

The Visitor

A monthly Newsletter for St. John's Christian Church
Family and Friends

October 1, 2020 Volume 66, Number 10

Prayer Concerns

Prayers for comfort and Gospel-based hope:

- Willie Buehrer and family, during his final days due to his kidney failure.
- Jim Grieser, upon the death of his mother, Betty, on 9/23.
- Larry Woolace is in treatment due to the return of prostate cancer, which is now in the bone.
- Residents and staff of area care facilities.

Prayers for recovery and health:

- Karen Roth, as her family cares for her at home and seeks additional help for her health care.
- Sharon VonDeylen, hospitalized on 9/30 due to a bowel obstruction
- Shirley Wyse was in rehab at the Lutheran Home in Napoleon for several weeks.
- Larry & Carol Robinson's daughter, Kim, continues to recover from home after her 12-day coma.
- Marilyn Buehrer is home from rehab and continues to work through some health issues.

Praises for answered prayers:

- Chloe Merillat is recovering well and started half days back at school.
- AJ Short is scheduled to complete his military service and return home on 10/10.

Prayers for protection, and for the increase of peace worldwide:

PFC Brendan Bostelman (Army) (Fort Campbell, KY) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy Bostelman)

Kali Collins (Airforce) (Washington, DC) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)

Kohl Collins (Army) (Ft. Myers, VA) (Grandson of Nan Neill)

Kyle Ducey (Navy) (Suffolk, VA) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)

Cpt. Jared R. Kuntz (Army) (Washington D.C.) (Son of Keith & Kelli)

Eric Magg (Coast Guard) (Ketchikan, AK) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)

AB Shane & Taylor Pitts (Air Force) (Albuquerque, NM) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)

David Richardson, (Marines) (Okinawa, Japan) (Son of Shannon & Yesi)

Joshua Richardson, (Marines) (MCBH, Kaneohe, Hawaii) (Son of Shannon & Yesi)

Steven Schink (Coast Guard) (Port Angeles, WA) (Son-in-Law of Ed & Julie Ruffer)

PFC Kyle Stuckey, Discharged (Grandson of Nan Neill)

Please consider sending cards to these people letting them know that we continue to lift them up to God in prayer, that He will guide, comfort and sustain them through these times.

Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd. Archbold, 43502
David Lightner, Room #138
Josephine Short, Room #112
William Buehrer, Room #175
Jane Short, Room #172

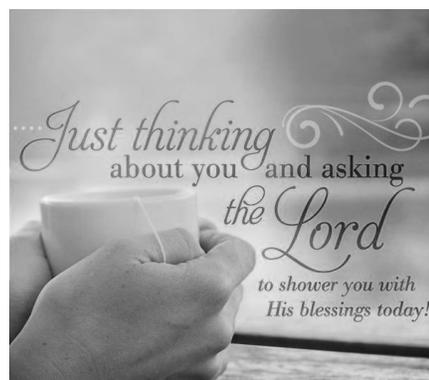
Fairlawn Asst. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Donna Buehrer, Apt #210
Wayne & Susanne Spiess, Room #228

Independent Living, 600 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Rosemarie Schmidt, Apt. #112

Fulton Manor/Suites, 723 S. Shoop Ave., Wauseon, 43567
Robert Kuntz, Room #225-2
Velma Overmier, Room #505-1
Bernice Rice, Room #224-2
Joanne Spotts, Room #113
Beverly Beaverson, Suite #605

SKLD, 1104 Wesley Ave., Bryan, 43506
Verlene Lovejoy, Room #203B

Genacross, 1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon, OH 43545
Audrey Smith, Room #403



Pastoral Prayer

Recently I read an article on DesiringGod.org by Scott Hubbard, titled “Holy is Who You Are.” It was a great encouragement to me, and I found myself texting quotes from the article to a few of my friends and family. More than one responded back saying the article was just what they needed.

