

*St. John's Evangelical Church  
211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, Ohio 43326  
(Non Profit Organization)*

**Do Not Delay  
Dated Material**



## **St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter** February 2018

211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326  
Church Phone: 419-673-7278  
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651  
Office Hours: Monday—Friday (9 AM—1 PM)

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor  
Website: [www.stjohnskenton.org](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)  
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### **Ash Wednesday Service—February 14 at 7:00 PM**

Lent is a season of fasting, but we want to make sure our fasting is true and right (see Isaiah 58). As such, our Ash Wednesday will have three occasions where we may come before the altar. First, we may come to receive the ashes for we are sinners, the sin is the penalty for death, and that sin led the Son of God to the Cross. It will be a time for somber reflection.

Then, we may come forward to partake of Holy Communion where we remember that the penalty for our sin has been paid, there is a remedy, and we are called to receive that gift.

Lastly, we may come to receive anointing. Ash Wednesday marks the start of a penitential time in the life of the Church, but we are going to fulfill Jesus' command in Matthew 6:16-1. We are not going to show the world a disfigure face. We are going forth under the anointing of God, showing forth the glow of His Holy Spirit, and allow the joy of the Lord to be our guide and fulfillment even while we commit to fast and pray.



# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

FEBRUARY 2018

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

**Proverbs 16:6** is translated in the following ways:

**By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.—King James Version**

**By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.—English Standard Version**

**By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord a man avoids evil.—Revised Standard Version**

**Guilt is banished through love and truth; Fear-of-God deflects evil.—The Message**

**Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided.—New International Version**



Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year—yes, that means if you are going to give up chocolates or desserts for Lent you may want to celebrate Valentine's Day on Fat Tuesday—the English translation of Mardi Gras. Ash Wednesday inaugurates our Lenten journey—a tradition we still hold onto at St. John's Evangelical Church.

There are many Protestant churches who have stopped having Ash Wednesday services, so this may be a good time to invite a Christian friend to come and worship here for that evening, and we have extended an invitation to the Payne Chapel to join us in worship that evening also.

But it would also be a good time to invite your non-Christian friends too for this is a night when we journey through the Gospel in that time of worship. This is also a service where we ask—if you are able—all worshippers to come forward to the Cross and the altar and stand before God again and again and again. Each time has a different meaning to it.

First, we come to receive the ashes for which the day is named. We remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We recall our sin—individually and collectively—brought the punishment of death into the world.

We weep and we mourn for the paradise we have lost through sin, and the distance it has created between us and our Holy God.

Thankfully, that is just the beginning of the service as God does not leave us forgotten or forsaken. For then, we hear echoes of **Proverbs 16:6** when we remember that “by steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for...” This is, of course, the steadfast love and faithfulness our heavenly Father has for us. This love moved Him to give His only begotten Son in our place on the tree of condemnation. And that love we commemorate by receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion.

As **Hebrews 10:22-23** states: “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

What a glorious gift we have received from God's loving hand! And yet, like a late-night infomercial, there's still

more in store for us, and so we follow the prescription that Christ gave to us for our period of Lenten fasting: "But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face," **Matthew 6:17**.

Our final trip to the altar on **Ash Wednesday** reminds us that God uses Lent to prepare us for greater impact in the world. Though we have sinned, He has overcome that sin and its penalty [death] through the blood of Christ shed on Calvary and His resurrection from the dead. Through Christ, we are freed from all our chains, and by the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live in Christ-like freedom for the glory of God.

The Motto of the Moravian Brotherhood declares, "Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow Him." Our Lamb has conquered all that would ensnare us, and now in freedom let us follow Him. Also, let us allow Lent to prepare us that we might follow Him fully with all that we are for that is Lent's purpose in our journey of faith.

In Christ's powerful name,

Pastor Randall



## From the Heidelberg Catechism

The **Heidelberg Catechism** instructs us that our working for God is a gift from the Holy Spirit and not of ourselves.

