



JUNE 2023

THE VISITOR

The Newsletter of St. John United Church of Christ - Reading

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SABBATICAL REFLECTION

by Reverend Torie Front

I'm so excited to share some of my sabbatical trip to Greece with you this month. Each of the Sundays in June, I'll share a different city that I visited in Greece or Turkey and talk about Paul's experience in that city. There will be lots of pictures, we'll see in the scriptures how that particular city connects, and hopefully come away with a better picture of one of the most famous and influential apostles of the early church. And, because there's just so much, I may take the first Sunday in July to share some of the other places that I visited in Greece and talk about Paul, Peter, and/or John and their actions in those cities.

Looking forward to sharing these learnings and experiences with you in June!

-Rev. Torie



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN NURTURE



Chair Yoga will be held every Thursday in June. It will be located in the Fellowship Hall at 5:45pm. Join us immediately following the "Feed My Sheep" Program!



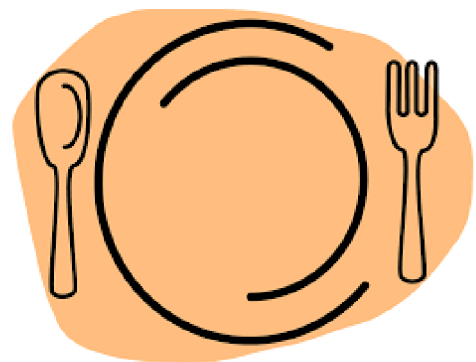
The last **Quarter Auction** is Tuesday, June 6th. If you can help out, please let Haven know.



The **Annual Rummage Sale** is coming up June 8th-10th, we will run from 10:00am-2:00pm as well as from 6:00pm-8:00pm on Friday night. Check the bulletin board outside the Cozy Corner to sign-up to volunteer! **Tuesday, June 6th will be the last day to bring in donations!!**



St. John UCC's Ministry Board of Christian Nurture is offering the **2023 Pizza Path**. 12 different local pizzerias have been selected and we will visit one of them each month. **June's Pizza Path** will be held on Sunday, June 11th after worship. You will pick up your own pizza and join us for a picnic at Amberly Green for food and fellowship! All completed Pizza Path 2023 Passports can be exchanged for a free t-shirt!



Our next **Dinner Depot** will be held on Sunday, June 25th after worship. Check outside the Cozy Corner for a sign-up sheet. Please only bring what you plan to exchange, our freezer is getting full!



May's Euchre Game has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 1st at 6:00pm. Our usual **June Euchre Game** will be held on Thursday, June 29th at 6:00pm at Bruce and Linda Read's house. If you are planning to join us for either game, please call Linda at 513-485-6009 so we know how many tables to set up!



It's time to update the **Phone Tree**! Are you a member or friend of St. John UCC? Are you living in the 21st century without a computer or smartphone?! Then, the St. John UCC Phone Tree is for you! We want to keep you connected to your church, and updated on activities and prayer requests. Please call the church at 513-821-1740 to register for the Phone Tree. And, if you'd like to take a leadership roll and call others, please let us know!



The Annual Pool Party will be at Shirley Waddell's as usual. It will be held on Sunday, July 9th! We will order from Il Gusto's for carry out. Look for a sign-up sheet outside the Cozy Corner!



Potluck & Concert w/Emily's Band:
July 16th after Worship
LaComedia "Miracle on 34th Street": December 28, 2023 after Worship
Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 14th
5:00pm

BOARD OF DEACONS



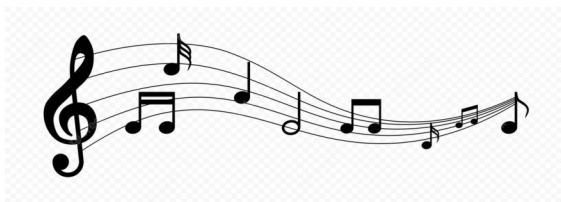
It's time to start planning our 2023 **Witness Tree Outreach** to Veterans. If you are interested in being part of this outreach, please contact Rev. Torie. We will have our first planning meeting on June 22nd at 3:30pm at the church.



