



# The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

June 2025

## “Popcorn” Brainstorming Session June 22

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On June 22, immediately following worship, St. John will hold a “Popcorn” Session! Join us for some popcorn as we ‘popcorn’ ideas about the future. All ideas, thoughts, concepts are welcome – we’re just ‘popcorn’ing them out to capture them in the ‘tub of popcorn!’ More information is in the letter sent to every active member – if you didn’t get one, please contact Jane at the church office. Each member is asked to take a moment, or two, and pray about the future of our church. Spend some time in silence and see what the Holy Spirit lays on your heart – a new ministry, a thought for an existing ministry, something to do with fellowship or worship – all ideas are welcome! St. John UCC is a solid church – solid in membership,

solid in ministries, solid in worship, solid in Fellowship. We have been held up as a ‘successful’ church within SON-KA, but we don’t want to rest on our laurels, but be open to where the Spirit leads us. And perhaps the Spirit is leading you by giving you some ideas to bring to the Popcorn Session on June 22. Thank you for taking some time in prayer between now and then.



*Pentecost Sunday is June 8—please wear something red to symbolize the Holy Spirit!*

## From the Pastor

# HOLY COMMUNION

I love that we call ourselves a Family of Faith, and are comfortable enough with each other in so many different settings. I recently learned, however, that there was some disruptive behavior when coming forward for communion. There is a time and place for everything, and the time after having prayed and confessed our sins

and before we receive the communion elements, is a time for inward reflection, humbleness, and more prayer. This great act of remembrance, this holy time of mirroring what Jesus did on the night he was betrayed, needs to be kept as sacred, as holy, as possible. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins deserves so much more than our repentant hearts, but often that's all that we can bring. So, the next time you have the privilege of sharing in communion, remember to do so in a reverent fashion, and may your soul be refreshed by the influence of the holy.



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## Ministry Board of Christian Nurture

Our **June Fellowship Event** is the road trip to Kentucky to go on the Ark Encounter. \$30 scholarships are available to help defray the cost of the tickets, which is around \$60/person. There will be food to purchase there (or bring your lunch!) and it would be nice to chip in to help cover the cost of the gas for whoever is driving. If you'd like to go to the Ark Encounter, please sign up by June 8.

**Hospitality Team** will meet Sunday, June 8 after worship.

On Tuesday, June 24th we'll play **euchre** at Garnett's house at 2:30 pm, and the Reads would like some people to come over and play some evening in June as well. If you'd like to learn how to play euchre, or already know and have been waiting for an invitation to join this outreach ministry, now is the time!

Visit [bit.ly/OHConf2025](https://bit.ly/OHConf2025)  
for Adult Conference  
info/registration!

Happy **Father's Day** to all our dads, grandpas, stepdads, and honorary dads! Be sure to join us for fellowship time at 9:15 on Sunday, June 15—the Hospitality Team has special gifts for all men in the congregation.

Save the Date! Our **90th Birthday Party** will be held on Sunday, September 14, immediately after worship!



# ADULT CONFERENCE 2025

The 2025 Adult Conference theme is Jesus Still Matters—a welcoming, inclusive space to deepen faith, grow as leaders, and explore new spiritual horizons. Come experience the lasting impact this week can have on your journey.



**JUNE 23–27TH 2025**  
NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH | COLUMBUS, OH  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 15TH





## 2025 Bob Christophel Scholarship Winners



*Congrats to the 2025 Bob Christophel Memorial Scholarship winners, Charlie Hess and Hailey Mowell! Both will receive \$2,000 to support their college education. Thanks to all who supported the German Heritage Dinner fundraiser. You made these scholarships a reality!*

## Upcoming Events from the Men's Group

Save the Date: the **Annual Street Feed** hosted by Men's Group will be Saturday, July 12, 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.

The next **Men's Group meeting** will be Sunday, August 24 after worship

## Ministry Board of Elders

The **worship service on June 1** will start at 11:00 am – one hour later than normal! This is our second annual Joint Worship Service with the Pohnpei UCC church that worships in our building. After worship we will meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall for a potluck. Please sign up to let us know if you'll be attending the potluck and what you'll be bringing. It was a great worship service and meal last year, and we are looking forward to joining with our brothers and sisters in Christ again this year.

