



Please join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning in our Adult Discussion Sunday School Class as we converse about these topics:

- February 5: Family—Knowing Your Family Tree
- February 12: From Literal to Loving—Declaring My Belief with Kindness and Clarity
- February 19: The Courage to Be—Being Strong Through the Hard Times
- February 26: Did God Say?—Wonderful Words to Live By
- March 5: Memory Work—The Value of Memorization

Mike Beamish

The Journal

February 2023



St. John's United Church of Christ

130 South Walnut Street. Troy, Ohio 45373

937-335-2028

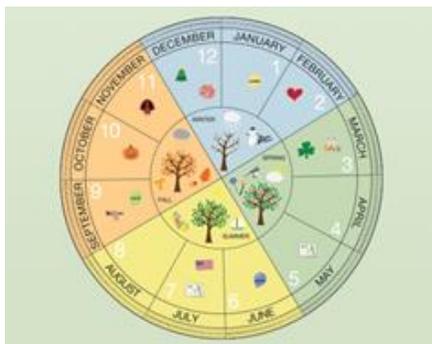
stjohnsucctroy@gmail.com

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I'm writing this article on the very first day of February! One twelfth of the year is gone already! I don't know if you made any resolutions when 2023 first appeared, but if you did, you've had plenty of time to break them already.

The question I want you to consider before the year gets too old is this: Would you take some time and consider what you would like the church to look like when 2024 shows up? This question has a "ME" component and a "WE" component.



First, what would you like the church to offer you in this year? Where do you want to grow and how can we help? Do you need an opportunity to serve? To connect to people? To rest? To learn?

Secondly, what do you think the church needs to do to minister to us - all of us? As you look around you on Sunday morning, what are we, as a church, missing if we are to serve, love, and continue to be vital in the years to come? Do you see gaps in our efforts to be the Beloved Community?

I would be happy to hear from you if you take the time to respond to these questions. You have a unique perspective and even though we can't meet everyone's needs all of the time, we can set direction for ourselves that meet the needs of the greatest majority. You matter!

Church Staff

Pastor Don Crist

(607) 972-6745

decrist@earthlink.net

Office Manager

Melissa Stanley

Outside Custodian

Rob Brower

Inside Custodian

Erika Wilson

Senior Choir Director

Becky Pierce

Organist

Ginny Beamish

Head Usher

Mike Beamish

Communion Elements

Allison Pierce

Sunday Money Counters

Mike Beamish

John Gibbons

Happy Birthday!

Logan Wilson – 2/7

Stewardship, Finance & Mission January 2023

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Jan 1st	37	\$1,990.00
Jan 8th	31	\$1,088.00
Jan 15th	32	\$1,884.00
Jan 22nd	29	\$1,160.00
Jan 29th	29	\$1,153.00
YTD		\$7,275.00



During 2022 all of us together donated \$4112 to our Budgeted Benevolences. Following the 80/20 formula adopted by the 2021 Council, this amount was divided between Our Church's Wider Mission (SONKA) (\$3289.60) and Partners in Hope (\$822.40).

In addition, all of us together donated \$1086 to special SONKA mission offerings during the year:

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$175
Neighbors in Need	\$161
Strengthen the Church	\$195
Christmas Fund	\$250
Church World Service Blankets	\$305
	\$1,086

At the end of January, a check for \$4375.60 was mailed to SONKA and a check for \$822.40 was delivered to Partners in Hope. Thank you all for your continued generosity to those beyond the walls of St. John's.

Ginny Beamish

Missions Coordinator

THE GATHERING PLACE

What fun we all had at the kid's art class, led by Dawn Babylon. 12 kids painted while just as many adults had time to mingle and get to know each other over food and conversation.



Coming up on February 11 Destinee Javier will teach a workshop in which participants complete and take home a beautiful macrame wall hanging.

Both of these events are funded by a grant from the Miami County Foundation, given in order for St. John's to reach out into the wider community. Mission accomplished.

A couple of new members are needed for our Gathering Place team. We meet a very few times during the year for planning, and are focused on events and activities which bring together St. John's folks with the wider community. This past year we held an ice cream social for the neighborhood, a block party, two well-attended art classes, offered space for counseling, spiritual companionship, and hosted sound relaxation, Bible study, an advent study and meal, kid's play groups, as well as many church meetings.

Please see Mary Ann if you're interested in being a part of this important work.



