

# The Visitor

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

December 1, 2020 Volume 66, Number 12

## Prayer Corner

Please pray for...

- ◆ Members of our congregation who tested positive for Covid-19 within the past several weeks, including Bill Barnhart, Kisha Genter, Dave Walker, and Bob & Barbara Vos.
- ◆ Margaret Beck, a member of the Tuesday morning bible study class, who underwent surgery for colon cancer and is now recovering at Fairlawn's rehab unit.
- ◆ Larry Woolace, who continues treatment for prostate cancer.
- ◆ Chloe Merillat, who is beginning to take a strong chemo-like medication as a preventative measure against future cancer.

Praises for answered prayers and joys for...

- ◆ Pastor Erich and Lynne Christman, who remained symptom-free during their 2+ week quarantine.
- ◆ Members of our congregation who have recovered from Covid-19 and completed their respective quarantines, including Ryan Christman and Brayden Hall.
- ◆ Mert Kinsman, who completed radiation and awaits results on the success of his treatment.
- ◆ Sue Kinsman, who is recovering well after a procedure to replace her defibrillator.

Prayers for protection and for the increase of peace worldwide:

- ◆ PFC Brenden Bostelman, Fort Campbell, KY (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy)
- ◆ Kali Collins, Washington, DC (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Kohl Collins, Ft. Myers, VA (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Kyle Ducey, Suffolk, VA (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)
- ◆ Brayden Hall, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO (Ohio Army National Guard) (Son of Vond & Mary).
- ◆ Cpt. Jared Kuntz, Washington, DC (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ◆ Eric Maag, Port Clinton, OH (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)
- ◆ AB Shayne & Taylor Pitts, Albuquerque, NM (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)

- ◆ David Richardson, Okinawa, Japan (Marines) (Son of Shannon and Yesi)
- ◆ Joshua Richardson, Kaneohe, HI (Marines) (Son of Shannon and Yesi)
- ◆ Steve Schink, Chesterfield, MI (Coast Guard) (Son-in-law of Ed and Julie Ruffer)

Please consider sending cards to these individuals letting them know that we continue to lift them up to God in prayer; and that He will guide, comfort, and sustain them through these times:

Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold, 43502  
David Lightner, Room #138  
Josephine Short, Room #405  
Jane Short, Room #176  
\*Wayne & Susie Spiess, Room 133

Fairlawn Assist. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502  
Donna Buehrer, Room #230

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  
Joanne Spotts, Room #113  
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

*\*Please Note: Wayne & Susie have moved from Assist. Living to Fairlawn Haven. Please pray for a safe and peaceful transition to their new space.*



## Pastoral Letter

November 23, 2020

St. John's Christian Church,

It is on my final day of quarantine that I write this letter to the congregation of St. John's Christian Church. Being in isolation and quarantine for 19 days has been quite the experience. How grateful I am that Lynne and I exhibited no symptoms of the virus. How grateful I am for the ability to connect remotely to the office computer network so I could continue to work from home. How grateful I am for the continued improvement of technology and volunteer techs who enabled me to plan worship and preach from home.

I find it appropriate that the Discovery Guide devotional of today covered Luke 20:20-26 in which Jesus responded to the question of the spies, sent by the teachers of the law and the chief priests by saying, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Appropriate from my perspective because I've relied upon this verse for direction throughout this pandemic.

I have prayerfully sought wisdom from the Lord as I have personally and corporately journeyed through these last three weeks and the long months of the pandemic. I have worked to assimilate information from many different sources in regards to appropriate leadership and direction. I have diligently striven to honor God as one of his disciples while also honoring the officials of the United States of America as a citizen of the country, including local elected officials and staff.

Through these months, as a Christian, as I live out my calling as a minister of the Gospel, I recognize that I have sacrificed by my own personal preferences and desires. I believe I have been called to abandon what I myself would do or how I myself would respond. I have not abandoned my faith or my allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord. What I have abandoned is my right to do as I please, for I am called to live as God calls me to live.

I live in faith, without fear. I have no fear of illness and no fear of death. I willingly give myself into the full service of the Lord, with all the blessings and trials such service entails. The Apostle Paul endured such blessing and trials, enjoying fellowship with God and fellowship with his co-laborers in Christ as he endured the physical ordeals of travel in his day, endured jeers and hatred, imprisonment and persecution. What Paul endured was so much greater than anything that's come my way, and his perseverance spurs me on in such times as we are currently enduring.

