



The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

June 2024

From the Pastor

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With Memorial Day comes the beginning of Summer, a time when the grass is green and our clothes and shoes and purses can be white! Does anyone still do that besides me?!

Thinking about these colors reminded me of The Wordless Book. My grandmother had a side business making ‘awards’ for Sunday School classes – if you memorized a verse, you got an award. And the theme for all her awards was “The Wordless Book.” Truly without words, The Wordless Book

used colors to tell the story of Jesus.

Gold represents heaven:

“There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” - *John 14:2*

Black represents our sin: “All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.” - *Isaiah 53:6*

Red represents Jesus’ blood that washes away our sin: “and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.” - *1 John 1:7b*

White represents our purified selves: “Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash

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From the Pastor

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me, and I will be whiter than snow.” - *Psalm 51:7*

Green represents our growth as Christians in the Kingdom of God: “Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.” - *2 Peter 3:18*

So the next time you pull out that white outfit to wear, think about how Jesus’ blood has purified you so that you are even more ‘white’ in the eyes of the Lord. And may the story from *The Wordless Book* strengthen your faith each and every day.

Rev. Torie Front



May the story from The Wordless Book strengthen your faith each and every day.

Board of Deacons



The Deacons will need extra help all summer with Feed My Sheep. If you can help, please arrive at 4:10 pm, and you can usually depart by 5:30 pm.

You will be blessed as you serve as a blessing to others!

The “Feed My Sheep” food pantry especially needs personal hygiene items like soap, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo and razors. Thank you!



THE HEARTLAND CONFERENCE'S
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Board of Christian Nurture

We made \$830.00 from the **M&M fundraiser!** What a giving congregation we have! So blessed!

Last day for Rummage Sale donations is June 4. Thank you!

This year's **Rummage Sale** will be June 6-8, from 10 am - 2 pm each day. Volunteers are needed to help sort donations on June 3, 4, and 5, beginning at 10 am each day. We are also in need of home-baked goods for the bake sale to benefit Feed My Sheep.

June **Lunch Bunch** is at Strong's Pizza, 8794 Reading Rd., after worship June 9.

Sign up on the sign-up table for our next outing to **LaComedia Dinner Theatre!** We will attend

Church Basement Ladies - Plowin Thru on Thursday, June 13. We will meet at 10:30 am. Cost is \$55.00 and includes a meal.

The June **Coffee Hour** hosted by Christian Nurture will be at 9:15 am on Sunday, June 16. This month we will celebrate our Father and all fathers. Enjoy coffee, treats, and fellowship before the worship service!

Please join Rev. Torie and Vince at their farm for a fellowship event—a **polo match** at 5 pm, Sunday, June 23. The address is 3960 State Route 132, Batavia. Bring your tailgating supplies and enjoy the match! (weather permitting)



Men's Group Fishing Outing



Board of Property and Finance



Projects on which we are working: new outdoor sign with digital capabilities; new entry doors and glass; and carpet cleaning over the summer.



Carpool drivers needed!

Here's the latest on the stained glass window restoration: It is taking longer than expected to restore the window. The restoration company has moved the window to their home base in Wisconsin and is working on it there. We had hoped that it would be ready for the upcoming wedding in early July, but that will not be the case. In order to improve the appearance for the wedding, we will hang more curtains on the upper half of the window with the help of the restoration company. This is disappointing but we will look forward to the window's return some time in the near future.

We are now considering additional improvements to the sanctuary that would include the reworking of the lattice panel that spans the top of the arch that houses the stained glass window. The new lattice would not obstruct the view of the top of the arch and stained glass window but would follow the lines of the arch. This is something that the architects had suggested in their original designs. This modification would

also require new speaker placements as the original speaker is secured to the lattice. We are actively getting proposals for this work and will keep you informed.

