

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

Do Not Delay
Dated Material



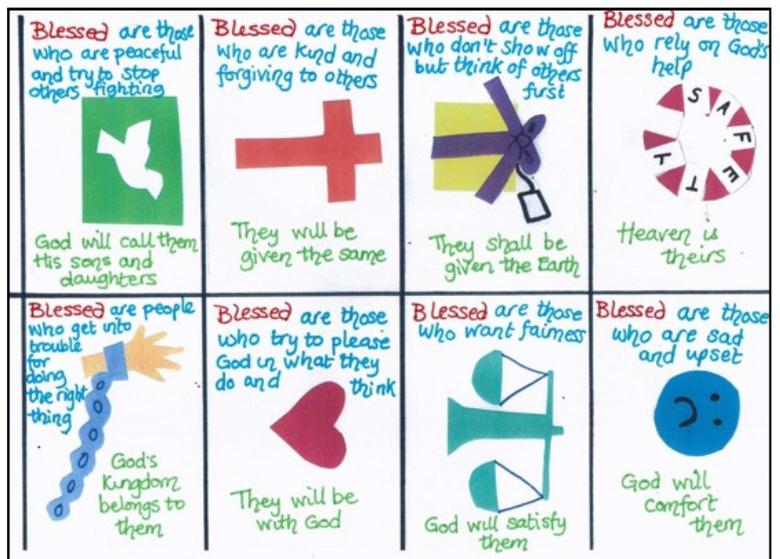
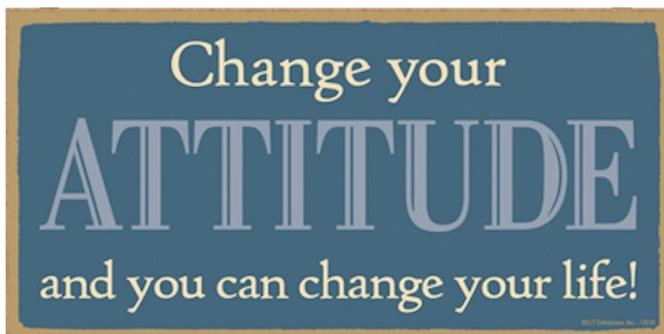
St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter
 May 2018

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

Vacation Bible School— June 11-15 (6-8 PM)

Please plan on joining us for Vacation Bible School June 11-15 from 6-8 PM. This year's theme will be the Beatitudes and how we need to change our "Me-attitudes." Please see Amy Long on how you can volunteer.



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)

MAY 2018

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

Maybe you noticed my gaffe in last month's newsletter (and the one before that and the one before that). Perhaps you missed it, or perhaps it was corrected and you received the amended version. Either way, I, (yes, I, your pastor) allowed a blunder to be printed in the April newsletter. Somehow, on the second page, instead of the St. John's vision statement in the box, I printed the vision statement from the previous church I served.

Quite honestly, how this happened I do not know. I could have been like the politician or businessman who obfuscates, denies, or hides behind smoke and mirrors to avoid responsibility, but I refuse to do that. I could have said it was an April fools joke, but that would be a lie readily detected in light of making the same mistake twice before.

I could have pulled out the old red M & M trick. Years ago, bands would bury in their contracts a desire to have a bowl of red (or some other single color) of M & M's placed in their dressing room at a concert. When they arrived to perform, if the this demand was not met, they would refuse to perform. Some people thought their refusal signified that the band members were a bunch a divas, but this was far from the truth. Rather, they needed their hosts to pay particular attention to every detail. Their equipment and lighting were quite heavy. Pyrotechnics and special effects were in use. If everything from the staging to the electrical to the safety requirements were not met quite specifically, something horrible could be the result.

