

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

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am - Worship - Tammy Vajen	2 5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal	3 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	4 10am - Staff meeting 6:30pm - Spiritual Council	5 1:30pm - Van Crest Service 6pm - Finance Team	6 FH reserved	7
8 7:30am - Pentecost 9:30am - Worship/Communion 10:30am - CEB meeting	9 5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal 7pm - Deacons 7:30pm - Consistory	10	11	12	13	14
15 Father's Day 9:30am - Worship 10am - Newsletter Articles Due	16 5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal	17 SHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	18	19	20	21
22 9:30am - Worship 1pm - Washington UCC Trip	23 9am - Newsletter printing 5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal	24 9am - Newsletter mailing	25	26	27	28
29 9:30am - Worship	30 5:30pm - Monday Evening Meal	1 SHALOM Delivery in am	2	3	4	5

The Sentinel

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

JUNE 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: revjmccarn@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

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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SITTING AROUND THE TABLE

"And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'"

Matthew 9:10-11 NRSV

If we take a close look at Jesus and who he was and how his mission on earth was accomplished, we notice that Jesus sat around the dinner table a lot. Many of his stories and parables came while sitting around the table with others. It was not only that Jesus shared the table with people, it was with whom Jesus shared the table. Jesus shared the table with a diverse set of people, many who were deemed outcasts of society. He cared and shared the table with people who had broken every rule and were seen as unclean. He dined at the tables of wealthy men whose riches were gained with lies and corruption.

It was radical at the time. No one was that inclusive. The religious do-gooders began to whisper behind his back. They called him a friend of sinners. It was supposed to be an insult, but it never bothered Jesus. He knew this was the right thing to do. He was a friend to everyone. What do friends do? They eat dinner together and share in each other's lives.

Here are a couple other passages where Jesus shared the table.

Matthew 9:10-13:

This passage describes Jesus eating with "tax collectors and sinners" in a house. The Pharisees, who followed strict religious rules, questioned Jesus' decision, highlighting the societal rejection of these groups.

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SITTING AROUND THE TABLE

Continued From Page 2

Luke 7:34-35:

This passage refers to Jesus as a "friend of publicans and sinners," further emphasizing his willingness to associate with those considered outcasts.

Strangers eating together and becoming friends, is a simple concept. Yet it is something we are not very good at doing. During the month of June and July, each Monday will provide an opportunity to share a meal with people from our community who may or may not be strangers to us. Sitting at a table and sharing a meal is a sign of acceptance and love. Sharing the table with people we may not know provides an opportunity to learn each other's life stories.

Jesus shared the table with the outcasts and religious leaders for many reasons, but one reason is that he wanted to know their stories. Knowing someone's life story may help to understand their current situation in life. Sharing the table is an act of love and grace. Just a few weeks ago we were given the commandment by Jesus to love one another as I have loved you. One way to show love is to share the table with people - whether we know them well or not at all.

St. John's UCC and the wider United Church of Christ observe an open table during Communion, an open table where the grace of God is granted to all of God's beloved children. Sharing a table with others in our community each Monday in June and July will be an act of communion; sharing love and grace with others.

Continued On Page 4



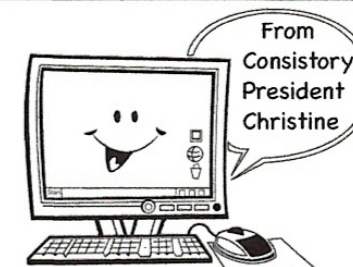
SITTING AROUND THE TABLE

Continued From Page 3

May our bellies be full, our conversations long and may everyone in our community know they are loved and welcomed at St. John's UCC. Our new banner says it well, "Jesus did not reject people, neither do we." I look forward to sharing an open table with our community and learning their stories. Come and join the love of Jesus!

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Jeff McCarn*

REMEMBERING



I think most of you have figured out that I have decided to share parts of my life each month, giving you an idea of things that have been significant in my life for that particular month.

