

MARCH 2026

THE LIGHT

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Jason Rissler

Over the next weeks through Palm Sunday, I am using Max Lucado's book, "Tame Your Thoughts" as a resource for the sermon series. Heather is also leading a six-week study that will include a video and group discussion on this book.

A key verse for these 6 weeks is one found in Romans 12:2. It says this "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Phillips Translation says it this way: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its mold, let God re-mold your minds from within."

Just like we can build the muscles in our body through exercise and weight lifting, so we can build the muscle of our brain and allow God to form and mold our thoughts.

I invite you on to a Lenten study and journey of transforming our minds. Lent is a time when we often "give something up." We give up things like meat, chocolate or TV. I invite you this Lent to give up stinking thinking. I invite you to give up thinking the ways of the world and to take up the ways of God. I look forward to what God has in store for us!

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



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 attended many meetings within the church and community with many more scheduled. He met with three people interested in joining St. John.

BOCE - The sub sandwich sale proceeds will benefit the campership fund. 90 subs were sold. Cheer boxes were delivered. A bake sale will be held on Palm Sunday. The next Bible Study will begin on February 26 from 9:30-11:00 AM.

Congregational Care - Cake will be served to celebrate new members on Sunday, February 22. A celebration of life is scheduled for Warren Welz on May 16.

Fellowship - A women's luncheon will be held May 3.

Finance - The final meeting room renovation cost was \$5,672. The embezzlement case court ordered restitution amount is \$6,395.

Missions - No report

Music and Worship - An estimate of \$3,000 to build a cabinet for bell storage was presented followed by lengthy discussion. No action will be taken until more information is received on possible solutions.

Outreach - We are currently packing 44 Tiger Paw Packs.

Property - Discussed under old and new business.

Sanctuary - No report.

Sound and Electronics - No report.

Old Business - 2025 excess benevolent funds will be distributed as follows:

\$1,000 each to My Town Strasburg, Camp Washington and Heifer Project
\$500 each to Friends of the Homeless, FCA and Boy Scouts
The Narthex door has been installed.
Discussed re-establishing the Missions committee.

New Business - A bid from Radiant Arts for completion of the stained glass window project was approved by council. It will need to be approved by the congregation.

Ring doorbell and cameras have been purchased and will be installed.

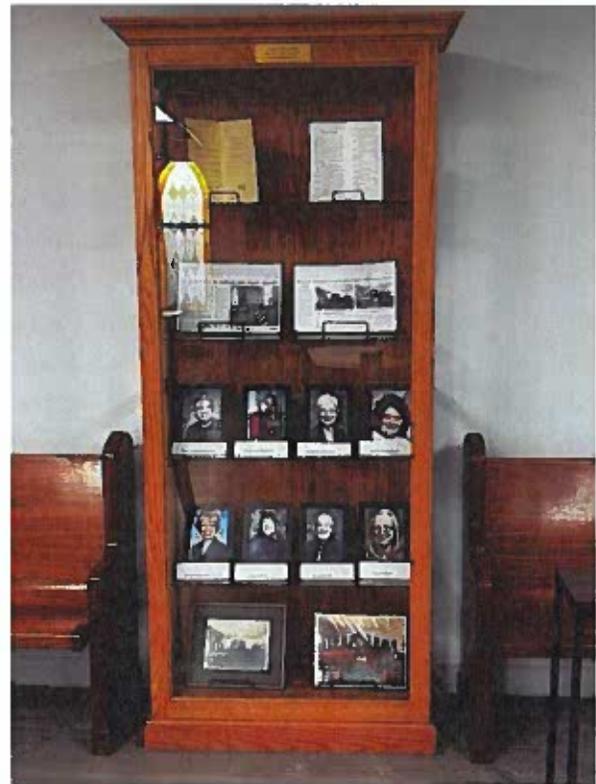
Council approved to accept new members: Lynda Bales, Kathy Lanzer and Don Wallick.

Council approved attendance at a preaching class on March 7 and April 25 for Steve Chaney, Jason Rissler, Cole Hutchison and Derrick Rissler.

Discussed changing the grass lot into a parking area.

Next Council Meeting - March 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 or use the QR code.
Thanks for your generosity!



March 2026

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



The group will meet at the church with a 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.

ACOLYTES

- March 01 - Nora Sexton
- March 08 - Gavin Cook
- March 15 - Ty Palmer
- March 22 - Landon Dayton
- March 29 - Hannah Rissler

LAY LEADERS

- March 01 - Denise Borter
- March 08 - Jeanette King
- March 15 - Art Lampe
- March 22 - Cheryl Feutz
- March 29 - Kathy Osler

SPECIAL MUSIC

- March 01 - Chancel Choir with pianist, Elaine Scatizzi
- March 08 - Twila Lampe
- March 15 - Denise Borter
- March 22 - Joy Diehl and Gary Garber
- March 29 - Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir

GREETERS

- Connie Zingery
- Tara Preston
- Deb Burrier

USHERS

- Bob Preston
- Tara Preston
- Terry Zingery
- Deb Burrier
- Steve Chaney
- Vicki Hinebaugh

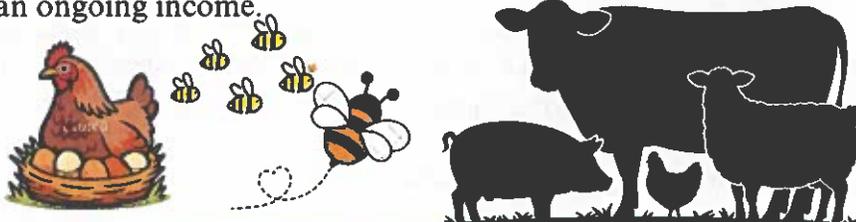


The next **Senior Luncheon** is Thursday, March 12th at 12:00 noon. The menu includes cheesy potatoes, chicken tenders and fruit. Sarah Netro, M.A. CCC-SLP Outpatient Speech-Language Pathologist for Carrollton & New Philadelphia Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital Rehabilitation & Sports Therapy will be our speaker. Sarah is a speech pathologist who has been practicing for over 18 years with an emphasis in adult neurological conditions and swallowing difficulties. She is currently with the Cleveland Clinic in New Philadelphia and Carrollton. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, March 6, 2026.

