

The Visitor

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

May 1, 2021 Volume 67, Number 5

Prayer Corner

Please pray for...

- ◆ Wayne Spiess fell and fractured a hip and had surgery on 4/20.
- ◆ Dan Light, dealing with a bone infection from an elbow surgery, with a second surgery on 4/21.
- ◆ Mary Jane Silcox, in rehab at Fairlawn's Rupp Rehab for recovery from hip surgery.
- ◆ Tracey & Sodie Warren, as Tracey's hormone therapy is underway, still scheduled to begin radiation treatment for prostate cancer in May.
- ◆ Kyle Ducey, as he is now deployed on the USS Iwo Jima.
- ◆ Nancy Rupp as her brother Bob Springer entered into eternal life on 4/16.
- ◆ Lenny & Jean Stamm, as Lenny has been hospitalized due to covid, and Jean is in quarantine at home.

Praises for answered prayers and joys for...

Congratulations to Jocelyn & Corey Walker on the birth of Evelyn Leann Walker. Evelyn was born on 4/21/21. She weighed 7lb 15oz and was 18.5 inches long. Praises to God for a happy and healthy momma and baby!

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, Deployed, USS Iwo Jima (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)
- ◆ Brayden Hall, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO (Ohio Army National Guard) (Son of Vond & Mary)
- ◆ Cpt. Jared Kuntz, Washington, DC (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ◆ Eric Maag, Port Clinton, OH (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)
- ◆ AB Shayne & Taylor Pitts, Albuquerque, NM (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)

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

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

Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold, 43502
David Lightner, Room #138
Josephine Short, Room #405
Jane Short, Room #172
Wayne Spiess, Room #133

Fairlawn Assist. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Donna Buehrer, Room #210

Independent Living, 600 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Rosemarie Schmidt, Apt. #112

Fulton Manor, 723 S. Shoop Ave. Wauseon, 43567
Robert Kuntz, Room #225-2
Velma Overmier, Room #501-1
Bernice Rice, Room #224-2
Beverly Beaverson, Suite #605

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

Genacross, 1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon, 43545
Audrey Smith, Room #403



Pastor's Column

St. John's Christian Church follows a congregational form of government, or polity. This means that the local congregation governs their own affairs. In keeping with congregational polity, authority is vested in the congregation as a whole. It recognizes the authority of the people in the congregation in making the decisions of the church. This is why St. John's holds an annual meeting, and holds special congregational meetings as needed. Every member of the congregation has equal voice and vote.

When issues are brought to the congregation for input and a vote, there is the reality of there being at least two sides to every issue. Which prompts comments and questions and answers leading up to the vote. And when a vote is taken, it results in majority and minority sides of the issue. Which is obviously a natural aspect of congregational polity.

Yet, when the voting results are announced, what needs to take place in the minds and hearts of the people on either side of the issue? Unity! The congregation needs to seek unity before, during and especially after any meetings and votes. Scriptures calls us to be in unity:

- Romans 15:5-6 – “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Ephesians 4:3-6 – “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called -- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”
- Colossians 3:14 – “And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

In America, when two sides disagree on an issue, I've not seen much sense of unity in recent times. Instead of seeking to come together for the good of all, the response has been anger, hateful accusations, and a polarization of citizens.

The church needs to respond with unity, setting the example for our nation, being a beacon of light to a fractured world.

From the lyrics of a well-known song, “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me” we should be singing, “Let there be unity on earth, and let it begin with me.”

In unity and peace,

ERICH

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

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

Congregational News and Thank You's

St. John's:

Joan and I would like to thank the church staff and church members for their support, prayers and donations over the years. We were in an excellent location to draw in families that were new to town, and we were always visible to many. We have been truly blessed to work in a Christian environment, teaching young children about Jesus. We feel that many small children's lives and many families have been touched, and we could not have done it without your support and encouragement.

