

The Chimes

Welcome Home to the Church you remember.....
Welcome Home to St. John's!



Prayer List

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all of our shut-ins and the following members, David Hummel, Lois Boldt, Rev. Harold Beesley, Jean Livingston, Alison Armstrong, Shirley Rohan, Donna Hewitt, Barb Smith, Glenda Prescott, Brooke (McDonald) Hall, Dorothy Zerger, Barbara & Mel Cunningham, Kathy Wilson, Mary Lou Hostetler, Sharon Hickman, Jeanette Morris, Faith Kelly, Doris Sheets, Sandra Donson, Paula Hatfield, Paxton Hill, Debi Snow, Marie Conner, Jane Shoemaker, Rev. Bob & Peggy Settlege, Sandy Johnson, Bea Pursley, Greg Crowthers, Brian Lensink, Beth Powers and the family of Jack Emerson.

Please call the church office if you know of any sick or hospitalized members. Remember if you want someone on the prayer chain, you can fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate or call or e-mail Bea



Jack L. Emerson

Born: January 14, 1945

Died: December 4, 2017

A member of St. John's since 1974

LUNCH BUNCH

@ 12:00 in the Meeting Room,
The Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study



On Tuesday, January 9th - "The Clampetts in Court" based on 2 Corinthians 9:6

On Tuesday, January 23rd - "The Giant Jackrabbit" based on James 1:6



After the first of the new year, the tree will become a mitten tree to benefit the kids at Ben Franklin School.

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 9,825.00
Income as of December 24, 2017	\$ <u>10,944.50</u>
Month to Date Balance	\$ 1,119.50

Church Family News

Thank You!

Dear Pastor Mark, the St. John's Council, and the St. John's family,

We just wanted to say thank you for your incredible support for Fostering Further's efforts to support older foster youth. From your very generous financial contributions, to the space you've opened in the basement, to your time and invitation on a Sunday morning, we are privileged to be serving God alongside you. Thank you for partnering with us in this journey!

Sincerely,
Valerie Smith & Crissy Wissinger
Fostering Further

Dear St. Johns' Church,

Thank you so much for participating in Red Kettle Sunday and helping us "Doing the most good". God Bless you! (The Salvation Army)

St. John's family,

Thank you for the Christmas cards you sent. Knowing people care means a lot. I have so many amazing memories with St. John's and the various trip and activities I participated in over the years. I will do my best to be there Christmas Eve. (*and he was there*)

God Bless and Thank you!!!

Joey (Landis)

Adult Church School

@ 9:00 in the Meeting Room, *Half Truths (God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say)*

On Sunday, January 7th - "Everything Happens for a Reason"

On Sunday, January 14th - "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

On Sunday, January 21st - "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"

On Sunday, January 28th - "God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It"

Pastor's Thoughts – Rev. Mark Katrick

As we celebrate a brand new year and look forward to the hopes and possibilities 2018 will bring, let's look back once more to the the Advent and Christmas seasons of 2017 with this little bit of history, provided by theholidayspot.com:

With its beautiful, red, star-shape the poinsettia is a favorite flower in the United States. In Central America, it is called the "Flame Leaf" or "Flower of the Holy Night". Now very popular in the US, the American settlers were not quite familiar with this one only a couple of centuries back. A native of Mexico, it was brought here over a hundred years ago by Dr. Joel Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. Most of the poinsettias used these days come from California.

A couple of weeks ago, I brought an extra poinsettia from the altar into my office. It joins three other red, star-shaped flowers "rescued" from previous Advent/Christmas seasons at St. John's. With regular watering, feeding and abundant light from the window, they have grown steadily so that repotting was necessary.

Periodically, the flame leaves of these "Flowers of the Holy Night" will bloom. It reminds me of the bright red colors of Pentecost and the appearances and reappearances of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of "an Advocate whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything he has taught." (John 14:26) This present of God's indwelling presence is the gift that keeps on giving in and throughout the New Year.

Our Divine Advocate, Comforter and Counselor is God's way of reminding us that in keeping resolutions and making positive changes in our actions, attitudes and outlooks, we will not have to go it alone.

When the going gets tough, the Holy Spirit will always be there to remind us of everything Jesus has taught us. For it is through the light of Christ and his living water that we grow steadily in his love.!

A Church Mouse's January Survival Guide

Take frequent naps (especially on or near the radiators). Since mice don't hibernate it's the next best thing.

Worship at the early service. The chapel holds its heat well. (You also get your pick of refreshments before the late service humans get them.)