On Thursday afternoons from 4:30-5:30pm, St. John UCC provides a bag of groceries to members of our community, called our **Feed My Sheep Program**. If you are interested in helping out, please talk with Susie Koehler or Rev. Torie. This is a great ministry and outreach of the church.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 29th
2:30pm**

BOARD OF ELDERS



The **Music Ministry** at St. John UCC is having a busy month of June! Debbie will be out of town for our June 18th & June 25th Worship and Bart Choate will be filling in! We are excited to welcome him back to St. John! Here is a schedule of our other guest musicians and special appearances:

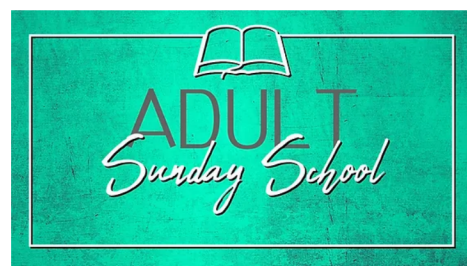
June 4th: Christy Kim, violin & Grace Kim, flute

June 11th: Women of the Choir Ensemble

June 18th: Bart Choate, guest organist & Gary Kurtz, soloist

June 25th: Bart Choate, guest organist

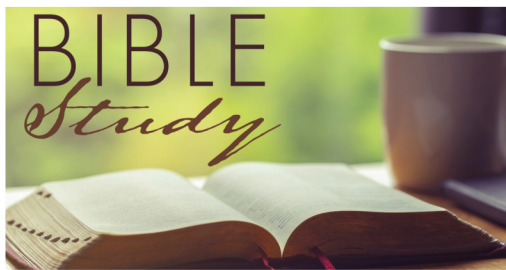
July 2nd: Emily Hogeback, violin



Thought-provoking movie scenes will give us plenty to talk about during three sessions of **Summer Sunday School** at St. John United Church of Christ.

The Elders have decided to test the congregation's interest in 9:00 a.m. gatherings in the Bible Study Room on June 18th, July 23rd and August 20th. We will view film clips from Cool Hand Luke, Bruce Almighty and Hoosiers, then jointly explore the religious ramifications of these pop culture classics. Relevant scriptures and famous quotations will be offered to keep the discussion on a spiritual track.

Your questions and interpretations will be welcomed. In June, we can focus on how Cool Hand Luke questions God. In July, we will see how Bruce Almighty works with God. And in August, we will review how the Hoosiers trust in God.



St. John UCC continues to offer two **Bible Studies** each week. The first, every Tuesday at 1:00pm, at St. John. The second, every Tuesday at 6:30pm, in the Mount View Terrace Common Room. Please consider joining us at Bible Study!



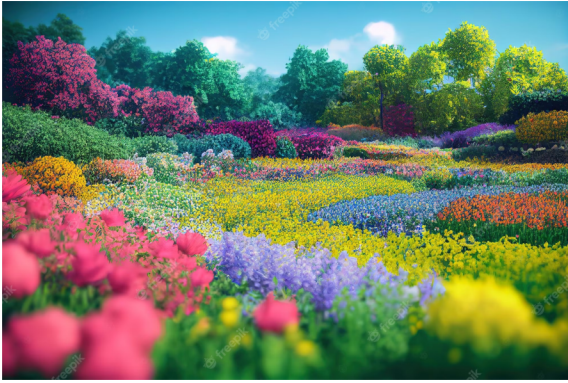
In 2023, we continue to search for **Worship Volunteers** for each worship. Starting this year, we will trial the option to sign-up to be the Liturgist on a weekly basis, rather than monthly. Rev. Torie will send you your words each week! Greeters and Ushers will sign-up on a monthly basis. If you don't mind arriving at church at 9:30am, consider greeting people at the front doors of church, or handing out bulletins to our congregation as an usher. Training is provided for all roles! If you'd prefer to help out financially, sign-up to donate Altar Flowers! Each month, we need \$60 to cover the cost of our beautiful sanctuary flowers. Sign-up to cover half, or all of the cost! All sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board outside the Cozy Corner, sign-up today!