As a brief aside, let me remind you to share with others what you are learning and what is inspiring you in your faith. As you share, others will also be encouraged and built up. Some might even take that first step in following Jesus because you have shared something with them! So don’t forget: the Bible is not just something for you to read; Christian music isn’t just something for you to listen to; sermons aren’t just for you to apply to your life. You can make a difference by sharing what you read and hear with others!

As we think about our own holiness, we usually think about it in two spheres. We think about how we are works-in-progress, and we think about how one day we will be finished products.

We are works-in-progress, because we still have sin in our lives, and we must work at rooting out the sins in our lives, and cultivating the good fruit of love and good deeds. (This process, of dying to sin, and being conformed to the image of Christ, is what theologians call “sanctification.” As we follow God’s commands more and more, we become more and more holy, and thereby better reflect God’s glory and love into our world.)

We will be finished products, because God has promised that one day, he will remove our sin-prone hearts and give us new hearts that will never be able to sin again. That promise always gets me excited! There’s a day coming when I will no longer be a perfectionist (a person longing to be perfect), because I will be made perfect in every way! Praise God!

The article I read (“Holy is Who You Are”) reminds us of a third aspect of holiness. In the Bible, all Christians are called saints (which means “holy ones”). We mostly think of the word “saint” as the Catholic church uses it, in reference to people who are very godly and accomplish amazing things for God. But the Bible uses the word “saint” in a very different way, because it calls all Christians saints. The Apostle Paul even calls the Corinthian Christians saints. This seems out of place, because the Corinthian Christians didn’t seem much like the saints we imagine. The saints we picture live pure, modest, and generous lives. The Corinthians, however, approved of sexual ethics that even made their pagan neighbors blush! I’ve heard of Christians being as immoral as their non-Christian neighbors, but the Bible says the Corinthian Christians were worse than their non-Christian neighbors. And then, we think of saints living simple, modest, and generous lives. The Corinthians, however, seemed to get things backwards, so that they gave attention to helping the rich and left the poor excluded. Of course, our God makes himself known as the defender of the poor, so it’s no surprise that he intervenes to disrupt the Corinthians’ practice of overlooking the poor. God starts putting some of the Corinthian Christians to death, so that the church might get the message, and start serving the poor.

The point is this: the Corinthian Christians, even though their lives didn’t look much like Christ’s, they were still called saints. Why? Not because of their holiness. But because of Jesus’. So too, we who are Christians, we who are in Christ Jesus, are saints. Not just “future-saints.” We are saints, even now. We are holy, because we are in Christ, even now.

How does this third aspect of holiness help us? If we forget about this aspect, we might get frustrated at how little progress we are making in our sanctification. This third aspect, however, reminds us that holiness is not just an impossible ideal. It’s something we already have. It’s something that already defines us and defines how God sees us. Even though we still must work to root sin out of our lives, it reminds us that holiness is not just something we do for ourselves; it is also something God has done for us. It reminds us that even though we still have a long way to go, when God sees us now, he sees us as holy. It reminds us that our relationship with God isn’t based solely on our ongoing battle against sin. It reminds us that God already loves us, right now. There’s freedom and joy and peace in knowing that we are saints. There’s still work to be done, but in Christ, God’s love for us is secure.

Grace and Peace,

Alex

Congregational News and Thank You's

Friends,

I received the Visitor from this past month - the news was good and helped me celebrate my coming birthday early. It's been hot here lately, with so many nice, sunny days for the children to enjoy being outside. School days are also started again differently, but they will adapt to it. I did receive quite a few cards and a couple of phone calls. 100 years and I do feel quite good, thankfully! The residents [of Fulton Manor] spent a couple of mornings on the patio to get some fresh air before lunch and returning to our own rooms. Pastor Erich, I will be praying for your far trips to Montana and for your mother's healing and rest.

In Closing, Bernice Rice



Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you for all the kind words, calls, and cards during our difficult time. What a blessing it was during that time. So thankful for you all!

