



The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

October 2025

From the Pastor

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In September, four members of the congregation started down “The Blessing Path.” This was a program offered by United Church Homes, a 3-week set of Zoom meetings incorporating art, music, reflection, discussion, scripture, and prayer. Unfortunately, the sessions were cancelled due to low attendance (we registered the day before it was to start, and they had already cancelled it, but not taken down the registration site!)

Undaunted, we went ahead with our own Blessing Path! We all came for different reasons, from different places, yet were

united in our desire to be a blessing to others. Not to receive (more) blessings from God, but to share holy blessings with others.

You, too, can be part of being a blessing to others this month at St. John UCC. On Sunday, October 19, we are hosting The Northgate Revival, a Christian Gospel group who will be in our sanctuary that afternoon starting at 2:00pm . What a great opportunity for you to be a blessing to someone else, and invite them to join you for this concert.

Rev. Torie and Vince have been blessed with a beautiful piece of property and invite you to share in their blessing on Sunday, October 12 at the Fantastic Fall Family Fun-Fest at the Front’s Farm! All are invited

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From the Pastor

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to attend, just bring a side dish or desert and your own beverage – there will be food and cornhole and croquet and a hay ride and pony rides and lots of fellowship! Hope to see you there.

Finally, Rev. Torie and Vince will be gone for one week in Ireland, from October 20-28, to celebrate the blessing of Vince's retirement from Kroger. If you are looking for an opportunity to share a blessing with someone else, as our group of four was

last month, I encourage you to adopt a Saint at Home and visit them during that week. You will indeed be a blessing to them, and I think you'll also walk away feeling like you were blessed too! A listing of our Saints at Home and their addresses are available on the Sign Up table outside the Cozy Corner.

May God's blessings continue for all, and may all enjoy the blessing of being a blessing to someone else!

-Rev. Torie

Ministry Board of Deacons

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.

St. John's will be handing out candy to **trick-or-treaters** on Halloween, and we need volunteers to do so (candy provided)! Please sign up outside the Cozy Corner. Or if you don't have trick-or-treaters come to your house and want to set up at the church and enjoy some fellowship, please do so.

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.

Fantastic **Fall Family Fun Fest** at the Front's Farm is set for Sunday, October 12, immediately after worship. This is a potluck – we'll be grilling out hotdogs and metts and/or brats – and there will be pony rides and hiking and a hay wagon ride, along with cornhole and croquet, and a chance to hit the polo ball in the hitting cage! Come one, come all – bring your family and friends for this friendly get-together!

The **Fall Bus Trip** to Brown County, Indiana is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1. The cost is \$45 and we have twelve seats still available. Sign up now for shopping, arts and crafts and fellowship!

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! We meet on Thursdays at 10:00 and walk as far/long as we want—the suggested route is down to Haffey Fieldhouse & back, which would be two miles. But you can just do two blocks– whatever distance and pace you want!



LIVE IN CONCERT



SUN
OCT 19
2 PM

**St. John United
Church of Christ
729 Jefferson Ave.
Reading, OH**

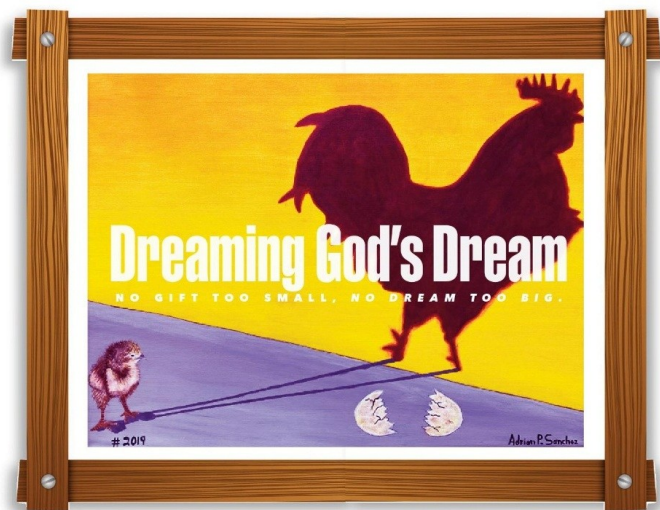
Admission is free!
A love offering will
be received.

SCAN HERE



WWW.NORTHGATEREVIVAL.COM

Stewardship Campaign 2025: Dreaming God's Dream



Why Pledge

WHY DO WE MAKE A COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT TO CHURCH?

We can give to our congregation without turning in a commitment card. So, why write down our intention for the coming year? Of course, telling the church about our intention helps leaders plan. But we ask you to write down your intentions for another reason.

Jesus told us to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

A commitment card can engage us in all those ways as we express our love of God and neighbor.