So for June, I felt like I had to talk about my dad, since this is the month we celebrate Father's Day. My dad was the son of a Kentucky coal miner. My grandfather was a member of a fraternal organization which had as one of its benefits, the ability for children of deceased fathers to be cared for in a children's home. My grandfather died in his early thirties, which left five children needing care. Circumstances were such that my grandmother was financially unable to provide for the needs of the children. As a result, my dad and three of his siblings, left Kentucky by train, and ended up at the Jr. Order United American Mechanics Children's Home in Tiffin, Ohio. My dad was twelve years old at the time and the other siblings were younger. My dad's older sister was too old to be admitted to the children's home, so she had to be separated from her siblings and remained in the Kentucky/Tennessee area, living with relatives.

I can't imagine what it was like for my grandmother to have to send her children away and for my dad and his siblings to arrive at a strange place that would become their home until they could graduate from high school.

Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV

Well, God had a plan for all of this. My grandfather had paid dues to the fraternal organization, my grandmother had the strength to make a decision that was best for her children, and my dad and his siblings had the courage to step off the train in Tiffin and begin a new life.

May we all have strength and courage in our lives as we face each new day.

Christine Rettig



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

- ♦ Sunday School tribute for Mother's day.
- ♦ The new office computer is working great. I really enjoy the big screens.—Peggy
- ♦ Thank you to all who donated and helped with all the funerals the past months.
- ♦ Thank you to Jeri and Team for the SHALOM hot boxed meal.
- ♦ The recent funerals have gone well as a result of team effort.
- ♦ Thanks to those who spread mulch for the playground.
- ♦ SHALOM families seem excited for the upcoming community meals.
- ♦ Linda Arreguin gave a carnation to all of the mothers (and mother figures) present at the service on Mother's Day
- ♦ Our Sunday School children gave lotion to all the mothers present.

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 May 12, 2025

Members Present in addition to Pastor Jeff McCarn

Elders: *Kay Armbruster (26), Rolie Rettig (26), Kirk Fruth (27),
Christine Rettig (27)

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

Meeting was called to order by Christine Rettig, Consistory Chair at 6:29 P.M.

April minutes were approved with a clarification made to the minutes. Summer Monday Ministry meals ARE NOT for any kind of monetary donation. There will be no donation baskets out.

May Priorities

Beilharz currently has September and November books.

Sonnenberg Donation Task Force for building improvements wrote a proposal, and it was presented to Consistory by Christine Rettig. Approval was given by Consistory to move forward with presenting the proposal to Gib Sonnenberg and family. The next meeting for the Task Force is May 19.

Volunteers have been acquired for most, if not all, landscaping zones.

Meeting times for June and July have been changed to accommodate the Monday Meals ministry. Consistory meetings have been moved to 7:30 P.M. Spiritual Council meetings are moved to the first Wednesday for the months of June and July.

Financial Team Report

It was suggested that, once the audit by Beilharz is complete, accounts should be looked at again to see if anything can be condensed. Carl would like to train someone on the current program just so that someone else is familiar with the program—Eric Shank was the name mentioned. Farm Account disbursements—understood by the Finance Team and the policy that was created had been adapted. The financial reports were accepted pending audit.

A new technology policy was proposed to protect staff and volunteers. It was approved by Consistory to accept the policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.



Spiritual Council Meeting Excerpts May 5, 2025

Those present: Pastor Jeff McCarn

Bob Rettig (25)

*Kay Armbruster (26)

Christine Rettig (27)

Mike Haldy (25)

Rolie Rettig (26)

Kirk Fruth (27)

- The meeting was called to order by Pastor McCarn at 6:30.
- Pastor's Report was reviewed and accepted.
- Summer schedule will begin on May 25 with worship starting at 9:30.
- Guest speaker in place of Pastor on June 1.
- No communion on June 1. Communion will be on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.
- Pastor will meet with those teaching the Confirmation program this month.
- Summer meal team has been organized. Meals will be served from 5:30-7:00 p.m. with Bible School from 6:00-7:30. Adult discussion will occur at the same time.
- The list of inactive members was discussed and updated.
- Pastor closed the meeting with prayer at 7:30.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 4 at 6:30.