Scout Spaghetti Dinner

Boy Scout Troop 72's annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held Sunday, March 22, 2026, from 11:00am to 1:00pm at St. John United Church of Christ. Meals will be available for drive-thru take-out, and group seating will be available following morning worship. The cost is your freewill donation and includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, and dessert. All proceeds will directly benefit the Boy Scouts' year-round program in Strasburg. Donations and questions can be directed to Michele Randolph at (330) 340-1143.

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.



“GriefShare helps you understand that each person heals in their own way and time—and that’s okay.”

Donna



GriefShare™

God is your refuge
& strength –
Psalm 46:1

The GriefShare program will be started 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 will continue March 12, at 6:00PM with Attorney Mark Wagner as guest speaker. Mark will be sharing information on recommended probate documents. This informative Series is open to all, so please invite your friends. Please RSVP to the church office.



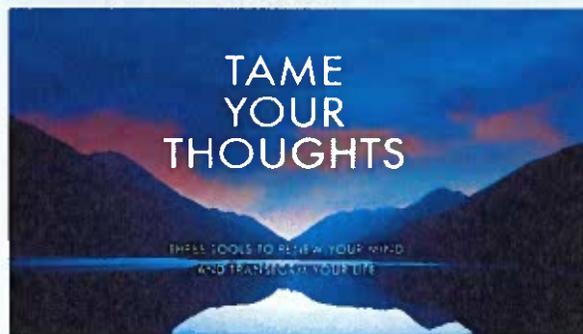
Future speakers are:

April 9 - Judge Adam Wilgus - Avoiding Probate
May 14 - Ruth Ann Martin (Pastor Jason’s mother) -
Downsizing and Decluttering our lives



“Are your days ever so gloomy?
You can change that.”

“Heavied by regrets?
Your past need not define your future.”



“Perpetually anxious?
Abundant peace is an option.”

“Haunted by inner critics?
You can defang those voices in your head.”
-Lucado

Lenten Study

Starting February 26, 9:30-11:00

There will be a six-week study on Thursday mornings during Lent using a resource from Max Lucado entitled: “Tame Your Thoughts.” The study will give you tools to renew your mind and transform your life. If you would like to be part of this study, please let Heather Rissler know to order a workbook.

Pastor Jason will also be using this series on Sunday mornings during Lent.



We welcomed three new members on
February 22, 2026!
Kathy Lanzer, Don Wallick and Lynda Bales

Thank You!

I appreciate the Cheer Box gift and especially
the three boys who brought it! I enjoyed
visiting with them!

Thank you!
Hank Grove

I would like to Thank You for the Goodies bag.
Also, I would like to thank all those people who
sent me cards. It made my day.

Thanks again!
Linda Rusk

In Memory

We are saddened by and offer our deepest
sympathies to the family of Jay Huff on his passing
on February 2, 2026. A memorial service was held
at St. John on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

MARCH

Birthdays
(75 and over)

- March 02 - Linda Rusk
- March 04 - Peter Salom
- March 07 - Terry Zingery
- March 12 - Connie Chaney
- March 21 - Richard Beck
- March 21 - Becky Reymond
- March 29 - Mike Foster
- March 29 - Richard Holter

Dates to Remember

Holy Week

March 29 - Palm Sunday (children and
youth process with the palms)

Thursday, April 2 - Sedar Meal at Strasburg
United Methodist 6:00 PM

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday at First
Lutheran, 7:00 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	2 3pm - Tiger Paw Packing	3 6pm - Music & Worship	4 1pm - The Road to 5pm - BOCE 5:30pm - Handbell	5 2:30pm - Action Now	6 10am - Machel Miller 1pm - GriefShare Class	7 12pm - Gessner 80th BD
8 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	9	10 9am - Congregational 6:30pm - Faith Family	11 2pm - Park Village Service 5:30pm - Handbell	12 12pm - Senior Luncheon 6pm - Life Knowledge	13 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - GriefShare Class	14
15 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	16	17	18 9:30am - Finance Mtg. 1:30pm - Hennis Service 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Choir Practice	19 6pm - Missions Meeting 6:30pm - Church Council	20 11am - Machel Miller 1pm - GriefShare Class	21 10am - Scout spaghetti
22 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 11am - Scout Spaghetti	23	24 6pm - MacDowell Music 6:30pm - Faith Family	25 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Choir Practice	26	27 1pm - GriefShare Class	28 11am - TJ Turek BD Party
29 9:30am - Worship-Palm 10:45am - Sunday School	30	31	1 5pm - BOCE 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Choir Practice	2 2:30pm - Action Now 6pm - Maundy Thursday 6pm - Music & Worship	3 11am - Machel Miller 1pm - GriefShare Class 7pm - Good Friday@First	4