

*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

August 2022

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
Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

Back to School Activities—August 14

Backpack Blessing: at the 10 am worship service. All are welcome to bring their backpacks to receive a blessing for the upcoming school year.

Hardin County Community Back to School Bash: 4-6 pm at Boy Scout Lake. Come out for school supplies, food, games and bounce houses. Sponsored by St. John's Church and other area churches.



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)

AUGUST 2022

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

“Come and see!”

What a wonderful phrase! Today, if I told you about something that seemed too good to be true, your first inclination may be to reach for your smartphone to re-search if such a thing exists. If I tell you about a great movie or work of art, you may seek for reviews online. If I tell you about something I saw in the woods or at the zoo, you may fact check my assertion.

However, there was once a time that to verify something, you had to come and see for yourself. Many years ago, that is how I found myself in a sideshow tent after a the performance of a low-budget circus to discover how a certain magic trick was accomplished.

Even though the times have changed, the best way to have people experience God is to invite them to come and see. No where on the Web—be it Wikipedia, YouTube, or the Insta—can you discover who Jesus is without experiencing Him in your life personally.

Many disciples either have nicknames or conjure up attributes based on what they did in their service to Christ. Not many think of one for Philip. Most people forget that Philip was even a disciple. He should be remembered. In fact, he could be remembered as Philip the Bringer. In



John 12:22, we see Philip bringing some Greeks closer to Jesus.

This behavior was not new for Philip. Shortly after meeting Jesus, Philip found Nathanael and invited him to come follow Jesus. Philip stated, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (**John 1:45**). Nathanael dismissed this idea as he thought nothing good could come out of Nazareth.

Philip’s response was quite simple. It is the theme of this writing: “Come and see” (**John 1:46**).

The day before this transpired, two of John the Baptist’s disciples listened to John’s teachings about Jesus and decided to follow Him. When they asked where He was staying, He responded by saying, “Come and see” (**John 1:39**). Jesus’ and Philip’s responses were very simple: “Come and see.” You can sit around and debate with people all day. It may never lead to any movement—

physical or spiritual. Until you move closer to Christ and experience Him for yourself, you will never find your soul transformed by His love and grace.

Our church is not unique. People have often said that they would like to see the church grow, to see more people gathered in weekly worship, and to see a greater impact by our church in

our community and in our world. For a few years now, I have shared about opportunities to grow our church. One way is to invite the ministry Revive Ohio into our church to teach us methods and utilize tools to evangelize our community and to disciple those who come.



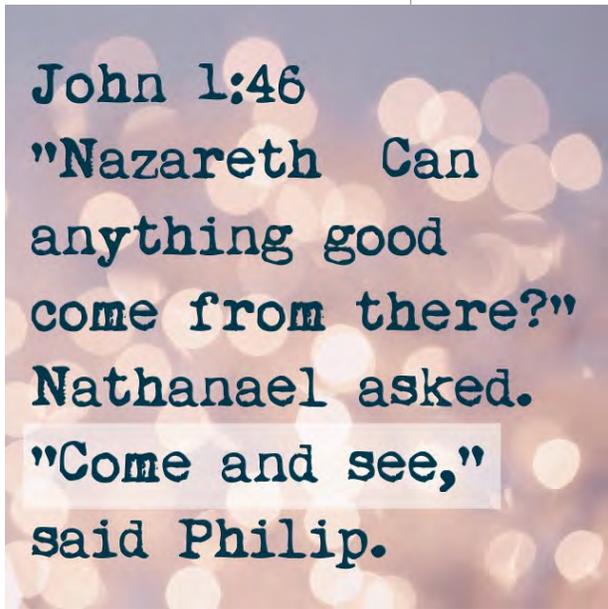
If you wonder if they are worth inviting, you can see what they are doing in Springfield. There, they are working with the community churches in an outreach week. This will be held from 5-12 August 2022. "Come and see" what they are doing for God through Christ as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

In worship, we began the year by talking about spiritual gifts. In a recent sermon, I addressed some people's concerns about their feelings of inadequacy about following through on using their gifts. The short answer is: "Come and see." Until you experience the power of the Holy Spirit as you exercise your spiritual gifts, you will never know what you can do in Christ and for the Lord.

