

# The Visitor

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

July 1, 2020 Volume 66, Number 7

## prayer concerns

### Prayers for comfort and health:

- Karen Roth (mother of Brian Roth, Brad Roth, and Kim M. Walker), continues to see modest gains in health
- Jim Silcox, in home hospice care
- Ralph Grieser, receiving treatment for cancer
- Dale VonDeylen, receiving treatment for cancer
- Sandy Miller, receiving treatment for a serious infection in her legs

### Prayers for comfort and Gospel-based hope for those who are grieving:

- Jim Grieser, upon the passing of his brother (6/28)
- Shirley Fowler, upon the passing of her daughter (6/25); Shirley's son is in hospice care
- The family of Esther Rice, upon her entrance into eternal life (6/20)
- The family of Nancy Ries, upon her entrance into eternal life (6/12)

### Praises for answered prayers:

- Sharon VonDeylen was released from Parkview and has returned to work
- Ann Fether's successful back surgery and relief of pain
- Scott Reeb's successful knee surgery and continued recovery

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

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

**AB Kali Collins (Airforce)** (Lackland, TX) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)

**PFC Kohl Collins (Army)** (Ft. Benning, GA) (Grandson of Nan Neill)

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

**Josiah Epling**, left for basic training on 6/30 (San Antonio, TX) (Son of Sodie Warren)

**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)

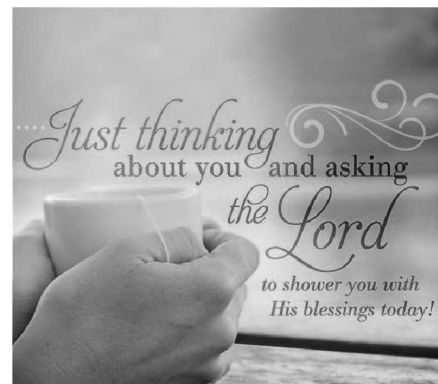
**David Richardson, (Marines)** (Okinawa, Japan) (Son of Shannon & Yesi)

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

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

**AJ Short (Marines)** (Japan) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)

**PFC Kyle Stuckey (Army)** (Killeen, TX) (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  
Jane Short, Room #172

Fairlawn Asst. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502  
William & Donna Buehrer, Room #230  
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

I have the opportunity of serving as the AAMA (Archbold Area Ministerial Association) Chaplain of the month for July, which means that I'm on call to help with any situation that might arise through the Archbold Area Local School District, Archbold Fire Department, or Archbold Police Department. It also means I have the opportunity of more intentionally lifting up in prayer each of these organizations, and their employees, volunteers, and the individuals and families they serve.

This week, some of the conversations I've had have reminded me of the burdens of administrators, teachers, students, and parents during this pandemic and its effects on education. The recent news has also reminded me how much our police officers are in need of prayer. And with temperatures increasing and threatening to stay high, I think of the volunteer firefighters and all their heavy gear, and all the work they do to help keep us safe.

Father God, as our country calls for reforms within our nation's policing, we also pause to thank you for the many men and women who serve our communities as police officers, promoting peace, safety, and wellbeing, at the risk (and sometimes even cost) of their own lives. Their sacrificial service reminds us of the love of Christ, who willingly laid down his own life for our sake. We pray that any policy changes that might be made might not be overly burdensome on those currently serving or who will answer the call to serve in the future. We pray that any policy changes that might be made will help rein in the violence of the few, that the many police officers who serve justly will receive the honor they are due. Lord, we again thank you for our police. We pray for their safety and wellbeing as they go about their duty of protecting us and promoting peace. We pray that justice and peace would flourish in our communities, in our country, and around the world.

Lord, school administrators are contemplating and adopting changes for the fall to promote the safety of the students, teachers, staff, administrators, and their families. We thank you for their diligent and hard work. We pray you would lead administrators with your wisdom, as they seek to navigate the difficult times of pandemic to offer an excellent education and promote overall health and wellbeing. We thank you for teachers putting in the extra effort to adapt their curriculum to their changing learning environments, learning and adopting new technologies and other new practices. We thank you for parents who have put in the extra hours helping their children learn from home. For those parents who have had to step aside from work (and give up their salaries) to be home with their children, we pray that you would guide them and provide for them in these changing circumstances. For children who are also juggling a lot of changes, and the disappointment of cancelled activities, we pray you would be with them to comfort and encourage them.