Count down the days until spring and the first outdoor service on Easter Sunday, April 1st. (And I ain't foolin'!)

Mark your calendar for the Congregational Meeting in February. The humans bring potluck. That means food for a mouse's soul - casseroles with CHEESE!

For entertainment, watch the Rev grumble and chatter his teeth walking from his car to the church. He doesn't like winter very much.

Stop and smell the coffee. Anita and Charlie always have some brewing. Coffee is hot and anything hot is good in the winter.

Go play outside. Make snow angel mice. Invite the neighbors to church and make toboggans out of bulletin inserts. Mice don't need winter coats. We got fur.

THE AFTERNOON CIRCLE –

-will meet on Wednesday, January 3, at Noon at The Lucky Bamboo for lunch. During the winter months, when the weather can turn quickly, we go out to eat to stay connected, but we don't plan a program in case we have to cancel because of bad weather.

The Lucky Bamboo restaurant is located on Granville Road across from State Farm Insurance.

Please call Donna Hewitt or Dorothy Turdo and let them know you plan to come. Everyone from the congregation is invited.

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

FROM THE TREASURER:

Money will be very tight for the carry-over into the new year. The approved budget for 2018 contains little or no change from 2017, reflecting a decrease in Faith Promise.

FOUNDATION FUND:

A fund has been established in the names of Jack and Beth Emerson.

FOSTERING FURTHER:

Another \$5,000 from the money set aside from the Martin Estate for a tithe has been given to Fostering Further for their work with foster care in Licking County.

MISSION AND OUTREACH:

What money is left in the budget for Mission and Outreach for 2017 went to the Discretionary Fund for those in need in our congregation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

A mission trip is being planned for the week of June 3-9, 2018, at Big Creek in Kentucky. Anyone, not just Youth, is invited to go along. The cost is \$199 per person for all food and living quarters. Please see Julie Kroah to sign up by Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018.

The Youth's Souper Bowl of Caring is also on Sunday, February 4. Get your taste buds ready for soup, and vote for your favorite Super Bowl team.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH:

Ads are being purchased for print and radio, telling of our services and programs.

A leave-of-absence was granted to Brian Lensink for health reasons.

Mike Livingston resigned from Council for family reasons.

Jeff Knepp returned to Council after neck surgery.

THE BETHLEHEM MARKETPLACE

The men were hauling the flats of the Marketplace up the steps to waiting trucks and over to the garage. I was sweeping up some of the leftover straw (we'll be finding straw until next Christmas), and "looking" (with my mind's eye) at all the footprints of the folks who had passed through our little town of Bethlehem.

Close to 500 people – not the 1600 we had originally, but still **500** people – came to see what the shepherds and angels had told them.

Wonderful event, amazing music entertainment and very interactive. Thank you!

1st time here! Will make it a tradition. Bowing before Mary and baby Jesus brought tears to my eyes.

Tis the reason for the season and life!

Little more light for us seniors. Wonderful!

Breath taking – So true to the bible – Blessed to have come.

Thanks for doing this!

A wonderful event!

Was 10/10. Loved it. Characters were amazing.

*I loved it!
I look forward to this every time you have it! :)
Great!
Very impressive! Always enjoy this.
The entire program was BEAUTIFUL!
Very special for the Holidays! Thank you! We came when our kids were young – now we brought our grandkids
Awesome Display
Great!
Great, thanks!
It was so cool!
It was great! Very well done!
Such a Brilliant Idea! Loved it!
Absolutely wonderful, every time beautiful!
Lovely!
The experience was fantastic! Everyone played their roles perfectly. It really felt like we went back in time.
Amazing experience! I love it every time. Thanks for such a great show.
This was wonderful. Thanks.
I like the bunny
Thank you for doing this.
I loved it. I loved the donkey!
Very nice.
Was a great experience. Thank you.
Very Nice – enjoyed it. It is better every year! Thank you!
Wonderful and very authentic.
Very nice, thank you.
It was absolutely beautiful
Very original and nice
This was wonderful for my 7 granddaughters and for me.
It was beautiful with authentic backgrounds and smells. We loved it. 😊
Beautiful. Thank you.
Wonderful
Beautiful
Very well presented
Thank you, may God grow abundantly in the food drive.
Very impressive – Glory to God!
Absolutely beautiful*

And this from Facebook:

I want to thank you all for hosting this event. My little grandson, barely turned two, went this Sunday with his Daddy. He came home so excited about the baby Jesus. We had read the Christmas story numerous times and the Nativity scene was up on the mantel for days without much attention. But after your event, he visits the Baby Jesus many times each day and wants to share it with visitors. Thank you for making this such a concrete experience for him!

