

Serving Us Today

Disciples: All Members

Organist: Ginny Beamish

Minister: Don Crist

Altar Decoration: Becky Pierce

Liturgist: Mike Beamish

Head Usher: Mike Beamish

Choir Director: Becky Pierce

Counters: Mike Beamish &
John Gibbons

November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 4p-8p Rummage Sale	3 9a-2p Rummage Sale	4 9a-12p Rummage Sale 4p-7p 2nd Story
5 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Worship	6	7	8 10a History Team 11:30a Ladies Fellowship 4:30p M&W 9p Choir	9	10	11
12 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Worship Thanksgiving Dinner after Worship	13 2p Trustees	14	15 10a History Team 12p Council 6p Choir	16	17	18
19 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Worship	20	21	22 10a History Team 6p Choir	23 OFFICE CLOSED 	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Worship Memorial Sunday	27	28	29 10a History Team 6p Choir	30		



November 19, 2023

“Investment Strategies”

Happy Birthday!



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

**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 "Cornet Voluntary" John Travers

*OPENING WORDS The promise of God for us this morning is this: "I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."

from Isaiah 44:33

*SONG OF THE MORNING: #33 (Red Hymnal)

"This Is My Father's World"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: God is ready to answer us, even before we call. God is eager to listen, though we are not ready to speak.

People: The hills sing together before God's presence. All of nature proclaims God's glory.

Liturgist: Be glad! Rejoice in all that God is creating. Welcome the new heaven and earth God has planned.

People: We worship God with great joy and delight. We welcome God's healing touch in our midst.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (In Unison)

God of hosts, our strength and our salvation, there are no words large enough to praise you. No response by us can match the love you have shown us. Gather us now in your warm embrace, that our faith may be renewed and our work empowered to the honor and glory of your holy name. Amen.

The Ministry and Worship Committee invites you to be part of this year's Advent/Christmas Poinsettia Display. Please consider a donation of \$10 (or more) in the special Poinsettia Envelope you will find in the bulletin. You may also designate your gift on the fourth line of your regular giving envelope. Please indicate in whose memory or in whose honor you are making your gift.



The Ministry and Worship Committee invites you to begin your Advent Season with the annual St. John's Tree Lighting Celebration. Join us in Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. on Sunday evening, December 3. We'll start with a light supper and then move to a time of Advent and Christmas crafts for nimble fingers (or even not-so-nimble ones) of all ages. The evening will conclude with a retelling of the Christmas Story, the lighting of the Christmas tree, and some singing of favorite Christmas carols.



Attendance and Giving

Total Attendance last week 11/12/23 = 42

General Fund Donations

Week of 11/12/23	Month of November	Monthly Budget
\$2,287.00	\$4,508.00	\$10,129.17



Adult Sunday School will be at 9:30am next Sunday, November 26th in the café. Next week we welcome guest speaker, Stan Kriesberg, to speak about his personal journey within the Jewish Faith.

Partners in Hope

You may have noticed the blue barrel in the narthex. It is there for our annual gifts to the Partners in Hope Christmas Shop. They will welcome your donations of new, unwrapped toys (including games and sports balls) for ages 0-12, as well as gifts for senior citizens. They also welcome full-size toiletry items (shampoo, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, toothpaste). Gift cards (with the receipt taped to the back) are also appreciated. Items will be picked up on Monday, December 4.

Annual Sweatsuit Ministry

The Membership and Outreach Committee will once again be coordinating sweatsuits for Headstart children this Christmas season. Names for the children will be available for distribution beginning Sunday, November 26th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The sweatsuits will then be due to the church Sunday, December 17th. This is a very long-standing ministry of St. John's and we appreciate the congregation's willingness to participate.

Five for Five

On December 3, we will receive our final Five for Five special offering: The Christmas Fund, formerly known as Veterans of the Cross. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. You may indicate your gift on the fourth line of your regular giving envelope, or you may use one of the special Christmas Fund envelopes that you will find in the narthex. Thank you

CHOIR ANTHEM "Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You" Jay Althouse

A TIME FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

MORNING PRAYER

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.

WELCOME TO FACEBOOK LIVE VIEWERS

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 25:14-30

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 "Investment Strategies"

Don Crist

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Liturgist)

We have the opportunity to give thanks through our offerings of ourselves and our time, talent and treasures to the work God calls us to do. We cannot repay God for our lives, our minds, the beauty of earth and sky, the abundance of resources that we enjoy. But we can respond with acts of gratitude and kindness, with generosity and thanksgiving.

OFFERTORY "Siciliano"

John Alcock

***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)**

We rejoice, O God, in the new world you are creating around us and within us. We give thanks for the joy we find in the church as we draw water from the wells of salvation. It is our intention to share the joy, to proclaim your Word among all nations, to work quietly and enthusiastically for a world where your live reigns. To these ends, we dedicate our offerings. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

(Insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Andante”

Maurice Greene

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

Flowers on the Altar today were donated by Sharon Wilson, in memory of Mike Wilson.



St. John’s has received a few thank you cards. Please check them out on the bulletin board by the office.

Our Children’s Space is located through the door at the front of the church. We know there may be times that children’s needs may differ. Families are welcome to come to the area at any time during the service. Simply follow the signs and you will find our children’s rooms thoughtfully prepared for your family, including a live feed for you to follow along.

God is Still Speaking,

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Brent Adkins: Brent is once again in the hospital. Please keep him and Bethel in your prayers.

Wayne and Gretchen Cunningham: Stephanie Strobe's parents continue to battle health issues. Both have experienced some improvement of late but face long roads. Please keep them in your prayers.

Mary Ann Crist: Please keep Mary Ann in your prayers while she fights breast cancer.

Zoe Darner: Zoe fell and fractured her wrist that required surgery. Please keep her in your prayers.

Becky Fessler: Betsy is back in the Soin Hospital with continuing complications from her surgery for lung cancer. Please include her in your prayers.

Em Finney: Please continue to pray for Ginny's sister as she continues to battle her illness. Ginny reports that she continues to hold her own but needs our prayers now more than ever.

Michael Ham: Michael continues to need our prayers as his health struggles continue. Thankfully, at the moment, he is holding his own.

Joyce Heffelfinger: Joyce could use our prayers as well. Worrying about everyone else has caused some stability and balance issues. Let's all pray for her mobility to get better so we can see her at church!

Tracy Heffelfinger: Tracy, daughter of Joyce, suffered a mini stroke recently. Thankfully, there was no permanent damage and she is back at work. However, recovery and medication continue so, please, keep the prayers for Tracy coming.

Erika, Logan and Brieanna 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:

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