

*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**

November 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](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)  
Email: [stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com)

### **Women's Celebration - November 29**

**Doors open at 5 pm**

**Meal served at 6:30 pm**



The Women's Celebration is Tuesday, November 29, with proceeds again benefitting Not by Choice. This year seating is very limited. Individual tickets of \$20 each will be available by calling Kathy at the church (419-673-7278) No Earlier than November 1 and No Later than November 15 by 10:30 am. You will be notified by November 17 and hopefully all who wish to attend can be seated.

Chairperson, Sharon Sturgeon

# 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)

NOVEMBER 2022

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

Well, here we are again, entering the season of Thanksgiving. I appreciate the month of November for a lot of reasons. For one, right in the middle of it, I, along with many others, have the privilege of celebrating the birth of my lovely wife. Additionally, I get to put October behind me, which too often puts me front and center as my birthday is in that month and my vocation (serving as a pastor) is celebrated throughout the month. November comes with the harvest. In a farming community, we have a front row seat to the bounty with which God blesses us year in and year out. November also contains our national holiday of Thanksgiving, which drives our thinking to pause and give thanks to God for all His blessings upon our nation.

I am grateful for so much. The church and the community have been generous to me. I am humbled by the pies, the cakes, the candies, coffee and other gifts given to me. The Women's Ministry still caught me off guard this year in presenting a gift to me. I truly appreciate all the cards and remembrances. I simply wish that it was a day or a single weekend and not a whole month. That's why I think of November as a month of Thanksgiving. God deserves a month of praise for all He does. Someone like me deserves a day, maybe, but so do many, many others who serve diligently in our church and other churches to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

I am humbled by the adulation and honors. Again, it is much appreciated, but there are times that I do not feel worthy. I feel called to pastor this church, and I find joy in service, but I thought we would have grown to more people in attendance at worship and engaged in more ministry by this time. I know COVID changed things, and there have been other circumstances and issues that have hindered our growth and renewal, but as a pastor, I feel personally responsible even when I feel God is working through His Word, His Spirit, and His Presence here.

Similarly, there are times when I do not feel very thankful when the calendar flows into the month of November. Once again, circumstances will prevent my family from visiting our extended family out of state. The election cycle brings more rancor and cynicism. An economic downturn and inflation means this may be a lean winter for us and many of our neighbors. There are days when I think, "What do I have to be thankful for?"

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless His holy name!  
<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all His benefits,  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

I know—I know—there is much for which to be thankful. God is still in His Holy Temple, and I am blessed beyond all measure. We as a community and a nation have received bountifully from the Lord's storehouse and the depths of His goodness.

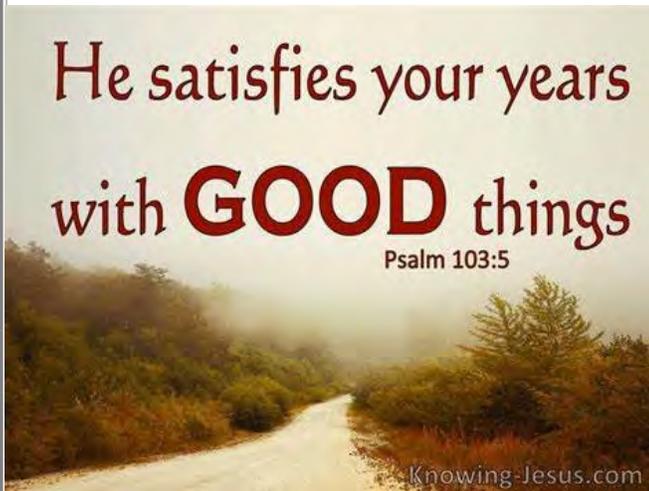
Still...I have my dark moments. In those times, I like to turn to the **Book of Psalms**—God's hymnbook in the middle of His Holy Word. The **103rd Psalm** begins, "Bless the Lord, O my soul." (Some translations begin, "Praise the Lord...") What follows is nothing close to "Praise the Lord when you feel like it, or you can see the Lord's blessings plainly." It starts, "Bless the Lord, O my soul," and it follows with all the things that God has done for us to save us and to renew. The Psalm's writings are not a suggestion. It is not reserved for a season when one feels up to giving God praise. No, the Psalm gives commands, and that is powerful.

