



The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

May 2025

From the Pastor

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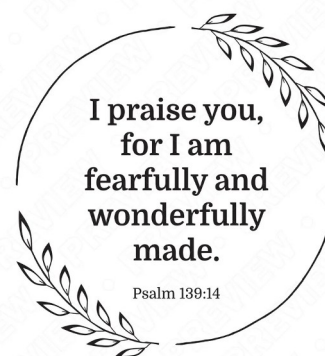
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God
DON'T MAKE
NO
JUNK

God don't make junk! As we prepare for our annual Rummage Sale, 'junk' may be on everyone's mind! One man's trash is another man's treasure, and later this month we'll put that saying to the test! As you clean out your cupboards and box up those items you don't use anymore, take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful creation that God made in YOU! You, who are made in God's image, you who have the

breath of God in your lungs. And as we gather up those items to bring to our rummage sale, know that God does not do the same with you! You are never passed on to someone else, you are never put up for



sale, you are never considered 'junk.' You are a much-loved Child of God, Co-Heir with Christ, and you are not junk! But, we do want your donations to the Rummage Sale, so go to it!

-Rev. Torie

Women’s Mini-Retreat: “A Friendship Bouquet”



Ministry Board of Christian Nurture

Hospitality Team will meet Sunday, May 4 after worship.

We are organizing a group to see Mt. Notre Dame's production of **Godspell** on Thursday, May 8 at 7 pm. Tickets are \$17. Please sign up outside the Cozy Corner to attend.

The Hospitality Team will be hosting **Mother's Day refreshments** from 9:15-10 am and after worship. We have a special gift for all the ladies!

St. John UCC is hosting the **Reading Community Schools Baccalaureate** on May 14, at 7:00 pm. If you'd like to help out by serving as a greeter, please sign up outside the Cozy Corner.

May **Lunch Bunch** has been scheduled for May 18, to avoid a conflict with Mother's Day. We will meet at Ruby Tuesday's, 2235 E Sharon Rd.

Rummage Sale is May 29-31! Sign up outside the Cozy Corner to bring baked goods or help with the sale!



ADULTS SEEK & SIP CAMP



Rediscover your love for camp!



Gather with old friends and make new ones!



Activities for all abilities!

REGISTER NOW



Wednesday-Saturday
July 30-August 2, 2025



Camp Christian
10335 Maple Dell Rd.
Marysville, OH 43040



*St. John UCC is hosting the **Reading Community Schools Baccalaureate** on May 14, at 7:00 pm. If you'd like to help out by serving as a greeter, please sign up outside the Cozy Corner.*

Blessing of Graduates

Baccalaureate Service for 2025 Graduates, Families, & Friends



READING COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

7:00 pm

Graduates arrive 6:30 pm

St. John United Church of Christ

729 Jefferson Avenue, Reading, OH 45215

Reception to Follow

Wear
your cap
& gown!



CLASS OF 2025

Ministry Board of Elders

Thanks to the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, soloists and special musicians, and all who made our Holy Week and Easter worship services so beautiful this year!

Rev. Torie will be away from May 18-28. Please contact Pastor Emily Beckering at 513-760-5884 if you have any pastoral emergencies during this time, such as a hospitalization or death. Sr. Pat Pieper, SND, will preach on Sunday, May 25.

Interested in **joining or re-joining St. John?** Please see Rev. Torie! St. John UCC will be taking in new members on Sunday, May 11.

This year's **Holy Humor Sunday** "May the Fourth Be with you" is Sunday, May 4th! Star Wars based worship service, including special guests Han Solo, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Darth Vader, and Princess Leia!

We had such a good time and great response to our **joint worship** with the Pohnpei UCC church last year, that we are doing it again – including a potluck lunch afterwards! Save the date – Sunday, June 1, 2025. Worship begins at 11 am and the potluck will follow.

