

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

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Holgate, OH
Permit No. 3

NOVEMBER

St. John's UCC Nov 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 2am - Daylight Saving Time ends 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Totenfest 10:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30am - Technology Team	3 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	4 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	5 10am - Staff meeting 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	6 10am - Bible Study 1:30pm - Vancrest Service 6pm - Finance Team 6pm - Pastoral Relations Council	7	8
9 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Baptism 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - CEB meeting 11:30am - Congregation Mtg/Soup	10 6pm - Deacons 6:30pm - Consistory	11	12 12am - Newsletter Articles Due 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	13 10am - Bible Study	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8am - Staff Appreciation Gifts for Christmas						
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Mission Moment - NWO 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - No	9am - Newsletter printing	SHALOM Delivery in am 9am - Newsletter mailing 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	10am - Bible Study 12pm - Red Cross Blood Drive	4pm - Fellowship Hall - Reserved	8am - Fellowship Hall Reserved
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Staff Appreciation Gifts for Christmas						
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 7pm - Thanksgiving Service			6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	Office Closed - Thanksgiving 8am - FH - Reserved		12pm - Donations taken to

The Sentinel

St. John's United Church of Christ
1-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
NOVEMBER 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: stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net (Carl Dettmer)
Newsletter Editor e-mail: radurham703@bright.net
Church Website: www.stjohnsuccholgate.com
SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

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

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 7:00 P.M.

In This Issue

From Pastor Jeff's Desk.....	2,3	Financial Summary	16
From Consistory President Christine	4	Fall Soup/Dessert Fundraiser	17
Positive Things Seen And Heard	5	November Mission.....	18,19
Save The Dates.....	5	SHALOM Christmas.....	20
Worship Service Online	5	Vancress Service	21
Spiritual Council.....	6	Baptisms	21
Consistory Highlights.....	7,8,9	Cemetery Association News	22
Cemetery Fundraiser.....	9	C E Board Highlights	23
Deacons' Bench.....	10	Newsletter Deadline Change	23
Fall Congregational Meeting.....	10	Mission Team Highlights	24
November Worship Participants	11	Birthdays 80+	25
From The Shalom Food Pantry.....	11	Anniversaries 50+	25
Prayer Chain.....	12,13	In Memory Of B. Zimmer	26
Daylight Savings Time Change.....	13	November Birthdays	27
Shut-Ins	14	Prayer Chain Contacts.....	Back Cover
Thanksgiving Service.....	Insert	Meeting Information.....	Back Cover
Siberian Solstice.....	Insert	Newsletter Deadline.....	Back Cover
Kids November Birthdays	1	Missions Schedule.....	Back Cover



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— **Wednesday, November 12, 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



NOVEMBER MISSION

NORTHWEST OHIO 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.nwoa.org, www.heartlanducc.org and www.ucc.org.



TABLE FELLOWSHIP

If you open your heart to the hungry, and provide abundantly for those who are afflicted, your light will shine in the darkness, and your gloom will be like the noon. The Lord will guide you continually and provide for you, even in parched places. He will rescue your bones. You will be like a watered garden, like a spring of water that won't run dry. They will rebuild ancient ruins on your account; the foundations of generations past you will restore. You will be called Mender of Broken Walls, Restorer of Livable Streets.

Isaiah 58:10-12 (Common English Bible)

It only took two years, but Bobbie and I finally ate the buffet at Ryan's in Wauseon. People from St. John's UCC have talked about how good and inexpensive the food is there. They were correct on both accounts — the food was really good, especially the broasted chicken, and the buffet was very inexpensive.

Bobbie and I arrived at the heart of the dinner rush Wednesday evening. When we entered, there were no tables available. There was a gentleman, also waiting for a table, who had arrived just prior to us. We did not have to wait long before a table became available. The gentleman offered for Bobbie and me to go ahead of him.

While Bobbie was making sure our table was ready, I continued talking to this gentleman. I asked the man to join us; however, I do not think he heard me. I went to our table, and Bobbie went to get her food. When she came back, she informed me she invited this gentleman to join us for dinner. He accepted.

This was one of the most enjoyable dinners we have eaten recently. The gentleman was wearing a jacket indicating he was a flight volunteer. Talking with him more through the course of our meal, we learned he was a flight volunteer with the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation. I believe this gentleman enjoyed our company as much as we did his.

