

**MAY 2025**

# THE LIGHT

**Monthly Newsletter of  
St. John United Church of Christ  
Strasburg, Ohio**

**ST. JOHN  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
516 N. WOOSTER AVE.  
STRASBURG, OH 44680**

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WWW.STJOHNSTRASBURG.ORG**

**WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM  
ONSITE AND ONLINE  
FACEBOOK  
YOUTUBE  
@STJOHNSTRASBURG**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:45 AM**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY  
9:00 AM - 5:00PM**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**By Jason Rissler**

While I'm not a fan of the cold windy spring days, I do enjoy the days of warm sun. I also enjoy seeing the flowers break through the ground and begin to take form. Spring contains new growth and life. In the same way, we see many signs of new growth and life around us at St. John. Baptism, new friends and new ministries are certainly signs of the life of Christ bursting forth. I look forward to what God has in store for us in this new season of church life. God is good and God has good plans!



**The Rissler's  
Easter Booth  
Photo**



**Pastor's Report** - This past month was busy with Holy Week. Pastor Jason spent time this past month working on technology/streaming. Looking at a new members class. Pastor Jason challenged us to think about ways that we can be proactive in outreach in our community.

**BOCE** - Discussed supporting the Heifer project with the children's Sunday School. Children went to see "King of Kings." Youth car wash is June 7th.

**Congregational Care** - Sent care packages to our college students, have taken several meals to families. Last Senior Luncheon for the season is May 8. Ordered geraniums for pentecost and carnations for Mother's Day.

**Fellowship** - The Ladies Gathering will be held May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Missions** - No Meeting, possibility of a fiesta luncheon in the fall. Pastor Jason and John Gerber are planning service trip to Cincinnati May 16-18.

**Finance** - The finance report was reviewed and approved.

**Music and Worship** - Search continues for choir director. Work was done for Holy Week.

**Outreach** - Last Tiger Paw packing for 2024-2025 school year is Monday, April 28.

**Property** - Planning to mulch on May 24<sup>th</sup> with power washing done before that date. Will start on replacing steps on emergency exit by the parsonage. Working on re-wrapping the south side sanctuary windows and putting Lexan over the windows.

**Sanctuary** - Decorated for Good Friday and Easter. Purged old decorations.

**Old Business** - May 4<sup>th</sup> FCA Worship Service at Strasburg School at 10:00am. Pastor Jason's Sabbatical is July 28 - August 31. More details to follow.

**Next Council Meeting - May 15, 2025**

**\*\*we communicate regularly through e-mail and text messages. If you are not receiving these and would like to, please let the church office know.**



The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be the last senior luncheon until September. The meal includes hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, and brownie ice cream sundae. Max Grossenbacher, a pianist, will provide the entertainment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just a reminder for those that purchased tickets, the Ladies Gathering will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the Social Hall.

\*\*\*\*\*

GriefShare Support Group is meeting on Fridays from 1:00 - 3:00pm. Last meeting is May 16<sup>th</sup>. Please see Deb Burrier or register at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) to join in.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Board of Christian Education offers financial assistance for students K-12 who are planning to attend camp this year. Please turn in paid receipts to the church office by June 15<sup>th</sup> to get reimbursed. Reimbursement amounts will be determined by the number of applications and available funds. If you have any questions, please see Heather Rissler.

\*\*\*\*\*

We will hold a new members class for anyone interested in learning about membership at St. John. The class will be one hour long. If you are interested, please see Pastor Jason. He will schedule something that works for the group.



**FCA lead Community Worship Service**

**Sunday, May 4**

**10:00 am**

**Strasburg High School**

This will be in place of our morning worship.  
Hope you can join us and support our youth!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Weekend Service Opportunity**

**May 16-18, 2025**

**Washington UCC, Cincinnati**

The Board of Christian Education is planning a weekend service opportunity for our congregation to assist our friends at Washington UCC in Cincinnati. The group will be doing preparation work for the summer children's program. The work will include cleaning, moving, setting up rooms and some maintenance/repair jobs. There will be something for every skill level. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Jason or John Gerber know. This is a great opportunity to meet the church there and serve together with them.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Historical Committee will be putting together a display of all members who have been married here at the church. We would love to include you or family members, such as children, parents or grandparents. If you would like to be a part of the display, the following is the information we will need:

\*Married between 1850--present day at Strasburg St. John UCC

\*Picture of Bride and Groom only

\*Engraved Invitation (if you still have one)

\*If you do not have an invitation, please include bride and groom's names, marriage date, and the minister who married them.

\*Pictures must be turned in by May 11, 2025, to Pat Pappas or church office.

\*Pictures will be returned to you.

If you have any questions, please call Pat at 330-878-7406

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**Mark your Calendar - Strasburg Community Vacation Bible**

**June 16 - 19 @ First Lutheran Church**

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thank you

To my church family and friends,  
Thank you for your prayers, get well cards, flowers and  
delicious food during the time of my surgery. A  
special thank you to Pastor Jason for his prayers and  
being with Jim and I. It was deeply appreciated.  
-Shirley Kuecher

\*\*\*\*\*



Jackson Dale Clark, son of Rick and Amanda  
Clark, was baptized on April 13, 2025

\*\*\*\*\*

If you have a graduating senior in your family that you  
would like us to include in our next month's  
newsletter, please send photo and small article about  
them and their future plans to the church office by  
May 23rd.

\*\*\*\*\*



Did you know that we have an online giving option?  
To give online, go to [stjohnstrasburg.org](http://stjohnstrasburg.org) or use the  
QR code. Thanks for your generosity!