Lord, as temperatures rise, I think of fire fighters who occasionally face even hotter temperatures than our July weather. And decked out in all that heavy gear! Thank you for their volunteer service. Thank you that for their willingness to risk their own safety for the sake of others. What a gift! We pray: keep our fire fighters safe and healthy during this hot, hot month.

Father God, we are grateful for the many, many civil servants with which you have gifted our community. Each one offers a gift, a service, which is a picture of the love and care you have for us. Lord, let our society increasingly be marked by selfless service, by helping each other, by the law of love. And, Father God: use me to be a part of this flourishing society by using my gifts to help others! We pray that in it all, you will get glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Grace and Peace,



## congregational news & thank you's

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Pastor Erich on Vacation – Pastor Erich will be on vacation the week of the 26th, leaving after worship on Sunday, through Friday, July 31st.

## mission corner

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### Mission Trip Experiences

- Summer Trip with LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity (LCHFH) – Thirteen volunteers spent Monday through mid-day Friday working on a new home project in Michigan City, Indiana. The group enjoyed blessed hospitality from members of the LCHFH Board and staff, as well as delicious meals from local donors. Since the group stayed in a local hotel, they ate three on site evening meals, grilled by Kelly Ducey and enjoyed by all. The weather was dry and there was a cool breeze much of the time, and there were some large trees offering shade from the heat of the sun. By the end of the week, the first floor was all framed, some of the basement walls were framed, and all of the roof trusses were set in place. SJCC is on the LCHFH schedule for next June – the 14th thru the 18th!
- Back Bay Mission Trip – scheduled for October 24th through the 31st – though Back Bay Mission closed down their work camp ministry in mid-March, hopefully we will know by September 1st what their plans will be for the end of October.

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### *July Mission-A-Month - Shepherd's Circle*

Shepherd's Circle is a local mission project started by Cecily Rohrs in 2004. The purpose of this program is to mentor individuals or families who are good people that have made bad choices. Through this project, assistance is given and guidance is provided to help these people get back on their feet and once again become productive citizens and good stewards of their financial resources.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

*Matthew 25:45*

## Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

Dear St. John's Christian Church,

The important ongoing support of donors makes an important difference for the children and families we serve. As a donor, you are a vital part of our mission, helping to give hope and healing to the many young people we serve each year.

With this gift, you show how much you care about the youth and their needs. Your support is very much appreciated.

Crossroad has a legacy of being a haven of love, understanding and hope. You have a special place in ensuring this continues.

Sincerely,  
Liz Bergen  
Development Director - Crossroad

## Other Thank You Notes From Mission Partners

- CRU (McMahon) for our gift of \$50.
- Altlink (Langsdorf) for our gift of \$35.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$70.
- Backbay Mission, for our gift of \$45.
- World Team (Franks), for our gift of \$80.
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$100.

The next dates for TGRM are:

Sep 13

Nov 17 – BASIC Sunday School Class

## Missionary Contact/Prayer



Robert & Jenni McMahan, CRU (BGSU)

website - [www.give.cru.org](http://www.give.cru.org)

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

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Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP

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Kajiado Children's Home

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Jon & Rachel Doriot, Pioneers Chicago, IL

website - [www.pioneers.org](http://www.pioneers.org)

e-mail - [kelapa@linkmail.org](mailto:kelapa@linkmail.org)

# ministry happenings

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## Christian Education

### Vacation Bible School

Through the past few months, our VBS directors – Kisha Genter and Bri Krukowski – have continued to talk about this summer’s VBS experience, and have touched base with Pastor Erich several times. Unfortunately, as of July 7th, with much dismay and brokenness of heart, the decision has been reached to forego this year’s week of VBS due to the present protocols. All three believe that an on-line virtual experience was not an option, as our VBS focuses so much on in-person interaction and engagement.

For VBS in 2021, watch out for an even bigger and better week of VBS which will give the kids and church an event to remember!

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## Stephen Ministry

Jesus wants YOU to know him. He loves you, and he wants you to have peace, wholeness and a sense of purpose and belonging. Jesus invites all who are weary and burdened to come to him to find rest. He knows we are tired of the sin in the world and that we are tired of our own guilt...and he offers us rest and freedom. Jesus calls us to love one another. He loves us tenderly and equips us with his love so we can share his gift with others. Do you need to grow in his love and care and know the peace that he offers? A Stephen Minister can help guide and direct you.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...  
for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11: 28-30)

# stewardship

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In Genesis 22, as Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, Isaac, he looked up to find a ram caught in the thicket, so he sacrificed the ram instead of Isaac, and Abraham named that place, “The Lord will provide.” In faith, we must continue to trust that the Lord will provide. As Abraham followed the command of God to sacrifice his son, we must follow the command of God to trust in him.

