

The Journal

November 2021



St. John's United Church of Christ
130 South Walnut Street. Troy, Ohio 45373

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<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsucctroyohio/>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

If it's Fall, it's time for Sunday School!

Please join us each Sunday at 9:30 am
as Mike Beamish leads us in a lively, Spirit-led
discussion. All are welcome at the table.

Nov 7

Love Triangle - Handling and dealing with conflict:
What would Jesus do?

Nov 14

A Little Extra - How to give away stuff to people in need

Nov 21

On Seeds and Spaghetti - Building on good soil

Nov 28

Joy In the Morning - Looking on the bright side

Dec 5

A Real Pickle - Interpretation of the Bible

Dec 12

Be Careful What You Pray For - Keeping an open heart

From the Pastor's Desk



I'm writing this on the day after my Installation service on October 24. The Installation service and our wedding anniversary fell only two days apart, so perhaps it was no coincidence that it all felt like a kind of wedding to me: the invitations, the dark suit and tie, the service details of soloist and programs, the pastor, and the signing of the covenant agreement. And it seemed so appropriate that this ended the three-year "dating"

arrangement with a signed covenant commitment to one another along with the United Church of Christ. It was a moving experience for me.

Earl Reives set the tone Sunday morning by his clear declaration that "We Are Family!" and then guided us through the Installation Service itself with humor and thoughtful reflections. The music so fit the occasion thanks to Ginny at the keyboards and Brad Bulp as soloist. Becky provided the artistic touch on the altar, with the flowers I have at home (see above), and the wrapped cookies we all received. Most of all, YOU made my day by showing up at the altar and saying "Yes!" How can I thank you?

Carl Robinson said to me at the close of the service: "You know, I have to be present across the Heartland Conference for many churches with all sorts of problems and needs, but "there is a good spirit here at St. Johns that I sensed as I walked in!" I sense it too!

So here we are, continuing to make a life together. What has changed? In one sense, nothing, I suppose. But in another sense we have made something quite clear: We have covenanted together, you and I, under the guidance of our denomination to belong to one another and be Beloved Community! After all, we share the same name: we are the United Church of CHRIST! Amen!

Pastor Don

Committees

Board of Trustees

Glenn Lytle, Chair (23)
*Nevin Fessler, (23)
Keith Kropp, Secretary (22)
*Joyce Swank (24)
Robert Brower, Council Rep

Council Members

*Ginny Beamish, Pres. (22)
Barb Bartel (24)
*Robert Brower (23)
Barb Gibbons, Secretary (23)
Caroline Maslowski (23)
Becky Pierce (22)
Earl Reives, V-Pres. (22)
*Paul Schaffner (24)
Vacant (24)

Membership & Outreach

Betty Schaffner (22)
*Kathy Holt (23)
*Joan Meredith (23)
Joyce Reives (24)
Nancy Smith (24)
Earl Reives, Council Rep

Memorial and Endowment

Glenn Lytle (22)
Mike Beamish (23)
John Gibbons (24)

Lay Visitation Ministers

Caroline Maslowski, Chair
Liz Fessler
Nevin Fessler
Mike & Ginny Beamish
Matt & Becky Pierce
Ruth Simpson
Nancy Smith

Ministry & Worship

Becky Pierce, Chair, Flowers, AG (24)
Ginny Beamish, Music
Liz Fessler, Liturgists (23)
Traci Kropp, Secretary (22)
Lori Rademachir, Nursery, AG
Barb Gibbons, Council Rep.
Barb Bartel

AG = Altar Guild

Economic & Justice

Paul Schaffner
Mary Ann Crist
Caroline Maslowski
Joyce Swank
Sarah Wittman

The Gathering Place

Mary Ann Crist, Chair
Bethel Adkins
Ginny Beamish
Keith Kropp
Glenn Lytle
Sarah Porto, Co-Chair
Ashley Reed

WORSHIP NEWS

Stewardship, Finance & Mission for October 2021

Date	Attendance	Total Contributions
Oct 03	31	\$3,058.38
Oct 10	30	\$1,773.03
Oct 17	31	\$1,076.38
Oct 24	38	\$631.38
Oct 24 Installation	49	\$183.00 *
Oct 31	27	\$897.38
TOTAL:		\$7,619.55

* Sent to SONKA for Our Church's Wider Mission

Total Giving - Monthly Review

Month	Total Contributions
July	\$13,892.59
August	\$10,416.55
September	\$9,361.17
October	\$7,619.55

Contemplative Prayer Service

First Saturday each month

Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God."

