



The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

June 2026

From the Pastor

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This coming week is our annual Rummage Sale. Looked upon by many in the church as an opportunity to clean out our closets and get rid of things, or perhaps as a way to raise some money to buy those things needed at the church that don't seem to fall into an existing budget, I encourage you to take up a different viewpoint when you think about the Rummage Sale.

The Rummage Sale was started sometime around 1956, by Bruce Koehler's mom and Gail Stacey's Mom, Lil McClure.

They realized that there were a lot of kids in Reading that needed clothes, and this was one way to get a big clothes

'swap' going. The benefits to the congregation were certainly increased income and less cluttered closets! But more than that, this Rummage Sale, with prices that haven't changed in years, is a benefit to the community. People come knowing that they will find nice, clean, usable items, that they need, at prices they can afford. For any member of the family, for any household, even for pets! Indoor things, outdoor things, clothing, housewares, toys, shoes, purses – items that many of us might take for granted, or if we are in need, just run out and buy something – well, in this day and age, pull up Amazon and click and order something! But not everyone is able to do that, and our Rummage Sale

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The Visitor

From the Pastor

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God's holy peace is promised to all who trust, and turn over their burdens to God.

provides a service to our community, helping all who are in need. And, in the last hour, when it's \$1/bag, a lot of people get a lot of things!

It's a nice parallel to our faith, is it not? How we need to take a different viewpoint, a holy viewpoint, as we live our lives. God's holy peace is promised to all who trust, and turn over their burdens to God. In this day and age, admitting reliance is God is not something that is seen too often. Yet as Christians, we know the benefits of looking at the world through our lens of faith, our lens of trust, our lens of Christ.

This coming week is our Rummage Sale. Have you donated any items to sell? Do you have an extra hour or two that you could come down and help sort and price and organize? Are you going to make some home-baked goods for the Bake Sale? Can you come and help on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, from 10-2? Whatever you are able to do to help, know that you are part of something bigger, something meaningful, something that is part of the Kingdom of God – and may your closets and drawers thank you!-

Rev. Torie

Ministry Board of Deacons

The Ministry Board of Deacons exists to serve our community in Christian love.

Ongoing needs for Feed My Sheep:

- peanut butter
- spaghetti sauce
- spaghetti
- canned fruit
- cat food

- dog food
- personal toiletries
- tuna
- Vienna sausages

FMS especially needs spaghetti sauce this month! Thank you for your generosity.



Ministry Board of Christian Nurture

The Ministry Board of Christian Nurture exists to encourage and nurture our members' faith by providing education and fellowship opportunities for all ages.

We have a Pot-luck Picnic coming up on June 14 when we worship at Vorhees Park with St. Paul Lutheran. Hot Dogs, Metts and Brats provided, so bring your own beverage and a side or dessert and plan on sticking around after worship to share in a wonderful meal and time of fellowship. This will be our June Lunch Bunch – how nice to be able to share it with other Christians!

Another Fellowship opportunity in June is a day-trip to Waynesville to go antiquing! We'll meet at the church at 9:30 am and carpool, with plans to stay through lunch (if not longer!) – but definitely back by 4:00 pm for those who want to help with Feed My Sheep. Please sign up and indicate if you are able to be a driver or a passenger.

There is another Line Dance Party on Saturday, June 20, from 7:00–10:00 pm. Come check it out and give Line Dancing a try, or just sit and watch the dancers and enjoy the yummy snacks that everyone brings. All are welcome - \$10/person for the dancing.

June 25th is the date for our next Cozy Corner Café. This is a catered lunch and game event, running from 12:00–3:00

pm, open to all Senior Citizens in our community and church. This is a great event to invite a friend or neighbor. Sign up ahead of time so we get enough food ordered please!

The UCC/Disciples of Christ “Adult Conference” is the week of June 22 in Columbus Please visit ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/adult-conference.aspx for more info and registration. All St. John UCC members are encouraged to attend this time of education, fellowship, and worship with Christians from across the state of Ohio. If you need help with the registration cost (\$245 for the entire conference, meals & event costs included), please let Rev. Torie know.

Our next Euchre date is June 30 at 2:30 pm. Join us for cards and fellowship!



This year's delicious German Heritage Dinner was a great success—see next page for more!

German Heritage Dinner: scholarship success!

We appreciate the generosity of many sponsors, donors, attendees and volunteers who supported the German Heritage Dinner! As a result, the Men's Group recently presented 3 Bob Christophel Memorial Scholarships totaling \$4,000 to student athletes at Reading High School.



Pictured above are scholarship winners Jackson H., Eliza S. and Makayla G.

All three played baseball or softball during their high school career, and the scholarship amounts will be deposited into their selected college accounts to further support their higher education.



Missionary Sewing donates to Matthew 25, Feed My Sheep

Since our group hasn't met since last fall, Ann Seebohm and I (Charlotte) met on the first Wednesday of May to go through the group's supplies. Rev. Torie was given two boxes of completed projects—one of lap quilts and one of walker bags—to give out as needed. Matthew 25: Ministries received five binds/boxes of fabric. The rest of our supplies were donated to the upcoming church Rummage Sale in

June. Our treasury was donated to the Feed My Sheep food pantry.

The Lord has blessed St. John church with many, many talented women through the years who served him by helping veterans, Children's Hospital, and members here at church and in the community. It was always time well spent.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Bell and Ann Seebohm

Ministry Board of Elders

The Ministry Board of Elders exists to spiritually support the body of the church by creating meaningful worship.

Look, a new thing! **Spring Outdoor Worship** – Sunday, June 14th, at Vorhees Park. Start time – 10:30am – so you can sleep in a bit! Bring your own chair and beverage and a side dish for the potluck picnic

afterwards, and also a lawn chair if you wish.

