



OCTOBER 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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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

Last week at a middle school volleyball game, my daughter's teammate had a family member come to watch the game and provide encouragement. At the end of the evening, I overheard the mother say to her guest, "Thanks so much for coming this evening, I really appreciate it. It means more than you will ever know."

There is power in showing up and being present. It is true in supporting our youth in school and sports and it is true in the church. The church is only as meaningful and effective as the people who show up. If no one shows up there is no church. There might be an empty building, but not a church. The church is people and when we show up we can be together, be the church!

In our theme verses this month from Acts 2, this is what we see the first church doing. They showed up to worship, study and pray together. They showed up to serve one another. They showed up and ate together and encouraged each other.

Your presence brings encouragement. When you show up, there is joy and life that you bring with you. If you host a party, you want the guests to show up. The guests make the party. They bring you joy, life and purpose. Without the guests, you might have good food but no party.

With that being said, I truly appreciate the many of you who faithfully show up so that together we can be the church. I know that it isn't physically possible for each of you to be present in person, but I see you there online and it encourages me. With the mother of Hannah's teammate, I say: Thanks so much for showing up. I really appreciate it. It means more than you will ever know!





Council Notes

Pastor's Report - Pastor Jason met with several individuals and continues to make many home, nursing home and hospital visits, as well as holding services at Hennis and Park Village nursing centers. He also officiated at a wedding and a funeral. He participates in the Men's breakfast and study, GriefShare, adult Sunday School Class and BOCE, Music and Worship, Congregational Care and Finance meetings. Pastor Jason participates in many Outreach and Community Connections including providing pastoral coverage for local churches.

BOCE - The Sunday School teacher list has been finalized. The annual Fall party will be held on the hill on October 18th.

Congregational Care - Mums have been purchased and will be delivered to shut-ins. Work will be starting on a new Church Directory. Cards will be sent to church members who have lost loved ones.

Fellowship - The committee is working on the plans for the Stewardship luncheon.

Finance - The final payment for the windows will be due soon. \$225 has been received for court ordered restitution. The 2027 budget should be completed by November.

Missions/Outreach - The committee is meeting quarterly and there was no report.

Music and Worship - Reviews have been completed for the organist and chancel choir director. The committee is searching for a new handbell director.

Property - There are four stained glass windows to complete. Final payment will be made following completion.

Sanctuary - Fall sanctuary decorations have been placed. The cornucopia will be added soon.

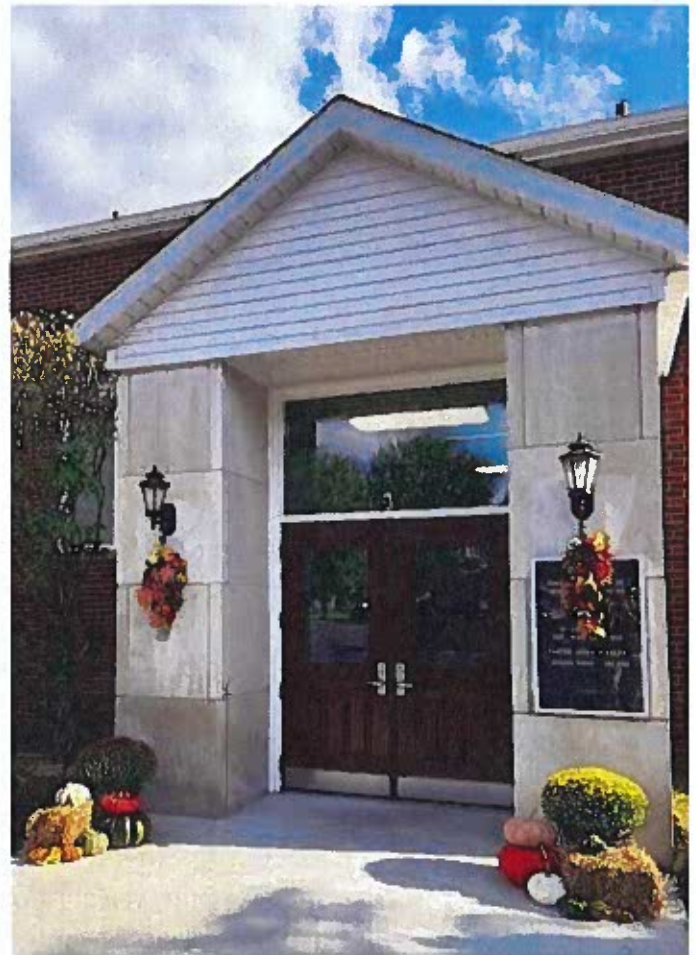
Sound and Electronics - Nothing to report.