The bowl of red M & M's signaled to the band that attention was paid to every detail. Likewise, I could have said that the erroneous vision statement was my bowl of red M & M's—it was my test to see if people read this newsletter

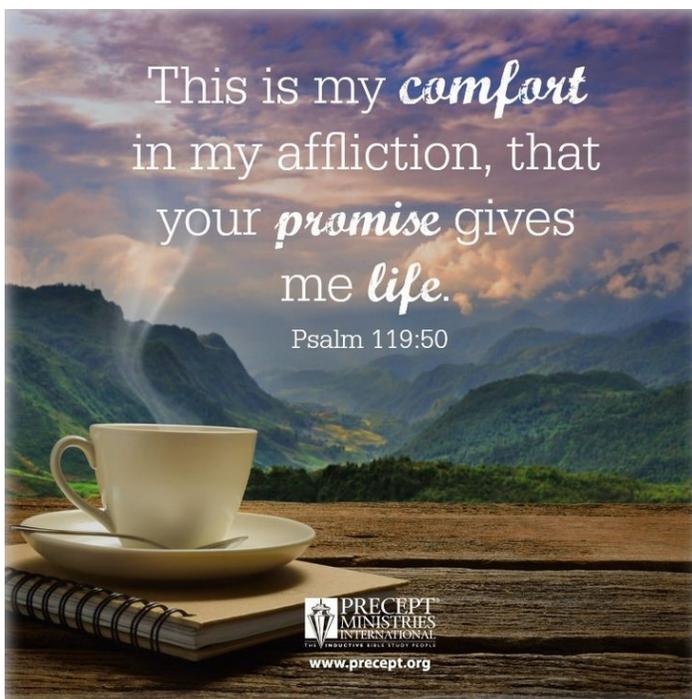
diligently or not. To those who caught it, I could have said, "Aha! You passed. Well done, good and faithful servant of this church. Be proud of your diligence." Again, that would be a lie, and that is just not in my nature.

Instead, I feel I need to come clean. I made a mistake—nothing more, nothing less. Someone thought I may have been hacked by someone from my former church

(or perhaps the Russians) in order to manipulate where I serve. Someone thought (and it could be the same someone for all I know) that I subconsciously desire to return to my former church, which is patently untrue for three reasons. One, once a pastor leaves a ministry, he or she can never go back to serve again. Second, I have searched my heart and while I love my former congregation and pray for their blessing regularly, which is true of all my former pastorates, I have no desire to go back. Thirdly and most importantly, I have been called by God to serve

St. John's, and I intend to be faithful to that calling.

Faithfulness, however, does not imply perfection. I make mistakes. You make mistakes. People living in this world make mistakes. There was only one perfect person who ever walked this earth and they hanged Him on a Cross. Of course, as we celebrated last month, He rose again, which opened up to us the gates of everlasting life. In fact, much of our faith is about looking back or looking ahead. We look back to see what Christ has done for us by redeeming us and saving us. We look forward to that day when He will return and claim us all as His own and usher in a new era where there will be no more sin, death, or suffering.



It is too bad that we do not spend more time in the here and the now. After all, God called us to this place and this time to serve Him. We are all called each and ever single one of us. We are loved and gifted even with our weakness, our mistakes, our sins. Somehow, miraculously, God works in us and through us. Sometimes, God uses our weakness (“when I am weak, then I am strong”—**II Corinthians 12:10**). Sometimes, God uses us in spite of our weakness (according to God’s grace, Peter is welcomed back into the fold after denying Christ).

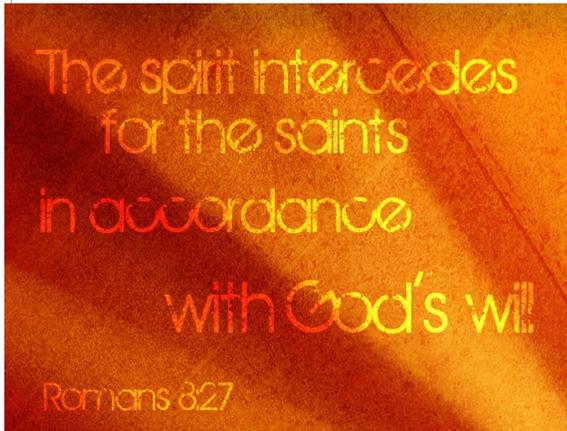


gifts are multiplied when combined with the works and spiritual gifts of other believers.

