

Website – www.stjohnsarchbold.org

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

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The Visitor ~ St. John's Christian Church

Archbold, Ohio; September 1st, 2020, Volume 66, Number 7

Please note that since we are in between administrative assistants, this issue of the Visitor not only has a different lay out, but some of the monthly information has not been included. We wanted to get pertinent information out for September in a timely manner, so look for a complete issue for the month of October.

Special Announcements for the Weeks of August 31st through September 12th

1. Pastor Erich – I will be on vacation Monday, August 31st through Friday, September 11th, as I will be in Bozeman, Montana, with my mother. Having been diagnosed with a benign brain tumor in June, my mother has experienced further health concerns, including heart failure. She is now in a care center for two weeks of respite therapy care, with most likely a move to either an assisted living unit or a full care unit to follow. One of my sister's will join him in Bozeman on the 7th as we address her current needs and work through moving her from her current home to a new unit. Your prayers for my mother, Barbara Christman, and my family, would be appreciated, praying for peace and trust in the Lord.
2. Pastor Alex – He has learned that a person he has been in close contact with has a few covid-19 symptoms, symptoms unique to the virus, and medical professionals have informed him he should quarantine for a 10 day to 14 day period. He will be working remotely from home during the time of his quarantine, so he will be available via email and phone (pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org – 330-206-8762).
3. Church Office – without an administrative assistant in place, the church office will be closed through September 11th. People needing assistance should contact Pastor Alex. Pastor Alex is coordinating daily activities through several leaders and volunteers of the congregation.
4. Administrative Assistant – The Consistory has approved the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, to hire Jocelyn Walker as our Administrative Assistant. Jocelyn will begin on September 14th. As a member of St. John's, she has a strong desire to serve the Lord by serving in the church. If you don't know Jocelyn, she is married to Corey Walker and they have a 19 month old daughter. She has been one of the two people instrumental in getting our live streaming of worship up and running. Jocelyn has a solid background in administrative skills, computer skills, and customer service.

Prayer Concerns

Prayers for recovery and health:

- Stan Ruffer, as Maybelle Knoop died suddenly on 8/24 at their home.
- Larry Woolace is in treatment due to the return of prostate cancer, which is now in the bone.
- Shirley Wyse, was hospitalized this past week and will rehab at a care center.
- Marilyn Buehrer, recently suffered a mini-stroke and will be in rehab at a care center for a few weeks.
- Larry and Carol Robinson, as their daughter, Kim, has been moved to a care center in Wauseon and she is out of the coma and making small steps of improvement each day.
- Sue MacDonald, recovering from knee surgery on 8/11.
- Chloe Merillat, recovering from surgery on 8/27 to remove a cancer-affected vertebrae.
- Karen Roth, dealing with an infection while in rehab at Montpelier Hospital.
- Sandy Miller, recovering from infection in leg and continues to grow stronger.

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

- PFC Brenden Bostelman, Fort Campbell, KY (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy).
- AB Kali Collins, Washington, DC (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill).
- PFC Kohl Collins, Ft. Myers, VA (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill).
- Kyle Ducey, Suffolk, Virginia (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy).
- Jared Kuntz, Washington D.C. (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli).
- Eric Magg, Ketchikan, Alaska (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short).
- Shayne & Taylor Pitts, Albuquerque, NM (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill).
- David Richardson, Okinawa, Japan (Marines) (Son of Shannon & Yesi).
- Joshua Richardson, Kaneohe, Hawaii (Marines) (Son of Shannon & Yesi).
- Steve Schink, Chesterfield, MI (Coast Guard) (Son-in-Law of Ed & Julie Ruffer).
- AJ Short, Japan (Marines) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short).

Thank Yous

Thank you for helping me go to Miracle Camp. It was a blast and I learned that “Jesus followers do different.”
Brie Grime

“Thank you” is such a small phrase to express my feelings. Your caring actions and prayers touched my heart. How wonderful it is to belong to a church family that is always ready to reach out to those in need no matter what the need is. I sing praises to our Father for all of you. Carol DeVries

“We would like to thank those who have been praying for us during the last few weeks since Ralph was diagnosed with his second kind of cancer. We very much appreciate the notes and cards, as well. What an encouragement they have been! God bless each one of you!” Ralph and Bonilynn Grieser

From Crossroad Child & Family Services – 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.

