

*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 April 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
Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

SERVE DAY—APRIL 29

The Evangelism Committee is planning another service day on Sunday, April 29. There will be one service beginning at 8:30 AM followed by service projects from 10 am—12 pm. Projects will include bed building in garage, making blankets & sewing project, and possibly packing food boxes. Lunch served at 12:30 pm (hot dogs & chili). Come out to show your love and support of our community. If you are unable to stay for the service projects, please still come to the worship service!



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)

ARIL 2018

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

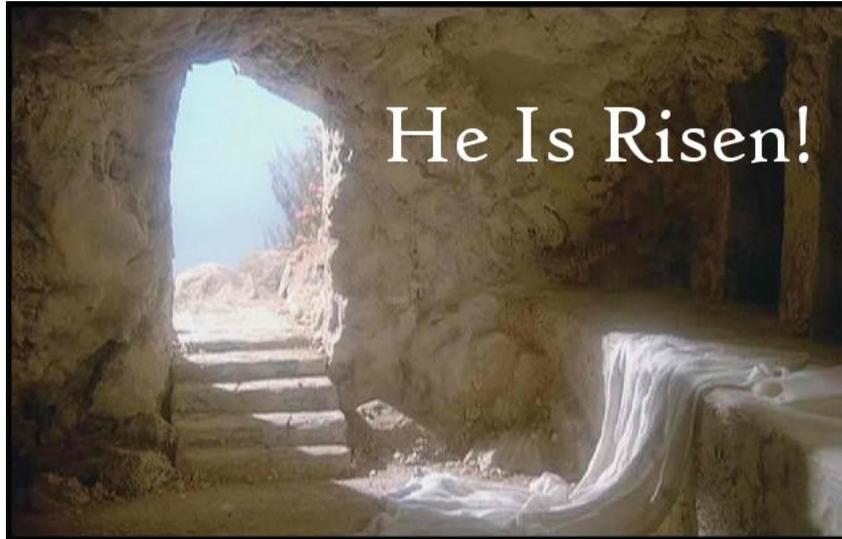
E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

Every year, when the calendar changes, we always check to see when Easter will be. Being that it moves, this is always important as it impacts so much of our spring programming, worship, and other ministries. This year is one of those times when Easter falls on April first, which often receives some sideways glances and smirks. One person even remarked to me, "Wow. That seems odd. How did that happen?"

This conversation occurred when I was out and about day and having coffee at a local establishment. Rather nonchalantly, I took another sip from my mug. Others, who knew I was a pastor and had been eavesdropping on our conversation, leaned in to hear my response. My response: "Oh, I think it's the perfect day to have Easter." Now, everyone was on the hook. "April Fools' Day and Easter should be intermixed?" I could almost see the thought bubbles over their heads as I watched the gears of their minds grind on that for another moment.

I continued, "After all, Easter was the greatest practical joke of all time..." (another pause for dramatic effect; now, wait for it) "...on the Devil, that is." At that, there was another pause as people chewed on that juicy little morsel, which was followed by laughter and a "You've got that right" or two.

That is the truth of Easter. It's actually a great practical joke on the Devil. He thought he had Jesus, the Son of God in the grasp of his sweaty, little claws, or hooves, or whatever he has at the end of his limbs. If he could kill the Son of God, he could assault the Godhead, and he could end the hope of humanity. With the death of Jesus, the gulf between us and God would remain fixed. There would be no Final Solution by God. Instead, the Devil would author our fate and hold the upper hand. If Jesus could be held in the



tomb and the grip of Hell, the Devil could reign and impose his will on the earth.

Instead, well, if you are reading this, you know the rest of the story: Jesus broke the chains of sin and death. The Devil is a fool because he should have known that the

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

—I Corinthians 15:56-57

end was coming, but somehow he missed the clues in the Old Testament. He misunderstood the prophecies. In fact, the first one was uttered in the Garden of Eden (see **Genesis 3:15**). Still, there were more clues littered throughout the pages of the Old Testament. If that were not enough, Jesus walked this earth and spoke of how He would win the victory, and it was by subverting the plans of the Devil!

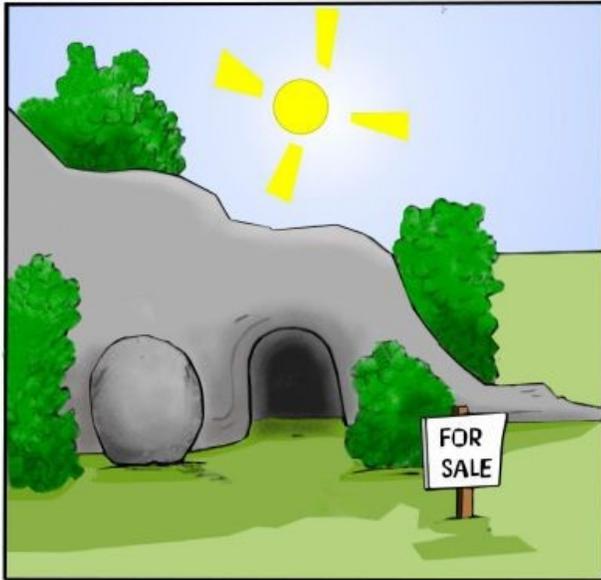
Then, in verse 33, John adds that this was said by Jesus to

"Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."—John 12:31-32

speaking about the kind of death that He would die. And this was not the first or only time Jesus did this, and yet the Devil ignored.

