

**FEBRUARY 2026**

# THE LIGHT

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

ST. JOHN  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM  
ONSITE AND ONLINE  
FACEBOOK  
YOUTUBE  
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SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:45 AM

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**By Jason Rissler**

Thanks to everyone who submitted a committee/ministry report for the annual report. I appreciate the work that you do. I am working on a picture slideshow for Sunday morning to highlight happenings in 2025 at St. John. Each time I do this I am amazed at all that has happened in the period of a year: 6 new members, 5 baptisms, Bible studies, and the launching of GriefShare and the Speaker Series.

We strengthen partnerships with ministries like Washington UCC and My Town Strasburg. We supported the local ministries of Tiger Paw Packs and T4C. We provide opportunities for our youth to go to camp and on service trips. Our Seniors gathered monthly to eat and learn together. We continued much needed improvements in our building: paint, carpet and stain glass window repair. Through your financial generosity we once again finished the year in the black.

What a joy it is to be part of God's work and to join with you in doing this important work. With faith, we anticipate what God will do in and through you in 2026. To God be the glory for the great things he has done, is doing and will do!



**Pastor's Report** - Pastor Jason made many home, nursing home and hospital visits, as well as holding services at two nursing homes. He officiated at two weddings. He attended many meetings within the church and community with many more scheduled. He will be teaching a 5-week class for the Boy Scouts. A meeting will be held with several people interested in joining St. John. A baptism was scheduled for January 18.

**BOCE** - Youth/Family Bowling Party is on February 1. The sub sandwich sale on February 8 will benefit the campership fund. Cheer box items are being collected through February 8. A May adult work trip and June or July youth/adult mission trip to Cincinnati is planned.

**Congregational Care** - Due to so much illness going around, the group is suspending in-person visits for a while. Pat Liggett is doing communion for shut-ins four times a year.

**Fellowship** - Cookies are needed for February.

**Finance** - Due to illness, not all information was available for the finance committee meeting. The money market account had a balance of over \$120,000 and \$6,150 has been paid as restitution in the embezzlement case.

**Missions** - Missions and Outreach will be working together for a period of time.

**Music and Worship** - Four new handbell cases have been ordered and should arrive by January 16. Discussion was held on hanging the TV near where the bells are played. The construction of a locking handbell cabinet for the candle room was discussed.

**Outreach** - The High School Girls Basketball team helped pack Tiger Paw Packs. The congregational Birthday party will be held Sunday, January 18th.

**Property** - A bid of \$26,000 was received for a second phase of replacing glass to protect our stained glass windows. \$3,200 was for the cost of the tower windows due to the need for a lift for the glass. Congregational approval would be needed.

**Sanctuary** - Christmas decorations were removed.

**Sound and Electronics** - Four new mic stands have been purchased and in place.

**Old Business** - Discussion was held and tabled on what to do with excess 2025 benevolent funds.

**New Business** - The new door for the narthex is in and will be installed. The 100-year celebration of our church organ is February 15, 2026, at 3:00PM. Members were asked to review their committee responsibilities. GriefShare begins February 13, 2026.

**Next Council Meeting** - February 19, 2026, 6:00pm.

\*\*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.



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!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# February 2026

The Board of Christian Education invites children/youth and families of all ages to a bowling and pizza party at Boulevard Lanes on Sunday, February 1st. The cost is \$5 each. To carpool, meet at St. John by 3:30pm, or meet at the bowling alley by 4:00pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room so we can provide Boulevard Lanes with the number attending. Hope you can join in the fun!



The Annual Meeting will be held after Worship Services on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Scout Sunday - February 8**

**Community Ash Wednesday service**  
**February 18, 7:00 pm at Strasburg**  
**United Methodist Church.**

**Men's Monthly Breakfast -February 13, 8:30 am**

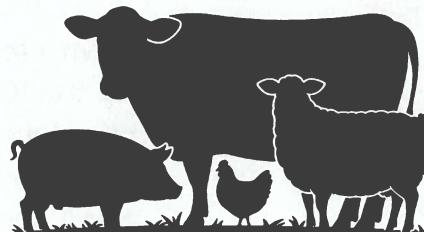
The group will meet at the church with a full breakfast served. A book study of Max Lucado's, "Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World" will take place.



The next Senior Luncheon is Thursday, February 12th at 12:00 noon. The menu includes wedding soup, ham/cheese slider and strawberry cheesecake. Mindy Hoopingarner, BSN, RN of Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital/Dover will discuss stroke prevention and what to know when someone is having a stroke. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 6, 2026.



We are continuing to raise money for people in underdeveloped countries through Heifer International. Heifer coordinates gifts of and training for beehives, chickens and other animals to develop an ongoing income.



