

## Not Done Yet

*“But God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear to us who were chosen as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.”*

– Acts 10: 41 (NRSV)

The Last Supper wasn't. Jesus ate many meals with his friends after that “last” one. A snack of fish in a locked room, breakfast on the beach, supper in Emmaus, and untold others in the forty days after God raised him.

Dying and rising seems to have stimulated his appetite. It's like he's saying, “The worst thing imaginable happened. But look at us now. Me, with scars in my shining flesh; you, with a hint of courage in your timid hearts. We made it through. Let's eat. We're not done yet.”

The story of our lives, the story of the church: The worst things imaginable happen. Yet, somehow, by grace and grit, we're still here, weary and scarred, but breathing, more or less upright, taking nourishment.

We're not done yet. Not done blessing, singing, giving thanks. Not done washing feet, feeding, consoling, emptying jails. Not done multiplying justice like bread. Not done feasting at the table of life. Which makes me wonder: when we do Communion, why is it usually a Last Supper of dread and death? Why not do New Suppers of relief and resilience as well? We could call them Stunned Snacks in the Locked Room, Beauteous Breakfasts on the Beach, Dazzling Dinners in Emmaus, Triumphant Feasts of Forty Days.

We could bless the bread and cup with new words, too. Maybe these: “We remember, O God, that the worst happened. But here we are. By grace and grit, we're not done yet. Pass the bread, good Jesus; pour the wine.”

**Prayer:** *Gather us in grateful relief, good Jesus, at the Table of Not Done Yet. Remember with us that love outlives death, the work goes on, the feast never ends.*

**Mary Luti** is a long time seminary educator and pastor, author of Teresa of Avila's Way and numerous articles, and founding member of The Daughters of Abraham, a national network of interfaith women's book groups.

# The Journal

June 2022



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## *From the Pastor's Desk*



I have been pleased and intrigued by the results of the Visioning Survey that most of you completed lately. It was encouraging to see how much we value the children in our church family and how we have come to see the need for us to touch the lives of children in our neighborhood. I applaud that! It is clearly a move toward feeding Jesus' lambs! The dual emphasis on being attentive to our own little ones and making a concerted effort to explore the needs in our neighborhood is right on target! The Ice Cream Social and the planned Block Party are two important first steps.

I know how much we would all love to see some of the people we touch in events like that come to our church. Of course we would! But we must remember that Jesus did not say "Feed my lambs so that they will come to our church." He just said to feed his lambs because they need what we have to offer! It is enough that the lambs are fed with love and wisdom from us. Love with no strings attached, no conditions, and no price! That is always the way Jesus loved those he touched.

This kind of loving is so rewarding. It is tapping into the love of God - extravagant and free!

**Pastor Don**

## *This 'n' That*

### **Church Secretary/Office Manager Search**

The Personnel Committee has been working diligently to find the person with the "right stuff". Thank you to Sharon Wilson, Betty Schaffner, and Pastor Don for their time, effort, dedication, and helpfulness in this task. Thankfully, we have Joyce Reives working as the Interim Office Manager and she has been doing a wonderful job. Earl has also lent a hand and we are grateful to both for their efforts!

### **Church Building Repairs**

We will hold a congregational meeting on June 12 to discuss/ decide on needed repairs. We appreciate Glenn Lytle's work in getting the proposals together. Thanks, Glenn!

### **Donations for Ukraine**

Interested in donating to help the people under attack in the Ukraine, but not sure how? Please see the bulletin board for more details.

### **Troy Stained Glass Window Tour**

The Troy Historical Society is organizing a stained glass window tour on Friday, June 24, 1-3pm to coincide with the Greater Ohio Bicycle Association being in town. They asked St. John's to participate and we agreed. If you have an interest in participating and/or have knowledge about our stained glass windows, please contact Joyce Reives.

### **Women's Fellowship in June**

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Women's Fellowship will be travelling to Wegerson Gardens. Please meet at the church at 11:00am with your brown bag lunch. The group will then leave at 11:30am to travel to the gardens.

### **Ice Cream Social**

There will be an ice cream social at The Gathering Place from noon until 2 pm on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend this fun family event!

### **Tibetan Singing Bowls**

Colleen Rose will be offering a Sound Bath using Tibetan Singing Bowls on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00pm at The Gathering Place. Allow the deep, resonating tones of the bowls to transport you to your true inner state of peace. Love offering appreciated.

### **Bud Vase Collection**

Betty Schaffner volunteers for Petals of Sunshine. This group supplies fresh flowers for Hospice patients. They are in need of bud vases. Please bring any you can contribute to the church and Betty will get them to the appropriate place. Thank you!



**Please plan to join us at our Donut Stop for this year's Tour de Donut on Saturday morning, August 27, 2022.**

**We will again be the Donut Hosts at the Elizabeth Township House, 5760 Walnut Grove-Clark County Road.**

**We know that we will need 10-20 of us to set up tables, hand out donuts, count donuts, and clean up when the bikers are gone.**

**We will probably need to arrive between 7:30 to 8am to help with preparation, and we should be finished soon after 11 am.**

**Check your calendar. If you'd like to help, please affix your signature to the sign-up sheet in the narthex.**



## **A Message from Our Council President**

When we take a trip, I always get directions from Map Quest and print them out. Sometimes, the directions are right on. We get to our destination in the most efficient way. There are other times when they aren't so good and we end up going a roundabout, inefficient way to our destination. The return trip is usually much more direct and efficient after we talk to others and/or refer to a map.

