

*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**

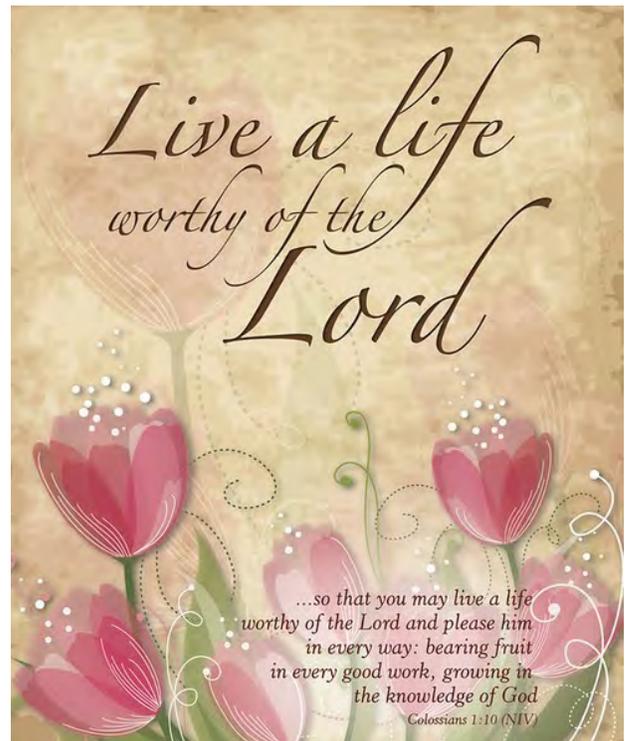
May 2020

211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326  
Church Phone: 419-673-7278  
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Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor  
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## **Happy Mother's Day!**

God took the fragrance of a flower...  
The majesty of a tree...  
The gentleness of morning dew...  
The calm of a quiet sea...  
The beauty of the twilight hour...  
The soul of a starry night...  
The laughter of a rippling brook...  
The grace of a bird in flight...  
Then God fashioned from these things  
A creation like no other,  
And when His masterpiece was through  
He called it simply - Mother.  
~ Herbert Farnham



# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326

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

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

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MAY 2020

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

**Pentecost**, this year falls on the last day of May. To me, this was shaping up to be one of the perfect years. Ash Wednesday fell at the end of February, which put Easter near the middle of April and Pentecost at the end of May. I enjoy these years. It feels like we have time to 'recover' from Christmas and New Year's Day. We can enjoy Valentine's Day and, then, without rushing, we slide naturally into Lent at a time when our hearts and souls are searching for something more spiritual.

Here at St. John's it was shaping up to be a special year too. Our Children's Minister Trish and our Youth Minister Michele are really hitting their stride and coming into their own in service. The kids and youth were preparing to lead the Palm Sunday worship, which moved my heart. It is good to see members of the church step out in faith and work in the Spirit to do new things. Additionally, there was a hope amongst some (myself included) that this would be a foundation for building unity in the life of the church as well as being a precursor for greater works of our membership, extending the reach of the church as we more greatly reflect the glory of God into the world.

Without a Confirmation Class (we host those every other year) in 2020 and due to the fact that it falls after Memorial Day, Pentecost would still be celebrated here but not in any grand fashion. Still, Pentecost was going to allow us to make a turn into Vacation Bible School, which has been planned for a year and was shaping up to be something extra special. After that, the Guatemala Mission Team was going to make final preparations for that ministry to literally take flight the end of July, and then...

Well, we are know what the "and then..." portends. All those great plans, all that activity, and all those opportunities to minister to the family of God AND reach out to our community have come to a screeching halt. Sometimes, when I come to the church (and, yes, I am still coming to the church in a properly physically distanced way), I am anxious that I may see my shadow.

Being from Western Pennsylvania and knowing Punxsutawney, I feel like, if I see my shadow, we may have six more weeks of quarantine!

At the end of the Gospel of **Luke**, Jesus tells His disciples, "Stay in the city until you are clothed

with power from on high" (**24:9b**).

Again, in Luke's book of **Acts**, Jesus "ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father" (**1:4b**). And that is how they were when the Church was born, and the Holy Spirit came in a profound way. As the Bible states, "...they (the disciples) were all together in one place" (**Acts 2:1b**).

