

The Visitor

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

January 1, 2021 Volume 67, Number 1

Prayer Corner

Please pray for...

- ◆ Relief for exhausted health care workers, lonely care facility residents and other shut-ins, screen-weary teachers and students, and others burdened by the pandemic.
- ◆ Kenny Walker IV (teenage son of Kenny and Amanda) and his family, as Kenny is scheduled for major surgery on 1/28 in Cincinnati. The surgery involves the removal of his pancreas, spleen, gall bladder and appendix. Kenny will be hospitalized for two weeks and then he and his mother will be staying in Cincinnati until 3/11 for follow up care.
- ◆ Members of our congregation who tested positive for Covid-19 within the past several weeks, including Kevin & Angie Neuschwander, Dean Buckenmeyer, and Joan Wyse.
- ◆ Norma Fish and family, upon the passing of Marvin on 12/24 at the age of 86.
- ◆ Jocelyn Walker and family, upon the passing of her grandfather, John Mackley, on 12/8 at the age of 75.
- ◆ Larry and Carol Robinson, upon the passing of their daughter, Kim, on 12/2.
- ◆ Betsy Ducey, upon the passing of her mother, Betty Brown on 11/29 at the age of 91.
- ◆ Jack Spotts and family, upon the passing of Joanne on 11/25 at the age of 85.
- ◆ Larry Wollace, who continues to receive monthly treatments for his prostate cancer.

Praises for answered prayers and joys for...

- ◆ Members of our congregation who have recovered from Covid-19 and completed their respective quarantines.

Prayers for protection and for the increase of peace worldwide:

- ◆ PFC Brenden Bostelman, Fort Campbell, KY (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy)
- ◆ Kali Collins, Washington, DC (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Kohl Collins, Ft. Myers, VA (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Kyle Ducey, Suffolk, VA (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)

- ◆ Brayden Hall, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO (Ohio Army National Guard) (Son of Vond & Mary)
- ◆ Cpt. Jared Kuntz, Washington, DC (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ◆ Eric Maag, Port Clinton, OH (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)
- ◆ AB Shayne & Taylor Pitts, Albuquerque, NM (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ David Richardson, Okinawa, Japan (Marines) (Son of Shannon and Yesi)
- ◆ Joshua Richardson, Kaneohe, HI (Marines) (Son of Shannon and Yesi)
- ◆ Steve Schink, Chesterfield, MI (Coast Guard) (Son-in-law of Ed and Julie Ruffer)

Please consider sending cards to these individuals letting them know that we continue to lift them up to God in prayer; and 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 #405
Jane Short, Room #172
Wayne & Susie Spiess, Room 133

Fairlawn Assist. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Donna Buehrer, Room #210

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

Fulton Manor, 723 S. Shoop Ave. Wauseon, 43567
Robert Kuntz, Room #225-2
Velma Overmier, Room #501-1
Bernice Rice, Room #224-2
Beverly Beaverson, Suite #605

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

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

Pastoral Letter

A Thought from Pastor Erich...

“When they (the magi) had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” ¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.” (Matthew 2:13-14, NIV)

Why was it necessary for Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt? Wasn't there an alternative? This was the Lord's son! Why didn't God deal with Herod in a way that Joseph didn't have to go to Egypt, but could directly return to their home in Nazareth? The boys of Bethlehem who were two years old and under could have been saved if God had removed Herod from power.

Yes, it is true that the prophecies from Hosea 11:1 (Matthew 2:15) and Jeremiah 31:15 (Matthew 2:18) were fulfilled in the way history played out, but there could have been a different plan, one in which there was no need for escape or mourning.

This is another one of those dilemmas in which I'm reminded of Isaiah 55:8-9: ““For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”” (NIV)

Though I can wonder why God took the action he did, I must recognize that God did indeed take sovereign action to preserve his son. God did save Jesus from the severe cruelty of Herod. God saved Jesus according to his will, his plan. In faith, I trust God's plan, and I don't need to understand it all. That's the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:7 – “We live by faith, not by sight.”

I trust there are millions of Christians who have been praying for God's intervention amidst this lengthy pandemic. When will it end? Why doesn't God act? The pandemic is so devastating in the number of lives lost and in the number of serious cases of illness, as well as with the financial and mental health ramifications. It's so disruptive. It's so inconvenient. It's so politicized. It's so... (fill in your own statement). God certainly has the power and authority to command relief. Why hasn't he?