Psalm 33:4 reminds and assures us of God’s faithfulness, “For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.”

The congregation, through God’s faithful blessing and direction, continues to provide financially for the ministries of the church. Giving is lower than normal for this time of year, which seems to be a result of the effect of Covid-19 upon our ministries, yet we remain in a healthy financial position, with a healthy balance in the operating checking account (\$108,000) and in the operating savings account (\$99,000). As of June 30, 2020 income totals \$181,409.60 and expenses total \$196,753.07, for a year to date deficit of \$15,343.47. Of course, that is a significant deficit, but not unusual for this time of the year, per our past history.

We are grateful for the faithfulness of the congregation, as realized is so many ways!

## **BREEZE**

We are so excited to have the opportunity to roll “Breeze”, an online member directory, out to you. We would like to invite you to create an account. There are 3 ways in which to do this:

1. By going to the Breeze invitation web page:  
<https://stjohnschristianchurch.breezechms.com/login/create>
2. By going to St. John’s Breeze Online Giving page:  
<https://stjohnschristianchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>
3. Or by going directly to the St. John’s Christian Church Breeze web page:  
<https://stjohnschristianchurch.breezechms.com>

To create a new account, you will input your name and email address, if Breeze recognizes you in our data base, you will be sent a confirmation to your email. (If for some reason, it says you are not recognized, please call the church office, so that we can check to make sure we have all of the correct information in your profile.) By clicking on that email confirmation, you will be prompted to create a user name and password. This will give you access to the church’s Breeze website.

You will then be allowed to view and update your own information, add photos, view your giving history, see groups you belong to, view your volunteer schedule, and the ability to easily donate online through previously-used payment methods (i.e. a specific credit card, debit card, or bank account).

Additionally, you will be able to search the database to view general contact information about others in Breeze (or information of their choosing). You can search for people by clicking the “People” tab and searching by name. This will eventually replace the “Instant Church Directory” on our website.

You are able to edit what people can see in your profile. If you do not want certain or all information to be seen, click in the light blue bar on the top of the specific section to edit (“Main, Education, Work, Contact, Family”) then “click to edit”. Under each piece of information (phone number, email, address, etc), there is a “show more options” icon, click on that. If you want to make that information private, select the “Make Private” box. This will hide the information from other users. (Example on page 7).

After creating an account, you can conveniently access our church’s Breeze account by going to [stjohnschristianchurch.breezechms.com](https://stjohnschristianchurch.breezechms.com) or downloading the Breeze App, <https://app.breezechms.com/app>, Domain Name: [stjohnschristianchurch](https://stjohnschristianchurch)

We are so excited about this new journey at St. John’s Christian Church, and are thrilled to be able to release this to you! Here is a link to a great Member Tutorial Video that may be helpful as you learn this new tool! <https://support.breezechms.com/hc/en-us/articles/360007855153>. Please contact the office with any questions. Thanks!

## Contact

Cancel

Save

Phone

 Show Fewer Options

Apply home phone to all family members

Do Not Text

Make Private ( All Numbers ▾ )

Campus

North

West

East

Email

 Show Fewer Options

Do Not Email

Make Private

Alt.  
Email

Address

 Show Fewer Options

Apply address changes to all family members

Make Private

# worship

## Resumption of Ministries

Pastor Erich continues to encourage everyone to be in constant prayer regarding the pandemic and the affects it is having on everyone. Praying for the Lord's wisdom to be manifest upon and through our pastors and leaders, praying for the well-being, both physically and spiritually, of everyone, and praying for a spirit of understanding and greater unity amongst the congregation. There are so many divergent thoughts and responses throughout these days that we must guard against disunity in our faithfulness to the Lord. In our love for God and our love for one another, respect and understanding are two key attributes we must strive to live out in our interactions with each other. In time, the church and society will have worked through this pandemic and the ministries of SJCC will be fully open once again. In the meantime, we have the following information to go by:

Following cautious direction from the Resumption Task Force, on July 1st the Consistory delayed our return to a normal schedule of ministries until further notice with the following directive:

In light of the fact that the pandemic is not over, and that hot spots are popping up around Ohio, further caution is being expressed about our return to normal worship practices. We will continue with the same protocols as we had on June 21st & 28th – maintain measures of social distancing (6' spacing and ropes blocking off pews), face coverings are optional, and we remind everyone to not attend if they are not feeling well.