This summer in worship, we will be adding an extra hymn – a **favorite hymn, selected by YOU!** Look for the Hymn Sheet in the Sign-Up area and provide your name, favorite hymn, and page number in our hymnal. One of these favorites will be part of each service throughout the summer. The Ministry Board of Elders is implementing this addition based on feedback received, so thank you for sharing your thoughts!

## Scripture Readings This Month

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for May 20-26	<i>No Bible studies this week</i>	June 1
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for May 27-June 2	June 3	June 8
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for June 3-9	June 10	June 15
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for June 10-16	<i>No Bible studies this week</i>	June 22
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for June 17-23	June 24	June 29

## Ministry Board of Property and Finance

May has again been another rainy month and the damaged wall in our sanctuary still remains. We have had four previous contractors come and look at the situation and no answers have come from any of them. It is apparently a difficult problem to diagnose. The last contractor, however, cleaned out our gutters and opened up the clogged downspouts. We are hoping that this cleaning might solve the issue....time will tell. We will continue to monitor the wall and see if the wetness lessens. In the meantime, we are getting a proposal for new gutter replacements for the church and also for the parsonage.

We have received an approved building permit for our new signage and it was less of a hassle than was originally expected. The down payment has been made, the digital sign board has been ordered, and fabrication has already begun. We expect to see a new sign yet this summer.

We have scheduled another Workshop Day for Saturday, June 7. As always, there will be plenty of tasks begging for attention. We start around 8 am and end around noon, but you can come and work or come and chat anytime you like. There are always refreshments and fellowship and we would love to see you there. You

will see an email with more details about Workshop Day soon.

Steve Culver has been working closely with Tom from Worship Resources on our audio/video issues. It is proposed that we purchase a new projector that has a much brighter output using laser technology, and also a new speaker to replace our malfunctioning speaker. Our board will review these proposals and will most likely approve these so that we can see immediate improvements in our worship visuals and sound. Thanks, Steve.

The new commercial-grade refrigerator has arrived and is in full operation. It will provide much needed additional refrigerated space for the Feed My Sheep pantry, and any of Susie Koehler's broccoli salad that she wishes to donate to the cause.



Summer is coming and we will be re-landscaping areas of the church grounds after the new sign is installed and working. All you green thumbs are welcome to help when the time comes. Thanks to

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Ministry Board of Property and Finance

*(Continued from page 6)*

Carol Nieman for already collecting and holding some cuttings and divisions from her own gardens for future planting at the church.

As always, give us your thoughts and prayers, and let us know how we are doing.

Peace and blessings from P&F.

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## Highlights from the Music Ministry

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, the Chancel Choir will be singing *Spirit, Sing!*

Bart Choate will visit as our guest organist on June 15. Gary Kurtz and Phil Hogan will sing two duets.

On June 22, Barbara Gibler will sing a soprano solo.

Bart Choate will join us as guest organist again on June 29, and we'll also welcome Karen Knueven, who will play French horn duets with Rev. Torie.



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## Celebrations in June

### *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 17 - Shayla Xander  
June 24 - Toni Germann  
June 25 - David Hall  
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



## 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
Communion	1st Sunday	10 am	Sanctuary
Deacons	Last Thursday	2:30 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
Christian Nurture	1st Tuesday	5 pm	Bible Study Room
Elders	2nd Thursday	2:30 pm	Bible Study Room
Euchre	3rd Tuesday	2:15 pm	Church
Church Council	3rd Thursday	6 pm	Bible Study Room
Work-ship Day	Last Saturday	8 am	Church



# Father's Day Word Search



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



role model

guidance

barbecue

grill

fishing

grandpa

necktie

tools

support

family

sports

cars

caring

father

daddy

love

papa

hero

hug

dad





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Gary Kurtz  
@Gary-Kurtz-15

**DRAWING JUNE 1, 2025**



Proceeds benefit the Bob Christophel Memorial Scholarship, awarded each year by the St. John UCC Men's Group to a graduating Reading High School student who participated in baseball or softball.



**venmo**

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**CONTACT GARY AT 513-446-5827 FOR TICKETS/INFO**



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