



The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

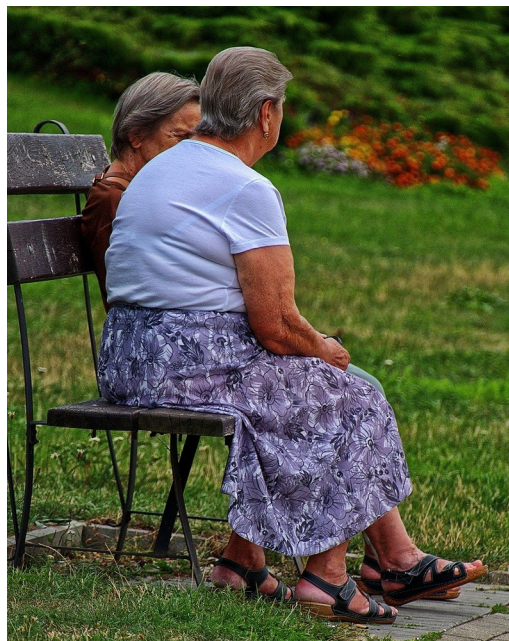
November 2025

Spiritual Corner: Aging... the Journey of a Lifetime

By Pam Ward

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All of life's stages are valued by God. In Jesus Christ, the dignity and worth of human life at any age is made clear throughout the Gospel stories. We are urged again and again to die to our old selves and to become a "new creation" in Christ. This may happen at any moment, at any age. Our society in recent decades has viewed aging strictly as a decline, disregard-

ing its many blessings. Social scientists are now providing scientific proof that our later years, if we are blessed to experience them, are known to be some of the happiest of our life. This information is helping to inform a cultural shift toward "conscious aging," where people seek to live their best lives well into their latest years.

Being an active participant in the life of the church is a good way to help assure vibrant "conscious" aging. This does not necessarily mean active volunteerism, although that is a wonderful way to be connected. Participating in worship and opportunities for fellowship, attending Faith Formation classes, and other events are also important ways to facilitate a vibrant life.

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Spiritual Corner: Aging... the Journey of a Lifetime

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I would like to suggest that being an active participant in the life of the church includes finding the grace to accept help when we need it. Let's keep each other informed when we need prayer, a visit, or even more concrete needs such as a meal, a ride, etc. Our shared

vulnerability may be the glue that binds us. We can thrive, not simply survive, in the midst of the challenges life brings us at any age, with the love of Christ through our nurturing, caring congregation.

*Submitted by Pam Ward, RN,
Faith Community Nurse at
Knox Presbyterian Church,
Hyde Park, Ohio.*



There are so many opportunities to feel the Spirit of God and know that He loves us in what is offered here at St. John.

Popcorn Committee Update

The Popcorn Committee was formed after the June "popcorning" meeting to help the Ministry Boards and Council determine how best to implement our "popcorn" ideas.

The Popcorn Committee met on September 30 to go over the Ministry Boards' and Council's study of what they felt came under the responsibility of their group.

There are so many opportunities to feel the Spirit of God and know that He loves us in what is offered here at St. John.

The committee has decided to meet again in January, along with Council, to share what opportunities were added to our church life to allow God to speak to us.

Charlotte Bell, Committee Chair



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, November 4 at 3:45 pm

Next Sunday, Nov. 2, begins a **Hen Gathering** led by Susie Koehler. We will be studying the devotional *SoulFull* by Farrell Mason, after worship on the first Sunday of each month. All women are welcome. There is no homework—each session is a complete discussion.

Please see Susie to get a copy of *SoulFull*. We have some on hand already and can order more if needed.

Whether you walk quickly or slowly, with or without an aid, with a dog or a friend, all are welcome to join the **St. John Walkers**. Talking, silent, listening to music – all are welcome! This month, in addition to our usual neighborhood walks on the 13th and 20th, the Walkers are taking a **field trip to Sharon Woods** on Nov. 6—we will meet at church at 10 am and carpool over.

November's **Lunch Bunch** will meet Nov. 9 at Village Family Restaurant in Waynesville Antique Mall! Enjoy fellowship, lunch and antiquing!

Game Nite at the Koehlers' at 4 pm on November 16! Come join us for fun, food and fellowship. Supper is provided. Meet at the church at 3:30 pm and carpool to 720 Washington Ave. in Newport, KY. See you there!