Bob Rettig, Scribe



DEACONS' BENCH

May 12, 2025

Amanda Rettig, Scribe

Deacons:

Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)

Linda Arreguin (26), Janice Rettig (26), Mark Vajen (26)

Amanda Rettig (27), Rory Prigge (27), Jay Slagle (27)

Members Present:

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 6:02 P.M. by vice-chair Janice Rettig. Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Old Business

County Septic Inspection of the parsonage has been done and billed. The church system has not yet been completed.

Volunteers have been acquired for most, if not all, landscaping zones.

Tri County second repair (over Pre-K area) has been repaired, and the bill has been paid.

Removal of old vinyl signs is scheduled to take place the weekend of May 24. The basketball court and church septic system will be taken care of at this time as well.

The mortar has been repaired around the brick sign.

Water Solutions came out and ran some tests on the water system. When the power goes out, the system will need to manually be reset. Pastor McCarn has been shown how to complete that process.

New Business

Meeting times for June and July will be moved to a start time of 7 P.M. to allow members to take part in the Summer Monday Meals.

Adjournment at 6:17 P.M.

JUNE WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
June 1	Deacons	Linda Arreguin Amanda Rettig
June 8	Deacons	Jared Clady Ben Thomas
June 15	Deacons	Mark Vajen Jay Slagle
June 22	Deacons	Janice Rettig Ben Thomas
June 29	Deacons	Amanda Rettig Rory Prigge



FROM
THE SHALOM
FOOD PANTRY

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - APRIL 2025

INCOME

St. John's UCC February Giving	\$ 910.00
St. Paul's Lutheran Church	<u>76.00</u>
Total	\$ 986.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



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

NURSING HOMES

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES, 1036 S. Perry Street,
Napoleon, OH 43545

Sue Mohr - #126

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 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
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

- * **Brenda Clevenger**, a friend of St. John's, needs prayers
- * **Mary Leaders** (relative of Pan and Rick Desgranges) health issues
- * **Dottie Tobias** (sister-in-law of John and Shirley Tobias) health issues
- Jerry Waisner** surgery in Florida on May 22, 2025
- * **Deb Nation** health issues
- * **Mike Allen** at home with 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 Earl Abshire, who passed away on April 21, 2025.
Funeral services were held Thursday, April 24, at the church with burial in the church cemetery.

The Family of Susanne Waisner, who passed away on May 1, 2025.
Funeral services were held Monday, May 5, at the church with burial in the church cemetery.

The Family of Janell G. Honeck, who passed away on May 11, 2025, in Missouri City, TX. A memorial service will be held at a later date with burial in Grelton Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, or to Anchor Hospice in Texas, which has online donations

William and Florence Snyder, whose son Daniel Snyder, age 62, passed away at his home on May 19. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Ronald McDonald House or Promedica Children's Hospital in Toledo.



**Alisa Fry
and
Mitchell Liitchfield**
United In Marriage
May 2, 2025

ONLINE OFFERINGS WELCOME!

St. John's UCC utilizes **Realm** to document all Giving to the Church. It's how we provide Annual Giving Statements!



You can use Realm to Give Online.
Scan this QR code to make your gift privately and securely.

Access giving on any device

onrealm.org/StJohnUnitedChu
Text **HOLGATEUCC** to 73256



Questions? Need help getting started?
Contact our Financial Administrator.
(419) 264-4401 or stjohnfinadmin@metalink.net.