### 1. What is your only comfort in life and death?

That I am not my own,<sup>[1]</sup> but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death,<sup>[2]</sup> to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.<sup>[3]</sup> He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,<sup>[4]</sup> and has set me free from all the power of the devil.<sup>[5]</sup> He also preserves me in such a way<sup>[6]</sup> that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head;<sup>[7]</sup> indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.<sup>[8]</sup> Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life<sup>[9]</sup> and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.<sup>[10]</sup>

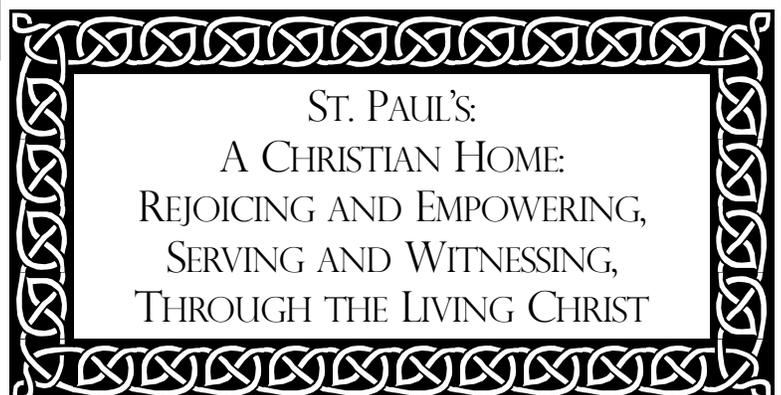
**"All are from the dust,  
and to dust all return."**

Ecclesiastes 3:20, ESV



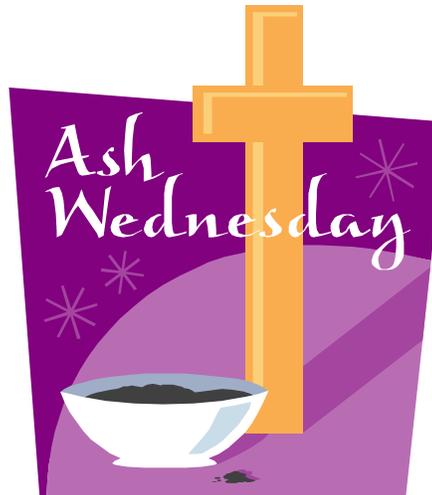
## Ash Wednesday Service

**Biblical References:** [1] 1 Cor 6:11-20. [2] Rom 14:7-9. [3] 1 Cor 3:23; Titus 2:14. [4] 1 Pet 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7; 1 John 2:2. [5] John 8:34-36; Heb 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8. [6] John 6:39-40; John 10:27-30; 2 Thes 3:3; 1 Pet 1:5. [7] Mat 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18. [8] Rom 8:28. [9]



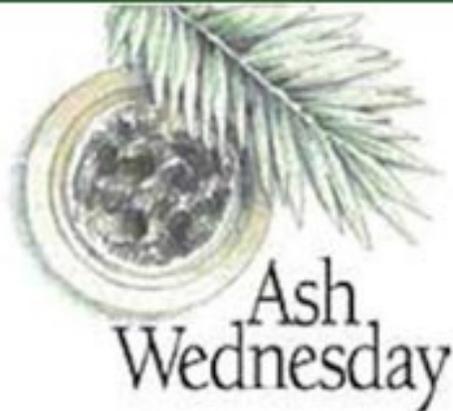
For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

—Romans 14.7-9



**Ash Wednesday**  
Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be 14 February at 7 PM. We will mark the day with a service that includes imparting ashes, anointing with oil, and partaking of Holy Communion.

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.—John 8.34-36



**Dear Lord, As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.**

*jucoolimages.com*

## Preaching Schedule February-Easter Sunday (01 April 2018)

04 February

Scripture: **I Corinthians 9:16-23**  
**Mark 1:29-39**

Sermon: **Preaching is a Must**

11 February—Transfiguration

Scripture: **II Corinthians 4:3-6**  
**Mark 9:2-13**

Sermon: **Glory on Earth**

### Lenten Theme: We Are Purple

So much of what we hear in the world emphasizes what makes us different and separates us one from another. In Lent and on Easter Sunday, we will reflect on what makes us one in Christ.