Sue MacDonald & Joan Wyse, Preschool Teachers

Friends of SJCC:

May the Lord's blessing be with you this Easter week. This morning the sun is shining bright and pleasantly warm. God is good and caring. The Lord's blessings to all! The mail arrived early and I am thankful for the copy of the church bulletin. I received the Visitor for the month of April, yesterday. Thank you all. May the Lord's blessings be on each of you.

Bernice Rice



Ministry Happenings

Sunday School Breakfast

JYF/SYF Youth Breakfast – the Fellowship Committee invites our sixth through twelfth grade youth to a breakfast on May 16 during the Sunday school hour. Please RSVP to the church office by May 7th if you plan to attend, so we make sure we have food and proper table set up for everyone!

GIF Gals

Gathering In Faith Gals is the name of the new women's ministry for single women of the church. Their next event is scheduled for May 13 at the Das Essen Haus @ 5:00pm. Women may gather at the church at 4:45pm to car pool. Please sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday May 9th.

Fairlawn Retirement Community Newsletter

Fairlawn has provided SJCC with several printed copies of their April 2021 community newsletter, available in the literature rack outside the church office.

*A digital link for the newsletter is located on the St. John's home page – www.stjohnsarchbold.org under the Media tab.

Administrative Assistant - Maternity Leave

Jocelyn Walker stated her maternity leave on Wednesday, April 14th, and her time of leave will extend through mid-July.

We are grateful for the volunteers who have committed to covering many of the administrative duties during the time of leave.

We are looking for further volunteers to help with office coverage on Mondays through Fridays, morning and afternoon shifts. Office coverage would consist of answering the telephone, welcoming visitors, processing and answering emails (if able), filing, copying, computer data entry and general office work.

Christian Camp Scholarship Program

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

Life Planning

In April the Life Planning group pulled weeds, spread mulch and planted grass seed around the church. We then had some fellowship time and enjoyed pizza and cookies. Our next meeting will be on May 12th as we will be recognizing the seniors in our group. More information to come regarding time and location.

Love Fund

The Love Fund is a confidential and helpful way in which the church assists people of the congregation with support during a difficult time or situation. Pastor Erich coordinates disbursements from the Love Fund. Individuals can approach Pastor Erich in any given situation, and he also learns of situations from the Spiritual Council and people of the congregation. We have been able to bless a number of people recently through Love Fund resources, and we want to continue to be able to do so. Anyone who would like to help replenish Love Fund monies may do so by designating your envelope or check. Thanks!

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Sunday Worship 10:30AM via YouTube Live

Ministries (cont.)

Vacation Bible School

Dates for VBS are dialed in as Sunday, July 18 - Thursday, July 22. Kisha Genter and Bri Krukowski are on board as VBS Directors, and they'll be putting plans in place to provide a VBS experience of fun and creative learning while keeping everyone safe and healthy!

2021 National Day of Prayer – May 6

Local churches are planning for a National Day of Prayer event for Thursday, May 6th, to be held at the pavilion in Ruibley Park. The theme of this year's event is "Lord Pour Out Your Love, Life and Liberty," stemming from 2 Corinthians 3:17. Pastor Erich is helping to coordinate and lead the event, and he invites and encourages everyone to gather for this time. The short service will consist of scripture readings and prayers.

Pandemic Protocols

As of April 21, the Ohio Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and local health departments are recommending even those that have been fully vaccinated and are two weeks past their second dose, still practice all the COVID precautions in public: wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands.

SJCC leaders continue to monitor the pandemic recommendations, looking forward to the time when the mask and social distancing protocols are no longer in place. Until then, let us all keep praying for health, relief and perseverance.