And that makes the Devil a great fool if not the greatest fool of all time. In his arrogance, he thought he knew

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.

better. Like every gambler, he thought he had a system that could outsmart the makers of the rules. As every gambler learns, the house always wins. There, the odds are in the favor of the house. In this instance, you cannot outsmart God.

For that, the Devil is a fool, but he is also impotent. If you read the book of Job, you will see in the opening chapters, that Satan goes to and fro before God. In the order of the cosmos at the time, Satan himself would stand before God at times. However, that all changes while Jesus walked this earth. After having sent the seventy-two out, Jesus had a vision that He relayed to the disciples upon their return.

And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.—Luke 10:18

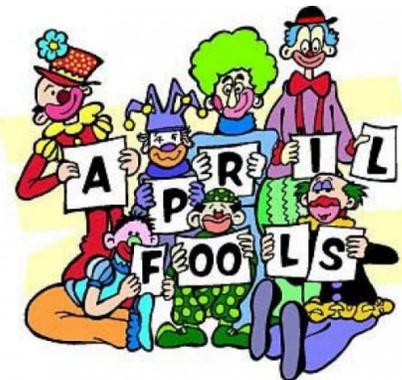
Satan lost his power during Jesus' years of ministry. While Satan may still be "the prince of the power of the air" (**Ephesians 2:2**), he has no true power. He is lost and flailing about like an animal mortally wounded and bleeding out—all signs point to death, but still the soon-to-be corpse thrashes violently. That is Satan—an impotent fool, who has lost the battle. He just has not finished thrashing about.

On Easter, we may boldly proclaim, "Christ is risen!" with the response by all, "He is risen indeed!" The victory is ours in the future but also NOW!!! In this life, we may have suffering (see **Romans 5:1-5**), but

we have a new life in Christ. We are called to live differently than the world. We are called to follow in the footsteps of our Savior, and sometimes that means suffering and sacrifice, and all that taking up our cross and following Jesus stuff (see **Mark 8:34-35**).

Still, many people think they know better. Perhaps, that was you at some point. Perhaps, that is you today if you are only playing with your faith or manipulating it to fit your needs and desires. If that is true, you are like the Devil and a fool. However, if you 'get' the joke of Easter Sunday, then you can leave behind your foolishness and laugh heartily with God.

In some older traditions, the Sunday after Easter was a time for laughter and levity. It may have been a response to the season of Lent and its drudgery at the time. It may have been an understanding of God's great practical joke on Satan. It had within it the understanding that God wants our lives to be filled with joy. He wants us to have joy when we live His way. When Satan flails at us, suffering occurs, or mission and ministry is hard, we should still find joy in walking in the way of our Savior.



So, let Easter be filled with joy and laughter for all the reasons we celebrate the day and the season, but also because we get the joke on this April Fool's Day!

In Christ's powerful name,

Pastor Randall

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
CHURCH:**

MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST



A new member class is forming. Classes will be Sunday afternoons for two hours. There are only two sessions that you need to attend. The classes will be April 8th and 22nd from 2-4 PM. Some who have expressed interest have evening commitments, so this is the best time for the class.

If you are interested, come and learn more about St. John's Evangelical Church and her ministries. Attendance does not obligate you to anything. It gives you a chance to learn more about the church, to ask your questions, and to learn how you can become more involved in what God is doing here.

We hope to receive new members officially on Pentecost Sunday, which falls on May 20, 2018 this year.



Adult Christian Education Summit

On April 29, we are bringing together Life Group leaders, Adult Sunday School teachers, and everyone interested in Adult Christian Education for a time of conversation, preparation, and celebration. Anyone in the church who is interested in this topic may attend. We will begin at 6 PM and conclude by 7:30 PM.

‘Come now, let us reason together,’ says the LORD.

~ Isaiah 1:18

Our agenda will begin with these three points:

1. Life Groups--how to keep them vital going forward. I will also affirm the 3 points that make for a vital life group—study of the Word, fellowship, and ministry/service together.
2. Bible Study--keep the summer schedule? add another time?
3. Alternative options--6-week classes/small groups in the fall and spring? Other options on mornings?