God hasn't answered that question for me. And I don't need to know. I live by faith. We live by faith. I pray that everyone who reads these words will continue to put their faith into practice – trust in God, keep God first in your heart, honor God with your devotion and love, and do what you can to love one another.

In God's Peace,

ERICH

Congregational News

Ministries

Wednesday Evening Ministries:

Our Logos, JYF, SYF and Life Planning programs remain suspended as of the writing of this issue of The Visitor. We are waiting to see how things go with the resumption of local schools. Hopefully, we can resume these programs as of February 3rd, of which we should know by January 25th.

Sunday Morning Ministries:

Preschool Sunday school, Faith Village, Confirmation and Senior High Sunday classes remain suspended as of the writing of this issue of The Visitor. We are waiting to see how things go with the resumption of local schools. Hopefully, we can resume these classes as of February 7th, of which we should know by January 25th. Adult Sunday school classes will resume as each class chooses to do so.

Main Office—Ph. 419-446-2545
Custodian—Ph.419-551-1105

Website: www.stjohnsarchbold.org
Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM

Thank You's

St. John's,

Judy and I want to thank those who were praying for us and for the cards of encouragement and meals that were sent during our Covid-19 experience. It was such a blessing to us and we thank God for his healing and sustaining power.

In Christ,
Bill & Judy Barnhart

St. John's,

We want to extend our sincere thanks to our church family for the many cards, thoughts, phone calls, kind words and prayers, at this time of loss of wife, mother, grandmother Joanne.

Thank you to Pastor Alex, Pastor Erich and Lynne for their role in the Celebration of Life service. Special thanks to Jocelyn Walker and Ryan Christman for making the virtual service possible.

We are thankful and grateful to have such a caring and loving church family. Continued prayers are appreciated as we carry on through this life here on earth...until we meet again.

Jack Spotts, Craig,
Curt & Julie, and
Extended Family

St. John's Church,

Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, cards, and kind words upon the passing of my grandpa. My family and I cannot fully express just how much we appreciate your kindness and support over the past several weeks.

Blessings,
Jocelyn Walker

St. John's Christian Church,

It is cold & not pleasant so I've stayed inside to be warm. Thanks for the received letters and for the greetings sent to me recently.

Merry Christmas and New Year,
Bernice Rice

St. John's,

Thanks to Pastor Erich and all your thoughts and prayers for our daughter, Kim.

Larry & Carol Robinson



Updates

Sanctuary Audio Hearing Assistance System

For individuals with hearing aids – we need your input! As we explore upgrades to the audio system in the sanctuary, we need to determine if people with hearing aids are fine with the current hearing loop, which uses a “loop system” switch position on the hearing aid, or if people are making use of new technology with a Bluetooth app. If you could share your preference with the church office, that would be extremely helpful!

Stewardship Report

As of December 29, 2020

Operating Budget

Annual Budget: \$376,616.00
Donations: \$367,288.73
Expenses: \$354,341.89
Balance: \$12,946.84

Mission Budget

Annual Budget: \$143,300.00
Donations: \$168,904.91
Disbursements: \$155,102.77
Balance: \$13,802.14

Pastor—pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org
 Associate Pastor—pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org

Administrative Assistant—office@stjohnsarchbold.org
 LOGOS Director—gkwalker@rtceexpress.net

Mission Corner

January Mission-A-Month Emergency Clean Up Kits in cooperation with Church World Service

Thank You's

Dear St. John's Christian Church,
 We are so grateful to you all! Bless you for
 your prayers and your help - you do make a differ-
 ence for the kids! Thank you and Merry Christmas!
 Sincerely,
 Kyle Zanker and Liz Bergren
 Crossroad Child & Family Services

 St. Johns,
 Thank you for providing blankets for our
 neighbors in need through the Church World Service
 Blanket program. Your dedication to this ministry
 will allow many people to receive blankets this com-
 ing winter. Thanks for sharing with others! [I hope
 your] Advent season [was] filled with blessings!
 Matthew Stevens
 Church World Service Global

 Dear St. John's Christian Church,
 Thank you so much for your gift of \$170.
 Your church is such a blessing to the Friendship
 House!
 Sincerely,
 The Friendship House

Additional Thank You's from...

- ♦ Tom & Megan, for our gift of \$58.
- ♦ Crossroad, for our gift of \$227.
- ♦ Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$195.
- ♦ Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$1,177.50.
- ♦ Church World Service, for our gift of \$440.