And yes, the Devil and those in the world are right: we are not up to the task. We make mistakes. We sin. We don’t always give our all. Sometimes our humanity comes out in disagreement with other believers. Sometimes, we too pursue things of this world instead of the things of God. Sometimes we (or

it should be I) put the wrong thing in the newsletter. Still, God uses us and desires us to be a part of His kingdom building plan in the here and now.

Thankfully, we are not defined by our weakness or our sin. The world may try to hang a “reputation” on us, but we are not what we were in the past. Nor are we defined by who we are at our worst today. Our sin was destroyed by the shed blood of Christ on the Cross—that is our past. If we accept that reality and our saved by Christ, our future is secure in Him for all eternity. Then, there is our present. Last month, we celebrated Christ’s victory over death in His resurrection. This month, we celebrate the fruit of His Resurrection, the gift of the Holy Spirit that came to every believer on Pentecost.



Our weakness demonstrates His glory. Our willingness to serve in spite of our human frailty encourages another brother or sister in the faith to do the same, or it

tells a nonbeliever that God desires them to be a part of His family too. And when we know not what to do, the Spirit intercedes and fills our prayers with the right words and even the sighs too deep for words (**Romans 8:26**).

The Spirit provides the words and the guidance if only we be found faithful even when we fail. The Father provides the grace through Christ and the power through the Holy Spirit. We just need to keep returning and allowing God to work in us.

In Christ’s powerful name,
Pastor Randall

**The Spirit helps us
in our weakness; for we
do not know how to pray
as we ought, but the
Spirit himself intercedes
for us with sighs too
deep for words.**

ROMANS 8:26

Guideposts

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live the abundant life to which we are called in Christ (**John 10:10**). The Devil and those in this world try to tell us that we are not up to the task or our works are too puny or something else. The Spirit reminds us who we are in Christ, reveals our gifts, and helps us to put them to work in the context of our church so those works and

**ST. JOHN’S EVANGELICAL
CHURCH:**
MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Preaching Schedule May 2018

Life in the Spirit

Through the Lent and Easter seasons, the sermons have centered around who we are in Christ. In May, the sermons move to the life we lead in the Spirit. After all, the Holy Spirit is the Father's gift to us after Jesus ascended into heaven. We were not left orphans but given a Helper, who is the Holy Spirit, to guide us in this world (see **John 14:15-31**).

06 May

Scripture: **Ezekiel 9:1-11**

Ephesians 1:3-14

Sermon: **The Seal of the Spirit**

13 May

Scripture: **Exodus 34:33-35**

II Corinthians 3:12-18

Sermon: **Greater Glory in the Spirit**



20 May

Pentecost

Scripture: **Acts 2:1-21**

John 7:37-39

Sermon: **The Spirit Abundantly Given**

27 May

Scripture: **Ephesians 5:15-21**

Sermon: **A Spirit-Filled Life**

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.—**John 16:13-15**

Summer Preaching Series

Once again, Pastor Randall is soliciting ideas for the summer sermons and worship. Feel free to offer scripture, hymns, praise, songs, themes, or any other ideas. This helps to include our whole congregation in the worship life of our congregation. Feel free to speak with the pastor directly, drop suggestions into the offering plate, or leave a message in the office.

The response in previous summers has raised some interesting and fruitful topics and scriptures. As we are talking about life in the Spirit in May in our worship, this is a good reminder that we are all called to be active participants in the church as we are part of the fellowship known as the priesthood of all believers (see **I Peter 2:1-10**).



We
the
Church
THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

Samson's Story—No Moral Needed

Session	Scripture	Lesson
1 6/20	Judges 13:1-7 For background, see: Numbers 6:1-21	A (Good?) Start
2 6/27	Judges 13:8-25	The Spirit Stirs
3 7/11	Judges 14:1-9	A First Love
4 7/25	Judges 14:10-20	The Impossible Riddle
5 8/01	Judges 15:1-8	Love Lost
6 8/08	Judges 15:9-20	An Unclean Weapon
7 8/15	Judges 16:1-22	Samson and Delilah
8 8/22	Judges 16:23-31	A Final Deed
9 8/29	Hebrews 11:1-3; 32-40	