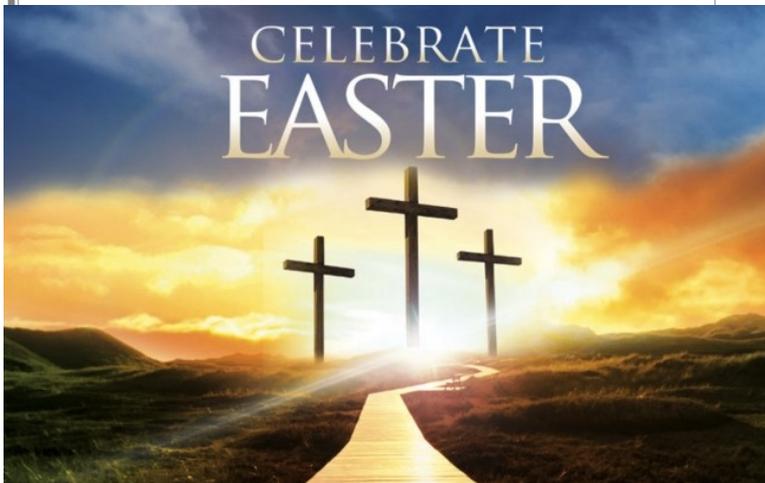
This is being called a summit because what we discuss may not lead to immediate changes. For one, things are going well now. For another, changes may require leadership and guidance, which would further require someone to step forward and “seize the moment.”

Feel free to come and see what is being done, what is possible, and how you can contribute to the teaching life of the church as God inspires His people to grow deeper in faith.

Preaching Schedule April 2018

Worship Theme: We Are Purplish?

There really isn't a theme for April, so that means you may have to endure some talk about purple and Johan the platypus. In April, we will think about what we are called to do and be in the light of the Resurrection, and we will have a chance to live that out on our day of service at the end of the month.



01 April—Easter Worship!

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

Sermon: **We Are Saved!**

08 April—Sonrise

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

Sermon: **We Are Fearful?**

[This was going to be the Sunrise message. I thought about scrapping it, but God laid it on my heart to turn back here.]

15 April—special message from Jerry Pfister on the **Emmaus Road**.
Pastor Randall will be at a conference.

22 April—Healing/Anointing Service

Scripture: **James 5:13-20**
Mark 6:7-13

Sermon:

We Pray and Anoint...Biblically

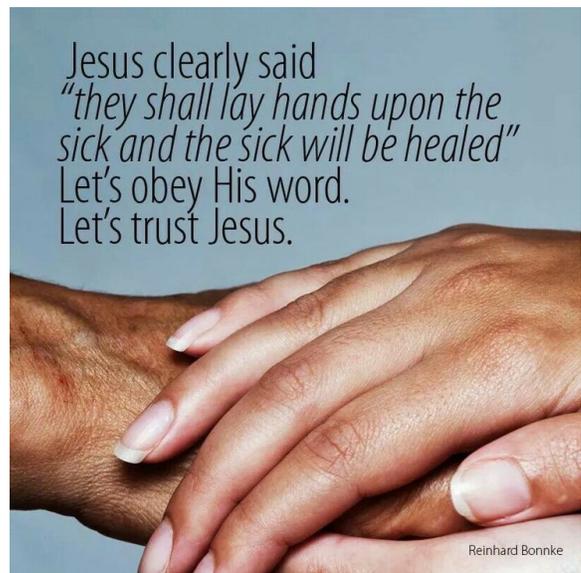
[For those who might, don't get nervous. This is not going to be some caricature of what God commands. There are no promises or guarantees that walkers or hearing aids will be left at the altar. We are going to pray and anoint whoever desires it. God is in charge of the healing in this life or the next. We will be faithful. If there's ever a service to invite someone, this would be a good service to do that.]

29 April—Service Sunday/

We Are the Church Sunday!

ONE WORSHIP at 8:30 AM

Scripture: **Deuteronomy 14:28-29**
I Corinthians 12:21-26



Faithful and Welcoming Churches (FWC)

In April, Pastor Randall will be traveling a bit. April 12-15, he will be at a conference in Grand Rapids. This year's theme is: The Spirit of the Age: Age of The Spirit. The Alliance for Confessing Evangelicals is presenting the conference. It is a time for Pastor Randall to learn and be renewed so he can better lead our congregation.

The week prior to this, Pastor Randall will be traveling to Cleveland in his duty on the national board of the Faithful and Welcoming Churches. They will be meeting with our national leaders while continuing the work of FWC. St. John's joined FWC years prior to Pastor Randall being called as our senior pastor.

You can learn more about FWC at faithfulandwelcoming.org. What follows is a description of FWC.

WHO WE ARE

Members of FWC generally describes themselves as one or more of the following: evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional (ECOT). We advocate for a point of view often underrepresented and misunderstood, and sometimes maligned within denominational life. We offer a counterpoint to proclamations and statements from our association, conference, national offices, and other ministries. (Being congregationally-based, we are not bound or necessarily represented by those statements.)