Once you come and see, then you can go and do. And what do you do? You invite others to come and see what the Lord is doing. When Christ invited others to come and see, what did He have going for Himself and His ministry? The answer: nothing much, except here's the Word, and here's how My Father has instructed Me to fulfill it?

When Philip was inviting Nathanael, the same was true. The answer was come and see how you can get in on the ground floor. But the ground floor could have been a bunch of empty promises. The recent history around Jesus' life was filled with what we now call Messianic Pretenders—people who claimed to be the Messiah but never were. Nathanael thought this could all be a hoax. How would he ever find out? He had to come and see.

In **John 12**, the scripture is unclear if the Greeks ever had the opportunity to hear Jesus' teaching in verses 23-26. The presumption is, if nothing else, Philip went back to hear Jesus' words, which are a form of come and see. "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me, and where I am, there will My servant be also" (**John 12:26a**).



John 1:46
"Nazareth Can
anything good
come from there?"
Nathanael asked.
"Come and see,"
said Philip.

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

If you are reading this, then most likely, you have already come and seen something at St. John's Evangelical Church that compels you to come back. If what you have come and seen is Jesus, then you will go and invite others to come and see also.

If nothing else, what they will find is what you have found. What that will come to is what you have come to. What they will see is what you see. You have the opportunity to be their guide into something profound and meaningful. You have the opportunity to shine with the light of Christ (**Matthew 5:16**). You have the opportunity to show others what Christ has done for you and how He is living in you. Your changed life is a testimony to the saving and transforming work of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

This work isn't just about saving souls or growing the church. It's about being faithful to Jesus and sharing His love with a world that needs a true love filled with grace and mercy. Inviting others to come and see is to invite them to step out of the darkness and into the light, to move from death to life.

May come and see be the mantra on the lips of every member of St. John's Evangelical Church. May our tongue sing that sweet melody to invite others to come and see. For we know that when they come and see Christ, they will be compelled to stay and follow in His footsteps.

It all begins with that simple phrase filled with profound truth: "Come and see."

In Christian service,

Pastor Randall

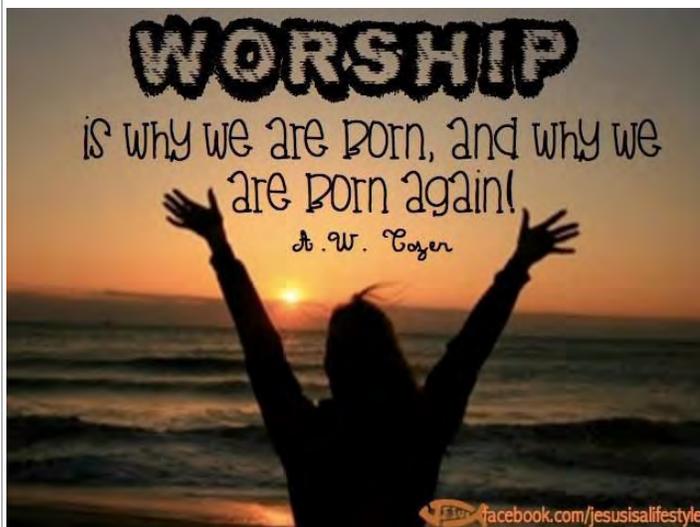
Preaching Series

Here at St. John's Evangelical Church, we have created a Church Health Team that is evaluating inspiring worship (as defined by Natural Church Development) and how to implement things into the life of worship here to make it more inspiring.

In some ways, our summer worship time has generally sought to do that during my tenure here. The ideas for August have been suggested in some shape or form by members of this congregation. Sometimes, it's a scripture. Other times, the suggestion comes in the form of a theme or a topic.

While the preaching calendar is full for 2022, you can still suggest hymns, songs, or other elements of worship that you would like to see included on Sunday mornings. You are a part of this church, and you can help make worship here inspiring by your suggestions, participation, and leadership.

Even though I am listing August's scripture and sermon titles here, I am including



the last week of July as I omitted it last month. If you look, you may be able to find more about that devotion online or by asking at the office. One way to be inspired in worship is to come having a familiarity with the scripture and topic and to pray for greater insight.