Our sweet little Beggar Children gathered 410 pounds of food, and the Census Takers collected \$654.51, all for the Licking County Food Pantry Network. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Thank you to all of our Church Family for your work on this 'edition' of The Bethlehem Marketplace: to the cast (many of whom joined in at the last minute), the construction crew, the decorators, those who fed us, those who fed the crowd, those who made us look more authentic, the 3 Holy Families with their beautiful babies, the parking lot attendants, the ushers and greeters and "farewellers", those who did advertising (most people heard of us by word of mouth, radio, or newspaper), those who made the 1000 angel parting gifts, those who did the programs and all the office work, those who donated their goods, those whose animals we all enjoyed, those who provided all the beautiful music

upstairs, those who provided the noise downstairs, those whose idea this was in the first place, those who cleaned up after us (especially since our little calf had some intestinal problems during the afternoon), anyone else who helped us in anyway, and to our Heavenly Father for the inspiration, strength, patience, love to carry this event through.

I sat in the empty Hermann Hall, the flats all stored away in the garage, the bins of cloth and props stored in the closets. How does all that stuff fit into such little spaces after it filled this huge hall? How did all that life and history vanish. It's kind of like the mythical town of Brigadoon which rises out of the mist of the moor every 100 years and lasts for only 1 day. Our little town of Bethlehem rises out of the dust, the mold, the fiberglass strands and for 1 day is full of life and love and the knowledge that God sent His only Son. Let's not put that knowledge away with the props. God did send His Son for US! God became one of US. And, we must spread that knowledge and that love to all WE meet – every day of every year.



Ohio church's community Christmas gift takes neighbors back to Bethlehem

December 06, 2017

Written by **Connie Larkman** (www.ucc.org/news)



The members of a United Church of Christ congregation in Newark, Ohio offered their friends, families and community an unusual and moving gift on the first Sunday of Advent. A gift of love for neighbor, and a realistic reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

St. John's United Church of Christ marked the beginning of the season on Sunday, Dec. 3 with a living, breathing Bethlehem Marketplace. The live-action portrayal of life in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth involved the time and talents of more than 100 people in the church community.

"This takes most of the congregation, and there's a place for everyone," said Julie Kroah, Christian Education Director at St. John's and publicity chairperson for the Bethlehem Marketplace. "The oldest participant is in his 90's and the youngest is 5 weeks old." In fact, four generations of one family were pressed into service on Sunday.

When visitors came into the sanctuary, they were greeted with song, serenaded by church choirs and other musical groups. As their time came to travel to the marketplace, they were met by Roman soldiers, and escorted into the basement of the church set up as Bethlehem would have looked 2000 years ago.



St. John's guests got an opportunity to walk through the marketplace, to experience how people lived and worked at the time of Jesus' birth. Potters, weavers, bakers, tent makers and tailors, tanners and animal trainers all set up in different booths, interacting with visiting travelers and with each other. There were prophets, begging children, and money changers, with members of the church stepping into all those roles.

"We wanted to do it because we wanted to remind our community what the real meaning of Christmas is," said Terry Hill, who portrayed an animal trader. "It also helps us to remember," said his wife Frances, charged with the beggar children. "It is such a gift to give."

At the time of that first Christmas, Bethlehem was a place where merchants, selling their wares between Jerusalem and Hebron, could stop for provisions. The busy marketplace was the spot to hear all the latest news and gossip during a time of turmoil. Roman legions were everywhere trying to control a proud Jewish people. There was talk of the coming Messiah.

On Dec. 3, those participating in the portrayal came to worship in costume. Kroah played a baker. "It's the easiest service to get ready for, no jewelry, no makeup, and you don't do your hair," she said.

Adding to the authenticity would be the live animals — donkeys, sheep and cows gathered in the stable in the basement of the church.

"I like to say it's the sights, sounds and smells of the Bethlehem marketplace," Kroah continued. "It's loud, it's noisy with people haggling and arguing who has the best goods. It's fun, and it's interactive. Everybody has to sign the census. Just like Joseph."



But it's also spiritual, meaningful and realistic. Especially as visitors pass the Inn where there was no room and glimpse the Holy Family in the stable.

"No matter how much fun people are having, it gets very solemn and quiet when they get to that stable. Just seeing that baby there," Kroah said. "Some people leave in tears."