As Faithful and Welcoming Churches, clergy, and laity, we strive to be...

FAITHFUL to God our Father and Creator, to Jesus Christ, our Lord and only Savior, and to the Holy Spirit

FAITHFUL to the Bible as our ultimate authority for faith and practice

FAITHFUL to the apostolic faith declared by the Church across the years and around the world and reaffirmed in our historic traditions

FAITHFUL to the preservation of the family, and to the practice and proclamation of human sexuality as God's gift for marriage between a man and a woman

WELCOMING to all, as we seek through repentance and faith to do the will of God

WELCOMING to fresh insight from the Scriptures that is consistent with our commitment to biblical authority

WELCOMING to new ideas of how our congregations may experience health and growth to transform our world through the gospel of Jesus Christ

OBJECTIVES

FWC is an association of UCC members who consider themselves ECOT (evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional). Our aims are to...

Call ourselves and others to the founding vision of the United Church of Christ expressed in the UCC's 1957 Basis of Union and 1961 Preamble to the Constitution.

Promote unity in the UCC based on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the Word of God in Holy Scripture, and the historic and apostolic faith.

Give congregations that have withdrawn or are considering withdrawal from the UCC a reason to return or remain.

Form networks of churches, laity, and clergy committed to the vision of FWC.

Seek fair treatment of ECOTs (evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional) who desire to gain or retain ministerial standing in the UCC.

Provide church leaders with sound ideas and healthy ways to engage difficult conversations over faith, ethics, and denominational relations.

Advocate UCC leaders to include ECOTS in leadership positions at all levels

STRATEGY

Prayer. We call the church to prayer for the purity, unity, and renewal of the church.

Presence. We commit ourselves to remaining active and visible.

Persistence. While we empathize with those who withdraw, we plan to stay.

Persuasion. We will engage in patient dialogue and loving challenge at all levels.



Upcoming EVENTS



Easter Sunday Schedule — April 1

- 8:30 am: Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:30 –10:15 am: Breakfast—Fellowship hall (Youth fundraiser)
Our menu this year will be: scrambled eggs, toast, sausage patties, breakfast burritos, egg casseroles, muffins, coffee, water and milk.
- 10:00 am: Easter Egg Hunt
- 10:30 am: Traditional Worship Service



St. John’s Evangelical Church seeks an outgoing individual to serve as Associate Pastor to Youth and Adults. St. John’s seeks a leader who has a passion for God and is innovative with a collaborative spirit. Our ideal candidate would enthusiastically design and lead programs that engage the spiritual needs of young people while encouraging their families to grow in Christian faith and participate in the life of St. John’s Evangelical Church.. The candidate will participate in the planning, leading and supervising of these spiritual programs and assist with church duties when called upon. The candidate would also be responsible for visiting shut-ins, sharing sacraments of Baptism or Holy Communion when needed.

For more information, please contact Kristina VanBuskirk, Chair of Personnel Committee. A job description is available in the church office. Resumes can be sent to the church, Attention Personnel or emailed to stjohnskenton@gmail.com.



Golden Buckeye Class & Friends Spring Outing

Monday, April 23, 2018

5:30 pm at (Bus leaving at 5:00 pm)

The Amish Home of Nancy Helmuth
9063 US 68 S (between Kenton and Bellefontaine)

MENU:

- Pan Fried Chicken ~ Roast Beef*
- Mashed Potatoes ~ Gravy*
- Corn*
- Chicken and Noodles*
- Broccoli Salad*
- Dinner Rolls*
- Assorted Pies*
- Coffee/Iced Tea/Lemonade*

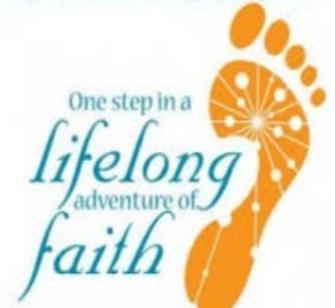


COST OF MEAL: \$15.00

**RESERVATIONS ALONG WITH \$15.00 PER PERSON
MUST BE MADE WITH CAROL DOWNEY BY SUNDAY,
APRIL 15, 2018.**

**Please see Carole Downey to register or contact her at
419-675-1809 or 567-674-4466 with any questions.**

Confirmation



Confirmation Class

We are looking to see who might be interested in confirmation class in the fall. Eligible participants must be grade 7 or higher in the fall. Most likely, confirmation will be held on Sundays during the Sunday School hour. If interested in participating, please leave your name in the church office.

We will also need to find Confirmation teachers to work with the Pastor to meet with the participants on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Randall or the church office.



The Blessings of Spring ~

There are many blessings,
that each new Spring brings
you can see it bloom about
and hear the song it sings.

