# The Visitor

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

March 1, 2021 Volume 67, Number 3

## Prayer Corner

Please pray for...

- ◆ The family of Vern Nemire, who entered into eternal life on 2/2 at the age of 91.
- Tracey and Sodie Warren, as Tracey recently underwent scans to determine a treatment plan for non-metastatic prostate cancer.
- ♦ Kenny Walker IV and his family, as Kenny underwent major surgery on 1/28 in Cincinnati. Kenny and his mother, Amanda, have moved to an apartment near the hospital for the next segment of his recovery and rehab, with daily check-ins with the medical team.
- Chloe Merillat, who continues with physical therapy to relieve nerve pain in her legs and has been experiencing low energy.
- 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 either recovered from Covid-19 or completed their respective quarantines, including Tammy and Mark Nofziger, Raegan Rutledge and family, and the Wooley family.

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, Awaiting Deployment (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 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



## Pastor's Column

A woman once wrote that at a garage sale she had spotted an antique copper kettle for only \$2.50. It was badly tarnished, so she asked the woman running the sale if she thought the discoloration would come out. The hostess of the sale cheerfully offered to try some copper cleaner on it and disappeared with it into the house. Reappearing with the gleaming kettle, she handed it to the potential buyer for inspection. It was indeed a more attractive item, plus it also had a new price tag attached. It read: "Like new – \$10." That is interesting. When the copper kettle first went on sale, its owner practically gave it away. But something changed its worth. What made the kettle more valuable? A simple cleansing. When the owner took the trouble to clean away the grime and remove the discoloration and stains, it was worth four times as much. Almost everything is more valuable once it has been washed and cleaned up.

I came across this copper kettle illustration in my preparations for Ash Wednesday, and I chose not to use it. The above paragraph made sense to me, but it also had the following as its last sentence – Almost everything IS more valuable once it has been washed and cleaned up, and so it is with us.

Something about the phrase "more valuable" in that last sentence struck me as just being wrong. I get the point that's trying to be made – an illustration to teach how our confession of sin and the forgiveness of Christ washes and cleanses us. But more valuable? I disagree! Jesus taught that people are more valuable than birds (Luke 12:24) and sheep (Matthew 12:12). As I considered the last sentence accompanying the illustration, I immediately thought of these two Bible passages:

- Psalm 139:13-14 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."
- Romans 5:5-8 "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. <sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Whether we are cleansed of our sin or not, God loves us; he's fearfully and wonderfully made each person. Every person is valued by God, loved by God. Jesus came to save all people – Mark 16:15: "Jesus said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.""

All creation! Everyone! Everyone matters to God. Did I just go there? It's what came to mind as I read these verses and typed in my reflections. I wasn't meaning to be political. I wasn't meaning to open up the debate or cause any angst by alluding to the societal debate surrounding which lives matter. I don't want to be side tracked along those lines, but I trust this will apply to that debate.

The Jews believed they were move highly favored then the Gentiles. Jesus disproves that. He came for all, for each person is valued by God. So I didn't use the copper kettle illustration in my oral lesson, but I include it here in print, so you can read and re-read as you desire, to make sense of it all.

Knowing we are all equally valued by God even as we are sinners, no more valued by God than anyone else, our response to God's love is to love him. Because we love him, we seek his cleansing from our sins out of our love, respect and honor of God.

For further reflection of what I've shared in this column, for it's not a completed thought just yet, I invite you to connect in to our Lenten services of worship, both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. May our Lenten journey continue to enlighten us about God's love and forgiveness.

In God's Peace,



## Associate Pastor's Column

## Paul's Prayer for the Philippians (Phil. 1:3-6, 9-11)

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.... <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Dear St. John's,

Paul's prayer for the Philippians is an excellent guide for my own prayers for you. In verse 5, Paul writes: "from the first day until now." By the end of my call to serve as your associate pastor, our time together will have spanned over 1600 days, with 230 Sundays spent together worshipping our God. I praise God for these 4.5 years of growing in Christ together, sharing Christ with those around us, and bearing fruit all unto the glory of God.

In verses 4-5, Paul prays for the Philippians "with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." Similarly, I thank God when I think of you. I think of the pray-ers, card-senders, callers, visitors, gift-givers, and tithegivers. I think of the many volunteers in the various ministries of the church. I think of parents raising their children in the Lord. I think of the children and youth seeking the Lord. I think of those who invite their friends to church. I think of those who are praying for others and sharing Jesus with others. I think of you, in your partnership in the gospel, and I thank God for you.