We're not told much about what they were doing. We have some clues from the preceding chapter of **Acts**. We presume they spent time in prayer as they prayed (**1:24**) over selecting a 12th Apostle to replace Judas Iscariot. But they also had a lot of time on their hands. Some, like me, presume there were a lot of conversations filled with joy and expectation but these were also tinged with anxiety and trepidation. As I emphasized in my Easter sermon, the women went to tell the disciples of Jesus' Resurrection "with fear and great joy" (**Matthew 28:8**). I believe those feelings persisted for the women and the disciples, so I also believe that there were some anxious hearts in that gathering on Pentecost in Jerusalem.

If you read the scriptures, anxious thoughts of true believers coexist with those same people acting in faith. This year, we are reclaiming St.

John's identity as the Rooster Church here in Kenton, and that fits with our Pentecost in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic. The rooster can be a symbol of the shame of Peter (who represents us) as one who proudly proclaimed fidelity to Christ only to be revealed as a pretender. His bravado evaporated at the



moment of truth. He believed in himself, and he failed while having the noblest of intents. However, once the Holy Spirit descended on him and he humbly accepted this gift from God, he was able to boldly preach of Christ without fear of what anyone could do to him. In fact, Peter's boldness astonished the Jewish Council, the group that Peter once feared (compare **Matthew 26:69-75** and **Acts 4:13**).

The only reason the rooster can represent the joy of crowing for Jesus and not the shame of denial is because of another bird—the Dove (**Matthew 3:16**) like the tongues of fire (**Acts 2:3**), which both represent the Holy Spirit—the first falling on Jesus and the latter befalling His disciples in Jerusalem on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit instructs us in the right and proper way of following Christ. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the mind of God (**1 Corinthians 2:11, 14**).

Without the Spirit, our best efforts lead to destruction (the Wide Way in **Matthew 7:13**; see also **Isaiah 64:6**).

Without the Holy Spirit, our crowing becomes empty boasts and fear-filled denials of Christ. However, the Spirit teaches us how to live for God in this fallen world and to discern what is the will of God (**Romans 12:1-2**). With the Spirit, we are inwardly humbled before the Lord, but outwardly empowered to speak to the world and its rulers as Peter did. With the Spirit, we are able to speak at once forcefully and humbly.

We are called to crow for Christ as we have seen the Son rise—that is what has ever been our Easter proclamation whether we make that proclamation in the sanctuary surrounded by the faithful or we proclaim those words isolated in our homes. To a world gripped in darkness and anxiety without hope, we need to signal that a new (and everlasting!) day is dawning. We need to awaken people to this new reality. How do we do that when our song is muted and our mouths rendered dumb? How do we tell our neighbors (let alone the world) when we are sequestered in our homes?

I am confident the early Church faced similar questions. After all, who were those who knew that early story? There were a handful of uneducated commoners in the early band



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

(see **Acts 4:13** again). There were a handful of women in the band that had been to the tomb on Easter. As **Acts 1:15** tells us, there were 120 people in Jerusalem. Who were they to take on an empire that crucified their leader? Who were they to lead Christ's movement and to establish the Church?

The short answer, by themselves, they were nobody, and they were destined for failure. However, they were not left orphans (**John 14:18**). Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as He promised. By the Spirit, they were more than conquerors (**Romans 8:37**). In fact, if you read the entirety of **Romans 8**, you will see how we are to live in the Spirit. Such a life is not about overwhelming the world with wit or wisdom or might. It is about God working through us even in our weakness (**8:26**) and abiding with us in tribulation (**8:18**) before our glory is revealed.

What we are enduring in 2020 parallels to what the early Church endured at its first Pentecost. There is hope and fear, answers and still questions, joy and fear. We have plans in our hearts like those disciples did. And like them, we have learned that God's plan is much different than ours. How all this will unfold is still a mystery. For now, like the disciples, we need to wait, but waiting does not mean idleness. We can still pray, study, converse with one another, and wrestle with deeper things. We also need to be prepared. For one day (and hopefully one day soon), the Spirit will fall upon us and compel us to act.

When that day comes, let us be prepared to step out in faith with boldness for Christ and humility of spirit.

With Pentecost power,  
*Pastor Randall*

## Upcoming Worship

As we turn from Lent and Easter and head towards Pentecost, we in the Church often move from Christ's life of ministry, suffering, and sacrifice and move towards the triumphant work of the Church. This often made sense in ages past as the reach and power of the Church seemed to be on a constant upward trajectory throughout history.