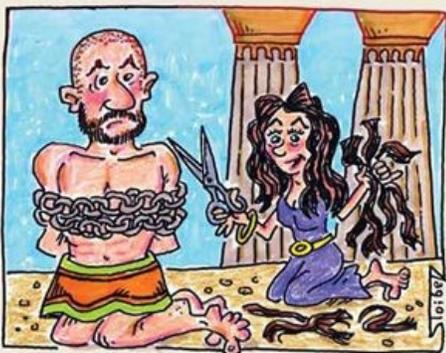
Commended Through Faith

This summer, our Bible Study will focus on the life of one of the judges of Israel, Samson. It's a story many people think they know, but we will examine what the Bible says. This year, there will be renewed interest in Samson as a popular movie about him will be coming out this year.

In the church, many encountered Samson through Sunday

School or Bible School lessons, but his story—like much of the book of Judges—really is not for children—it is as they say on TV intended for a mature audience. Also, a lot of the lessons that are imparted to kids just are not there in the text. They may be implied, but the Bible does not share many teachings from Samson's life, especially in **Judges 14-16**, which we will discuss.

Please come and participate. See how this story instructs our faith, and what it says for us in the church today.





Graduation Sunday

We will be recognizing our graduates on Sunday, May 20 during both services. If you have not turned in your information yet, please do so. We will need name, school graduating from and future plans. Thank you!



Welcome New Members

New members will also be received on Sunday, May 20, Pentecost Sunday. Please welcome those who have decided to join St. John’s Church.



Church Social—Mark your Calendar

All Church Social is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26 from 4-7 PM. Watch for list of donations needed and how you can volunteer. Thank you to everyone that makes this event happen!

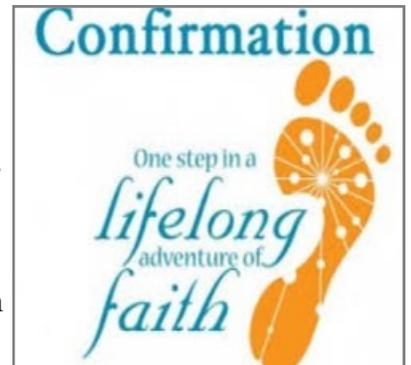


St. John’s Evangelical Church seeks an outgoing individual to serve as Associate Pastor to Youth and Adults. St. John’s seeks a leader who has a passion for God and is innovative with a collaborative spirit. Our ideal candidate would enthusiastically design and lead programs that engage the spiritual 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.

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.



Children's & Youth News

Thanks to all who shared their time and talents to prepare and host Blaze's Pizzeria.

That event raised \$2000.00 for Blaze and his family as he continues his fight against cancer.

Easter Breakfast: Thanks to all who worked and to those who came and gave such a generous donation to our youth. We raised nearly \$500 for our kids' camp accounts.

Wednesday Nights-

- Wed. April 25 was our last Wed. night of the season. We reviewed our year on that night.
- We rescheduled our Middle School trip to the Bostleman gym on Wed., April 25 from 6-7:30 pm. Thank you to the Bostleman's for allowing us to come out and play.



Let's Make a Deal- St. John's style- Let's bring our church family together for a fun night where our members/friends can win prizes donated by our members. On Saturday, April 25 we will start with dinner at 6, game at 7. *Please bring a dessert to share after our game.*



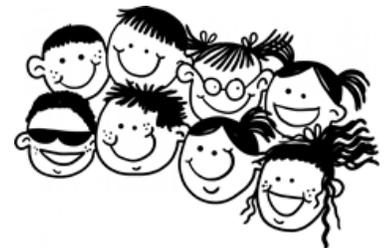
It seems some seeds are sprouting...

Some of the men of our church are asking if there was a possibility to mentor some of our boys this summer by teaching them things like your dad taught you. They are in the beginning stages of planning but have a fantastic thoughts and ideas in mind. If this sounds like something you might like to do, please give your name to Amy.... We'd love to get a girls group going also.

VBS June 11-15, 2018 6:00-8:00pm

Beattitudes ... No our VBS will be the **Meattitudes...**

We are in the beginning stages of planning and will be needing lots of help. Put this date on your calendar.



