



OCTOBER 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 DESK

By Jason Rissler

Someone asked me recently, "Is it just me or do we have more people and more ministries happening in the last 1-2 years?" I said, "It is true. It isn't just you." What a joy it is to see! We see God at work! We see new faces showing up at St. John and becoming friends. We see people stepping up and doing new and significant ministries: GriefShare, The Chosen study, men's study, adult Sunday school classes, visitation and more. We have positive Spirit-filled energy.

It's fall and ministries such as Sunday school, senior luncheons, choir and handbells are back in swing. What a joy!

We are in the middle of our annual Stewardship Series, challenging us to consider how God would use our time, talents and treasures for his kingdom work. In the Stewardship Series we are hearing stories of how God is using our members in ministry. What a joy!

As pastor, I, like you, am one person and can do the work of one person. Yet when many people do the work of ministry, so much more ministry can happen and so many more lives can be impacted.

While we are seeing God work, I can't help but imagine what good God might have instore for us next year and following. Who might be the people that God brings into our congregation? Who might God call to do what work or ministry?

May God's work continue and like a seed grow. "Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.



Council Notes



Pastor's Report - Pastor Jason reported many home, hospital and nursing home visits. He has officiated five funerals and has five weddings scheduled in the next few months.

BOCE - Discussed possible dates for Fall Party. Youth Christmas Program was also discussed.

Congregational Care - Monthly visits to shut-ins and nursing homes were made. The Resource Guide is complete and in the office.

Fellowship - A luncheon will be held on October 5th to conclude the Stewardship Series.

Missions - No Meeting

Finance - Carpeting for Classroom #1 was approved.

Music and Worship - Music is being reviewed for the holidays. Plans are being made for an organ recital to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the dedication of our pipe organ.

Outreach - Tiger Paw Packs set up & packing will be on the first Monday of October. Trick or Treat is on November 1st. Glow sticks will be handed out at the library.

Property - Aaron Miller will be contacted regarding construction of a cabinet or table for sound equipment at the back of sanctuary.

Sanctuary - Nothing to report.

Old Business - The price for altar flowers will be increasing January 1, 2026. John Delcoma will be the first speaker in the Life Knowledge Seminar which kicks off on October 9th at 6:00pm.

New Business - A car wash fundraiser is being held on September 20th for Blayne Cooper to assist with his mission trip. Estimates will be collected to replace exterior Narthex door. Discussed holding AA meetings at our church.

Next Council Meeting - October 16, 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.**

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 9th at 12:00. The menu includes chicken parmesan strips over pasta, garlic bread, tossed salad, and apple crisp. Jim Rowe will be discussing the topic of modern day dairy farming.

Please RSVP to the church office
no later than Friday, October 3rd.

The Senior Center is hosting a craft show at the Strasburg United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 18th from 9:00-3:00. There will be over 40 vendors, food stand, and raffle drawings.

GriefShare has begun! If you missed the first class but are still interested in coming, please see Deb Burrier to register. It is held every Friday from 1:00-3:00pm.

There is 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 at 8:30am. See Steve Chaney for more information.

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

The Tiger Paw Packs setup and packing beginning in the month of October, will be held the first Monday of the month at 3:00pm.

The Board of Christian Education is selling St. John coffee mugs as a fundraiser. They are \$10 and are located in the Gathering Room.



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!



Strasburg St. John United Church of Christ to Host Speaker Series

St. John is hosting a monthly speaker series titled "Life Knowledge Seminar" with the purpose of aiding and educating in areas of life that we all experience.

The initial presentation is October 9, 2025, and the topic is funeral pre-planning led by John Delcoma with Toland-Herzig Funeral Home. The presentations are informational, and John will present decisions to be made when planning a funeral. Those in attendance will receive a worksheet they can mark as options are presented. John will provide a total cost for participants based on individual selections.

Future topics include Elder Scam Prevention by Kelsey McConaha of the Dover-Phila Federal Credit Union on November 13, 2025. Judge Adam Wilgus will also be speaking on Avoiding Probate, and Heather Spinell of Absolute Pharmacy will discuss OTC drug awareness in 2026.

The series is free and open to the public, but registration is requested for planning purposes. To register for a presentation which will be the second Thursday of each month at 6:00pm, contact St. John UCC office at 330-878-5113.



St. John UCC would like to give a "Huge Thank You" to George and Mary Bitikofer!