Barefoot in the Park

Don't miss your chance to see one of St. John's own thespians as *Barefoot in the Park* takes to the Troy Civic Theatre stage February 24, 25, 26 and March 3, 4, 5. Our own Mike Beamish has a cameo role, but you must be in your seat as Act I begins in order not to miss him. See the Troy Civic Theatre website or call 937-339-7700 for ticket information.

Lenten Bible Study

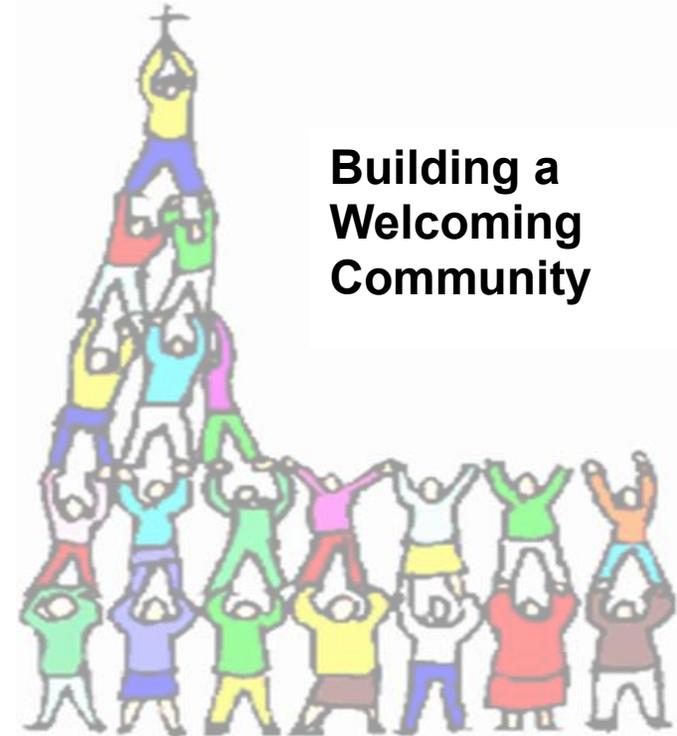
Plans are underway for a Lenten Bible Study on the five Thursdays of March. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for soup and extras about 11:30. Then we'll spend some time discussing a few of the ideas presented by Jill J. Duffield in her book, *Lent in Plain Sight*. Finally, we will create a hands-on crafty souvenir of our discussion. A sign-up sheet for providing soup and extras (salad, sandwiches, artisanal bread) will be available in the narthex.

Help Wanted!

Calling a few people who can tell the difference between a microphone and a flutophone! You might just be qualified to help us re-launch the Facebook Live program on Sunday mornings! We have had a request to start recording the service live again but we can't do it without people willing to be on a team to run the equipment, focus the camera, and turn it off again. Let us know if you are interested in helping in this way. Call the office, text the pastor, or just talk to us on Sunday morning.

Grandparent Support Group

The Gathering Place is hosting a support group for grandparents raising grandchildren. It will be monthly on the 1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30-7:30p facilitated by Pastor Ann Marie Winters. To register, call Ann Marie at (330) 469-6296.



Building a Welcoming Community

- **Providing a space for children to feel loved and accepted**
- **Providing a safe and attractive place for our neighbors**

Tesoro

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – Matthew 6:21 (NRSV)

The who, why, and what of your life need not be questions of torturous discernment. As Jesus followers, this can be relatively simple. Let me help:

Who are you? A child of God.

Why are you here? To love and serve God.

What does this look like? Share your gifts.

I know. Someone out there is thinking: But Pastor, that's not me. I don't have any gifts to share right now. I've given all I can. I'm running on empty. Don't ask me to give anything else up.

And if this is you: I hear you and I see you. And this brings us to an important point:

We're not discerning skill right now. You might be skillful at something that entirely drains you. But giving of your gifts as a spiritual discipline is different. Why? Because gifts you have to share are given to you by God. They don't come from you. And that frees you, because it means that sharing comes from a cup that runs over, an infinite well.

In fact, if the very thought of sharing your gifts drains you? Then that's not your portion right now. Look into other gifts. God does not will your pain.

Your gift is that thing you can't help but share. Where, at the end of sharing it, you feel full, not empty. Because your cup runneth over.

Somewhere, within your reach, there is a gift that God has placed before you. That your heart leaps at the chance to share.

Trust your gifts. Trust God. And share to your heart's content. And then some.

Never forget: you are a treasure. Each child of God is God's heart.

