

The Visitor

prayer concerns

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

April 8, 2020 Volume 66, Number 4

Please Pray For:

- Dan Light's mother, Artie Light, died on March 26th at the age of 98, services were held on April 4th.
- Beverly Beaverson is now a resident at Fulton Suites in Wauseon.
- Dale VonDeylen is undergoing treatment in Defiance for stage 3 clear cell renal carcinoma.
- Sandy Miller continues through chemo treatments, having completed 6 of 18.
- Please continue to remember all our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, praying for their safety.

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)

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)

Kollin Woolace (Marines) (Jacksonville, NC)
(Grandson of Larry & Melva)



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
Esther Rice, Room #137A
Josephine Short, Room #112
Jane Short, Room #176
Nancy Ries, Room #158 - (Memory Care Unit)

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, 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

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

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

pastor's letter

A Word of Encouragement

Over the years, one of the most difficult parts of writing for the Visitor or writing a sermon has always been where to begin! As I began to type these words, I texted my wife and asked, "Is there a song in the "Sound of Music" about starting at the very beginning?" And many of you know what her reply was, "Do, Re, Me." I thought that was the case, but a quick search didn't give me the opening lines that I later found: "Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start. To start when you read you begin with A, B, C, when you sing you begin with Do, Re, Me."

So, let's start at the very beginning...to start when you believe you begin with the Word:

- John 1:1-5 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.
- John 8:12 – "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- Hebrews 12:2-3 – Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
- John 16:29-33 – Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." 31 "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. 32 "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Faith in Jesus Christ is the essential thread that must be interwoven throughout our every thought and action. Jesus is the Light! Jesus lights our path. With our eyes, and hearts and minds, fixed on Jesus, we need not grow weary or lose heart. This is a crucial beginning as we navigate through these days. We must take heart, Jesus has overcome the world.

In Christ,

Alleluia
He is

Risen

ERICH

A Word of Reality

While I believe I have read and studied a great amount of information regarding the pandemic and stay at home orders so that I might be an informed pastor and citizen, I have stopped questioning the whys and what fors behind the enforced precautions. I have chosen to honor a teaching of Jesus in Matthew 22:21 – “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” (RSV) My heart, my faith, my trust is in the Lord God Almighty, Praise be to the Lord! I remain faithful and obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ. As I referenced in the March 18th letter to the congregation, Romans 13 calls Christians to submit to the governing authorities. I remain under the authority of the authorities. Christians are called to honor both God and our civil leaders.

This time will pass, and much will have been learned for dealing with future such situations. For now, we must continue to trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5) and persevere through. We have great avenues of technology to stay in touch and care for people. We have been given time to pray and read and reflect on God's Word.

In the near future (and time is relative – Psalm 90:4: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.) we'll be worshipping the Lord in the sanctuary as a congregation once again. Our group ministries will commence again. For now though, we worship and engage in ministry in our homes or places of essential work or in the outdoors. Take heart! Jesus has overcome the world!

Easter is here! Christ has arisen! Praise be to God! He is alive, and through Him, we are alive too!

Peace,

ERICH



For Your Information:

- The Consistory met on April 6th and they will meet again on April 20th and May 1st as they strive to lead the congregation through these times and continue to conduct the business of the church.
- All church activities at St. John's Christian Church remain suspended until further action by the Consistory; with the exception being staff functions and funerals.
- The east accessible entrance of the church building will be unlocked by 8am Monday through Friday, and will be open until Richard Spiess locks up at night. This allows access by staff and anyone who needs to drop something off in the office or for FISH food collections, etc.
- As of April 7th, the church office will be open from 8am until noon, Monday through Thursday until further action by the Consistory.
- Pastor Alex and Kelly Stahl are working from their homes through May 1st. Pastor Alex and Kelly will be in and out of the offices at church as needs arise.
- Pastor Erich will maintain morning office hours Monday through Thursday, and will be in the office many afternoons.
- Friday continues to be a day off for both pastors.
- Communicating with full-time staff:
 - o Calling the church office – 419-446-2545 – in the mornings, or calling and leaving a voice message for one of the three
 - o Pastor Erich – 419-551-0401, pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org
 - o Pastor Alex – 330-206-8762, pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org
 - o Kelly – office@stjohnsarchbold.org
- The Consistory has approved “to continue wages for those staff who wish to perform work for the church, through May 1, 2020, whether that work is performed at the church or remotely. The work may or may not follow their normal job duties. Should staff choose not to perform work for the church then, at their option they may request that their pay and job duties be suspended until a mutually acceptable date in the future.”

