



The Visitor

St. John United Church of Christ, Reading, OH

July 2024

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From the Pastor



Respect. Something that used to be in great supply in this country, and now seems to be dwindling. Respect. A word that was written on the Sunday School chalkboard at St. John UCC decades ago (and has since been put back up!). Respect. Something that we should have for our Triune God, for this house of God, and for each other. Respect. I'm sorry, but I don't see too much of that around here right now. Trash was left on the empty shelves in the narthex - is that how we wanted to greet people when they came to worship? Empty

bags turn up all over the place, instead of one central spot. Trash sits on the floors until someone else picks it up. Empty, or half empty bottles and cups remain on tables long after the building is empty. The pastor's office was used as a storage area, and in the process, the extra key is now missing. At church, and when serving in a pastoral setting, my title is Rev., not just Torie. Respect. All around us it seems to be falling away, and now I see it dwindling at the church.

And I'm as guilty as anyone - I found two of my travel mugs downstairs in the sink - that's not where they belong! So, can you help do your part to rebuild respect for God, God's house, and each other here at St. John UCC? If you see something out

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From the Pastor

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of place, please fix it. If you see some trash on the floor or somewhere else, please take care of it. If you bring something to church to donate, please put it in an appropriate spot and don't just leave it on a table somewhere. The recycling bins are now located outside the front doors, so please use them for your water bottles and pop cans.

Most importantly, let's show some respect to our Lord and Savior. In our personal life and prayers, perhaps we do. But in the public realm of the kingdom of God, especially here at the House of the Lord, let's show God some respect by keeping God's house clean and tidy and welcoming.

Thank you for letting me vent!

-Rev. Torie

Plan for Your Future during Write-A-Will Month

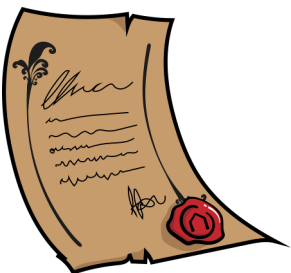
In 2021, my husband and I decided to update our will. We talked about it again in 2022. A new estate plan became our New Year's resolution in 2023. We finally wrote our new wills in 2024. Four years!

I'm not the only one who delays attention to important life-planning tasks.

This is why many nonprofits promote August as a "Write-A-Will" month. A will creates a legacy. By making a will or other estate plans, you can care for loved ones and support

charities close to your heart. Participating in Write-A-Will Month can give you the encouragement you need to complete this important life plan.

Creating our will allowed my husband and me to think about the legacy we want to leave. We found ways to balance care for our young adult children with our commitment to charities. Planning together allowed us to talk through our goals, the places that shaped our lives,



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Board of Christian Nurture

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the 2024 **Rummage Sale!** We made over \$2800 on sale items, plus funds raised from the raffle baskets and bake sale.

July Lunch Bunch will be at Five Guys in Tri-County (810 Kemper Rd., Springdale) after worship on July 14.