Old Business - Synergy Signs will begin refurbishing the outdoor signs in two weeks. Gary Garber has been released with no restrictions from his accident. Council agreed to employ Rick Timberlake as an interim custodian due to the ongoing absence of Gary Garber. Discussion was held on plans to renovate the Social Hall.

New Business - Discussion continued on sanctuary lighting. Otto Electric has a lift that could be used to change bulbs safely. Communion and Stewardship Luncheon will be on October 4th. A new computer was purchased for use in streaming.

Next Council Meeting - October 15, 2026, 6:00 PM.

****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!



Upcoming Fall Events

October 2026

Men's Monthly Breakfast - October 9, 8:00 am

The group will meet at the church with a breakfast served. The group will study the book of James. If you haven't yet joined, this is a great time!



Senior Luncheon - October 8 @ Noon

The next Senior Luncheon is on October 8th at noon in the Social Hall. Bruce Seevers will be playing his guitar and singing gospel music for us that day. The lunch plan includes Tator Tot Casserole, Tossed Salad and Fruit Salad.

Reservations are requested by the Friday before the luncheon each month.

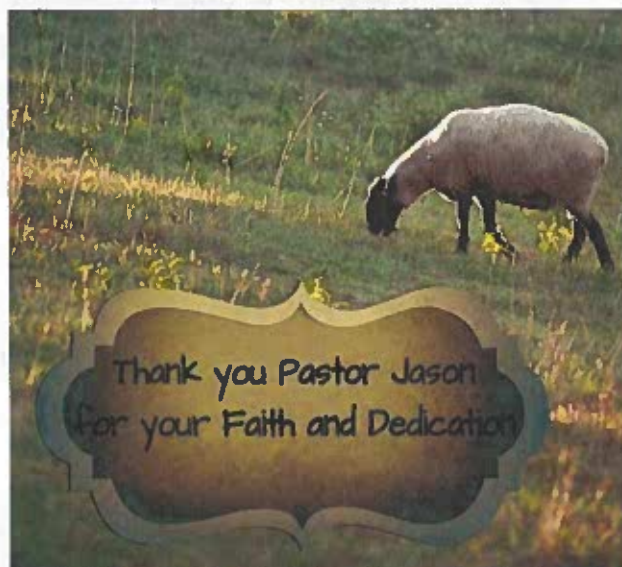
Speaker Series - October 8 @ 6:00 PM

The October Speaker Series speaker on October 8th will help you to better understand your Medicare options. Logan Morehead of Pipes Insurance will provide information on things to consider when selecting your (or a loved one's) Medicare options. As you may know, open enrollment is October through November, so you may find that there is a plan that is a better option for you at this stage of your life.

A follow-up Medicare topic is planned for November. These events are for educational purposes and no plan-specific benefits or details will be shared. For accommodations of persons with special needs at this meeting, call 330-878-5113.



2- Bob Black
6 - Jeanette King
9 - Cheryl Feutz
22 - Don Harvey
29 - Connie Zingery
30 - Linda Salom



ACOLYTES

Oct 4 - Gavin McPherson
Oct 11 - Hannah Rissler
Oct 18 - Nora Sexton
Oct 25 - Ty Palmer

LAY LEADERS

Oct 4 - Vickki Hinebaugh
Oct 11 - Denise Borter
Oct 18 - Cheryl Feutz
Oct 25 - Evelyn Smith

SPECIAL MUSIC

Oct 4 - Joy Diehl
Oct 11 - Chancel Choir
Oct 18 - Rick Michel
Oct 25 - Handbell Choir



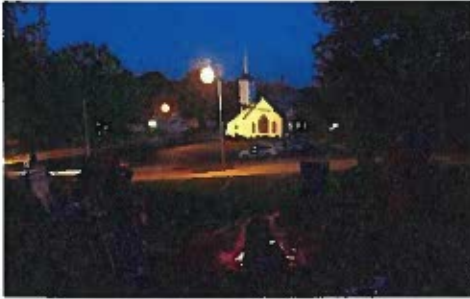
GREETERS

Corrinne Gerber
Linda Beck

USHERS

John Gerber
Corrinne Gerber
Richard Beck
Deb Burrier
Connie Wahl





Fall Party on the Hill!

Join the fun on Sunday, October 18th at 5:00 PM as we Party on the Hill with a campfire, food, games and a 6:30 PM hayride! Bring your lawnchair. Everyone is welcome for an enjoyable evening.