Kyle Zanker, Chief Development Officer; Liz Bergen, Development Director

"We couldn't do what we do without YOUR prayers and financial support. Everyone deserves HOPE and your support provides hope for a better future for our sheep. Thank you for all you do for Shepherd Circle!" Shepherd Circle, Nancy Rupp.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Mission Partners: | Altlink (Tom & Megan) – \$550 | Back Bay Mission – \$85 |
| | CRU – \$50 | Cherry Street Mission Ministries – \$1,168 |
| | World Team (Franks) – \$185 | |

Congregational News

We celebrate in Christian joy and love with Cahle Roth, Cameron Yoder and Ella Yoder, who were baptized on August 23rd by full immersion in the pond at Cameron and Ella’s home. Their baptisms were witnessed by their immediate family members, grandparents and Pastor Erich and Lynne.

St. John’s observed the Rite of Confirmation on August 30th, witnessing the confirmation of Blake Grime (son of Jed & Jen); Ian Grime (son of Josh & Kasey); Jack Hurst (son of Jeremy and Jen); Cahle Roth (son of Brian and Lynne); Gavin Walker (son of Kenny & Amanda); Tyler Wyse (son of Keith & Nici); and Cameron Yoder (son of Justin and Carrie).

Pastor's Letter

Recently, I've been reading *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller. He writes: "A praying spirit transforms how we look at people. As we walk through the mall, our hearts can tempt us to judge, despise, or lust" (p54). And we can probably think of a number of other situations where we are tempted to "judge and despise" other people, like when someone pulls out in front of us, or tailgates us, or is going too slow or too fast. Maybe we're tempted to judge the mom at the grocery store with the kid who is throwing a tantrum? Maybe we're tempted to judge a person based on how they're dressed? The author invites us to turn these temptations to "judge and despise" others into opportunities for prayer.

Instead of judging teenagers acting out to win popularity or get attention, pray they will increasingly find loving community in Christ and fully know the unconditional love of the Father. When we're tempted to look down on someone because of their low-paying job, pray God will provide for their needs, and continue to help this person grow and use all of their God-given abilities. Pray God will keep the disruptive driver safe as they travel, and that he will comfort them if they are dealing with something particularly challenging in that moment.

Passing judgment on others is rarely ever how we share God's love with them. In the Bible, Nathanael passed judgment on Jesus, his whole family, and his whole hometown. He said: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Ouch! What would Jesus say in response? Perhaps Jesus would say: "This is the rudest, most condescending and bigoted person I've ever met!" That's what Jesus would have said if he wanted to fight fire with fire (being judgmental of Nathanael in response to Nathanael's judgment of him). Instead, he says of Nathanael: "This man doesn't have an ounce of pretense, and is the most straight-shooting talker I've met!" (See John 1:43-51). Jesus is willing to do something different: to overlook offenses, to seek to connect with others, even those who are different than him, and to seek to bless them, even when they've only offered hurtful things to him. Martin Luther King Jr. described what Jesus is doing and what he is modeling for us like this: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Our country seems to be growing more and more divided in the past number of years, especially in terms of favorite political leaders and ideologies. If you find yourself tempted to look down on others who think and vote differently than you, something has gone wrong in your heart. These people you are belittling are your fellow human beings. They are people who bear the image of our God. James reminds us we are not acting with integrity if ever we disparage people while claiming to be Christians. "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be" (James 1:9-10). Instead of looking down on folks of different political persuasions, let's commit to praying for them. Let's pray also for our leaders, as Paul instructs in 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Let's pray also that our laws will be shaped by wisdom, compassion, justice, and truth, so that we can live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness (1 Timothy 2:2). The temptation is to fight fire with fire, hate with hate, darkness with darkness, division with division...but this will only multiply the darkness. Let us instead walk in the ways of our Lord Jesus, with grace and truth, love and kindness, and patience and hope. Let us seek to walk in the light, to pray for all those around us, and to be a blessing in Jesus' name.