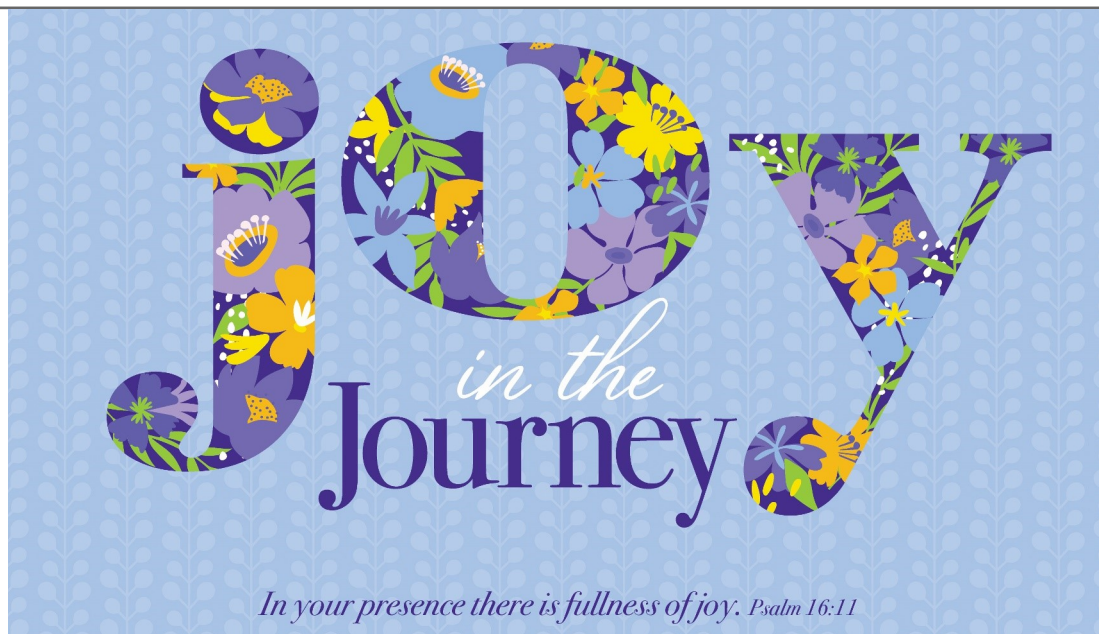
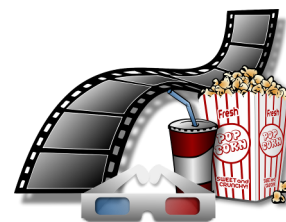
Join us for the next **Movie Night** at 6 pm on July 19! We'll enjoy *Mamma Mia 2*. Popcorn will be provided—please bring

your own drinks, and an appetizer to share.

The next **coffee hour** will be before worship on July 21. Thanks to those who attended the June coffee hour, and special thanks to the Hospitality Team of Joe, Delores, Robert and Julie for hosting it!

Save-the-Dates:

- Brass Band Concert / Ice Cream Social—Aug. 11
- Church Picnic—Sept. 8
- Women's Retreat—Oct. 19 (see below!)



A Journaling-based, Joy-filled Women's Retreat: Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, 9:30am-4:30pm, at Wilmington College. Rev. Torie and Pastor Gladys Davis will facilitate.

Join us for crafting, journaling, prayer and worship, and make new friends from Highwater UCC in Licking County!

The Visitor

Board of Deacons



Due to the holiday, **Feed My Sheep for July 1-6** will be held on Wednesday, July 3, at 4:30 pm. If you aren't usually able to attend on Thursdays, this would be a great time for you to help out—and get your own soul fed in the process!

Pantry Needs—The “Feed My Sheep” pantry is still in need of rice, onions, and chicken (canned or fresh) as well as personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, and deodorant. Thank you!

Men's Group

The **Men's Group Street Feed** will be July 20 from 11 am - 1 pm. We will serve a hot dog lunch and bottled water on the church street corner for all passersby. Think “lunch flash mob”! Anyone that would like to have

fun and serve the community is welcome.

Men's Group will have a **brief meeting** during the church picnic on September 8.

Plan for Your Future during Write-A-Will Month

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and the impact we want to make on the world.

The National Ministries and the Pension Boards have partnered to provide additional resources to make planned giving more accessible. We created a new website where people can create (or draft and take to their lawyer) a will. The site prompts the user to consider a charita-

ble gift in their estate, but it doesn't require it. You can learn more about this resource by visiting freewill.com/ucc.

It shouldn't take 4 years to write a will. In fact, with our new website, you can create one in 20 minutes.

Rev. Andrew Warner serves as a Generosity Outreach Officer for the National Ministries of the UCC.



Board of Elders

We are in need of **greeters and ushers** for July and August! Please sign up if you are able to help.