14 February—Ash Wednesday

Ashes

Scripture: **Proverbs 16:1-7**

Reflection: **Turn From Evil**  
Communion

Scripture: **II Corinthians 5:20-6:10**

Reflection: **The Favorable Time**  
Anointing

Scripture: **Matthew 6:16-21**

Reflection: **When You Fast**

18 February

Scripture: **I Peter 3:18-22**  
**Mark 1:9-15**

Sermon: **We Are Called**

25 February

Scripture: **Romans 4:13-24**  
**Mark 8:31-38**

Sermon: **We Follow Through**

04 March

Scripture: **I Corinthians 1:18-25**  
**John 2:13-25**

Sermon: **We Are Zealous**

11 March

Scripture: **Numbers 21:4-9**  
**John 3:14-21**

Sermon: **We Lift High Christ**

18 March

Scripture: **Hebrews 5:5-10**  
**John 12:20-33**

Sermon: **We Are Christ-Centered**

25 March—Palm Sunday

Scripture: **Psalms 118:19-29**  
**John 12:12-16**

Sermon: **We Rejoice**

01 April—Sonrise

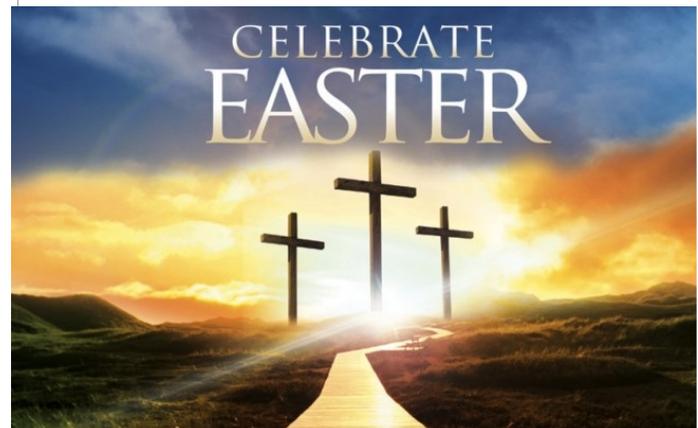
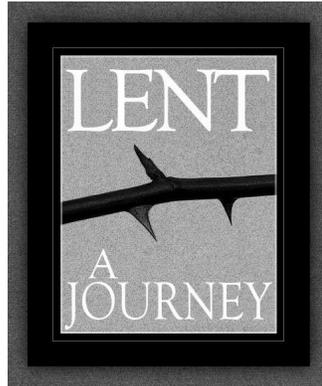
Scripture: **Isaiah 25:6-9**  
**Mark 16:1-8**

Sermon: **We Are Fearful?**

Festival

Scripture: **I Corinthians 15:1-11**  
**John 20:1-18**

Sermon: **We Are Saved!**





### Golden Buckeye Class & Friends Winter Outing

**Sunday, February 11, 2018**

**St. Johns Evangelical Church  
Fellowship Hall**

**Catered by Barb McQuown**

**MENU:**

- Baked Steak*
- Ham Loaf*
- Cheesy Potatoes*
- Green Beans*
- Fruit Salad*
- Rolls*
- Cake*
- Coffee/Lemonade*



**Social Time: 12:00 Noon—12:15 PM**

**Lunch: 12:15 PM**

**Cost: \$11 per person**

**Deadline: February 4, 2018**

**Reservations w/money to Carole Downey  
419-675-1809/567-674-4466**

### Epworth United Methodist Church Sundays at 6:00 PM

Date & Speaker:

- February 18 Jonathan Hanover  
Kenton First Methodist
- February 25 Randall Forester  
St. John's Evangelical Church.
- March 4 Phil Compton  
Rhineheart UMC
- March 11 John Dyer  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
- March 18 Jason Manns, New Hope



### The Passion of Christ

St. John's Evangelical Church will present its annual portrayal of "The Passion of Christ." This event will take place Thursday and Friday evening, **March 29 & 30 at 8:00 p.m.**

The Pasion of Christ Play is a portrayal of the last week of Christ's life on Earth. It brings to light the emotions of betrayal and abandonment that Christ experienced, as well as, the agony and suffering that Christ endured at the time of His death.