Please join us in The Gathering Place the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 am as Allison DeHart facilitates a time of silent prayer. This holy practice follows an ancient Christian contemplative prayer tradition dating back to the third century Desert Fathers and Mothers.

The service will begin with a short reading and introduction to centering prayer followed by a sequence of silent, seated prayer followed by walking around the sanctuary in silence and returning to silent, seated prayer. The service will conclude by 11:00 am.

A Message from Our Council President

It's been a while since we have had an officially-installed settled pastor here at St. John's. With the help of Rev. Carl Robinson from SONKA and our own Rev. Earl Reives, Rev. Don Crist was installed as our called pastor on Sunday, October 24. Even the steady patter of raindrops did not dampen the enthusiasm that is so evident when the Holy Spirit is at work.

Believe it or not, it's already time to look at Committees and Council for next year. Becky Pierce has agreed to chair our Nomination Committee, where she will be joined by Barbara Gibbons, Caroline Maslowski, Glenn Lytle, and Mike Beamish. If the Holy Spirit is moving you to become more involved here at St. Johns, feel free to let any of those folks know. And if you are asked to serve, please consider your intentions prayerfully and carefully.

Not only nominations for 2022, but it's also time to formulate a budget for the coming year. It would be great if all of our committees could submit their projected 2022 budget before our November 15 Council meeting. And if you, as an individual, have budget suggestions, please share them with a Council member or place your written suggestions in the Council President's mailbox outside the office door.

As always, I extend blessings to all of you, as well as wishes for your safety and good health as we continue to "do church" together.

Ginny Beamish, Council President

The Gathering Place Update

October was a busy month for The Gathering Place and its team, with lots of fun as well as meaningful conversations taking place.

On one Friday evening a group of 17 young adults and their families came together for an informal meal and a casual time of hanging out in the back playground area. Three of St. John's "not-young-adult" members, including the Crists and Traci Kropp, joined them while also cooking and serving hot dogs and side dishes. It was a beautiful evening and such a good time that we plan on doing it again soon. This is a great opportunity to bring together folks of all ages and bring together people from St. John's with those from the wider community. Please consider joining us next time.

Our other big event was the Holy Heartbeat (re)Treat which took place at Transfiguration Center on a beautiful, foggy and still Saturday morning. Sarah Porto did a wonderful job leading us into a time of reflection and sharing with lots of opportunity to either take part in the exercises or just sit and be present with the rest of the group. As with the young adult gathering, the group of twenty included many St. John's folks mixed in with a number of community members. We are truly becoming a church without walls, who minister and serve "whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey . . ."



In addition to these special events, a number of church groups continue to meet on the first floor of The Gathering Place, including the Christian Education Team and the new Made to Worship group. If you or your group want to schedule a time, please let Allison know so she can get it on our calendar.

I also want to give a shout out to Zoe Darner. After high recommendations from Liz Fessler, she was hired to clean The Gathering Place every two weeks. She's doing a beautiful job and it's so good to know that the space

Church Staff

Pastor Don Crist

(607) 972-6745

decrist@earthlink.net

Office Manager

Allison DeHart

Head Usher

Mike Beamish

Outside Custodian

Rob Brower

AV Department

Christopher Reed

Sarah Wittman

Allison Pierce

Inside Custodian

Erika Wilson

Communion Elements

Lori Rademachir

Senior Choir Director

Becky Pierce

Sunday Money Counters

Mike Beamish

John Gibbons

Organist

Ginny Beamish



Relax with the Peaceful Sound of Tibetan Bells

You are invited to sit back and unwind as Colleen plays the Tibetan singing bowls. What a lovely way to slow down as we head into the holiday season.