Tiger Paw Packing

Tiger Paw packing will be at 1:00 pm on the first Monday of each month with the exception of December when we will pack on the first Tuesday. Strasburg students will be helping to pack on a more regular basis.



Trick or Treat Night

The Outreach Committee will participate in Strasburg Trick or Treating Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

FCA at SHS

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets at Strasburg High School the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 7AM. All students are welcome to attend. The planned speakers for October are Mike Lancaster on the 2nd and Curtis Metzger on the 16th.



Cub Scout Popcorn Sale

The Cub Scouts will be having their annual popcorn sale on Sunday, October 4 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Come prepared to support the Scouts, put smiles on their faces, and purchase your favorite selections!

Strasburg Lions Rose Day October 17th, 2026 "Sweetest Day"

Price: \$25.00 per dozen

Pre-Orders must be in by October 10th
(Oct. 16th, Friday Deliveries Available)

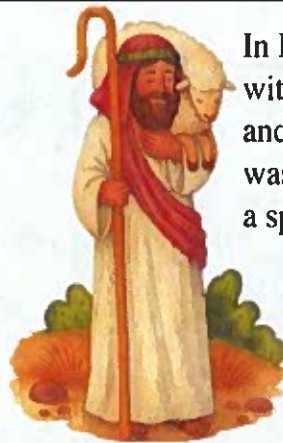
To order contact any member or
President Waliah Poto
330-323-1470



We Serve



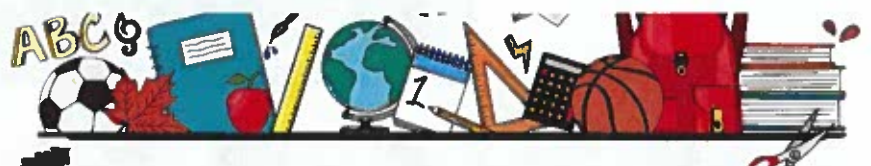
Bible Quiz



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A Salt Solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5, ESV)





Choir Director



Chancel Choir and Handbell Director

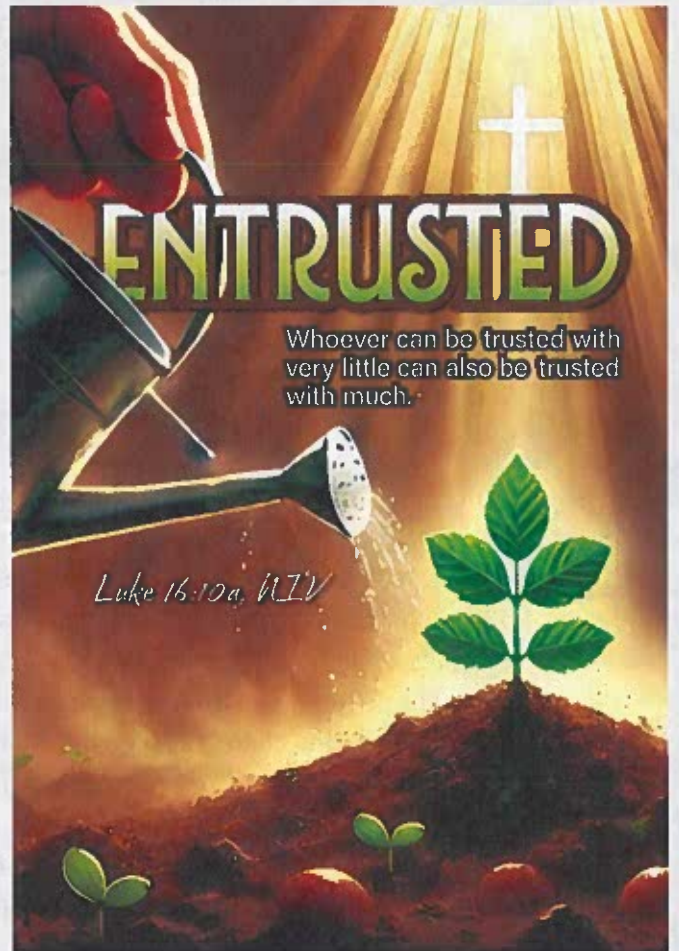
St. John United Church of Christ in Strasburg is looking for a part-time Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir Director to direct their Chancel Choir of about 15 people and Handbell Choir of 10-12 people. The job involves September through May practice once a week for each choir plus a monthly Sunday morning performance. You can submit your resume to stjohnuccstrasburg@gmail.com