In addition to praying about the Philippians with gratitude and joy, Paul prays for the Philippians. The heart of Paul's prayer for the Philippians is their increase in love. In verse 9, Paul writes: "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more..." Everything else Paul prays for on their behalf is really just the overflowing of that love. Love is the key to discerning what is best (v.10). Love is the key to being pure and blameless before God (v.10). Love is the key to a righteous and fruitful life (v.11). Love is the key to bringing glory, honor, and praise to God (v.11). Jesus himself said that all the Old Testament (the Law and the Prophets) was summed up with love: love for God, and love for others (Matthew 22:36-40). Therefore, I pray: may God increase and abound your love more and more, unto the glory of God.

As Paul prayed for the Philippians, so I pray for you: I pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel, and I pray that your love may abound more and more.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Alex

# Congregational News and Thank You's

The continued care and outreach of St. John's Church has been such a blessing to me and my family. From words of encouragement, cards in the mail, Sunday morning greetings and monetary blessings. I can't thank you enough for your warm arms of welcome I've experienced these past few years. When I first started coming to St. John's, I was a bit nervous about attending a new place of worship. But St. John's has been very welcoming and kind to me and my family, that I am feeling more at home.

It is a privilege to worship with you. Thank you again for your continued kindness. St. John's has a big heart for helping people and it is evident; not only in my life, but in the countless lives and organizations around me, near and far. The congregation of St. John's is alive and well and living out Christ's example. Thank you!

In Christ, Buffy Riley

To My Church Family,

God has showered me with Blessings through you. Each day the mailman left a number of cards in my mailbox. My heart cried with gladness as I opened each one. Thank you for all you've done to help me through this difficult time.

And thank you to Pastor Erich for the wonderful, meaningful service for Bob. I always thank God for you because of his grace given to you in Christ Jesus.

Carol DeVries

St. John's,

Thank you for all the seasons greetings and well wishes. I appreciated and enjoyed every one of them.

Rosemarie Schmidt

St. John's Church,

Hello! It's still wintery weather so we are staying in our rooms and wait for warmer days. The snow is white and is thick on the grass. The sun will melt it and at nighttime it appears again!

Yes, our January 2021 was different than usual but it's always good to read church news.

Bernice Rice

To all at St. John's that took the time to pray for my family and the loss of my granddaughter Elizabeth, thank you. God bless you all.

Deborah Bell

St. John's,

We want to thank Pastor Erich, Pastor Alex, and our church family for their visits, phone calls, get well cards, and prayers we have received during our convalescence. We appreciate being part of this church family.

Mert & Sue Kinsman

Pastor Erich, Pastor Alex, and St. John's,

Thank you for your generous space in the bus barn. Care and Share is very thankful to have a community of support for our stores. Your "donation" of space was a tremendous help. Stop by and see us when you can.

Pat King Care & Share Thrift Shops Main Office—Ph. 419-446-2545 Custodian—Ph.419-551-1105

## News & Thank You's (cont.)

#### First Class Mail and Mailing of the Visitor:

It's come to the attention of the church office staff that not everyone received a timely delivery of the letter mailed to the congregation on January 7th. That letter was informing the congregation of the end of the call agreement with Pastor Alex as the associate pastor. At least one person received their copy of the letter on February 15th, thus they were unaware of the news prior to the annual meeting held on January 17th. Hopefully everyone has received the letter by now or has read the minutes of the annual meeting in last month's Visitor.

The church office has also been made aware of the fact that some people are not receiving their copy of the Visitor in a timely manner. We are striving to mail out the Visitor at least a week prior to the end of the month. If you are not receiving your copy shortly after the start of the month, please contact the church office.

