constraints.)

We've decided to quit becoming a welcoming church. No kidding. We're giving it up.

Like so many congregations, we've sunk an amazing amount of time and energy into becoming a welcoming church. My congregation realized we have been misplacing our emphasis. Welcoming is passive. It denotes waiting for visitors and guests to drop by.

Inviting is different. Inviting is active. Being an inviting church means that we leave the comfort of Sunday morning worship and seek out our labors.

Each congregation has a purpose within God's mission. No congregation is everything to everyone, but every congregation is something to someone. Who needs the gifts you have to offer? Who can offer gifts you need? Who can know God through your worship style? Who can experience forgiveness and graces through your congregational community? Only when we are centered in this purpose can we become an inviting church.

Being invitational [can seem] too big, too audacious, too frighting, so we simply don't do it.

Over the next two months, look for the Evangelism Team meeting news that will share Rob Moss' ideas of how we can be an inviting congregation.

The Evangelism Team: Christine Rettig, Kay Armbruster, Jim Rettig, Lori Clady, Joe Long, Morgan Lulfs.

#### How To Help St. John's, Even When You Are Not Here

Just like at home, even when you are gone, there are certain expenses that continue at St. John's regardless of the season - phone, lights, refuse, heat,

- . Set up automatic payments on a weekly or monthly basis then your tithes and offerings come to St. John's even if you are on vacation or are otherwise gone. This is especially helpful to St. John's during the summer when people may be on vacation or spending time at the lake. It is also ideal for those who live outside the area.
- A "Qualified Charitable Distribution"- Once people who have IRAs reach a certain age, they need to take an annual "Required Minimum Distribution" (RMD) from the IRA. Some or all of a person's RMD can be given to a qualified charity such as a church. Recent tax changes have made it difficult for people to deduct charitable gifts on their taxes. BUT, if your RMD is sent directly from the investment to St. John's or another charity, it does not count as income for you. You can't deduct the expense but, because it doesn't increase your income, it benefits both you and the church.
- No one wants to think about estate planning but this is another way to support St. John's. Some people designate in their will that money is to go to a particular fund while others plan a gift to be used as the need is identified.
- Farmers can reduce their income and also their self-employment tax while helping St. John's by selling grain in the name of the church or transferring ownership of grain to the church and then allowing the church to sell it. Please check with your tax expert if you are considering this option.

We now have the capability of accepting payments through texting. There are a number of people who have signed up for online giving and this can be done periodically or it can be an automatic gift each week. If you have questions or would like to learn more about any of these options, please contact Carl Dettmer (stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net or the church office at holgateuco@metalink.net. Either one can also be reached by calling the church office at 419-264-4401.

Info summarized by Betty (Bob) Rettig - Please consult your tax advisor before implementing any of these suggestions.





#### "Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

#### Delores Willamson

will celebrate her 88th Birthday on November 5

565 Rohm Dr Napoleon, OH 43545

#### Gib Sonnenberg

will celebrate his 97th Birthday on November 18

1032 S Perry St Napoleon, OH 43545

#### Bernard Zimmer

will celebrate his 97th Birthday on November 25

1040 S Perry St Apt. 37 Napoleon, OH 43545

#### Jim and Christine Rettia

will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 16

130772 Weichman Rd. Holgate, OH 43527-9605

#### Bob and Betty Rettig

will celebrate their 53rd Wedding Anniversary on November 20

12103 Co. Rd. L Napoleon, OH 43545-6565



Orphan Grain Train - Ohio Warnhous: 500 independence Dr. Napoleon Ori 43545 Mallins Address: P.O. Box 74 Rotsevite Corners Ori 43555

Email CHICOGT Entreparent per

Nancy melmine, President PH. 419.758.3539 Diann Meyer Griecer, Sec. / Treas. PH. 439.267.5730 Cindy Cline, Warehouse Coordinator/Board Member PH. 422.261.3409

Vickie Grieser, Board Member PH. 419:572:9824 Less Bischoff, Board Member PH. 419:261:8138



"I will not leave you as eighang it will some to you."

john 14:18 (NN)

October 16, 2024

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ.

On behalf of the Chic Division of Orphan Grain Train I would like to express our sincere thanks for your recent donation. We thank our Heavenly Father for placing people with a heart for service in our lives, for giving them gifts to share so that others may be allessed. May we also sak for your continued prayers that God will waith over the wins of the Orphan Grain Train!

Your monetary gift allows us to transport the many items that are donated. We have a group of dedicated volunteers who sort, pack, and deliver these items to areas in need. Some of the fifseions we supplied are in Ohio, Kantuchy, and Indiana or wherever we have of a need or value diseasers strike. Currently, we are assisting the areas recently deviated by recent huntipases. Our first trailer of requested items was delivered to Caldwell OH on Oct. 14 and from there will be delivered to history Caroline.

Our Creator has taught us to love our neighbor and to respond in Christian love with resources that He provides, through you and many others!

Orphan Grain Train is a \$0 tip(3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with people who are in need in the United States and around the world. We accept donations of clean, gently used disting, working applicances, perfly used furniture story with medical supplies. Christian librarians, and other resources to meet need needs of God's people. Sinipping costs continue to be our number one expense, approximately \$11.00 is needed to ship one box.

The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for all.

Singerely, Dishibrory, Disn's Meyer-Grieser Sec. / Trees. Onio Division Orphan Grain Train

This letter is your afficial ecicips. Our federal Employer information Number is 30-1614650. Receipt dated: 20/101/24. Check #16195 in the amount of \$0000.00. Dated: 16/08/34.



#### NOVEMBER

11 - 3	Shane Eberle	11 - 17	Robert Eberle
11 - 3	Caryn Lulfs	11 - 18	Gilbert Sonnenberg
11 - 5	Delores Williamson	11 - 18	Kathy Finkenbiner
11 - 6	Shanna Sidle	11 - 19	Morgan Lulfs
11 - 7	Emilio Medina	11 - 21	Jeff Stevenson
11 - 9	Ron Hoellrich	11 - 22	Nick Davis
11 - 10	Krista Lawson	11 - 22	Brooke Eberly
11 - 11	Lori Clady	11 - 25	Jillian Rue
11 - 12	Brian Tilse	11 - 25	Bernard Zimmer
11 - 13	Gabriel Roberts	11 - 25	Jillian (Clady) Rue
11 - 14	Benjamin Thomas	11 - 28	Sydney Lawson
11 - 14	Leslie Dietrich	11 - 30	Owen Fry

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 DECEMBER

Newsletter is---SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024, 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



NOVEMBER MISSIONS HENRY COUNTY CASA

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.rwoa.org. www.heartlanducc.org and www.ucc.org.