

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

**Do Not Delay  
Dated Material**

**JANUARY**



## **St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter** January 2019

211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326  
Church Phone: 419-673-7278  
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor  
Website: [www.stjohnskenton.org](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)  
Email: [stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com)

# **Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck— January 27 @ 11:30 AM**

The Annual Congregational Meeting & Meal has been set for Sunday, January 27. The Annual meeting will begin at 11:30 am in the sanctuary following the second service. We will have a covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall following the meeting for those who would like to attend.

Mark your calendar and plan on attending this important meeting! Any questions, please email or call the office at 419-673-7278.

Thank You!



# 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)

JANUARY 2019

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

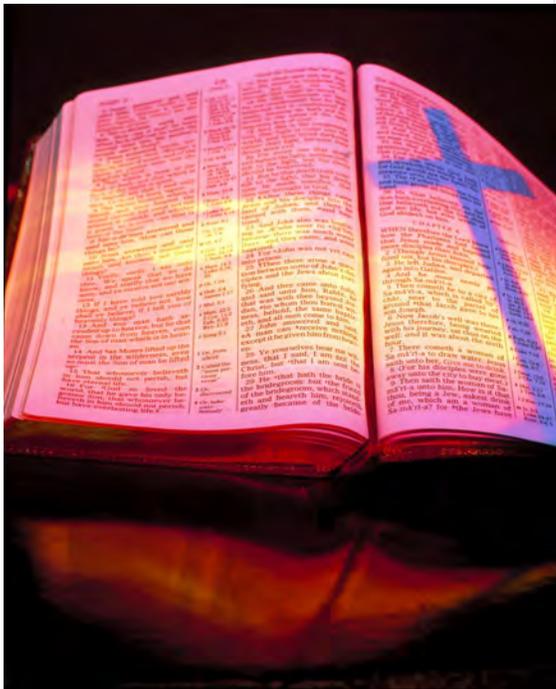
E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

**Tolle lege.** I know to many of you that may look like gibberish, but those words *tolle lege* (pronounced toll-ay, lay-gay) changed the world. There was a man in ancient times named Augustine. He is considered an early Church Father. His thinking changed the Church in its early stages. Later, his thought inspired Martin Luther in his quest to reform the church. Augustine is one of those rare people who have impacted the faith throughout the ages.

Yet, without those two words, *tolle lege*, there might never have been the writings of Augustine. He tells the story of his conversion to Christ in his book **Confessions**. Augustine had been wild in his youth. His mother was Christian, but he was anything but. He was not baptized until he was 32 years of age. In his youth, he had an affair and produced an illegitimate son, Adeodatus ("Gift of God").

Still, his mother Monica prayed for son and encouraged his conversion. The mother of Augustine's son—her name has been lost to history—eventually converted to Christianity, with great pain gave Adeodatus into the sole custody of Augustine, and dedicated herself to service in a monastery.

Augustine desired holiness, but he also desired the pleasures of this world. He fell into another illicit relationship. Struggling with his faith, he went into a garden to read. He was torn



between loving the Lord, and loving the things of this world. As Jesus teaches in **Matthew 6:24**, no one can serve two masters and Augustine, probably without being aware, was feeling the weight of that teaching.

He took a break from his reading in the garden when he heard words coming over the wall. Some hidden child on the other side kept chanting in sing-song fashion as children do, "*Tolle lege. Tolle lege.*" Those words mean, "Take up and read." Never hearing a small child sing such a song, Augustine took it as a sign.

He went back to reading. His eyes fell on these words from **Romans 13:13**: "Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy." God spoke directly to his heart. Augustine knew it was time to leave behind the things of this world and to dedicate himself fully to the service of God. Two words from an unknown source and one verse of scripture and Augustine's life was changed. His conversion in turn has impacted countless lives through the ages that followed.

In that moment of Augustine's conversion, he received peace upon peace. In fact, reading a bit farther a little later, Augustine heard the Apostle Paul's words in **Romans 14:1a**: "As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him..." Augustine knew his place in God's kingdom was assured. All his grappling with faith, his fallen ways, and his sins were washed away and settled in a moment soaked with grace.

That is the power of the Word. That is why every year in January I encourage people to read the Word. "*Tolle lege! Tolle lege!*" "Take up and read! Take up and read!" It's the best gift I can give you. In fact, it's the only gift I can give you. No matter how eloquent or intelligent I may try to make my messages, I know that I cannot improve on the Word of God. In the Christmas season, we remember that the Word (Christ) became flesh and dwelt among us (**John 1:14**).