Grace and Peace
Alex

Resumption of Ministry

The leadership of St. John's chose to honor the requests of the Governor of Ohio, the orders of the state health department and the requests of local health departments in order to do our part in "flattening the curve." A Resumption Task Force was formed and they provided excellent guidance in managing our way through the past several months of the pandemic. It is recognized that churches were in the exempt classification in regards to the orders, yet in the interest of public health, there were two months in which in-person ministries were canceled, and we continue to follow protocols for in-person worship.

It is recognized that the pandemic continues and federal, state and local statistics are updated daily. St. John's has exercised caution and followed published safety protocols since mid-March. In the five months since, there have been no known positive cases of Covid-19 within the congregation. The community spread of the disease has been limited in our surrounding area. The precautions have been effective in limiting the spread. To date we have honored the cautious knowledge and guidance from civil and medical authorities, and rightly so. We must consider the knowledge and desire of people who want to gather for worship and ministry, who accept the risks associated with gathering together. In acknowledging that some level of risk will always be present when people occupy our church facilities or are engaged in church ministries that meet elsewhere, let us recognize the freedom and choice of the individual, as well as individual responsibility and behavior.

We will continue to ask people to practice good hygiene (washing hands, covering coughs/sneezes). We will continue to ask people who are sick or not feeling well, or live with or care for someone who is sick or not feeling well, to refrain from attending in-person worship services or ministry gatherings.

Per the Governor's Order of July 23, and until that order is rescinded, face coverings will be required for all services, meetings and activities in the SJCC church buildings. Masks are to be worn outdoors on the SJCC church property when 6' social distancing is unable to be maintained. The state order includes exclusions for people in various situations and conditions. We will not "police" the wearing of masks, thus people entering the building without a mask will not be turned away or ostracized.

While the safety protocols we've been following primarily address the physical health of people, there is a great need to be holistic in the care of the congregation – physical, spiritual, mental and emotional. As time has gone by, there's been a growing awareness of how the distancing and isolation have negatively impacted many people in the realms of spiritual, mental and emotional health.

In caring holistically for people, the following guidelines are proposed as of Sunday, September 13th:

1. We will continue to promote the healthy hygiene practices listed above.
2. We will expect people to comply with the state wide mask order as they so choose.
3. Custodial staff will continue to sanitize the facility, and volunteers will assist on Sunday mornings.
4. We welcome people to worship as they choose – either in-person, by radio, by live stream or on-line.
5. The ropes will be removed from the pews and we will ask people to social distance on their own, respecting the people around them. Worship will begin with announcements that include social distancing parameters and pointing out that if you are sitting directly behind someone, you are closer than the recommended 6'. Based on recent attendance, there will be plenty of space available for people to spread out in the sanctuary.
6. Worship bulletins will be available for people to pick up as they enter worship, and the bulletins will include the text of scripture readings and the sheet music of all songs for the service.
7. Offering plates will remain at the sanctuary entrances, and communion will be served with the use of the individually prepared communion sets.
8. Adult ministries may meet as each group works out their own arrangements, in the spaces in which they typically meet (Chancel Choir, Sunday school classes, Bible studies, Small Groups) while wearing masks and distancing as they are able, or may make arrangements for an alternative meeting space.
9. Ministries for children and youth will meet as adults are available to lead (Sunday school, Nursery, Faith Village, Logos, JYF, SYF, LP, Jr Church) and we will follow the guidelines local schools have put in place
10. Staff is working to provide on-line resources for Bible and faith study for our congregation.

Church staff is touching base with volunteer leaders for children and youth ministries, seeking to determine if we will have enough leadership in place for Sunday school, Faith Village, Logos, JYF, SYF and Life Planning.

Mission-A-Month

September's Mission of the Month is the Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission. TGRM men's shelter and Rebekah's Haven women's shelter provide for the spiritual, physical and material needs for homeless persons in the Toledo area. We have supported them for the last several years prayerfully, financially and with material donations as well as by preparing and sharing meals and chapel services with their guests.