## Preschool Corner

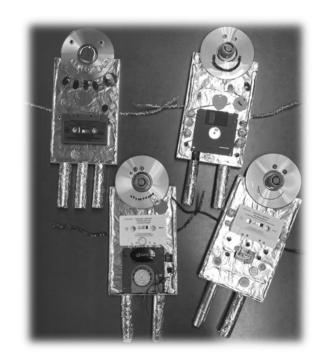
In February, our Bible verse was, "Love one another," John 13:34. As we celebrated Valentine's Day throughout the first two weeks of the month, we talked about how much Jesus loves us, and how he wants us to be kind to everyone. The older children strengthened their finger muscles by punching holes around the edge of a heart with a hole punch at the Fine Motor center, while the younger children sorted small beads into heart shaped trays. Both weeks, the children were busy signing their name on valentines at the Writing Center and mailing them in friends' mailboxes. There was a lot of glue used at the Art Table, as the children made heart collages with stickers, doilies, paper hearts and foam hearts (pictured), and the younger children glued puzzle pieces to a heart that said, "I love you to pieces!"

We made great use of the snow that fell in February! For two weeks, we brought snow in for the Sensory Table and used watercolor paints to paint it, then for another two weeks we put shovels and buckets in the

snow so they could "play" in it without getting "too" cold!



For the last couple of weeks in February, we talked about "Robots." At Circle Time, we discussed whether robots were people or machines, what the children would want their robot to do for them if they had one, and how God made people smart enough to design and build amazing robots! The older children practiced writing and recognizing the letter "R," and played a rhyming robot game. The younger children played a robot shape matching game, colored pictures of robots, and used a scale to weigh nuts and bolts at the Science Area. Both classes made fantastic robots at the Art Area (pictured) from foil covered wood and cardboard tubes, CD's, screws, wires, pipe cleaners, old cassette tapes, etc.



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

# Ministry Happenings

# Resumption of Sunday Morning and Wednesday Evening Children's and Youth Ministries:

Due to the winter storm that began as night fell on February 15th, the February Consistory meeting was post-poned until the 22nd. Thus, any action the Consistory would have taken on the resumption plan was post-poned, thus missing inclusion in this Visitor issue. We'll be getting the word out in other ways!

### **College & Seminary Scholarships:**

St. John's Christian Church offers and administers three scholarships:

- 1. Nursing Scholarship for a nursing student who is a member of SJCC and who attends an accredited post-secondary school of nursing
- 2. College Scholarship awarded to enhance the Christian faith of active members of St. John's Christian Church who are either attending or planning to attend college in the coming year
- 3. Seminary Scholarship tuition scholarships for students attending seminary

This year the deadline for applications is April 1st. Scholarship information and the application form is available on the church website – stjohnsarchbold.org – under the Resources tab.

#### **Christian Camp Scholarship Program:**

St. John's Christian Church will cover up to 50% of the registration fees for children and youth of the congregation attending Christian camping events. Parents will be responsible for registering their child or youth for a Christian camping experience and informing the church office of their registration. Parents will complete and turn into the church office a form for each child they are sending to a Christian camp. St. John's will pay the registration costs based on either an early registration discount or the cost of camp no later than two months prior to the event.

## St. John's Christian Preschool From the 2021 Annual Meeting Packet

The preschool was founded in 1989. In the years since, this preschool ministry engaged in the lives of children and their families and helped enrich and extend the

physical, intellectual, emotional, social and creative growth and development of the children. Basic Christian values were shared and applied throughout the years. The value of the ministry to children and families is immeasurable.

Over the years of the preschool's existence, there have been ups and downs in terms of enrollment and finances, and usually a down year or two were followed by stronger years. The past three to four years have seen only downward trends in terms of these two aspects of the program. The deficit of income due to lower enrollments grew each year and the Consistory authorized capital expenditures to sustain the ministry. Even with such support, the preschool has operated on a very tight budget, unable to keep pace with hoped for staff wage increases from year to year.

Following discussion and study of the overall situation the past three years, in July, 2020 the Preschool Board made the difficult decision to recommend to the Consistory that the 2020/2021 school year be the final year of the preschool. The Consistory approved that recommendation, so this is indeed the final school year of the St. John's Christian Preschool. The preschool will continue to operate through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The preschool staff were informed of this decision in September. Letters were sent out in mid-November to parents of children currently enrolled.

The preschool staff have continued to offer a high quality program for the enrolled children, and the ending of the preschool ministry is not a reflection of their talents, gifts and dedication to the program. Mrs. Sue MacDonald and Mrs. Joan Wyse have been an integral part of the ministry of St. John's, and their presence, ministry and devotion in the preschool will be missed.

