



# The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

Sept. 2024

## From the Pastor

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It was a summer of Biblical Heroes! Jesus, of course – we could have done an entire summer just on Jesus! But it was fun (for most people I think) to look at some of the different Old Testament Biblical characters and learn a bit more about them. If you had to summarize this year's Summer Sermon Series, what might you say? What did we learn from these Biblical characters? There were many similarities, weren't there? They all had faith – maybe not a lot to start out with, but

they relied on their faith no matter what obstacle lay before them. They listened to God and followed the Word of God – whether spoken, revealed, or written. They trusted God. And they offered up praise to God.

These are indeed great life lessons for us as well. We may not live in Biblical times, we may live in evil times, modern times, call it what you like, but I think we find ourselves in situations and conditions that were quite common thousands of years ago. God's love and goodness is always available, but people choose to go their own evil ways. And troubles occur. And then we remember to call out to God. So let's try to bypass that step, shall we? And avoid a lot of trouble by just constantly calling on God. Relying on God.

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## The Visitor

### From the Pastor



Having FAITH in our Triune God! Trusting God. Listening to God. Obeying God. You get the picture.

The next time you are at church, sitting in our beautiful sanctuary, and you have a few moments before worship begins, pick up

the blue hymnal and look at hymn #443, "Trust and Obey" and see if these words might help you be like our Biblical heroes. Or, if you find another hymn that helps you, let me know!

**Rev. Torie**

### Fundraiser for UCC Mission Priority Board

folksinger & former news reporter  
**BILL COHEN**

# 1960s Coffeehouse

**Saturday**  
**9.14.2024**  
7 pm - 8:30 pm

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
5808 GLENVIEW AVE.  
CINCINNATI OH 45224

**\$15**  
SUGGESTED DONATION

Benefitting UCC Mission Priority Board hunger + homelessness ministries, inter-faith advocacy and youth efforts, affirming ministries and UCC service providers

## Ministry Board of Christian Nurture

During the Fall, the **Children’s Chats** will continue to be offered each week (and used when we have kids in worship!) and we will make plans to take the kids out of worship on the first Sundays of the month.

The annual **Outdoor Worship and Picnic** is September 8 at Voorhees Park in Reading, worship at 10:00am, picnic to follow. Please bring your own drinks and a side dish, dessert, or salad to share. Hot dogs, brats and metts will be provided.

This month’s **Coffee Hour** will be at 9:15 am on September 15, hosted by Rev. Torie. Please join us for fellowship and treats before worship.

If you are interested in **hosting a coffee hour** in October or November, or want to help Rev. Torie in September, please see anyone on the Ministry Board of Christian

Nurture, or sign up outside the Cozy Corner.

**Fall Family Fun Fest at the Fronts’ Farm** is Sunday, September 22, from 12-3 pm. Bring a side, salad, or dessert and your own beverage, and a chair (although we have about 20!) Take a nature walk, pat the horses, ride one if you want, take a hayride, sit by the bonfire (unless it’s too hot!) play cornhole or jarts or croquet – the list is endless! If you bring a friend to church that day, they can join us for the picnic!

Please see the back cover for information and registration link for the **Women’s Retreat!** Registration deadline is Oct. 5.

If you are a fairly recent **widow** and would like to be part of a book study “Widow to Widow”, please sign up outside the Cozy Corner.

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- Sept. 18 - Virginia Gilbert
- Sept. 19 - Rev. Steve Cummins
- Sept. 25 - Laura White
- Sept. 29 - Tammy Rohne
- Sept. 30 - Debbie Hogeback

### Anniversaries

- Sept. 2 - Phil & Julie Hauenstein
- Sept. 17 - Rev. Torie & Vince Front
- Sept. 18 - Linda & Bruce Read
- Sept. 19 - Ann & Jess Feldman





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### Ministry Board of Deacons



*Pantry needs this month include bath soap, dish soap, shampoo, and deodorant. Peanut butter and pasta are always welcome.*

St. John is signed up to do a **Cereal Pack** at Hands Against Hunger on Kemper Road on Thursday, September 19, at 1:00 pm. If you are able to help out, please join us. You can sit or stand and we'll only pack for an hour and a half – and all cereal packed comes directly to St. John UCC for our “Feed My Sheep” ministry. But there will be plenty for you too, if you'd like some Rice Chex for yourself! Please bring a box of gallon zip lock baggies if you can – that will be a help!

Also, Hands Against Hunger can bring to us a **‘regular’ food pack** – where the meal components are bagged and sent overseas to combat hunger. We can do this at St. John UCC, and even keep some of

the food for Feed My Sheep if we want. We'd like to invite our Feed My Sheep folks to help out with this, but St. John UCC members are also welcome – it's quite fun! We're looking at Tuesday, October 1 at 4:30 pm for this one-hour event. If you would like to be part of this, please sign up!

**Feed My Sheep** continues to serve 80-100 people per week! We can always use your help – the most urgent pantry needs this month include bath soap, dish soap, shampoo, and deodorant. Peanut butter and pasta are always welcome. So pick up a few extra when you go shopping, and know that you are being the hands and feet of Jesus right here in Reading!



THE HEARTLAND CONFERENCE'S  
PORTAL TO MINISTRY RESOURCES!