However, after the 1950s, the centrality of Christianity in the life of the America, began to wane. This followed what occurred in Europe and reflects how most of the world has interacted with Christianity for much of history. Where many in America have thought of political and national success as synonymous with the advancement of the Christian faith, most of the world have thought of Christianity as something that sits on the periphery while human will creates advancement and success.

Now, I am not here to debate the centrality of Christian values in the founding of our nation. Nor am I degrading the idea that Christians helped advance our nation. I believe both those points. I also believe that our nation's slide into secularism and antipathy for Christianity will cause God's hand of blessing to recede from being over our land and we will precipitously fall, destroyed from the inside out.

The reason I bring that up is that it impacts how we respond to this reality. As Memorial Day will be upon us, we are not going to simply trot out *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* and rally people to slay our cultural enemies. Rather, to win this war with those who oppose God, we are not going to win by overcoming these enemies of God. [Note: they are NOT our enemies; they are God's enemies.]

To win this battle in our land and in our world today, we need to battle as our Savior won the battle in His day. Just as He won the victory by working against people's expectations, we need to do likewise, even subverting our own desires.

This takes me back to the quote I included in last month's newsletter. I want you to look again at how David Clarkson put it in his **Works**,

**“There is nothing lovely in man. Christ knew all this clearly. In eternity past Christ saw all our faults, and not one after another, but altogether. This adds great wonder to the love of Christ. He saw every perverse look, every unkind gesture, every rebellious motion, every disingenuous act. Every heart was visible from eternity. Here is the wonder of Christ's love: it is fixed upon man, the worst of creatures. Consider his resolution and wonder: I will give eternal life to those who have dishonored me.”**

Jesus knew every sin for which He would suffer and die, and still He went forward. This knowledge of what He would die for is known as Particular Atonement and is something with which you should acquaint yourself. For us, as we travel through the **Gospel of Matthew**, we should recognize how we should respond to those who oppose us and the Christian faith.

We should speak Truth to them and present the Gospel in all its fullness. We should encourage the faithful to hold fast and be prepared for the difficult times to come. We, ourselves, should always seek to live as the Father directs us and as led by the Holy Spirit. In all those things, we need to emulate our Savior, the Son, Jesus Christ.

To ultimately fulfill our calling, we need to live like Jesus. We need to be willing to sacrifice, suffer, and die for those who would destroy us. To do that, to do any of that, takes divine inspiration and leading of the Holy Spirit. Are we prepared to confront our enemies with love when they inflict their hatred upon us? When our enemies seek to oppress us, will we be willingly to respond with loving service to them? These messages from **Matthew** challenge us to see what Jesus said and did, and then seek to apply that in all its fullness into our life and ministry as individuals and as St. John's Evangelical Church.

## Upcoming Worship



## MISSION TRIP

Almost every Sunday in May brings something special to celebrate. Hopefully, we will be gathered to worship and celebrate these days. If not, please join our services online. If you cannot, hopefully someone will come forward to find a way to distribute those services in another format.

With everything going on in the world, it looks almost certain that the Guatemala Mission Trip will not take place. Still, the hope is that the house that was planned will be completed with funds that the team and the church raised. Additionally, a team of workers consisting of five local Guatemalans will be blessed with two weeks of work. We hope to have some funds to bless Pastor Walter and his church along the Tracks, David Beam and his mission work, and Betancourt “Darby” Hifti, a local Christian who facilitates many good works for local Christians and incoming mission teams.

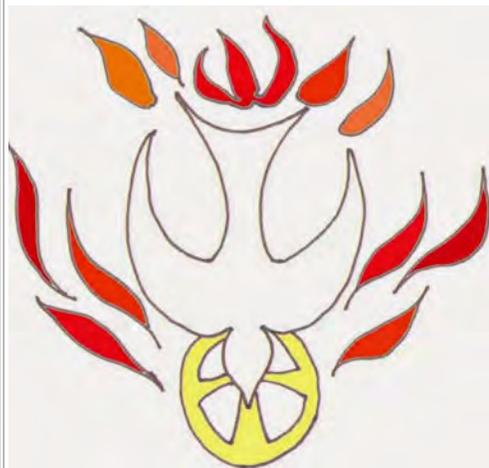
03 May  
Scripture: **Jeremiah 29:1-9**  
**Matthew 24:1-14**  
Sermon: **The Beginning of the Birth Pains**