We have developed a policy for distributing undesignated funds coming to the church which was approved at the May council meeting. This policy provides for the distribution of undesignated funds in the following manner: 20% to Deacons, 10% to Memorial Endowment, 10% to the General Fund, and 60% to P&F. P&F will use their funds for project work and repairs around the church, but can also re-distribute their funds to other needs as decided.

Other projects on which we are working: new outdoor sign with digital capabilities; new entry doors and glass; and carpet cleaning over the summer. Tuck pointing will be starting near the end of June and last for several months.

We are also looking for a driver(s) who is (are) willing to

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Board of Property and Finance

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transport needy members to and from church services. They can use their own vehicle or the church van. We are hoping for volunteers to step forward, and we might even consider paying for this service. Please let us know if you might be interested in helping.

The church will be a sponsor at the upcoming Taste of Reading, so we will receive some verbal and printed advertising promoting the church and activities. We hope to see you there ... and have a great summer in the meantime.

Peace and blessing from P&F.



Bob Christophel Scholarship Awards Presentation



Thanks to all who helped make the Bob Christophel Memorial Scholarship program a success! This year, our fundraising efforts and German Dinner allowed us to provide scholarships to two Reading High stu-

dent athletes. Natalie C. received a \$2,000 scholarship and Brody B. received a \$1,000 scholarship. Special thanks to Joe Clay for presenting at the awards ceremony.



The Visitor

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

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 - Rob Harman

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



Special Music for June

June 9 - Duets - Phil Hogan and Gary Kurtz

June 16 - Bob Cutter with Bart Choate

June 23 - Rev. Torie, trumpet, with Bart Choate

June 30 - Emily Hogeback, violin

90+ Birthdays Celebration May 5!



Board of Elders

This summer, we will be looking at different Biblical characters and what we can learn from them. Skills like listening or trusting or attitudes of humbleness or self-control will be lifted up by these Biblical characters. There will be a memory verse each week, and some questions to reflect on during the week. Built around a resource called

“Old Testament Heroes of the Bible”, we will look at a different Bible story each week, and end up covering 10 or so Biblical characters. We’ll start Sunday, June 9th, with a look at Samuel, followed by David and Hannah. Looking forward to getting to know some of these heroes of our faith a little better each summer Sunday!



Lectionary

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6	<i>No Bible study— Rev Torie away</i>	June 2
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 3:19-4:1; 1 Samuel 7:3-17 (Samuel)	June 4	June 9
Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22; Genesis 22:10-19 (Lessons from Father Abraham)	June 11	June 16
1 Samuel 17:1-49 (David and Goliath)	June 18	June 23
1 Samuel 1:1-8; 1 Samuel 1:9-19 (Hannah)	June 25	June 30

St. John UCC Regularly Scheduled Events

Weekly			
Event	Day	Time	Location
Handbell Choir	Sunday	9 am	Sanctuary
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	am	Various
Missionary Sewing	1st Wednesday	10 am	Fellowship Hall
Property & Finance	2nd Tuesday	5 pm	Fellowship Hall
Christian Nurture	1st Tuesday	4:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Elders	2nd Thursday	2:30 pm	Bible Study Room
Euchre	Last Thursday	6 pm	Reads' home
Church Council	3rd Tuesday	5 pm	Fellowship Hall
Work-ship Day	Last Saturday	8 am	Church



Summer



Word Search

Find the words listed. Words may appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonal. Words may overlap and cross each other. When you have found a word, be sure to circle it and cross it off the list.

- AUGUST
- BACK TO SCHOOL
- BASEBALL
- BATHING SUIT
- BEACH
- CAMP
- CANOEING
- FAN
- FATHER'S DAY
- FOURTH OF JULY
- FRESH FRUIT
- GARDENING
- HEAT
- HIKING
- HOT
- ICE CREAM
- JULY
- JUNE
- MUGGY
- OUTDOORS

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



- PARK
- PICNIC
- POPSICLE
- SAILING
- SHORTS
- SUNDRRESS
- SWIM
- TRAVEL
- VACATION
- WATERMELON