Love, Angie Neuenschwander and Family



To our Friends at St. John's,

Thank you so much for hosting us on Sunday, September 20th! It was great to worship with you. We appreciate your generous donation to Stand for Truth. It is because of partners like you that we can take the Gospel to students in public schools. Thanks again and God Bless!

10 Talents and Stand for Truth Team



St. John's Family:

Thank you so much for the warm welcome into the church office! I am settled in and look forward to serving our church community in this role. Please don't hesitate to stop by and see me if you need anything!

Love and Blessings, Jocelyn Walker

Breeze and One Call Now

If you have not created or updated your Breeze profile yet, you can do so by visiting stjohnschristianchurch.breezechms.com. To create a new account, click "Create Account" on the login page and enter your full name and email address. You will receive a confirmation email, which will include a link to create your username and password.

If you receive a prompt saying you are not recognized, please call the church office and Jocelyn will make sure your information is corrected in the system.

The church office will launch a Breeze survey during the second week of October, which will help us update and or/verify your communication preferences.

Mission Corner

October
Mission-a-Month
Operation
Christmas Child

Mission Trip Experience

The Back Bay Mission Trip is schedule for October 24-31.

Mission Partner Thank You's

To St. John's Christian Church:

Thank you once again for your gift to the Friendship House! You are a blessing to our ministry to those who don't have a place to call home. May God continue to bless your ministry.

The Friendship House

Stephen Ministry

There are times in our lives when we need to learn that our church is here to support us in difficult times. We tend to think we can do everything on our own, so sometimes we fail to see the people God has put in place around us are there to support and lift us when we can't support ourselves. In the difficult times of our lives, let us remember that our church is there to encourage us, to strengthen us, to build us up in everything we are going through. Don't live your life empty. A Stephen Minister can support anyone who senses a void, a feeling that something is lacking. We have all experienced our own sense of aloneness. It takes a humble spirit to accept support when needed. A Stephen Minister can help make a difference.

Missionary Contact/Prayer



Robert & Jenni McMahan, CRU (BGSU)

website - www.give.cru.org
e-mail - robert.mcmahan@cru.org
e-mail - jennifer.mcmahan@cru.org

Matt & Paige Waanders, CRU (Ohio State Univ.)

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e-mail - paige.stamm@cru.org

Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP

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Kyle Chase, Reliant (Univ. of Michigan)

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Kajiado Children's Home

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Jon & Rachel Doriot, Pioneers Chicago, IL

website - www.pioneers.org
e-mail - kelapa@linkmail.org

Consistory/Committees

Resumption Plan for October 4, 2020

1. SJCC will continue to promote healthy hygiene practices – sanitizing/washing hands, covering coughs/sneezes, and asking people who are sick or not feeling well, or live with or care for someone who is sick or not feeling well, to refrain from attending in-person services or ministries
2. People are expected to comply with the state wide face covering order when they are in the church building or within 6' of other people when outside the building. When staff and volunteers are leading people in group settings inside the building – such as Sunday school, Faith Village, Bible Studies, Small Groups and Wednesday evening ministries – leaders will wear a face covering. As children in kindergarten at area schools are wearing facial coverings, we ask children in kindergarten and older grade levels to wear facial coverings when inside the church building.
3. The church custodian and Advance Cleaning Company employees and selected volunteers will continue to sanitize the facility, including sanitizing areas in between usage by different groups.
4. Input from Fulton and Henry Count Health Departments, area public school teachers and from parents of children in the congregation have been consulted regarding expectations of protocols.
5. It is recognized that not every potential situation is fully spelled out or covered in this plan, yet the intent of these safety precautions will be applied in all ministry activities during the pandemic.