Preschool Corner

It's so hard to believe that Preschool Graduation is right around the corner! But the weather has warmed up, and we have been able to get out and enjoy the playground during the past few weeks. We began talking about spring during the first week of April with our "Growing Things" theme. We talked about things that grow, including flowers, plants and animals. The older children did a life cycle sequence activity in the Art Area, and chose among grasshopper, bird, squirrel, turtle, frog, and fish. The younger children learned a song about identifying parts of a flower, to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus". We continued with spring activities as we learned about "Bugs & Butterflies". We learned how many legs insects have, and talked about many types of bugs. We even had several bug and butterfly specimens in our Science Center to look at! The older children made their own 'bug jars', with fingerprint 'bugs', and the younger children made a caterpillar-butterfly project with cupcake papers! Other activities around the room included a shape-matching bee/flower activity at the Math Center and bug lacing cards at the Fine Motor Table. The third week of April we were "Down on the Farm". We learned about farm animals and how they are different from pets and zoo animals. We had farm animals and our large wooden barn out for the children to play with, and other activities included "Horse Bingo", "Tractor Memory Game", and horse stalls and horses to play with in the block area. During the following week, we learned about different modes of "Transportation", and played "Red Light, Green Light" in the gym. We also played a number recognition game with keys and dice in the Math Center, and included many types of "transportation" in the Block Area, such as airplanes, trucks, cars, racecars, buses and trains.

- Sue MacDonald

Consistory

Results of the Special Congregational Meeting held on April 18, 2021

Results of the action taken on the three agenda items is as follows:

1. David Stuckey was elected as the elder to fill out a 21 month term.
 2. With a vote of 95 yes votes and 19 no votes, the Consistory recommendation to remove the organ from the sanctuary was approved.
 - A) That news will be shared with the Facility Committee as they work to finalize plans for a pending facility project, which includes some renovation of the sanctuary.
 - B) Contact will be made with organ companies to explore best practices for removal, and to check on any potential ways it could be sent to another church for use.
 3. With a vote of 91 yes votes and 19 no votes, approval was given to proceed with forming a search committee for the purpose of calling a Pastor of Music and Worship to serve St. John's Christian Church.
 - A) The members of the Consistory plan to come to the May 17th Consistory meeting with suggestions of people to ask to serve on the search committee. The Consistory will then proceed with the process of finalizing the search committee participants. Anyone that has an interest in serving on the search committee should contact any of the Consistory members.
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Stewardship Report

2021 Year-to-Date Stewardship Report

As of April 15, 2021

2021 Budget	2021 YTD Budget (15/52) Weeks	2021 YTD Receipts	2021 YTD Expenses	2021 YTD (+ / -)
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Operating Fund	\$441,312.00	\$127,301.54	\$98,923.68	\$112,948.74	\$(14,025.06)
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Mission Fund	\$116,800.00	\$33,692.31	\$57,155.40	\$40,591.38	\$ 16,564.02
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2021 Accounting Changes

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

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

Mission Corner

May Mission-A-Month Cherry Street Mission Ministries



Cherry Street was founded on Biblical principals in 1947, and remains a Biblically based, Christ centered organization today. Their Spiritual Advocates consist of both staff and volunteers that lead Bible studies daily and mentor guests through their journey with Christ. Cherry Street has a Men's Division, Women's Division (Sparrow's Nest) and food services.

Each night, Cherry Street provides safe, free shelter for nearly 230 men and women who would otherwise sleep on the street or remain in an abusive situation. For some, it's the first night they've slept safely in a very long time.

Cherry Street is more than food, clothing and shelter. Their redemptive programming is built around one on one discipleship. They care more about who a person is, rather than what a person has become.

Cherry Street is the only organization in the region to offer 3 meals a day, 7 days a week, free of charge to anyone who needs them. Cherry Street gratefully accepts financial donations and gift-in-kind donations (anything donated that is not cash). More information about this Mission-A-Month can be found online at www.cherrystreetmission.org.

People may donate monetarily to these ministries by marking their envelope or check with "May M-A-M" (Mission-A-Month).