Below is a list of the many items TGRM you can purchase and drop off at the church – place them under the coat racks across from the chapel:

Men's Shelter:

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Masks/face coverings | Multi-purpose cleaner | Disinfecting wipes | Bleach |
| Dish soap | Toilet bowl cleaner | Toilet paper | Paper towels |
| Napkins | Paper plates | Paper & Styrofoam cups | Plastic ware |
| Serving gloves | Ketchup | Mustard | Miracle Whip |
| Salad dressings | Industrial-sized Aluminum Foil & Plastic Wrap | | Aluminum pans – Lg/Sm |

For Grab & Go Meals:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Plastic baggies | Lunch bags | Pre-wrapped plastic ware | Bottled water |
| Individual bags of chips | Individually Wrapped Snacks & Treats | | Individual condiments |

Rebekah's Haven:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Toilet Paper | Toilet Bowl Cleaner | All Purpose Cleaner | Disinfectant Wipes |
| Paper Towel | Dish Liquid | Sponges | S.O.S Pads |
| Laundry Detergent | Bleach | Pine Sol | Broom |
| Dust Pan | Swifter Mop | Diapers Sizes 3, 4 & 5 | Wipes |
| Vaseline | Foil | Zip Lock Bags | Body Lotion |
| Shampoo | Conditioner | Baby wash | Hand Sanitizer |

Mission Mall: GARAGE SALE LEFTOVERS!

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Bleach | Cleansers | Hand sanitizer | Towels | Sheets |
| Men's underwear | Summer clothing | Tennis shoes | Steel toe shoes/boots | |

Back Bay Mission Trip – October 24th thru 31st

The pandemic closed down the mission's home rehab program since March and while they are reopening the program as of September 1st, many churches have canceled their trips for the fall. Back Bay Mission is limiting the size of volunteer groups in following safety guidelines, so our annual group of about 12 will be just fine.

So, a group of up to twelve or so people will spend the 24th and 25th traveling to Biloxi, arriving on Sunday in plenty of time to enjoy the gulf coast area and get ready for the week. Monday through Friday will be spent working in some phase of home construction or home rehab. The group will leave Biloxi early afternoon on Friday in order to be back in Archbold late afternoon on Saturday.

This might be the last trip to Biloxi for the near future, so if you've ever considered going, this might be the best time to go! Cost of the experience, to cover a share of the transportation, lodging, meals and materials will be \$150 per person, with confidential assistance always available. Talk to past trip participants about the value of the experiences and to ask any questions you might have – recent trip participants include: Tom Johnson, James Grime, Jim Grieser, Betsy Ducey, Kim M. Walker, Gloria Lauber, Lynne Christman, Warren Sauder, Ryan Christman, Mike Meyer and Nancy Storrer.

Stephen Ministry

I love the idea of "community." The early church, described in Acts 2, is a great example of this as well. Whatever the believers did, they did it together and built community in the process. From the big things in life to the small things, they did them together and learned about who they were and who God is at the same time. Being part of a

church, a community, is important. It gives us the opportunity to be honest and vulnerable. To build others up as we are being built up. To discover our gifts and talents as we help others do the same. To learn from others as they learn from us. And to see a larger picture of who God is in the world around us and in ourselves. A Stephen Minister can help us on our journey of learning who we are as part of St. John's, as well as the community surrounding us. "All the believers were together and had everything in common" (Acts 2:44). Discover yourself through a Stephen Minister.

Worship

Altar Flowers

The Spiritual Council moved to change the look of the flower arrangements that set at each side of the altar during our services of worship. Artificial arrangements will adorn the altar, with arrangements being changed monthly, quarterly or seasonally.

People wanting to sponsor flowers on a particular Sunday may still do so by contacting the church office.

Worship

Worship on the 6th and 13th – Pastor Alex will be coordinating our worship of God, utilizing lay leaders and volunteers of the congregation as he won't be able to be physically present on the 6th. He may be offering the sermon via video – something we probably couldn't have done before covid-19, but we've figured out a few things in these months. Both pastors will be present for the 13th.

Worship Schedule

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 6 | Scriptures – Deuteronomy 32:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Sermon – "Being Faithful" – Pastor Alex |
| September 13 | Scriptures and sermon are being determined, as the present circumstances of our two pastors has changed the worship schedule. |
| September 20 | Scriptures – Psalm 32:8-11, James 3:13-18 Sermon – "Wisdom of the World" 10:30 Service – We will welcome the praise group "10 Talents" for a time of praise and worship, and they will share about the "Stand Firm" high school ministry they offer. |
| September 27 | Scriptures – Exodus 34:6, Ephesians 2:1-10 Sermon – "God's Grace" Special Music – Joshua Reeb 10:30 Service – We will welcome the Malone Chancel Players from Malone University, who performed several dramas in our worship a year ago. |

Chancel Choir – "Come let us Sing for Joy to the Lord.....and Extol Him with Music and Song" Psalm 95:1-2

If you enjoy singing, having a good time with friends and lifting your heart and voice in praise to worship God, we invite you to come and be a part of the chancel choir.