With winters bleakness over,
and brighter days ahead
comes promises of new life
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,
and their buds begin to show
He gives to us the assurance
grace in our hearts will grow.

He sends us the robin's song,
with the promise to provide
a shelter under His mighty wing
where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snowy covers,
and sends the refreshing rain
sprinkling us with His mercies
to heal winter's ache and pain.

God's given to all His Son,
to shed upon us a new light
and the real blessing of Spring . . .
is keeping Jesus in our sight!

~~~~~

***Song of Solomon 2: 11-12  
King James Version***

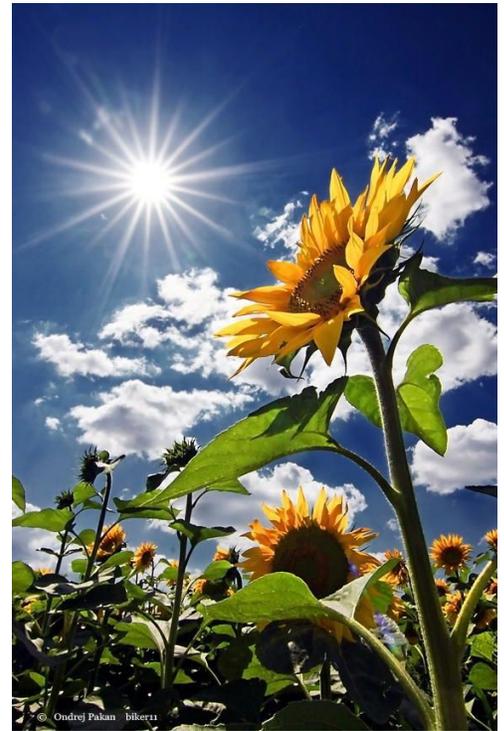
*"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;"*

Copyright 2014  
Deborah Ann Belka

Just as the flowers  
turn towards the  
sun, may we turn  
towards Jesus,  
God's Son, the  
Light of the  
World!

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

-John 8:12



**Summary of Finances for February 2018**

Income:

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes                     | \$17,682.00        |
| Loose offering and faith time | \$ 556.00          |
| <b>Total Income</b>           | <b>\$18,238.00</b> |

Expenses:

|                                                                    |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Staff Expense                                                      | \$11,167.00         |
| Administration Expense                                             | \$ 513.00           |
| Utilities & Maintenance<br>(electric is \$1625.00 & Gas \$1915.00) | \$ 3,993.00         |
| WAM                                                                | \$ 119.00           |
| Christian Ed                                                       | \$ 14.00            |
| Video                                                              | \$ 196.00           |
| Evangelism                                                         | \$ 61.00            |
| Youth                                                              | \$ 0.00             |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                                               | <b>\$ 16,063.00</b> |

**POSITIVE BALANCE \$2,175.00**

Reminder: The food and supplies for Wednesday program is provided by money from Fred Welter Mission Fund thus less expense for Christian Ed.

# You're Invited to



## **St. John's Style—Dinner & Game**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**Doors open at 5:30 PM**

**6:00 PM Dinner -provided by church**

**(sandwiches, chips, veggies & drinks)**

**7:00 PM Game begins**

## **St. John's Evangelical Church**

Sign up when you arrive if you want to be a contestant, you can even dress up if you want. You can win one of the wonderful prizes donated by our own St. John's members. Make sure you bring your bag of goodies...you never know what our game show host will ask contestants to pull out of your bag.

**Come out for a great time!!**

211 East Carrol St., Kenton, OH 43326 419-673-7278



## St. John's Kids and Youth

On Wednesday, March 21, Wednesday evening activities were canceled due to school being closed. Our Middle School group was to go to Bostlemans's for a

night of fun. Hope to reschedule that at a later time.

No Kids Night on Wednesday, March 28 because of play practice.

Easter will be here very soon. Here's what we have to look forward to:

**Easter Sunday** the Youth will host a breakfast in the fellowship hall from 9:30-10:15. Our menu included:

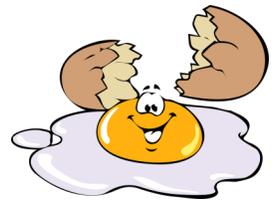
Scrambled eggs

Sausage patties

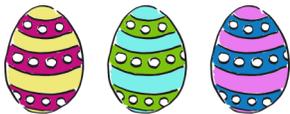
Egg casserole with sausage, peppers and onions

Breakfast burritos

Muffins



Please join us celebrating the joy of Easter that morning. Donations will go towards the kids summer camp fees.



**Easter Egg Hunt** will be happening at 10:00 that morning. Meet by the chapel. Lots of eggs with lots of great toys and candy will be ready for the kids to find that morning.

**Blazes Pizzeria Benefit-** We thank everyone who helped out that evening. Our continued love and prayers go to Blaze and his family.

## Let's Make a Deal - St. John's style

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Fellowship Hall

Dinner starts at 6pm

Bring a dessert to share

Doors will open at 5:30 pm. We'll have sandwiches, chips, veggies and drinks starting at 6pm provided by the church.

Game starts at 7pm. We'll play our own version of Let's Make a Deal. Sign up when you come in the door if you want to be a contestant, you can even dress up if you want. You may win one of the wonderful prizes donated by our own St. John's members. Make sure to bring your bag of goodies... you never know what our game show host will be asking our contestants to pull out of your bag.

**St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Meeting Notes  
Thursday, February 8, 2018  