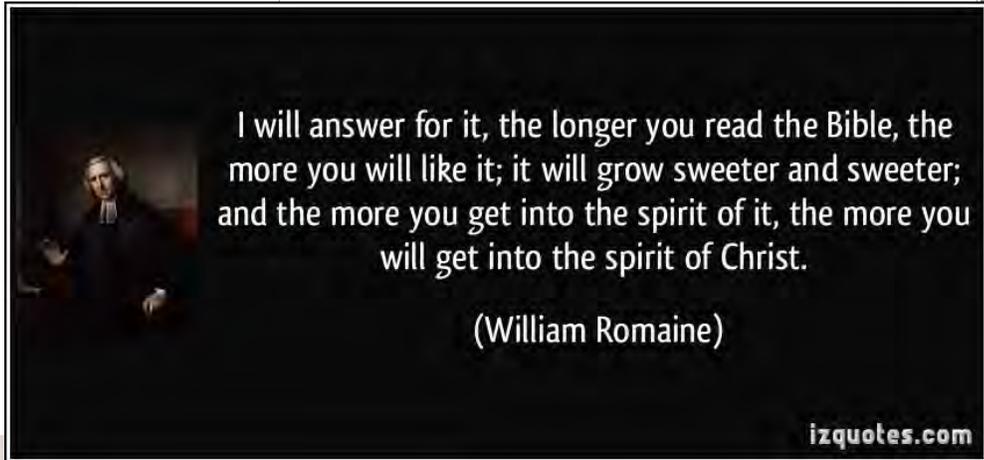
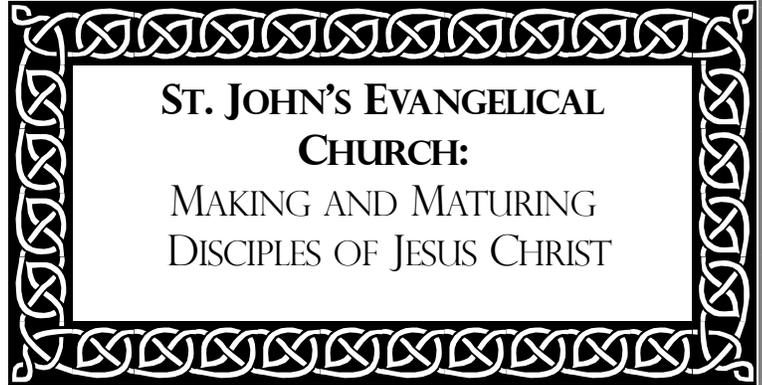
So once again, I encourage to make a commitment to read through the Bible this year.

A reading plan is included in this newsletter. There are several others that you can discover online or through other sources. There are even Bibles that can be purchased that are set up to help you accomplish this goal.

Even if you cannot commit to reading through the whole Bible, start with the **New Testament** or the **Psalms**. If you don't want to read for a whole year, commit to reading the book of **Proverbs**—there's 31 chapters so one for each day in the month of January! You can always start with reading the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5-7** or the book of **Galatians**.

It's not about how much you read or how quickly or the number of pages. The goal is simply to get the Word of God into your heart. It needs to begin somewhere, and it needs to be a part of your daily walk with God.

As **Hebrews 4:12** reminds us: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword,



piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." The Word is a sword not to dissect or eviscerate us. Rather, it is more like a surgeon's scalpel. It cuts but in order to save. The Word cuts away what is infected, malformed, or injured. The Word rearranges our innards for our health and eternal well-being.

In Christ's powerful name,  
*Pastor Randall*



## Preaching Series

God has laid it on my heart to preach on the book of Jonah in January. For the four Sundays of this month, we will walk through the book chapter by chapter. The sermon series is entitled *We Respond with ?, ..., !, or \*%\$#* which reflects Jonah's responses to God's calling on his life. We also are prone to respond in each of these ways. Sometimes, we question (?) God—as Jonah fled in the opposite direction that God wanted (chapter 1), our questioning may be a form of escaping our responsibilities. Sometimes, God's call on our lives overwhelms us, and we just give up and give in (...) as Jonah did in the belly of the whale (chapter 2); we follow and obey only because there is no other direction for us to go. Third, there are times when we forcefully (!) respond to God's call on our lives, and we boldly proclaim His message as Jonah did in chapter 3. However, we do not always like the outcomes of God's love and mercy when we see its implications lived out. We may ask, "How can you save that person?" or "How can you let that person prosper when good people and little children languish?" Sometimes, we shake a defiant fist at God like Jonah in chapter 4 with an attitude of "Oh \*%\$#, how can



you God allow such things to happen in this world?"

As part of this sermon series, I have in the back of my head a song by Jason Upton that has longed challenged me.

The song is *Lullaby for a Petrified Sacred Society* (the lyrics are on page 5). I am sure it can be found on YouTube, but I know it



through the album Beautiful People, which contains faithful inspiration contained within Spirit-filled songs.

## **We Respond with ?, ..., !, or \*%\$#**

06 January  
**James 3.13-18**  
**Jonah 1.1-17**

### **We Respond with ? Turn and Run**

13 January  
**James 5.13-20**  
**Jonah 2.1-10**

### **We Respond with ... Safe in our Panic Rooms**

20 January  
**Hebrews 2.5-12**  
**Jonah 3.1-10**

### **We Respond with ! Turn or Burn/Fly or Fry**

27 January  
**Hebrews 4.12-16**  
**Jonah 4.1-11**

### **We Respond with \*%\$# Cut to the Quick**

## Ancient Prayers for These Times

It is love  
that asks,  
that seeks,  
that knocks,  
that finds,  
and that is  
faithful to  
what it finds.

