



**SEPTEMBER 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

(330) 878-5113  
STJOHNUCCSTRASBURG@GMAIL.COM  
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 WIFE'S DESK

**By Heather Rissler**

**Do we rest? Do we let all the thoughts wound tightly in our heads unravel, and do we let go to loosen our grip on life?**

**For as many as 8-10 hours, our physical bodies rest. Consciousness falls under night's spell, and our bodies give in to sleep. The absence of sunlight is certainly a catalyst, but when darkness isn't there to welcome us into reprieve, do we take time to willfully put down our work, to walk away from the demands on our bodies, our time, and our mental energy?**

**When my kids were young, staying up late was a privilege, but now it's become the vice that keeps them from the rest they truly need. I remember reading them a children's book, when they were very little, about scientists who experimented by staying awake as many hours as they could. Perhaps you can guess what conclusions the scientists came to from their lab exercise! Their brain functions began to break down, and the results were disastrous. If then, our bodies require a certain amount of rest to maximize output, think about how much our spirits also require a sabbath rest from the stress that we undergo from day to day.**

**If God tells us to take time to reset and recenter, then we should make this a priority. The sabbath rest was created for us, yet sadly we omit this from our regular rhythms. As we approach a slower season of nature, when the earth begins to enter a dormant state, let us pay attention to making space for rest and retreat to help us be better company to each other and better in our service to Christ.**



### **Pastor's Report - No Report**

**BOCE** - Teachers have been identified for the upcoming year. Rally Day is September 7. Classes begin September 14. The Chosen Bible Study begins September 25. GriefShare begins September 5.

**Congregational Care** - Meeting time has been changed to the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00am.

**Fellowship** - Cookies are needed for August 31<sup>st</sup>. Stewardship Celebration Soup & Sandwich Luncheon will be October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Missions** - No Meeting

**Finance** - Plans are being finalized for the upcoming Stewardship Series for September 14 - October 5.

**Music and Worship** - Chancel choir will practice twice a month and perform once a month. Handbell practice will begin September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rick Michel will be filling in for Twila on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Outreach** - Packing for Tiger Paw Packs Program will be held on Monday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. The first delivery will be Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Property** - Frontier will be at the church on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> to take care of damaged poles in the parking lot.

**Sanctuary** - No Report.

**Old Business** - Profit from the Summer Festival Pie Booth was \$386.64. Many thanks to all who helped!

**New Business** - September 6<sup>th</sup> Strasburg Soccer Club car wash at 1:00pm. New signs inside church will be installed by Marvin Secrest by September 7<sup>th</sup>. September 18<sup>th</sup> a hot meal will be provided for SHS football team. Connie Wahl gave a presentation on Life Knowledge Seminars to be held on the second Thursday of each month. These free meetings are designed to provide valuable information to the congregation on subjects such as estate planning, finances, and more.

**Next Council Meeting** - September 18, 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.**

Senior Luncheons will resume Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. John Herzog will speak about his Famous Endings Museum. Please call the church office to RSVP by September 5th.

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The Strasburg American Legion will hold its last Chicken BBQ of the season on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in the Malcuit's parking lot from 10:00-12:00pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

GriefShare will begin on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm. If you are interested in signing up, please see Deb Burrier.

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September 7<sup>th</sup> is Rally Sunday. Following our morning worship service, a light meal will be served in the Social Hall for all children and youth during the Sunday School hour. All Sunday School classes will begin September 14<sup>th</sup>.

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Beginning September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am, there will be a monthly Men's Breakfast held at the Cross Caffe. A book study of Max Lucado's "Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World" will take place. This will be held the second Friday of each month.

See Steve Chaney for more information.

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"The Chosen" Bible Study Season 5 will kick off on Thursday, September 25 from 9:30-11:00am. Please see Heather Rissler for more information

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The first Tiger Paw Packs setup and packing for the current school year will begin on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Beginning with the month of October, it will be held the first Monday of the month at 3:00pm.

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We are happy to announce that St. John raised **\$790.00** for **Dress A Child!**

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Pastor Jason returns from his Sabbatical Leave on Wednesday, September 3rd.



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!