Time, Talents & Treasure



Faithful Stewards



Revival Night

330 ministries

WORSHIP | FOOD TRUCKS | WORD

10.3.26 | 802 WARDELL DR SW STRASBURG
DOORS OPEN @ 4:00 | EVENT STARTS AT 6:00



For more details follow us

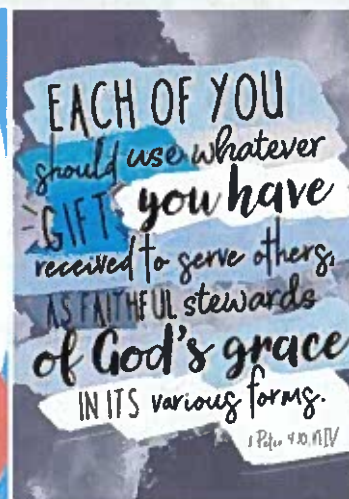
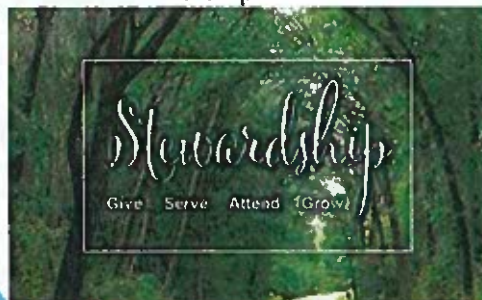


Stewardship Series 2026

September 13th—October 4th

Members of the finance committee have been developing a plan for the annual Stewardship Series working on a theme based on the hymn "We Are the Church" which describes the importance of total participation from all of us. The refrain from this hymn tells us the following: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!" A single person or group does not achieve our mission as a church. What we accomplish takes commitment from all of us. The numerous committees support important services and programs such as Senior Luncheons, Live Nativity, Bible Studies, Men's Breakfast Meetings, Youth Mission Trips, GriefShare, Tiger Paw Packs, Dress-a-Child, Camp Washington and benevolent callings as well as other community programs. Some of the presentations during the stewardship series will highlight Christian education, current church activities or programs, and potential possibilities for our legacy to the church. You will receive a letter, a time and talent survey, and a commitment card with more explanation regarding the Stewardship Series. We look forward to learning more about how "We are the church together!"

There will be a celebration luncheon following the October 4th worship service.



Some popcorn plus a little heat makes a big change.

What you need:

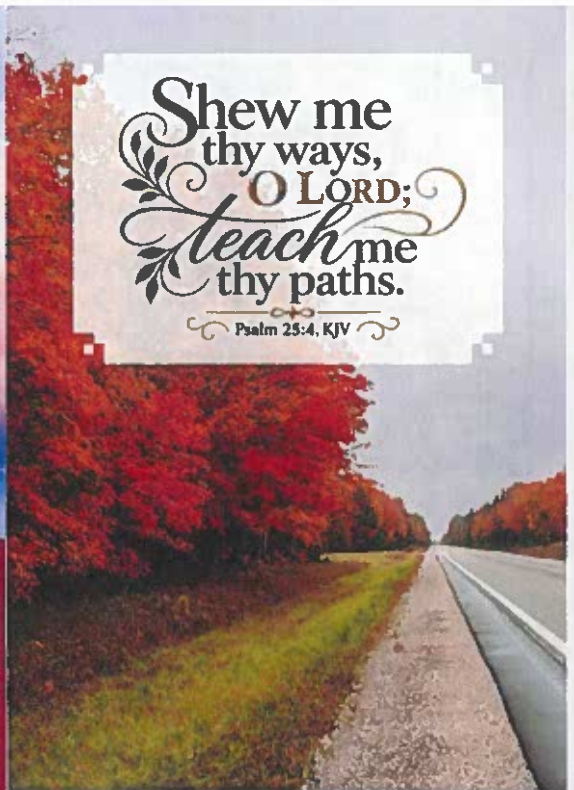
- 2 Tbsp. popcorn kernels
- 2 tsp. oil
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- Brown paper lunch bag

What you do:

1. Add popcorn kernels, oil and sugar to the bag.
2. Fold the bag's top down about half an inch. Repeat two more times. Gently shake to mix ingredients.
3. Microwave for 1½ or 2 minutes (or use the Popcorn setting). Allow bag to cool before removing and opening it.
4. As you share popcorn with family and friends, discuss the change in the kernels. Read Acts 2 together. What changes did the disciples experience? What was the source of their power?