Augustine of Hippo

QuotePixel.com

### Call to Confession

by Ambrose (c. 330-397), Bishop of Milan  
O Lord, who is all merciful: Take away my sins from me, and enkindle within me the fire of Your Holy Spirit. Take away this heart of stone from me, and give me a heart of flesh and blood, a heart to love and adore You, a heart which may delight in You, love You and please You, for Christ's sake. Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

BY EPHRAIM OF SYRIA (C. 306-373), THEOLOGIAN  
**I give You glory, O Christ, because You, the only begotten, the Lord of all things, who alone are without sin, gave Yourself to die for me, a sinner unworthy of such a blessing: You died the death of the cross to free my sinful soul from the bonds of sin.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Augustine (c. 354-430), Bishop of Hippo  
O You, from whom to turn is to fall, to whom to be turned is to rise, and in whom to stand is to abide forever, grant us in all our duties Your help, in all our perplexities Your guidance, in all our dangers Your protection, and in all our sorrows Your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**"YOU HAVE MADE  
US FOR YOURSELF,  
O LORD, AND OUR  
HEARTS ARE  
RESTLESS UNTIL  
THEY REST IN  
YOU."**

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

NobleQuotes.com

You have enemies.... Take heed to yourselves: love them. In no way can your enemy so hurt you by his violence, as you hurt yourself if you love him not.

**AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO**

## *Lullaby For A Petrified Sacred Society*

by Jason Upton

Shut up the windows  
Lock all the doors  
Make sure nobody gets in  
Learn to protect what is rightfully yours  
Or someone will take it my friend

We'll all sleep well tonight  
With no worry about  
tomorrow  
Everything's all right  
Safe in our panic room

We're building a wall  
Higher and higher  
Come join the gospel  
crusade  
Don't you know God  
loves  
Good little helpers  
Can't wait to show Him what we've made

We'll all sleep well tonight  
With no worry about tomorrow  
Everything's all right  
Safe in our panic room

There're Doctors and Lawyers  
And Presidents here  
We've all become best of friends  
Finally people are lending an ear and  
Truth has become relevant

We'll all sleep well tonight  
With no worry about tomorrow  
Everything's all right  
Safe in our panic room

Our prophets are nicer  
And kinder and sweeter  
We've partnered in their great reward  
They bless us with peace  
In exchange for a token  
What more could we ever ask for?

We'll all sleep well tonight  
With no worry about tomorrow  
Everything's all right  
Safe in our panic room

Everything You Do  
by Jason Upton & Bryan Willard

Everything you do  
I want to do with you  
Cause doing things with you  
Makes me happy  
Everything you say  
I want to say it too  
Cause even when I say it wrong  
We just start laughing

Merciful Father  
I'm learning to trust You love me  
The way that I am  
My simple desire to help You  
Means more to You  
Than weather I really can

PASTOR'S  
PAGE



As always, I want to say a big thank you to the church for your generosity toward me and my family. Your gifts are very much appreciated. I've been here long enough that I should expect it, but I'm overwhelmed each year, and this is no exception. We've received goodies to eat and drink, gifts that will decorate our house, gift cards that will provide a special treat on a night out or when we travel, books to read and treasured keepsakes. We are blessed to be a part of the St. John's family, and we are blessed to serve here. God bless you for your generosity throughout the year.

With humble gratitude and Christmas blessings, *Pastor Randall*

# UP COMING EVENTS

## Volunteers needed to un-decorate the church

On January 6 following BOTH services we will be taking down the Christmas decoration and putting them away. Please plan on staying to help out.



## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 27 at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary. Following the meeting, please join us for a time of fellowship with a potluck lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

**Accepted Nominations for Elders for Council for 2019 Ballot:** Nancy Rickenbacher, Mark Sherman & Carol Wilcox

## Proposed By Law Changes for Annual Meeting:

### Current By-law:

One Council Trustee will represent the Trustees at the monthly or special meetings. The Trustees will nominate an alternate from the congregation to serve in any function required to maintain the Church Facilities. This designee may attend the Council meetings as deemed necessary by the Trustees, *however only one Trustee may vote* at any meeting.

### Existing By law to be altered to give all trustees a vote:

Council Trustees will be the representatives at the monthly or special meetings. The Trustees will nominate an alternate from the congregation to serve in any function required to maintain the Church Facilities. This designee may attend the Council meetings as deemed necessary by the Trustees, however **All three** elected Trustees may vote at any meeting.

PROPOSED  
BYLAW  
CHANGES

**A Huge Thank You to the following members in regards to the parking lot project. Their donations helped offset the total expense:**

Dorothy Ziegler - balance of the Memorial money given on behalf of her husband Doug

Tice Construction (Virginia Tice) - A reduction in their submitted bill

Russ Cahill - tore up and removed old parking lot - no cost to church

Jeff & Diane Neuhauser - Cash donation

Kristi & Donovan Weaver - Cash donation

Balance of the parking lot expense was taken from the farm income account.