This is not popular psychology's "fake it to you make it." It is a command to praise the Lord and to remember His past work in our lives and His ongoing work as well.

When we bless the Lord and lift praise to His name, thanksgiving follows in our lives. Thanksgiving doesn't just change our attitude, it shapes our heart and mind as negativity is pushed out and God's goodness fills those spaces. When we fix the gaze of our mind's eye firmly on God and His goodness, it leads to changed actions in our lives.



When God's people have true thanksgiving in their hearts, negativity flees and there is renewed energy to pursue God's heart and to love what (and who) He loves. When people genuinely love the Lord and are filled with His love, they will genuinely love where they are planted by Him. Then, they will genuinely love those around them and seek to draw them closer to God. Around such renewed Christians, believers will be drawn deeper into their relationship with Him while



unbelievers will be introduced to Him and drawn into a genuine relationship with Him.

You cannot fake this. Just like you cannot manufacture gratitude just because the calendar turns to November. You simply need to focus on God, His promises, and His actions. All of that may be discovered in God's Word. The Bible constantly points us to God's goodness and mercy while reminding us of His ongoing compassion that He pours upon us. Ultimately, it points us to the Truth of who God is. The more we discover about His nature and His plan for believers and the world, the more secure we are in the palm of His hand.

It is hard to be discouraged or ungrateful when you pour God's good Word into your heart and mind day after day, hour after hour, and minute after minute. This brings to mind **Philippians 4:4**: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." Again, this is not about simulating praise and thanksgiving, but drawing yourself to see what is worthy of praise and thanksgiving in God (**Philippians 4:8**) and why such a disposition makes sense on a daily basis.

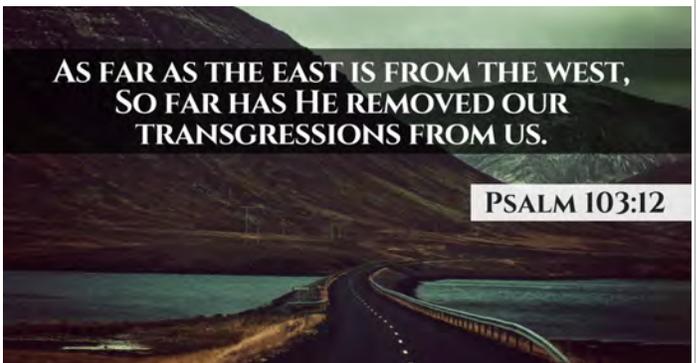
One of the things I love about Thanksgiving is that it is hard to exploit and commercialize. It drives us to visit

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

family and to be generous to the poor and needy. So much of the holiday—even in its secular manifestations—parallels much of what the Bible and the Gospel proclaim.

When we praise God and our hearts are filled with thanksgiving, it doesn't just make us more bearable to be around; it changes our disposition and causes us to overflow with praise and thanksgiving, so that it pours into the lives of others. When that occurs, their hearts and souls are awakened to God's goodness and opens them to giving God praise and thanksgiving.

While you may not appreciate the metaphor as the seasons are changing, this has a snowball effect, and it builds momentum. Thanksgiving uplifts our souls. We don't



say, "Here we are again because it is November" with some fatalistic tone. Rather, we say with joy and praise and an internal beaming that screams and shines, "The season of Thanksgiving is here, let us praise the Lord." If you are not quite there, keep reading the **103rd Psalm** and remind your soul and all that is within you to give God praise. If you are convicted by all the truth-filled and praise filled statements that follow, you cannot help to be filled with thanksgiving and cause those around you to do the same.

In Christian service,

*Pastor Randall*

## Preaching Series

There are many great things about serving in ministry at St. John's. One of them is that worship planning in November is essentially set. We concluded October by celebrating the saints who have gone home to be with the Lord, which reminds us of the promise of resurrection and eternal life that is ours in Christ. The first Sunday of the month brings us our stewardship Sunday when we remind ourselves of responding to God for His goodness by giving back into His storehouse and service. On the 13th, we will commemorate Christ the King Sunday and fix our eyes on our glorious Savior who reigns at the right hand of the Father. The liturgical year comes to a close as we give thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for all the blessings we have received.