Last Summer's kids group- It would be great to work with the kids again this summer at the church for 1-3 hours a week and then walk them to the library for lunch. This worked out really well. Anyone interested in digging in with a few kids each week? See Amy if interested.....

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

Present: Carol Wilcox, Pastor Forester, Kristi Weaver, Nancy Rickenbacher, Jim Bidwell, Greg Martin, Greg Liedel, Heather Erwin, & Kristina Van Buskirk

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

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall – Discussion of The Rise of the Nones – Chapter 1-2

OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - Kristi Weaver

- February 8, 2018 Minutes – Motion and second to approve minutes as printed, council vote, motion carried.

REPORTS

- 1) Finance - Kristi Weaver
 - Review of Balance Sheet,
 - Review of Income Statement
 - Motion and second to accept the Treasurer Report, Council Vote, Motion Carried.
 - Discussion that the summary report is requested for review as well during council meetings.

- 2) Christian Education - Amy Long
 - Written Report Distributed for review prior to meeting.
 - Discussion of the people that have stepped up to volunteer, it is greatly appreciated.
 - Summer Camp at Lakeside – Need adult volunteer to go on the trip. Heather Erwin to talk to Amy about it.

- 3) Women's Ministry - Carol Wilcox
 - Had good attendance at the Lamb Banquet
 - This month is the Pastor's Wife Appreciation Month, giving something to Kathy this Sunday.
 - Purchased new carafes for coffee at the banquets

- 4) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher
 - Easter is planned
 - Hoping to plan the Service Day in April
 - Discussion of limiting the number of Council and the effect on Communion Servers

- 5) Personnel Committee– Kristina Van Buskirk
 - New Position Update – Passed out the job description, put it on Facebook, web page, may want to put it on a church staff website. Kristina to find out about how much it would cost for posting the site.

- 6) Pastoral Relations- Carol Wilcox
 - Met in February, the Next Meeting: May 20, 2018

- 7) Trustees– Greg Martin/Jim Bidwell/Greg Liedel
 - AV - Greg Martin
 - a. AV Wishes – Gave a wish list at the last meeting. Richard wants to open a “Go Fund Me” account to use to raise \$20,000 for the Audio Visual needs. Motion made and seconded on behalf of the committee to allow them to start the Go Fund Me account, Council Vote, Motion Passed.
 - b. Internet is installed, had some problems this week
 - Bus - Greg Liedel
 - a. Purchased a key box for the bus keys.
 - b. In the process of getting the brakes looked at.

c. Annual inspection end of April or first week of May.

Farm - Jim Bidwell

a. Rent should have been paid.

Building - Greg Martin

a. Oliver is not mowing grass this year due to taking a township position. Will have to look into options.

b. Lock company closed, so have to get new estimates.

c. Getting an estimate on the drywall,

d. Getting an estimate to finish the painting. Rhonda Manns donated her time to paint the classrooms.

8) Missions, Evangelism, Celebrate Freedom—Heather Erwin/Mark Sherman

- Talking about doing the spring mission out in the community either April 22 or 29th. May try to go to Forest Court and work on the playgrounds or projects there.
- Discussion of Celebrate Freedom – removing it from the committee title.
- Discussion of social events that could be had. Greg Liedel to discuss some ideas and bring it back next meeting.

9) Pastors Report—Pastor Randall

- Written Report distributed for review prior to meeting.
- Discussion of the change in council and the idea of having a person for Connections, Recruiting, Marketing. Please pray and think about how we should be changing.
- Next Tuesday is the Hardin County Talks at 6PM at Payne Chapel, we are invited to attend.
- Discussion of the training class Pastor is going to in April, Jerry Pfister is going to fill in.
- Discussion of Confirmation and needing someone to volunteer to be main teacher with Pastor subbing in and having monthly activities with the Confirmation class.