congregational news & thank you's

To All of Our Dear Friends at St. John's,

Please accept our thanks for the beautiful service for my husband, Paul. Thanks, also, for the beautiful cyclamen plant and for all of the hugs, prayers and love shown to our whole family. We are so thankful that Paul is with Jesus and that He took him to his eternal home, our hope as Christians. Thanks to all who came to the viewing and funeral service. We appreciate your loving kindness. Thank you, Pastor Alex and Pastor Erich, for your visits and beautiful words spoken at the service.

With Special Thanks and Love,
The Paul Sigg Family



Dear St. John's Christian Church,

Thank you to all who had a part in the life of Mike Henry. While he had endured a long time of illness, we miss his presence with us and appreciate the good deeds people did for him during that time. Also, the funeral meal that was served to all that day was a blessing. Thank you!

From the Family of Mike Henry,
Bernice Rice, nieces, nephews and grandchildren



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of the prayers during my recovery from my accident. The prayers, thoughts, calls, cards and meals were very much appreciated!

Thank you,
Sue Ruffer

mission corner

St. John's offers several experiences for people to deepen their Christian faith while sharing the love and light of Christ with others.

Upcoming mission experiences:

- June 10-18, 2020 – Hope for Kajiado, Kenya
- June 14-19, 2020 – Summer Mission Trip, LaPorte County, Indiana
- October 25-31, 2020 – Back Bay Mission Trip, Biloxi, Mississippi

The next dates for TGRM are:

May 17

Sep 13

Nov 17 – BASIC Sunday School Class

Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

- Samaritan's Purse, for our gift of \$80.
- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$415.
- YFC, for our gift of \$20.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$40.
- CWS, for our gift of \$660.
- Habitat for Humanity, for our gift of \$375.
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$160.



April Mission-A-Month **Growing Hope Globally**

Formerly known as the Foods Resource Bank, the ministry has changed its name to Growing Hope Globally (GHG). The mission remains the same – to be able to alleviate world hunger by globally connecting local communities through agriculture. Growing Hope Globally is based on the following ideals:

- o Most people who are food insecure are chronically so
- o People have the capability to be food secure if given modest assistance with resources, training and organizations
- o U.S. farmers and communities have the desire and the ability to support small holder farmers overseas

Once again this year, the North West Ohio project includes three partnering churches – First Lutheran, Stryker; United Brethren, Stryker; and St. John's Christian Church. The growing project is located at the corner of Rt. 34 and County Road 22.27, Stryker.

Donations given to Growing Hope Globally will provide for the on-going blessing of the local project. In 2018's Bean Project, SJCC's support of \$2,432.36 was added to all other inputs, and allowed the North West Ohio project to forward \$7,902.22 to FRB/GHG. Let us continue to engage in this world hunger ministry!

Missionary Contact/Prayer Request Information:



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

Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP

website - www.jamkhed.org

Kyle Chase, Reliant (Univ. of Michigan)

website - www.reliant.org
e-mail - kyle.chase@nlcweb.org

Matt Pardi, Reliant (Univ. of Toledo)

website - www.reliant.org
e-mail - matt.pardi@reliant.org

David Hench, Reliant (Univ. of Akron)

website - www.reliant.org
e-mail - david.hench@reliant.org

Tony & Leila Frank, Ivoti, Brazil

website - www.worldteam.org
e-mail - tony.frank@worldteam.org

Tom & Megan, The Islands, Africa

website - tmislands.blogspot.com
e-mail - tmislands@fastmail.net

Kajiado Children's Home

website - www.hope4kajiado.com
e-mail - kajiadochildrenshome@gmail.com

Jason & Becky Suon, Freedom International Ministries, Dominican Republic

website - www.itisforfreedom.com
e-mail - JasonSuon@itisforfreedom.com
e-mail - BeckySuon@itisforfreedom.com

Daniel & Bethany Schrock, Freedom International Ministries, Dominican Republic

website - www.itisforfreedom.com
e-mail - DanielSchrock@itisforfreedom.com
e-mail - BethanySchrock@itisforfreedom.com

Jon & Rachel Doriot, Pioneers Chicago, IL

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

ministry happenings

Christian Education

Mid-Week Youth Ministries:

LOGOS

As you already know, LOGOS, our Wednesday evening program for children, and Faith Village, our Sunday morning program for children, are currently suspended in response to the CoVid19 virus. While it is a disappointment to not see or interact with the kids of our church and community, it has given me time to reflect.