I do not view the pandemic and the health guidelines put in place to deal with the pandemic as ways to attack our personal freedoms as Americans or the work of Satan to tear apart the church. Instead, I view it all as an opportunity to be tested by God. As I write those words, I'm mindful of chapters one and two in the Book of Job, and I encourage you to read those chapters now. God permitted the testing of Job's faith. I continue to wonder what God is teaching me, teaching each of us, in this time.

I know the church will survive these times, both the church universal and St. John's Christian Church. I believe in the authority of the words of Jesus, and I rely upon his lessons in all aspects of being the church. As Peter proclaimed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God;" in Matthew 16:16, Jesus responded to him by saying, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Established on the solid foundation of the Bible, of God's holy Word, the church will endure.

I know that I and the lay leaders of the church have been both supported and criticized over our response, or perceived lack of response, to the pandemic. Legally, we did not need to suspend our ministries, as the state has exempted religious organizations from certain aspects of the guidelines. Yet, when the governor of the state asks for your assistance and cooperation, which is supported by local entities and shared guidance, it wasn't a matter of legality, but a matter of health and compassion.

## Pastoral Letter (Cont.)

I offer insight from my perspective, a perspective that has been informed and shaped in several ways:

1. I've been in regular contact with three different groups of pastors throughout the pandemic. I've sought knowledge, discernment and guidance from these brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. I've studied Scripture, with a focus on listening for God's voice and direction.
3. I've been blessed to have conversations, Zoom calls and printed information from county health departments, county health department staff I personally know, medical professionals involved in hospital and medical work, and I've participated in virtual meetings with state government officials.
4. I've tried to keep up on information on how churches and pastors throughout the nation have responded. I've received forwarded information from several members of St. John's.
5. The monthly discussions with the members of Consistory have been informative as I've heard views of people involved in medical, business, educational and community areas of work.

From my sense of Christian pastoral leadership, here is what I have to offer you in this letter:

1. Trust in the Lord, for he is faithful and just. Read and meditate upon Scripture, and you'll be comforted and guided. God has used this time in my life and in the ministry I lead to emphasize further Biblical study and discernment. I know the church would be tremendously blessed if each one of us deepened our trust in God and engaged in greater devotion to the Word.
2. Pray to the Lord, as Jesus prayed in the garden on the night of his arrest. While his disciples were tired and sleepy, Jesus prayed, repeatedly. Pray for God's will to be done.
3. Believe in and live out the greatest commandment – "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). Take this time to invigorate your faith relationship with the Lord your God.
4. Believe in and live out the second greatest commandment – "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). Acts of kindness, love and compassion increased in response to the pandemic, as neighbors cared for neighbors. Such acts need to continue. I ask you to make greater efforts to think about, care for, and understand others. Many have equated caution with fear. Many have equated difference of thought with "I'm right, you're wrong." Many have placed their own response as all that needs to matter. Those are not ways of the Gospel.
5. Respect one another. I don't fully know how to describe how grieved I am by the hatred, the judgmental nature and how divisive our society and we can be. I think of how a child can throw a tantrum when he or she doesn't get their way. Grumbling and complaining doesn't move us forward. In your love of God, let His Spirit guide you in the ways of respect and unity.
6. Persevere – look up that word in Scripture as there are so many references to consider. Noah spent 370 days on board the ark. The Israelites endured through 400 years of slavery, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, and they waited 700 years from Micah's prophecy to the birth of the Messiah. These months of 2020 have been long and tiring, and life has been disrupted and changed, yet we must persevere in faith and obedience to God. In time, I believe a great sense of normality will be restored to life, though not everything will return to normal. I wait expectantly for normality, knowing that life is constantly changing.
7. As we enter into the Advent season, celebrating the birth of Jesus and awaiting with expectation our Lord's return, I pray that the hope, peace, joy and love of Advent will be etched upon our hearts in new ways this year. As we look forward to when the pandemic is no longer, let us look forward to the time of Christ's return, focusing our devotion and energy upon our Lord and Savior.