10 May  
Scripture: **Daniel 7:13-14**  
**Matthew 24:15-35**  
Sermon: **Christ is Near!**

17 May  
Scripture: **Isaiah 2:1-5**  
**Matthew 24:36-51**  
Sermon: **Walk in the Light!**

24 May  
Scripture: **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**  
**Matthew 25:1-13**  
Sermon: **Trimmed and Burning**

31 May  
Pentecost Sunday  
Pastor Vacation  
(planned)



While the mission team will not go forth, there is a hope amongst team members to engage in some local efforts. Team members are starting to have that conversation. If you have some ideas of projects or places within the US that could use support, please feel free to pass them along to me or a team member. We may even keep our efforts within Hardin County. If you have any thoughts on how to impact people with the Gospel, especially in a time when people need assistance with fear, illness, and financial hardship, again, please share.

The Holy Spirit is taking us in a new direction. We need a faith-filled response and that begins in prayer. We may be physically distanced from one another, but we are bound together in the love of Christ. Please, pray for our team and this transition, pray for our brothers and sisters in Guatemala, and pray for a clear leading from God for what we are to do next.

From the bottom of my heart and the depths of my soul, I want you to know how much I appreciate the support of the church family and the commitment of this team. I am truly blessed to serve here.

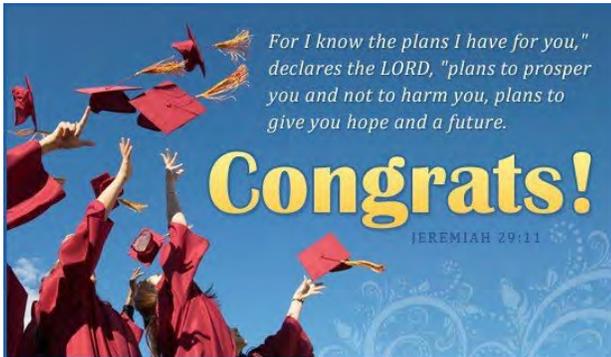
PASTOR'S  
PAGE

—*Pastor Randall*

# Upcoming

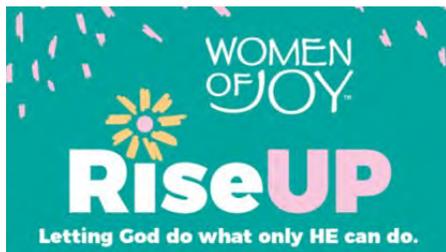
EVENTS

**Please note: The church council will meet again on May 14 to discuss how to move forward. Please be patient as the church continues to make tough decisions to keep people safe while still being the church. All upcoming events are pending.**



## Graduation Sunday- May 17

We are hoping to honor our church graduates on Sunday, May 17. If you are graduating this year, please contact the church office. We would like to celebrate with you!



Today in our society, we truly believe that Women are so busy with life that we never slow down long enough to work on our relationship with Christ or with other Women. At Women of Joy it's their main priority! Are you ready for the best weekend of your life? It's time for us Women to rise up! A group of ladies will be traveling to Indianapolis, IN on August 14th & 15th, 2020. The cost will be around \$200, this includes your lodging and conference fee. Deadline to register is May 15th. If interested or would like more information please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or contact Michele Sherman. For more information on event:

<https://womenofjoy.org/upcoming-events/>

## VBS Donation Request

We are accepting any construction type things for decorating. May include: safety glasses, safety vests, hard hats. plastic fencing, plastic blueprints, safety signs etc. Please place your donations in the tote beside the VBS table in the back of the sanctuary. See Trish Wilcox or Michele Sherman with any questions.

## VBS- Concrete & Cranes- Building on the Love of Jesus

VBS is currently scheduled for June 8-11 from 5:45 – 8 pm for preschool (potty trained) - grade 5. This summer we will build on the love of Jesus. So, grab your hard hat and tool belt! As kids explore a world of concrete and cranes, rivets and rebar, bulldozers and backhoes, they will discover that skyscrapers aren't the only things that need a rock-solid foundation. If you plan to attend or volunteer, please Pre-Register online by June 5 at <https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=54591>. Reservations are very helpful for preparation purposes. Volunteers can complete a form located on the VBS table in the back of the sanctuary.