OLD BUSINESS

- Two People to Bank has been resolved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Council Retreat on a Saturday to Brain Storm all council members to attend – Discussion of waiting on retreat until the Fall for when we are done with the book we are studying.
- 2) Combined committees to meet separate or together – committees to decide what works for them. Discussion that we should just open up the committees and not setting limits at this time.
- 3) Suicide remembrances walk September 23 – Request help setting up and taking down a tent, plus want to use 30 chairs from garage, use of restrooms. Discussion of making it part of the Missions/Evangelism Committee events this year, so will discuss within committee.
- 4) Julie Messenger request for membership removal – Motion and second to accept request for removal, Council vote, motion carried.
- 5) Red Cross – asked to schedule a blood draw Thursday, June 7th. They want to use the Fellowship Hall free of charge. Motion and second to approve the request. Council vote, motion carried.
- 6) Palm Sunday – They would like dinner for 45 people after rehearsal before the kids sing. Heather Erwin to find out about deal on pizza and Nancy & Carol to discuss with Pam and Women's Ministry.
- 7) By-Law Changes – Need to review for next meeting – Will get it e-mailed to review.

Next Meeting: April 12, 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

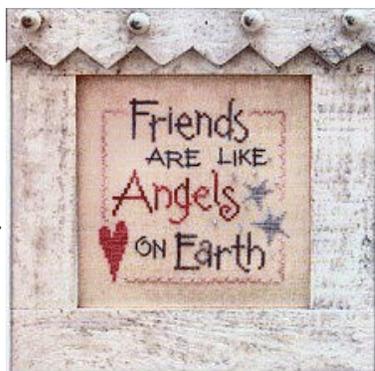
Be LIKE BRIT Mission of the Month—

Be Like Brit Orphanage, Haiti

19 year old Britney Gengel, a beautiful, fearless and compassionate young lady traveled to the country of Haiti with her school to help children, tragically a catastrophic earthquake hit collapsing the hotel she was in and went missing for 33 days. Before her death, she had sent a text to her mom saying *"They love us so much and everyone is so happy. They love what they have and they work so hard to get nowhere, yet they are all so appreciative. I want to move here and start an orphanage myself."* Her family could not let Brit die in vain and to fulfill her last wish they decided to start the Be Like Brit Foundation and build her orphanage in Haiti. The 19,000 sq. ft earthquake proof orphanage shaped in the letter B for Brit, stands strong as a beacon of hope for the people of Haiti. Today there are 66 beautiful children living and thriving at the Be Like Brit Orphanage.

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.

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

March 25:	8:30 a.m.	60
	10:30 a.m.	111
April 1:	8:30 a.m.	112
	10:30 a.m.	120
April 8:	8:30 a.m.	60
	10:30 a.m.	104
April 15:	8:30 a.m.	62
	10:30 a.m.	96
April 22:	8:30 a.m.	66
	10:30 a.m.	98



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.

May 13: Dick Jones
630 N. High Street
Kenton, OH 43326



May is here and the Spring in all its glory speaks of the renewal of life. As Christians I would propose that May is the second most important month in our calendar. Why? It includes two of our most sacred celebrations Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday.

Every one of us is familiar with the celebration of Pentecost as the birthday of the Church as the Holy Spirit descended on the twelve. But let's look at Ascension Day, which has sadly been largely neglected by our Protestant faiths. An excerpt from our Orthodox brothers:

“On Ascension Thursday we commemorate an historical event in the life of Christ. On this day, the Church celebrates Christ's physical departure from the world and His glorification with God the Father.

For forty days after His Resurrection, Jesus remained on earth. Filled with the glory and honor of His Divinity, He appeared to His Disciples at various times and places. By eating and drinking with His followers and conversing with them about the Kingdom of God, Jesus assured them that He was truly alive in His risen and glorified Body.

The time span of forty days is used symbolically in the Holy Scriptures and by the Church to indicate that an appropriate amount of time has passed for "completeness". [The rains of the great flood lasted for forty days. Christ prayed in the wilderness for forty days. We fast for forty days to prepare before the feasts of the Nativity and the Resurrection (Pascha). - NTK]

Ascension falls on the fortieth day after the Resurrection. On this day, Jesus appeared to His Disciples and gave them His last commandment - to preach the Kingdom of God and the repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations, beginning with Jerusalem. Then He led them out of Jerusalem toward Bethany to the Mount of Olives. He lifted up His hands and blessed them. As His Disciples were looking on, He was lifted up or "ascended" - and a cloud took Him out of sight.