Summer Mission Trip – June 13th – 18th

For the past several years, the trip participants have worked with the LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity (LCHF) affiliate that is based in Michigan City, Indiana. However, for this summer, we've just received word that LCHF has made the difficult decision not to build a home this summer. Various factors have played into that decision, including the rising cost of lumber and materials, which would increase the cost of the mortgage for the partner family, which could be above typical income levels.

We are exploring other options for a project during the same week!

Plastic Grocery Bags

We were informed that Archbold FISH Pantry has an over-abundant supply of plastic grocery bags; however, we heard that residents of the Fairlawn community continue to need plastic bags for their mat-making project. So, we once again set a blue tub under the coat rack across from the chapel to be a collection box for plastic bags.

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Mission Corner (cont.)

Thank You Letters from our Mission Partners

St. John's

You are such a blessing to MaryLynn and I! Thanks for your generous giving and prayers. Your partnership means so much to us and the H2O family.

Blessings,
Matt & MaryLynn Pardi

Hello friends and family,

We write tonight with an invitation to pray for the islands. Tonight the new crescent moon appeared in the sky which means that tomorrow (Wed) begins the month of fasting. This month can be one of the most difficult, challenging, and rewarding times of the year. It is a time of heightened spiritual awareness and religious fervor. It is both a time of opportunity and a time of persecution. This year will be difficult in new ways because of COVID restrictions and general unrest on the islands.

The islands need prayer all the time, but every year we invite people to devote this month to special prayer for the islands and peoples like them around the globe. If you are interested, then please email us at tmislands@fastmail.net and we will send you a prayer guide for the month and weekly emails during the month to help you in your prayers. Blessings,
Tom & Megan

Also, all year round, you can always find ways to pray and weekly updates from us on our blog. <http://tmislands.blogspot.com>

Additional Thank You's From...

- ♦ Samaritan's Purse for our gift of \$1,359.00.
- ♦ Crossroads for our gift of \$260.00.
- ♦ Cherry Street for our gift of \$110.00.
- ♦ Matt & Paige Waanders for our gift of \$150.00.
- ♦ Robert & Jenni McMahan for our gift of \$100.00.

Robert & Jenni McMahan, CRU (BGSU)

website - www.give.cru.org

e-mail - robert.mcmahan@cru.org

e-mail - jennifer.mcmahan@cru.org

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

website - www.give.cru.org

e-mail - matthew.waanders@cru.org

e-mail - paige.stamm@cru.org

Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP

website - www.jamkhed.org

Kyle Chase, Reliant (Univ. of Michigan)

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Tony & Leila Frank, Ivoti, Brazil

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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

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Daniel & Bethany Schrock, Freedom International

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Jon & Rachel Doriot, Pioneers Chicago, IL

website - www.pioneers.org

e-mail - kelapa@linkmail.org

May Worship Schedule

The Worship Schedule for the month of May:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 2 | Fifth Sunday of Easter
Scriptures – Psalm 22:25-31, John 15:1-8, 1 John 4:7-21
Sermon – “Bearing Much Fruit” |
| May 9 | Sixth Sunday of Easter
Scriptures – Psalm 96, John 15:9-17, 1 John 5:1-6
Sermon – “Remaining in Obedience” |
| May 16 | Seventh Sunday of Easter
Scriptures – Psalm 47, Luke 24:44-53, Ephesians 1:15-23
Sermon – “Is Your Mind Open?” |
| May 23 | Pentecost Sunday
Sacrament of Communion
Scriptures – Psalm 104:24-34, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
Sermon – “The Guidance of the Holy Spirit” |
| May 30 | Trinity Sunday
Scriptures – Isaiah 6:1-8, John 3:1-17, Romans 8:12-17
Sermon – “What Questions Would You Ask?” |



2021 Annual Yearbook

Copies of the 2021 Annual Yearbook are available for pickup at a table in the Sanctuary Narthex. PDF digital copies will also be available upon request by emailing the church office at office@stjohnsarchbold.org.