### ACOLYTES

February 01 - Ty Palmer  
 February 08 - Malachi Parson  
 February 15 - Nora Sexton  
 February 22 - Hannah Rissler

### LAY LEADERS

February 01- Cheryl Feutz  
 February 08 - Denise Borter  
 February 15 - Cole Hutchison  
 February 22 - Jeanette King

### SPECIAL MUSIC

February 01 - Chancel Choir with soloist, Beth Buehler  
 February 08 - Joy Diehl and Gary Garber  
 February 15 - Handbell Choir  
 February 22 - Chancel Choir

### GREETERS

Linda Reiger  
 Linda Salom

### USHERS

Ron Reiger  
 Linda Reiger  
 Peter Salom  
 Linda Salom



(75 and over)

February 2 - Jean Moran  
 February 10 - Marilyn Burgess  
 February 12 - Sally Dorn  
 February 15 - Harry Wood  
 February 23 - Elaine Shelt

**"GriefShare  
helps you  
understand  
that each  
person heals in  
their own way  
and time—and  
that's okay."**

Donna



The GriefShare program will be starting again on Friday, February 13, 1:00-3:00 PM. Grieving is a normal response to the loss of your loved one, but grief can also be unpredictable. Your GriefShare group will help you learn how to cope with the daily challenges of grief. You can register for this session by calling the church office or Deb Burrier at 330-413-0685.

### **Speaker Series**

The Life Learning Speaker Series is resuming February 12, at 6:00PM with Heather Spinell, RPh as guest speaker. Heather will be sharing information on Over The Counter and pharmaceutical drug awareness. Please RSVP to the church office.



Future speakers are:

March 12 - Attorney Mark Wagner, Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty - Recommended Probate Documents

April 9 - Judge Adam Wilgus - Avoiding Probate

May 14 - Ruth Ann Martin (Pastor Jason's mother) -  
Downsizing and Decluttering our lives



### **A Musical Celebration**

Commemorating the 100 year anniversary of our Moller pipe organ. The celebration will feature the music of five organists including former St. John organists and piano and handbell music.

February 15 at 3:00 PM



On behalf of My Town Strasburg, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and support. Your support plays a vital role in helping us serve our community and fulfill our mission "Help Strasburg, Help Strasburg".

Without partners like you, we would not be able to provide the programs and services that make a meaningful difference in the lives of our residents. Your commitment to My Town Strasburg demonstrates the true spirit of community, and we are proud to have you as a valued supporter.

Thank you once again for your generosity and belief in our work. We look forward to continuing this partnership and creating a stronger, more vibrant Strasburg together. Below is a brief end of year summary of some of things we as an organization accomplished in 2025.

#### My Town Strasburg – 2025 Year-End Summary

As we reflect on this year, we celebrate the incredible impact made possible through the generosity of our community:

##### Warehouse Assistance:

312 families utilized our warehouse for essential household items.

An additional 30 families received personalized support beyond warehouse services.

**Holiday Giving:** Purchased 20 gift cards (\$40 each) from Bulk Village Food to bring joy and relief to those in need during the Christmas season.

**Financial Support:** Continued to assist Strasburg residents struggling with rent and utility payments, helping them maintain stability during challenging times.

**Community Connections:** Actively connected individuals in need with local services and resources, ensuring comprehensive support for diverse needs.

**Expanded Outreach:** Partnered with T4C Churches to extend help to those in dire need outside Strasburg Township, strengthening our regional impact.

#### Gratitude to Our Supporters

We extend our deepest thanks to local businesses, patrons, and donors whose unwavering support makes this mission possible. Your contributions—whether financial, material, or volunteer time—are the backbone of our efforts. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community. Our mission remains steadfast: to support families, foster community resilience, and ensure that no one faces hardship alone.

Thank you being a vessel of God's love and for walking this journey with us!

Thank you!!

Tom Patton, Mark Lancaster, Lucas Boylan, Chris Beck

## St John UCC Strasburg Holidays in United States

Feb 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	7
1 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Annual 10:45am - Sunday School 4pm - Youth Bowling &	2 3pm - Tiger Paw Packing 2pm - Organ Celebration	3 5pm - BOCE 5:30pm - Handbell	4 2:30pm - Action Now 6pm - Music & Worship	5 11am - Machelle Miller	6		
8 Cheer Box Deadline	9 9:30am - Worship-Scout 10:30am - Sub Sandwich 10:45am - Sunday School	10 9am - Congregational 6:30pm - Faith Family	11 2pm - Park Village Service 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Choir Practice	12 12pm - Senior Luncheon 6pm - Speaker Series -	13 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - GriefShare Class	14	
15 16 Presidents' Day	17 18 Ash Wednesday	19 6pm - Church Council 6pm - Missions Meeting	20 11am - Machelle Miller 1pm - GriefShare Class	21			
10:45am - Sunday School 3pm - Organ Celebration	130pm - Hennis Service 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Ash Wednesday 7pm - Choir Practice	1pm - GriefShare Class					
22 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	23 6:30pm - Faith Family	24 5:30pm - Handbell	25 1pm - GriefShare Class	26 27 28			