The Ascension is, therefore, a sign and symbol of the Second Coming. Christ will return to the earth in the same manner as He left it. When the risen Lord returns again in glory, God's will for mankind will be fulfilled.

Jesus completed His earthly mission of bringing salvation to all people and physically was lifted up from this world into heaven. The meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection is given in the Ascension. Having completed His mission in this world as the Savior, He returned to the Father in heaven Who sent Him into the world. In ascending to the Father, He raises earth to heaven with Him!"

I ask you sincerely if we Protestants have missed a significant opportunity to celebrate God's Grace in de-emphasizing this significant day?

Jerry Pfister, Historian

Summary of Finances for March 2018

Income:

Envelopes	\$25,872.00
Loose offering and faith time	<u>\$ 647.00</u>
Total Income	\$26,519.00

Expenses:

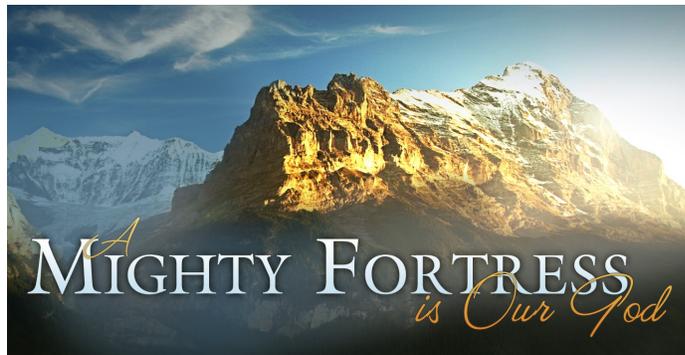
Staff Expense	\$17,130.00
Administration Expense	\$ 408.00
Utilities & Maintenance (electric is \$1437.00 & Bus \$1545.00)	\$ 9,710.00
WAM	\$ 16.00
Christian Ed	\$ 136.00
Video	\$ 310.00
Evangelism	\$ 114.00
Youth	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 27,824.00

NEGATIVE BALANCE **(\$1305.00)**

Bus was **unexpected expense** and then Annuity and Health care for Pastor was paid this month and Amy was paid for hours worked over and above her regular position.

Hymn Spotlight

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Author - Martin Luther, 1473-1546
English Translation - Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890
Composer - Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Tune Name - "Ein' Feste Burg"
Scripture Reference - Psalm 46

"Ein feste Burg" with Luther's signature

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Saxony, Germany. He was educated at the University of Erfurt, later becoming an Augustinian monk, teaching philosophy and theology at the University of Wittenberg. On October 31, 1517, sometimes called the "4th of July of Protestantism," Martin Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg Germany. These theses condemned various practices and teachings of the Roman church. After several years of stormy disputes with the Pope and other church leaders, Martin Luther was finally excommunicated from the fellowship of the Roman Catholic church in 1520.

One of the important benefits of the Reformation Movement was the rediscovery of congregational singing. Luther had strong convictions about the use and power of sacred music. He expressed his convictions in this way, if any man despises music, as all fanatics do, for him I have no liking; for music is a gift and grace of God, not an invention of men. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. Then one forgets all wrath, impurity and other devices." Again, "The Devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God." In another place, "I wish to compose sacred hymns so that the Word of God may dwell among the people also by means of songs." Finally, Luther wrote, "I would allow no man to preach or teach God's people without a proper knowledge of the use and power of sacred song."

The single most powerful hymn of the Protestant Reformation Movement was Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," based on Psalm 46. This hymn became the battle cry of the people, a great source of strength and inspiration even for those who were martyred for their convictions. This hymn has been translated into practically every known language and is regarded as one of the noblest and most classic examples of Christian hymnody. It is said there are no less than sixty translations of this text in English alone. In England the version by Thomas Carlyle is in general use, while in this country the translation by Frederic H. Hedge, a professor at Harvard University, is used most frequently. This translation was not made until 1852 and first appeared in a book entitled *Gems of German Verse* by W. H. Furness, published in 1853.

