



AUGUST 2025

THE LIGHT

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

ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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STRASBURG, OH 44680

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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

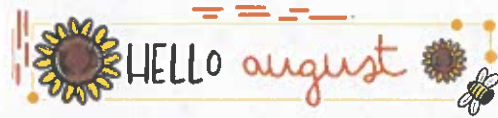
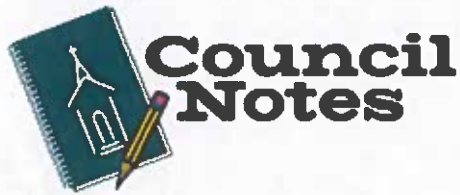
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Jason Rissler

When I came to St. John ten years ago (October 2015), the one thing that impressed me, in addition to the love and care of the church family, was the number of people serving and doing the ministry of the church. Today, this is stronger than ten years ago. Our church is full of servants doing the work of the church. I want you to know that as a pastor, this means the world to me. This allows a pastor to have longevity with a congregation. If pastors feels like they are pulling all the weight, it is wearisome and they burn out.

As I begin a five week sabbatical, it is a time for me to step back, rest, refocus, read, pray and look ahead. I do so with confidence knowing that the church is you, the people, and it will be just fine.

We have a lot of positive, spirit filled momentum. In the past month we welcomed new members, celebrated baptisms and served together at home and in Cincinnati. Let's keep up the good work, God has good things in store. I look forward to seeing you in September. My love to each of you!



Pastor's Report - Pastor Jason made many home, hospital, and nursing home visits. He conducted one baptism and one funeral. He will attend the youth service trip to Cincinnati.

BOCE - Discussed having a mug sale as a possible fundraiser. Made partial payments for five summer campers.

Congregational Care - A "Help Book" is being compiled with available resources from community organizations. The crop table is set up in the Narthex.

Fellowship - No Meeting

Missions - No Meeting

Finance - The annual stewardship series will begin in September focusing on time, talent, finance, and legacy.

Music and Worship - Machel Miller has committed to directing the choir for one performance a month, most likely beginning in September.

Outreach - Plans for the Summer Festival are in order. Thanks you to Michele Pollock. Pete and Linda Salom are handling the Tiger Paw Packs Program this year.

Property - The deck and steps on the south side of the church have been completed.

Sanctuary - Nothing to report.

Old Business - Pastor Jason will be on sabbatical July 28-August 31. Summer Festival will be July 25 & 26. Outdoor Worship Service will be held August 3rd. Boy Scouts will be cooking hot dogs and burgers for that event.

New Business - No new business.

Next Council Meeting - August 21, 2025 at 6:30pm.

****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.**

Outdoor worship and picnic will be held at Strasburg Park on August 3rd at 10:30. Jill Jordan Burke will provide extended music during the service. The Boy Scouts will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring a covered dish to share. Unfortunately, this service will not be able to be livestreamed, so we hope you can join us!

The Strasburg American Legion will hold a Chicken BBQ on August 10th from 10:00am-12:00pm in Malcuit's parking lot.

August 18th will be the Back to School Bash and prayer from 4:30-6:30

Sunday, August 31, will be Music Sunday. Paula Hixenbaugh will provide special music for the service. Following worship, she will have CD's you can purchase for \$10.00.

Pastor Jason will be away on a sabbatical leave July 28 - August 31.

Pastoral coverage has been arranged.



New members were welcomed into the St. John family on June 29, 2025.



Noelle Elizabeth Bell, daughter of Ryan and Olivia, was baptized on July 13, 2025



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

**COMING
NEXT
MONTH!**



Mark your calendars. Senior Luncheon will resume September 11th. John Herzig will speak about his Famous Endings Museum. Please call the church office to RSVP by September 5th.

Sunday School classes will resume September 7th



Our annual Stewardship Series will begin September 14 through October 5, concluding with a Soup & Sandwich Luncheon.

GriefShare will begin on Friday, September 5, from 1:00-3:00pm.



A Monthly Men's Breakfast and Study will begin September 12 at 8:30am at the Cross Caffe and will be held once a month on the second Friday of the month. The book "Ten Men of the Bible" by Max Lucado will be the topic of study. Please see Steve Chaney for more information.

"The Chosen" Study Season 5 will begin Thursday, September 25th from 9:30-11:00am. See Heather Rissler for more information.



A Note from Strasburg Carpenter's Cupboard

Hello and Greetings from the Board of the Strasburg
Carpenter's Cupboard Food Panty,

After more than 16 years of faithful and compassionate service, Londa and Tim Myers are preparing to retire from their leadership roles at Strasburg Carpenter's Cupboard (SCC) food pantry within the next couple of years. Their commitment and dedication have been a cornerstone of our efforts to serve those in need in our community. As we look to the future, the SCC Board is beginning the search for new leaders to carry this important work forward. We are seeking three dedicated individuals who are passionate about making a meaningful difference in the Strasburg area and are willing to step into leadership roles at the food pantry.