Thank  
you

## 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.

January 4: Skinny's—Kenton

January 18: Eagle's—Kenton

February 1: Pizza Hut—Kenton

February 15: Royal Buffet—Kenton

March 1: Plaza Inn—Mt. Victory

March 15: Mr. Cheezy's—Dunkirk



Discipleship Journal  
HELPING YOU GROW IN CHRIST

## Book-at-a-Time Bible Reading Plan

The book-at-a-time Bible reading plan provides two readings for each day. these readings will take you through the entire Bible in one year.

To prevent the frustration of falling behind and to provide some reflection time, each month consists of only 25 readings. You'll have several days each month to meditate more deeply on something that was significant to you in the past week, to catch up on missed readings, or to revisit favorite passages.

The first reading alternates between Old and New Testament books, giving you three or four chapters a day. The Gospels are spread throughout the year.

The second reading takes you through a chapter or so of the wisdom literature and Isaiah. Combined, or so of the wisdom literature and Isaiah. Combined,

Subscribe to **Discipleship Journal** online: [www.discipleshipjournal.com](http://www.discipleshipjournal.com)  
By phone: 1-800-877-1811 | By mail: P.O. Box 5648, Harlan, IA 51593-3048

(September continued)

21	Job	Reflection	Isaiah
22	37-39	8	
23	40-42	9	
24	Titus	10	
25	Jeremiah	11	
26	1-3	12	
27	4-6	13	
28	10-12	14	

### OCTOBER

1	Jeremiah	Isaiah
2	13-15	15
3	16-18	16
4	19-21	17
5	22-24	18
6	25-27	19
7	28-30	20
8	31-33	21
9	34-36	22
10	37-39	23
11	40-42	24
12	43-46	25
13	47-49	26
14	50-52	27
15	Lamentations	28
16	1-2	29
17	3-5	30
18	1 John	31
19	1-3	32
20	4-5	33
21	2 & 3 John	34
22	1 Peter	35
23	1-3	36
24	4-5	37
25	Ezekiel	38
26	1-4	39
27	5-7	
28	8-11	
29	12-15	
30	16-19	

(November continued)

10	John	Psalms
11	1-3	136
12	4-6	137
13	7-9	138
14	10-12	139
15	13-15	140
16	16-18	141
17	19-21	142
18	Daniel	143
19	1-3	144
20	4-6	145
21	7-9	146
22	10-12	147
23	1 Thess.	148
24	1-2	149
25	3-5	150
26	Joel	Isaiah
27	1-3	40
28	4-5	41
29	6-7	

### DECEMBER

1	2 Thess.	Isaiah
2	Nahum	42
3	2 Peter	43
4	Habakkuk	44
5	Zephaniah	45
6	Jude	46
7	Haggai	47
8	Zachariah	48
9	1-3	49
10	4-6	50
11	7-9	51
12	10-12	52
13	13-14	53
14	Malachi	54
15	1-2	55
16	3-4	56
17	Revelation	57
18	1-2	58
19	3-4	59
20	5-6	60
21	7-8	61
22	9-10	62
23	11-12	63
24	13-14	64
25	15-16	65
26	17-18	66
27	19-20	
28	21-22	

### NOVEMBER

1	Ezekiel	Psalms
2	20-23	123-124
3	24-26	125-126
4	27-30	127
5	31-34	128-129
6	35-38	130-131
7	39-42	132
8	43-45	133-134
9	46-48	135

### FEBRUARY

1	Exodus	Proverbs
2	15-17	1
3	18-20	2
4	21-24	3
5	25-27	4
6	28-31	5
7	32-34	6
8	35-37	7
9	38-40	8
10	Acts	9
11	1-3	10:1-16
12	4-6	10:17-32
13	7-9	11:1-15
14	10-12	Reflection
15	13-15	11:16-31
16	16-18	12:1-14
17	19-21	12:15-28
18	22-25	13:1-12
19	26-28	13:13-25
20	Leviticus	14:1-18
21	1-4	Reflection
22	5-8	14:19-35
23	9-11	15:1-17
24	12-14	15:18-33
25	15-18	16:1-16
26	19-21	16:17-33
27	22-24	17:1-14
28	25-27	17:15-28

### JANUARY

1	Genesis	Psalms
2	1-2	1
3	3-5	2
4	6-9	3
5	10-11	4
6	12-14	5
7	15-17	6
8	18-20	7
9	21-23	8
10	24-26	9
11	27-29	10
12	30-32	11
13	33-36	12
14	37-39	Reflection
15	40-42	13
16	43-46	14
17	47-50	15
18	Mark	16
19	1-3	17
20	4-6	18:1-24
21	7-9	Reflection
22	10-12	18:25-50
23	13-16	19
24	Exodus	20
25	1-4	21
26	5-8	22:1-11
27	9-11	22:12-31
28	12-14	23

**MARCH**

✓	Hebrews	✓	Psalm
1	1-3	✓	24
2	4-6	✓	25
3	7-10	✓	26
4	11-13	✓	27
5	Numbers	✓	28
6	1-3	✓	29
7	4-7	✓	30
8	8-10	✓	31
9	11-14	✓	32
10	15-17	✓	33
11	18-21	✓	34
12	22-24	✓	35
13	25-27	✓	36
14	Reflection	✓	37:1-22
15	28-30	✓	37:23-40
16	31-33	✓	38
17	34-36	✓	39
18	Galatians	✓	40
19	1-3	✓	41
20	4-6	✓	42
21	Deuteronomy	✓	43
22	1-4	✓	44
23	5-7	✓	45
24	8-10	✓	46
25	11-13	✓	47
26	14-16	✓	
27	17-19	✓	
28	20-22	✓	
	23-26	✓	