“Let it Rain” is a song by Crowder that has been going through my head the last couple of mornings as I was out (yes – out of the house!) running. The lyrics to the chorus go like this:

“So let it rain, let it pour. Lord, I need You more and more. Let it rain, rain down on me. Every day, whatever You want. Not my will but Yours, Lord. Let it rain, rain down on me.”

I have prayed this prayer many times, knowing that the hard times are the times when I grow closer to Jesus. But this week, I have come to realize that what I’ve really been asking for is a little shower to come into my life. I am willing to have a little discomfort, as long as it doesn’t hurt or inconvenience me too much. But am I ready for a severe thunderstorm or a monsoon? I know that God is sovereign and in complete control of everything that happens in this life. I also know that God will work all things out for good. So, I am trying to see the good in this current CoVid19 storm. And I’m trying to really mean it when I sing with Crowder, “Not my will but yours, Lord. Let it rain, rain down on me.”

So, stay at home, stay safe, and “Let it Rain”. - Kim Walker



Vacation Bible School

Kisha Genter and Bri Krukowski are teaming up once again to serve as co-directors of this year's VBS ... “To Mars and Beyond”.
Dates for this year's VBS experience are
June 7th-11th.

Stephen Ministry

Our communities are full of scared people. Depression, anxiety and suicide are all likely to spike in the next few weeks. COVID-19 comes paired with mental health concerns. Distancing oneself from the community, work, school, individuals and families add assault on all our minds. Chronic stress, a low intensity of fear, constant worry and daily insecurity can hurt one's physical and mental health over time. Stephen Ministry is one-to-one person care. During this time of social distancing, being physically present isn't possible. The Apostle Paul ministered to groups of Christians through his many letters. Although this isn't face-to-face, reaching out still has an impact during challenging times. Stephen Ministry can provide a refuge of mind and spirit to scared people. While personal visits aren't possible right now, Stephen Ministers can connect with others through phone calls, texts, facetime or other technologies we have today. Do you need someone to talk with? Someone to share your concerns? Someone to help relieve the stress of today? A Stephen Minister may be your answer. Call Pastor Alex and let him know your concerns. Remember, we are all feeling the pressure of the moment.

“There is no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength.
I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.” Isaiah 41:10

Messaging System and Software

One Call Now is the messaging system that we are now using for congregational communication. Whereas the former Phone Tree system was accessible only through Kelly's office computer, One Call Now can be accessed by Kelly, Alex and Erich, from their phones or computers.

We are striving to get everyone's accurate and preferred communication information in the system. This will be critical as we strive to be in communication with everyone. To that end, please be aware of the following:

- We would like to have the following information in the system for each household/person – for anyone who has an email and/or phone that wants to receive messages:
 - o First and Last Name
 - o Home Phone
 - o Mobile Phone
 - o Email
- We want to know your preferences on how you want to receive messages:
 - o Only by voice (phone call) – and which phone number you want used
 - o Only by text – and which phone number you want used
 - o Only by email – and which email you want used
 - o By voice and email
 - o By text and email
- Our staff will mark your preferences for voice and email – Each Person has to opt in for text message – Each Person must text the word "Alert" to 22300
- One of our staff may be calling you for the above information



We are about to subscribe to a new church management software system, called Breeze. Having up to date contact information for One Call Now will enable us to set up Breeze as accurately as possible. Breeze offers many great features for church management, including:

- Store, organize and search people's information
- Organize, manage and communicate with groups/ministries of the congregation
- Track giving, generate reports and provide online giving
- Check in children, take attendance and schedule events

That's right – Online Giving is about to be set-up for your use! We'll be getting the word out as quickly as we can.

worship

We will continue to offer worship services in the following ways until we are able to worship in the sanctuary once again:

- Posting a weekly bulletin on our church website – stjohnsarchbold.org – that can be used to follow along with our broadcast services or for people to use in their own worship at home.
- Pause for Praise – 8:30am Sunday mornings on WMTR 96.1 – these services are being recorded by Friday afternoon of each week, whereas Pause for Praise used to air the previous week's service. Music in these services will be from past services at SJCC or will be specially recorded each week.
- Facebook Live Streaming – being aired at 10:30am Sunday mornings. This may continue to be an actual live service being streamed or it may become a prerecorded service in which you can interact with Pastor Erich or Pastor Alex as the service airs. By prerecorded, it means that segments of the service will be recorded and then streamed together for the aired service.

stewardship

As always, God is good, all the time, and all the time, God is good. God's faithfulness is the foundation of our worship and devotion to Him. God calls us and teaches us to be faithful to Him. The past faithful stewardship of the congregation has put SJCC in a strong financial position to weather these days of pandemic and stay at home orders.

People have been dropping off their offering envelopes and checks, as well as people have been mailing them in. Our stewardship resources are healthy at the moment, Praise the Lord! And while offerings have been coming in, it is true that they are lower than normal. We want to continue to support the ministries of the church, which includes all of our mission partners and their ministries.

As each of us cope with possible changes in our household income, either changes that have occurred already or that may occur in the near future, let us trust that God will provide for us individually and as a congregation. May we each give to the work of the Lord as we are able.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3 Eric Buckenmeyer, Dencel Miller
6 Bryce Beltz
7 Norma Fish, Cameron Ruffer
8 Jude Rutledge
9 Will Baden
10 Tom & Peg Hines, Charlie Nofziger
11 Mike Overmier
13 James Grime
15 Keith Kern
16 Kreighton Sims
17 Dean Sauder

18 Ryan & Chelsi Smith, Dale VonDeylen
19 Marvin Fish, Dale Flint, Vern Nemire
21 Kendal Pursel, Kylie Lantz, Finn Yoder
22 Bill & Kathy Bostelman, Susanne Spiess, Hailey Wooley
23 Crystal Beck, Mark & Jodi Beltz, JD Holdgreve
24 Kenley Lantz, Jessica Lindsay, Karla Pursel
26 Renee Liechty
27 Matt & Kim Hines
28 Bill Metz, Dale Grime, Vond Hall
29 Kim Hines

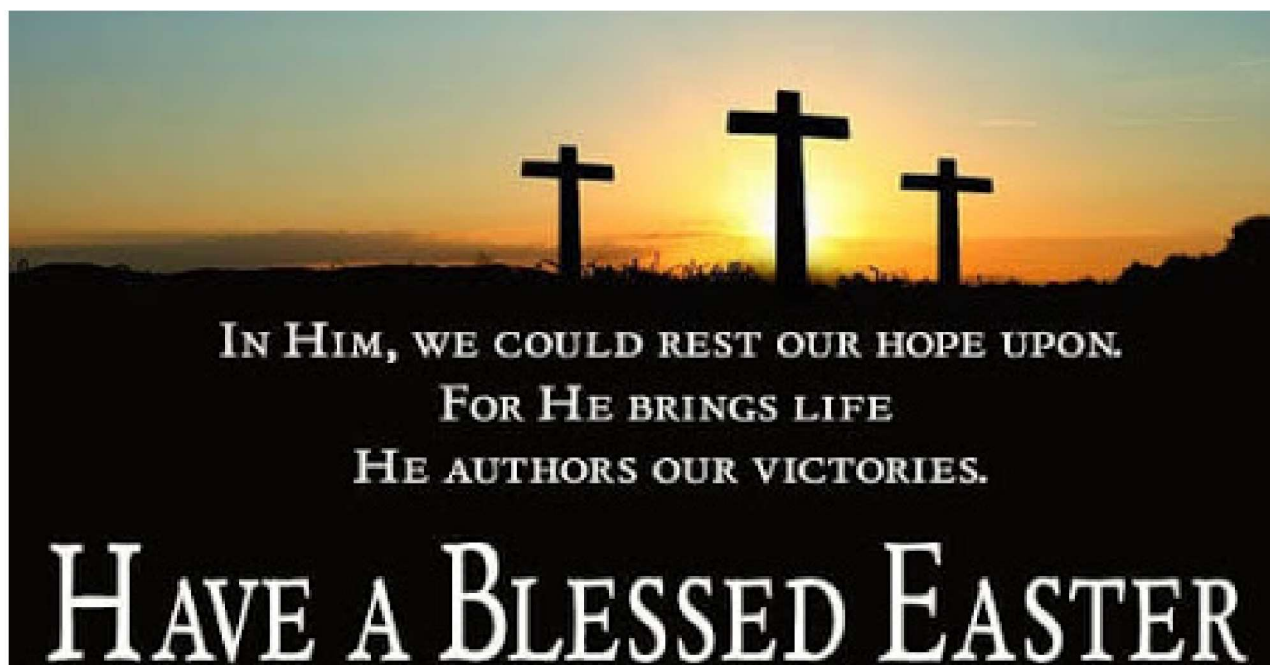
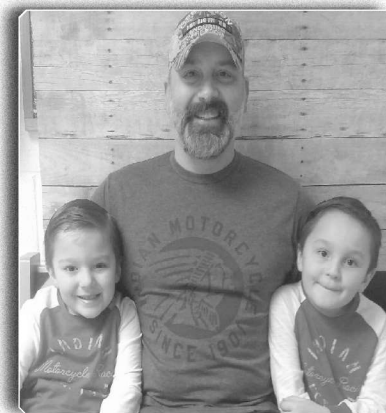
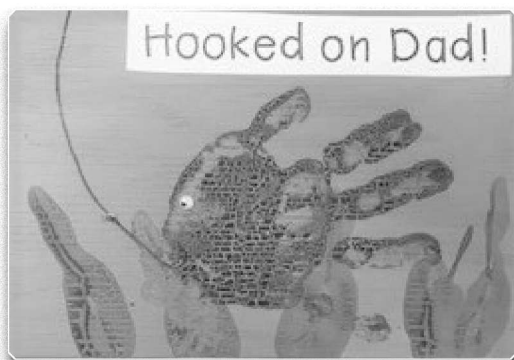
✿ Please let us know if we do not have your special day correct. Thank you.