SCAN ME

***Want an easy way to connect with The Heartland Conference?***

Scan this QR Code with your phone camera to access our website, newsletter, email our staff, register for events, and more! Or visit

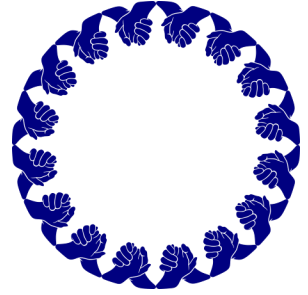
[linktr.ee/HeartlandUCC](http://linktr.ee/HeartlandUCC)

## Ministry Board of Elders

You've all been such good sports this summer, worshipping with us while we introduced a different Order of Worship. There are some who have enjoyed it, and some who are looking forward to going back to the 'normal' way! And yet, is there really a 'normal' way to worship?! There's something to think about. But starting on

September 15, we'll be singing the traditional "Gloria Patri" and "Doxology" and have our Time of Offering earlier in the worship service. But, we will also introduce a new Response to the Benediction by doing something that was done at St. John UCC decades ago – we'll sing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

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## Lectionary

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
<b><i>Outdoor Worship &amp; Picnic</i></b> Genesis 1:26-31 Genesis 2:4-9, 18-25	September 3	September 8
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	September 10	September 15
Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54 James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37	September 17	September 22
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50	September 24	September 29

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### Ministry Board of Elders

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while holding hands around the sanctuary. Let's give it a try- and respect those that don't want to hold hands due to germs and viruses – and see what you think!

Sunday, October 27 will be “**Laity**” **Sunday**, where members of the congregation are invited to share their testimony from the pulpit. If you are interested in telling a bit of your faith story that Sunday, please let Ministry Board of Elders Chair Steve Prater or Rev. Torie know by September 11.

### Are you ready to **Read Through the Bible in a Year?!**

We're looking at starting this up in 2025 - sign up now so we see how many people are interested, and we'll get you the Bible in December.

**Chancel Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 4, and **Handbell Choir** resumes before worship on Sunday, Sept. 22. Please contact Debbie Cummins if you are interested in joining either or both choirs for fun, fellowship, and worship!



*Before our  
Father's throne  
we pour our  
ardent prayers;  
our fears, our  
hopes, our aims  
are one,  
our comforts and  
our cares.*

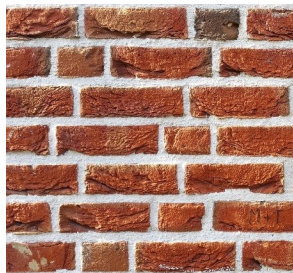
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### Ministry Board of Property and Finance

Fall is approaching and, as always, it seems that summer has come and gone and there is still plenty that we were hoping to get accomplished. However, we are still very happy with what we were able to accomplish!

The company working on our stained glass window has indicated that it may be ready and installed sometime this month. They have emailed a progress report that included some pictures of the restoration work

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## Ministry Board of Property and Finance

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and the restored window is looking quite impressive. We are thankful that our window is in such skilled hands, and we are looking forward to the retiring of the curtains and the return of our beautiful window.

Tuck pointing continues every week day and progress is definitely being made. The new mortar joints are more visible and thus the brick patterns in the walls are showing up more. Previously it was difficult to even notice the brick patterns but now they are quite visible and quite lovely. The scaffolding and the large lift will grace our property till the work is complete, which will be sometime near the end of summer, or later.

We are also getting proposals for two other major projects: a new outdoor sign that would have a digital message board, and new front entrance doors to replace the aging and damaged doors. These projects will be funded out of the recent gifts

that the church has been receiving.

School is back in session and the Serendipity teachers and students will again be present at the church. Please be watchful for everyone, and please say a prayer for the kids, teachers and parents as they start the school year, that if anyone is looking for a church, they will find our open doors. We are thankful for Serendipity Pre-School and for all schools and teachers and all the hard work and the many hours they spend to educate and nurture our children.

We have scheduled a Workshop Day for Saturday, September 14. As always, there will be plenty of tasks that will need your help to complete. There is always food, drink, fun and fellowship at every Workshop Day. More updates will follow. Please come and help.

Peace and blessings from P&F.

**Gary Kurtz**



*We are thankful that our window is in such skilled hands, and we are looking forward to the retiring of the curtains and the return of our beautiful window.*



## 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 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





# LABOR DAY WEEKEND

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

- BACKYARD
- BARBECUE
- BEACH
- CELEBRATE
- END OF SUMMER
- FAMILY
- FEDERAL
- FRIENDS
- HAMMOCK
- HISTORY
- HOLIDAY
- JOB
- LABOR
- PARADE
- PARTY
- RELAX
- REST
- RIGHTS
- SEPTEMBER
- SHOP
- TRADE
- TRAVEL
- UNION
- VACATION
- VISIT
- WORKERS

D	F	P	S	T	Z	S	R	E	K	R	O	W	I
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M	V	I	S	I	T	A	E	W	N	T	T	I	O
I	P	O	Q	I	D	B	D	S	I	E	R	D	P
L	X	N	Q	E	N	E	U	C	E	B	R	A	B
Y	F	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	H	C	M	Y	P

The words appear UP, DOWN, SIDEWAYS, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY  
Find and circle each word.





**St. John United  
Church of Christ**

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*United in Christ's love, we seek justice for all.*



**Highwater Congregational UCC  
and St. John UCC**

**A Journaling-Based,  
Joy-Filled Women's Retreat**

**Saturday, October 19**

9:30 am-4:00 pm

Wilmington College:

Kelly Center, McCoy Room



**Gatherings:**

- ✓ Discussion groups
- ✓ Service projects
- ✓ Worship w/ Communion
- ✓ Optional overnight stay

**Cost: \$50/person  
RSVP by  
Sunday, Oct. 5**



Scan here to register online,  
or visit

[forms.gle/49odLyRm2dGHWFFZA](https://forms.gle/49odLyRm2dGHWFFZA)