## Join Us for VBS

Music - Missions - Crafts - Snack

June 8-11

5:45-8 PM

Preschool (potty trained)  
through Grade 5



### Vacation Bible School at St. John's Evangelical Church

This summer we will build on the love of Jesus. So, grab your hard hat and tool belt! As kids explore a world of concrete and cranes, rivets and rebar, bulldozers and backhoes, they will discover that skyscrapers aren't the only things that need a rock-solid foundation. During VBS, kids will learn to build their faith on Jesus as they uncover the truth that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion.

If you plan to attend or volunteer, please Pre-Register online by June 5 at <https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=54591>. Reservations are very helpful for preparation purposes. Hope to see you all there!!!

## St. John's Evangelical Church

211 E. Carrol Street

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419-673-7278

[stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com)



## Mission of the Month— Shine FM

Shine FM is celebrating eight (8) years of broadcasting this month. The station is a community-supported station, which means they rely on the generous support of families, businesses, and churches. In May 2012, they launched their two stations in West central Ohio. They simulcast their contemporary Christian music format on 88.5 FM in Kenton, and 88.9 FM in Bellefontaine. In February, they added a third signal to their family...88.9 FM in Tiffin. They are now "three signals, one station." Their focus is to provide their listeners spiritual encouragement, build relationships in the community, and see lives transformed by the Gospel message. Shine FM has been blessed to serve our area with a message of hope, outstanding music, and terrific concerts. Their office is located in Bellefontaine.

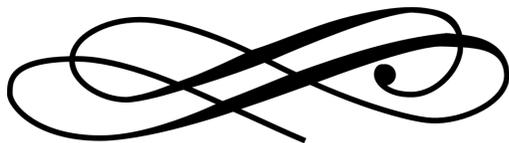
### Friday With Friends

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:**

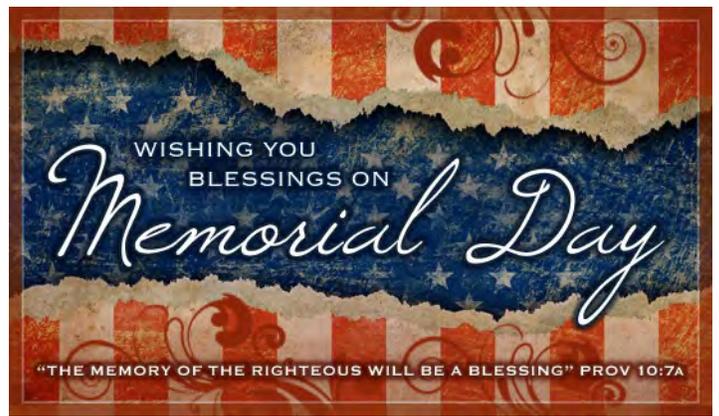
If out of town, meet at St. John's at 10:45 am to car-pool. Please note time change for out of town meeting. Still eating at 11:30 am.

#### **Postponed until further notice**



#### **Church Staff:**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester  
Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman  
Children's Ministry: Trish Wilcox  
Financial Secretary: Kay Rush  
Church Secretary: Kathy Forester  
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  
Janitor: Randy Crum



#### **Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

**Youth Lock In:** May 22 at 7 pm.

**Children's/Youth Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:** May 23 at 6 pm

**VBS— Concrete & Cranes:** June 8-11— from 5:45-8 pm.

**Scioto Valley Cook out:** July 11 from 1-3 pm

**All Church Social—** July 16

**Forest Court Cook out:** August 1 from 1-3 pm

**Mystery Party (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade):** August 9 from 3-5 pm

**Disciple Me Programs Resumes:** September 23



### **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



We've been here before and the last time a major epidemic hit our country was in 1918. Over 675,000 Americans died before it relented. I thought it would be interesting to see what our records and minutes said about St. John's response; but none appear in the records of any action taken or noted. Even our funeral records do not mention a cause of death during this time period.