All are invited to a **Christmas Card Writing Day** at Transfiguration Spirituality Center (495 Albion Ave., Glendale). The event is Tuesday, December 2, from 10 am to noon—we'll meet at church at 9:30 am to carpool. Liz Keuffer at the Center invites us: "Come enjoy a quiet space to write your Christmas cards this year. Join us at Transfiguration Spirituality Center, on the tranquil campus of the Community of the Transfigura-

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Come enjoy a quiet space to write your Christmas cards this year.



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Ministry Board of Christian Nurture

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tion in Glendale. Bring your own cards, and we'll provide the pens and light refreshments for you, prepared by our own Food for the Soul Ministry. We'd love for you to join us!"

Save-the-dates:

Christmas Extravaganza – Dec. 14. Raffles, lunch, ornament/decoration exchange

Christmas Caroling – Dec. 16, 17, 21



Ministry Board of Deacons

The generosity of our congregation is greatly appreciated.

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

Thanksgiving! Christmas!

Yes, the Deacons are already thinking about the holidays. November and December are our busiest months of the year.

We can use your help. There are three bins in the upstairs hallway for:

1) Thanksgiving dinner

items: canned veggies, canned fruit, instant mashed potatoes, gravy mixes, boxed desserts and holiday napkins.

2) Small toys for children's Christmas stockings.

3) Gifts for children to give to parents: lotions, socks, winter hats, gloves and scarves, etc. This is one of my favorite activities that Deacons provide. Watching children "shop" for their parents is quite touching.

Thank you in advance for helping us again this year. The generosity of our congregation is greatly appreciated.



October Fun: Fantastic Fall Family FunFest & Northgate Revival

We enjoyed food, fun & family at the Fronts' farm on Oct. 12 and welcomed Luke Yates Ministries to our sanctuary on Oct. 19 for a revival concert!



Ministry Board of Elders

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

Next meeting: Thursday, November 6 at 2:00 pm

“Totenfest” is Sunday, Nov. 2. This is our annual tradition of recognizing all the saints in our lives who have passed into their eternal home in the last year. If you would like your loved one’s name read during the service this year, please add their name to the sign-up sheet outside the Cozy Corner. Nov. 2 is also our celebration of Reformation Sunday, which will include a guest brass quartet (see below) and special music by the choir. Make sure to attend this special service!

Guest brass quartet:

Aaron Byle, trumpeter, is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and earned a Master’s Degree in trumpet at the Univ of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.

Jonathan Wiseman, trumpeter, holds degrees from University of North Carolina and the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. He currently teaches after school jazz trumpeting at Cincinnati Public Schools.

Kyle Malesevich, trombone, is on staff at Northern Kentucky University. He is the founder of the 5K brass ensemble.

Andrew Jones, tuba, holds a Doctorate

from University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. He currently teaches tuba at the Univ of Dayton and has a large studio of students from various high schools.

Hanging of the Greens to prepare the church for Advent and Christmas will be Sunday, November 23 this year. Many hands make work light—please plan to stay after worship and enjoy some treats and fun as well as decorating.

Look for a **Thanksgiving Tree** sprouting at church shortly to help us remember what we are grateful for this November. Paper “leaves” will be available for everyone to write down their blessings and thanksgivings and add to the tree.

The first Sunday of **Advent** is November 30th this year. Guest cellist Jennifer Higgins-Wagner will be playing in worship as well as accompanying the choir as we celebrate Advent.

We are seeking new volunteers for the **Ushering ministry**—please see Steve Prater, Rev. Torie, or another of the Elders if you’re interested!

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Ministry Board of Elders

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Faith Foundations: There will be a Children's Chat every Sunday. Haven will take the children out on the first two Sundays of each month, and Kasey Macke will take them out on Sundays 3-4 (and 5). If an adult is not in attendance on their assigned Sunday, children

will stay in worship. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you are interested in helping with Faith Formation, please see Haven. It is such a meaningful ministry to teach our children about our Triune God.

Christmas Eve worship services will be at 3:30 pm and 9:30 pm this year. Both will be Service of Lessons and Carols.



Scripture Readings

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for October 21-27	<i>No Bible study this week</i>	November 2
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for October 28-November 3	November 4	November 9
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for November 4-10	November 11	November 16
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for November 11-17	November 18	November 23
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for November 18-24	November 25	November 30

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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.