- **McKenzie Boyd** graduated May 25, 2025, Summa Cum Laude from Holgate High School. McKenzie plans on going to the University of Cincinnati to study Advanced Medical Imaging Technology. She will get her Bachelor's Degree.
- **Cody Coppes** will graduate on June 1, 2025, from Tinora High School. Cody will be attending Owens Community College in the Fall studying Broadcast Media.
- **Elleigh Franz** graduated May 25, 2025, from Holgate High School. Elleigh will receive her Medical Assistant Certificate from Four County Career Center. She plans on taking a year off of school and working as a Medical Assistant. She would like to get her RN.
- **Garrett Hull** graduated May 25, 2025, from Napoleon High School. Garrett is the grandson of Mike and Kathy Finkenbinder.
- **Hallie McCarn** graduated on May 10, 2025, from Indiana State University, with a Doctorate of Athletic Training.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY APRIL 2025

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

	April 2025 Actual	2025 Year To Date	2025 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete	Actual YTD
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME	\$20,436	\$81,106	\$238,988		34%
EXPENSES					
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$4,383	\$15,654	\$46,996	33%	33%
MINISTRIES	\$691	\$2,446	\$9,500		26%
MISSIONS	\$540	\$2,160	\$6,480		33%
ADMINISTRATION	\$6,954	\$25,112	\$79,909		31%
PASTORAL	\$7,327	\$29,239	\$96,853		30%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,895	\$74,611	\$239,738		31%
NET OPERATING TOTAL	\$541	\$6,495			

Mission and Restricted Fund Giving of Note for April:

Mission of the Month - One Great Hour of Sharing:
 Shalom Food Pantry Giving: \$975
 Disaster Bucket Project: \$1,010
 Major Maintenance: \$1,141
 Cemetery Association: \$890
 Memorials (Not Yet Designated): \$1,040
 \$815



*Mission and
Stewardship*



BACK BAY MISSION MISSION FOR JUNE

BACK BAY MISSION relies on the generous support of individuals and congregations across the United States. While we are a community ministry of the United Church of Christ, we receive no funding from the national setting of the denomination. That means that people just like you are the people who are strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT TO BACK BAY MISSION

- \$50** can pay the application fee on an apartment or provide a homeless individual with a camping stove.
- \$100** can provide groceries for someone who is moving into housing.
- \$250** can pay the utility deposit for someone moving into housing or provide five monthly bus passes.
- \$500** can pay to reconnect someone to utilities that have been shut off.

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

Report from the Northwest Ohio Association Annual Meeting

On Saturday, April 26, I attended the Association Meeting as a delegate representing St. John's, along with Tammy Vajen and Pastor McCarn. Here are my thoughts from the keynote speaker's presentation. The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister and President. We were privileged to have her at our meeting, as she is serving our National Conference, and is in demand for leadership engagements throughout the country. She is the first woman to lead our denomination and has served fourteen years in other roles at the national level.

Dr. Thompson used the theme of the meeting, "Into the Deep", based on Luke 5:4-6 for the basis of her presentation. The verses refer to Jesus telling Simon to go out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch. Questioning Jesus' request, they nonetheless cast out the nets, and they caught such a number of fish that their nets began to break.

She asked us to consider what it means to be "in deep" or "in too deep", as compared to "into the deep". When we are "in deep", we can be in over our heads, seriously involved, or fully committed. When we are "in too deep", we can be in a difficult situation that one cannot get out of no matter how hard you try. Now, look at "into the deep"...it can refer to literally plunging in deep water, plunging into a difficult or unfamiliar situation, or...going on a spiritual journey creating a deeper relationship with God.

Dr. Thomas said the theme, "Into the Deep", is an invitation...an invitation for all of us to enter into an intentional, spiritual journey and dialogue with God. No matter how much you love God, there is always more to learn. The depth of our ability to follow the teachings of Jesus is a reflection of our depth of love of God. Do we dare wade "into the deep" to declare God's love for all? Do we dare wade "into the deep" to allow everyone to worship and experience this community of faith?