**If anyone is interested in being a part of this reenactment, there are a few spots open. If you would like to participate in any capacity, please sign up in the back of the sanctuary. You may also contact Kendra Dilts, Miranda Strous, or Julie Strous. Keep your eyes open for upcoming rehearsals!**



### Community Palm Sunday Service – St. John's

The Hardin County Ministerial Association will be sponsoring its annual ecumenical Palm Sunday worship service at St. John's Evangelical Church on Sunday, March 25 at 6:30 PM. The Kenton High School Chorale will also be performing that evening.



## February Children's & Youth Report

Chili cook off and Cake Auction- Thanks to everyone who attended, baked a cake or supported the bed ministry recently. Two thousand dollars was raised that will go towards purchasing materials to make more beds. It was truly a fun night! Thanks also go to Dave Beazley for organizing the cake

raffle and Russ Cahill who was our auctioneer.

**Sunday School** continues on each week with Miss Hope teaching Preschool - Grade 2, Eric Gossard and Amy Gr 3-high school.

MS/HS is currently doing a study focused around the books/movies called the Hunger games. We are learning to put God at the center of our lives and to rely on him daily.

**Kids Worship** each Sunday is always a fun time with about 8 younger children each week. We have story from the Bible and then do some kind of activity or coloring relating to the story. Making Valentines is always a favorite way to celebrate our friends and family during this time of year. We have several fun activities the younger kids should like to create and then give to others.

**Wednesday Nights** are a very busy time here at church. We are hosting about 60 each night from Kindergarten thru middle school. Everyone is learning about the Ten Commandments and how important the commandments are to guide our lives. We've had many fun activities that help us learn the commandments.

Currently, we could use some adult help in the Middle School level. Lessons are provided and you are teamed with one or two other adults. Please see Amy if interested in helping.



Middle School/High School are currently selling subs to help get to camp. There are three kinds for you to choose from (ham, turkey or Italian), for \$6 you get a sub, chips and water. Proceeds help our youth pay their way to camp.

A \$50 registration fee was due on 1/15/18 for those interested in going to middle school or Lakeside camp. That cost will be applied to their camp balance. All paperwork will be given to the parents at the time that is paid.



A chicken BBQ is planned for April and youth will be selling ticket for that soon. Please support our youth- the cost for Lakeside is around \$500 per camper.

St. John's is also trying to assist the kids camp costs. If a camper attends church & Sunday School at least 2 times per month and helps with a special event, \$25 will be credited towards their camp account. In that way, they can earn \$125 for camp while being an active part of St. John's.

### Envelope Campaign

Many thanks go to our generous donors who took an envelope and put money in it for our kids and youth. At this point in time, we have had over \$7200 donated. It shows that our St. John's member believe in and want the best for our youth. That money will be used to run the day to day activities of all our kids- Nursery through High School.... For lessons and curriculum, office supplies, rewards, and all the items it takes to host classes/activities for our kids.



THANK YOU!!

**St. John's Evangelical Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, December 12, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**

Present: Carol Wilcox, Pastor Forester, Jim Bidwell, Mark Sherman, Mary Ralston, Heather Erwin, Kristi Weaver, Mike Styer, Kristina VanBuskirk, Dave Beazley, Greg Martin, Nancy Rickenbacher, Amy Long & Russ Cahill

The meeting was called to order by Carol Wilcox with Pastor Randall opening with prayer.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Pastor Forester led.

**OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Secretary's Report**—Kristi Weaver

- November 9, 2017 Minutes – Motion and seconded to accept minutes as presented. Council Vote, Motion passed.

**REPORTS**

**Finance**—Kristi Weaver

- Financial Report distributed for review prior to the meeting. No questions noted.
- Review of the proposed 2018 budget by Russ Cahill: As of Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Income is \$244k. Have estimated out the expected for remainder of the year. Will put in the 2017 Actual when December is complete. Discussion of the 2018 budget and how we removed the budget if the pay /expense is not taken. Will finalize the budget to be voted on at the January Council Meeting.
- Question on Consecration Sunday – Pledges as of today are \$136,452.
- Question on sign up for money for Christmas Eve – Will make sure there are enough money bags to cover 4 services.