Continued On Page 3



TABLE FELLOWSHIP

Continued From Page 2

I love to share the table, not only with my family but anyone who will engage in table fellowship with me. Table fellowship is a worshipful experience. It does not matter how we share the table as long as we do share the table with others, especially people we do not know. Whether we practice table fellowship communing with bread and wine alongside members of our congregation, eating at one of the many potlucks held at church, eating with our family at a special meal or meeting a new friend at a chance encounter. It does not matter as long as we share the table.

Not only is food mentioned in the Bible, but table fellowship is what Jesus does the most in his ministry. Jesus shared the table with the lost, with the sick, with tax collectors, with the rich and with anyone who wished to come and share God's radical hospitality.

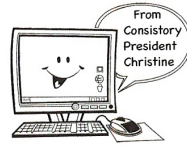
Have we ever been to anyone's house to share a meal where the food and hospitality were so good we just wanted to linger at the table a little bit longer? This is how it was when sharing the table with Jesus. The food and the hospitality were so good, everyone felt at home — like they belonged and were truly important.

I truly believe this is how our guests this summer felt during our summer meals. I also firmly believe that St. John's UCC's calling is centered around food and sharing the table. Our Shalom Food Pantry is like no other. By far, it is the best food pantry I have experienced. Summer meals, church meals throughout the year like the soup and dessert meal, funeral meals and the meal before the Siberian Solstice concert are just some of the ways St. John's UCC expands the table.

It is my prayer that we continue to expand the table of Christ to our community. Jesus was the ultimate role model in sharing the table. When we share the table, we are being the hands and feet of Jesus. We will also fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah as we will be "Menders of Broken Walls, Restorer of Livable Streets."

Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCarn

REMEMBERING



November has significance in my life...first being that fifty-one years ago this month, I was married here at St. John's. Second...November is National Adoption Month. Adoption has played a significant role in the lives of my family. Third...National Donor Sabbath, a three-day weekend to encourage organ, eye and tissue donation among all faiths.

When we marry, we are giving ourselves to each other, to love and support one another, in good and bad times. Jim and I stood in the chancel with Rev. Reuben Bebler and committed to do just that until death parts us in this earthly life.

The National Adoption Month celebration in November was declared in 1994 by then President Bill Clinton to raise awareness for the need for adoptive families, especially for teens. November 9 is World Adoption Day, when the world works to spread awareness, love and support for every person whose life has been touched by adoption. With two children who came to us through adoption, we are always aware of the hearts that are joined when adoptions occur.

National Donor Sabbath will be celebrated on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 14-16. All major faiths support organ/eye/tissue donation. These three days allow faith families to support all who are involved in any way with donation. Families of donors and recipients can and do encourage their faith families to support the gift of life. Our dear friend, Gary, was a tissue donor at the time of his unexpected passing. Through our volunteer work with Life Connection of Ohio, we have developed friendships with both donor families, and recipients.

For me November is a time when we think about thanksgiving, I want to emphasize first the giving part of the word. In our marriage, our adoptions, and our work with Life Connection, it is the giving of ourselves in one way or another. And because we give, we can be thankful for all the blessings that God has given us as a result.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 " Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

May you always be thankful for what God has given you.

Christine Rettig



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts
October 6, 2025

Those present: Pastor Jeff McCarn

Mike Haldy (25) *Kay Armbruster (26)
Christine Rettig (27) Kirk Fruth (27)

- Mike Haldy opened the meeting with devotions and prayer at 6:30 p.m.
- Pastor McCarn gave his pastor's report which included his visit to the Heartland Conference in Delaware, Ohio.
- Decorating Team will be decorating for Harvest Home Sunday which is October 26, 2025.
- Totenfest - Communion will be November 2, 2025.
- Pastor discussed his recent visitations for pastoral care.
- Maggie Prigge's Visitation Team Report was reviewed. If team members are unable to make visits they have been sending cards to our shut-ins.
- Pastor and Elder Christine Rettig will be attending the Release of Service for the retirement of Reverend Dan Busch at Tiffin United Church of Christ, Tiffin, Ohio.
- The Thanksgiving Service here at St. John's, pending Consistory approval, will be held on Sunday, November 23. There will be a meal from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Service will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- The meeting closed at 7:15 p.m. and Pastor lead in prayer.
- The next meeting will be Monday, November 3, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Kirk Fruth, Scribe