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 8th
2:30pm**

LECTIONARY PAGE

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon
Acts 16:9-15 Acts 16:16-40 Book of Philippians	May 30th	June 4th *Communion* ~Trinity Sunday~
Acts 18:1-17 2 Corinthians	June 6th	June 11th
Acts 17:13-34	June 13th	June 18th
Acts 19 Book of Ephesians	June 20th	June 25th
Acts 27	June 27th	July 2nd *Communion*

BOARD OF PROPERTY AND FINANCE



May was a gorgeous month in the **church gardens** as the flowers were blooming and the plants were leafing out. Several of our plants died to the ground due to the very cold snap we had over the winter. Most seem to be recovering and we hope that in June we see them fully recovered, vigorously growing and flowering. We have also brought up the idea of some sort of religious or kinetic sculpture in the garden located in the planting bed just opposite the main entry doors. If you have any thoughts or ideas we would love to hear them. Also, there are still a few areas of our gardens that could use a few new plants, and a few of our members have generously donated some plants from their own gardens to fill these spaces. Let us know what you wish to donate, and

we can see if it can be worked into the gardens.



We are still receiving **painting proposals** for the sanctuary, and are reviewing those as they are submitted. We hope we can make a decision in early June so that we can get scheduled. Proposals for tuck pointing of the exterior brick walls are also coming in slowly. We will focus on the most critical areas which are the walls of the four towers as they are experiencing the most water penetration issues, which are mostly peeling paint. We will not be able to complete all the tuck pointing that is needed at this time because of the cost, but will pursue it at a later date once additional funding is requested and approved.



There is a **Workshop Day** scheduled for Saturday, June 24th, from 8am till noon. As always, there will be much to do for all skill levels and energies. Come join us for fun, fellowship, snacks and of course.....some work!!!

We continue to work on many other **projects around the church** such as: reviewing our church insurance, the 100th anniversary of our church building, the remodel and expansion of the choir room, updating of our constitution and bylaws, updating fees for building use, improved lighting in many areas, and the next stewardship campaign.

Many thanks to all those who help wherever and whenever they can. Your service to the church and community does so much good and is so appreciated by all.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 13th
5:00pm**

MEN'S GROUP



The **Bob Christophel Memorial Scholarship** winners are:

- Benny Hess - \$2400
- Conner Thamann - \$1100
- Chloe Watts - \$1100

Thanks to those who made personal donations and supported the German Heritage Dinner!

Three deserving Reading High School baseball and softball graduates were very appreciative of the scholarships.

June 3 9:00am-12:00pm - Building Pet Shelters @ St. John UCC

July 1 11:00am-1:00pm - Street Feed @ St. John UCC

**Next Meeting: Sunday, September
3rd 11:00am**

St. John United Church of Christ Regular Events

Weekly Events:

Event	Day	Time	Location
Handbell Choir Practice	Sunday	9:00am	Sanctuary
Worship	Sunday	10:00am	Sanctuary
Bible Study Afternoon	Tuesday	1:00pm	Bible Study Room
Bible Study Evening	Tuesday	6:30pm	Mt. View Terrace
Chancel Choir Practice	Wednesday	6:15pm	Choir Room
Feed My Sheep	Thursday	4:30pm	Outside

Monthly Events:

Event	Day	Time	Location
Communion	1st Sunday	10:00am	Sanctuary
Board of Deacons	Last Thursday	2:30pm	Cozy Corner
Pizza Path	2nd Sunday	After Worship	Various Locations
Men's Group	Various Sundays	11:00am	Various Locations
Missionary Sewing	1st Wednesday	10:00am	Fellowship Hall
Board of Property & Finance	2nd Tuesday	5:00pm	Fellowship Hall
Board of Christian Nurture	2nd Wednesday	5:00pm	Fellowship Hall
Board of Elders	2nd Thursday	2:30pm	Bible Study Room
Euchre	Last Thursday	6:00pm	The Read's
Church Council	3rd Thursday	5:45pm	Fellowship Hall
Work-ship Day	Last Saturday	8:00am	Church

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- June 4 - Jo Ann Douglas
- June 5 - Carol Hall
- June 6 - Michele Bunke
- June 7 - Bruce Koehler
- June 11 - Phil Hauenstein
- June 13 - Jan Godwin
- June 14 - Nancy Stankorb
- June 16 - Debbie Cummins
- June 25 - David Hall
- June 29 - Don Pasqualetti
- June 29 - Rob Harman
- June 29 - Sylvia Carruthers