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.)
 website - www.give.cru.org
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Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP
 website - www.jamkhed.org

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 e-mail - tmislands@fastmail.net

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Jon & Rachel Doriot, Pioneers Chicago, IL
 website - www.pioneers.org
 e-mail - kelapa@linkmail.org

Main Office—Ph. 419-446-2545
Custodian—Ph.419-551-1105

Website: www.stjohnsarchbold.org
Sunday Worship 10:30AM via YouTube Live

Mission Corner (cont.)

Mission Updates

Dear Friends,

Your generosity this year has been overwhelming. What a beautiful reminder you are the Lord's provision!

Due in part to your generous giving, I have been freed up to engage wholeheartedly in the pastoral work entrusted to me. And God has been doing some amazing things!

Here is a glimpse of what you have been investing in over the past year:

- ◆ 13 baptisms (mostly students).
- ◆ Virtual discipleship that has brought several to faith.
- ◆ Students and staff are meeting together weekly and discipling one another in both virtual and in-person home groups.
- ◆ Before the pandemic, we gave a sermon series on Holy Sexuality and provided some resources & groups for students to discuss the Christian sexual ethic with grace and truth.
- ◆ Feeding 65 families in SE Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.
- ◆ Providing a bed for an elderly woman who had been sleeping on the floor.
- ◆ Providing backpacks and school supplies to children in SE Ann Arbor.
- ◆ Multiple Red Cross blood drives.
- ◆ Regular discipleship groups [focusing on] living lifestyles of Worship, Community, and Mission.
- ◆ 4 new student interns, 1 new campus missionary, and another graduating senior planning to go on staff as a campus missionary.

God is active in moving powerfully, even during a pandemic. Please continue to pray for our limited in-person services and outreach to students in a time when schedules and interactions look very different. Thank you so much for your partnership in the gospel. It is such a joy to celebrate with you!

Merry Christmas!
Kyle Chase



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2020 will certainly be a year for us to remember. In the midst of so much stress and anxiety, we have also had so much to be grateful for. Month by month, Will continues to grow and learn. We celebrated his first birthday in June - time flies! In July he saw the beach for the first time when we went to Florida to visit Matt's dad and step-mom. These days he loves playing outside, dancing, reading books, and going to his grandparent's house. His favorite things are pumpkins, monkeys, cats, and Frosty the snowman. He brings joy into our lives in so many ways!

In other exciting news, we are expecting baby Waanders #2 in April 2021, and we just found out it's a boy! We can't wait to meet him, and we are looking forward to seeing Will become a big brother.

As 2020 comes to a close, we are looking forward to the new year. It will be a year of new opportunities and challenges in our ministry work with college students, exciting growth in our family, and new chances to see God's faithfulness.

Warmly,
Matt, Paige, and Will

Consistory Report

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Congregational Meeting

January 17, 2021 at 11:00AM

As the Church Constitution stipulates that an annual Congregational Meeting shall be held in January, no later than the third Sunday of the month for the transaction of regular business and for the election of officers, the Consistory has scheduled the annual meeting for Sunday, January 17th at 11:00AM.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the meeting will make use of both traditional in-person participation and virtual participation through Zoom. Those participating virtually through Zoom will be able to access the meeting through a desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Zoom will enable in-person participants in the Sanctuary to hear online participants and online participants to hear in-person participants. In-person votes will be collected as normal while online votes will be collected using Zoom's internal polling system.

Zoom access information will be sent via mail and email within the week. Meeting packets will be available by January 9th – both in hard copy and digital formats.

The Nomination Ballot for the Annual Meeting is as follows:

- * Congregational President – Gary Frazier
- * Congregational Secretary – Nominee being sought
- * Elders – Jon Lindsay, Betsy Redd, David Stuckey (Elect 2)
- * Deacon/Deaconess – Karen Walker, Missy Warncke, Bruce Wooley (Elect 3)

January Worship Schedule

January 3	First Sunday of the New Year Sacrament of Holy Communion Scriptures – Matthew 2:1-12, Ephesians 3:1-13 Sermon – “Revelation Without Boundaries”
January 10	Scriptures – Psalm 29, Mark 1:4-11, Acts 19:1-17 Sermon – “And so, the Holy Spirit”
January 17*	Annual Meeting Sunday: One Service of Worship at 10:00AM Scriptures – Psalm 139:1-6, John 1:43-51 Sermon – “Good Coming Forth” *See above section for more information
January 24	Ordination and Installation of Officers Scriptures – Psalm 62:5-8, Mark 1:14-20, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Sermon – Pastor Alex
January 31	Scriptures - Psalm 111, Mark 1:21-28, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Sermon - “A New Teaching”