(April continued)

✓	Matthew	✓	Psalm
22	20-22	✓	66
23	23-25	✓	67
24	26-28	✓	68
25	Judges	✓	69:1-18
26	1-3	✓	69:19-36
27	4-6	✓	70
28	7-9	✓	71
	10-12	✓	

**MAY**

✓	Judges	✓	Proverbs
1	13-15	✓	18
2	16-18	✓	19:1-14
3	19-21	✓	19:15-29
4	Romans	✓	20:1-15
5	1-3	✓	20:16-30
6	4-5	✓	21:1-16
7	6-8	✓	Reflection
8	9-11	✓	21:17-31
9	12-13	✓	22:1-16
10	14-16	✓	22:17-29
11	Ruth	✓	23:1-18
12	Ephesians	✓	23:19-35
13	1-3	✓	24:1-22
14	4-6	✓	Reflection
15	1 Samuel	✓	24:23-34
16	1-3	✓	25:1-14
17	4-6	✓	25:15-28
18	7-9	✓	26:1-16
19	10-12	✓	26:17-28
20	13-15	✓	27:1-14
21	16-19	✓	Reflection
22	20-22	✓	27:15-27
23	23-25	✓	28:1-14
24	26-28	✓	28:15-28
25	29-31	✓	29:1-14
26	Philippians	✓	29:15-27
27	1 Samuel	✓	30
28	1-3	✓	31
	4-7	✓	

(June continued)

✓	1 Kings	✓	Psalm
11	10-12	✓	80
12	13-15	✓	81
13	16-19	✓	82
14	Reflection	✓	83
15	20-22	✓	84
16	Jonah	✓	85
17	Philemon	✓	86
18	2 Kings	✓	87
19	1-4	✓	88
20	5-7	✓	89:1-18
21	8-11	✓	89:19-52
22	Reflection	✓	90
23	12-14	✓	91
24	15-18	✓	92
25	19-21	✓	93
26	22-25	✓	94
27	Luke	✓	
28	1-3	✓	
	4-6	✓	
	7-9	✓	

**JULY**

✓	Luke	✓	Ecclesiastes
1	10-12	✓	1
2	13-15	✓	2
3	16-18	✓	3
4	19-21	✓	4
5	22-24	✓	5
6	Amos	✓	6
7	1-3	✓	7
8	4-6	✓	8
9	7-9	✓	9
10	1 Chronicles	✓	10
11	1-4	✓	11
12	5-8	✓	12
13	9-11	✓	Reflection
14	12-14	✓	Song of Songs
15	15-17	✓	1
16	18-20	✓	2
17	21-23	✓	3
18	24-26	✓	4
19	27-29	✓	5
20	Hosea	✓	6
21	1-4	✓	7
22	5-8	✓	8
23	9-11	✓	Psalm
24	12-14	✓	95
25	1 Corinthians	✓	96
26	1-2	✓	97
27	3-5	✓	98
28	6-8	✓	99
	9-11	✓	

**AUGUST**

✓	1 Corinthians	✓	Psalm
1	12-14	✓	100
2	15-16	✓	101
3	2 Chronicles	✓	102
4	1-4	✓	103
5	5-7	✓	104:1-23
6	8-11	✓	104:24-35
7	12-15	✓	Reflection
8	16-18	✓	105
9	19-21	✓	106:1-23
10	22-24	✓	106:24-48
11	25-27	✓	107
12	28-30	✓	108
13	31-33	✓	109
14	Reflection	✓	110
15	34-36	✓	111
16	Obadiah	✓	112
17	2 Corinthians	✓	113
18	1-3	✓	114
19	4-6	✓	115
20	7-9	✓	Reflection
21	10-13	✓	Ezra
22	14	✓	116
23	15-17	✓	117
24	18-10	✓	118:1-14
25	Nehemiah	✓	118:15-29
26	1-3	✓	119:1-16
27	4-7	✓	119:17-32
28	8-10	✓	119:33-48
	11-13	✓	

**APRIL**

✓	Deuteronomy	✓	Psalm
1	27-30	✓	48
2	31-34	✓	49
3	James	✓	50
4	1-2	✓	51
5	3-5	✓	52
6	Joshua	✓	53
7	1-3	✓	54
8	4-6	✓	55
9	7-9	✓	56
10	10-12	✓	57
11	13-15	✓	58
12	16-18	✓	59
13	19-21	✓	Reflection
14	22-24	✓	Matthew
15	1-4	✓	60
16	5-7	✓	61
17	8-10	✓	62
18	11-13	✓	63
19	14-16	✓	64
20	17-19	✓	65
21	Reflection	✓	