Shew me
thy ways,
O LORD;
teach me
thy paths.
Psalms 25:4, KJV



thank you Pastor Jason for pointing hearts
toward Christ through your example, teaching and care.

New Member Class

Pastor Jason is planning a one hour new member class this fall. If you are interested in membership at St. John, please communicate with Pastor Jason or call the office.



GriefShare™

GriefShare started on Friday, August 28th and will continue every Friday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm through November 20. 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 see or call Deb Burrier at 330-413-0685 for more information.





We are the Church!



Written By Pastor James Bell

As a pastor of an intergenerational church, I have learned that some of the things that make church frustrating are also the things that make it beautiful.

Babies cry in the middle of the sermon.

An older saint needs the music turned down a little.

Teenagers fill a row and whisper to one another.

Young parents are doing everything they can just to be there.

A little boy drops something during prayer and crawls underneath the seats looking for it.

A widow stays after church because Sunday may be the most conversation she has all week.

An older man tells you about how the church used to be, again.

A toddler spills crackers everywhere.

And somewhere in all of that, the body of Christ is learning to love beyond age, preference, personality, and stage of life.

Maybe that is part of the point.

The church is one of the few places where five generations can regularly share the same room, sing the same gospel, open the same Bible, pray for one another, and call each other family.

Young families need people who have already survived hard marriages, rebellious kids, grief, financial pressure, and disappointment.

Older Christians need the energy, questions, children, and hope of younger families. Teenagers need adults who know their names.

Children need to see people grow old without growing critical about Jesus.

We do not need better programs for every generation.

We need the generations to belong to one another.

We need generations that share burdens, meals, stories, prayers, and life.

That is one of the miracles of an ordinary Sunday.



**THANK
You!**



**GATHER
YOUR
FAMILY,
AND LET'S
WORSHIP
TOGETHER**

Thank you for the mum from the St.
John Congregational Care Committee.
I am sorry that I missed you, Linda,
when you came to visit.
Joyce Hall



St. John United Church of Christ,
Thank you so much for providing
Lunchables and Uncrustables for Lunch
Aloud at the Library this summer!
We enjoyed eating them while listening
to Miss Emily read a great book.

Signed by the Lunch Aloud Children



Children's Ministry

'tis the season
to be



**Sunday School Studies at St. John 10:45 AM-11:30 AM
Adult Sunday School:**

Led by Cheryl Feutz, Dan King and Steve Chaney
This group will study the tenets of our faith as
discussed in the Affirming Faith confirmation book.

Middle School/High School Sunday School:

Led by Vickki Hinebaugh and Cole Hutchison;
This group will be using the book "Growing Spiritual
Grit."

Elementary Sunday School - Grades 1-5:

Led by Heather Rissler,
This class is continuing through: The Wonder of the
Greatest Gift by Ann Voscamp.
This book is a collection of stories called the Jesse Tree
(Jesus's family tree).
These stories will lead us through the Advent season in
preparation for Christmas.

Nursery Class:

For all preschool and kindergarten;
A staffed nursery with a short lesson will be available
each Sunday during our morning worship, following
the Children's sermon.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	28	29 6:30pm - Faith and Family	30 7:30am - Business Leader 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Chancel Choir	1 9:30am - A Shepherd 2:30pm - Action Now 6pm - Music & Worship	2 1pm - GriefShare 6pm - Fellowship	3 9am - Fellowship 6pm - Revival Night - 330
4 Scout Popcorn Sale Stewardship Luncheon 9:30am - Worship	5 1pm - Tiger Paw Packing	6	7 7:30am - Business Leader 5pm - BOCE 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Chancel Choir	8 9:30am - A Shepherd 12pm - Senior Luncheon 6pm - Life Knowledge	9 8am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - GriefShare	10
11 Pastor Appreciation Day 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	12 Columbus Day	13 9am - Congregational 6:30pm - Faith and Family	14 Food Bank Pick-up day 7:30am - Business Leader 2pm - Park Village Service 5:30pm - Handbell	15 9:30am - A Shepherd 5pm - Missions/Outreach 6pm - Church Council	16 1pm - GriefShare	17
18 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 5pm - Fall Party on the Hill	19	20	21 7:30am - Business Leader 9:30am - Finance Mtg. 1:30pm - Hennis Service 5:30pm - Handbell	22 9:30am - A Shepherd	23 1pm - GriefShare	24
25 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	26	27 6pm - Cub Scouts at St. 6:30pm - Faith and Family	28 7:30am - Business Leader 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Chancel Choir	29 9:30am - A Shepherd	30 1pm - GriefShare	31