God bless you as you seek to encounter God through inspiring worship, which sometimes means times of joyous exultation, and other times it may mean times of quiet reverence. In all times, it is focused on the glory of the Father as revealed through the Son and led by the Holy Spirit.

31 July

Scripture **Colossians 2:1-5**
Luke 11:45-54

Sermon **Manage Your Emotions**
A Devotional from Joyce Meyer

07 August

Scripture **Acts 17:16-34**
John 4:16-26

Sermon **Cultural Identity Confusion**

14 August

Scripture **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**
John 15:12-17

Sermon **Good Christian Friends**

21 August

Pastor Study Leave
BJ Thompsen,
guest preacher

28 August

Scripture **Galatians 3:23-29**
Mark 1:1-13

Sermon **Baptism:**
The Weight of the Water

Upcoming EVENTS

Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)



Our nursing home ministry at Blanchard Place is August 2 at 1 pm. We plan to visit Blanchard Place the first Tuesday of the month to provide a time of song, scriptures, reflections, and prayers. If you would like to participate, please contact the office. You can lead parts of the worship service, visit the residents, or come to be supportive of this outreach.



ROCK THE LAKE 2022

Old Field Beach at Indian Lake State Park
GPS: 11300 OH 235, Lakeview, OH 43331
Link to Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/jyEBqedYVB32>

4:30 PM – TASHA LAYTON

5:45 PM – RED ROCKS WORSHIP

7:30 PM – SIDEWALK PROPHETS

9:00 PM – DANNY GOKEY

**All times are approximate and subject to change*

Mending for Missions

If you have something that needs to be mended, shortened, or taken in, Jane is sharing her gift. When the garment is finished, Jane will give you a "Mended for Missions" envelope to donate to the church. You can decide the amount you'd care to give. Jane Wyndham, 419-767-9160



Church Social Thank You

THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who stepped out of their comfort zone and volunteered or responded when asked to provide donations and help. The church social was a wonderful time of fellowship once again. Did you all notice? Laughter, teasing and communing together, and we raised \$2700.00 for Drug Court. God has blessed St. John's for all these years and thanks to everyone working to serve Him, He again blessed St. John's who now is able to bless Drug Court. On behalf of Women's Ministry I thank you all! Toni Pfister, President



New Member Class

The church is organizing a new member class. So far, a few people have expressed interest and confirmed their intent to be a part of this class. The class is scheduled for Sunday October 9th from 2-4 PM. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact the church at 419-673-7278 or stjohnskenton@gmail.com.

The Sunday after the class, October 16th, we will receive our new members into our fellowship during the worship service. After that service, we hope everyone plans to stay after a bit. The plan is to have some kind of reception for them.

For our current members: If you would like to exercise the spiritual gift of hospitality, here is your chance. If you would like to organize or be a part of this reception, please contact the church office or Pastor Randall. We are trying to build a culture of care and compassion and fellowship. People with the gift for hospitality are a cornerstone in accomplishing this goal.



Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign Up

St. John's would like to supply a meal for Celebrate Recovery twice a month. The meals will be the second and Fourth Tuesday of each month for approximately 10-15 people. If you are able to provide food, please sign-up in the back of the sanctuary. Please have the food at the church at 6 pm in the kitchenette across from the chapel. Any questions, please see Anna LaWarre or Jerry Pfister.

Nursery & Jr. Church News



The Nursery is now open during Sunday services for Children Infant – Kindergarten

Jr. Church will be the 2nd and Last Sunday of each month. Children that are K- grade 5 are eligible to go to Jr. Church following the children's sermon on those weeks.

Drivers needed for Sunday mornings

We would like to provide transportation for adults and kids to church on Sundays by either the church van or carpool. Please contact the church office if you are able to volunteer.

Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows and widowers who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. They meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join them if you are a widow or widower. 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, corner of Wayne St. and E. Carrol St. to carpool. They leave sharply at 10:45. Still eating at 11:30 am.