Lawrence and Rita Kroger

A reception friend of Lawrence and Rita Kroger is scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd. A graveside service for the family will be held at Riverside cemetery at 1:00 pm. Afterwards, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm, there will be a reception for all here at St. Johns in the basement Fellowship Hall. Contact Becky if you can help with refreshments and/or drinks.

Thank you for Serving!

**Serving 2nd of two terms*

Committees

Updated 2/23

Board of Trustees

Glenn Lytle*, Chair (2026)
Keith Kropp*, Secretary (2025)
Joyce Swank* (2024)
Robert Brower (2026)
Nevin Fessler, Council Rep

Lay Visitation Ministers

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

Personnel

Becky Pierce, Chair
Betty Schaffner
Sharon Wilson

Christian Education

Mary Ann Crist
Sara Wittman
Ashley Reed
Ginny Beamish
John Gibbons, Council Rep

Council Members

Paul Schaffner*, President (2024)
Becky Pierce*, Vice President (2025)
Ginny Beamish, Treasurer (2026)
Barb Gibbons*, Secretary (2026)
John Gibbons (2025)
Nevin Fessler (2026)

Membership & Outreach

Joyce Reives (2024)
Betty Schaffner* (2025)
Karen Spears (2026)
Liz Fessler (2026)
Paul Schaffner, Council Rep

Memorial & Endowment

Mike Beamish*, Chair (2026)
Glenn Lytle*, Financial Secretary (2025)
John Gibbons, Council Rep/Recording Secretary (2024)

Ministry & Worship

Ginny Beamish (2024)
Becky Pierce (2024)
Ruth Simpson (2025)
Traci Kropp* (2026)
Liz Fessler* (2026)
Barb Gibbons, Council Rep

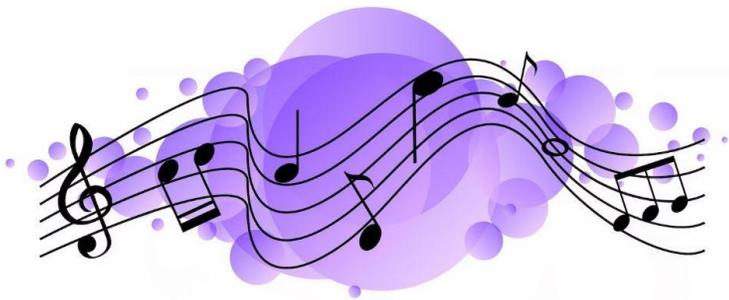
Economic & Justice

Paul Schaffner, Chair
Mary Ann Crist
Caroline Maslowski
Joyce Swank
Sarah Wittman

The Gathering Place

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





Mark your calendar and plan to be in attendance for worship on Sunday, March 5 here at St. John's. Our own Jorian Johnson will be our guest musician that day, along with four of his friends from the W. Crimm Singers AKA Wakanda Chorale. This group sang back-up on "Aristocrat of Bands: The Urban Hymnal" this year's Grammy winner in the "Roots Gospel Album" category.



Watch the weekly bulletins in February for more information. And plan to stay for a carry-in lunch after worship on March 5.



PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Wayne Cunningham: Please pray for Stephanie Strobe's father who continues to battle bone and liver cancer. Em Finney: Ginny's sister, Em, has been on our prayer list for a very long time and needs our prayers now more than ever as her illness progresses, and her health deteriorates. Michael Ham: Despite his life-long health issues, Michael has accomplished a great deal in his life and is very active in the Troy community. As his health issues mount, Michael could certainly use all the prayers that we at St. John's can offer. Joe Valentine: Please pray for Barb Bartel's son, Joe, as he continues to struggle with family issues. 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.

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: Lakeview Wing #213, 1567 Garbry Road, Piqua, OH 45356

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 Betty Schaffner at 937-335-6713 or Joyce Reives at 937-477-8268. Thank you.



February 2023



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 10a History Team 6p Choir	2 10a Twisted Stitchers	3	4
5 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship	6 6:30p Grandparents Support Group	7	8 10a History Team 10a Membership & Outreach 6p Choir	9 10a Twisted Stitchers	10	11 12p-2p Macrame Workshop
12 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship	13 6p Trustee	14 	15 10a History 12p Council Meeting 6p Choir	16 10a Twisted Stitchers	17	18
19 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship	20  Office Closed 6p Council 6:30p Grandparents Support Group	21	22 10a History 6:00p Choir	23 10a Twisted Stitchers 3p Lawrence & Rita Kroger Memorial	24 12p Council Meeting	25
26 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship	27	28				