preschool corner

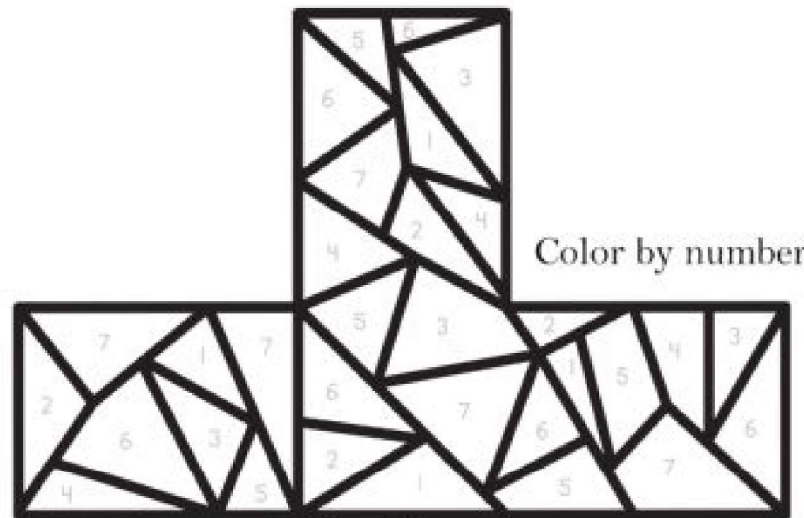
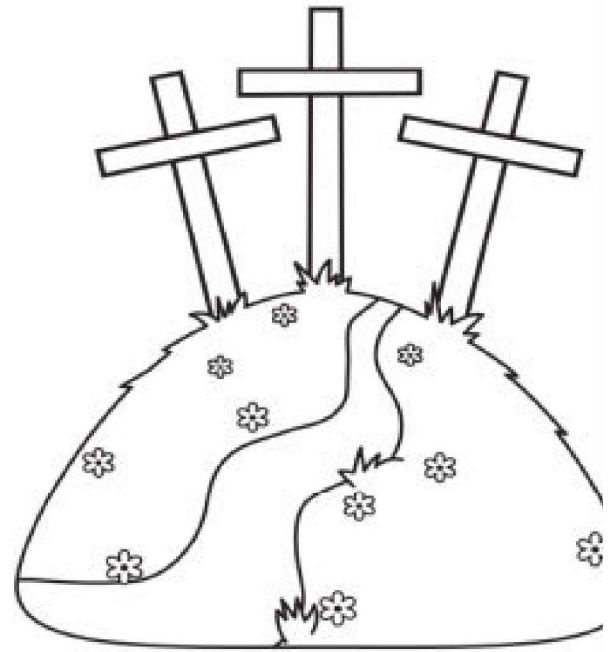
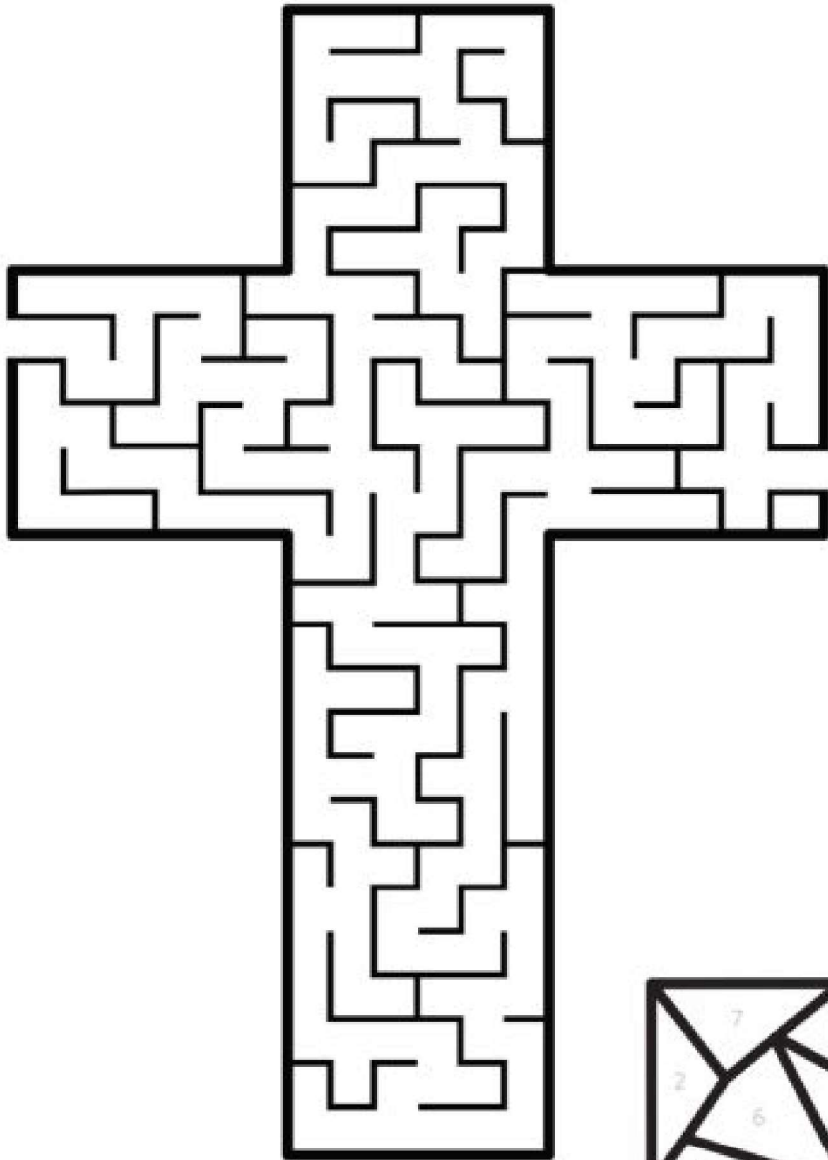


 **MARCH**

Having fun at
Dad's Night!



Easter Cross Maze

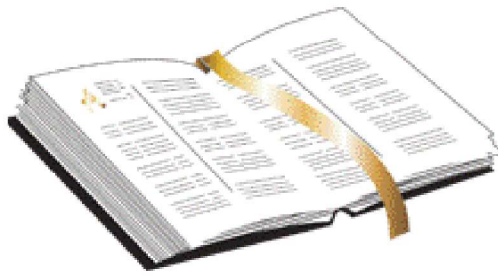


Color by number:

- 1 = red
- 2 = orange
- 3 = yellow
- 4 = green
- 5 = blue
- 6 = purple
- 7 = pink