7:00 PM**

Present: Mark Sherman, Pastor Forester, Kristi Weaver, Jim Bidwell, Greg Martin, Greg Liedel & Kay Rush

The meeting was called to order by Mark Sherman with Pastor Randall opening with prayer.

**OFFICER'S REPORT**

Secretary's Report - Kristi Weaver

- January 11, 2018 Minutes – Motion and second to approve minutes as printed, , council vote, motion carried.
- Annual Meeting Council Minutes 1/28/18– Motion and seconded to approve, discussion – made change to number 4 adding Nancy Rickenbacher's name. Motion and second the minutes as amended. Council Vote, motion carried.

**REPORTS**

1) Finance - Kristi Weaver

- Kay reviewed the Balance Sheets – Ran another one on February 1<sup>st</sup> as she had to move the funds to the money market for the Missions. Discussion of the funds available for the bed ministry. Paid the farm taxes, they went down this year. Just got the Credit Card today. Got a letter that the elevator maintenance will go up this year.

2) Christian Education - Amy Long

- Amy's report was distributed for review prior to the meeting.
- Served 80 people last night at the Wednesday Night Kids program.
- Discussion about Amy needing help with Sunday school. Michelle Becker has offered to help, and Sharon Martin is willing to help some. Discussion of doing some partnering with the Methodist Church for a Super Bowl activity and some other activities.

3) Women's Ministry - Kay Rush

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Lamb Banquet – need additional servers due to the way it is served
- Gave \$500 to the Helen Mabry shoe fund
- Have an OSU Banquet in June

4) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher

- Meeting soon – Next week
- Trying to come up with the plan for Easter. Amy is planning a youth fund raiser breakfast.

5) Personnel Committee– Kristina Van Buskirk

- No report
- Pastoral Relations - Carol Wilcox
- Next Meeting Feb 18, 2018

6) Trustees– Greg Martin/Jim Bidwell/Greg Liedel

- Lock Changes update – Northwest Ohio Security – Punch Pad or Card \$3k, Patton Lock and Key does not do electronic – Outside Keys & Internal Keys – total \$323, then it would be extra per additional key \$4 or \$5. Discussion that we need to change the office - \$110, plus extra keys. Kay and Kathy have a list of people of that have keys. They will get a list together to discuss with trustees.
- Audio Visual - Greg Martin - Trying to change to Spectrum for internet, hope to get it up and running before Easter.
- Bus - Greg Martin – No physical software disc for bus camera think it is online, asked if Richard could help. Need to discuss with Oliver Heldman to figure out how to be able to review.
- Door camera is now working.
- Farm - Jim Bidwell – Nothing to report

- 7) Missions, Evangelism, Celebrate Freedom—Heather Erwin/Mark Sherman
- Scheduled to meet on 2/20 at 5pm at the church.
- Discussion if Celebrate Freedom still should be listed as a committee.

8) Pastors Report– Pastor Randall

- Funerals – We have a lot of great volunteers that help with the dinners.
- Chili cook-off / Cake Raffle went well. Amy is planning a Let’s Make a Deal night and Blaze’s Pizza night. Would like to 8-9 social events like this a year, but will need help planning them.
- Thanks to Council for letting Payne Chapel have it’s MLK event here. It went well. They are also going to be participating at Ash Wednesday Service as well.
- April 5-7<sup>th</sup> Faithful and Welcoming conference in Cleveland that Pastor Randall would like to attend.
- Potential Continuing Education April 12- 15<sup>th</sup> that Pastor Randall would like to attend. WAM would have to find a fill in on that Sunday.
- Discussion of confirmation – Pastor would like to have someone be the teacher, and have the class over Sunday School time. Then he can stop in and substitute and have activities with the class.
- Need to find a date for New Member class. Planning on late April early May.
- Ordering the books for the Council to study for Leadership Development tomorrow, will order 10.

OLD BUSINESS

- Annual Meeting Review - Mixed Reviews, discussion of attendance, how the purpose was also to fellowship.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Announce Committee Chair Changes and hand out new committee Structure Sheets, and copy of updated By Laws. Need to decide if each of the combined committees still want to meet separate or together. Tabled to next meeting, please review.
- Lenten Services - Ash Wednesday February 14, 2018 at 7:00
- Discuss how many members should be on each committee. Or even if there should be a restricted number if people are interested – Originally the “terms” were to get people in with different ideas.
- Install new officers during worship and recognize persons going off church council during worship Feb 11, 2018 at both services.