6. Worship Ministries

- a. SJCC will continue to offer worship services in-person, on the radio, by live stream and online.
- b. People will be expected to social distance themselves in the sanctuary pews, respecting the people around them. Worship will begin with announcements that include social distancing parameters, such as that if you are sitting directly behind someone, you are closer than the recommended 6'.
- c. A worship bulletin will be available for people to pick up as they enter worship. The bulletin will include the text of scripture readings, and church staff will strive to include in the bulletin the sheet music of all songs for the service, as the pew racks will remain void of Bible and hymnals.
- d. Offering plates will remain at the sanctuary entrances, and communion will be served with the use of individually prepared communion sets.
- e. The nursery will remain unavailable for use during the 10:30am service of worship. Parents of young children are encouraged to have their children in worship with them. The congregation has a long history of family worship! The joyful sounds of young children are a blessing and will be understood as a part of our atmosphere of worship.

7. Christian Education Ministries

- a. As SJCC resumes Sunday school, Faith Village, Bible Studies, Small Groups, Logos, JYF, SYF, Life Planning and Music Ministries, the following protocols will be followed:
- b. Symptom Assessments
 - i. Attendees will be asked to conduct daily symptom assessments upon arrival. If any of the following symptoms are present, attendee will be isolated and parents will be contacted: fever of 100.4 degrees or above, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Consistory/Committees (con't.)

Resumption Plan (continued)

c. Sanitization

- i. Before and after classes/sessions – hand sanitizer will be used by each person when entering the room and when leaving the room.
- ii. Containers of hand-sanitizer will be placed in each room for individual use as needed
- iii. Frequently touched surfaces – door knobs, light switches, tables and chairs – will be sanitized between groups using a room.
- iv. Specific items will be removed from rooms in order to facilitate the sanitizing of each room. This would include toys from the nursery, touchable/portable decorations, etc.

d. Snacks/Refreshments

- i. Items will be pre-packaged/individually wrapped.
- ii. Hand-sanitizer will be used before and after any eating.
- iii. People will be spaced out enough so that face coverings can be removed while eating.

e. Contact Tracing

- i. Attendance will be taken for each class/group setting.
- ii. Participants will be given their own supplies (markers/pens/scissors/glue) which will be cleaned after each session.
- iii. Large groups will be divided in to smaller groups of 10 or less, with those smaller groups being maintained throughout the class/session time, with 1 adult per group of children. The following situations are examples of our practices moving forward:

1. For Faith Village Gathering Time – a maximum of 17 children and 3 adults will be able to gather in The Well, with half the children on the north end of the room and half the children on the south end of the room. If attendance is higher than 17 children, another room will be ready for use, with prepared leaders.
2. There are plenty of rooms upstairs for Faith Village groups to be spread out in.
3. For Junior Choir Practice – children will be spaced out in groups of ten or less, with multiple pew spacing in between each group.
4. For JYF – Youth will be divided into groups of 9 or less, with 1 adult per group, with the large group utilizing a large space in the building, such as the gym, chapel, or confirmation room.

- f. Attendees will not congregate in groups before or after classes/sessions unless facial coverings are worn and social distancing guidelines are followed

Consistory/Committees (con't.)

Resumption Plan (continued)

g. Best Practices

- i. Physical distancing (6ft. or more) observed at all times, when possible.
- ii. Activities involving “group/hands on” will be altered to adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- iii. Velcro dots will be placed on the floors and/or on the walls of the various rooms so people can see where to stand/sit/line-up to stay spaced out.
- iv. Sanitizing wipes will be available in each room for sanitizing any shared items after use.

h. Preschool Sunday School and Logos Preschool

- i. All children in our preschool classes will need to be potty trained before they can participate in class, unless a parent of each non-potty trained child is in the room.

