

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee!

St John's United Church of Christ

JOYFUL



NEWS



1371 ST. Route 587, Fostoria, Ohio 44830 Church Office (419) 435-8845 E-MAIL stjohnsu-



"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." Col 3: 15-16

I am amazed that the month of September has arrived already. This month we will be finishing up a months long series on the book of Exodus and move into a short series focused on the Church. In preparation for this series I thought the we might examine the spiritual discipline of **Community**. Christian **community** exists when believers connect with one another in authentic and loving ways, and encourage growth in Christ in one another. **Community** is engaging in transparent relationships that cultivate, celebrate, and exhort Christ's love for the world. The family of God is a living organism where each part finds its health and belonging in right relationship to the other parts.

As Christians, we belong together, not alone. Not even God is alone, but is a Holy **community** of three. In "Making all Things New" Henri Nouwen says "**Community** as discipline is the effort to create a free and empty space among people where together we can practice true obedience. To create space for God among us requires the constant recognition of the Spirit of God in each other." Nouwen could not have been more accurate in his description. As a **Community** of believers, we are meant to be a "show and tell" of what true belonging and love looks like. Never will we be perfect people; but we can be imperfect people who are committed to radical Spirit-empowered love that is capable of changing our lives and the world.

There are several ways to practice **community**:

A commitment to be present in the life of the church on a regular basis

Try practicing biblical "one anothers"...each one for a week..practice "love one another", serve "one another", pray for "one another", forgive "one another".

Engage in the **community** through hospitality of not just your nuclear family but others as well.

Engage in mission with the church and others

Exercise your gifts in fellowship with others

Keep company with Jesus in everything that does or does not happen in **community**

*Our desire to express and reflect the love of the Trinity is lived out when we invest in and journey with one another in **community**. Consider this month how you might become more committed to the **community** of the Church of Jesus Christ.*

In Christ,

Pastor Amy



Thoughts to our humans from Gracie ~ Dogs live for the day, the hour, even for the moment!" ~Robert Falcon Scott



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Shawn Keckler
- 1st Maddie Saxton
- 5th Michelle Rainey
- 7th Jay McAllister
- 9th Kevin Fruth
- 16th Curtis Meisner
- 16th Lenny Theis
- 20th Ruth Ann Beidelschies
- 20th Sandi Brendle
- 29th Josh Kinney
- 23rd Matt Hickle
- 24th Ryan Brown
- 24th Melvin Elmore
- 24th Wendy Norris
- 25th David Dundore
- 28th Zane Keckler
- 28th Dennis Cobb
- 29th Terri Kirby
- 30th Greg Brendle

Anniversaries

- 1st Dr. Tim & Jill Beidelschies
- 19th Lenny and Robin Theis
- 21st Glen and Rachel Fruth

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Old Business: Cheri filled out the application for the church's new VISA card. The bake sale earned \$524.50 for the laundry mission. The kids will be meeting on 8/27 during the church service to decide on the charities they want to donate their money to. Sunday School for the adults and kids will start on 10/1.

New Business: No new business

Pastor Amy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Terri, meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday September 12, 2023.



August 27, 2023 **Blessings for the School Year**



The Sunday School Children collected "SPARE CHANGE" to the amount of \$840.00 during the school year 2022-2023

A HUGE Thank You to all the Congregation for your generous giving!! This past Sunday we had a breakfast for the kids during church, it was decided during that time to give \$105.00 to each of the following 8 organizations who help Children in some way. St. Jude's Childrens Hospital, The Shriners Hospital for Children; local groups which includes First Step, Fostoria; Gliding Stars, Findlay; The Miracle League of Findlay, F.A.C.T. Pediatrics; Patch Works House, Tiffin and Tiffin -Seneca United Way - Unity 4 Community (program to provide new shoes for kids).



~ Jane Meisner

September, a month of indecision! We never know what the weather will be until you wake up and check it out. September sits as I see it on the fence. It

doesn't know if it's still summer or fall. One day you wake up to fog and chilly weather. The next it's 89 degree forecast. The flowers are starting to get tired. Even the weeds slow down a little. It's a lot like human nature. We want to be good and do what's right but somehow something gets in the way. Why does it have to be this way?

Well, we know that we live in Ohio. We are blessed with four seasons. We tough it out through the cold and snow knowing that if we wait long enough Spring will come. Sure enough, the trees bloom and the leaves are green. The rain and heat of the summer gives all the growing crops a chance to be fruitful and flourish. The crops are harvested to feed us for another year. The trees show us their beauty before they leave us to hibernate. In other words they're resting in order to be ready for their purpose God gave them. We know all this will happen in nature so why aren't we learning from them?

So are we like September, not knowing what or who or why we are? I believe we know that God created us. We know that we were babies and have grown into adults. But do we really know why we were born? In the spring of our lives we're excited about all the possibilities out there. We get a feel for what we want to do. But storms and failures and problems just seem to creep in on us. We begin to question. What have I done wrong? Why is all this happening? What should I do now? (Maybe the first tree wondered about that too.) It's time for decision making. It's time to look outside ourselves for the answers.

