



# The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

August 2024

## From the Pastor

### Inside:

Deacons 2

Survey 2

Christian Nurture 3

Women's Retreat 3

Property & Finance 4

Celebrations 4

Elders 5

Meetings 6



*Al is turning 100!*

100 Years Old! A Century! A Centenarian! Our very own Al Edwards will turn 100 years old on Sunday, August 18! What an accomplishment!

Several people have asked if we are going to have a party for him, and while we certainly would like to, Al doesn't want a party. Instead, let's shower him with love from his church family! Let's see if we can get 100 birthday cards sent to his address: 1312 Thurnridge Drive, Reading, 45215. If the price of stamps is too expensive, just

drop your birthday card off at the church and we'll mail it for you.

If you want to stop by and wish him a Happy Birthday in person, sometime this month, please do and I encourage you to take him a helium balloon!

Just another way we can show him the love of his church family. If you do stop by, take a moment to ask Al about his life – his experience on the beaches of Normandy, his life in Kentucky, his life in Cincinnati, his travels, his love of golf and the Reds.

And, of course, prayers are always appreciated. What a treasure he is, and how wonderful it is that God has blessed Al for 100 years, and blessed this church with him.

**Rev. Torie Front**



*What is our "X"?  
(that which  
defines us, or is  
what we are  
known for)*



## The Visitor

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### Board of Deacons

We have a new opportunity for Community Outreach this summer! On Saturday, August 24, St. John UCC will have a booth at the Taste of Reading. Following a model provided by another UCC church, our booth will be a Booth of Blessings. Anyone who stops by will get a 'blessing' or prayer, along with a handout of our worship times and location. Don't worry, the

blessings and prayers will be provided – you don't have to be a minister to pray with someone or offer them a blessing, you just need to be willing to be present with them. Sign up now for a 2-hour block of time to not only represent your church, but share the love of Christ with our community. Trust me, you will be blessed!

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### What is our X?

Rev. Torie put together a Survey Monkey survey asking people to fill in the blank to this question: What is our "X"? (that which defines us, or is what we are known for)

Respondents were asked to think of just one word, the first word that came to mind, and use that word to complete the survey.

Here are the responses, ordered alphabetically:

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Cares        | Home        |
| Caring       | Inviting    |
| Community    | Love        |
| Community    | Loyal       |
| Diverse      | Open        |
| Diverse      | Open to All |
| Feeding      | Pantry      |
| Friendship   | Welcome     |
| Gives        | Welcomes    |
| Giving       |             |
| Goal         |             |
| Happy Family |             |

## Board of Christian Nurture

**Christian Nurture will meet** on Tuesday, August 13 at 12:00 pm (this will not be a lunch meeting).

The **Ice Cream Social** will be after church on Sunday, August 11 with brass band! The 5K Brass will play during worship, and entertain us with Dixieland, Broadway, and light classic tunes during the ice cream social. This would be a wonderful

Sunday to invite your friends and family to join you in worship!

Can you help host **Coffee Hour** before church on August 18? Please see Haven.

### **Save-the-Dates:**

Sunday, September 8 - **Church Picnic** at Voorhees Park

Saturday, October 19 - **Women's Retreat** (see below)



**A Journaling-based, Joy-filled Women's Retreat:** Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, 9:30am-4:30pm, at Wilmington College. Rev. Torie and Pastor Gladys Davis will facilitate.

Join us for crafting, journaling, prayer and worship, and make new friends from Highwater UCC in Licking County! Sign-up available now!

## Board of Property and Finance

As with all the other church boards, the board of Property and Finance took a break in July and did not meet. That does not mean that our projects and duties did not also take a break... things are still happening.

Tuck pointing on the brick walls is progressing nicely. The scaffolding will be moved as the work progresses around the church building. The work is slow and tedious as the workers make sure that the mortar joints are properly prepared, and filled and finished with new mortar. All tuck pointed wall areas also receive a sealer that is applied to the brick and mortar by spraying onto the finished work. As I already mentioned, this is slow, meticulous work and is anticipated to continue till the end of summer. It will look great and will be another layer of protection of the building from the elements.

All carpets outside the sanctuary were recently cleaned, except for the children's room. We appreciate the efforts of the cleaning company as they returned to re-clean the carpet on the first floor after unsatisfactory initial results. Many thanks to them for going the extra mile which made us very happy.

We have not heard any more on the status of the stained glass window, however, we are sure that Blanck Studio of Art is working diligently on the restoration. They, too, are expecting completion near the end of summer.

Oh my !! School is just around the corner...already !!! Where has the Summer gone ??!! We are thankful for schools and teachers and all their work and the many hours they spend to educate and nurture our children and all students.

Peace and blessing from P&F.

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## Celebrations in August



### Birthdays

August 13 - Garnett Geis  
 August 218 - Al Edwards  
 August 20 - Jess Feldman  
 August 23 - Vicki Gentry  
 August 26 - Julie Hauenstein  
 August 27 - Michele Bunning  
 August 27 - Pat Marshall

### Anniversaries

August 1 - Sandee & Gary Kurtz  
 August 19 -  
                   Garnett & Mary Sue Geis  
 August 21 -  
                   Cindy & Marlin Fuchs

## Special Music in August

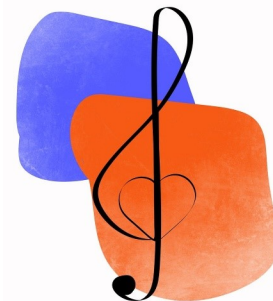
Aug 4th - Women of the Choir Ensemble

Aug 11th - 5K Brass Quartet in worship and after worship in Courtyard with Ice Cream Social

Aug 18th - Guest Organist Bart Choate  
 French Horn Duets: Karen Knueven and Rev. Torie

Aug. 25th - Guest flutist Diane Magill

*Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 4. Please contact Debbie Cummins if you are interested in joining for fun, fellowship, and worship!*



## Lectionary

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	July 30	August 4
<u>Esther</u> Esther 2:1-18 Esther 4	August 6	August 11
<u>Gideon</u> Judges 6:11-24 Judges 7:2-27	August 13	August 18
<u>Deborah</u> Judges 4:1-10 Judges 4:12-23	August 20	August 25

## 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	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



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AIR CONDITIONER  
 AMUSEMENT PARK  
 AUGUST  
 BACKPACKING  
 BARBECUE  
 BASEBALL  
 BEACH  
 BERRIES  
 BIKE RIDES  
 BOATING  
 CAMPING

CANOEING  
 GARDENING  
 HIKING  
 ICE CREAM  
 JULY  
 JUNE  
 KITE FLYING  
 LAKE  
 OCEAN  
 PICNICS  
 ROAD TRIP

SANDALS  
 SANDCASTLE  
 SEASHORE  
 STARGAZING  
 STRAWBERRIES  
 SUMMER  
 SUNFLOWER  
 SUNSCREEN  
 SWIMMING  
 WATERMELON



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

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Church of Christ**

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**Sunday, Aug. 11**

# Summer Ice Cream Social

- Ice cream treats
- Dixieland & Broadway tunes with 5K Brass
- Fellowship