"Excerpts from available issues of The Lima Daily News; Health Officers Report to Daily News Conditions in their Sections. The Daily News presents below a summary of conditions in the cities on all sides of Lima, showing conditions of the Spanish Flu epidemic. Kenton is the hardest hit, ..... Here is the story as told The Daily News by the Health Officers themselves:

October 11, 1918

KENTON.—This city is perhaps the hardest hit of any of the surrounding towns with the epidemic now raging in the country. There are in the neighborhood of 500 to 600 cases reported and are still coming in. There were 114 new cases reported in the last 24 hours. Most of these are serious ones. Everything is closed tight and under the closest surveillance. Many prominent people in town are confined with the dread malady. Probate Judge R. D. TURNER is serious. PAUL WAGNER, prominent young man is also dangerously ill. JOHN D. JAMES, who owns a cigar factory and cigar store is reported worse. WALTER W. BERN and entire family, consisting of four children, all are ill and dangerously. He is county recorder. The family of WILLIAM HARP have suffered a great deal, as they have already lost two children, and there are now six other cases in the family. O. E. BONNELL and daughter are suffering from the effects, also five carriers in the city post office are in serious condition. Misses CLARA BOWLER and ANNA DRASS, teachers in the High school are confined to their homes with Influenza. Mr. WURST is also a sufferer. He is proprietor of Woolworth's 5 & 10 cent store in this city.

December 27, 1918 MILLION OHIOANS HAVE SUFFERED FROM 'FLU'

Over a million Ohioans have suffered with influenza and there have been 20,000 deaths from the disease, according to the latest estimates of the state health department."

File contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by: Judy Woerner

We are so lucky this time around to have a Governor and State Health Officer who learned from the lessons of the 1918 Spanish Flu. In 1918 the Governor left everything up to local communities until it was too late and look at the death count (which is acknowledged to be materially understated). While we have had our Church lives disrupted by curtailing our services and outreach to the community; our mission and Christian life has and will survive. Prayerfully we will move forward even stronger in our faith.

Blessings and peace, Jerry Pfister, Historian.

St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Agenda  
Thursday, March 12, 2020  
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

- February 13, Minutes – Motion to accept minutes and seconded, council vote, motion carried.

REPORTS

1) Finance - Kristi Weaver/Russ Cahill

- Review of documents provided, donations are down year to date
- Got the Cornel bequest
- Got \$ 7,084 back from the waterway

2) Christian Education—Trish Wilcox-Michele Sherman

- Reports distributed for review prior to meeting
- Thinking about confirmation already.

3) Women's Ministry - Carol Wilcox

- Had the lamb banquet – it was very hot so trustees checked things out, and are not sure what is wrong.
- OSU banquet coming up
- Going to donate old flower arrangements to the rummage sale with proceeds going toward the mission trip

4) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher

- Nothing new to report
- Discussion of if we should change any of our services

5) Personnel Committee -

- Gerry Pfister has agreed to take over as chair of the committee.
- Janitor position is open again

6) Pastoral Relations

Meeting May 17

7) Trustees—Russ Cahill & Greg Martin

- Looking at the heating and air conditioning service agreement
- Window sills – still on the list
- Bulb in elevator was out – all replaced
- Fixed over 20 cupboard doors
- Ceiling in sanctuary choir room on the right – done, got a few more places to look at needing repaired.
- Got a bunch of bulbs donated from Brim's that they could not use
- Finance met and agreed that we should spend part of the money from the bequest on re-doing the lighting in the sanctuary.
- Having a hard time getting vendors to come in about upgrading AV stuff.
- Bus inspection – Russ got everything fixed - \$1,400. We changed the filters, oil, checked the tires. Started a maintenance log.
- Farm – Talked to Mark Watkins to let him know that Greg Martin is on the committee now.
- Pews are all back in – need to clean with lemon oil not liquid gold.

8) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin/ Mark Sherman

- Met Monday – Planned for the Service Day

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

- Palm Sunday Evening Service is cancelled
- Revive Ohio – Ministerium tabled the discussion, we do not need to make a decision now
- Ash Wednesday had a good response from the other churches. Reflection that we need to make sure to think about people that cannot make it up to the front of the church so many times.
- Thinking of having a prayer meeting/hymn sing over the summer instead of a Wednesday Bible Study.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Safety of Church Alice Program –Shawn is still working on this, and will bring it to council.
- Revive Ohio – discussed under Pastor's report.
- Survey – Russ put together a survey, will send it out to council for review.
- Randall's ordination anniversary – discussion tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Council dedication – March 22 both services
- Coronavirus safety precautions – wiping everything down
- Review of the committees – let Kathy know if anything has changed
- Review of membership guidelines – decided to put them in the monthly letter and the bulletin.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: April 16, 2020 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT – Motion and seconded to adjourn, Council Vote, motion carried.