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|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Janet Franks, Toni & Chris Neuenschwander | 19 | Coral Melms, Tyler Wyse, Judy & Bill Overmier |
| 2 | Collin Bzovi, Amy Cover | 20 | Brie Grime, TJ Rice |
| 3 | Bill Overmier | 21 | Burdell Nofziger |
| 4 | Suzette Nafziger | 22 | Tyson Schnitkey |
| 5 | Dean Buckenmeyer | 23 | Elaine Winzeler |
| 6 | Rich & Jane Lesniak | 24 | Lucas Lantz, Dean Smith, Chris Stockman, Mark
Stockman, Bryce Winzeler, Anna & Eric Yoder |
| 7 | Ed & Julie Ruffer | 25 | Connie Bostelman, Shiela & Kent Short |
| 8 | Craig Grieser, Deb & Greg Weddelman | 26 | Devin & Ryan Bernath, Mindy Enderle & Gabe
Smith, Bri & Bo Krukowski, Paige & Dave Miller |
| 9 | Braden Martinez, Tully Pursel, Missy Warncke,
Deb Weddelman | 27 | Tiffany Johnston, Charlene LaFountaine,
Richard Spiess |
| 11 | Lynne Christman | 28 | Kasey Grime |
| 12 | Eden Young | 29 | Ian Grime, Missy & Tony Warncke |
| 13 | Jack Hurst | 31 | Gary Frazier, Mandy & Ken Walker |
| 15 | Tyler Hurst | | |
| 16 | Lori Rohrs | | |
| 18 | Gary Mann, Judy Sears | | |

May Daily Scriptures

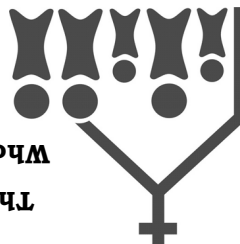
(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

Discovery® is a daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. You can pick up a copy in the church office. Suggested donation is \$6.

1	Costly Discipleship.....	Joshua 24:16-33	16	On Earth as in Heaven.....	Psalm 101
2	God of the Nations.....	Psalm 99	17	Submitting Together.....	Ephesians 5:21-33
3	Every Spiritual Blessing.....	Ephesians 1:1-14	18	Domestic Bliss?.....	Ephesians 6:1-9
4	See What We Have.....	Ephesians 1:15-23	19	Strength, God's Way.....	Ephesians 6:10-18
5	The Decisive Intervention.....	Ephesians 2:1-10	20	Grace from Afar.....	Ephesians 6:19-24
6	One, But Not the Same.....	Ephesians 2:11-22	21	The Certainty of Jesus.....	Acts 1:1-11
7	Secret Plan Unveiled.....	Ephesians 3:1-13	22	Faith Walk.....	Acts 1:12-26
8	Power to Stand.....	Ephesians 3:14-21	23	Language Barrier.....	Acts 2:1-13
9	Universal Praise.....	Psalm 100	24	Wine or Nine?.....	Acts 2:14-21
10	United to Love.....	Ephesians 4:1-6	25	Rescue Plan.....	Acts 2:22-28
11	United by Truth.....	Ephesians 4:7-16	26	Cut to the Heart.....	Acts 2:29-41
12	A Change of Heart.....	Ephesians 4:17-24	27	Fellowship of Faith.....	Acts 2:42-47
13	The Shape of Kindness.....	Ephesians 4:25-32	28	Beggar's Belief.....	Acts 3:1-10
14	Be Who You Are.....	Ephesians 5:1-7	29	Gospel Opportunity.....	Acts 3:11-26
15	Alive in Light.....	Ephesians 5:8-20	30	Trust His Timing.....	Psalm 102
			31	Transforming Timid.....	Acts 4:1-12

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

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



The Church on the Corner
Whose Cornerstone is Christ

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
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Archbold, OH
Permit #15

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Security
Richard Spiess

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Website www.stjohnsarchbold.org
Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:15AM

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