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- Online service viewership numbers have been amazing! The number of views throughout the week are consistently high.
- Thankful for our church Facebook page and the care and concern at the passing of Linda's cousin, Jay Agler. It is a great place to share concerns and prayers as needed.
- Orphan Grain Train and Washington UCC presentations during pastor's vacation were amazing.
- Peace Garden- the gardeners getting ready for winter and making progress on Fall maintenance.
- The donations given for Washington UCC are very much appreciated! Keep them coming!
- Shalom clients--appreciate our church's willingness to do good-- Shalom clients feel comfortable donating here because they know that we will do with the items what we say we

SAVE THE DATES

November 2 - Totenfest Sunday

November 9 - Congregational Meeting
Soup and Dessert Meal

November 23 - Thanksgiving Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Worship at 7:00 p.m.

November 30 - Siberian Solstice Concert 7:00 p.m.

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 October 13, 2025

Members Present in addition to Pastor Jeff McCarn

Elders: Kay Armbruster (26), Christine Rettig (27), Mike Haldy (25),
Bob Rettig (25)

Deacons: Ben Thomas (25), Janice Rettig (26),
Rory Prigge (27), Amanda Rettig (27), Jay Slagle (27)

- The meeting was called to order by Christine Rettig, Consistory Chair at 6:31 P.M.
- Devotions and opening prayer were given by Christine Rettig.
- September minutes were approved as written and corrected.
- Pastor will no longer be going to the continuing education event the week of October 20.

October Priorities

- Sonnenberg Donation Task Force: Progress is being made on office updates.
- Congregational meeting Date: November 9
Kay Armbruster made a motion to accept the nominations for officers, seconded by Mike Haldy. The motion carried.
- It was recommended that the restricted Funeral Dinner account be moved into the Fellowship account. Motion was made by Amanda Rettig and second was made by Linda Arreguin. The motion carried.

Upcoming Events at St. John's U.C.C.:

- Siberian Solstice on Nov. 30 - Betty (Bob) Rettig will coordinate and Jeri Hollrich is planning the reception prior to the event. Amanda Rettig volunteered to be the Consistory liaison for the event.
- Special Collection for Staff Appreciation Gifts with run from November 16 through December 14. A motion was made by Kay Armbruster for Consistory to subsidize the donations in the event that a \$50 gift per staff member is not reached. A second was made by Linda Arreguin. The motion was carried.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS October 13, 2025

Continued From Page 7

Upcoming Events at St. John's U.C.C. Continued:

- Community Thanksgiving Meal (by Jeri) on Sunday, November 23 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., prior to the Community Worship Service has been proposed. A motion was made by Mike Haldy to approve the event with a second by Ben Thomas. The motion carried.
- It was moved by Ben Thomas to approve Sue Abshire as a substitute money counte. A second was made by Linda Arreguin and the motion carried.
- Durable Slate contract was signed by Christine Rettig on October 7, 2025, for next year.

Financial Team Report

- A motion was made by Mike Haldy to accept the the Financial Report pending audit. A second was made by Linda Arreguin and the motion carried.

Ministry Team Discussion

- The Evangelism Team received a check for \$500—for winning the float contest at the Henry County Fair
- Memorial Team- the new paraments are completed; however, there is an issue with the address. The Totenfest memorials will be listed in bulletin that Sunday
- Mission and Stewardship: A motion was made by Linda Arreguin to approve the Mission Schedule for 2026. A second was made by Ben Thomas and the motion was carried. It has been proposed by the team to change the name of the committee just to Missions as stewardship is the responsibility of the Deacons. A motion was made for the name change by Kay Armbruster and seconded by Rory Prigge. The motion carried.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS October 13, 2025

Continued From Page 8

Upcoming Dates

- Rev. Dan Busch's Release of Service is on October 26 at 3:00 p.m. Tiffin UCC
- Thanksgiving Service—Sunday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. with Community Meal at 5:30 p.m.
- Siberian Solstice - Sunday, November 30, 7:00 p.m. and reception at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. by Amanda Rettig with Ben Thomas providing the second. The motion was carried.