i. Logos Meal / Start Time / Schedule

- i. For the time being, there will be no Logos meal served on Wednesday evenings.
- ii. 6:30pm – Logos will begin with a gathering time in the gym – with each age group (with 9 or less in subgroups with 1 adult per group) gathering in a specific spot in the gym.
- iii. 6:45pm – Logos Preschoolers, in groups of 9 or less, with 1 adult per group, will move to their classroom for their evening lesson.
- iv. 6:45pm – 1st thru 5th Graders will move in their small groups to the sanctuary for worship skills.
- v. 7:20pm – 1st thru 5th Graders will move in their small groups to their individual classrooms for Bible study.
- vi. 7:55pm – Preschool through 5th Grade will move in their small groups to the gym for closing and pick up by parent(s).

j. Youth/Adult Ministries

- i. Confirmation – will meet in the confirmation room, which is a double classroom space to allow for spaced out seating.
- ii. Senior High Class – will meet in the youth room, which is large enough to allow for spaced out seating.
- iii. Forerunners Class – will meet in the Fireside Room pending number of people in attendance for appropriate social distancing; if the attendance is greater than the room can safely hold, the class might be divided into two classes for the time being, with one class remaining in the Fireside Room and the second class meeting in another first floor space.
- iv. B.A.S.I.C. Class – will meet in the gym, with dividing curtains in place to improve audio atmosphere
- v. Women’s Class – will meet in the parlor

Consistory/Committees (con't.)

Resumption Plan (continued)

- vi. Connections Class - will meet in the chapel
- vii. JYF – will meet in the gym and Fireside Room
- viii. SYF – will meet in the youth room
- ix. Life Planning – will meet in the chapel
- x. Tuesday Bible Study – will meet in the chapel

For questions, please contact the church office at 419-446-2545 or office@stjohnsarchbold.org.

Worship Services and Calendar

October 2020 Worship Schedule

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 4 | <i>World Communion Sunday</i>
Scriptures – Psalm 85, Matthew 13:47-52
Sermon – “Heaven and Hell - The Case for Heaven” |
| October 11 | Scriptures – 1 Chronicles 16:28-31, Luke 16:19-30
Sermon – “Heaven and Hell - The Case for Hell” |
| October 18 | <i>Gideon Sunday</i>
Scriptures – 1 Chronicles 16:23-25, 2 Peter 3
Sermon – “Heaven and Hell - The Day of the Lord” |
| October 25 | <i>Reformation Sunday</i>
Focusing on the Protestant Reformation and it’s Insight for Us Today |

October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 9:15AM SS/Faith Village 9:15AM Confirmation 10:30AM Worship 10:30AM Live Stream Worship	Mission-A-Month: Operation Christmas Child			1	2	3
4 Church Ministries Resume	5 11:00AM Staff Meeting	6 9:15AM Bible Study 7:00PM Capital Campaign 7:00PM Mission Committee	7 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 6:30PM LOGOS/JYF 7:00PM SYF	8	9	10 7:40AM Men's Breakfast (TBD) Wedding Reception—Gym (Bovard)
11	12 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision	13 9:15AM Bible Study 7:00PM Property Committee 7:00PM Preschool Committee	14 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 6:30PM LOGOS/JYF 7:00PM Life Planning/SYF	15	16	17
18	19 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:15PM Spiritual Council 7:30PM Consistory	20 9:15AM Bible Study	21 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 6:30PM LOGOS/JYF 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	22 4PM Laundry Buddy Ministry	23 5:00PM Wedding Rehearsal (Pursel/King)	24 Back Bay Mission Trip 3:00PM Wedding (Pursel/King)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Back Bay Mission Trip—Biloxi, MS						
	11:00AM Staff Meeting	9:15AM Bible Study	8:30AM Moms in Prayer 6:30PM LOGOS/JYF 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.			