**Christian Education**

**Children's Report** - Amy Long

- Envelope giving up to over \$3,400
- Lakeside- Met with First Methodist about staying them. Will offer an incentive for kids to earn money toward Lakeside. Cost will be about \$500.
- Question about a middle school camp - They are looking into something that is closer. The current camp they are looking at may be around \$300.
- Will be doing fundraising in 2018 next year for camps. The fundraising is meant to be fellowship and service time as well.

**Women's Ministry**—Carol Wilcox

- Moved some couches
- Ag Banquet and Trustee Banquet in December. Lamb Banquet is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Will take the luminaries down as weather permits after Christmas, perhaps on January 7<sup>th</sup> when take down the rest of the decorations.

**Worship, Arts & Music**—Dave Beazley

- Looking for volunteers for candles on Christmas Eve.

**Bus Committee**—Dave Beazley/Oliver Heldman

- Bus Driver is injured, Mike Laubis is filling in on the final night December Wednesday night.

**Cruise-in Committee**—Nancy Rickenbacher/Oliver Heldman

- Nothing to report

**Personnel Committee**—Kristina VanBuskirk

- Nothing to report

**Pastoral Relations**—Carol Wilcox

- Meeting in January or February – date is not set

**Trustees—Greg Martin**

- Discussion of issue with an air handler. Will have to have it looked at by Quality Mechanics. Greg and Mark to discuss.
- Have someone set up to do the snow plowing.
- Still working on getting the drywall fixed for the painter to be able to finish.

**Farm—Jim Bidwell**

- Met with Watkins, and will go with them the next 3 years with \$47,500 per year income.
- In the process of changing the church name with the department of agriculture.

**Missions—Mary Ralston**

- In the new year will be putting out fliers for the Food Pantry information
- Got some gift cards for Blaze
- Giving gas cards to Love Inc from Good Samaritan fund
- Still need to promote Jamie Ramage's mission trip next June.
- Have a place to donate some of the old Bibles in Marysville.

**Audio/Visual—Mike Styer**

- Nothing to report

**Evangelism—Heather Erwin/Mark Sherman**

- Gave a bed on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have 1 left, and do have money available to build more. Thinking about working on it on Wednesday's as a project.
- WKTN – We used to sponsor the Christian Music. It was \$50 a month. Giving to Evangelism to review.

**President's Report—Carol Wilcox**

- Discussion of Communion Servers.
- Discussion of the Bank Messenger. Asking for people to help out during the first service at least getting the money into the bank bag. Mike Styer has offered to help with that.

**Pastor's Report—Pastor Randall**

- Discussion of the Pastor and joining the Reserves and what the commitment would mean. Will not pursue this further.
- Thanks to everyone especially Amy with planning the Scavenger Hunt for the youth.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Baptism Policy - Revisiting as the policy never was voted on. Discussion of the policy. Motion made and seconded to adopt the policy as printed. Council Vote, Motion Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Approve Budget – Any questions on what Russ presented? Discussion of if we do not have a “budget” for Cruise In/Celebrate Freedom, do we still need a committee? Will need to make sure it is brought up during Congregational Meeting. Will vote on the final budget in January.
- Committees- Reports due for Annual Meeting by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Accept Nomination Slate of New Council Members – Discussion of finalizing it in January.
- Lock Change - Question on what it would cost to change the front door keys. Trustees will look into estimates.
- Ron Rogers Resignation from teaching Sunday School Letter
- Week of December 25<sup>th</sup> – Agree to just close the office and have someone check messages.
- Revisiting the Position of Associate Pastor and Youth Minister – On a part time basis and possibly only from September thru May. Like the idea of part-time, but possibly not limited by months. Asked Personnel to work with Pastor to draft up something to what we want. Finance needs to put in \$20-\$25k in the 2018 budget.