- Heart: we feel the love and support of people in the congregation. This is the place where we belong.
- Mind: we think about our resources, both our income and our accumulated

assets when deciding on what commitment to make in the coming year.

- Soul: we experience the hope that comes from making a commitment to the future. A commitment card symbolizes our confidence in God's future and makes us part of helping that future come about.
- Strength: we do what we can to help support our community.

We ask you to return a commitment card because it connects you to the mission and ministry of our congregation to our neighbors, near and far. Returning your commitment card affirms with all of your being that you are part of our response to God's dream.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

Ministry Board of Elders

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

Save the date for our annual remembrance of Reformation/Totenfest – Nov. 2, 2025 – we will wear red clothing to symbolize the Holy Spirit and light candles honoring those who have passed in the last year.

Rev. Jill Frey will visit with us on Sunday, Oct. 26 while Rev. Torie is away, and will do a ‘church camp’ sermon.

Diane Magill will be playing her lovely flute in worship on October 5th. It is always a treat to enjoy her beautiful music.

The Handbell Choir is now rehearsing each Sunday morning. We welcome new ringer Jessica Bunning Smith! The handbell choir will be ringing in worship in mid-October.

Scripture Readings

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for September 23-29	September 30	October 5
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for September 30-October 6	October 7	October 12
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for October 7-13	October 14	October 19
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for October 14-20	October 21	October 26

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.

Fall is here and we look forward to the colorful display of the leaves and entire forests. All Hallows Eve is also lurking around the corner and I always enjoy the Halloween costumes and having fun with the trick-or-treaters and families that canvass our neighborhood. Please be extra careful when driving.

The new digital sign is now totally operational and is displaying many of the upcoming activities happening at the church. We failed the first electrical inspection and had to install a safety lockout that would protect anyone from electric shock or electrocution while working on the sign. We also had a few complaints from the neighbors about brightness and flashing and we have modified the display to accommodate their concerns. The sign actually shuts off overnight. Our great secretary, Jane, has happily agreed to manage the information displayed on the sign... she is like a kid with a new toy! Thanks, Jane...and thanks also to Ed Campbell for completing the necessary electrical work.

Our next Workshop Day is October 4th. 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 would like to do and we can help you get it underway.

We now have a contract with McAndrews Glass to install new front entry doors and glass. The new doors will be all aluminum with a bronze color finish. Each door will be a bit wider than our current doors which will facilitate getting in and out and also makes the fire department happier. We will lose the etchings on the current glass and the new glass will have some insulating value. This will give us an attractive and secure entrance to church and we are hoping that the work can be completed yet this year.

We have reviewed the Popcorn Ideas that relate to P&F and we are moving forward with online payments. We are seriously considering the remodeling of the trellis over the stained glass window in the sanctuary and looking into providing rides for our members to health appointments, worship and grocery or other needs. The last item we may consider would be a bathroom in Fellowship Hall.

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Ministry Board of Property and Finance

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Our Stewardship campaign is near and I ask you to prayerfully consider what your heart is telling you to provide in time, talent, and treasures. Whatever you can do would be a huge blessing to everyone. This year's stewardship campaign goal is \$120,000—please see the article and chart on page 4

to see some examples of what giving different percentages of your income could look like.

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

Peace and blessings from P&F.

Dreaming God's Dream
NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.



Celebrations in October

Birthdays:

October 2 - Melissa Harman,
Julie Kadooka

October 6 - Haven Reardon

October 12 – Delores Osborne

October 18 - Barbara Gibler

October 19 - Rosalie Byrd

October 20 - Todd Patterson

October 24 - Nick Eddelmon

October 25 - Sherri Marshall

October 25 - Jim Stacey

October 27 - Charlotte Bell

October 28 - Brian Hall



SAVE THE DATE!

SONKA Fall Gathering

Sat. Nov. 15 + 10am to noon

St. John's + 515 East Third St.+ Dayton + 45402

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



HALLOWEEN

Find the hidden words in the grid in all forward directions (→ ↓ ↘ ↙).

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

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| BAT | DARKNESS | HORROR | SHADOW |
| BLACK CAT | DEMON | HOWL | SKELETON |
| BROOMSTICK | EERIE | JACK-O'-LANTERN | SPIDER |
| CACKLE | GHOST | MONSTER | TRICK OR TREAT |
| CANDY | GOBLIN | PHANTOM | VAMPIRE |
| CAULDRON | HALLOWEEN | PUMPKIN | WITCH |
| CREEPY | HAUNTED | SCARE | ZOMBIE |



Autumn

COURTYARD PICNIC

HOT DOGS & CHIPS | GAMES | GIFT CARD DRAWING



St. John United Church of Christ
729 Jefferson Ave., Reading, OH



OCT. 7, 2025
5 - 7 PM



St. John United Church of Christ

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