The first line of this national hymn of Protestant Germany is fittingly inscribed on the tomb of the great reformer at Wittenberg, and may still be read with appreciation by travelers to that historic spot.

-from 101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth W. Osbeck

How To Plant Your Garden
First, you come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses.

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:



1. Peace of mind 2. Peace of heart 3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:



1. Squash gossip 2. Squash indifference 3. Squash grumbling 4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:



1. Lettuce be faithful 2. Lettuce be kind 3. Lettuce be patient 4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:



1. Turnip for meetings 2. Turnip for service 3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

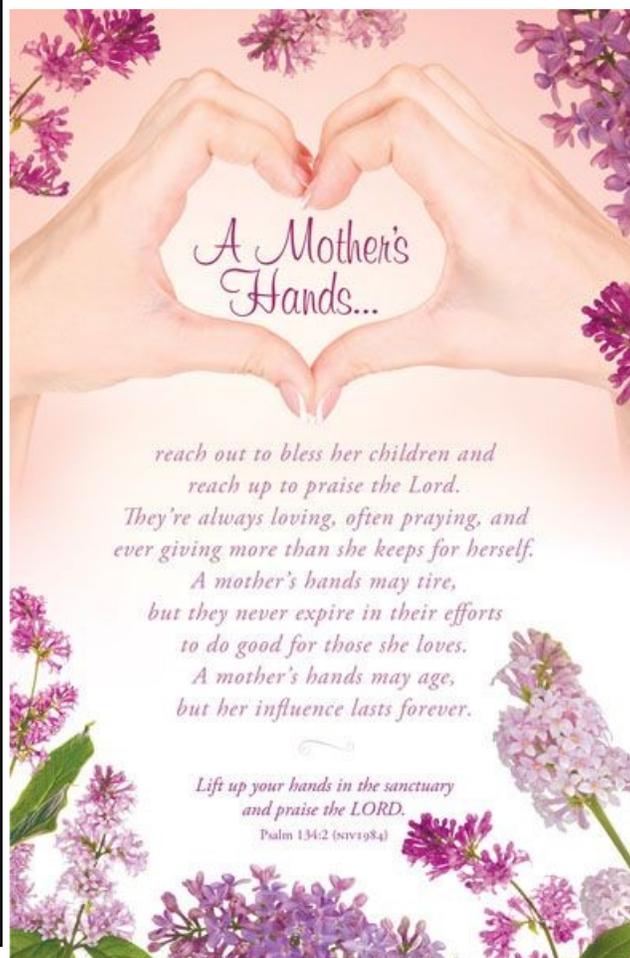


1. Thyme for each other 2. Thyme for family 3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.

THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

Bud Vases Needed: The Keeping Connected Life Group is in need of bud vases. If anyone would have some they would like to donate to the Life Group, please leave them in the Kitchenette in the Education Wing. Thank you in advance. Jo Ann Erwin, Leader



Food for Thought from St. John's Women's Ministry leaders to ALL women who attend/belong to St. John's

1. We prepare and serve several banquets throughout the year. The profits are how special projects are often accomplished:
 - Pew cushions, repair/painting walls in church addition, fellowship hall tables, etc.
2. The same 10 to 15 people cannot always do the "work". Just like all of you we lead full lives. Some are retired, some of us work outside of the home, some have children, some participate in other church activities, yet we still believe volunteering our time is the Right thing to do.
3. So we are asking the rest of the people of St. John's (and by people we are including women, men, high school youth) to step up and help out a bit more.
4. Helping doesn't always mean all day. Lots of different "jobs" (cook, serve, cleanup, bake).
5. Contact us & say YES when you see a banquet is scheduled or see a sign-up sheet. Don't wait to be asked. It is easier for 1 of you to call/talk to us than for us to call/ask and try to find enough help.
Thanks for "listening"

As Paul Harvey used to say **"Now You Know The Rest of the Story"**

Future Dates: Saturday May 5th Luncheon

Wednesday June 6th evening Banquet