Next Meeting: January 11 at 7:00 PM

Refreshments for next meeting– Dave Beazley

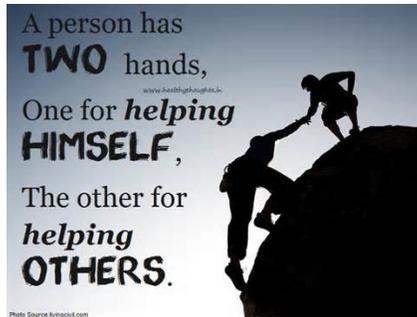
ADJOURNMENT – Motion made and seconded to adjourn, council vote, meeting adjourned.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Mission of the Month**  
**Shine FM**



Shine FM is a beacon of hope for West Central Ohio. It is a radio station on a hill, broadcasting from Ohio's highest point. It is not just another station, but one that SHINES God's truth for all to HEAR. Shine FM serves, supports, and is actively involved in the community so that people SEE God's love are drawn to the truth found in His Word. An extraordinary opportunity has been given to Shine FM to serve West Central Ohio with a Christian radio station. Their consistent signals will allow people to HEAR them. Their dependable service to the community will allow people to SEE them. This will set them apart from the other Christian stations that broadcast into the area.



**Friday With Friends**

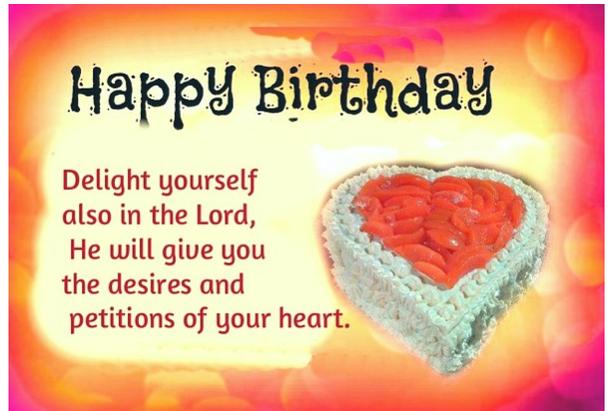
Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows, widowers, and single seniors who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. We meet the first and

third Fridays of every month. Please join us if you are a widow, widower, or single senior adult. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

**Forthcoming outings will be as follows:**

- If out of town, meet at St. John's at 11 am to carpool.
- February 2: Pizza Hut—Kenton
- February 16: 68 Grill—Bellefontaine
- March 2: Beer Barrel Pizza—Findlay
- March 16: Longhorn—Roundhead

Worship Attendance		
December 24:	8:30 a.m.	66
	10:30 a.m.	101
	7:30 p.m.	100
	10:30 p.m.	101
December 31:	8:30 a.m.	34
	10:30 a.m.	45
January 7:	8:30 a.m.	51
	10:30 a.m.	85
January 14:	8:30 a.m.	56
	10:30 a.m.	92



**Birthday Blessings  
(over 80 yrs. Young)**

**Happy Birthday!! Please contact the church office if a name was omitted from the list. Thank you so much.**

February 25: LaVern Neal  
12183 Watkins Road  
Marysville, OH 43040

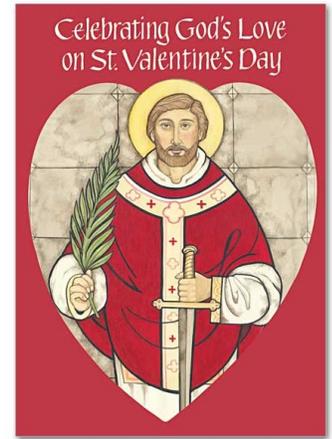
<u>Church Staff:</u>
Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester
Children's Ministry: Amy Long
Financial Secretary: Kay Rush
Church Secretary: Kathy Forester
Custodian: Harry Long
Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley
Contemporary Worship Leader: Kendra Dilts
Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler
Children's Choirs Director: Hope Cauley
Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker
Technical Support: Richard Katterjohn
Historian: Gerald Pfister



February 2018

In the sermon series in January the Verse in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:8 was highlighted: “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.” This year is most unusual because Valentine’s day and Ash

Wednesday both fall on February 14<sup>th</sup>. In an odd coincidence we celebrate mortal love on the same day that makes us realize both our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. God’s love for us is so much greater than our mortality affords as shown by Jesus sacrifice on the cross. As we travel together through this Lenten season let us all be mindful of this all-consuming love.