For now, we will continue to follow the protocols and schedule that were in place for the final two weeks of June, which include:

Social Distancing	Moderate (6', pew spacing roped off)
Facial Covering	Optional
Vulnerable Populations	Discretionary
8:00am Worship	In-Person in the Sanctuary
8:30am Pause for Praise	Available on 96.1 WMTR
10:30am Worship	In-Person in the Sanctuary
10:30am Worship Live Streaming	Will continue to be streamed on Facebook
Sunday school – Adults	Online Only
Sunday school – Youth & Children	Delayed at least until August 2nd
10:30am Nursery	Delayed at least until August 2nd
Bible Studies	Not Available
Small Groups	Online Only
Committee Meetings	Regular Schedule
Ministry Events	Not Available
Funerals	Limited Services
Weddings	Services held as previously scheduled



The decision to delay the opening up Sunday school for youth and adults and the opening up of the nursery for preschool aged children resulted from gathered input from several families in the congregation. If your family didn't receive the One Call Now message regarding input about these two ministries, you are encouraged to share your input with Pastor Erich or the Church Office.

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## July Worship Schedule



- July 12** Scriptures – Psalm 23, John 10:7-15  
Sermon – “Life to the Full”  
Special Music – Joshua Reeb – “Days of Elijah”
- July 19** Sacrament of Communion (We should have individual pre-filled sets of wafer/juice on hand for use in this service, for those able to worship in-person)  
Scripture – 2 Corinthians 4:1-18  
Sermon – “Jars of Clay”
- July 26** Scripture – Psalm 86, Acts 10:1-8  
Sermon – “What Goes Up”
- 

### Director of Music Ministry

Andrew Rohrs resigned from this position as of the end of May. After almost a full two years in the position, and faithfully working at what all was involved in the position, Andrew discerned that his gifts of music and ministry didn't fully match up with what the position needed. Andrew will continue to be very involved in our music ministries through song leading, directing the chancel choir, offering special music and the like. We thank Andrew for the past two years, and look forward to his continued participation in our church ministries.

Pastor Erich, with much assistance from Lynne, will be working to coordinate our music ministries for the foreseeable future.

# consistory/committees

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## Youth Ministry & Pastoral Care

The Consistory approved a recent change to the job descriptions of the two pastors at their May 18th meeting. Pastor Erich will be coordinating the youth ministries of SJCC until the end of 2021 at the latest. It was discerned that our youth ministries were in need of change, and it was discerned that the most viable short-term solution was a change of leadership at this point. In order for this change to be possible, Pastor Alex will be coordinating the pastoral care ministries of SJCC. These changes of pastoral duties came following much time of prayer, discernment and discussion.

Pastor Erich is currently working to form teams of lay volunteers for each of our youth ministries, and once formed, he will then coordinate with the teams the aspects of goals, directions, schedules and activities.

Pastor Alex is now the primary contact for pastoral care of the congregation, keeping Pastor Erich fully informed of everything. Pastor Alex is formulating new avenues of care for the congregation and you'll see those avenues unfold in the coming weeks.

The Personnel Committee and the Consistory will continue to discern long term direction regarding these two aspects of ministry.

## Digital Sign

At their June meeting, Consistory approved a recommendation from the Property Committee concerning the installation of a digital sign. After extensive research on the sign, the Property Committee is working with RiSun Enterprises of Archbold on this project. Prior to the installation of the new sign, the existing lighted sign and the stone wall west of the parlor will be removed, with that stone being reused in the construction of the new sign. The new sign will be located between the carport drive and the sidewalk that goes to the west entrance of the building. The sign will be two-sided, with LED light boards on each side, with the boards being 4' x 8'. The accompanying picture shows the basic concept of the sign and its intended location. The sign will be controlled through a phone app by church office staff.

Generous donors are covering the full cost of the entire project.