St. John UCC offers an **evening Bible study** at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. It is held in the Gathering Space at what was previously called "Mt. View Terrace" up on the hill next to Mt. Notre Dame. If anyone is interested in starting into a Bible study, we'd love to have you join us!

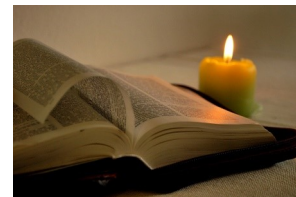
Special Music in July

July 7 - Gary Kurtz, soloist

July 14 - Trio - Carol Nieman, Scott Nieman, and Steve Prater, with Bart Choate, guest organist

July 21 - Rev. Torie - Trumpet solo, with Bart Choate, guest organist

July 28 - Lori Schafer, clarinet soloist

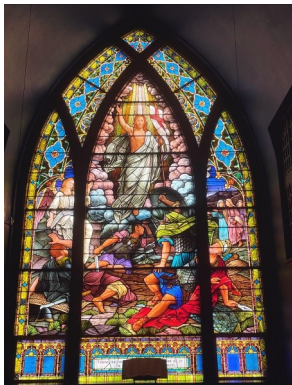


Lectionary

Scripture	Bible Study	Sermon Date
2 Corinthians 12:2-10 2 Corinthians 11:16-29	July 2	July 7
<i>Samson</i> Judges 15:9-20 Judges 16:4-31	July 9	July 14
<i>Daniel</i> Daniel 1 Daniel 6	July 16	July 21
Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21	July 23	July 28

The Visitor

Board of Property and Finance



Here's the latest on the stained glass window restoration: The restoration company had earlier indicated that a portion of the window would be ready for re-installation by the end of June, however they have since told us that the restoration process is taking longer than expected and will not be ready. We are working closely with the wedding couple that is getting married here in early July and with the restoration company to make sure the window area looks as attractive as possible for the wedding. We hope and pray that this can be accomplished.

One of our two air conditioning units for the sanctuary has finally worn itself out after many faithful years and is being replaced. A couple church members were able to demolish much of the existing ductwork in preparation for the new unit.

This saved us over a thousand dollars off the cost of the new unit, and with the help of the HVAC company, we were also able to recycle the metal parts for additional savings. The remaining air conditioning unit will

provide adequate cooling for now while we wait for the new unit to be installed and operational.

Pohnpei UCC Church has decided to meet again at the Pastor's house for worship services until December. They love and appreciate the use of our sanctuary and we look forward to their return.

Other projects on which we are working: new outdoor sign with digital capabilities; new entry doors and glass; additional improvements to the sanctuary; updated wi-fi throughout the church; and carpet cleaning over the summer. Tuck pointing will be starting the second week of July and last for several months. The old Magnolia trees and shrubs at the front of the church have been cut and removed in preparation for this work. Once the tuck pointing is completed the area will be refreshed with new plantings.

We are still looking for drivers to transport members who need a ride to and from church ser-

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Board of Property and Finance

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vices. 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 on August 24, so we will receive some verbal and printed promo-

tions of the church and activities. We will also have a “Blessing Booth” at this event where we can hand out blessings and prayers to all who stop by....and there is a sign-up sheet at church if you are interested in helping. Hope to see you there....and have a great and safe summer in the meantime.

Peace and blessing from P&F.



T-Shirt Orders Due

It's time to order your **St. John UCC shirts!** Available in t-shirts (long and short sleeve); polo shirts, and sweatshirts. In RED, but if you'd like another color, just mark it on the order form and we'll see what we can do. One order form per person, with

as many shirts as you'd like. Please put the order forms and your payment in the offering plate. Shirts will be ordered in July.



