



# The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

August 2026

## From the Pastor

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Ahh - August - the dog days of summer, the continuation of time at the pool, and the resumption of our Ministry Board Meetings! Ok - many of you may not want to put attending a meeting right up there with swimming or lazing around, but quite honestly, I am looking forward to resuming our meetings. It is a faith boost when I sit with the Ministry Board of Christian Nurture and find out all that is going to be offered to help strengthen the faith our members, or when the Ministry

Board of Deacons outlines some new things to try at Feed My Sheep.

While it still may be summer and you still may be focusing on relaxing in a hammock, I encourage you to heed the words of Jesus from Matthew 24:44 - "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

So let's get back into the swing of things, of attending worship, of coming to Bible studies, of helping at Feed My Sheep, and of course, of attending meetings - so that we are ready to do all that God is calling us to do right here at St. John UCC!

**Rev. Torie**

## 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.*

*Next meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 4 at 2 pm*

The final total raised by the **Rummage Sale** was \$3353.94. This is more than we have ever made before! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way! Save the date for next year: June 10-12, 2027! Great job everyone!

The **Annual Street Feed** hosted by Men's Group will be Saturday, August 1, from 11 am-1 pm. Hot dogs, snacks, and water will be served outside the church. All are welcome. Men and women are welcome to help distribute food.

On Sunday, August 9th, immediately following worship, the Ministry Board of Christian Nurture will offer our popular

**'Ice Cream Social!'** Come and enjoy a sundae on Sunday after worship, and listen to an outdoor concert (weather permitting) featuring the Roebling Brass Collective. (Roebling Brass Collective is a new local ensemble... but you will recognize several familiar faces!) All are welcome! This will serve both as our Lunch Bunch and our Fellowship Event for August.

Looking ahead, we will be setting a date soon for our **"90th Birthday Party"** - open to all who are in their 90's, or will be turning 90 sometime in the next 6 months. If this is you, please confirm with the church office so that we can celebrate with you!

## Ministry Board of Elders

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

On August 23rd, representatives from **Matthew 25: Ministries** will be with us in worship, and also afterwards. Matthew 25: is a partner with us in our Feed My Sheep outreach ministry, and they will be providing us with an overview of all of their ministries and how we can strengthen our partnership.

**Praise and Worship services** continue on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 3:30pm - if you like to sing contemporary praise songs, come join us!

*"Notes" from the Music Director:* Debbie just came home from a week at the

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Ministry Board of Deacons

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

Below is a draft of the new guidelines that we are putting in place for Feed My Sheep. We appreciate all our volunteers and continue to be amazed at all that the Lord provides for us - in volunteers, food, and community guests. If you haven't checked out Feed My Sheep yet, please consider coming down one Thursday in August and see what your church is doing.



### **St John United Church of Christ Feed My Sheep Volunteer Guidelines**

- Be kind to everyone!
- Be compassionate with our visitors, friends and each other.
- Be patient and understanding (no judgement).
- Smile!
- Our donations are intended for those in need.
  - ◊ Every volunteer may take one donated item before 4:30pm.
  - ◊ At 5:30pm, volunteers may take any perishables left (for example: bread, fresh fruits, and vegetables).
  - ◊ If a volunteer is in need and would like to go through the line, they are welcome to do so @ 4:20 and take what is normally provided to our visitors and friends.
  - ◊ Any food set aside with a name on it is not to be handed out
- Any thoughts, questions and/or concerns can be brought to the attention of the Chair(s) of the Board of Deacons.



## Ministry Board of Elders

*(Continued from page 2)*

Green Lake Conference for Church Musicians with lots of new music and new ideas!

Upcoming special music in worship:

August 9 - Roebling Brass Collective playing in worship and also in the courtyard with the ice cream social.

August 16 - Barbara and Chris Gibler will be singing

August 23 - Lori Schafer will be playing her lovely clarinet

August 30 - Lucy Berz Dane will play flute

Sept 6 - Debbie will be playing a handbell solo and introducing our new Handbell tree!

**Chancel Choir** will begin rehearsals on Wednesday Sept 2. Enjoy singing? Come and sing with the choir!

## Scripture Readings for August

| Scripture                                                                          | Bible Study | Sermon Date |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21                 | July 28     | August 2    |
| Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33 | August 4    | August 9    |
| Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28       | August 11   | August 16   |
| Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20                        | August 18   | August 23   |
| Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28         | August 25   | August 30   |

## 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.*

*Next meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 4 pm*

P&F hopes that you are enjoying your summer!

We are enjoying a much needed break from our duties. However, we are still addressing the needs of our beautiful church building and the concerns of our members and visitors. We continue to strive to have all aspects of the church running smoothly and effectively. As always, we expect some hiccups along the way, but issues do get resolved.

There are still several small projects waiting to be completed,

but a major project arising is the sale of the parsonage.

This will involve the re-drawing of property lines, easement needs and the decision of a selling price. We are re-connecting with a local realtor and will also need to consult with a civil engineer and an attorney. We hope to be ready for putting the parsonage on the market late this year.

Summer will be over before we know it and the kids will soon be returning to school. Make the most of this time with your family and friends.

Peace and love from the Board of P&F (Prayers and Faith).



*Are we missing your birthday or anniversary?*

*Please call the office and let Jane know!*

## Celebrations in August

### *Birthdays:*

August 6 - Karen Carey

August 13 - Garnett Geis

August 20 - Jess Feldman

August 23 - Vicki Gentry

August 24 – Savannah Macke

August 26 - Julie Hauenstein

August 27 - Michele Bunning

August 27 - Pat Marshall

### *Anniversaries:*

August 16 -

Sandee & Gary Kurtz

August 21 -

Cindy & Marlin Fuchs



## 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/<br>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                        |

# SUMMER

## Crack The Code

Directions: The number in each square corresponds to a letter. The same number represents the same letter. Crack the code and fill the grid by determining which letter relates to which number.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|    |    |   |    |    |   |    |   |
|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|---|
| S  | W  | I | M  | M  | I | N  | G |
| 20 | 21 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 1 | 16 | 7 |

|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |
| 22 | 13 | 15 | 12 |

|    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |
| 20 | 24 | 16 |

|   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|
|   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 8 | 13 | 22 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 16 |

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|----|----|---|----|
|    |    |   |    |
| 11 | 24 | 2 | 10 |

|    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
|    |    |   |
| 19 | 17 | 6 |

|    |    |    |    |   |   |
|----|----|----|----|---|---|
|    |    |    |    |   |   |
| 20 | 24 | 15 | 15 | 5 | 9 |

|    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|---|
|    |    |    |   |
| 11 | 24 | 16 | 5 |

|    |    |   |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|----|----|---|
|    |    |   |    |    |   |
| 13 | 24 | 7 | 24 | 20 | 6 |

|   |   |    |    |    |
|---|---|----|----|----|
|   |   |    |    |    |
| 3 | 5 | 13 | 22 | 19 |

|    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|---|
|    |    |    |   |
| 12 | 17 | 17 | 2 |

|   |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|
|   |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |
| 2 | 5 | 15 | 17 | 16 | 13 | 4 | 5 |



# Ice Cream Social

## & COURTYARD CONCERT

AFTER WORSHIP (ABOUT 11:15 AM)

The Roebling Brass Collective returns to St. John for worship,  
followed by an outdoor concert during our ice cream social!



**SUNDAY, AUG. 9**



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