



The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

January 2025

From the Pastor

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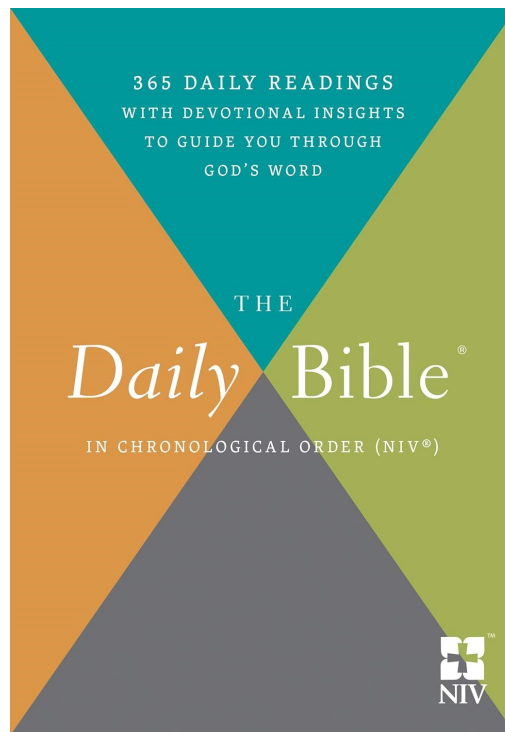
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Starting January 1, we, at good ole' St. John UCC, will be embarking on a journey through the Bible in a Year. It's not something that every church does, in fact, it's not something every Bible Study group does. But we believe in a Still Speaking God in the United Church of Christ, and in fact, one of the early pioneers of faith had this

to say: "I am verily persuaded the Lord has more truth yet to break forth out of His holy word. I beseech you, remember (it is an article of your church covenant) that you be ready to receive whatever truth shall be made known to you from the word of God."

Throughout 2025 we shall be reading every single word in the Bible in our Bible studies, arranged chronologically in *The Daily Bible*. Almost every Sunday will be focused on one or more of the readings from the previous week's worth of scripture passages, and may include both familiar stories and ones that are new to you. But as we work through the Bible, from Creation to Revelation, keep your ears open for those messages that are constant – like

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From the Pastor

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It's a fascinating challenge, and one that will bring you more blessings than you can imagine.



God's love, people's sins, God's forgiveness. We'll find these and other themes running throughout the Bible and in reality, throughout our own lives as well.


Even if you can't make it to a Tuesday Bible study, I invite you to get a copy of *The Daily Bible* and read along with us. It's a fascinating challenge, and one that will bring you more

blessings than you can imagine, along with a wonderful sense of achievement, when on December 31, 2025, you can you have read through the entire Bible in a Year! Looking forward to being on this journey with you this year!

-Rev. Torie

To buy The Daily Bible, search online or ask at a bookstore for ISBN # 978-0736980296 (or buy it on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/83yLd0W>)

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

For those who may wish to follow a daily Bible reading schedule, *The Daily Bible* has been divided into 365 easily readable sections. Because the daily reading sections have been determined on the basis of logical content, the reading will vary somewhat in length. On the average, however, each daily reading section is less than five pages. The sections are identified by this daily reading symbol  which will appear at the beginning of each day's reading.

Day	Pages	Day	Pages	Day	Pages
January 1	1-6	February 5	157-162	March 12	322-328
2	6-10	6	162-166	13	328-333
3	11-16	7	166-170	14	333-338
4	17-22	8	170-174	15	338-343
5	23-28	9	174-179	16	343-346
6	29-34	10	179-184	17	346-349
7	34-39	11	184-190	18	349-353
8	39-44	12	190-194	19	353-357
9	44-47	13	194-198	20	357-361

The Daily Bible is divided chronologically into small sections for easier reading.

Ministry Board of Christian Nurture

Faith Formation Schedule: Children’s Chats will be led by Haven Reardon on the first and second Sundays of the month. Rev. Torie will lead on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month.

January **Lunch Bunch** will be on January 12 at the White Castle in Reading.

Join us Sunday, Jan. 19 at RJ Cinema, 4450 Eastgate South Dr., for **Rev. Torie’s 60th Birthday Open House!** Grab a drink or snack, stay for a movie, or just hang out. The movie will start at 2:45 pm, so best to arrive around 2:30. In lieu of

gifts, Rev. Torie would like to collect 60 of each of the following needed Food Pantry items (they can be brought to church, no need to carry them to the movie theater!):

- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac and Cheese
- Tuna



Save-the-Dates

February 22: Chili Cook-off and Games

March 4: Pancake Dinner

March 8: German Heritage Dinner

Church Council

A note from the staff:

**THANK
YOU**

Dear Congregation, thank you so much for the Christmas gifts.

Your generosity and love are greatly appreciated, and it is such

an honor to serve in ministry with you at St. John UCC.

-Jane Owen, Secretary;
Kathy Culver, Treasurer;
Debbie Cummins, Director of Music;
Rev. Torie Front, Minister

The **2025 Annual Meeting** will be held January 26, immediately after worship.

Ministry Board Chairs, Staff, and Clergy – all information for the 2024 Annual Report is due to Jane on **Tuesday, January 7**. Please email your report and updates to the church office.

We are preparing an updated **church directory** for the annual meeting. Please check your information in the current directory. If you spot any errors or missing information, please fill out one of the Directory Update forms on the deacons’ table and take it to the church office by January 7. Thank you!

The Visitor

Ministry Board of Deacons



Feed My Sheep needs **warm hats, gloves, and blankets** for our neighbors, as the weather has gotten frosty! Men's cold-weather clothing is especially needed.

Thank you for all your **generous giving** over the holidays – because of you we were able to provide Christmas gifts for 80 children, and their parents and

This is your chance to share the importance of your faith with those you love.