New Member Sunday will be Sunday, June 28 – if you haven't talked with Rev. Torie about joining the church yet, please do!



Lectionary

Scripture Readings	Bible Study	Sermon Date
Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	June 2	June 7
Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)	June 9	June 14
Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39	June 16	June 21
Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42	June 23	June 28

The Visitor

Ministry Board of Property and Finance

The Ministry Board of Property and Finance exists to be stewards of the building and finances of the church.



*Please
welcome
Carl Sebree
as our new
custodian.*

After months of planning and waiting, the new doors are finally in place. It took 2 days to complete the work, and there is still some final trim work and sealing that we will be doing ourselves. The dark color of the doors really looks good and we anticipate that the frames for the upper windows will be painted a matching color at some time in the near future. The new doors provide much better protection against the elements and are also much more secure.

We are also hoping that the plasterer can soon make the necessary repairs to the water-damaged walls in the sanctuary, after which they can be painted. The trellis structure in the sanctuary has also been confirmed as non-structural by a local structural engineer, so we can now continue with the design and installation of a re-configured trellis, along with new choir lighting.

The new kitchenette/sacristy now has under-cabinet lighting and will get a tile backsplash installed. Some other minor finish work and new paint on the walls will complete this project.

As mentioned last month, our “campus expansion” will not include the purchase of any additional property. The new council-approved plans include the continued operation of our food pantry, but in the space currently occupied by Serendipity Preschool. The school will move to a new location by the end of the 2026-2027 school year. We will also pursue the development of a youth ministry which will require the hiring of a Director to manage and grow this ministry. The need for an Event Manager is also being re-considered as an effort to market our available spaces for events and organizations. If you are interested, let us know.

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Ministry Board of Property and Finance

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Please welcome Carl Sebree as our new custodian. Carl has been coming to church and the pantry. He was in need of employment and we were in need of cleaning help as our last custodian left unannounced. He is doing well but is still learning all the details and techniques needed to keep the church clean. He is normally

here on Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

Thanks, Carl.

Please do your best to enjoy the summer months, having fun and staying safe. And remember, there are always a few things around church that need some help or repairs...just let us know what you would like to do.

Thanks and many blessings.....
P&F.



Celebrations in June

Birthdays

June 4 - JoAnn Douglas

June 5 - Carol Hall

June 6 - Michele Bunke

June 7 - Bruce Koehler

June 11 – Linda Clifford

June 11 – Phil Hauenstein

June 13 - Jan Godwin

June 16 - Debbie Cummins

June 24 - Toni Germann

June 29 - Don Pasqualetti

Anniversaries

June 10 -

Susie & Bruce Koehler

June 18 -

Ann & Alvin Seebohm

June 18 -

Carol & Scott Nieman

June 26 -

Deborah & Phil Hogan

*Are we missing
your birthday or
anniversary?*

*Please call the
office and let
Jane know!*



St. John UCC Regularly Scheduled Events

Weekly			
Event	Day	Time	Location
Handbell Choir (Sept.-May)	Sunday	9 am	Sanctuary
Fellowship Time	Sunday	9:15 am	Cozy Corner
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 (Sept-May)	Wednesday	6:15 pm	Choir Room
Feed My Sheep	Thursday	4:30 pm	Fellowship Hall

Monthly			
Event	Day	Time	Location
Christian Nurture	1st Tuesday	5 pm	Bible Study Room
Church Council	3rd Thursday	6 pm	Bible Study Room
Communion	1st Sunday	10 am	Sanctuary
Contemporary Praise & Worship	2nd and 4th Thursdays	3:30 pm	Fellowship Hall/ Courtyard
Cozy Corner Café	4th Thursdays	12-3 pm	Cozy Corner
Deacons	Last Thursday	2:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Elders	1st Thursday	2:00 pm	Bible Study Room
Euchre	3rd Tuesday	2:30 pm	Church
Living Single group	2nd Wednesday	12 pm	Fellowship Hall
Lunch Bunch	2nd Sunday	After Worship	Various
Men's Group	Various Sundays	11 am	Various
Property & Finance	2nd Tuesday	5 pm	Bible Study Room
Work-ship Day	1st Saturday	8 am	Church

The Holy Trinity

B	I	B	L	E	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	R
H	I	I	M	M	O	R	T	A	L	R	E	P	N
I	F	L	L	S	T	G	S	N	H	P	S	U	H
T	H	R	E	E	P	A	R	T	S	E	O	T	N
R	B	E	L	I	E	F	S	H	H	M	E	I	E
I	P	R	G	O	D	B	O	G	M	R	E	E	A
I	R	S	H	R	V	R	N	F	A	T	H	E	R
P	A	I	N	C	A	R	N	A	T	I	O	N	E
L	I	N	O	C	R	P	C	T	M	O	I	I	E
A	S	E	T	N	E	B	Y	P	S	T	E	V	J
N	E	R	A	S	U	S	E	J	T	O	U	I	O
O	R	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	D	I
T	R	R	E	G	N	O	R	T	S	H	E	D	R
T	F	J	R	E	S	U	R	E	C	T	I	O	N

SON
FATHER
INCARNATION
THREE PARTS

IMMORTAL
GOD
HOLY SPIRIT
TOGETHER

STRONG
PRAISE
DIVINE
BELIEF

BIBLE
RESURECTION
JESUS

St. Paul Lutheran & St. John UCC
WORSHIP & PICNIC

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026
WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM,
PICNIC TO FOLLOW

VORHEES PARK
348 SOUTHERN AVE., READING, OH

Please bring your own drinks and a
side dish, dessert, or salad to share.
Meats & paper products will be provided.



St. John United Church of Christ

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