Anniversaries

- June 10 - Susie & Bruce Koehler
- June 18 - Ann & Alvin Seebohm
- June 18 - Carol & Scott Nieman
- June 26 - Deborah & Phil Hogan
- June 28 - Rechelle & David Nicely



Trusting God

A while back a friend shared a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"God, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "God, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And God, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

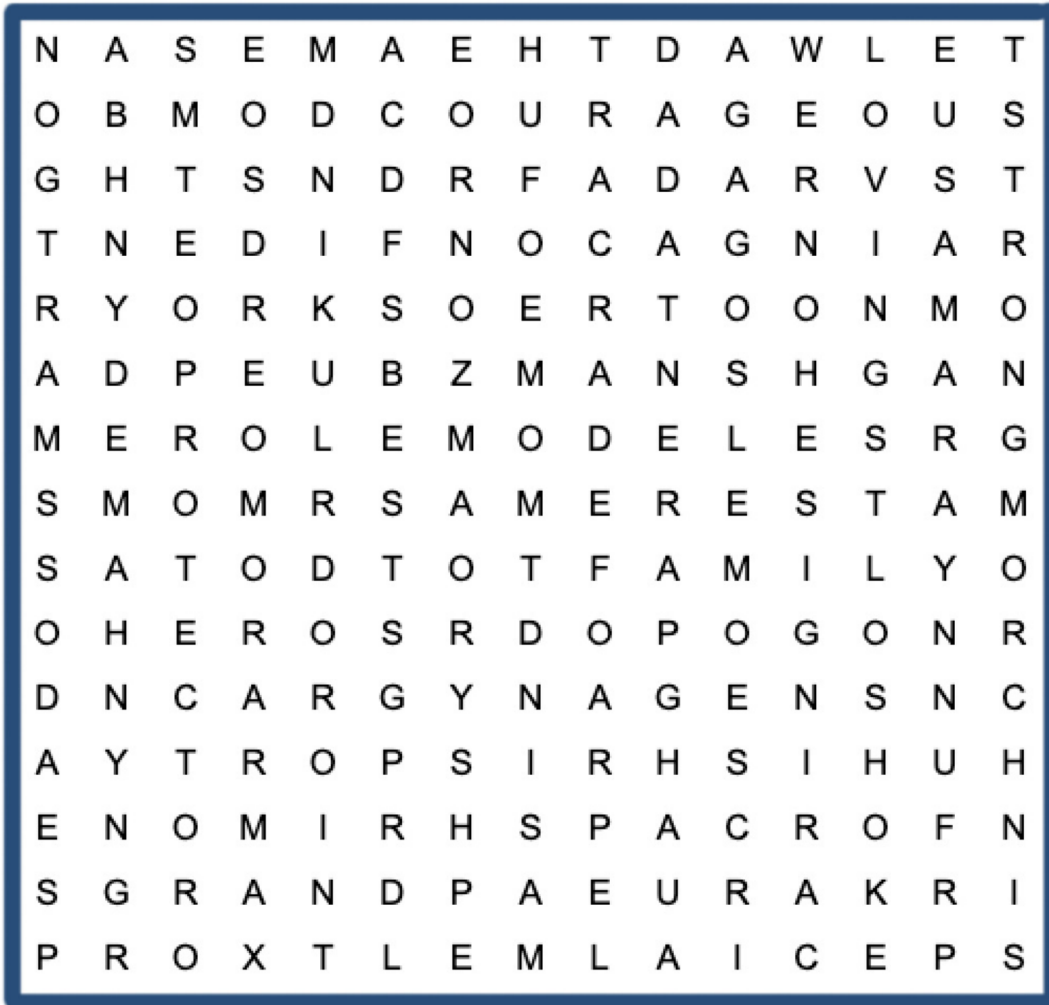
Then the farmer added, "But God, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So God, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.

Stay strong, my friends, because God is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to happen.

FATHER'S DAY

WORD SEARCH



BEST
CARING
CONFIDENT
CORAGEOUS
DAD
FAMILY

FUNNY
GRANDPA
HERO
KIND
LOVING
PARENT

PROTECTOR
ROLE MODEL
SMART
SPECIAL
SPORTY
STRONG



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