Cemetery Fundraiser

November 2 and 9

Stocking Caps
and
Dishcloths

Free Will Donation



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:

Ben Thomas (25) Janice Rettig (26)
Amanda Rettig (27) Rory Prigge (27)

The meeting began at 6:06 P.M.

****No action was taken at the meeting due to lack of quorum.**

Old Business

Insurance— no new information

New Business

None

The meeting ended at 6:21 P.M.



Fall Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the Fall Congregational Meeting on November 9, 2025, 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 2026, will also be presented for discussion and approval, along with changes for two restricted accounts and adding a Restricted Fund Expenditures policy. The Soup and Dessert meal will follow the meeting. Meeting information is enclosed and will also be available on the table in the Narthex on October 26.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
Nov. 2	Bryce Kobilis	Amanda Rettig Ben Thomas
Nov. 9	Summer Haldy-Hoeffel	Janice Rettig Jay Slagle
Nov. 16	Zy'Aier Scott	Linda Arreguin Rory Prigge
Nov. 23	TBA	Janice Rettig Jared Clady
Nov. 30	TBA	Mark Vajen. Rory Prigge



FROM THE SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2025

INCOME

St. John's August Giving	\$ 2,200.00
Memorial - Gary Delventhal	1,460.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	120.00
Total	\$ 3,780.00

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...

Larry Hockman recovering from surgery

Sheri Plotts recovering from surgery

* **Mary Brubaker** health issues

* **Graham Pohlman**, 10 month old grandson of Kenneth Pohlman, had stem cell therapy and continuing chemo treatments

(*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 Pastor Jean Carmean who passed away on September 15, 2025. She served St. John's as Interim Pastor during a period of transition in 2000 and part of 2001.

The family of Phil Zimmerman of Rockford, IL who passed away on September 20, 2025. Phil was the uncle to Kirk Zimmerman.

The family of Jeff Brown (husband of Robin Brown, Administrative Assistant here at St. John's from 2012-2015.)

The family of Bernard (Barney) Zimmer who passed away on October 14, 2025. Funeral service was held on October 18, 2025 here at St. John's.



**TURN YOUR
CLOCKS
BACK!**

Daylight Saving
Time
Ends
NOVEMBER 2nd



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



Kid's Corner



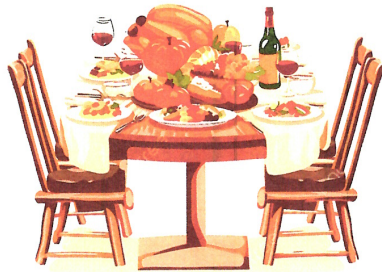
NOVEMBER

11 - 6	Remi Rue
11 - 11	Natalie Borck
11 - 12	Bryce Kobilis
11 - 13	Neveah Evers
11 - 18	Jose Hernandez IV

St. John's United Church of Christ

Thanksgiving Worship

and Free Meal



November 23, 2025

Free Meal 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

St. John's United Church of Christ

1-946 State Route 108

Holgate, OH 43527

Siberian Solstice 2025

A Trans-Siberian Orchestra Tribute Since 2006

Twelve Performers, Exciting Light Show, Video, Narrated Story

Show at 7:00 PM - Doors open at 5:45 P.M.

No Tickets Needed Free-will Donation during the
concert goes to the 12 performers



SIBERIAN SOLSTICE

St. John's UCC, Holgate, OH

1-946 St. Rt. 108 (corner of Co. Rd. J between
Napoleon and Holgate)

Sunday, November 30 - 7:00 PM

Appetizer reception 5:45 P.M. - 6:45 PM

Free-will offering for the reception

FINANCIAL SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2025

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Operating Fund Revenue and Expenses	Sept. 2025	2025 Year	2025 Annual	% of Year	Actual
	Actual	To Date	Budget	Complete	YTD
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$16,836	\$158,946	\$238,988	67%	
EXPENSES					
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,349	\$30,507	\$46,996	65%	
MINISTRIES	\$118	\$4,195	\$9,500	44%	
MISSIONS-OPERATING	\$540	\$4,860	\$6,480	75%	
ADMINISTRATION	\$6,054	\$53,220	\$79,909	67%	
PASTORAL	\$7,466	\$66,517	\$96,853	69%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,527	\$159,299	\$239,738	66%	
NET OPERATING TOTAL	\$309	-\$953			