Easter
cross



Easter Story

Word Search

S	C	B	M	N	E	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T
K	A	A	P	O	D	V	G	V	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E
J	R	V	M	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R	W	C	B	V	F	S
Y	N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	T	R	M	L	E
L	A	P	C	O	I	E	B	Q	O	X	B	B	N	O	O	L
I	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	R	E	S	T
T	R	E	P	P	U	S	T	S	A	L	Y	E	M	B	L	S
S	H	L	U	P	V	Y	T	K	V	F	D	M	T	E	K	O
O	C	A	R	N	E	P	A	X	R	E	S	I	H	M	R	P
C	R	M	E	P	E	N	L	D	M	A	N	A	O	I	E	A
E	U	B	I	K	G	A	A	P	I	J	R	R	R	R	V	V
T	H	X	C	H	Y	N	T	N	H	R	S	M	N	A	O	X
N	C	N	C	A	M	I	E	O	C	T	F	Y	S	C	S	J
E	K	E	R	K	O	S	E	W	N	E	I	D	A	L	S	U
P	U	T	O	N	I	R	N	W	R	P	Y	A	O	E	A	D
L	E	Z	W	R	W	M	D	R	Q	I	T	Y	F	O	P	A
B	S	M	N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	C	X	G	S

APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 CAVE
 CHURCH
 CROSS
 CROWN
 CRUCIFIXION
 DISCIPLES
 FAITH
 GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
 JUDAS
 LAMB
 LAST SUPPER
 LENT
 MARY
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PENANCE
 PENTECOST

PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 REJOICE
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 SAVIOR
 SON
 THORNS
 TOMB



April 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>.

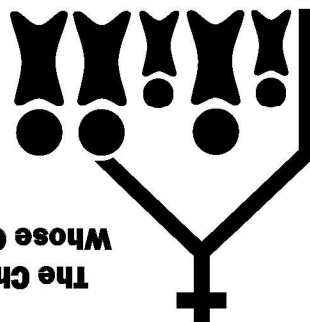
1 Watcher, Warn!-----Ezekiel 3:16-27	16 Rough Justice----- Acts 25:1-12
2 Serious About Sin and Saving----Ezekiel 4:1-8;5:1-13	17 Help! -----Acts 25:13-22
3 God Has Left the Building-----Ezekiel 10	18 Writer's Block -----Acts 25:23-26:1a
4 A New Heart -----Ezekiel 11:14-25	19 Why Bother?----- Psalm 49
5 God's City -----Psalm 48	20 All Over Again-----Acts 26:1b-18
6 A Holy Intolerance -----Ezekiel 22:23-31	21 Unpersuaded -----Acts 26:19-32
7 The Good Shepherd -----Ezekiel 34	22 Heading for Rome -----Acts 27:1-12
8 New Heart, New Spirit -----Ezekiel 36:16-38	23 Blown Away-----Acts 27:13-26
9 Reviving Bone-Dry Souls -----Ezekiel 37:1-14	24 Time to Speak-----Acts 27:27-44
10 Peace Rules!-----Ezekiel 37:15-28	25 Generous Hospitality----- Acts 28:1-16
11 Among Us Forever -----Ezekiel 43:1-12	26 What's Missing?----- Psalm 50
12 Big Bang!----- Luke 24:1-12	27 Back to Work-----Acts 28:17-31
13 Eden Restored-----Ezekiel 47:1-12	28 Stand Up! -----Daniel 1
14 Falsely Accused----- Acts 24:1-21	29 Don't Panic----- Daniel 2:1-23
15 Getting Personal -----Acts 24:22-27	30 Lifting the Veil ----- Daniel 2:24-49

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

Pastor Rev. Erich Christman
Cell Ph. 419-551-0401
pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org
Assoc Rev. Alex Young
pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org
Cell Ph. 330-206-8762
Pastor Kelly Stahl
office@stjohnsarchbold.org
Assistant Kim M. Walker
gkwalker@stjohnsarchbold.org
Director Mary Zimmerman
pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org
Treasurer Dean Buckenmeyer
Custodians Richard Spiess
Security

St John's Christian Church
700 S. Deance Street
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 (1/5), Ash Wednesday (2/26), Maundy Thursday (4/9),
Pentecost (5/31), Mid-Summer (7/12), World Wide Communion
(10/4), First Sunday of Advent (11/29)

Return Service Requested

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