**JUNE**

✓	2 Samuel	✓	Psalm
1	8-10	✓	72
2	11-13	✓	73
3	14-17	✓	74
4	18-20	✓	75
5	21-24	✓	76
6	Colossians	✓	77
7	Reflection	✓	78:1-39
8	1 Kings	✓	78:40-72
9	1-3	✓	79
10	4-6	✓	
	7-9	✓	

**SEPTEMBER**

✓	1 Timothy	✓	Psalm
1	1-3	✓	119:49-64
2	4-6	✓	119:65-80
3	Esther	✓	119:81-96
4	1-3	✓	119:97-112
5	4-7	✓	119:113-128
6	8-10	✓	119:129-144
7	2 Timothy	✓	Reflection
8	Job	✓	119:145-160
9	1-3	✓	119:161-176
10	4-6	✓	120
11	7-9	✓	121
12	10-12	✓	122
13	13-15	✓	Isaiah
14	16-18	✓	1
15	19-21	✓	Reflection
16	22-24	✓	2
17	25-27	✓	3
18	28-30	✓	4
19	31-33	✓	5
20	34-36	✓	6
		✓	7



### Wednesday Kids Night- We continue to have lots of

kids each week. We all got new t-shirts for Christmas. Look for our new red shirts around the church. If you'd like one of those cool new shirts, let us know and we'll share how you can get one.

We will be finishing up our study of the Incredible characters in our Bi-



ble. We've recently studied Rehab, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, David (Goliath), and Joseph. They all sure went through some tough times in their lives and found that they were greatly rewarded by following what God wanted them to do. Soon, we will be moving to another Bible Study that will take us to the end of our School year.

- We still need a few more table chaperones to help out. Dinner is provided, no dishes to wash. Great conversation provided. See Amy

Marmon Valley Country Christmas- About 40 of us spent the evening on the farm, riding ponies, petting zoo animals, drinking some hot chocolate and riding in a wagon through stops where we were able to hear the story of Jesus's birth.

It was great to see some of the kid's faces as we were in the barn and stopping at the different scenes. They were watching very closely and listening to everything that was being told about baby Jesus.



The year 2018 has gone and past. Ending the year the Youth participated in the Lake of Lights Nativity scene and rang bells for the Salvation Army out at Walmart. Now we look into the future of 2019.

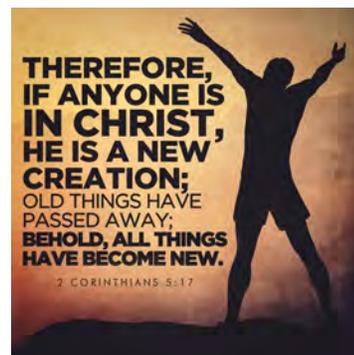


Wednesday Nights with the middle schoolers has been going great. I believe we have a great group of kids. We have ended our study of Gods Not Dead and will be looking into a new study for the New Year. We have been having over 20 youth attend each night. We continue to meet each week from 6-7:30 if you know of any youth looking for another place to call their home.

Hardin County Collective has been a blessing for our youth, their not only growing in their faith but meeting others that can grow with them. We will all be traveling to Columbus on January 19<sup>th</sup> for some laser tag and will be attending Winter Jam. We are also in the process of planning a Winter Retreat February 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.

For the New Year I am planning to start a High School group for during the week. Please let me know if you know of anyone that would be interested in attending or helping out. This is something I have been praying about and ask that you all pray as well. Keep a look out for new updates.

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)*



## Adult Education and Life Groups

We are in need of someone to help coordinate Adult Education or lead a short-term life group in the fall. The goal would be to offer more adult education opportunities and short-term life group, for example book studies. Please see Pastor Randall for more information.



### Worship Attendance

November 18:	8:30 a.m.	60
	10:30 a.m.	83
November 25:	8:30 a.m.	58
	10:30 a.m.	62
December 2:	8:30 a.m.	65
	10:30 a.m.	84
December 9:	8:30 a.m.	66
	10:30 a.m.	81

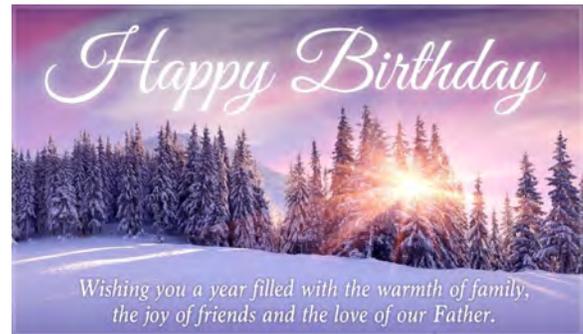
### Summary of Finances for November 2018

#### Income:

Envelopes	\$18,449.00
Loose offering and faith time	\$ 810.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19,259.00</b>

#### Expenses:

Staff Expense	\$ 13,417.00
Administration Expense	\$ 339.00
Utilities & Maintenance (Electric \$1511 Gas \$495)	\$ 2,901.00
WAM	\$ 90.00
Christian Ed	\$ 190.00
Video	\$ 177.00
Evangelism	\$ 259.00
Youth	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 17,373.00</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,886.00</b>



### 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**

- January 5 : Ann Height  
115 Harding Ave.  
Kenton, OH 43326
- January 9: Paul Rickenbacher  
20551 SR 67E  
Kenton, OH 43326
- January 29: Juanita Rader  
14415 TR 265  
Kenton, OH 43326

#### Church Staff:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester  
Children's Ministry: Amy Long  
Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman  
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



January 2019

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters in Christ. May all of us celebrate January despite its Ohio weather as a gift from God. So many wonderful things in Christian history have happened in January (please keep in mind that deaths for a Christian should be considered

a promotion). The following is a very short listing of what we should celebrate in our two-thousand-year heritage.