Birthdays and Anniversaries!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 Louise Short, Kyle Ducey, Zander Johnston, Kane Overmier | 19 Emma Nafziger, Tim & Jamie Beck |
| 3 Emily Walker | 20 Jane Short, Ron & Karen Rice |
| 4 Bud Beck, Erich Christman | 22 Justin Yoder |
| 5 Bri Krukowski | 23 Phyllis Swietzer, Ben Buehrer, Vicki Nofziger |
| 6 Devin Beltz | 24 Tim Beck, Todd & Jill Nafziger |
| 7 Warren & Cindy Sauder, Roger & Sandy Miller | 25 Jenny Grieser, Adison Kinsman |
| 8 Jo Short, Susie Enderle, Steve Walker | 26 Dan Martinez, Harrison Rohrs, Justin & Carrie Yoder |
| 10 Jack Spotts | 27 Shawn Stuckey, Dinah Rice |
| 11 Roger Zimmerman, Gary & Teresa Mann | 28 Mary Ellen Johnson, A.J. & Kisha Genter |
| 12 Vond & Mary Hall | 29 Tim Kleck, Tom & Laura Johnson |
| 15 Barb Sigg | 30 Jan Lindsay |
| 16 Todd Nafziger | 31 Adam Kinsman |
| 17 Jebb Bernath, Jera Bernath, Keith & Kim Kern | |

October Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

Discovery® is a daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. You can access this guide online at <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading/Discovery>.

1 Eternal Realities-----Revelation 16:1-21	16 By Royal Appointment ----- Proverbs 25:1-28
2 God Really is in Charge-----Revelation 17:1-18	17 You've Got A Friend? ----- Proverbs 27:1-17
3 It's Payback Time!-----Revelation 18:1-24	18 Remember Us----- Psalm 74
4 God Save the King-----Psalm 72	19 Your Authorized Version----- Luke 12:1-12
5 Great Joy is Coming----- Revelation 19:1-10	20 You Fool!----- Luke 12:13-21
6 Lion or Lamb?-----Revelation 19:11-21	21 Father Knows Best-----Luke 12:22-34
7 Death of Death-----Revelation 20:1-15	22 It Will Be Good -----Luke 12:35-48
8 Wow! -----Revelation 21:1-8	23 Weather Warnings-----Luke 12:49-59
9 Union -----Revelation 21:9-27	24 No Blame Culture-----Luke 13:1-9
10 Warnings and Promises-----Revelation 22:1-21	25 The Rise and Fall ----- Psalm 75
11 A Safe Refuge-----Psalm 73	26 Are You Religious?-----Luke 13:10-17
12 Consequences -----Proverbs 19:1-29	27 Slowly, Slowly----- Luke 13:18-21
13 Get Ahead-----Proverbs 22:17-23:9	28 Quality, Not Quantity ----- Luke 13:22-30
14 Father's Footsteps -----Proverbs 23:10-28	29 Hurry, Hurry! ----- Luke 13:31-35
15 Sweet Jesus-----Proverbs 24:1-22	30 Your Invitation ----- Luke 14:1-11
	31 Quid Pro Quo? ----- Luke 14:12-24

Phone 419-446-2545
 Website www.stjohnsarcbold.org
 Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM
 Sunday School 9:15AM

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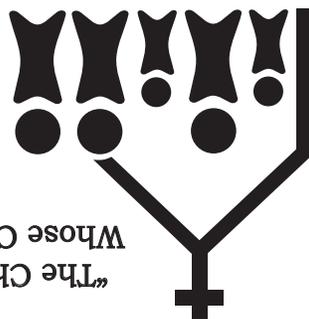
LOGOS Kim M. Walker
gwalker@tceexpress.net

Treasurer Mary Zimmerman

Custodians Dean Buckenmeyer
 Richard Spiess

Security

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together
 Holy Communion:
 New Year (1/5), Ash Wednesday (2/26), Maundy Thursday (4/9),
 Mid-Summer (7/19), World Wide Communion (10/4), First Sunday
 of Advent (11/29)



"The Church on the Corner
 Whose Cornerstone is Christ"

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 Archbold, OH
 Permit #15

St. John's Christian Church
 700 S. De fiance Street
 Archbold, OH 43502