- Do we have anyone who would like to speak at the nursing Home on things going on at the Church? – Ministerium is working on it, will put an announcement in the bulletin.
- Do we still need to do refreshments to the meeting? – Discussion and decision that it is not needed.
- Question regarding counting cash and why we need to have 2 people. Postpone to discuss later.
- Motion and seconded to approve Amy’s plan to have a fundraiser for Blaze and his family. Council Vote, motion carries.

Next Meeting: March 8, 2018 7:00 PM

LORD’S PRAYER  
ADJOURNMENT

**Church Staff:**

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



NEXT TIME WHEN I PREACH ON TITHING, DON'T SING 'JESUS PAID IT ALL' AS OUR INVITATIONAL HYMN



## Mission of the Month— Helping Hands Outreach

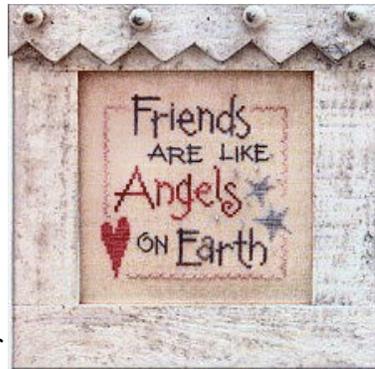
Helping Hands is a nonprofit, Christian-based outreach for Hardin County. Their mission is to help families rise up out of the economic struggles.

Helping Hands has many different facets of ministry. Although they started with back-to-school supplies they now distribute bread and food boxes every day. They also host Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas gifts for the elderly and underprivileged families. They do fruit and treat bags for the elderly for Valentines Day and Easter. They also do an Easter Dinner for underprivileged families and Easter baskets for the children which includes a talk about what Easter is all about. No one associated with Helping Hands is on payroll. Countless people of our community donate their time. They are continually looking for new people to lend a hand at the different events. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the ministry, they can be reached at 419-673-8650 or [dwages53@hotmail.com](mailto:dwages53@hotmail.com). They are located at 100 Cleveland Avenue, Kenton.

## 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.

- April 6: Royal Buffet—Kenton
- April 20: Belle Center Diner—Belle Center
- May 4: Coonies—LaRue
- May 18: Woody's- Indian Lake
- June 1: Skinny's Tavern—Kenton
- June 15: Acheson's Resort—Lakeview
- July 6: Boy Scout Lake—Kenton  
(Bring your own lunch & beverage)
- July 20: Cranberry Resort—Huntsville

Use whatever gift you have received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10



## Worship Attendance

|              |            |     |
|--------------|------------|-----|
| February 25: | 8:30 a.m.  | 45  |
|              | 10:30 a.m. | 82  |
| March 4:     | 8:30 a.m.  | 61  |
|              | 10:30 a.m. | 82  |
| March 11:    | 8:30 a.m.  | 51  |
|              | 10:30 a.m. | 90  |
| March 18:    | 8:30 a.m.  | 64  |
|              | 10:30 a.m. | 109 |



## 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.

- April 12: DiAnn Weaver  
10127 C. R. 255  
Kenton, OH 43326
- April 16: Effie Mohn  
19131 C. R. 65  
Belle Center, OH 43310
- April 29: Marilyn Pemberton  
8168 C. R. 150  
Kenton, OH 43326



April 2018

The wonder of Easter again is brought to us in our Passion Play, liturgy and sermon. How blessed we are to live as Christians through God's grace. In this article, the outline of our Easter service by Rev. Kuenzler in 1925 is presented in outline form in the St. John's Evangelical Church Bulletin Vol. IV:

### **ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY**

*Prelude-Eastertide-Flagler-Piano and Organ, Mrs. W. Leoffert and Mr. W. Sabransky*

*PROCESSIONAL-The Choir and The Confirmands.*

*DOXOLOGY-Congregation Standing-INVOCATION*

*CHOIR—"Unfold Ye Portals" from "The Redemption"*

*HYMN NO 121-The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out broad, the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God! From death to life eternal. From this world to the sky our Christ hath brot us over with hymns of victory. Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light; and, list'ning to His accents, may hear so calm and plain, His own "All hail!" and hearing, may praise the victor-strain. Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth her son begin; let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein; invisible and visible, their notes let all things blend, for Christ, the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.*

*PRAYER-Response by Choir-APOSTLE'S CREED followed by GLORIA PATRIA.*

*SCRIPTURE LESSON for Easter, Mark 16, 1-8*

*16 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Him. <sup>2</sup> And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. <sup>3</sup> And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? <sup>4</sup> And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. <sup>5</sup> And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. <sup>6</sup> And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him. <sup>7</sup> But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you. <sup>8</sup> And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they anything to any man; for they were afraid.*