The Ash Wednesday service focuses on our sins and mortality which have been triumphed over through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; God’s awesome love for His creation. During the services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Biblical worship. In our church, it is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins. The anointing with oil reminds us that we are God’s children through adoption having accepted Christ as our Savior.

Did you know there were many Valentines?

“Under the rule of Claudius the Cruel, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody campaigns. The emperor had to maintain a strong army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine’s actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Valentine was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. The sentence was carried out on February 14, on or about the year 270.

Legend also has it that while in jail, St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer’s daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it “From Your Valentine.”

For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death. In truth, the exact origins and identity of St. Valentine are unclear. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, “At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies under the date of 14 February.” One was a priest in Rome, the second one was a bishop of Interamna (now Terni, Italy) and the third St. Valentine was a martyr in the Roman province of Africa. Legends vary on how the martyr’s name became connected with romance. The date of his death may have become mingled with the Feast of Lupercalia, a pagan festival of love. On these occasions, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius decided to put an end to the Feast of Lupercalia, and he declared that February 14 be celebrated as St Valentine’s Day.” *Credit to History.com*

Happy Valentines Day and May Christ’s eternal love surround you as we observe Lent.

Jerry Pfister, Historian



## Tailor Made Life Group

The Tailor Made Life Group has been meeting on the first and third Thursdays of each month since April. We have Crocheted and sewn 53 Twiddle Muffs, 12 prayer shawls, 92 children and adult hats, 36 baby hats, 19 walker organizers, 5 children dresses, 49 adult bibs, 48 children scarves, over 1000 prayer squares, and 119 rice socks. Nearly all of these projects have been distributed to Hardin Hills, Blanchard Place, Kenton Nursing and Rehab, Fairhaven Community, Haiti and Riverside Hospital. We also presented the children from Wednesday Night each a hat and a scarf.

We enjoy getting together and talking and getting to know each other. Anyone interested in these projects we would welcome with open arms. If anyone has projects for us please give Pam Bramble a call at 567-674-5850.

### Twice As Sweet

On Valentines Day, we show our love;  
We express our deep affections.  
Those who are important to us  
Get cards and sweet confections.

But Christian love is not just for  
The ones we hold most dear;  
Jesus said "love everyone;"  
He made that very clear.

For Christians, it is every day  
We should care and love and serve  
Everyone we meet in life,  
Whether they do or don't deserve.

Let's follow Jesus' good command  
To love everyone we meet.  
Valentine's Day every day  
Will make life twice as sweet.

*By Joanna Fuchs*



## Hymn Spotlight: **What a Friend We Have In Jesus**

*A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—Proverbs 18:24 KJV*



A true friend loves and accepts us just as we are, stays close to us in good and in bad, and is always ready to help in time of need. Because the author of this hymn text found just such a friend in his Lord, he decided to spend his entire life showing real friendship to others.

Joseph Scriven had wealth, education, a devoted family, and a pleasant life in his native Ireland. Then unexpected tragedy entered. On the night before Scriven's scheduled wedding, his fiancée drowned. In his deep sorrow, Joseph realized that he could find the solace and support he needed only in his dearest friend, Jesus.

Soon after this tragedy, Scriven dramatically changed his lifestyle. He left Ireland for Port Hope, Canada, determined to devote all of his extra time in being a friend and helper to others. He often gave away his clothing and possessions to those in need, and he worked—without pay—for anyone who needed him. Scriven became known as “the Good Samaritan of Port Hope.”

When Scriven's mother became ill in Ireland, he wrote a comforting letter to her, enclosing the words of his newly written poem with the prayer that these brief lines would remind her of a never-failing heavenly Friend. Sometime later, when Joseph Scriven himself was ill, a friend who came to call on him happened to see a copy of these words scribbled on scratch paper near his bed. The friend read the lines with interest and asked, “Who wrote those beautiful words?”

“The Lord and I did it between us,” was Scriven's reply.

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there*

*Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens bear; May we ever, Lord, be bringing All to Thee in earnest prayer. Soon in glory bright, unclouded, There will be no need for prayer—Rapture, praise, and endless worship Will be our sweet portion there.*