



The Visitor

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St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

November 2024

From the Pastor

Thank you, dear Congregation, for the Pastor's Appreciation Day gift of the Massage Envy gift card. This very minor holiday was not created by Hallmark, as so many holidays seem to be!

In 1994, the American Christian organization Focus on the Family began promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a national month of observance. In highlighting Clergy Appreciation Month, Focus on the Family sought to encourage the faithful to outwardly show their appreciation for religious leaders on a national level.

However, Pastor Appreciation Day, set as the second Sunday in October, is just part of something bigger. October has long been recognized worldwide as Pastor Appreciation Month, or Clergy Appreciation Month. The call to honor our church lead-

ers' contributions can be traced back to St. Paul. In establishing the first Christian churches, St. Paul advised the congregation to give "double honor" to the elders of the church who managed the affairs of the church well, "especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Timothy 5:17). St. Paul further urged Christian communities to acknowledge those "who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you," holding these spiritual leaders "in the highest regard in love because of their work" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

However nice it is to be appreciated, the ministries of St. John UCC are certainly not done in a vacuum. I appreciate all of the Ministry Board Chairs,

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From the Pastor

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who work tirelessly throughout the year with their Ministry Boards to keep the church going, keep the fellowship and faith building opportunities coming, keep the worship smooth and meaningful, and keep this church active in our community through our feeding ministries.

I also appreciate the top-notch staff that this church has put together - Jane, our amazing Church Secretary who can do anything we need and more, with a smile and an offer to do

more! Kathy, our detail oriented treasurer who keep us up to date with our finances and is always looking for better ways to do something, save some money, be a wise steward. And, Debbie, our God-inspired Music Director, who spends hours selecting music, practicing music, and planning music, so that our worship services, and retreats, will truly be a blessing to all.

Thank you, everyone, for the joy of serving in ministry together at St. John UCC.

Rev. Torie



"However nice it is to be appreciated, the ministries of St. John UCC are certainly not done in a vacuum."



Ministry Board of Christian Nurture

Our next **Movie Night** is Friday, Nov. 1 at 6 pm. The movie will be *Coco*. Please bring an appetizer to share and a drink.

Lunch Bunch will meet on Nov. 10, location TBA, directly after church.



Friendsgiving Meal
Tuesday, Nov. 19
11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Join us for “**Friendsgiving**” - a chance for Saints at Home to share lunch and a short worship service at church with us. Please see Shirley Waddell with any questions, and sign up outside the Cozy Corner if you can attend (or help drive).

Faith Foundations, when the children are taken out of worship for a Bible story

and crafts, is held on the first and second Sundays of the month. The rest of the month, the children will remain in worship. Each week there will be a Children’s Chat for our younger worshippers.

Hospitality Team: The newly formed Hospitality Team is in need of unused greeting cards to observe birthdays, anniversaries, and sympathy/”thinking of you” times. If you have unused cards to spare, please leave them on the office desk!

Save-the-Dates in December:

Dec. 8: Cookie exchange! (after cantata)

Dec. 15: Extravaganza! (after church)

Dec. 17, 18, 22: Christmas Caroling!



Totenfest
Sunday, Nov. 3
*Remembering our
 loved ones who
 have died this year*

Please contact the church office with your loved one’s name (and a picture of them, if you wish) if you would like St. John to mark their passing this year during the Nov. 3 worship service.

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Ministry Board of Deacons



The giving tree will be going up soon, but if you want to get a head start, check out the bulletin board in the upstairs hall.

Thanksgiving bags: Deacons try each year to provide Thanksgiving treats for our friends that come to the pantry. We need the following: canned yams, boxed stuffing, green beans, mushroom soup, canned fried onions, noodles, chicken or turkey broth, turkey gravy mix, boxed/bagged mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, boxed desserts (cookie mixes, cake and brownie mixes, pie shells and fillings) canned baked beans and canned hams and canned chicken. Holiday napkins are always appreciated.

Christmas Giving Tree: For the past several years, we have collected gift cards and given them to different organizations that help families in the area. This year we would like to give gifts to families that we see at our pantry each Thursday. We have started to gather names and lists. The giving tree will be going up soon, but if you want to get a head start, check out the bulletin board in the upstairs hall.



Christmas shopping event for Feed My Sheep kids: Children love to give gifts to their parents, so we will once again set up an area for our Feed My Sheep kids to shop. We need small gift items for men and women, and gift bags. There will be a bin outside the sanctuary to place your donations in.

We will be filling twenty-five **Christmas stockings** for our Thursday night kids. Small toys and candies would be appreciated. There will be another bin for those donations.

Feed My Sheep date for Thanksgiving week: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Feed My Sheep will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 27 instead of Thursday, Nov. 28.

As always, we appreciate your generosity and support. We invite you to join us any Thursday—there are deacons at the church from 10 am till 5:30 pm every week!

November Highlights in the Music Ministry



The handbell choir will ring during worship on November 10 and 17.

Also on Nov. 10, the Chancel Choir will sing a great Pepper Choplin anthem, “Hold On to the Rock”, with soloist Gary Kurtz.

On Nov. 17, the choir will sing an East African folk song, “Asante, Sana, Yesu” (“Thank You, Jesus”) with percussion and soloist.

November 24 will be a Thanksgiving-themed service, with guest flutist Diane Magill. The choir will sing a new anthem, “Rejoice, Ye People of the Faith”, by Joseph Martin. It will feature Rev. Torie on trumpet and Diane Magill on flute as they accompany the choir.