Scripture Readings in May

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for April 22-28	April 29	May 4
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for April 29-May 5	May 6	May 11
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for May 6-12	May 13	May 18
<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Readings for May 13-19	**No Bible studies this week**	May 25

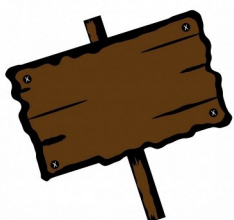
The Visitor

Ministry Board of Property and Finance

Ministry Board of Property & Finance will meet at 5 pm on Tuesday, May 6.



Workshop Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 3. Come and work or chat anytime you like.



April was certainly a wet and rainy month and it did bring to life many of the flowering plants in our courtyard and around the church. It also showed its dark side by somehow penetrating our outside roof and wall defense and again damaging a section of interior wall in our sanctuary. Not only does the water damage result in costly repairs, it looks terrible, and casts a shadow on our beautiful worship space. We are having all recent contractors return to see if they can discover what the problem might be. Hopefully we can find an answer and get it repaired as quickly as possible and hoping that it is covered under warranty. There will still remain the repairs on the interior walls once the problem is remedied.

We have the final design and construction drawings for a new digital message sign for the church. We have prepared a site plan and completed all the

necessary paperwork, and have applied for a permit and a zoning appeal that is required for this sign. We are hoping that this will be a smooth and uncomplicated process so that we can see our new sign sometime this summer.

We have scheduled another Workshop Day for Saturday, May 3rd. As always, there will be plenty of tasks waiting for us. We start around 8am 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.

Many thanks to Rick Caudill who has graciously taken over the duties of "Boss" of Background Checks. He will be responsible for managing and running all background checks that are required for certain positions, volunteers and staff. These checks are important to provide for the safety and secu-

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Ministry Board of Property and Finance

(Continued from page 6)

rity necessary for the church, for all our members, and for families and visitors to the church.

Through the efforts of Susie Koehler and Rev. Torie, we have received grants for the purchase of a new refrigerator that will serve the Feed My Sheep pantry. It is currently on order and should be here early

in the month. This will provide the additional storage needed for our refrigerated and perishable items, not to mention the extra space for all our favorite refrigerator magnets.

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

Peace and blessings from P&F.

Thanks to the Men's Group for sprucing up Don P.'s house for spring! Pics below!



Celebrations in May

Birthdays

May 2 - Susie Koehler

May 3 - Bruce Read

May 5 - Cindy Fuchs

May 11 – Maddie Robinson

May 17 - Linda Burman

May 27 – Donna Cutter

May 30 - Shirley Waddell

May 30 - Judi Montrose

Anniversaries

May 23 - Debbie & Rev. Steve Cummins

May 31 - Heidi & BJ Bothe



St. John UCC Regularly Scheduled Events

Weekly			
Event	Day	Time	Location
Handbell Choir	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	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	Cozy Corner
Lunch Bunch	2nd Sunday	After Worship	Various
Men's Group	Various Sundays	11 am	Various
Property & Finance	2nd Tuesday	5 pm	Fellowship Hall
Christian Nurture	1st Tuesday	5 pm	Fellowship Hall
Elders	2nd Thursday	2:30 pm	Bible Study Room
Euchre	3rd Tuesday	2:15 pm	Church
Church Council	3rd Thursday	6 pm	Fellowship Hall
Work-ship Day	Last Saturday	8 am	Church

