

JANUARY 2026

THE LIGHT

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Jason Rissler

ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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

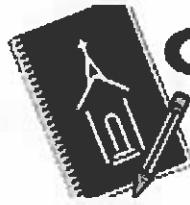
What a great month of December: Christmas caroling, youth Christmas party, Live Nativity, children's Christmas program, the nursing home Christmas services, Blue Christmas service and the Christmas Eve candlelight service. As I reflect on these times together, my heart is filled with joy and gratitude. It was a joy to celebrate the birth of Christ with you.

Heather and I also want to thank you for the kindness and generosity you once again extended to our family this Christmas. Thank you for the Christmas gifts and thoughtful notes and cards. We appreciate it, and we appreciate you.

As we enter January, we also look ahead to the upcoming year. We look ahead with anticipation for the ministry we will be able to do together and the new people we will meet.

I invited you to reflect on the words of the Apostle Paul and to receive as a blessing: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Happy New Year,
God's blessings to you!



Council Notes

Pastor's Report - Pastor Jason made many home, nursing home and hospital visits, as well as holding services at two nursing homes. He held pre-marriage counseling sessions with two different couples. He attended many meetings within the church and community. Arrangements were made to change to Omni Fiber for internet and phone service.

BOCE - Youth Christmas Program scheduled for December 21. \$200 in Heifer program donations were submitted in December for available matching funds. \$500 has been raised for this program with plans to continue through the Sunday School year.

Congregational Care - The Thanksgiving meal was a success. 50 people attended the December Senior Luncheon.

Fellowship - Cookies are needed for January.

Missions - No Meeting

Finance - The 2026 proposed budget was presented with a 4.32% increase and approved by council.

Music and Worship - The bells have been cleaned and polished. The cases are damaged. The purchase of four new handbell cases was approved. The construction of a locking handbell cabinet for the candle room was discussed.

Outreach - MyTown Strasburg donated 22 gift cards for families receiving Tiger Paw Packs. The congregational Birthday party will be held Sunday, January 18th.

Property - Work is continuing on the protective glass on south side windows of sanctuary.

Sanctuary - Christmas decorations are up in the sanctuary. Poinsettias to be arranged Friday, December 19.

Old Business - None.

New Business - Council reviewed and approved a \$5,500 bid from Encore Custom Builders for the remodeling work in the meeting room. This includes labor and materials to install drywall, lights, receptacles, ceiling tiles and paint. Council approved a \$50 Christmas bonus be given to each employee.

Council discussed and approved sending \$1,000 to Camp Washington which includes \$175 from plate donations and \$825 from excess benevolent funds.

Thank you to Deb, Jay and Linda for their service on Council.

Committee reports are due to the office January 9, 2026.

Communion will be served on January 11, 2026. The annual Congregational Meeting will be February 1, 2026.

Committee Assignments are:

BOCE and Vice President: Kathy Osler

Congregational Care: Connie Wahl

Fellowship and Outreach and Council President: Sue Burdett

Finance: Art Lampe

Missions: Debbie Scherer

Music and Worship: Sue Lalewicz

Property: Rick Timberlake

Sanctuary and Secretary: Deb Burrier

Streaming, etc.: Ron Pollock

Next Council Meeting - January 15, 2026, 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.



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!



January 2026

The installation of new Church Council and Board of Christian Education Members will occur on January 11, during the church service.

The Annual Congregational Birthday Party will take place on Sunday, January 18th following worship. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room for covered dishes. Desserts will be provided.



The Annual Meeting will be held after Worship Services on Sunday, February 1st. Committee reports are due to the church office by January 9th.

Men's Monthly Breakfast - January 9, 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 Senior Luncheon is Thursday, January 8th at 12:00 noon. The menu includes sauerkraut and pork, mashed potatoes and brownie for dessert. Living Historian, Christopher Hart will share a Titanic memory. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, January 2nd.



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

January 04 - Ty Palmer
January 11 - Malachi Parson
January 18 - Nora Sexton
January 25 - Hannah Rissler

LAY LEADERS

January 04 - Kathy Osler
January 11 - Jeanette King
January 18 - Art Lampe
January 25 - Evelyn Smith

SPECIAL MUSIC

January 04 - Twila Lampe
January 11 - Joy Diehl and Gary Garber
January 18 - Handbell Choir
January 25 - Chancel Choir

GREETERS

Patti Rimer
Connie Wahl

USHERS

Dave Rimer
Patti Rimer
Charles Wahl
Connie Wahl



(75 and over)

January 14 - Lillian Galli
January 15 - Jane Andreas
January 16 - Bill Sundheimer
January 22 - Donna George
January 30 - Pat Liggett



WITH HEARTFELT APPRECIATION,
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL RECOGNIZES

St. John United Church of Christ

for your unwavering dedication and support that inspires us all.
Your faith-filled generosity changes lives and brings hope to families around the world.

*"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion,
and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11*

Christy Moore

Heifer International



December 2025

Date



THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

An Ohio Star Theater Original Production

— January 28 – March 6, 2026 —

It's not too late to experience the power and passion of Ohio Star Theater's 2025 Bible-based musical! The Road to Damascus returns to the stage this winter for 25 more spectacular performances—including 10 a.m. matinees with meal options. Bring your group for a spectacular time of inspiration, music, and fellowship!

Special winter pricing available!

Discounted rates and packages are available for groups of 15 or more.
Please call for more details. Group Sales 330-852-8408. OhioStarTheater.com
is the ONLY authorized seller of tickets for our theater.

St. John UCC Strasburg Holidays in United States

Jan 2026 (Eastern Time - New York

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----|----------------|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School | Office Closed | New Year's Day | | Pastor Jason returns | | Stover Wedding |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School | 3pm - Tiger Paw Packing | 5pm - BOCE 5:30pm - Handbell | 12pm - Senior Luncheon 2:30pm - Action Now 6pm - Music & Worship | Committee Reports are 8:30am - Men's Breakfast | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School | 9am - Congregational 6:30pm - Faith Family | 2pm - Park Village Service 5:30pm - Handbell | 6pm - Missions Meeting 6:30pm - Church Council | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School | Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 9:30am - Finance Mtg. 1:30pm - Hennis Service 5:30pm - Handbell | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School | 6:30pm - Faith Family | 5:30pm - Handbell | | | | |