As we celebrate 165 years as a faith community this year...what is next for us at St. John's? The future is in our hands and in the hands of those who will carry St. John's forward in to the next 165 years. Be willing to dive "Into the Deep".

Christine Rettig



Team Meeting May 12, 2025

Those attending were Kirk Fruth, Scott Zimmer, John Hahn, Pastor Jeff, Marilyn Abshire, Jeri Hoellrich, and Norma Nagel.

Our team is divided into co-directors:

Scott Zimmer - food ordering/warehouse inventory/ Shalom Christmas food
John Hahn - warehouse/scheduling
Kirk Fruth - food bank statistics/client communication/ Shalom Christmas gifts
Marilyn Abshire - personal care warehouse/runners
Jeri Hoellrich - special meals/client communication
Norma Nagel - Secretary/Treasurer
Carol Lulfs - writing the thank you cards when needed

Since Earl Abshire passed away we need to update the people who do our banking. The people signing checks will be Scott Zimmer, John Hahn, and Norma Nagel. The people with debit cards will be Scott Zimmer and Marilyn Abshire. A copy of these minutes will be taken to the bank, and the people will go to the bank and sign the paperwork.

The church office gives the calls they receive pertaining to picking up food to Kirk. Other Shalom calls are given to Scott. When clients call the church office in need of food, Kirk will contact one of the team members to see if they are available to go to the church to make up boxes of food. This works when it happens occasionally with people. When we have someone coming between pantry days on a regular basis, we need to explain our Tuesday schedule and other pantries in the county they can go to for regular assistance. The numbers for these people need to be put on the tally sheet.

Marilyn works out a schedule for the runners with the woman from the court system. The kids need some community hours, and they work with us very well. This is good exposure of Christian faith at work to these kids.

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Team Meeting May 12, 2025

Continued From Page 20

Shalom clients sometimes discuss their concerns with Kirk and Jeri when signing in. Clients are asked if they would like to be put on the prayer chain and if their name may be used. The issues they are dealing with are not mentioned with any detail, and they are listed as a friend of the church - not as a Shalom client.

In place of having summer mid-week church services this year, we will be having a community meal on Mondays. We are handing out fliers on Shalom Tuesdays to the clients. We are hoping to have St. John's members, community people, and Shalom clients all attend and mingle. There will be some activities going on with it. Our hot meals on Shalom days will begin again in the Fall.

Norma Nagel, Secretary

Manning The Gates at the Henry County Fair

The Henry County Fair is coming! On August 14, the last day of the fair, St. John's UCC will be manning the gates at the fair. This is a fund raiser for our church, with the use of the proceeds yet to be determined.

This will give us a great opportunity to have folks see who we are and it is a great way to interact with the folks who support our county fair. There will be four gates to cover, with coverage needed from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Be thinking about what time of the day would work for you and perhaps, who you would like to team up with to work a gate. Generally the shifts are four hours, but we can break them down to make it easier for folks who may need a shorter shift.

More information will be forthcoming, Let's try to get enough volunteers signed up so that it won't be too much of a burden for anyone. An added benefit: you won't need to pay a gate fee to go in and get some delicious fair food to eat during or after your shift!



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Don Rettig
will celebrate his
92nd Birthday
on June 13