Mission and Restricted Fund Activities of Note for September:

Cemetery Fund:	GIVING
Major Maintenance:	\$5,200
Prayer Plan Missions:	\$2,650
Shalom Food Pantry Giving:	\$1,100
Sanctuary Choir (including Ice Cream Social net proceeds):	\$960
Mission of the Month - Nazarene Fund:	\$916
	\$360

Fall Soup/Dessert Fundraiser

November 9, 2025

After Worship and

Congregational Meeting

Come and Enjoy

30 Soups And 30 Desserts

Freewill Donation

Proceeds To

Operating Fund



LOOKING FOR... 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 9.

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.



NORTHWEST OHIO 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 that 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 well-being. Volunteers make sure the child's voice is heard in the courtroom 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 2024 Northwest Ohio CASA advocated for 92 children across the four counties. Those are 92 children who experienced abuse or neglect. Ninety-two children who have faced challenges no child should have to face. Ninety-two children we were able to provide a voice for. In 2025 Northwest Ohio CASA has advocated for 77 children so far, with referrals continuing to come in.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



NORTHWEST OHIO CASA MISSION FOR NOVEMBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

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. 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.

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 CASA 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 www.nwocasa.com, calling 419-592-9455, or emailing info@nwocasa.com.

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

If you have any question please contact Kirk Fruth.

Jennifer Porter will have the Mission Moment representing Northwest Ohio CASA on November 16, 2025.

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



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, and three gifts for each child (one toy, and a top and slacks) 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 gift tags on the board in the Narthex by Sunday, November 16. All gifts will need to be back to the church no later than Sunday, December 7 so our Christmas elves can get all the food boxed up and gifts checked-in. The giveaway will be Tuesday, December 9.

We look forward to another successful year!

The Shalom Leadership Team



*VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service*

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

Angel Choir Needed

Baptisms

**Sage Elise Rue
September 28, 2025**



Parents: Tyler and Jillian Rue
Sister: Remi Rue
Grandparents: Christopher and Lori Clady
Jason and Mindi Rue
Dave and Shannon Sidle
Sponsors: Jared Clady
Jenna Keeterle

**Hunter Paul Brinkman
October 5, 2025**



Parents: Andy and Rachel Brinkman
Grandparents: Nancy Thomas
Jerry and Amy Brinkman
Sponsors: Benjamin Thomas
Cassidy Brinkman

Cemetery Association News

This year, to increase the available number of grave sites for use, the Cemetery Association members approved to pour another row of foundations in the third section of the cemetery. We will provide for the future needs of our members and former members, so they will have the opportunity for burial in our cemetery.

Mark Vajen was contracted to do the work for our cemetery expansion. The cost for the expansion of the cemetery is approximately \$10,000. The work began in September and should be finished by November.

Income for the cemetery is generated by the sale of lots, which brings in either \$300 or \$600, depending on the section of the cemetery. No lots have been sold so far in 2025. We also receive a small amount of income at the time of a burial. The association also has a perpetual care fund annuity that provides interest income once a year. However, the costs to maintain the cemetery outweighs the amount of income during the year.

Knowing that we were facing the expense of the foundation pour, an anonymous donation of \$5,000 was received to help offset the cost of the foundation pour. The cemetery board feels hopeful that we will be able to raise the remaining funds needed for the expansion with donations from our congregational members and friends. There will be a fundraiser the first two weeks of November with all proceeds going to the Cemetery Association. Future fundraisers may be planned to raise additional funds.

Donations to the Cemetery Association may be given to the church, earmarked Cemetery Association. Memorial /honorarium donations to the cemetery are always welcome as a way to remember and honor loved ones and friends.

The members and friends of St. John's UCC have always generously supported our Cemetery Association, and any donations given help us as we maintain our beautiful cemetery and look to the future to provide for our members and former members.



News and Notes

Submitted By Nancy Thomas
October 12, 2025

Discussion about cleaning out the resource room. We would like to do this in January, if possible.

We discussed and planned getting Christmas gifts for the children and staff again this year.