Birthdays

July 10 - Wilma Schulte
July 11 - Ann Feldman
July 15 - Ann Seebohm
July 23 - Shirley Martin

July 24 - Denise Hall
July 24 - Whitney Reardon
July 25 - Glenda Richardson
July 28 - Sandy Graves



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	11 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 Thursday	6 pm	Fellowship Hall
Work-ship Day	Last Saturday	8 am	Church



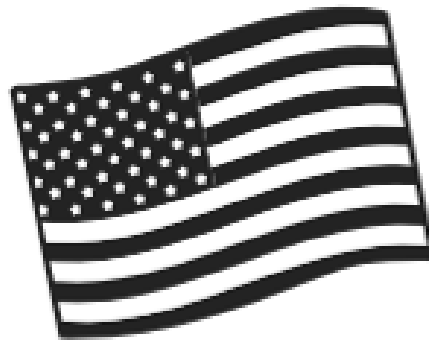
July 4th Crossword

Work out the answers to the clues and fill in the puzzle.



DOWN

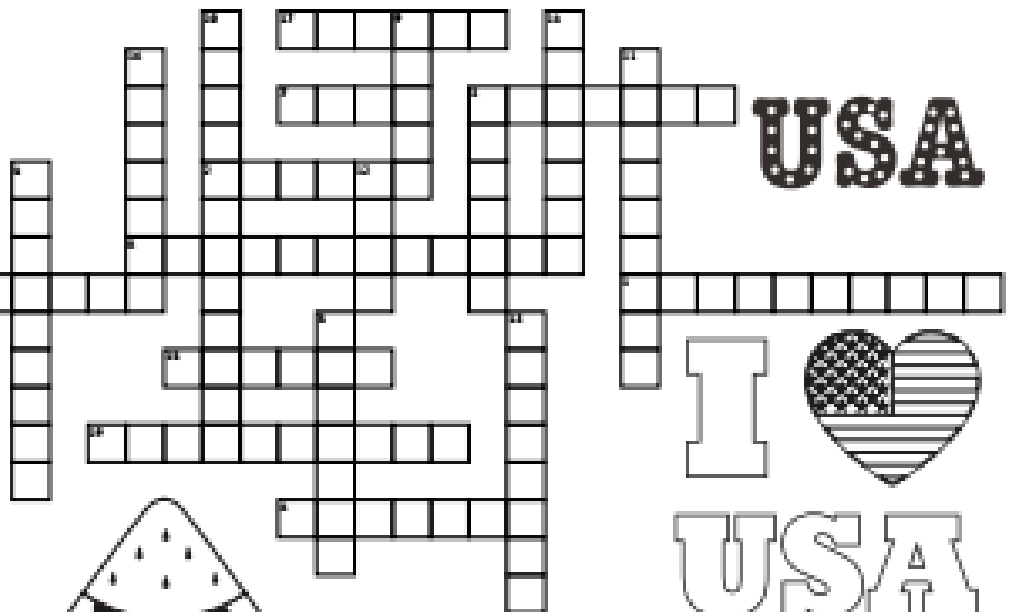
3. Social gathering that includes food
4. A system of government where the people elect their leaders
5. A person who has served in the armed forces for a long time
9. A national bird of many countries
10. Ability to think and act without relying on others
11. Aerial display of lights
12. A task that is owed or owed to a group
13. A pyrotechnic device that creates a shower of sparks when lit
14. A person who is legally recognized as a member of a country
16. The upholding of the law



GOD
BLESS
America

ACROSS

1. A great change in an area of study or activity
2. A large gathering of people, especially one held for a special purpose such as celebrating a holiday
3. A person who is devoted to their country
6. A building where a state government meets
7. A banner or other token used to represent a person, organization, or nation
8. A document that establishes the rules for a country or organization
15. A song of praise or devotion
17. Verbal expression of thoughts and ideas
18. Official Residence of the President of the United States
19. A large, red-fleshed fruit with black seeds



USA



United in Christ's love, we seek justice for all.

**St. John United
Church of Christ**

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**SUMMER
MOVIE
Night**

MAMMA MIA 2

Popcorn will be provided!
Please bring your own drinks
and an appetizer to share.

JULY 19 | 6 PM