Join us in the Gathering Place on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2-2:30 pm and Thursday, Nov 18, 6-6:30 pm. Love offering.



St. John's November Birthdays!

Beverly Ross - 11/1
Joyce Reives - 11/9
Brianna Wilson - 11/12
Beulah Bowers - 11/16
Caroline Maslowski - 11/16
Paul Schaffner - 11/25

Council Tidbits

St. John's Council met for their regular meeting on Monday, October 18, 2021. Highlights include the following:

- Allison DeHart, Sharon Wilson, Earl Reives, and Glenn Lytle have been working on a new recording and reporting system for our finances. Their efforts should result in even clearer and more concise records of our income and expenses.
- Earl Reives has already spent, and continues to spend, hours and hours investigating the technology services that will meet our needs most efficiently and most economically.
- We will be formulating the first proposal of the 2022 St. John's budget at our November 15 Council meeting. Please submit your suggestions to any Council member before then.

As always, the complete copies of the minutes are available in the church office.

The Gathering Place ***... continued***

gets a thorough going-over regularly. We also appreciate how everyone who uses TGP tidies up after themselves so it always is ready for the next visitor. Thank you everyone.

Here's to lots more of the good times.



If you are interested in using the space for a small group or just some informal get together, let Mary Ann know (607-972-6744) and we'll get you on the calendar. Thanks to all who help keep the space beautiful and who use it with such love and care. If you have any questions or comments, please talk to one of our team members.

***Bethel Adkins, Ginny Beamish, Mary Ann Crist,
Keith Kropp, Glenn Lytle, Sarah Porto, Ashley Reed***

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Barb Neer - is more "settled in" now, eating well, and exercising. She would greatly appreciate cards sent to her at Coventry Meadows Rm.118, 7833 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46804.

The Heffelfinger Family - The Heffelfinger family is in need of our prayers. **Joyce** is having severe problems with her leg. **Rodger** is recovering from cataract surgery and **Tracy** had emergency disk surgery this week.

The Wolfe Family & Des Wolfe - prayers for the Wolfe family after the passing of Jean and for Des as he recovers from hip surgery. Cards for Des can be sent to Linda Wolfe at 502 Lincoln Ave. in Troy.

Dorothy (Dot) Thompson (sister of Earl Reives) - please continue to pray for Dorothy as she recovers from surgery.

Janet Walpole - is doing well, with some help at home. Please continue to send her cards at 774 Trade Square West, Troy, OH 45373.

Beulah Bowers - Prayers for general health. Cards and visits would be greatly appreciated. Please call first: 937-335-7626. 1220 N Dorset, Troy OH 45373.

Liz McClure - Prayers for a speedy and complete recovery from a serious retina surgery.

Kathy and Butch Berry (Joyce Heffelfinger's sister and brother-in-law) - Butch is now home and doing well, but still needs our prayers as he continues his healing journey.

Louanne Stockstill- Louanne is in a care center and welcomes prayers and cards. Please send to 213 Bon Air Drive, Sidney, OH 45365

Trustees Update

Over the last few months Trustees have finished several projects including the following:

- Replaced light bulbs in the three central overhead fixtures in the sanctuary
- Cleaned most of the carpeting on the main floor
- Closed up the outside wall of The Gathering Place where the kitchen vent was located
- Repaired and repainted the second floor hallway and bathroom of The Gathering Place
- Fenced off the landing area of The Gathering Place fire escape stairs

Trustees developed a list of major long range projects. Some will cost a lot; others will require little money but a significant investment of time and care to ensure useful and valuable items are not lost in the process. This list is in order of anticipated most to least costly:

- Redecorate the sanctuary
- Air conditioning for The Gathering Place
- Repair Sunday school and choir room walls
- Replace hot water heater for church basement bathrooms
- Clean/organize dungeon (furnace room area of the basement)
- Clean out Sunday school room

Some other projects on the Trustees list include:

- Repair/Replace concrete steps to Walnut St. entrance
- Repair and refinish exterior varnished doors
- Install darkening shades on cafe window and door
- Replace stained ceiling tile in hallway
- Move lectern microphone cable under the floor
- Church kitchen cabinet repairs
- Repaint The Gathering Place porch floor
- Seal concrete outside the handicapped entrance
- Consider filling in the Canal St. exterior stairwell
- Replace fence at back of playground
- Replace two obsolete smoke/CO alarms in the church

UCC.org Daily Devotional

The Daily Devotional is a spiritually deep and refreshing well, to which thousands of readers are drawn each day.