Some places that we commonly travel to might have three different routes. Whichever route we take usually takes us the same amount of time. There are different reasons we might take a different route. For example, when we travel to Celina, we often take US 66 because it goes through Fort Loramie and right past the Dairy King. In the spring and summer, it's a great place to stop to get one of their delicious milk shakes. But I digress.

As a church we are always trying to find out the best "route" to get something accomplished. Whether it's a major repair project, a special worship event or a social event. There are "routes" that we've used in the past that we find work great. There are other times we might get creative and think of a different "route" or plan for a different event that works out just fine.

How do we get more young families with children to join our beloved community? What things/events can we do that involve the whole congregation in a time of fellowship? What "routes" look to be the best options?

We have events that are seasonal and have been excellent events for us. We have done things in the past that have been able to attract new people into our church family. We shouldn't forget the good things that we've done in the past. I feel we should think outside the box sometimes and come up with new "routes" that will be beneficial to our present church family and attract new people to join us in our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

I feel that using the good things we've done in the past in conjunction with new ideas will help us grow and become better shepherds. We want to help ourselves and others learn how to be better Christians and call on God the Father and Christ to lead us to find the right "routes".

We have wonderful people that make up our church family. People are loving, kind, and caring, who are welcoming and embrace new people with great warmth. We need to continue to strive to be the best people of God that we can be! I have great respect and admiration for all of you and look forward to great things "down the road"!

Shalom,

***Matt***

# The Gathering Place Update

**COMING UP: SATURDAY JUNE 18 FROM NOON -2PM**

## **NEIGHBORHOOD ICE CREAM SOCIAL.**

We'll be serving homemade ice cream and hot dogs and chips. The St. John's puppet ministry will make its 2022 debut performance. There will be crafts and play time for the kids.



This event is a joint effort of The Gathering Place and the Christian Education Teams, but we need lots of helpers that afternoon. Do you have an ice cream maker that you can bring? Can you lead a simple craft for the little

ones, like painting rocks, making beaded sun catchers or any nature activity? Can you help grill or serve hot dogs?

Be part of the team that reaches out to our neighbors and shares some St. John's love.

Let Lori Rademachir or Ashley Beamish know what you can do to help.

## **BIG NEWS TO SHARE**

The Miami County Foundation has awarded a \$2000 grant to The Gathering Place for outreach and programming. This money will be used for the ice cream social in June, a neighborhood block party in August, gardening and arts events for families and children during the summer. Thank you so much, friends at the Miami County Foundation.

### **The Gathering Place Team:**

*Mary Ann, Ashley, Sarah, Bethel and Keith*

## **Church Staff**

**Pastor Don Crist**

(607) 972-6745

[decrist@earthlink.net](mailto:decrist@earthlink.net)

**Interim Office Manager**

Joyce Reives

**Head Usher**

Mike Beamish

**Outside Custodian**

Rob Brower

**Technician**

Christopher Reed

**Inside Custodian**

Erika Wilson

**Communion Elements**

Joyce Heffelfinger

**Senior Choir Director**

Becky Pierce

**Sunday Money Counters**

Mike Beamish

John Gibbons

**Organist**

Ginny Beamish

## **St. John's June Birthdays!**

**Luca Porto - 6/3/14**

**Kathleen Holt - 6/5**

**Jacob Wittman - 6/12/17**

**Nevin Fessler - 6/24**

**Pastor Don Crist - 6/27**

## WORSHIP NEWS

### Stewardship, Finance & Mission for May 2022

Date	Attendance	Total Contributions
May 01	32	\$3,665.00
May 08	26	\$1,206.65
May 15	34	\$2,025.00
May 22	33	\$1,215.00
May 29	32	\$3,270.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>\$11,381.65</b>

### Total Giving - Monthly Review

Month	Total Contributions
February	\$9,860.65
March	\$9,111.39
April	\$14,426.95
May	\$11,381.65

## *FISH Donation*

The Membership and Outreach Committee collected monetary donations for FISH throughout May and truly appreciates all who contributed. A big thank-you also goes to Maddie, Jacob and Billy for helping with collecting one Sunday. To no one's surprise, that Sunday had the largest contribution total! FISH is a very worthy cause and really fits with Jesus' instruction to us all to tend his sheep. They offer emergency help to those in need for items such as rent payments before eviction, utility disconnect payments, gasoline for work and/or doctor appointments, prescriptions not covered by insurance and clothing. Contributions in May total \$317.00. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause.

## Property Repairs Needed Soon

Trustees and Council have approved a proposal from Brian Brothers of Piqua for repairs needed to church property. The repairs include the Walnut St. and Canal St. doors and the four issues shown in the photos below. Estimated costs are listed below. The June 12<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting will vote on final approval. The church has sufficient funds to pay for this work.