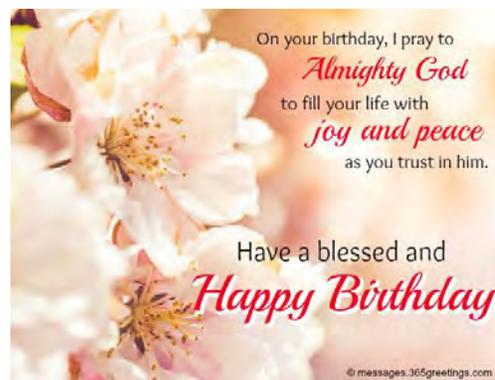
August 5—Saulisberry Park (Bring your own lunch)
August 19—Acheson's (Indian Lake)
September 2—DC Diner (Belle Center)
September 16—Tilton Hilton (Indian Lake)

Mission of the Month— Rise FM OH



Shine FM is now Rise FM.

The station is a community-supported station, which means they rely on the generous support of families, businesses, and churches. Their focus is to provide their listeners spiritual encouragement, build relationships in the community, and see lives transformed by the Gospel message. Rise FM has been blessed to serve our area with a message of hope, outstanding music, and terrific concerts. Rise FM can now be found in these locations: 88.5 Kenton, 88.9 Bellefontaine, 88.9 Tiffin, 90.7 Mansfield, 91.1 Ashland, and 102.7 Wooster. Their office is located in Bellefontaine.



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

August Birthdays on File:

August 8: Rita Baughman
7692 SR 53
Kenton, OH 43326

August 28: Robert Height
115 Harding Ave.
Kenton, OH 43326

website: stjohnskenton.org

Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio

Youtube: St. John's Evangelical Church





St. John's Family Ministry

Hey families! Happy August! Can you believe a new school year is already here? You're probably busy trying to enjoy the last few moments of summer, so we'll keep this brief so you can get back to the pool.

B2S Water Bash- Hardin County community back to school bash. Local area churches are coming together to help families with school supplies for the upcoming school year. This will take place on August 14, 4pm-6pm, Boy Scout Lake. There will be supplies being handed out, food, games and more. We will also be praying for the staff and kids, so if you can't make it out to the Lake, this is a way you too can be apart of this great get together.

Another way to help is to donate school supplies needed for this upcoming school year. A list has been provided in your Bulletins on Sundays or it can be found below. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Church office or myself. Donations can be placed on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

School Supply Donations Needed:

- 24 pack crayons (Crayola)
- Pack of large markers (Crayola 10 pack)
- Pair of scissors (Fiskars)
- Glue sticks (small)
- Pack of 12 wooden pencils (Ticonderoga)
- Low odor (broad tip) dry erase markers (black)
- Pair of headphones
- Large pencil erasers
- Package of pencil top erasers
- Wide ruled spiral notebook
- Highlighter
- Post it notes
- Folder with 3 hole punched
- Wide rules loose leaf paper
- Composition notebook

Urge Concert- Youth grades 6-12 will be attending this back-to-school event in Ada. This will take place August 28. This is a FREE event. If your Youth would like to attend, please contact myself for more details.

Tip of the Month

We believe that you are amazing and qualified to parent the teenagers/kids that you are raising. That being said, even the greatest superheroes accomplish more when they are working with a team. We too often associate asking for help with weakness, when in reality, asking for help makes you (and everyone around you) better!

Volunteers NEEDED

I know this keeps being a re-occurring thing in the newsletter. Take a look at James 1:17, tells us that every gift is from God. We all have different talents and God-given gifts, but they are all important and can be used for Gods Kingdom. We have to be willing to step out of our comfort zones sometimes to find these talents/gifts. This month I encourage you to find what those talents/gifts are, if you haven't already and to pray on this. God knows what were capable of.

- Nursery Attendees on Sunday Mornings (every other Sunday)
- Sunday School teacher's 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month. (After children's message)
- Kids Choir

Many Blessing to you and yours, Michele

Weekly Family Ministry Schedule

Community Men's Bible Study: Saturdays at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Community Women's Bible Study: Sundays at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7 pm

Intercessory Prayer: 2nd & 4th Friday at Noon in the sanctuary



Nothing ever happens in August except for the start of school. Christian History however has over seven pages of events that have shaped our faith. We were treated in July to a vocal of the Star-Spangled Banner so it is appropriate to begin the following sampler with a little known fact:

***“August 1, 1779:** Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and a devout Episcopalian who helped establish the American Sunday School Union, is born.*