Will check into the winter curriculum for Sunday School to make sure we have everything we need.

For trunk and treat, we usually do it every other year. This year is our off year, so we will discuss for next year doing another trunk or treat or other ideas.



ATTENTION CHAIRPERSONS AND SCRIBES

The newsletter deadline for articles in the December edition of the Sentinel is moved ahead to **Wednesday, November 12 at 10:00 A.M.** This is to allow time for the newsletter to be drafted, proofed, printed and ready to mail before Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation.



MISSION TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Members Present: Lynette Fruth (26) Kirk Fruth (26)
Dave Snyder (27) Kevin Vajen (27)
Jerry Evers (28) Nick Evers (28)

- The Mission Team met October 5 at 11:30 a.m. to reorganize and select missions for 2026.
- Pastor McCarn led us in prayer and Kay Armbruster, head Elder, also attended the meeting.
- It was decided that the team should meet quarterly for future meetings.
- Kevin Vajen will be the chairman for next year and Kirk Fruth will be the scribe.
- Pending Consistory approval, the following missions were selected for 2026:

January - Mission-To-Go

February - SHALOM

March - One Great Hour of Sharing*

April - Orphan Grain Train

May - Strengthen the Church*

June - Back Bay Mission

July - Our Church Wider Mission*

August - Crossroad

September - Washington UCC, Cincinnati

October - Neighbor in Need*

November - CASA

December - The Christmas Fund*

The * is for 5 for 5 United Church of Christ

- The first meeting next year will be January 11, 2026, at 11:30 am.

Kirk Fruth, Scribe



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Delores Willamson

will celebrate her
89th Birthday
on November 5

565 Rohm Dr
Napoleon, OH 43545

Gib Sonnenberg

will celebrate his
98th Birthday
on November 18

1032 S Perry St
Napoleon, OH 43545



Jim and Christine Rettig

will celebrate their
51st Wedding Anniversary
on November 16

130772 Weichman Rd.
Holgate, OH 43527-9605

Bob and Betty Rettig

will celebrate their
54th Wedding Anniversary
on November 20

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



In Loving Memory BERNARD ZIMMER

November 25, 1927 - October 14, 2025

Bernard "Barney" John Zimmer age 97, of Napoleon, died Tuesday evening, October 14, 2025, at Vancrest of Holgate.

His Legacy... Barney was born November 25, 1927, in Ridgeville to Frank E. and Ruth (Lehman) Zimmer. He graduated from Ridgeville Corners High School in 1945. On December 13, 1956 he was honorably discharged from the United States Army. He was employed by Campbell's Soup Company for 31 years and 8 months, working as a laborer, checker and guard. On July 27, 1954, he married Martha Rettig. Barney was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate and served as a Deacon and Elder. In his spare time, Barney enjoyed playing golf, taking family photos, playing Euchre, watching the OSU Buckeyes and the Detroit Tigers. He was a member of the Napoleon Moose Lodge and Holgate American Legion.

His Family... He is survived by his children: Scott (Nancy) Zimmer, Napoleon and Krista (Robert) Lawson, Napoleon; granddaughters: Ashley (Taylor) Moyer, Rachel and Sydney; a great grandson Ellis, with 2 more on the way; a brother Ramon (Jeanette) Zimmer, London Ontario, Canada, a special friend Sharon Hoffman and many nieces and nephews. Barney was preceded in death by his beloved sweetheart, Martha on August 15, 2017, and a brother Leo Zimmer.

His Farewell Services... Friends were received in the Zachrich Family Funeral Home of Holgate from 3 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 17 with another hour of visitation prior to the church service. The Celebration of Barney's life was at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at St. John's United Church of Christ Holgate with Reverend Jeff McCarn officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made to The SHALOM Food Pantry.



NOVEMBER

11 - 3	Shane Eberle	11 - 17	Robert Eberle
11 - 3	Caryn Lulfs	11 - 18	Gilbert Sonnenberg
11 - 5	Delores Williamson	11 - 18	Kathy Finkenbinder
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 - 28	Sydney Lawson
11 - 13	Gabriel Roberts	11 - 30	Owen Fry
11 - 14	Benjamin Thomas		
11 - 14	Leslie Dietrich		

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.)