**404:** Last known gladiator fight in Rome. Sometime earlier, Telemachus, a monk from the eastern Roman empire, had been killed by spectators in the Roman Coliseum for attempting to separate gladiatorial combatants. When Emperor Honorius learned of this, he declared Telemachus a martyr and abolished the games.

**814:** Charlemagne, the first Holy Roman Emperor, dies. He was not only one of the greatest political rulers of all time, he was more influential in church matters than the pope. He saw his task as secular ruler "to defend with our arms the holy Church of Christ against attacks by the heathen from any side and against devastation by the infidels.

**1519:** The Swiss Reformation begins when Huldrych Zwingli assumes his duties as priest of Zurich and begins preaching through the Bible.

**1621:** Pilgrims leave the Mayflower and gather on shore at Plymouth, Massachusetts, for their first religious service in America.

**1697:** Massachusetts citizens observe a day of fasting and repentance for the Salem witch trials of 1692, in which 19 suspected witches were hanged and more than 150 imprisoned. The day was declared "*That so all of God's people may offer up fervent supplications unto him, that all iniquity may be put away, which hath stirred God's holy jealousy against this land; that he would show us what we know not, and help us, wherein we have done amiss, to do so no more*".

**1739:** George Whitefield, the preacher who sparked America's first Great Awakening, is ordained to the Anglican ministry. Whitefield celebrated it as "a day of fat things" in his journal. Whitefield became famous for his open-air preaching after jealous ministers denied him the use of their pulpits, and he was perfectly suited to it—his booming voice, it was reported, could be heard a mile away.

**1875:** Theologian, medical missionary, organist, musical historian, and winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize Albert Schweitzer is born. His "*Quest of the Historical Jesus*" is considered a foundational work on that subject.

**1893:** Charles Spurgeon quoted in his Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup> sermon; "*Begin to praise Him in the tone of your spirit. May God the blessed Comforter help you to do it by a calm, equable frame of mind, by a Divine placidity of temper, by a complete subjection of the will to Him so that you shall not feel it to be subjection, but find it to be your delight that the Lord should do with you whatever pleases Him! It is bliss to praise God so that our very thoughts praise Him, not by effort, but as flowers pour out their perfume, so that our inmost soul praises Him, just as the birds sing, not as if it were a task, but because it cannot help it! Was it not made to sing?*"

We cannot help but take Spurgeon's admonition to heart as we begin a new year.

# The True Story of Pain and Hope Behind “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

DECEMBER 21, 2014 Justin Taylor

In March of 1863, 18-year-old Charles Appleton Longfellow walked out of his family’s house on Brattle Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and—unbeknownst to his family—boarded a train bound for Washington, D.C., traveling over 400 miles across the eastern seaboard in order to join President Lincoln’s Union army to fight in the Civil War.

Charles (b. June 9, 1844) was the oldest of six children born to Fannie Elizabeth Appleton and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the celebrated literary critic and poet. Charles had five younger siblings: a brother (aged 17) and three sisters (ages 13, 10, 8—another one had died as an infant). Less than two years earlier, Charles’s mother Fannie had tragically died after her dress caught on fire. Her husband, awoken from a nap, tried to extinguish the flames as best he could, first with a rug and then his own body, but she had already suffered severe burns. She died the next morning (July 10, 1861), and Henry Longfellow’s facial burns were severe enough that he was unable even to attend his own wife’s funeral. He would grow a beard to hide his burned face and at times feared that he would be sent to an asylum on account of his grief.

When Charley (as he was called) arrived in Washington D.C., he sought to enlist as a private with the 1st Massachusetts Artillery. Captain W. H. McCartney, commander of Battery A, wrote to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow for written permission for Charley to become a soldier. HWL (as his son referred to him) granted the permission.

Longfellow later wrote to his friends Charles Sumner (senator from Massachusetts), John Andrew (governor of Massachusetts), and Edward Dalton (medical inspector of the Sixth Army Corps) to lobby for his son to become an officer. But Charley had already impressed his fellow soldiers and superiors with his skills, and on March 27, 1863, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, assigned to Company “G.”

After participating on the fringe of the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia (April 30-May 6, 1863), Charley fell ill with typhoid fever and was sent home to recover. He rejoined his unit on August 15, 1863, having missed the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863).

1868  
While dining at home on December 1, 1863, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow received a telegram that his son had been severely wounded four days earlier. On November 27, 1863, while involved in a skirmish during a battle of the Mine Run Campaign, Charley was shot through the left shoulder, with the bullet exiting under his right shoulder blade. It had traveled across his back and skimmed his spine. Charley avoided being paralyzed by less than an inch.