On Wednesday September 23rd at 7:30 pm the Chancel Choir is planning to begin rehearsals. We will also plan for a rehearsal on Wednesday September 30th with the hope of singing during the October 4 Sunday morning 10:30 worship service. There is normally rehearsal on the 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month with the possibility of a 5th Wednesday rehearsal depending on the way things line up in the schedule.

At this point, we're not sure what kind of protocols we will try to follow. We will see what the next week's bring and go from there. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please contact Lynne Christman or Andrew Rohrs.

September Birthday and Anniversaries

- 1 Karlie Gruenhagen
- 2 Krayton Kern
- 3 Brent & Elaine Winzeler
- 5 Karsen Pursel, Kelsey Wyse
- 6 Bob DeVries
- 7 Scott Short, Kylie Swietzer, Liam Yoder
- 8 Gloria Lauber, Darlene Sauder, Toby Walker
- 9 Judy Barnhart, Barb Stover
- 10 Avery Roth, Evynn Roth
- 11 Wayne & Susanne Spiess
- 12 Bill Barnhart, Bernice Rice, Jay & Karla Pursel
- 13 Gretchen Heer, Audrey Smith
- 14 Bill Bostelman, Josie Grieser, Maddux Gruenhagen, Linda Hayes, Roger Miller
- 15 Kevin Neuenschwander, Alice Tedrow, Eric & Sarah Nafziger, Ed & Dianne Wyrick
- 16 Willie Buehrer, Angie Neuenschwander
- 17 David Lightner
- 18 Kade Kern, Sue Ruffer, Larry & Kathy Bechsteing
- 20 Kelly Ducey, Rayne Kinsman, Ethan Warncke, Dencel & Phyllis Miller
- 21 Kim Kern, Joshua Reeb, Melva Woolace
- 22 Kathy Bostelman
- 24 Jacob Layton
- 25 Kennedy Hurst, Kelli Kuntz, Tara Meyer, Keith Wyse
- 26 Roger Merillat, Esther Rupp
- 27 Jordyn Pursel, Brad & Aimee Roth, Steve & Ashley Schink
- 30 Becca Smith, Rod & Joyce Kinsman, Curt & Kay Stamm, Roger & Mary Zimmerman

Committees

Evangelism Committee

The drive-thru Book Bag Bash went very well this year. The weather was wonderful, with a nice breeze to counteract the mid-afternoon sun, and the three pop-up canopies really helped! Approximately 100 bags were handed out, filled with spiral notebooks, a composition notebook, folders, Kleenex, pencils, colored pencils, eraser, highlighters, dry-erase marker, glue stick, 3x5 cards, hand sanitizer, pencil box and wood cross. We thank everyone who helped support this annual event of blessing and support.

Facility Committee

The committee is working with Rick Graber, architect, to finalize preliminary plans for the three phases of the proposed project – accessibility, restrooms and sanctuary renovation. On August 16th the committee reviewed the initial draft of plans Rick provided and now the committee awaits revised plans based on their latest suggestions.

Farm Operations Committee

The committee approved renting the farm to R & S Operations, LLC, for the next 5 year contract period. The rent was raised \$15 to \$150 per acre. With 164 tillable acres, the annual income of cash rent comes to \$24,600. Income from the farm is used to 1) cover the cost of annual insurance and real estate taxes, 2) ten percent, \$2,460, goes to the mission fund as a tithe of the income, 3) \$13,000 of the annual income is now being used to support the Christian Education ministries of the church, and 4) the remaining funds are deposited into the Eugene Buehrer Estate Legacy Fund.

Fellowship Committee

On behalf of the fellowship committee, we regret to announce the annual chicken barbeque has been canceled, as well as the other fellowship events until we are able to gather in groups again.

To borrow a slogan from a phone company years ago, "Reach out and touch someone." The fellowship committee encourages you to use your new pictorial directory to call 2 people each week. Call one person you know and one you don't or would like to know better. You could start your conversation by saying, "This is (your name). Let's fellowship. Is this a good time for a friendly chat?" Enjoy your conversations.