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# Fall STEWARDSHIP Series

September 14<sup>th</sup>-- October 5<sup>th</sup>

Members of the finance committee have been working on plans for the 2025 Stewardship Series which will focus on the theme of "Working Together to Benefit All" as we continue to build on the successes of the past and utilize those successes to strengthen the future of our church. We plan on comparing our church's programs and committee work to music with a slightly different approach this year. As with any successful orchestra or choral group, the emphasis must be on the development of the musicians as a whole and not on any one member of the choir or orchestra. Successful music groups always cherish and respect the relationships they have with each other and know that those feelings add to their abilities to develop positive outcomes. Our finance committee members discussed the many important services and programs that our church supports such as Senior Luncheons, Live Nativity, Camp Washington Youth Mission Trip, GriefShare, Youth Car Wash, Tiger Paw Packs, the work of our various committees, and participation in our community events. These activities generate many of the same characteristics found in great musical groups. We need to have a strong director (Pastor Jason) with supportive musicians (our volunteers) contributing to the success of St. John UCC--a sound that is "music to the ears". In the near future members should receive a mailing with a letter, time and talent survey, and a commitment card with more explanation regarding the Stewardship Series. Stay tuned as we continue to develop the stewardship program for this year.

## September 2025

### ACOLYTES

September 7 - Hannah Rissler  
September 14 - Gavin Cook  
September 21 - Ty Palmer  
September 28 - Malachi Parson

### LAY LEADERS

September 7 - Jeanette King  
September 14 - Donna George  
September 21 - Cheryl Feutz  
September 28 - Art Lampe

### Special Music

September 7 - Joy Diehl  
September 14 - Rick Michel  
September 21 - Chancel Choir  
September 28 - Handbell Choir

### GREETERS

Deb Burrier

### USHERS

Ron Burdett  
Sue Burdett  
Michele Pollock  
Deb Burrier



(75 and over)

September 5 - Charlotte Ayers  
September 12 - Nancy Goss  
September 12 - Linda Beck  
September 18 - George Bitikofer  
September 18 - Pat Pappas  
September 23 - Nick Haswell  
September 26 - Larry Miller  
September 27 - Ron Reiger

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| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <div>Pastor Jason's Sabbatical</div> <div>31</div>                                       | <div>1</div>                                    | <div>2</div>                                      | <div>3</div>  | <div>4</div>  | <div>5</div>  | <div>6</div>  |
| <div>Labor Day</div>   |   |   | <div>5pm - BOCE</div> <div>5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal</div>  | <div>2:30pm - Action Now</div> <div>6pm - Music &amp; Worship</div>   | <div>11am - Michelle Miller</div> <div>1pm - GriefShare</div>   | <div>1pm - Strasburg Soccer Club Car</div>  |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <div>Rally Sunday</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>7</div>                         | <div>3pm - Tiger Paw Packing</div> <div>8</div> | <div>9am - Congregational Care</div> <div>9</div> | <div>2pm - Park Village Service</div> <div>5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir Practice</div> <div>10</div>                              | <div>12pm - Senior Luncheon</div> <div>11</div>   | <div>Tiger Paw Packs Delivers</div> <div>8:30am - Men's Breakfast</div> <div>1pm - GriefShare</div> <div>12</div> | <div>Pastor Jason Officiating Bob</div> <div>Social Hall Reserved for Funeral</div> <div>13</div> |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <div>9:30am - Worship/Stewardship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div> <div>14</div> | <div>15</div>                                   | <div>16</div>                                     | <div>9:30am - Finance Mtg.</div> <div>1:30pm - Men's Service</div> <div>5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir Practice</div> <div>17</div> | <div>5pm - St John Hosting Strasburg</div> <div>6pm - Missions Meeting</div> <div>6:30pm - Church Council</div> <div>18</div> | <div>Tiger Paw Packs Delivers</div> <div>11am - Michelle Miller</div> <div>1pm - GriefShare</div> <div>19</div>   | <div>20</div>   |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <div>9:30am - Worship/Stewardship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div> <div>21</div> | <div>22</div>                                   | <div>23</div>                                     | <div>5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal</div> <div>24</div>  | <div>9:30am - The Chosen Bible Study</div> <div>25</div>  | <div>Tiger Paw Packs Delivers</div> <div>1pm - GriefShare</div> <div>26</div>                                     | <div>27</div>   |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <div>9:30am - Worship/Stewardship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div> <div>28</div> | <div>29</div>                                   | <div>30</div>                                     | <div>1</div>  | <div>2</div>  | <div>3</div>  | <div>4</div>  |