We envision the leadership transition as follows:

- Administrative Leader:** Oversees communication, coordination, and general organizational tasks
- Operational Leader:** Manages day to day, hands on operations of the pantry
- Head Volunteer:** Assists with operations and serves as a backup to the Operational Leader.

These roles will allow individuals to train alongside Londa and Tim, ensuring a smooth and informed transition while gaining valuable insight into the pantry's operations. We deeply appreciate the ongoing support your congregation has provided to SCC, and we thank you for considering this request. Together, we can continue to serve those in need and ensure the future success of Strasburg Carpenter's Cupboard.

With gratitude,

Kerry Eckhardt

President, Board of Directors

strasburgcarpenterscupboard@gmail.com

thank you

August 2025

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

A big thank you and a big God bless you, Pastor Jason and church ladies for providing a wonderful and moving service for Becky Sue Valentine. Your church is beautiful. If I lived in Strasburg that is where I would chose to worship. May our wonderful Lord continue to bless you Pastor Jason and all of your parishioners. I really appreciate your service and kindness.

God Bless you all,
Sharon Smart

ACOLYTES

- August 03 - Hannah Rissler
- August 10 - Gavin Cook
- August 17 - Nora Sexton
- August 24 - Caden Hutchison
- August 31 - Alexandria Parson

Dear Friends,

Thank you! We received your monetary gift and we are grateful. Only through the support of others can our outreach ministries continue. Summer Youth Program started June 9th. About 25 children are with us Monday-Thursday for six weeks in June and July. The children are here breakfast through lunch, with activities in between that include Bible stories, arts and crafts, and recreation. We will welcome your group the week of July 20th--thank you! We continue to serve lunches fours days a week, both eat-in or carryout.

We average 1,300 lunches a month.

We are continuing monthly community dinners, thanks to churches and mission groups that have volunteered to bring, prepare, and serve food. Camp Cupboard continues, open two days a week for "shoppers" to get food and donated clothes and household items, all free.

Thank you on behalf of all those who will benefit from your gift and our pastor, Rev. Melissa Stephens.

Sincerely,
Laurel Humes
Church Council

LAY LEADERS

- August 03 - Kathy Osler
- August 10 - Suzanne Black
- August 17 - Deb Burrier
- August 24 - Abbey Hutchison
- August 31 - Evelyn Smith

GREETERS

- Linda Reiger
- Linda Salom

USHERS

- Linda Reiger
- Ron Reiger
- Linda Salom
- Peter Salom

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY DRESS A CHILD MISSION

On Sunday August 3 and Sunday August 10, we will be collecting monetary donations for Tuscarawas County Dress A Child. This organization provides clothing vouchers for Back to School to underprivileged children. When school begins for the 2025-2026 school year, any student whose family applies and meets the federal poverty guideline for 2025 will receive a gift card to purchase clothing for the new school year. All the money raised is spent locally, and last year over 1,400 children were provided vouchers.

We hope you can help make Back to School a great experience for these kids. Please make checks out to St. John UCC with a note indicating Dress A Child in the memo line or on the envelope, or if you make a cash donation, please place it in an envelope marked Dress A Child. Donations can be placed in the collection plate at church or dropped off or mailed to the church office.

Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.



(75 and over)

- August 09 - Bonnie Wood
- August 10 - Kay Huff
- August 14 - Art Lampe
- August 14 - Brenda Bayer
- August 16 - Fred Scherer
- August 21 - Barb Limbacher
- August 21 - Marty Holter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:30am - Worship	28 Pastor Jason's Sabbatical	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Pastor Jason's Sabbatical	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Pastor Jason's Sabbatical	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pastor Jason's Sabbatical	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Pastor Jason's Sabbatical	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6

Pastor Jason's Sabbatical

Pastor Jason's Sabbatical

10:30am - Outdoor Worship &

10:30am - Meeting Re: Senior

5pm - BOCE

2:30pm - Action Now

6pm - Music & Worship

11am - Madeline Miller

Pastor Jason's Sabbatical

Worship led by Dan & Jeanette

9:30am - Worship

2pm - Park Village Service

Pastor Jason's Sabbatical

Worship led by Dan & Jeanette

9:30am - Worship

9am - Congregational Care

9:30am - Finance Mtg.

8pm - Missions Meeting

6:30pm - Church Council

11am - Madeline Miller

Pastor Jason's Sabbatical

9:30am - Worship with Speaker

Pastor Jason's Sabbatical

9:30am - Worship/Music Sunday

5pm - BOCE

2:30pm - Action Now

6pm - Music & Worship

1pm - GiftShare