



The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

July 2026

From the Pastor

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Antiquing – the act of looking for treasures amongst a pile of ancient relics. OK, that is not a real definition, it's one I made up, but I think you get the concept. Antiquing – when we go to a shop that sells antiques, or perhaps a garage sale, or maybe a thrift store – and we look through and among and between and under and above everything, looking for treasures. Sound like fun?! We'll have a chance to do that in our July Fellowship Event on Friday, July 12! Read the Christian Nurture section for more information!

Let's focus on the act, the hunt. It's like looking for buried treasure, about sifting through the silt to find gold, digging in the mines to bring up diamonds. It's something we humans do, digging through whatever surrounds you to get

down to what's important. And now we move from the literal to the figurative. We go 'antiquing' any time we sit still with ourselves, and dig down into our souls. Moving aside the things that are not important until we lift up that which we seek. Our salvation. Our faith in Jesus. Our trust in God that enables us to keep on, each and every day.

Sometimes the 'things' that surround us, like those at an antique mall, may seem overwhelming, ancient, not useful, ridiculous. And sometimes they may invoke pleasant memories, flashbacks to our youth. But when it really comes down to it, it's not the 'thing' that you can find at an antique mall that is most important, it is the rela-

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From the Pastor

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tionships you have, have had, will have, that truly enrich your life.

As our country celebrates its 250th birthday this month, I invite you to do some soul-searching. To find an opportunity to sit still and be with God, to dig into those

areas of your life that are too full, too crowded, too messy. And search, and look, and seek, the peace that passes understanding. Psalm 46:10 – Be still and know that I am God. May this be the treasure that you find, that enriches your life, each and every day.

Rev. Torie

Committee Forming: Job Description for New Hire

The Church Council is forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to put together a Job Description for a New Hire. With an emphasis on creating a youth ministry here at St. John UCC, this new hire (part-time to begin with) may also be asked to help in other ministries as they develop the youth program.

If you are interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Committee, we are looking for one representative from each of our Ministry Boards, and one representative from the Congregation. Please let Rev. Torie know if you have any questions or are interested in serving for this short-term commitment.

Popcorn Committee July Update



It's been a year since everyone was asked for their opinion on what they thought would improve their faith journey in our church services and other

opportunities here at church. A lot of changes have happened—some very noticeably—some small but subtle.

The committee met again on June 16 and decided that we want to be sure that everyone is up to date on how opinions have been implemented where possible. Reports from each board on how they have addressed changes will be distributed during worship on July 5, and are also available in the pamphlet rack outside the sanctuary, or from the church office. Blessings to you, and enjoy your readings! (If you aren't able to be at church to pick one up, please call the office and ask Jane to send you a copy.)

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.

Are you turning, or have you already turned, ninety years old in 2026? Please let Rev. Torie or the church office know. Our annual **90th Birthdays Party** will be held in September (date TBA) and we want to celebrate you!

The Hospitality Committee will be providing cake **and celebration** during Hospitality Time on the first Sunday of each month, to honor those who have birthdays or anniversaries in the coming month.

Hospitality Committee is also in need of **anniversary cards** to send to members on their wedding anniversaries - if you have unused cards to spare, please bring them to the church office.

Save the date for the **Men's Group Street Feed**—August 1 from 11 am-1 pm.

Water Aerobics will start at 2:30 pm on Tuesdays in July.

Our **July Fellowship Event** is a day of 'antiquing' in Waynesville, Ohio. The date is Friday, July 10. We'll meet at the church at 9:30 am to carpool. Bring money for lunch, and we can coordinate the

carpools so those that want to return earlier may do so. Please sign up today!

July **Lunch Bunch** is scheduled for Sunday, July 12 after worship. It will be a potluck lunch and game time, so plan on sticking around for awhile! Yes, you need to sign up—please see the signup area outside the Cozy Corner.

Mrs. Jessica R Smith, MSN, CV-BC **Congratulations on Your Election to Associate!**

This professional achievement is an incredible milestone in your career.

Moving forward, you will be able to use your AACC designation to signal to colleagues and peers that you have been recognized as a cardiovascular professional ranking among the best in the field.

As a newly elected Associate, please reserve April 10-12, 2027, for the Annual Scientific Session in Houston, TX, where you will be honored at our prestigious Convocation ceremony.

Congrats to Jessica on earning the designation of Associate of the American College of Cardiology!

Men's Group Fishing Outing



The Men's Group enjoyed their June fishing outing, despite having to reschedule it due to weather. Garnett caught the most fish and Robert caught the largest!



Ministry Board of Elders

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

On July 19, Rev. Torie will be taking her 3rd vacation Sunday (of 6) for the year, as she and Vince attend his family reunion in Wheeling, WV. Ben Williams will be providing the pulpit supply that day. Ben is a Member in Discernment - which means that he is on the path to becoming ordained in the United Church of Christ. Ben serves as a chaplain at a hospital now, and is looking forward to being in the pulpit. This is not something that he usually does, and your welcoming support and love will be much appreciated,

as we provide a safe place for him to have some time in the pulpit. Keep your ears open for how God uses this 'not yet ordained' minister to bring us the Word on July 19.

Do you have some musical talent? Would you like to share your singing or instrumental gifts with the church? Would you like to try your hand at something new, like handbells, or the Cajón (Box Drum)? Please get in touch with Debbie Cummins, Music Director.