God did create us for this time in history. No doubt about that! He gave us minds and bodies to do all the necessary things to keep living. BUT THEN, GOD gave us a mind for choices. Would we go our own way or would we ask Him for the best way? Would we acknowledge Him but feel confident we can do this on our own? In scripture the Apostle Paul said that he does the very thing he does not want to do. We must decide! When we make that all important decision to seek God and His perfect plan it makes all the difference in our lives. We begin to see that all though "stuff" happens to us God has an answer. He gave us His risen Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to carry us through. I emphasize through to the other side. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for evil to give you a future and a hope."

So let's not be on the fence vacillating back and forth trying to keep our balance on our own. Decide this day whom you will serve! God has the best possible solution. All we need to do is give the rest of our lives to Him. As they say, "He's got this." I have decided to follow Jesus. How about you?



*If you wish to add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office, 419-435-8845 by

the 3rd Thursday of the month in order that their name be printed in the newsletter.

Special Days in September 2023

4th Labor Day

10th National Grandparent's Day

11th Patriot Day

23rd First Day of Autumn

DID YOU KNOW...

Before the 16th century, most churches didn't have seats. Believers either had to stand or bring their own stools.

By the early 1800, clergy capitalized on a brilliant idea—charge people for their pews. The practice faded by the 1930s, but some British parishes were still letting pews at late as 1970s.

Mark Twain once complained that seats in New York's parishes went for as "high as house rent." He wasn't kidding. In 1861, the best pew in Brooklyn's Plymouth Church rented for \$160. a year. That's \$2,500 in today's money! In 1908, one church in New York made \$55,000 off its pew roll.

"There is no better way to thank God for your sight than to give a helping hand to someone in the dark."

Submitted by Secretary of Women's Guild ~ Sandi Brendle

August Guild Report

There were 10 St. John's Guild members gathered at Kathy's Korner for lunch and our meeting. We discussed the Sanctuary Sunday Flowers. Flowerland has been sold and they will no longer be supplying the fresh flowers we have been blessed with for years. We will be using arrangements made by volunteers; Janine Meisner, Sue Rainey and Robin Theis. Our Guild will be providing Lilies for Easter and Poinsette's for Christmas. Anyone wishing to donate them let us know.

We discussed the September 16th Church Picnic; we will need items donated so Signup Sheets are in the back of the Sanctuary. **Please join us that Saturday for a fun evening of food and music. Donations made that evening will go toward St. John's Capitol Improvement Fund. Also, a Freewill offering will be taken up for the Praise Music by "Echoes of Grace."**



Consistory Reports for August 8, 2023 ~ Janine Meisner

Members Present: Dave Yambert, Cheri Brown, Terri Kirby, Jim Hutchins, Stephanie Bradner, David Fruth, Pastor Amy Kinney and Janine Meisner.

Members Absent: Lenny Theis

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Pastor Amy.

Janine read the minutes from the July meeting and the minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Committee members reviewed the treasurer's report for July. The July report showed an ending balance of \$170,679.05 with a checking account balance at \$35,194.30. Cheri moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Stephanie. Motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Dave F. painted the yellow stripe on the sidewalk and steps by the back door. Greene's Heating, Plumbing, and Electrical put in a new faucet on the east side of the church due to the faucet not shutting off. The walls of the nursery room were dry locked and sealed. It is ready to paint. The outside trim work is finished by the front door. There are still some parts that need primed and painted like the sanctuary windows. Tong's is not returning Dave Y. so Jim is going to call Greene's to service the sanctuary furnace.

Pastor's Report: There will be two weddings coming up in September. On 9/22 Kris Hammond and on 9/23 Zoe Keckler. Both weddings will be very small with immediate family only. Pastor Amy handed out copies of an Abuse Prevention Policy and a Sex Offender Limited Access Agreement from Safe Sanctuary. Consistory members will take these home and review them and a discussion with vote will be taken at the next consistory meeting. There will be 2 more new members joining St. John's on September 10th.




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SEPTEMBER 2023



St John UCC 1371 S St. Rt. 587 PO BOX 1047 Fostoria, Ohio

44830 EMAIL stjohnsu-

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 Grand-parent's Day	11 Patriot's Day	12 Consistory	13 Bald is Beautiful Day	14	15	16 Church Picnic 
17	18 Nat'l Cheese-burger Day	19	20	21	22 Ice Cream Cone Day 	23 1st Day of Autumn 
24 Happy Daughter's Day	25 Yam Kipper	26	27	28	29 VFW Day	30 Nat'l Mull Cider Day

“Don’t knock the weather—nine out of ten people couldn’t start a conversation without it.”

St. John's United Church of Christ
1371 S. ST RT 587
PO Box 1047
Fostoria, Ohio 44830

Place
Stamp
Here

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER

2023



Autumn Blessings to:



Perfect happiness
is a beautiful sunset,
the giggling of a grandchild,
the first snowfall.



It's the little things
that make happy moments,
not the grand events.
Joy comes in sips, not gulps.