In Christ's love,

*ERICH*

## The Christmas Star

Do you remember the story of the Christmas Star? It's a story of an amazing star, amazing men, and an amazing God. First, an amazing star. The story is found in Matthew 2. This amazing star is described as "appearing" (v.7), as if it previously had not existed; catching the Magi's attention by "rising" in the sky (v.2); leading the Magi by "going ahead of them" (v.9) and by "stopping over the place where the child was" (v.10). Apparently, the star somehow indicated one house in particular, because the Magi are not only guided to Bethlehem, but are guided to the house of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus (v.11). That's an amazing star!

Now, let's consider the amazing men. The Magi of Matthew 2 notice this star appear and rise, and somehow they realize this means that a boy has been born who will become King of the Jews (v.2). Some have suggested the Eastern homeland (v.1) of these Magi is Babylon, where the Jews had once been exiled, and which still had a large Jewish population at the time of Jesus' birth. They suggest that these Magi probably had some familiarity with Jewish history and prophecy, as they suppose the star means a Jewish King has been born. Perhaps through the Jews of Babylon, they became familiar with Numbers 24:17, a prophecy about a future king and a star?

Anyway, these men are amazing because somehow they correctly discern the meaning of this new star. And then they decide to follow the star to the home of the newborn king. If Babylon was truly their homeland, their journey would have been over 1,500 miles...in the days before engines were invented! In addition to the sacrifice of making a journey of hundreds of miles and many days, they decide to lavish the newborn king with costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (v.11). But even more than this, somehow they correctly discern that this newborn king is worthy of their worship, and when they meet baby Jesus, they bow down and worship him (v.11).

We might be a bit baffled by the Magi. How did they recognize the star and know what it meant? Truly, they were "wise men," in that they were well studied. But when we realize what they studied we likely will be only further baffled. The Magi were pagan astrologers. They studied and sought guidance from star charts and from the occult, not from God's Word. They followed stars, not the One who made the stars.

This leads us to the most amazing part of the story: our amazing God. God is the one who made all the universe and who governs how the universe works. And so, he has forbidden his people from divination, and instructed his people to seek truth in him, not in the occult. Today, studying star charts will not lead us to God or to godliness. But for some reason, at this remarkable time in history, God condescended to speak the truth of who he is and what he was doing even through astrology. He used a star to speak to the Magi, these pagan astrologers, and they listened, and they followed the star, and it led them to him. It was enough that God spoke through the Bible, and through His Son, but in his great grace, he also spoke through the Christmas Star, that he might not only draw the Jews to himself, but even those who were far off, those of different nationalities and religions. And in his great grace, our amazing God is still drawing to himself the least likely to find him, and those who are furthest from him.

Merry Christmas,



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

Website: [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)  
Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM

## Announcements



Aaron and Jordyn King  
(daughter and son-in-law  
of Jay and Karla Pursel)  
were married in the  
sanctuary on 10/24.

Kyle and Morgan  
Culbertson (daughter  
and son-in-law of Kelly  
and Betsy Ducey)  
welcomed daughter,  
Elizabeth Lajoie on  
11/5, weighing 6lbs, 4oz.



Norm Fether celebrated  
his 60th birthday on  
11/11.



We received word from David McDonel, former long-time Chancel Choir Director and member of St. John's, that his son Michael and his wife, Ann, gave birth on 11/11 to Charles (Charlie) Lewis McDonel in Raleigh, NC. All are doing well!

## Thank You's & Messages

St. John's,

Thank you for all of the thoughtful cards, texts, phone calls, and prayers after my knee replacement surgery and during my recovery. They were greatly appreciated!

Sue MacDonald

St. John's:

Thank you so much for the use of your church for our music festival [on 11/21]. It is such a great facility for our annual event.

NW Ohio Music Teachers Association

St. John's Christian Church,

We are getting ready for the Holiday Season as it's slowly approaching. Yes, the air feels cold. The harvests are removed and have left. Now the fields are open before us. We had enjoyed such wonderful summer days. There were no worries and it was great to see people.

I received my mail [from the church] and thank you for that. I miss some friends that I had, as four people passed here at Fulton Manor and also friends from church. I was isolated for two weeks too, but not bad most of the time. We are served in our rooms as of late and the nurse aides are always busy.

Thanks to the ones who sing hymns at church. We have a few new residents and they like it so far. We appreciate that this place is big.

Well, Christmas Season will be before us soon. Thanks for being my friends.