Thank you.

St. John's Christian Preschool

It has been a blessing of ministry to operate and support the preschool ministry since its inception in the early 1990's. In the past three years, due to lower enrollment numbers, the preschool budget has not been able to keep pace with expenses. Over the course of the past two years the Consistory approved \$7,500 of additional support of the preschool, over and above the annual \$3,000 included in the mission budget, while designated donations from the congregation were also received towards the budget. It appears that the lower enrollment numbers can be mostly attributed to the increase of public school preschool opportunities.

Facing a larger budget deficit this year, with the inability to increase salaries, which have been frozen the past two years, and no rise in enrollment, the Preschool Board recommended to the Consistory that this be the last year of operation for the Christian Preschool, which the Consistory approved. It was a difficult decision since the Preschool has existed for so many years and been a blessing to so many children and families.

Property Committee – Digital Sign

The Archbold Zoning Board of Appeals approved a permit for the new sign, so the order has been placed with RiSun. The LED portion of the sign should be finished in mid-September. In the meantime, work to remove the stone from the existing lighted sign and the sign foundation west of the parlor will begin, with the stone being saved to construct the base for the new sign.

As part of the digital sign project, the existing lighted sign, the sign west of the chapel, and the sign south of the parking lot along South Defiance Street will be removed. In addition, if you're driving by while that work goes on, you might see some excavation happening along the west side of the church building, as some drain repair work will be done at the same time.

Church Leader Nomination Process

The "Ways" of Human Thought and Slogans:

- Philip Sidney once said, "Either I will find a way, or I will make one."
- The idiom – "My way or the highway."
- Starting a personal business allows you to work "your way."
- Burger King used to sell a lot of hamburgers with the slogan, "Have it your way!"
- Frank Sinatra is well known for singing "I did it my way."

Three times in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed the same words: "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." (Matthew 26:42)

Jesus did not rely on his own way, he relied on God's way, and he bore the cross for us. Godly church leaders cannot just lead according to their own way, their own preferences. Church leaders must seek direction and wisdom from the Lord, as Jesus so prayed in the garden.

With this in mind, SJCC is looking for church leaders:

- People who have a strong and committed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- People who live by the Bible's morality and ethics, and exude integrity
- People who sense a responsibility to serve in the church
- People with wisdom, leadership experience and who are effective communicators

Christian Education

We are working to get everything in place to resume our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening ministries. We continue to be understanding of people's cautious plans during the pandemic and want to hear from everyone as much as possible. We heard back from about 50% of last year's Christian Education volunteers, and of those who have replied so far, we have about half of them who are willing to resume ministry on 9/13.

As we are touching base with leaders, we also need to hear from our parents of our children and youth – will you be bring your children and youth to Sunday school, Confirmation, Faith Village, Logos, JYF, SYF and Life Planning? Let us know, please – email or call/text Pastor Erich, Pastor Alex or Kim M. Walker.

pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org – 419-551-0401

pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org – 330-206-8762

gkwalker@rteceexpress.net – 567-239-2021

Consistory

POSTPONED - - Special Congregational Meeting Scheduled for September 20th - - POSTPONED

With a desire and need to have the congregation present on the 20th for discussion on three very important topics, realizing that the pandemic continues to affect in-person attendance, the Consistory moved to postpone the scheduled meeting until a future date.

Stewardship

Financial Report – Through August 26, 2020

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2020 Year to Date Operating Revenue | \$224,927.25 |
| 2020 Year to Date Operating Expenses | \$240,684.38 |
| 2020 Year to Date Deficit..... | -\$15,757.13 |
| | |
| 2019 Year to Date Operating Revenue | \$205,821.45 |
| 2019 Year to Date Operating Expenses | \$231,143.03 |
| 2019 Year to Date Deficit..... | -\$25,321.58 |
| | |
| Year to Date Mission Revenue | \$75,088.24 |
| Year to Date Building Fund Revenue..... | \$32,476.65 |

September's Discovery Devotional

A daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. Access this online <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading/Discovery>.

Copies of this quarterly devotional are available at the church in the hallway literature rack. Suggested donation to cover the cost of the devotionals is \$6.