Dreams Do Come True

*When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream!
We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy.
Psalm 126:1-2 (NLT)*

The past twenty months of Covid quarantine and exile has been difficult, to say the least. The ability to connect physically and in-person with friends and loved ones is something that I will never again take for granted.

My oldest brother passed with Covid complications last February. Aside from his passing, the hardest thing for our family was the inability to be together in person during his last critical hours. The ability to be physically together at that time would have done so much to comfort and heal our grieving family.

More recently, with vaccinations and boosters on the rise (hopefully), my family and friends are beginning to emerge from our sequestered states and embrace each other again in person.

At a recent cookout, I saw some friends I hadn't seen in person since 2019. As we greeted and embraced, I found myself pausing to relish the joy of being back in physical contact with people I care about. In the words of the psalmist, "It was like a dream! We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy."

These moments we relish remind us that—despite the ongoing pains of the pandemic—hope is still a primary motivator. We certainly have plenty of pressing issues to still be concerned about. But the simple joy of being present and in person with the people we love is like a dream that has come true for many.

***Prayer:** Lord, for the pleasure of physical touch, for the comfort of close-up compassion for the power of in-person presence, we give you praise. Help us to savor every moment of these dreams come true. Amen.*

By Kenneth L. Samuel, Pastor of Victory for the World Church,
Stone Mountain, Georgia
Published October 21, 2021

PRAYER REQUESTS

Em Finney (sister of Ginny Beamish); **Vicky Myrie** (Colleen Rose's aunt); **Scott, Logan, Erika,** and **Brianna Wilson**

Please call Nancy Smith at 937-440-9129 or Betty Schaffner at 937-335-6713 with any new or updated prayer requests.

In Need of Prayer?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Don if there is a matter on your heart or if you'd just like a compassionate ear. His number is 607-972-6745 and email is decris@earthlink.net.

Gratitude – from Sarah Porto

Thank you to everyone who gathered together for our first ever Holy Heartbeat Retreat. Whether you were there in person or there in spirit, it was appreciated! God blessed us with a beautiful location and weather and you were a blessing in the words of wisdom and friendship that you shared.

Thank you also to everyone who helped pull this beautiful day off...logistics, brainstorming, hospitality...and the list goes on!

With love, Sarah Porto

November COVID Protocol

St. John's UCC is continuing with current precautions. Masks are not mandatory but are recommended.

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6 pm Choir Practice	4 4-8 pm Rummage Sale	5 9 am – 2 pm Rummage Sale	6 10:00 am (<i>in TGP</i>) Contemplative Prayer Service 9 am - noon Rummage Sale
7 9:30 am Sun School 10:30 am Worship <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	8 6 pm Trustee meeting	9 2-2:30 pm Singing Bowls (TGP)	10 11 am - Ladies Fellowship - JVS 4:30 pm Ministry & Worship 6 pm Choir Practice	11 10 am Membership & Outreach <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13 10-11:30 am Family Craft Day
14 9:30 am Sun School 10:30 am Worship	15 7 pm Council meeting	16	17 6 pm Choir Practice	18 6-6:30 pm Singing Bowls (TGP)	19	20
21 9:30 am Sun School 10:30 am Worship <i>Memorial Sunday</i>	22	23 <i>Dec Journal Articles & Mtg Dates Due!</i>	24 6 pm Choir Practice	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	26	27
28 9:30 am Sun School 10:30 am Worship	29 <i>Hanukkah begins</i>	30	31 6 pm Choir Practice			

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