In Closing,  
Bernice Rice

Thank you to those who helped with Advent and Christmas decorating on 11/22, including Weeping Willow Florist, who decorated the sanctuary Christmas tree!



## Congregational News & Updates

### Ministries

As of November 19th, 2020, all SJCC Wednesday evening youth ministries, including Logos, JYF, SYF, and Life Planning; and Sunday morning Christian education youth classes, including Faith Village, Confirmation, and Senior High Sunday School, will be suspended until January 1, 2021, at which time SJCC Leadership will reassess the situation. Please see page 7 for additional information.

Worship and Educational Resources – Pastor Erich is working with some volunteers to offer resources for people to use in their homes in December. As the resources arrive, we'll get the word out regarding pick up or delivery. There will also be web links for video and lesson resources.

### JYF Poinsettia Sale

Thank you to all who ordered poinsettias from JYF last month! Flower pick-up will take place on Tuesday, December 8th in the Chapel. If you have not yet submitted your payment, please have cash or check ready, payable to St. John's JYF.

### Man Camp

In November, Scott Reeb and I spent the weekend at Miracle Camp for Man Camp. It was a wonderful weekend with many activities of which we did almost none. What we did do was have an excellent weekend of fellowship with other men, great food and challenging lessons. Our speaker was Nate Hamblin and the band was from Crossroads church in Wauseon.

The question posed for our sessions was "What kind of man are you?" And "what kind of man do others see you as?" Using John the Baptist as an example, we were learning to be Gospel Men.

Gospel men:

- are men of repentance.
- are continually pointing past themselves to Jesus.
- are men of decrease.
- deal with doubt.

If anyone would like to hear or know more about Man Camp, just speak with myself or Scott and we will be glad to tell you more anytime.

- Bruce Wooley

### Breeze

Our contract with Instant Church Directory is set to expire in mid-2021. With that in mind, the church office would like to get everyone acclimated to the new online directory, Breeze. Breeze goes beyond the basics of Instant Church Directory with online giving and event registration (*coming soon!*). Users can also download the mobile app for IOS or Android by searching "Breeze ChMS."

If you did not receive an invitation to create your Breeze account in November, please contact Jocelyn in the church office at 419-446-2545. Additional resources and how-to videos can be found on our church website by going to [www.stjohnsarchbold.org/breeze](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org/breeze).

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

Website: [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)  
Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM

## Consistory

Once again the Consistory discussed current pandemic information and its potential effects upon our ministries. A risk chart from the CDC and an area health system listed in-person worship at a church as one of the highest of highest risks in this time.

It was shared that attendance in Faith Village has ranged from two to five children for most Sundays since classes were resumed. The last night of Logos and JYF for the fall semester was November 18th, 2020. Quarantine situations were rising in number as the virus spread, affecting attendance at school, work and church. As a result of the discussion, the Consistory approved a motion to suspend youth ministries (referring to all children's and youth ministries) from November 19th until after the first of the year.

Since that decision was shared with the congregation, a number of our adult ministries chose to suspend gathering in similar fashion.

Time in December will be spent planning for a resumption of ministries in early January. Factors impacting those plans will be updated health directives, the ability to line up volunteers for staffing each ministry, and the willingness of people to attend each ministry.

## Stewardship Report

As of November 24, 2020

### Operating Budget

Annual Budget	\$376,616.00
Donations	\$305,677.31
Expenses	\$322,951.34
Balance (deficit)	-\$17,274.03

### Mission Budget

Annual Budget	\$143,300.00
Donations	\$106,780.83
Disbursements	\$92,520.60
Balance	\$14,260.23

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

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

## Preschool Corner

We participated in many fall activities this past month! The first week of the month, we were learning all about apples. We learned that there are different types of apples, and each class had a taste test to see which they liked the best. They tasted the following three apples: Red Delicious, Golden Delicious and Granny Smith. We talked about whether they were sweet or sour, and soft or crunchy. We sang “Here We Go Round the Apple Tree,” “A-P-P-L-E,” and “Way Up High in the Apple Tree.” The Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes learned about Johnny Appleseed and made an art project about how apples grow. We made “apple pie” in the sensory table with a combination of nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, ginger, small imitation apples, spoons and pans. The Tuesday-Thursday classes sorted pom-pom “apples” with large tweezers at the Fine Motor Center and did color matching at the Game Table.