The idea of the Bethlehem Marketplace was brought to St. John's in 1986 by two members inspired by another marketplace they'd experienced in New York. The project, a tremendous undertaking by the entire church, has become a tradition in Newark, recreated more than a 15 times in 31 years, and drawing more than 15,000 visitors in that time.

This year, close to 500 people came through the church doors. The free tours began at 1:00 p.m. and continued for three hours. Guests, encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or monetary gifts for the Licking County Food Pantry Network, donated over \$650 and more than 400 pounds of food. Each visitor left the experience with a handmade parting gift crafted by the people of the congregation, and a Christmas memory. One that one visitor said, makes the miracle of Jesus more real.

"St. John's is from the Evangelical heritage of the UCC," said Elaine Gard, one of 'women at the well' and project co-coordinators. "Our job is to tell the Good News of God's redeeming love through Jesus Christ. The Marketplace is a really fun way to do that. I'm no 'thespian', but I enjoy the fellowship with other members of our church family. After 31 years, it's tradition — and a good one."

A gift of love, and of community, that brought neighbors together to celebrate the joy of the savior, and to feel the wonder and thrill of God's gift to us — then and now.

"It's such a good feeling knowing you are telling the story of Jesus coming into the world," Kroah said. "Giving a small glimpse of what it might have been like at that special time. Reminding people of the true meaning of Christmas."



On Sunday, February 4, the youth will be making soup to raise funds for the Souper Bowl of Caring. The funds raised by St. John's Youth will help our local community.



On January 20, the Youth will be attending Slam Dunks and Slices at Mt. Vernon Nazarene University. We will have lunch with other Youth Groups and then watch them take on Huntington University. Meet at the church at 12:30pm. Please RSVP to Julie Kroah.



The Mission trip this year will be June 3-9 at Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, KY. All are welcome ages 13 and up. If you are interested in attending we need to know by Sunday February 4. If you have any questions feel free to contact Julie Kroah at stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net or you can check out the Big Creek Missions web site at www.bigcreekmissions.com



Many thanks to those who helped make 2017 such a great year in Christian Education. We're all very excited for the good things to come in 2018.



Adult class - 9:00am.

Bible Discovery Zone during the 10:30am service.

Nursery care and Pre-school class available at 10:00am.

Cradle Roll

- 7: Frances Hill
- 14: Julie Kroah & Makayla Sheets
- 21: Kayla Hill
- 28: Frances Hill

Bible Discovery Zone

- 7: Anita Chirdon & Connor Boyce
- 14: Brian Lensink & Pat Farley
- 21: Kara Deal & Cheyene Igo
- 28: Ken Kroah & Colleen Kroah

DVD Filming

- 7: John West
- 14: Dick Tulloss
- 21: Gary Kinser
- 28: Ken Kroah

Sound System

- 7: Tom Lawyer
- 14: Dick Tulloss
- 21: Julie Kroah
- 28: Ken Kroah



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31 8:00 AM Chapel Service-Hymn Sing 10:30 AM Hymn Sing Worship Service - Sanctuary-with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day Office Closed </p>	<p>2 10:00 AM Church & Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>3 10:00 AM N.A.R.F.E. Meeting 12:00 PM The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting-Meet at The Lucky Bamboo 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	<p>4 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p>
<p>7 Epiphany 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service-Sanctuary-with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment 11:30 AM "Un-hanging of the Greens" 11:30 AM Evangelism & Outreach Committee Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch with "The Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study" 7:00 PM Finance & Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>10 10:00 AM Christian Education Meeting 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	<p>11 6:30 PM Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service-Sanctuary-with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment 11:30 AM Congregational Care Committee Meeting</p>	<p>15 Martin L. King, Jr. Day</p>	<p>16 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>17 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	<p>18 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 12:30 PM Slam Dunks and Slices at Mt. Vernon Nazarene College. Meet at St. John's at 12:30pm- RSVP to Julie Kroah</p>
<p>21 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service-Sanctuary-with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch with "The Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study"</p>	<p>24 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	<p>25 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service-Sanctuary-with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	<p>1 6:30 PM Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>

St. John's United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
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Worship & Classes!

8:00 am – Chapel Service
9:00 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Traditional Sanctuary Service
Volume 18 Number 1

Address Service Requested



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
& POTLUCK
FEBRUARY 18, 2018 FOLLOWING THE
10:30 AM SERVICE

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Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at St John's United

Church of Christ. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial. Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!