Scripture Readings for July

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	June 30	July 5
Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	July 7	July 12
Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	July 14	July 19
Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	July 21	July 26

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.

Wow!! Another month has come and gone and we find ourselves already in the hot summer months. We are taking a break from our Work-shop Days for the next two months and also from our monthly meetings, but there are still many projects and repairs happening around the church.

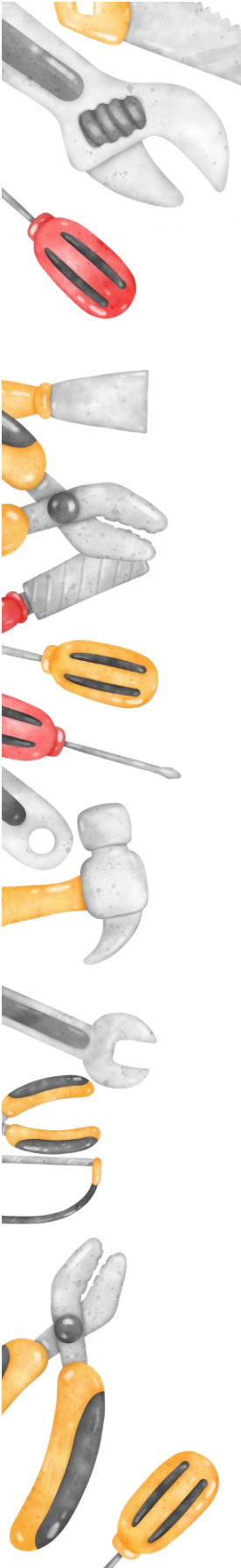
We are waiting for the plasterer to repair the peeling walls in the sanctuary and that should be coming soon. The trellis re-design and install is still being decided. The kitchenette is ready for the installation of the tile backsplash. The leaking toilet in the ladies' upper restroom has been repaired. The elevator is working again after several visits by the maintenance company. We have passed the most recent fire safety inspection. The new front doors are awaiting some final tweaks and some finishing trim. A new television has replaced the non-working tv in

the lobby. There is always something else that needs attention.

We also continue to participate in the job description and the possible hiring of a youth ministry director and an event manager. It is hoped that these positions would develop and grow a youth program and market our facilities as rental spaces for outside groups and organizations.

Please enjoy the summer months, having fun and staying safe. Let us know if you want to tackle any projects around the church. Please continue to offer your time, talent, and your weekly offering...it is all a needed and appreciated blessing.

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



Zoom Courses from the Center for Abundant Aging

Abundant Aging INSIGHTS

What To Do With My Stuff

Why is it so easy to collect things, but so hard to release them.
July 16, 2026 – 10:30 am EST
Facilitator: Rev. Darla Metz

What do you do with objects that hold your memories, your stories, and your heart?
 Join Rev. Darla Metz as she explores why we keep the things that we do and how you might navigate the emotional weight of our belongings with clarity and compassion.

Through a blend of psychology, autobiographical memory, and simple spiritual practices, you'll learn how to honor the meaning behind your things without feeling overwhelmed by them.

Cultivating Curiosity
and Conversation
One Question at a Time

REGISTER NOW



All
Classes
Are
Virtual!

\$10.00
One Time Fee

\$7.50
UCH Resident Discount

To Register Click [HERE](#)

We do not discriminate based upon race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, age, disability, genetic information or ancestry.



- The zoom link will be sent with confirmation of your registration and in reminders the morning of each scheduled session.
- All zoom sessions are 75 minutes in length



Visit unitedchurchhomes.org/the-center-for-abundant-aging/ for more information about their Zoom webinar offerings, or visit bit.ly/3QC9rJz to register for the “What to Do With My Stuff” session.



Celebrations in July

Birthdays

July 11 - Ann Feldman
 July 13 – Robert Walker
 July 15 - Ann Seebom
 July 23 - Shirley Martin
 July 24 - Whitney Reardon
 July 25 - Glenda Richardson
 July 28 - Sandy Graves

Anniversaries

July 6 –
 Joana & Nick Eddelmon
 July 22 –
 Chris & Barbara Gibler

*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

4th of July word search

stars and stripes

name: _____ date: _____

☆ CHALLENGING: ACROSS, DOWN, BACKWARD & DIAGONAL



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



FIND THE 18 WORDS BELOW

AMERICAN
BALLOONS
BUNTING
FIREWORKS
FREEDOM
LIBERTY

PATRIOTIC
ROCKETS
SPARKLERS
STARBURST
STARRY
STATUE

STREAMERS
STRIPED
SUMMER
UNITED
VICTORY
WAVING





You are invited to...

Peace of Mind Seminar

Please join us for an advance funeral planning seminar. We will be discussing the steps involved in getting a funeral plan in place, how that plan will affect your loved ones, and answering your questions on funeral service. Light lunch provided.

Location:

St. John UCC
729 Jefferson Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45215

Date and Time:

Sunday, July 26th at 11:15 AM

Please sign-up with the
Church Office
(513) 821-1740

Walk-ins Welcome

Topics Discussed

- Advance funeral planning
- Types of services
- Death away from home
- Planning financially for services
- After the funeral service



St. John United Church of Christ

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