The “Fall” theme came next, followed by “Thanksgiving.” Some of the activities the children participated in included letter tracing in sand trays, making patterns at the Math Center and making fall trees with puzzle pieces. The younger class made adorable fall wreaths to hang at home. The older children went on a leaf walk, collecting different types of leaves, and everyone sang fun songs including, “Gray Squirrel,” “Five Fall Leaves,” and “Rake up the Leaves.”

During our “Thanksgiving” theme, we focused on the blessings God gives us and how we are thankful for them. We also talked about the first Thanksgiving and how it differs from our Thanksgiving today. The children participated in many turkey activities, such as matching turkey shapes, completing a turkey “cutting” activity, and painting Thanksgiving pictures at the Easel. We also sang some fun songs such as “Turkey in the Straw,” “Turkey Trot Hokey Pokey,” and “There’s a Turkey on My Nose.” Our Bible verse for November was Psalm 107:1, “Give thanks to the Lord.”

## Community Announcements

### Craft Show: Support FC Christmas Cheer and Archbold FISH Pantry

Party Expressions/Scrapbook Korner is hosting a COVID-friendly craft show Nov 28 - Dec 5th. Come and support local crafters and get a start on (or finish) your Christmas shopping! Masks are required and the store will be limiting the amount of people per vendor area. If you have questions, please contact Michelle Kruse at 419-572-6751. Located inside Party Expressions/Scrapbook Korner, 1405 South Defiance St, Archbold.

**GIVE BACK TO GET IN:** In lieu of an entrance fee, we are asking for a monetary donation for Christmas Cheer or FISH pantry, or a canned item for FISH pantry.

### Fulton County Christmas Cheer

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Christmas Cheer giveaway will be in a curbside pick-up style on December 9 & 10. The November Mission-A-Month funds will be used by Christmas Cheer volunteers to purchase goods for essential item boxes and other various items needed for the giveaway.

## Stephen Ministry

“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” Proverbs 13:20. Proverbs tells us to build relationships with wise people rather than foolish ones. Wise people know how to listen and to keep promises. They know how to protect confidential information. They are the people who love us and who want what is best for us. They are also the people who help us use our gifts and abilities and allow us to be who God created us to be. A Stephen Minister is trustworthy, someone who looks out for your best interests. A Stephen Minister will love you for who you are and who God made you to be. These are the wise people you want to be close to in life. Consider a Stephen Minister.

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

Website: [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)  
Sunday Worship 10:30AM via YouTube Live

## Mission Corner

### **December Mission-A-Month Crossroad**

## Thank You's & Updates

### Thank You's from Mission Partners

Thank you, St. John's Family!

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 [your gifts] 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 & Liz Bergren  
Crossroad

### Additional Thank You's from...

- ◆ Tom & Megan Langsdorf, for our gift of \$1,070.
- ◆ Crossroad, for our gift of \$45.

### Missionary Updates

- ◆ Baby McMahan - Coming Soon! Robert and Jenni McMahan (CRU) are beyond excited to share they are expecting their first child in February! They ask we join them in prayer for a safe labor and delivery, and for them as they step into a season of parenthood and raising their own tiny disciple.

## Mission Contacts

Robert & Jenni McMahan, CRU (BGSU)

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

e-mail - [robert.mcmahan@cru.org](mailto:robert.mcmahan@cru.org)

e-mail - [jennifer.mcmahan@cru.org](mailto:jennifer.mcmahan@cru.org)

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

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

e-mail - [matthew.waanders@cru.org](mailto:matthew.waanders@cru.org)

e-mail - [paige.stamm@cru.org](mailto:paige.stamm@cru.org)

Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP

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

Kyle Chase, Reliant (Univ. of Michigan)

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

e-mail - [kyle.chase@nlcweb.org](mailto:kyle.chase@nlcweb.org)

Matt Pardi, Reliant (Univ. of Toledo)

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

e-mail - [matt.pardi@reliant.org](mailto:matt.pardi@reliant.org)

David Hench, Reliant (Univ. of Akron)

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

e-mail - [david.hench@reliant.org](mailto:david.hench@reliant.org)

Tony & Leila Frank, Ivoti, Brazil

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

e-mail - [tony.frank@worldteam.org](mailto:tony.frank@worldteam.org)