Providing a continual program of ministry for 31 years is a significant accomplishment and blessing. There is much to be thankful for in the history of this preschool program. The ending of such a program is not easy and the congregation is invited to pray for the staff, for the currently enrolled children and their families, and for the children and families who hoped to enroll in the future.

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

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

## Ministries (cont.)

#### Man Camp 2021

STEAK. BACON. FIRE. JESUS. What more could you ask for?!

Come join us for Man Camp 2021! We are aiming for March 26-28. If you are interested in exciting activities, Biblical focus, delicious food, and time to unwind, then we invite you to join us.

The guest speaker for that weekend is Nate Hamblin. He is an engaging and challenging speaker. Please consider joining us for what would be the Manliest weekend of your year!

If you have any questions call, email or text Bruce Wooley

# Consistory

#### **Transition Time – Pastoral Staff:**

The Consistory continues to engage in discussion and discernment in regards to the future pastoral staffing of the church. An outline of the discussion includes the following points:

- 1. Review of the 2018/2019 Work of the Discernment Team
- 2. Pastoral Staff Job Descriptions
- 3. Review of the Search and Call Process
- 4. Review of the Church Constitution Pertaining to Pastoral Staff
- 5. Scheduling Congregational Meetings for Consideration of these Items

As the discussions progresses, the Consistory welcomes everyone's prayers for these important congregational concerns. Prayers for the Lord's leading, for wisdom and discernment, for openness and attentiveness to one another, unity and inspiration would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Stewardship – Congregational Finances:**

As approved at the January 17th annual meeting of the congregation, changes have been made to the accounting of the congregation's finances. Here is further information about these changes:

- 1. The Capital Improvement Fund/Budget has been closed out. The annual budget line items related to facility maintenance have been shifted to the Operating Budget. Those line items include: Boiler Maintenance and Repair, Carpet/Pew Cleaning, Parking Lot Maintenance, Tile Floor Maintenance and General Maintenance.
- 2. Several budget line items were shifted from the Mission Budget to the Operating Budget, as they have been redefined as ministry expenses. Budget line items in the Mission Budget are focused on benevolent projects missionaries and mission partners beyond the local congregation. Those line items include: Church Camp Scholarships, College Scholarships, Evangelical Association, Love Fund, St. John's Evangelism Outreach and WMTR Pause for Praise.

These shifts added \$34,200 to the Operating Budget, \$18,500 from Missions and \$15,700 from the former Capital Improvement Budget. The hope is that people will shift their donations accordingly. While all the same facility and ministry expenses will be incurred, they'll be accounted for from different accounts than before.

#### **2021 Members of Consistory:**

#### Elders

Ryan Christman, Jon Lindsay, Todd Nafziger, Betsy Redd, Brad Roth

#### Deacons/Deaconess

Tim Beck, Jim Grieser, Mindy Gruenhagen, Keith Kern, Jan Lindsay, Crissi Stuckey, Karen Walker, Missy Warncke, Bruce Wooley

#### Officers/Pastor

Gary Frazier (President), Kim S. Walker (Secretary), Erich Christman

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

## Mission Corner

# March Mission-A-Month

# Friendship House

The Friendship House is an Archbold ministry supported by area churches and coordinated by Cecily Rohrs. This two-story home located near downtown Archbold is designed to provide shelter for one or two individual or family units at a time until they are able to become self-sufficient. The Friendship



House is endorsed by the Archbold Area Ministerial Association and is coordinated by a volunteer board. Currently, the home is undergoing some maintenance and improvement work. A foundation wall was replaced in 2020, and in April of this year, the rear entry and utility room will be removed and a new 16' x 24' utility area and living space for the house mom will be constructed, along with some upgrades to the heating/cooling of the home.

This month, we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this community ministry that strives to care for those in need of a place to stay and have a fresh start in life.

#### **Summer Mission Trip – In Cooperation with Habitat for Humanity (HFH):**

This annual mission experience is scheduled for June 13th through the 18th. For the past several years, the trip participants have worked with the LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity (LCHFH) affiliate that is based in Michigan City, Indiana. We are awaiting word from LCHFH about whether they will have a build project this summer. In the meantime, other HFH projects are being considered. Once we hear back from LCHFH, we'll be sharing the details of this summer's trip.

#### **Designated and Un-Designated Offerings:**

St. John's continues to be blessed through the provision of the Lord. The financial stewardship of the congregation is a testimony of faithfulness.