15976 St. Rt. 281
Holgate, OH 43527

Kay Raines
will celebrate her
91st Birthday
on June 13

4741 73rd St
LaMesa, CA 91942

Herbert Fruth
will celebrate his
97th Birthday
on June 23

600 Joe E. Brown Ave. Rm 9
Holgate, OH 43527

John Tobias
will celebrate his
86th Birthday
on June 28

10011 County Rd. Y
Hamler, OH 43524



**VanCrest of Holgate
Worship Service**

**Thursday, June 5
at 1:30 P.M.**

Angel Choir Needed



George & Ruth Medina
will celebrate their
64th Wedding Anniversary
on June 9

226 S Turkeyfoot Ave
Malinta, OH 43534

Gary & Marilyn Watson
will celebrate their
59th Wedding Anniversary
on June 25

M687 Co Rd 17D
Napoleon, OH 43545

Larry & Darlene Hockman
will celebrate their
67th Wedding Anniversary
on June 29

854 W Graceway Dr
Napoleon, OH 43545





In Loving Memory
Earl Abshire
 February 10, 1945 - April 21, 2025

Earl Scott Abshire, aged 80, of Holgate, Ohio, passed away peacefully on April 21, 2025, at Henry County Hospital in Napoleon, Ohio. Born on February 10, 1945, in Phyllis, Kentucky, Earl led a life characterized by dedication, service, and love for his family and community.

Earl was a proud graduate of Feds Creek High School in Feds Creek, Kentucky. He devoted 47 years of his working life to the Campbell Soup Company and Silgan Container, ultimately retiring in 2010. Throughout his career, Earl was known for his strong work ethic and commitment to excellence. Deeply committed to his faith, Earl was an active member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Holgate, where he took on numerous responsibilities including Sunday School Superintendent, member of the Christian League, Deacon, Elder, and dedicated church cemetery sexton. His service to the community extended further as he volunteered with the Shalom Food Pantry, always striving to help those in need. Earl's personality shone brightly through his quiet and thoughtful demeanor. He was a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Marilyn (Rettig) Abshire, and his children: Tricia (Mike) Mesler of Grove City, Ohio; Ken (Krystal) Abshire of Ashland, Ohio; Sue Abshire of Holgate; and Donna Abshire of Troy, Ohio. He is also survived by eight adored grandchildren: Kristen Mesler, Olivia (Ashlynn) Mesler, Brookelyn Abshire, Jonathon (fiancée Sara Hobart) Abshire, Skyler McLain, Devon Abshire, Keith Abshire, and Kathryn Abshire, along with his great-grandchild, Everleigh. Earl's legacy is also carried on by his sister, Patty (Roger) Hunt of Phyllis, Kentucky, as well as many nieces and nephews who will remember him fondly. He was preceded in death by six brothers: Burl, Ireland, Eugene, Phil, Lawson, and an infant named Lauchie, and four sisters: Virgie Justice, Ruby Ellis, Novella Bartley, and Rosalee Hensley.

Visitation for Earl was held on April 23, 2025, from 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Zachrich Family Funeral Home located at 114 William Street, Holgate, OH 43527, followed by another visitation on April 24, 2025, from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at St. John's United Church of Christ, I-946 State Route 108, Holgate, OH 43527. A Celebration of Life service took place on that same day starting at 11:00 A.M.

Memorial contributions can be made to
 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or
 Earl's beloved St. John's UCC Cemetery.

Earl Scott Abshire will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to his faith, his family, and his community. His gentle spirit and selfless actions made a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.



In Loving Memory
Susanne Holbrook Waisner
 January 3, 1940 - May 1, 2025

Susanne Holbrook Waisner was born in Taunton, Massachusetts on January 3, 1940, and died in Holgate, Ohio on May 1, 2025. She was born to Stephen and Madeleine (Story) Rhodes and she had one sister, Marcia Pettine.

Sue inherited her seafarer's spirit from her father and learned to sail in the briny waters near Taunton and after graduation she came West and earned a music education degree from Defiance College where, as a member of the choir, serenaded President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Whitehouse. Then she met Jim Waisner and the winds changed and she plotted a new course. They married in a garden in Taunton in 1962, and for the next 62 years she embraced the farm life in Holgate.

She and Jim had four children Kevin (Beth) Waisner, Scott (Vicki) Waisner, Mark (Tia) Waisner, and Diana (Jerry) Evers. Sue taught at Malinta and Hamler schools, worked in the cafeteria for a decade after. She was a member of the Farm Bureau, St. John's UCC church, a member of the Christian League, CE Board, Mayflower Circle, and Bell Choir.