Tom & Megan, The Islands, Africa

website - [tmislands.blogspot.com](http://tmislands.blogspot.com)

e-mail - [tmislands@fastmail.net](mailto:tmislands@fastmail.net)

Kajiado Children's Home

website - [www.hope4kajiado.com](http://www.hope4kajiado.com)

e-mail - [kajiadochildrenshome@gmail.com](mailto:kajiadochildrenshome@gmail.com)

Jason & Becky Suon, Freedom International

Ministries, Dominican Republic

website - [www.itisforfreedom.com](http://www.itisforfreedom.com)

e-mail - [JasonSuon@itisforfreedom.com](mailto:JasonSuon@itisforfreedom.com)

e-mail - [BeckySuon@itisforfreedom.com](mailto:BeckySuon@itisforfreedom.com)

Daniel & Bethany Schrock, Freedom International

Ministries, Dominican Republic

website - [www.itisforfreedom.com](http://www.itisforfreedom.com)

e-mail - [DanielSchrock@itisforfreedom.com](mailto:DanielSchrock@itisforfreedom.com)

e-mail - [BethanySchrock@itisforfreedom.com](mailto:BethanySchrock@itisforfreedom.com)

Jon & Rachel Doriot, Pioneers Chicago, IL

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

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

## December Worship Schedule

Worship Services during this Season of Advent

- November 29      First Sunday of Advent – Hope  
 Sacrament of Holy Communion  
 Scriptures – Luke 1:26-33, Matthew 2:1-12  
 Sermon – “Christmas with No Christ???”
- December 6      Second Sunday of Advent – Peace  
 Missionaries Tony & Leila Frank will share a presentation  
 Scriptures – John 1:14-18, Matthew 1:18-25, Hebrews 4:15-16  
 Sermon – “God Has a Face”  
 Service of Carols and Stories
- December 13      Third Sunday of Advent – Joy  
 Scriptures – Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 2:1-7, 7:13-14  
 Sermon – “God Guides the Wise”
- December 20      Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love  
 Scriptures – Joel 2:13-14 Luke 2:1-20  
 Sermon – “Every Heart a Manger”
- December 24\*      7:00pm – Live Stream Service of Worship  
 8:00pm – WMTR 96.1 Radio Service of Worship
- Christmas Eve – The Christ Candle  
 Scripture – 2 Corinthians 4:6, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-20  
 Sermon – “Christmas Joy! Christmas Peace!”
- December 25      Christmas Day  
 A traditional Christmas Day service of worship, held in the sanctuary this year.

### \*Christmas Eve Worship

The Spiritual Council approved Pastor Erich’s plan to offer only virtual worship on Christmas Eve, since the normal attendance at the service would preclude any aspect of social distancing. We encourage people to safely gather with family and friends in the home to enjoy watching a live stream and/or listening to a radio broadcast of our Christmas Eve worship. We’ll focus on the humble setting of the Nativity as we gather in our own homes, in warmth and safety and love. The Christmas Eve service will be filled with carols, special music and stories as we celebrate our Lord’s birth. We’ll be making packets of candles available for people to enjoy candle lighting in their home.



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

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

## December 2020 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:15AM Bible Study 7:00PM Mission Commit.	<b>2</b> 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:30AM Worship	<b>7</b> 11:00AM Staff Meeting	<b>8 Poinsettia Pick-up Day</b> 7:00PM Property Commit.	<b>9</b> 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:40AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
<b>13</b> 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:30AM Worship	<b>14</b> 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision	<b>15</b> 9:15AM Bible Study	<b>16</b> 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:30AM Worship	<b>21</b> 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:15PM Spiritual Council 7:30PM Consistory	<b>22</b> 9:15AM Bible Study	<b>23</b> 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 7:00PM Christmas Eve Live Stream 8:00PM WMTR Christmas	<b>25 Christmas</b> 10:30AM Christmas Day Worship Service	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 10:30AM Worship	<b>28</b> 11:00AM Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> 9:15AM Bible Study	<b>30</b> 8:30AM Moms in Prayer	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>		