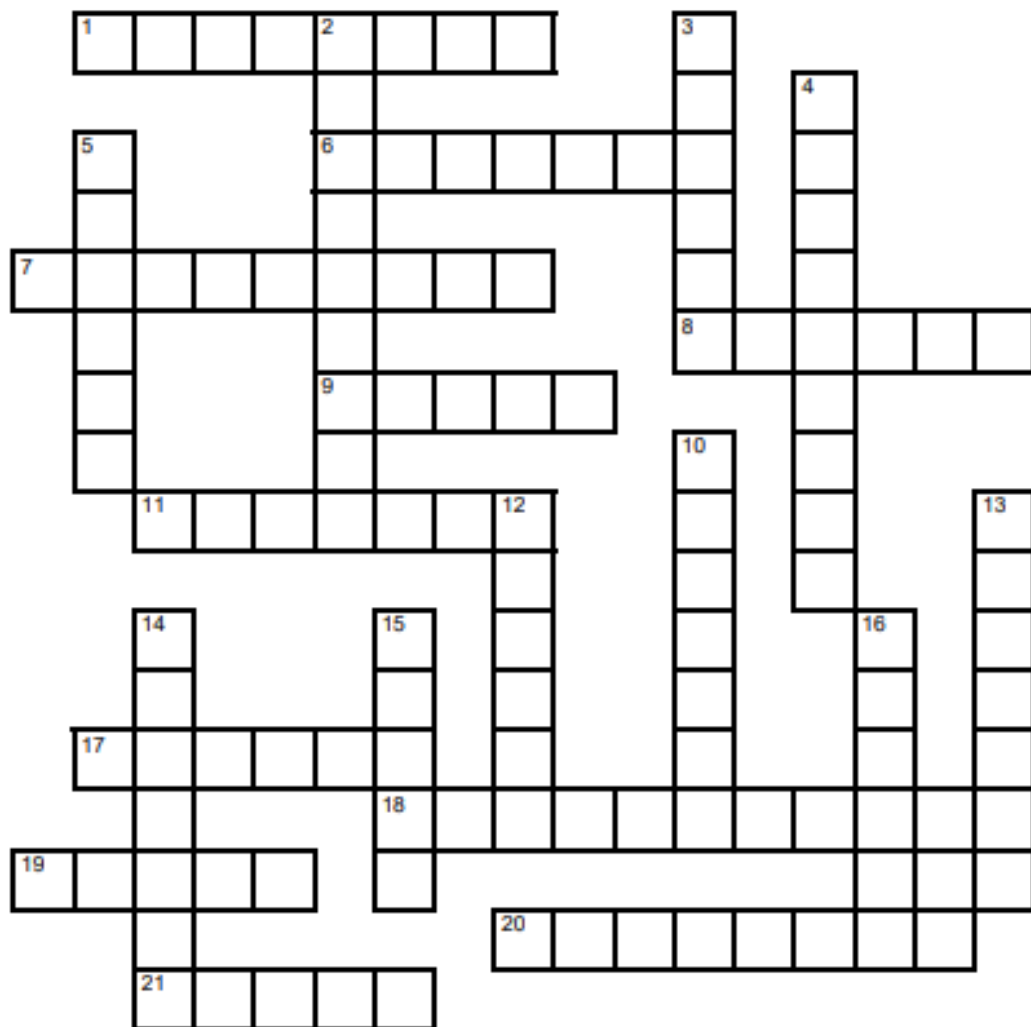
ACROSS

1. Sport played on a diamond.
6. ____ Appreciation Day falls on Tuesday of the first full week in May.
7. Buzzing insect.
8. Astrological sign for the end of May (twins).
9. May is the ____ month of the year.
11. Small red insect with black dots.
17. She is celebrated on the second Sunday in May.
18. Annual Mexican celebration on May 5th.
19. Most lawns are this color in May.
20. Celebrated on the last Monday in May: ____ Day.
21. Plant these and you may get some flowers.

DOWN

2. What a caterpillar becomes.
3. Season in which May falls in the Northern Hemisphere.
4. Use this to trim the lawn.
5. Astrological sign for the start of May (bull).
10. May birthstone.
12. Place where you might grow flowers.
13. Flower of a plant.
14. Tulips, daisies, roses, etc.
15. May the ____ be with you.
16. Might be filled with candy and broken as part of a May celebration.

Merry Month of May



- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Baseball | Green |
| Blossom | Ladybug |
| Bumblebee | Lawnmower |
| Butterfly | Memorial |
| Cinco de Mayo | Mother |
| Emerald | Pinata |
| Fifth | Seeds |
| Flowers | Spring |
| Force | Taurus |
| Garden | Teacher |
| Gemini | |



RUMMAGE

S
A
L
E



10 am - 2 pm
May 29-31, 2025

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading

729 Jefferson Ave. | 513-821-1740



St. John United Church of Christ

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