Sue and Jim travelled from coast to coast and spent Summers on Agnew in Canada out fishing us all. Sue's love of the salty air and the tides rolling in could not outshine the love she had for her family. In her wake she leaves a legacy of a life well-loved seen in her eleven Grandchildren, Colin (Emily) Waisner, Denton (Wendy) Waisner, Adrienne Waisner, Reed (Renee) Waisner, Cody (Paige) Bronson, Michael (Alyssa) Waisner, Jennifer Waisner, Clay (Jessica) Waisner, Jason Waisner, Nicholas Evers, Neveah Evers, and six great grandchildren. Sue's time with us is over but like a lighthouse along the ocean, her light shines bright in all she loved.

Friends were received in the Zachrich Family Funeral Home of Holgate on Sunday, May 4, 2025, from 2-8 P.M. and 1 hour before the church service. The Celebration of Sue's life was on Monday in St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate at 11:00 A.M. with Reverend Jeff McCarn officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to
 St. John's United Church of Christ

thank you

Subject: thank you

From: "ohioogt@rtexpress.net" <ohioogt@rtexpress.net>

Date: 5/13/2025, 7:10 AM

To: "holgateucc@metalink.net" <holgateucc@metalink.net>

May 13, 2025

Dear St. John United Church of Christ church family,

On behalf of the Ohio Division of Orphan Grain Train I would like to express our sincere thanks for your generous gift!

We simply could not accomplish what we do without people like you. 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 blessed. May we also ask for your prayers that God will watch over the work of the Orphan Grain Train!

We continue to assist with hurricane and flooding relief efforts. This week a large U-Haul truck was loaded in Napoleon and delivered to Inez KY, recently another U-Haul went to Hazard KY to assist in the aftermath of flooding. We have made numerous deliveries to North Carolina and more will be sent soon to assist with furnish homes as they rebuild. We assisted monetarily in Florida after hurricane Helene, in California due to the devastation. There are other missions we assist in Kentucky and locally as we are made aware of needs. 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 501(c)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: clothing, working appliances, gently used furniture along with medical supplies, Christian literature, and other resources to meet real needs of God's people. Shipping 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.

Monetary donations should be sent to Orphan Grain Train P.O. Box 74 Ridgeville Corners OH 43555. THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Diann

Diann Meyer-Grieser

Sec. / Treas.

Ohio Division Orphan Grain Train

This letter is your official receipt. Our Federal Employer Information Number is 31-1614650.

Receipt dated: 5/13/25 Check #16404 Amount of \$765.00 Dated: 4/30/25.



JUNE

6-1	Anthony Robert Meyer	6-15	Serapio Medina
6-2	Jenny Kobilis	6-17	Nancy Thomas
6-2	Chris Coppes	6-18	Sean Saneholtz
6-3	Rick Desgranges	6-20	Karen Yaichner
6-8	Oliiva Haver	6-21	Patricia Kirk
6-11	Darlene Snyder	6-21	Eric Shank
6-12	Virginia Rettig	6-23	Herb Fruth
6-13	John Vajen	6-23	Bobbie McCarn
6-13	Craig Franz, Sr.	6-26	Tanner Davis
6-13	Peg Franz	6-28	John Tobias
6-13	Don Rettig	6-29	Ashlynn Highfield
6-13	Kay Raines		

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



JUNE

6 - 10	Kaelen Roberts
6 - 11	Logan Eberly
6 - 11	Brooklyn Fruth
6 - 19	Parker Rozevink
6 - 21	Kinley Brown
6 - 24	Jordyn Borck
6 - 30	Miriam Kibisu



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 **JULY**
Newsletter is— **SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 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



JUNE MISSION BACK BAY MISSION

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.