***August 3, 1492:** Christopher Columbus sets sail from Spain for the "Indies." Though the explorer was in part driven by a quest for gold and glory, he also saw himself as a missionary. He thought, if there were a shortcut to the East by sea, missionaries could be sent there faster, thus enabling Christians to meet the provision for world evangelization before the Lord could return*

***August 6, 1801:** Revival hits a Presbyterian camp meeting in Cane Ridge, Kentucky. Within a week, 25,000 were attending the revival services. It was the largest and most famous camp meeting of the Second Great Awakening.*

***August 7, 1771:** Francis Asbury answers John Wesley's call for volunteers to go to America as missionaries; he would become the father of American Methodism.*

***August 11, 1519:** Johann Tetzel, the German Dominican priest whose peddling of indulgences inspired Martin Luther to write his 95 Theses, dies. Throughout Germany he infamously preached, "**As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.**" Even the papal envoy eventually criticized him. As for Luther, though he once called Tetzel "**the primary author of this tragedy,**" when he heard Tetzel lay dying, wrote the friar a letter of comfort: "**Don't take it too hard. You didn't start this racket**"*

***August 13, 1727:** Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, at age 27, organizes Bohemian Protestant refugees into the Moravian community of "Unitas Fratrum" (united brotherhood).*

***August 18, 1688:** John Bunyan, author of Pilgrim's Progress preaches his last sermon, in London.*

***August 19, 1886:** Richard G. Spurling, a Baptist minister, founds the Christian Union in Tennessee. In 1923 the organization took the name the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, a Pentecostal denomination that now has hundreds of thousands of members.*

***August 21, 1741:** George Frideric Handel shuts himself up in his home to begin writing "Messiah." He finished the composition 23 days later. "**Whether I was in the body or out of the body when I wrote it, I know not,**" he later said.*

***August 22, 565:** Celtic missionary and abbot Columba reportedly confronts the Loch Ness Monster and becomes the first recorded observer of the creature. "**At the voice of the saint, the monster was terrified,**" wrote his biographer, "**and fled more quickly than if it had been pulled back with ropes**"*

***August 23, 1948:** The "fellowship of churches which accept our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Savior" (a.k.a. the World Council of Churches) is formally constituted in Amsterdam.*

***August 27, 1910:** Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu is born to an Albanian couple in Yugoslavia. At age 18, Agnes entered an Irish convent. She later became known worldwide as Mother Teresa*

***August 28, 1828:** Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist and social reformer, is born. Though the Russian Orthodox Church excommunicated him in 1901, his later works emphasized Christian love and the teachings of Jesus.*

***August 28, 1840:** Ira D. Sankey, who for 25 years led the music when D.L. Moody preached, is born in Pennsylvania."*

Credit: Christian History

So, August should be more than the month school resumes. Just think of all that has happened in our Christian history. We at St. John's have a lot to live up to in August. It should be a month that revives our efforts to spread the Gospel.

Jerry Pfister, Historian

St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Minutes
Thursday, June 9, 2022
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Terry Hord, President

OPENING PRAYER

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall

OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - May 12, 2022 minutes

- Motion to accept minutes and seconded, council vote, motion carried.

REPORTS

1) Finance - Jerry Pfister—Our in-flow is about \$1400 behind outflow

2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman

3) Women's Ministry

- Proceeds from Social: Recovery Court

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver

- Communion Protocol
- Contemporary Worship

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser

6) Pastoral Relations - Anna LaWarre (chairperson)

- Next meeting: August 7

7) Trustees

- Lightning/surge damage on roof units
 1. Audio Visual—Jerry Pfister
 2. Van—Shane Harkenrider
 3. Farm—Greg Martin

8) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin, Anna LaWarre

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

Old Business

- NCD Committee Update
- Safety of Church/Alice Program - tabled
- Church inventory – Heather Erwin working on

New Business

- Bernice Wyndham transfer request—approved
- Hardin Hills—July 1—approved to borrow tables and chairs that are in the bus barn

Correspondence

- YMCA Summer Camp Fund request—6/16/22
- Love Inc. Golf Scramble sponsorship request—June 25, 2022
- Thank you—KHS Chorale Boosters

Next Meeting: July 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Church Staff:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester
Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman
Financial Secretary: Kay Rush
Church Secretary: Kathy Forester
Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley
Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler, Cinda Shea