LORD'S PRAYER

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The last month hasn't gone the way any of us would have expected. This is a change for everyone. These are times where we need our Faith the most.

We have been reaching out to the Youth through the internet and lessons have been posted for Wednesday nights at 8pm. This is a trying time to reach them but through prayer and consistency we will get through this.

Camp is right now at a standstill. There is going to be a head meeting later this month for the decision of Camp Cotubic. The Youth will also still have another camp this summer with Hardin County Collective. This will be another serve camp with some added adjustments from last year.

I have decided to put together some prayer cards for our Youth. If you would like to pray for one of our Youth kids please contact me so I can send you their information.

Easter Flowers as you all know wasn't ordered this year. Please contact myself if your return is needed asap. If not return will be made once we return back to the Church. I'm sorry for all the inconveniences. If you have any other questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out. We are ALL in this together.

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will hold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10





Hello St. John's! I hope you are all doing well. I miss you all. I am so sad that we had to cancel our 2020 Easter egg hunt. I will be boxing up all of the Easter egg hunt items so that we can use them next year. These items include kits for crafts, decorations, and gifts for gift bags. I had purchased some candy and there were also some items donated that were candy related. I donated this all to an individual from our church who put together some Easter baskets for some kids in the community. I just want to thank all of you who signed up to volunteer for the Easter egg hunt and who volunteered to donate food for the Easter egg hunt. I greatly appreciate it!

On April 22, 2020, we finished all lessons for the Wednesday night kids program. We had many great nights, learning about Jesus and making new friends and eating great meals. I want to thank all of my volunteers for the Wednesday night kids. Thank you to the kitchen staff for providing us wonderful meals all year long. Thank you to all of the volunteer teachers, table helpers, restroom monitors, class helpers, bus driver, bus riders, all year long! I appreciate you all! You all are the best! God Bless. Now, I would normally have had my end of the year kid's party for all of the kids that attended Wednesday nights and all of their families, but I had to cancel it this year due to the coronavirus. I did have a bounce house scheduled with face painting, corn hole, music, glow sticks, side walk chalk, bubbles etc. I was going to cook out hotdogs and have popcorn, chips, and dessert. This date was set for May 2, 2020. I'm going to say it's not cancelled but postponed. I hope that maybe we can have a party by the end of summer.

Michele and I do have a Volunteer appreciation dinner scheduled for May 23, 2020 at 6pm in the fellowship hall. This may also have to be postponed to a later date. Not sure right now as I am typing this what the future will bring.

Church, we always need volunteers for the Wednesday Night program. I need a couple of teachers. You would not have to teach every Wednesday. If you could just do one Wednesday a month or two, that would be great!! Please prayerfully consider being a part of this program. It's only an hour of your Wednesday night and if you come an extra half hour early, the kitchen staff will serve you an amazingly wonderful dinner. Kitchen staff is always welcoming volunteer help also. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School 2020 – We need lots of help for VBS this year. Please pick up a volunteer sheet in the back of the sanctuary and return to the church office M-F 9am to 1pm. Vacation Bible School this year runs from June 8-11 from 5:45pm to 8:00pm K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. You can also register as a participant or a volunteer at <https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=54591>

We are going to continue to prepare for Vacation Bible School but may have to move this also. If we do have to move it, I was thinking the end of August or September for a kick off to the Wednesday Night program. We will keep you all updated.

I just want to update everyone. I have a St. John's Children's Ministry Page on Facebook. You all are welcome. I have been doing online postings since I believe the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. I have been posting Jr. Church Videos for the kids and also have been posting videos for Wednesday kids K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Natasha Dyer has been posting videos for Sunday School grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Hope Cauley has been posting Sunday School videos for grades PK – 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Kristi Weaver has been posting videos for Wednesday Kids 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Alisha Kapanka has been posting some fun and exciting activities for the kids to do at home. Wednesday Kids would have normally stopped on April 22, 2020, however I will probably will be continuing some lessons throughout the month of May for these kids to view. I will keep you all updated on this kid's ministry page on the different things going on in the St. John's Kids Ministry Program.

April Showers brings May Flowers! Hope you are all enjoying the beautiful looking flowers outside. I know I am. I hope to see you all soon. I miss my St. John's family. Have a great month! God Bless! Love you all!

Trish Wilcox