He was carried into New Hope Church (Orange County, Virginia) and then transported to the Rapidan River. Charley’s father and younger brother, Ernest, immediately set out for Washington, D.C., arriving on December 3. Charley arrived by train on December 5. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was alarmed when informed by the army surgeon that his son’s wound “was very serious” and that “paralysis might ensue.” Three surgeons gave a more favorable report that evening, suggesting a recovery that would require him to be “long in healing,” at least six months.

On Christmas day, 1863, Longfellow—a 57-year-old widowed father of six children, the oldest of which had been nearly paralyzed as his country fought a war against itself—wrote a poem seeking to capture the dynamic and dissonance in his own heart and the world he observes around him. He heard the Christmas bells that December day and the singing of “peace on earth” (Luke 2:14), but he observed the world of injustice and violence that seemed to mock the truthfulness of this optimistic outlook. The theme of *listening* recurred throughout the poem, eventually leading to a settledness of confident hope even in the midst of bleak despair.

*TheGospelCoalition.org*



I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play, and wild and sweet  
The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound

The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
And in despair I bowed my head;  
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;  
“For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Agenda  
Thursday  
November 8, 2018  
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Carol Wilcox President  
OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Randall  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall  
OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - Kristi Weaver

October 11, 2018 Minutes revised presented, Motioned and seconded to approved revised minutes

REPORTS

1) Finance - Kristi Weaver

- Carol feels that everyone is working hard to stay in the budget

2) Christian Education - Amy Long

3) Youth Ministry—Michele Sherman

4) Women's Ministry - Kay Rush

- Carol and committee placed luminaries out and are set back to the church to see if the luminaries get broken or not. Banquets are coming and Women's Celebration.

5) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher

- Memorial Service – November 11 (both services)
- Community hymn sing is the December 9@ 6:30 at Kenton First Methodist

6) Personnel Committee - Kristina VanBuskirk

- Employee Evaluations

7) Pastoral Relations - Carol Wilcox

- Next Meeting - November 11, 2018 is cancelled

8) Trustees - Greg Martin Jim Bidwell Greg Liedel

Greg Martin:

- waiting on bids on the ceiling
- Black top possible on next week like Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
- Must replace the entire unit of heater, control box, and pump \$610.71 will need to retrofit. Need to check with Kay about money in the budget.

Greg Liedel:

- looking for bus drivers and bus riders

Jim Bidwell:

- Farm - Nothing to report

9) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin/ Mark Sherman

- Tent Sales Heather will email Tracy, Kendra, and Kay about what the mission item lines are and how much we have left to spend for the year.

10) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

- Written Report Presented for review prior to meeting

## OLD BUSINESS

- Progress on Parking Lot
- Stove has arrived
- Baptismal Heater

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominating committee report
- Decorate Church - November 25, 2018
- Annual Meeting
- Submit reports for Annual Meeting
- Set date for the Annual Meeting. January 27, 2019 after 2<sup>nd</sup> service and potluck to follow.
- Changes of the By Laws - Carol will type up the bylaw correction and email to council. Carol then will give to Kathy for the December and January newsletters.
- Finance Committee Report
- Expenses in by Dec. 1, 2018

### Request for use of Church

- Blinky's BBQ would like to have a rib cook-off in the church parking lot on December 1 from 10-6. He would need access to the restrooms too. Proceeds are going to Shop with a Cop. His name is Brent Boehm. Approved with Greg Martin working the morning and Jim Bidwell will do the afternoon.
- Becky Rish has asked PVFF (Partnership for Violence Free Families) to conduct a Support Group Facilitator Training here for her and others that would like to be trained. To have this training here it would be either December 5, 6 & 7 or December 10, 11, or 12. It would be from 8-5 the first day (would be here to set up at 7). The second 2 days it would be from 9-4 each day. They would need access to the AV screen, could bring own equipment. **It was motioned and seconded that charge \$100 per day for AV (if we can get an AV person) up to \$300. Motion passed.**
- Discuss the damage of the concrete in the parking lot. **Motioned and seconded to pursuit the kids with damages. Motion carried.**
- Removal of membership – Bob & Hannah Flowers Motion made and seconded to approval the removal.
- Week of Dec 26—Jan 1 – Office status? – last year office was closed and had people check messages **will continued**
- Just a reminder – Kathy will be going with marching band to FL March 1-7
- Next Meeting: December 13, 2018 7:00 PM
- Thank you card from the Suicide Awareness and Prevention Walk from Donna Dickman
- Ohio West Horse Association every other month. First Thursday at 7 pm

## LORD'S PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT—Motion made and seconded for adjournment

---

### **Mission of the Month— Jamie & Susan Ränge**

Jamie and Susan Ränge left Bolivia in July 2016, but did not leave Pioneers. They have moved back to the states and are excited to transition into a ministry focus within Pioneers, a ministry that equips people to understand and reach out to Muslims.

Bringing to the team (Encountering the World of Islam) our experience on the field, we will help develop curriculum in Spanish, teach, and build the program in Central and South American countries, while based in Colorado. Jamie's job is to be facilitator for this region.