ONE NATION UNDER GOD

**JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Jayson Lindsay  | 15 Jen Grime   |
| 3 Jacob Rupp, Jeff Rutledge   | 17 Ryan & Jill Holdgreve, Eric Nafziger  |
| 4 Kinsey Smith  | 18 Matthew Kinsman   |
| 5 Ollie MacDonald   | 19 Velma Overmier, Ed Ruffer, Carrie Yoder   |
| 6 Kenny & Sandi Cowell  | 20 Kaitlyn Beck, Andee Grime, Scott & Pam<br>Reeb, Brian & Kris Short, Mary Silcox |
| 7 John & Deb Kauffman, Sarah Kinsman,<br>Brian Short, Jim Silcox                      | 21 Andrew & Lori Rohrs   |
| 8 Ben & Tiffany Johnston  | 22 Warren Sauder   |
| 9 Emily Hines, Bob Kuntz, Chad Short,<br>Kaitlyn Wyse                                 | 23 David Augustine   |
| 11 Neil & Nanette Buehrer, Matt Hines, Steve<br>& Kim Walker, David Stuckey           | 27 Callie Rohrs  |
| 12 Mark Beltz, Mary Hall, Lainey Holdgreve,<br>David & Nancy Lightner, Tammy Nofziger | 28 Becca Grieser, Ryan Smith, Jack Stover  |
| 14 Jean Beck  | 29 Justin Pursel   |
|   | 30 Greg & Kim Walker   |
|   | 31 Larry Bechstein, Ryan Holdgreve, Brent<br>Schnitkey                             |

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

# July 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>.

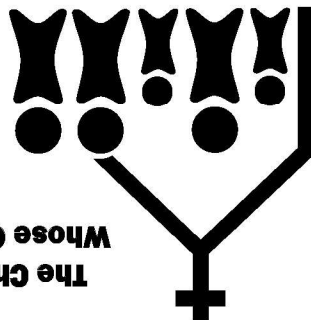
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Taking God Seriously-----Deuteronomy 4:1-14,32-40  | 16 When Leaders Change----- Deuteronomy 31:1-13        |
| 2 Following the God We Know ---- Deuteronomy 1:1-18  | 17 Sin is No Surprise -----Deuteronomy 31:14-29        |
| 3 Listen Very Carefully-----Deuteronomy 6            | 18 A Dignified Death ----Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:1-12 |
| 4 Impressive? Not Us!-----Deuteronomy 7              | 19 There is A Rock -----Psalm 61                       |
| 5 What We Really Need----- Psalm 59                  | 20 Walking on Eggshells-----2 Corinthians 1:1-22       |
| 6 When the Going Gets Good-----Deuteronomy 8         | 21 The Real Enemy --- -----2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11     |
| 7 What Motivates Obedience? -----Deuteronomy 11      | 22 Smells Genuine! -----2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6         |
| 8 Freedom! ----- Deuteronomy 15:1-18                 | 23 Glorious!----- 2 Corinthians 3:7-18                 |
| 9 Don't Forget to Remember ----- Deuteronomy 16      | 24 Product Beats Packaging-----2 Corinthians 4         |
| 10 Only the Best Information-----Deuteronomy 18:9-22 | 25 Camping out in Corinth ----- 2 Corinthians 5:1-10   |
| 11 What is a Life Worth?----- Deuteronomy 19:1-14    | 26 Steadiness-----Psalm 62                             |
| 12 No Plan B----- Psalm 60                           | 27 The Urgent Ambassador----- 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2   |
| 13 Renewing the Vows -----Deuteronomy 29             | 28 A Bridge Half Built -----2 Corinthians 6:3-13       |
| 14 A Change of Heart----- Deuteronomy 30:1-10        | 29 Avoiding a Mismatch-----2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1      |
| 15 Now Choose Life-----Deuteronomy 30:11-20          | 30 The Tricky Letter-----2 Corinthians 7:2-16          |
|  | 31 The "M" Word-----2 Corinthians 8:1-15               |

Phone 419-446-2545  
 Website [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)  
 Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM  
 Sunday School 9:15AM

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**LOGOS** Kim M. Walker  
[gkwalker@tceexpress.net](mailto:gkwalker@tceexpress.net)  
**Treasurer** Mary Zimmerman  
**Custodians** Dean Buckenmeyer  
 Richard Spiess  
**Security**

Holy Communion:  
 New Year (1/5), Ash Wednesday (2/26), Maundy Thursday (4/9),  
 Mid-Summer (07/19), World Wide Communion (10/4), First Sunday  
 of Advent (11/29)

**Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together**



**The Church on the Corner  
Whose Cornerstone is Christ**

**St John's Christian Church  
700 S. Deance Street  
Archbold, OH 43502**

Return Service Requested

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