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Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mission-A-Month Church World Service Elder of the Month Ryan Christman					1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2
3 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM Un-decorate	4 11:00AM Staff Meeting	5 9:15AM Bible Study	6 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	7	8	9 7:40AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 11:00AM Memorial Service for Marvin Fish
10 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:30AM Worship	11 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Stephen Ministry Peer Review	12 9:15AM Bible Study 7:00PM Property Com.	13 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	14	15	16
17* 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Congregational Meeting	18 11:00AM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Consistory Orientation	19 9:15AM Bible Study	20 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	21	22	23
24 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:30AM Worship	25 11:00AM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Consistory	26 9:15AM Bible Study	27 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	28	29	30
31 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:30AM Worship						

Birthdays and Anniversaries!

1	Duane Hayes	16	Anna Yoder, Aaron Kauffman
2	Josee Grime	17	Trevor Neuenschwander
3	Joanna Young	18	Ava Genter, John & Kathryn Graber
4	Ryan Christman	21	Ann Fether
5	Karen Schnitkey	22	Kay Stamm
7	Wade Enderle, Jon Lindsay	23	Jim Grieser, Reese Grime
8	Ralph Grieser	24	Lillianna Helberg, Deb Rupp
9	Amy Baden, Leah Hall, Bodi Kauffman	26	Travis Gruenhagen, Pat Leupp, Verlene Lovejoy, Jason Martz
12	Tootie Beck	29	Joan Lovejoy
13	Cathy Nofziger, Stacy Rutledge, Len & Jean Stamm	30	Nate Meyer, Wayne Spiess
14	Jace Bernath		

Please let us know if we do not have your special day correct!

January Daily Scriptures

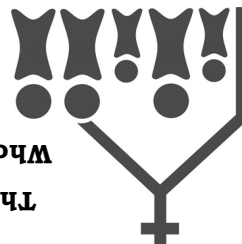
(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

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>.

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Jesus, God and Us.....1 John 1
 2 I am Writing to Say.....1 John 2:1-14
 3 Beloved Home.....Psalm 84
 4 Comings and Goings.....1 John 2:15-27
 5 Family Likeness.....1 John 2:28-3:10
 6 The L-Shaped Life.....1 John 3:11-24
 7 Don't Believe Everything!.....1 John 4:1-6
 8 Such Love.....1 John 4:7-21
 9 The Life of God in Us.....1 John 5:1-12
 10 Preparing for God to Work.....Psalm 85
 11 Reality.....1 John 5:13-21
 12 Love and Discernment.....2 John
 13 Hi Guy!.....3 John
 14 Kept by the Power of God.....Jude
 15 When Enough is Too Much!.....Jonah 1</p> | <p>16 The Hope of Despair.....Jonah 2
 17 A Prayer for Help.....Psalm 86
 18 One Heart to Another.....Jonah 3
 19 Questions of the Heart.....Jonah 4
 20 It's All Good.....Genesis 1:1-2:3
 21 Being Together.....Genesis 2:4-25
 22 Did God Really Say...?.....Genesis 3:1-13
 23 The End of the Beginning.....Genesis 3:14-24
 24 A Prayer for Help.....Psalm 87
 25 Blood Brothers?.....Genesis 4
 26 Happy Birthday to You!.....Genesis 5
 27 It's Gonna Rain.....Genesis 6
 28 Overwhelming.....Genesis 7
 29 New Creation.....Genesis 8
 30 Humanity Relauched.....Genesis 9
 31 Out of the Depths.....Psalm 88</p> |
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Admin. Jocelyn Walker
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LOGOS Kim M. Walker
 gwalker@rtceexpress.net
Treasurer Mary Zimmerman
Custodian Dean Buckenmeyer
Security Richard Spiess
 Phone 419-446-2545
 Website www.stjohnsarcbold.org
 Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM
 Sunday School 9:15AM

St. John's Christian Church
700 S. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502



The Church on the Corner
Whose Cornerstone is Christ

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

Holy Communion:
 New Year (1/3), Ash Wednesday (2/17), Maundy Thursday (4/1), Pentecost (5/23), World Wide Communion (10/3), First Sunday of Advent (11/28)

Return Service Requested

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