If you are still waiting to pledge, please do so soon. Whatever you can do will be a huge blessing.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 11 at 4:00 pm

The fall colors arrived rather late this year and we are now in the season of Thanksgiving. I am always thankful to be around such wonderful people as my church family. The love and support that is freely given here is overwhelming, heart-warming and deeply appreciated.

The new **digital sign** has passed all inspections and we are not getting any more complaints about the display. It is performing admirably and we are easily, quickly and colorfully able to keep the neighborhood informed of the many activities here at the church and in the area.

Our next **Work-ship Day** is November 8. Look for an email announcing all the fun details. You are also welcome to come to church any day and work on a project of your choice. Just let

us know what you want to do and we can help.

We have been in contact with a couple companies who are experts in determining the root cause of the **water issues** that are occurring on our sanctuary walls. We had hoped that the new roof and tuck pointing of all the brick would have solved those problems, but they have returned. We look forward to their proposals and we will keep you posted.

We are near the end of our **Stewardship campaign** and hope and pray that you have returned your pledge card, and we apologize for getting those out late. If you are still waiting to pledge, please do so soon. Whatever you can do will be a huge blessing. We will announce our total tally of pledges early this month.

The fading and dismal **lights in Fellowship Hall** are being replaced. New LED fixtures are

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Ministry Board of Property and Finance

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being installed and they are really brightening up the room and saving electricity. Many thanks to Ed Campbell for doing all this labor intensive work. The old fixtures and fluorescent bulbs are all being recycled.

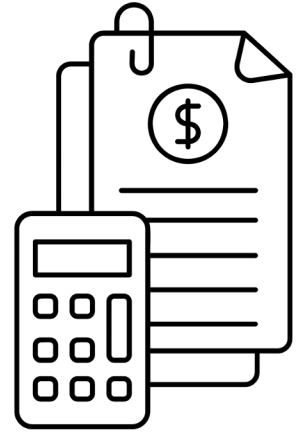
The church again serves as a **polling location** on November 4th. We are also home to line dancing classes every Thursday after the pantry. Other groups are looking at our facilities as a

possible meeting location too.

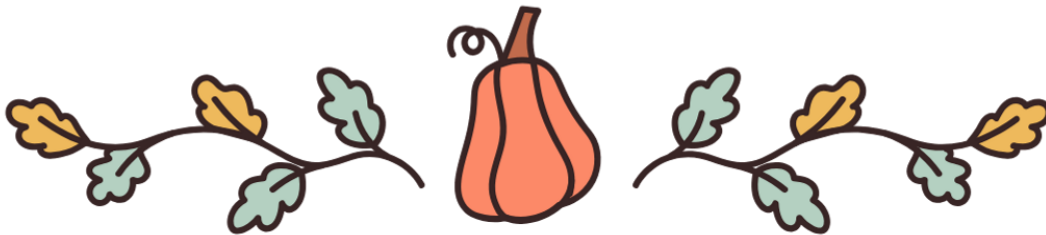
The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts still meet regularly at our church.

Staff reviews and budgets are the themes for our meeting this month. Let us know of any thoughts and concerns you might have about our staff and our finances.

Have a wonderful and joyous Thanksgiving. We are indeed thankful for you and our Risen Lord. Peace and blessings from P&F.



*Have a
wonderful and
joyous
Thanksgiving.*



Celebrations in November

Birthdays

November 5 - Scott Nieman

November 5 - Dan Staab

November 7 - Steve Prater

November 10 - Ron Bauer

November 10 - Virgie Cutter

November 12 - Steve Culver

November 14 - Tim Maxfield

November 15 - Bob Cutter

November 18 - Howard Ficke II

November 19 - Karen Caudill

November 19 - Linda Read

November 27 - Kathy Culver



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	2:45 pm	Church
Church Council	3rd Thursday	6 pm	Bible Study Room
Work-ship Day	First Saturday	8 am	Church

Happy Thanksgiving

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Carving

Cranberries

Dessert

Dishes

Family

Feast

Football

Gobble

Gravy

Ham

November

Parade

Pie

Pilgrims

Potatoes

Rolls

Stuffing

Thursday

Turkey

Fall Back



*Daylight Saving Time
ends Nov. 2*



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