## Birthdays and Anniversaries!

1	Kenny Walker IV	15	Crissi Stuckey
2	Sandi Cowell, Jeff & Stacy Rutledge	18	Shiela Short, Mae Smith
3	Mert Kinsman	20	Dawson Cover, Dax Cover
5	Betsy Redd, Joyce Kinsman	21	Nici Wyse, Devin Bernath, Dean & Darlene Sauder
6	Denny Hornish, Kim M. Walker	26	Rod Kinsman
8	Jim Liechty, JoAnn Short, Aiden Warncke	27	Joanne Spotts, Paul Lovejoy, Klaire Kern
9	Scott & JoAnn Short	28	Phyllis Miller, Emma Krukowski, Josh & Kasey Grime
10	Greg Walker	29	Maggie Enderle
11	Doug Rupp	30	Dean Beck, Corey & Jocelyn Walker
12	Paul & Joan Lovejoy	31	Alice Leatherman
13	Linda Heer, Tony MacDonald		
14	Jean Stamm, Cullen Yoder, Travis & Mindy Gruenhagen		

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

# December Daily Scriptures

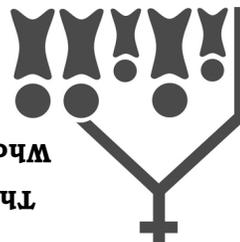
(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

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>.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Upside Down World.....Luke 22:24-38</p> <p>2 Where Am I?.....Luke 22:39-62</p> <p>3 Who's In Charge Here?.....Luke 22:63-23:25</p> <p>4 At the Cross.....Luke 23:36-46</p> <p>5 What Are You Waiting For?.....Luke 23:47-56</p> <p>6 God's Shining Face.....Psalm 80</p> <p>7 Round Trip.....Luke 24:13-35</p> <p>8 Let Him In.....Luke 24:36-53</p> <p>9 Do It Now!.....Haggai 1:1-15</p> <p>10 Less Is More.....Haggai 2:1-9</p> <p>11 Never Beyond Blessing.....Haggai 2:10-23</p> <p>12 Let It Go.....Zechariah 1:1-6</p> <p>13 Remember God's Goodness.....Psalm 81</p> <p>14 Urban Renewal.....Zechariah 2:1-13</p> <p>15 I Choose You.....Zechariah 3:1-10</p> | <p>16 Power Under Control.....Zechariah 6:9-15</p> <p>17 Ecological Disaster.....Zechariah 7:1-14</p> <p>18 An Imagination Run Wild.....Zechariah 8:1-23</p> <p>19 Standing on the Promises.....Zechariah 9:9-17</p> <p>20 God Serves the Poor.....Psalm 82</p> <p>21 You've Got a Friend in Me.....Zechariah 10:1-12</p> <p>22 Dark Days, Bright Future.....Zechariah 14:1-11, 20, 21</p> <p>23 Outsider or Insider?.....Matthew 1:1-17</p> <p>24 Living the Dream.....Matthew 1:18-25</p> <p>25 Unlikely Worshipers.....Matthew 2:1-12</p> <p>26 The Unknown Unknowns.....Matthew 2:13-23</p> <p>27 Cry Out to God.....Psalm 83</p> <p>28 He Loves Us Not.....Malachi 1:1-5, 2:10-16</p> <p>29 Clean Up.....Malachi 2:17-3:5</p> <p>30 Faithless or Faithful?.....Malachi 3:6-18</p> <p>31 Hope Rising.....Malachi 4:1-6</p> |
|--|--|

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

Holy Communion:  
New Year (1/5), Ash Wednesday (2/26), Maundy Thursday (4/9), Mid-Summer (7/19), World Wide Communion (10/4), First Sunday of Advent (11/29)



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

**Pastor** Rev. Erich Christman  
Cell Phone: 419-551-0401  
pastor@stjohnsarcbold.org

**Assoc.** Rev. Alex Young  
Cell Phone: 330-206-8762  
pastoralex@stjohnsarcbold.org

**Pastor** Jocelyn Walker  
office@stjohnsarcbold.org

**Assistant** Kim M. Walker  
gkwalker@receexpress.net

**Director** Mary Zimmerman

**Treasurer** Dean Buckenmeyer

**Custodian** Richard Spiess

**Security** 419-446-2545  
www.stjohnsarcbold.org

**Website** 8:00AM and 10:30AM  
9:15AM  
Sunday Worship  
Sunday School

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

Return Service Requested

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