Upcoming Music: Advent and the Cantata

This year’s Cantata Sunday is December 8! Join us at 10 am for a special service with choir and instrumental ensemble.

This year’s cantata is “I Hear the Prophet Callin’” by Pepper Choplin, a fresh expression of the Christmas story. You will hear the folk styles of Appalachian, Irish, Latin, Cajun, and Early American tunes. These distinct musical flavors will combine with our orchestra instru-

mentalists, including violin, trumpet, flute, oboe, clarinet, two French horns, percussion, and piano.

Soloists and narrators will enhance the experience as we sing of Christ’s birth.

Mark your calendar for Dec. 8 today for this do-not-miss Sunday!

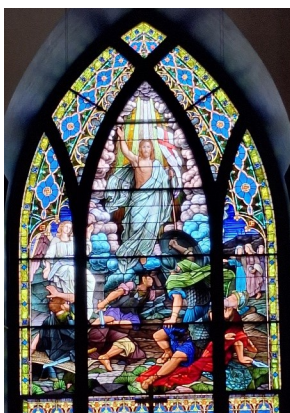


Ministry Board of Property & Finance

The month of Thanksgiving is here, and there is so much for which to be thankful.

We give thanks and praise to the Lord for all that he provides, each and every day.

We are thankful for the support and help from all our members and friends who keep our church running and ministering.



Looking bright and shiny after its cleaning!

Our “Christ Ascending” stained glass window is back home and is getting the last and final piece of the restoration completed. The old outside protective panels were removed and the new clear protective glass has been installed. The window is now much more clearly visible

to the neighborhood and much brighter in the sanctuary. What a huge difference from before. A few minor touchups to the inside glass and frame and this project will be finished. We have asked Blanck Studios to also look again at the stained glass windows on the sides of the sanctuary and provide any recommendations for their restoration. Thanks to all for your patience and support of this major project.

Tuck pointing continues every week, and progress has become noticeably slower.

Staffing issues and illness have plagued the tuck pointing company recently, and they are actively looking for experienced help. The completed work does look great on the church building. In addition, new electric wires were run to the church replacing the old and frayed wires, and they are covered to protect the tuck pointing workers. Expected project completion has been pushed back to the end of November.

We have scheduled a Workshop Day for Saturday November 2. Two important tasks to be done are the readying of Fellowship Hall for voting and the preparation of the kitchen for the upcoming Friendsgiving meal. We hope you can find some time to come and help.

We are in the season of Stewardship and we hope that you would prayerfully consider what you might give financially to the church and all the ministries we provide. We have a goal of \$115,000 in pledges. We have met our goals in previous years and hope that we can again. It is heartening to hear other members express their reasons for giving to the church and we hope that you too will joyfully offer your time, talents and treasures. Thanks and God Bless each and everyone.

Peace and blessings from P&F.

Celebrations in November

Birthdays

November 5 - Scott Nieman

November 15 - Bob Cutter

November 5 - Dan Staab

November 18 - Howard Ficke II

November 10 - Virgie Cutter

November 19 - Karen Caudill

November 12 - Steve Culver

November 19 - Linda Read

November 14 - Tim Maxfield

November 27 - Kathy Culver



Lectionary

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
<p><i>All Saints Sunday / Totenfest</i> Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44</p>	<p><i>No Bible studies this week</i></p>	<p>November 3</p>
<p><i>25 Pentecost</i> 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44</p>	<p>November 5</p>	<p>November 10</p>
<p><i>26 Pentecost</i> Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8</p>	<p>November 12</p>	<p>November 17</p>
<p><i>Reign of Christ / 27 Pentecost</i> Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37</p>	<p>November 19</p>	<p>November 24</p>

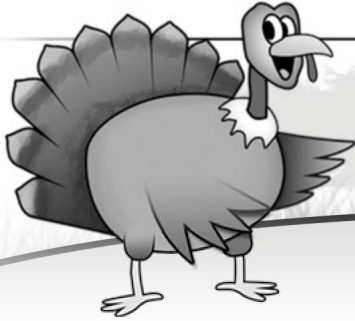
St. John UCC Regularly Scheduled Events

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	Outside

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	4:30 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

THANKSGIVING SCRAMBLE

TURKEY-DAY PARADE



Directions:
Unscramble each of the clue words.
Copy the letters in the numbered
circles to the matching number below.

WHY COULDN'T THE TURKEY PLAY IN THE THANKSGIVING PARADE BAND?

TAVINE MACREIASN

--- -- --- -- --- --

FTUSFGIN

--- --- -- --

EBGLBO

--- -- --- ---

DYUHSRA

--- --- -- -- --- --

UKMPPNI EIP

--- -- -- --- -- -- ---

SETAF

--- --- -- ---

RVHATSE

--- -- -- -- ---

UMNATU

--- -- -- ---

EECLBTRAE

--- -- -- -- -- ---

OTLEVRFES

--- --- -- -- -- ---

PACRONUCOI

--- -- -- -- --- --- -- --

QSAUHS

--- -- -- ---

SHTAKNGVIGNI

--- -- -- -- --- -- -- ---

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26



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Church of Christ**

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



HAPPY
Thanksgiving

Wishing you a Thanksgiving filled
with gratitude, God's love, and
the warmth of family and friends

Join us Nov. 19 for
Friendsgiving!
More info on p. 3