Each week, a team of three people count and process the weekly offerings - those three being the church treasurer, the administrative assistant, and one of the four offerings assistants. This team accounts for all offerings received over the course of the previous week, including worship offerings, online offerings, offerings mailed to or dropped off in the office, and any special donations sent to the church.

The team processes each person's individual offering according to any designation noted on the offering envelope, check or donation. When people do not designate their offering on the offering envelope, check or donation, those funds are divided evenly between the Operating Fund and the Mission Fund.

When offerings are designated to the Mission Fund, but have no further designation (such as to the Arole's or Cherry Street Mission Ministries), those funds are accounted for as undesignated mission funds. Those undesignated mission funds are disbursed by the Mission Committee at their monthly meetings to meet the mission budget approved at the annual meeting of the congregation.

This is merely informational news to share with the congregation regarding this division of non-designated offerings. People are encouraged to designate or not designate their offerings as they wish.

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

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

## Mission Corner (cont.)

#### Thank You Letters from our Mission Partners

Dear St. John's Christian Church,

Thank you so much for your two donations totaling \$5,290.00. You greatly bless The Friendship House. When we start our addition, it will be put to good use.

Sincerely, The Friendship House

St. John's,

I am so grateful for your church's regular support to the mission work God has called me to for college students and Akron's campus. Thank you for your prayers and generosity!

In Christ, David Hench

Dear St. John's Christian Church,

Fulton County poverty can seem invisible but it ends up harming whole communities. Thank you for addressing the problem across NW Ohio.

Sincerely, Nikki Morey Cherry Street Mission

#### Additional Thank You's From...

- Tony & Leila Frank, for our gift of \$6,613.00
- Church World Service, for our gift of \$400.00
- Matt & Paige Waanders, for our gift of \$50.00
- Tom & Megan, for our gift of \$30.00
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$1,195.00
- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$2,345.00
- Kyle Chase, for our gift of \$500.00
- Matt & MaryLynn Pardi, for our gift of \$500.00

#### 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 e-mail - matthew.waanders@cru.org e-mail - paige.stamm@cru.org

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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

## March Worship Schedule

March 7 Third Sunday of Lent

Scriptures – Psalm 19, John 2:13-22, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Sermon – "Any Signs Visible Today?"

March 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Scriptures – Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, John 3:14-21, Ephesians 2:1-10

Sermon – "That Most Famous Reindeer"

March 21 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Scriptures – Psalm 51:1-12, John 12:20-33, Hebrews 5:5-10

Sermon – "How Did You Receive the News?"

Special Music - "I've Got Peace Like a River" - Joshua Reeb

March 28 Palm Sunday

Scriptures – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11

Sermon - "Jesus Enters In"

## The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that precedes Easter. The date of Easter falls on the Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox, a time determined by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. Easter is on April 4th.

"Lent" is from the Anglo-Saxon word for "lengthen," as in the lengthening days of spring. This season of 40 days has been celebrated by Christians at least since the early 2nd century. In the Christian Scriptures the number 40 relates to the period spent by Noah in the Ark, the period spent by Israel seeking the Promised Land after the Exodus, and the amount of time Jesus was in the wilderness after his baptism and prior to beginning his public ministry.

For us, the Season of Lent is when the passion and death of our Savior come into focus. It's observed as a time for growth in faith, as well as a time for deepening the devotional life of faithful Christians. It's an invitation to 40 days of renewal, 40 days to prepare ourselves to take in the Good News of Easter through the disciplines of prayer, self-denial, and rededication.

Ash Wednesday represents our sorrow for our sins, our repentance, and our morality. Receiving the Sacrament of Communion reminds us that God's love is triumphant over sin and death, that He remains "in communion" with us, and that through Christ's redemptive act on the cross, our mortality is overcome.

#### Season of Lent Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

Starting at 7pm each Wednesday, Lenten services will be held on March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. These services will be available in both in-person and live stream formats. Each of these informal times of worship will consist of prayer, singing and an interactive teaching lesson. Having considered the biblical character of Pilate on 2/24, we'll study the biblical characters of Simon Peter, Caiaphas, Simon of Cyrene and the Penitent Thief of the Cross on the Wednesday evenings in March.

# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:00AM Staff Meeting	9:15AM Bible Study 7:00PM Mission Com. 7:00PM Cap. Cam- paign	3 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM Men's Ministry 7:00PM Lenten Lesson	4 6:30PM Gym Re- served	5	6
7 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 9:15AM Sun. School 10:30AM Worship	8 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Stephen Min. Peer Supervi- sion	9 9:15AM Bible Study 7:00PM Property Com.	10 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM Men's Ministry 7:00PM Lenten Lesson	11 6:30PM Gym Re- served	12	13 7:40AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
14 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 9:15AM Sun. School 10:30AM Worship	15 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:15PM Spiritual Coun. 7:30PM Consistory	16 9:15AM Bible Study	17 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM Lenten Lesson	18 6:30PM Gym Re- served	19	20
21 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 9:15AM Sun. School 10:30AM Worship	22 11:00AM Staff Meeting	23 9:15AM Bible Study	24 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM Lenten Lesson	25	26	27
28 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 9:15AM Sun. School 10:30AM Worship	29 11:00AM Staff Meeting	30 9:15AM Bible Study	31 8:30AM Moms in Prayer		Mission-A-Month Friendship House	

# Birthdays and Anniversaries!

1	Camden Warncke	16	Rachel Kinsman, Ron Rice
2	Cameron Yoder	17	Raegan Rutledge
3	Cindy Sauder, Rosemarie Schmidt	18	Molly Rutledge, Sodie Warren
5	Roger & Kay Merillat, Brent & Lynda	19	Ben & Sue Buehrer, Jeremy & Sarah Kinsman
	Schnitkey	22	Sandy Frazier
6	Keith & Nici Wyse	23	Brent Winzeler
7	Jeff Nofziger, Aimee Roth	25	Matt Gilroy
8	Brad Enderle, Brooke Hines, Meridith Meyer	26	Bo Krukowski, Jacob Nofziger
9	Charley Meyer	27	Jon Rupp
10	Ann Grime	28	Jamie Beck, John Beck, Jodi Beltz
11	Chris Baden, Julie Buehrer, Lindsy Wyse	29	Carson Baden, Cagnee Grime, Leah Nafziger,
12	Katie Helberg, Dawsyn Martinez		Emily K. Walker
13	Kenny Cowell, Bryson Martinez, Bud &	30	Dorothy Miller, Mark Nofziger, Wyatt
	Tootie Beck		Overmier, Jeff & Cathy Nofziger
14	Jenny Young	31	Brayden Hall, Judy Salisbury

## **March 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 pick up a copy in the church office. Suggested donation is \$6.

1	The Call to Serve	Mark 9:30-41
2	Salty Servants	Mark 9:42-50
3	A Thorny Question	Mark 10:1-16
4	Riches and the Kingdom	Mark 10:17-31
5	Ambition and the Kingdom	Mark 10:32-45
6	A Blind Man Sees	Mark 10:46-52
7	The Lord Reigns	Psalm 93
8	Daring Discipleship	Mark 11:1-11
9	Proper Purpose	Mark 11:12-19
10	Faith-Filled Prayer	Mark 11:20-26
11	In the Hot-Seat	Mark 11:27-33
12	Whose Vineyard Is It?	Mark 12:1-12
13	The Right Answer	Mark 12:13-17
14	God Does Not Forget	Psalm 94
15	Now and Forever	Mark 12:18-27
16	Live to Love	Mark 12:28-34

17 Seeking Status	Mark 12:35-40
18 Giving that Hurts	Mark 12:41-44
19 He's Coming!	Mark 13:1-27
20 Wide-Awake Waiting	Mark 13:28-37
21 Ways to Worship	Psalm 95
22 What a Waste!	Mark 14:1-11
23 It's My Party	Mark 14:12-26
24 Ego A Go-Go	Mark 14:27-31
25 Live and Let Die	
26 It's in His Kiss	Mark 14:43-52
27 Who are You?	
28 Help!	Psalm 118
29 Careless Whisper	
30 Your Love is King	Mark 15:1-15
31 Clean Up	
*	

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Pastor Rev. Erich Christman

Jossh.

Holy Communion: New Year (1/3), Ash Wednesday (2/17), Maundy Thursday (4/1), Pentecost (5/23), Mid-Summer (7/18), World Wide Communion (10/3), First Sunday of Advent (11/28)

Come Hear the Reason we're inspired to Serve Together

Return Service Requested

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