They have been the leaders for the Tiger Paw Packs program for ten years, serving as the buyers, menu planners, transporters of purchases, keepers of the inventory, and many more jobs that are too lengthy to list in this small space. They have decided to pass on the torch to Pete and Linda Salom. Their hard work and dedication to such an important need in the community has not gone unnoticed. They have helped so many Strasburg children, and as we look toward the future, we know the strong foundation that George and Mary have laid will continue to bless children in the area.

It is the work of volunteers like George and Mary that allow St. John to truly reflect God's love.

Thank you George and Mary for being such a blessing to the Tiger Paw Packs program and a beacon of light in our community!

God Bless You.

Thanks

October 2025

I want to thank my church family for your compassion and support for Don and mine's journey this past 18 months. I can't even put into words our family's appreciation for the prayers, cards, hugs, and presence at his calling hours and funeral service.

God Bless each and every one of you.

Love,

Pat Liggett and Family

Thank you for your generous donation for my Eagle Scout project!

-JR Banks

(Thank you to JR for creating a fire pit at St. John's!)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayerful support of the Dress A Child program.

By joining hearts and hands, our many children living in poverty will begin the school year with some new clothes and a happy heart!

Many Thanks,

Brenda Jenkins

Dear Friends,

Thank you! We received your generous gift, and we are grateful. Only through the support of others can our outreach ministries continue. Homework Club, our after school tutoring program, resumes on September 22. After a light meal, the students are matched with volunteer tutors who help them complete their homework and then engage in other academic enrichment activities.

Our Back to School ministry was great--thanks to many donors. About sixty children connected to Washington UCC received book bags filled with school supplies, hygiene kits, new shoes, and funds for parents to buy school uniforms or clothes. We continue to serve lunches four days a week, both eat in and carry out. We average 1,300 lunches a month. We are continuing monthly 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

Dear St. John United Church of Christ,

We at Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community would like to take this time to say thank you for your generous donation to our nonprofit organization. Your contribution allows us to serve those in Tuscarawas county. The programs we currently offer are assistance with eviction and disconnect of utilities, gas vouchers, healthy choices for youth, Share A Christmas, Fostering Bags and Free Community Laundry Days.

In addition to Share A Christmas we are doing a program called Bless A Senior where we bless a senior with hygiene products and cleaning supplies.

We appreciate you and your assistance in our efforts. Without your continued support we would not be able to serve those in our wonderful community.

Thank You,

Leslie Booth

ACOLYTES

October 5 - Hannah Rissler

October 12 - Nora Sexton

October 19 - Gavin Cook

October 26 - Ty Palmer

LAY LEADERS

October 5 - Denise Borter

October 12 - Cheryl Feutz

October 19 - Deb Burrier

October 26 - Kathy Osler

SPECIAL MUSIC

October 5 - Twila Lampe

October 12 - Laura Smith

October 19 - Handbell Choir

October 26 - Chancel Choir

GREETERS

Linda Beck

Corrinne Gerber

USHERS

Richard Beck

Corrinne Gerber

John Gerber

Steve Chaney



(75 and over)

October 2 - Bob Black

October 9 - Cheryl Feutz

October 22 - Don Harvey

October 29 - Connie Zingery

October 30 - Linda Salom

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 5pm - BOCE 5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal	2 9:30am - The Chosen Bible Study 2:30pm - Action Now	3 1pm - GriefShare	4
5 World Communion Sunday 9:30am - Worship/Stewardship 10:30am - Soup & Sandwich 10:45am - Sunday School	6 3pm - Tiger Paw Packing	7 6:30pm - Faith Family Bible Study	8 2pm - Park Village Service 5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal	9 9:30am - The Chosen Bible Study 12pm - Senior Luncheon 6pm - Life Knowledge Seminar 6pm - Music & Worship	10 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Machele Miller 1pm - GriefShare	11
12 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	13 Columbus Day	14 9am - Congregational Care	15 9:30am - Finance Mtg. 1:30pm - Hennis Service 5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal 7pm - Chancel Choir Practice	16 9:30am - The Chosen Bible Study 6pm - Missions Meeting 6:30pm - Church Council	17 1pm - GriefShare	18
19 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	20	21 6:30pm - Faith Family Bible Study	22 5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal 7pm - Chancel Choir Practice	23 9:30am - The Chosen Bible Study	24 11am - Machele Miller 1pm - GriefShare	25
26 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	27	28	29 5:30pm - Handbell Rehearsal	30 9:30am - The Chosen Bible Study	31 1pm - GriefShare	1