

Serving Us Today

Disciples: All Members

Organist: Ginny Beamish

Minister: Don Crist

Altar Decoration: Becky Pierce

Liturgist: Allison Pierce

Head Usher: Mike Beamish

Choir Director: Becky Pierce


Counters: Mike Beamish &
John Gibbons



May 2023



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

30 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship 4p US/MX Trip Chat @ TGP	1 6:30p Grandparents Support Group	2	3 10a History Team 6p Choir	4 4p-8p Rummage Sale	5 9a-2p Rummage Sale	6 9a-12p Rummage Sale
7 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship	8 2p Trustees	9	10 10a History Team	11 10a Twisted Stitches	12	13
14 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship 	15 6:30p Grandparents Support Group	16	17 10a History Team 10a Membership & Outreach 12p Council 6p Choir	18 10a Twisted Stitches	19	20 12p Spring Luncheon Women's Fellowship
21 Recognition Sunday 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship 1p-4p Grandfamilies Respite @ TGP	22	23	24 10a History 6:00p Choir	25 10a Twisted Stitches	26	27
28 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30	31 10a History Team			



Happy Birthday!



5/1 – Carletta Gritzmaker, 5/4 – Erica Wilson, 5/7 – Kate Arnett,
5/17 – John Gibbons, 5/21 – Earl Reives

Wi-Fi Network: Welcome
Passcode: hereiamlord

God is Still Speaking,



May 21, 2023

Ascension Sunday

Recognition Sunday

“Letting Go”

St. John's United Church of Christ

130 S Walnut St

Troy, OH 45373

(937) 335-2028

INTROIT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Liturgist)

A friendly welcome to all! No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here.

BELLS TO WELCOME THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

PRELUDE "Hymn of Praise" Natalie Sleeth

***OPENING WORDS** God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
Psalm 47:5-6

***MORNING PRAISE #309** "Crown Him With Many Crowns"
(Red Hymnal)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Come together expecting great things. Wait for the promises of God

**People: Is this the time when God will come to reign?
Will we receive power and authority?**

*Liturgist: In God's time, the Holy Spirit will come to you.
You will be empowered as faithful witnesses.*

**People: We are here to learn about all that Jesus did.
We are ready to listen to all that Jesus taught.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (In Unison)

Appear to us again, risen Savior, for we have lost sight of you. We have come to find you here so we may recognize you among all who suffer. We who seek to be your body, the church, need the eyes of our hearts enlightened so we may once more embrace hope and know your joy. Amen.

Strengthen the Church

On Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023, we will receive our Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering, another one of our Five for Five offerings. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Please indicate your gift on the fourth line of your giving envelope, or use the special envelope you will find in the narthex.

Pentecost Sunday

Help us celebrate Pentecost Sunday, next Sunday May 28th by wearing red!

Summer

Summer hours begin June 4th with no Sunday School and worship will begin at 9:30am.

Attendance and Giving

Total Attendance last week 5/14/23 = 33

Week of 5/14/23	Month of May	Year to date
\$2,296.00	\$4,506.00	\$42,480.03



Adult Sunday School

Sunday school will be at 9:30am next Sunday, May 28th in the café. Next week's topic will be "Memorial Day – A Day to Honor and Pay Tribute" with Mike Beamish leading.

Congratulations Graduates

Today we are happy to celebrate with four 2023 graduates who all have roots here at St. John's. Jacob Lucas has earned his diploma from Troy High School and will be furthering his education (and his baseball career) at the University of Northwestern Ohio. Cynthia Stanley has earned two college degrees and has plans to put her newly-acquired knowledge to work. Brianna Wilson has earned two diplomas—one from Troy High School and one from the Upper Valley Career Center. She will also be entering the workforce. Erika Wilson has earned her degree from Edison State Community College and is considering a few possibilities for her next step. Congratulation to all!

Respite Time for Grandparents

You have a great opportunity during the next few months to make a difference in the lives of children. St. John's is partnering with Ann Marie Winters' Grandfamilies support group in providing once a month respite time for grandparents and therapeutic playtime for the grandchildren. The first event is scheduled today from 1-4 pm and will be held in the Fellowship Hall, and the Gathering Place. We are asking for 5-6 adults with a heart for older adults trying to raise young children. There will be experienced leaders running the program but each child needs a special "friend" for the day. Please consider if you are being nudged to step up and wrap your arms and your hearts around these families. Talk to Mary Ann or Ginny for more information.

Thank you

Thank you to Becky and Allison and so many more who worked to make the rummage sale such a success! Great job!

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Down by the Riverside" Spiritual

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 1:1-11

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Do Lord" Spiritual
"He Touched Me" William Gaither

MORNING PRAYER Pastor Don Crist

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (In Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RECOGNITION FOR THOSE WHO SERVE AND GRADUATES

Becky Pierce

SILENT PREPARATION FOR LISTENING

We invite you to use these few moments of silence to welcome the Inner Teacher to speak to you as Don shares the morning message.

SERMON "Letting Go"

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Liturgist)

Let us invest our gifts in the future that we can build as co-workers in the kingdom of God. Let us give generously today, believing in the future growth God brings when we work, plant, and build together.

OFFERTORY "Prayer" Carl Von Weber

*DOXOLOGY: (In Unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, Ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***DEDICATION PRAYER: (In Unison)**

Fruit-bringing God, Bless the investments we commit to your work this day that our efforts would serve the future thriving of the world you so love. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: #289 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

(Red Hymnal)

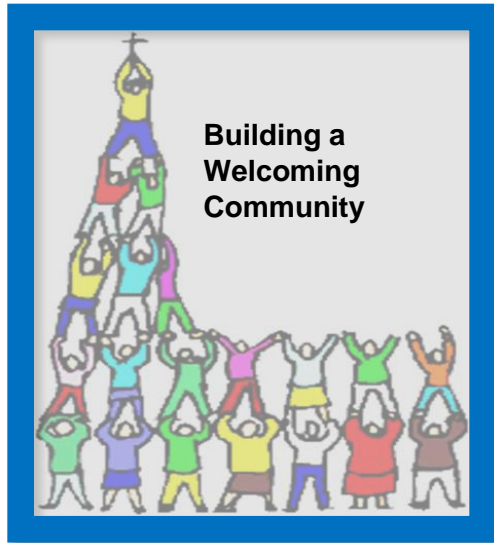
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"With a Voice of Praise"

Elizabeth Van Woert

(All hymns used by permission, CCLI License# 11076943)



PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Cheryl Braun: Please pray for Joyce Swank's sister in law who is now in a rehab unit.

Becky: Please pray for the Fessler's daughter in law that is having surgery.

Pam Nolin: Joyce Heffelfinger's niece is in critical condition with a number of health concerns. Please keep her in your prayers,

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.