Outside Walls



Classroom



TGP Fire Escape



Bell Tower

Outside wall repairs	\$12,050
Refinish outside doors	2,380
Repair classroom walls	9,275
Repaint TGP fire escape	5,790
Repair bell tower walls	7,600
Contingency allowance	<u>3,705</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,800</b>

## **PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Please include the following people in your thoughts and prayers:*

**Mindy Adams:** Please pray for health and strength for Mindy, friend of Joyce Heffelfinger. Mindy has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

**Bethel and Brent Adkins:** Brent is now home and his continuing his rehabilitation there, with an emphasis on gaining strength and gaining some of his weight back. All in all, he's continuing to progress well! Continued prayers are welcome. Also, cards can be sent to Bethel and Brent at their home at 1025 Cloverdale Drive, Troy.

**Em Finney:** Please continue to pray for Ginny Beamish's sister, Em, as she continues to battle health issues.

**Pam, niece of Joyce Heffelfinger:** Please keep Pam in your prayers as she's very ill and hospitalized.

**Nancy Nadolny:** Please keep Nancy's family in your hearts and prayers as they grieve her passing. A memorial service will be held at St. John's on June 25th.

**Joe Valentine:** Please pray for Barb Bartel's son, Joe, as he continues to struggle with family issues.

**Janet Walpole:** Her daughter, Sarah, reports that Janet has been moved to Koester Pavilion. Janet had been diagnosed with Covid but is now out of isolation and in a regular room. Please pray for Janet's continued improvement.

**Erika, Logan and Brianna Wilson:** Please pray for Sharon's grandchildren that they may know the love, peace and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Please remember our homebound in your thoughts and prayers.*

*Cards are welcome:*

**Barb Bartel:** 4675 Orbison Rd., Troy, OH. 45373

**Beulah Bowers:** 1220 N. Dorset, Troy, OH 45373

**Carletta Gritzmaker:** 2896 West Main Street, Troy, OH 45373

**Joan Meredith:** Garbry Ridge Room #103, 1567 Garbry Road, Piqua, OH 45356

**Janet Walpole:** 774 Trade Square West, Troy, OH 45373

Please note: Updates and/or amendments to the prayer list are appreciated. Typically, prayer requests will be removed after 4 weeks. If you or a loved one needs to remain on the list, please contact Nancy Smith at 937-440-9129 or Betty Schaffner at 937-335-6713. Thank you.

## **Vision/Action Team**

Here are the results of the Priority Surveys which were completed by the congregation in April. It shows a strong preference in two areas: the first is reaching out to the children, both in our church and in the neighborhood. There are plans to hold an ice cream social in June and a block party in August, both co-sponsored by The Gathering Place and the Christian Education teams. The Christian Education team will be meeting with a consultant in May to discuss ways to enliven and enlarge programming for our own St. John's children. Does that involve using more active and engaged volunteers? Or does that include the possibility of hiring a family and children's minister with knowledge and experience in that area? These are questions and issues for all of us to ponder and discuss in the months to come.

The second area of preference that showed up in the survey was for more Community and Congregational Activities. There have already been at least two of these events held recently. The first was a night out at the Troy Civic Theater to see Bonnie and Clyde, organized by Matt Pierce. And the second was a wonderful Mother's Day luncheon hosted by the Women's Fellowship. A third event, Campfire Church, had to be canceled but will be rescheduled soon. What else are you thinking of and how can you help make it happen? Let one of our team know.

Lastly, I hope you've noticed the bulletin board that sits at the Canal Street entrance of the church which is there to highlight the events and activities that are happening at St. John's. There is also a refreshed and constantly updated bulletin board in the hallway outside the Cafe. In addition, St. John's has a regular presence in the community through our Facebook page, [stjohnsucctroyohio](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsucctroyohio), and our Website:

[www.stjohnsucctroyohio.org](http://www.stjohnsucctroyohio.org)

Thank you all for everything you do as part of our Beloved Community. Please talk to one of our team if you have questions, comments or want to participate in some way.

*Mary Ann Crist, Glenn Lytle, Matt Pierce, Lori Rademachir, Chris Reed*

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## ***Thank-you Notes for Donations***

Both Partners in Hope and Lincoln Community Center sent thank-you notes for St. John's' contributions to these community treasures. They are hanging on the bulletin board.



# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 10 am History Team  6 pm Vision Team	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship	6	7	8 10 am History Team 11 am Women's Fellowship 4:30 pm Ministry & Worship	9 1-3 pm TGP Pastor Don group	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship 10:35 am Congregational Meeting	13 6 pm Trustee meeting	14	15 10 am History Team  6 pm Vision Team	16	17	18 Noon-2 pm Ice cream social
19 9:30 am Worship	20 6 pm Council meeting	21	22 10 am History Team	23 10 am TGP Children's Ed  6-7 pm TGP Singing Bowls	24 1-3 pm Sanctuary Stained glass tour  <i>July Journal Articles &amp; Mtg Dates Due!</i>	25 11 am Nancy Nadolny visitation 1 pm Service
26 9:30 am Worship	27	28	29 10 am History Team	30		

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

937-335-2028

*Pastor Don Crist*

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