*CHOIR—"Hail The Day of Gladness" by Ashford*

*OFFERTORY-Legende-Rudolf Friml-Piano and Organ.*

*BAPTISMS AND RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP*

*HYMN NO 120. Welcome, Thou Victor in the strife, Welcome from out of the grave; Today we triumph in Thy life around Thy empty grave! Today we triumph in Thy life around Thy empty grave.*

*The dwellings of the just resound with songs of victory; for in their midst Thou, Lord art found, and brightest peace with Thee.*

*(Repeat)*

*O let Thy conquering banner wave o'er hearts Thou makest free; and point the path that from the grave leads heav'nward up to*

*Thee (Repeat)*

*EASTER ADDRESS "Jesus Lives, and so Shall I."*

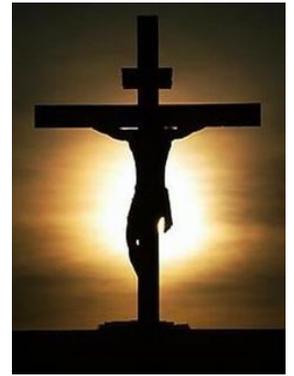
*HOLY COMMUNION*

*BENEDICTION*

As you might assume, this was not a short service as it included recitations by numerous Confirmands and an extensive sermon. Note the beauty in the words of the hymns that were repeated in the newsletter as reminders to those present and a message to those who failed to attend. Also note how our services today vary in form and order. Thanks be to God that our St. John's continues to spread the Word of God through our offerings to the public and members alike.

Jerry Pfister, Historian

# Hymn Spotlight: Jesus Paid it All



## Paid in Full

*Jesus Paid It All* was written under unusual circumstances. Did your mind ever wander during a Sunday service? Perhaps you started thinking about other things--maybe what occurred last week, or plans for the coming week or what you will be doing later that day. Something like that happened to the writer of a familiar hymn.

On a hot summer Sunday morning in 1865, Mrs. Elvina Hall (1820-1889) was found in her accustomed place in the church choir loft. But as the pious words of the Reverend Schrick's prayer droned on and on, her thoughts drifted to other things. She pondered the meaning of the cross, and the storied scene flashed before her mind's eye. High upon a rocky crag, three crosses scarred the afternoon sky. On the outer gibbets, hung two notorious thieves. Below, Roman soldiers drank and gambled, waiting for death to overtake the poor wretches suspended above them. It was a public execution, but far more significant than they imagined at the time. Suddenly, the air grew dense and an eerie darkness invaded the scene. As the soldiers gazed about them in superstitious dread, a triumphant cry pierced the gloom. It came from the figure on the center cross. One word, in the Greek tongue: "*Tetelestai!*" Then He was dead. That shout of victory Christ uttered as He died is usually translated "It is finished!" (Jn. 19:30). But it had another meaning back then. It was an accounting term. When a bill was paid, it was commonly stamped with the word "*Tetelestai,*" meaning Paid in Full. And that is precisely what the death of Christ accomplished. "[He] bore our sins in His own body on the tree," says Peter (I Pet. 2:24). "He Himself is the propitiation [the full satisfaction of God's justice] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world," (I Jn. 2:2). The groaning weight of all the world's sin was laid on Christ at Calvary. He bore it in our place. As the pastor's prayer continued, finding she had no paper to write on, Mrs. Hall took up her hymn book and, turning to a blank page inside the cover, she began to write. Afterward, she presented the pastor with some simple lines of poetry--not likely telling him when they were written! Glancing at them, the pastor was reminded of something that had happened just that week. The church organist, John Grape (1835-1915) had composed a new hymn tune, with no words in mind. He passed it on to Pastor Schrick, suggesting they might find a use for it in future. Stepping into his study, the pastor laid Mrs. Hall's poem next to the lines of music. In surprise, he saw they fit one another like hand in glove. "Indeed, God works in mysterious ways!" he thought. (Little did he know!) The words and tune have been partners ever since, in the hymn, "Jesus Paid It All." Through the song, we confess our inability to save ourselves, and our utter dependence on what Christ accomplished on the cross.

"Nothing good have I / Whereby Thy grace to claim— / I'll wash my garments white / In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb. / And when, before the throne, / I stand in Him complete, / 'Jesus died my soul to save,' / My lips shall still repeat." The refrain emphasizes the "paid in full" value of the cross. "Jesus paid it all, / All to Him I owe; / Sin had left a crimson stain, / He washed it white as snow." That is the gospel of grace--that God, in love, did for us what we could not do for ourselves. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son [to die in the sinner's place], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16)--because Jesus paid it all. *Tetelestai!* Paid in full!