May 2025

**ACOLYTES**

May 11 - Alexandria Parson  
May 18 - Caden Hutchison  
May 25 - Ty Palmer

**LAY LEADERS**

May 11 - Deb Burrier  
May 18 - Suzanne Black  
May 25 - Cheryl Feutz

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

May 11 - Twila Lampe  
May 18 - Handbell Choir  
May 25 - Joy Diehl & Gary Garber

**GREETERS**

Pat Pappas  
Denise Borter

**USHERS**

Cole Hutchison  
Heather Spinell  
Gary Spinell  
Steve Chaney



(75 and over)

May 1 - Evelyn Smith  
May 3- Sue Miller  
May 11 - Jim Harper, Sr.  
May 23 - Jeanne Sauernheimer  
May 26 - Wanda Miller  
May 29 - Harold Grove  
May 31 - Sue Rieger

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>27</div> <div>10am - FCA Worship at Strassburg</div> <div>1pm - Ladies Gathering</div>	<div>28</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6:30pm - Cub Scouts</div>	<div>30</div> <div>5pm - BOCE</div> <div>6pm - Handbells</div>	<div>1</div> <div>6pm - Music &amp; Worship</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Tiger Paw Packs Deliveries</div> <div>1pm - GrerShare</div>	<div>3</div>
<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Tiger Paw Packs Deliveries</div> <div>1pm - GrerShare</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Deadline for Wedding Pictures</div> <div>Modern's Day</div> <div>8:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div>	<div>12</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6:30pm - Cub Scouts</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9:30am - Finance Mtg</div> <div>2pm - Park Village Service</div> <div>6pm - Handbells</div>	<div>15</div> <div>6pm - Missions Meeting</div> <div>6:30pm - Church Council</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Weekend Service Opportunity at Washington UCC Cincinnati</div> <div>Tiger Paw Packs Deliveries</div> <div>1pm - GrerShare</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div> <div>Weekend Service Opportunity at</div> <div>9:30am - Worship/Graduation</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div>	<div>19</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>20</div> <div>8am - Congregational Care</div> <div>6:30pm - Cub Scouts</div>	<div>21</div> <div>6pm - Handbells</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Tiger Paw Packs Deliveries</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Memorial Day</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>27</div> <div>6:30pm - Cub Scouts</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6pm - Handbells</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Tiger Paw Packs Deliveries</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Social Hall Reserved-Meetings</div>



**Marilyn J. Homeister (Held)**  
**Obituary**

Marilyn Julia Homeister, 99, passed away Thursday, March 13, 2025 at Elmwood at the Shawhan in Tiffin, Ohio.

She was born November 20, 1925 to Benjamin George and Welma Louisia Lydia (Bohl) Held of Pershing, Missouri.

Survivors include her daughter, Rebecca L. (Paul O.) Grammer III of Tiffin; and two grandsons, Paul O. (Samantha Smith) Grammer IV and Ryan W. (Kristi) Grammer, of Ocean Springs, Mississippi; and a daughter-in-law, Ellen Homesiter (Bill) of Columbus, Ohio; two grandsons, Ransom Ratliff-Grammer and Paul O. Grammer V; and three step-grandsons, Gage Salas, Cameron Salas, and Spencer Smith; and one step great-granddaughter, Azayla Salas. She is also survived by two sister-in-laws and a brother-in-law and many nieces and nephews. Her two granddogs, Zoe and Gibbs will miss her and their visits to the Shawhan very much.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin and Welma; husband, the Rev. William O. Homeister; brothers, Robert Held, Donald (Bettie) Held and James (Betty Ann) Held; and her son, William R. Homeister.

Marilyn grew up in the beautiful hills of Missouri near Hermann. She graduated from Hermann High School in May of 1943. She then graduated as a Registered Nurse in September of 1946 from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in St. Louis, MO. She met her husband, Bill, while he was a student Pastor filling in at her home church in Morrison, MO. She married Rev. William O. Homeister on June 26, 1947. She accompanied Bill to the many different churches he was called to service in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

Marilyn balanced motherhood with church responsibilities, choir member, 4-H leader, gardening, cooking and sewing projects. When Bill and Becky were in junior high and high school, she went back to nursing and worked as a psychiatric nurse at Union Hospital in Dover, OH and loved her job. She loved helping at the Tiffin Sharing Kitchen and was very active along with serving as past president in Tiffin Church Women United. She also volunteered at the Salvation Army while in Michigan, and her favorite time was spent volunteering at Krout Elementary School as a reading mentor to second graders.

Once Marilyn and Bill retired they enjoyed traveling and visiting many different National Parks throughout the US and taking a number of different cruises with friends. In later years Marilyn's most treasured times were spent traveling and visiting her family and dear friends.

Marilyn's family would like to thank the entire staff of Elmwood at the Shawhan for the excellent loving care she received the entire time she was there.

A celebration of Marilyn's life will be on Friday, June 6, 2025 at 11:00 am at Trinity United Church of Christ, 131 E. Perry St. Tiffin with the Rev. Karsten Snitker officiating. Friends may visit with the family from 10:00 am until the time of the service. There will be a luncheon at the church following the service. Burial will take place at Michigan Memorial Park on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 12:00 noon.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Trinity United Church of Christ, 131 E. Perry St. Tiffin, OH 44883 or Eden Seminary, Office of Institutional Advancement, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 East Lockwood Ave. St. Louis, MO 63119.

Hoffmann-Gottgried-Mack Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be sent and the guestbook signed at [www.hgmackfuneralhome.com](http://www.hgmackfuneralhome.com).