Ministry Board of Elders

January 12, 2025 will be our annual observation of the **Baptism of Jesus**. We will renew our own baptismal vows and baptize and welcome our new members. Please plan to attend and help grow the Family of Faith here at St. John's!

If you're interested in serving as an **Usher, Greeter, Liturgist, or dedicating Altar Flowers** in 2025, sign-up sheets are available outside the Cozy Corner. Never served in one of these roles before? Speak to Rev. Torie or anyone on the Board of Elders to learn more. New faces always welcome!

grandparents. Thank you also to all who went caroling and brought joy to so many of our homebound members.

Upcoming Deacons projects:

- Another food packing event for Hands Against Hunger, possibly in February
- Pennies for Pets

Planning your funeral is a bit like planning a worship service, in that you get to pick the hymns you want sung and the scriptures you want read. Taking some time to personally select these components, and making a few notes about what sort of message you'd like your friends and family to hear, especially picked for them by you, is a very powerful gift you can leave for those who are left behind. If you'd like some assistance with this, we have compiled a selection of scriptures and hymns most often used in a funeral setting, but this

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Ministry Board of Elders

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doesn't mean you have to use them. Whatever you'd like to select will be just perfect, as this is your chance to share the importance of your faith with those you love. Please see Rev. Torie if you'd like to schedule a time to sit down and talk about this. It's never too early to think about this!

Celebrations in January

Birthdays:

- January 10 - Emily Hogeback
- January 15 - Rev. Torie Front
- January 21 - George Clary
- January 22 - Jane Hendrix
- January 23 - Kathy Bentley
- January 24 - Gary Kurtz

Are we missing your birthday or anniversary? Please call the office and let Jane know!

Lectionary

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
<i>Through the Bible – Jan. 1-7 entries</i> Genesis 7:11-8:4; Genesis 17:1-16	January 7	January 12
<i>Through the Bible – Jan. 8-14 entries</i> Genesis 24:42-67; Genesis 28:6-9; Genesis 29:15-30	January 14	January 19
<i>Through the Bible – Jan. 15-21 entries</i> Genesis 35:9-15; Genesis 41:17-45	January 21	January 26
<i>Through the Bible – Jan. 22-28 entries</i> Exodus 19:1-6; Exodus 3:1-15; Exodus 20:1-17	January 28	February 2

The Visitor

Ministry Board of Property and Finance



Our next Work-Ship Day will be Saturday, Feb. 1. Hope to see you there!



We hope that Christmas and the New Year will bring a sense of hope, peace, joy and love to you and your families.

Tuck pointing is complete and all the scaffolding that has graced our property for so long has been removed. The crew will return at some point and clean and repair a few areas and will also repair the broken and dislodged brick on the outdoor sign. The church building has a beautiful and clean new look to it and we are thankful for all the time and labor spent on this needed improvement.

The Ministry Spending Plan, otherwise known as the budget, has been presented to Council and was approved with some minor changes. We will be seeking congregational approval at our annual meeting in January.

Sometime over the winter, we will be improving the wifi access throughout the building. Donnie Wetterer, one of the past leaders of the Boy Scouts, will assist us with this project by providing some network equip-

ment and his skills to install this system. We will be cleaning up and reorganizing all the messy wiring in the secretary's office. We hope to see a noticeable improvement in speed and access.

With help from Rick Caudill, Nieman Plumbing was able to provide some needed plumbing services throughout the church. There still remain just a few problems for which they will provide a proposal for repairs, and a few issues that we will handle ourselves.

Please let us know how we are doing and what else we should be addressing.

Our next **Work-Ship Day** will be Saturday, Feb. 1. Hope to see you there!

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

Peace and blessings from P&F.

St. John UCC Regularly Scheduled Events

Weekly			
Event	Day	Time	Location
Handbell Choir	Sunday	9 am	Sanctuary
Worship	Sunday	10 am	Sanctuary
Bible Study (Afternoon)	Tuesday	1 pm	Bible Study Room
Bible Study (Evening)	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Mt. View Terrace
Chancel Choir	Wednesday	6:15 pm	Choir Room
Feed My Sheep	Thursday	4:30 pm	Fellowship Hall

Monthly			
Event	Day	Time	Location
Communion	1st Sunday	10 am	Sanctuary
Deacons	Last Thursday	2:30 pm	Cozy Corner
Lunch Bunch	2nd Sunday	After Worship	Various
Men's Group	Various Sundays	11 am	Various
Missionary Sewing	1st Wednesday	10 am	Fellowship Hall
Property & Finance	2nd Tuesday	5 pm	Fellowship Hall
Christian Nurture	1st Tuesday	5 pm	Fellowship Hall
Elders	2nd Thursday	2:30 pm	Bible Study Room
Euchre	Last Thursday	6 pm	Reads' home
Church Council	3rd Thursday	6 pm	Fellowship Hall
Work-ship Day	Last Saturday	8 am	Church



St. John United Church of Christ

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Word Search—the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

R V S J N I N P V B S G C A P Y P A Z U
 S X O J E C B B P P Y D R E A M X G T G
 W H E R O M O M J A N U A R Y T W U W E
 S L V O P P R E A C H E R K I N G J R O
 R P O Y I Z N X W R G N C G B K H E I R
 V T E V O U Y W D Y T L U Y T G S D B G
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MARTIN
 BIRTHDAY
 LEADER
 CHANGE

LUTHER
 JANUARY
 SPEECH
 FAIR

KING JR.
 PEACE
 PREACHER
 JUSTICE

ATLANTA
 LOVE
 MARCH
 PROTEST

GEORGIA
 DREAM
 HERO
 FREEDOM