The start of our new year worship begins with Advent, which will be led by our guest preacher, Pastor Eric Lee Risner of Abundant Life Church.

As we move from one worship year to another, please keep our Church Health Team in prayer as they focus on worship at St. John's Evangelical Church: what it means for us as a congregation, ways to express it that represents all of our membership, and ways to include people who are not currently part of our congregation. The team will present its plans and ways to implement them early in the new year, which is just around the corner.

This month causes us to look backward while looking forward. We have much for which to thank the Lord for what He has done in the past, what He continues to do, and what He will as all His promises and prophecies come to fruition when Christ comes again.



06 November	Stewardship Sunday
Scripture	<b>Deuteronomy 8:18-20</b> <b>Luke 16:1-13</b>
Sermon	<b>Trusted with True Wealth</b>
13 November	Christ the King Sunday
Scripture	<b>Jeremiah 23:1-6</b> <b>Colossians 1:9-20</b>
Sermon	<b>The Preeminent Christ</b>
20 November	Thanksgiving Sunday
Scripture	<b>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</b> <b>Philippians 4:4-9</b>
Sermon	<b>Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice</b>
27 November	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Pastor Vacation
Scripture	<b>Isaiah 2:1-5</b> <b>Matthew 24:36-44</b>
Sermon	<b>TBA</b>
Guest Preacher:	Pastor Eric Lee Risner Abundant Life Church

# Upcoming Events

**Daylight Savings Time Ends—  
November 6**



## **Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)**

Our nursing home ministry at Blanchard Place is November 1 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.

## **Chancel Choir**

Choir will begin practicing the Wednesday prior to the first Sunday of the month. This month practice is November 9 at 7 pm for Sunday, November 13. They will also practice November 30 for Sunday, December 4. All are welcome!

## **Poinsettias**

Poinsettias are currently being sold for Christmas from New Leaf. Please complete a form along with your money by November 13. A variety of sizes, colors, and prices are available. Proceeds benefit youth ministry.



## **Decorating the Church**

We will be decorating the church on November 20 following the morning service. Plan to stay and adorn the church in preparation for the birth of Christ. Luncheon to follow. Come out for a great time of fellowship and fun.



## **Missions—Evangelism News**

Missions and Evangelism will have a lot of ways to help our less fortunate members of our own community.

This will include:

- Sponsoring children of incarcerated parents through Angel Tree
- Sponsoring families through Helping Hands
- Collecting non perishable food products for Angels for the Elderly

Watch the back of the sanctuary for more details around the middle of the month. See Heather Erwin with questions.

## **Fairhaven Community (Upper Sandusky) Fall Online Auction**

Fairhaven is having an online auction to raise money for the Fairhaven Community from November 7-20. You bid online at Castle Auctions [www.castleauctionappraisal.com](http://www.castleauctionappraisal.com). **St. John's Women's Ministry will pick up any baskets with winning bids and bring them to Kenton**, If you have any questions, please see Toni Pfister.

## **Upcoming Dates—Mark your Calendar**

Christmas Parade: Nov. 22 at 6:30 pm  
Women's Celebration: Nov. 29 at 6:30 pm  
Ag Hall of Fame Banquet: Dec. 6 at 6:30 pm  
HCC Youth: Dec. 11 from 4-6 pm  
Family Gingerbread House Making: Dec. 18 at 5 pm  
Christmas Eve Service: Dec. 24 at 8 pm  
Undecorate the church: Jan. 8 following worship  
HCC Youth Lock-in: Jan. 15-16, 12:30 pm –12:30 pm

## **Church Office Hours**

The new office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 10:30 AM & 12:30-2:30 PM. If Simon Kenton has a fog/weather delay those will change as I need to report at 8:30 am. If you are not sure, please call first. Thank you for your understanding.

## 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 open during Sunday services for Children Infant – Kindergarten

Jr. Church will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Last Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted. 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.

November 4—Beer Barrel Pizza (East Lima)

November 18—Our Place (Kenton)

December 2—Skinny's (Kenton)

December 16—Moose (Kenton)

## Mission of the Month—

### Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

Child Evangelism Fellowship is a Bible-centered organization composed of born-again believers whose purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.

**CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP  
HARDIN COUNTY  
LUNCHEON & SILENT AUCTION**

Come Join the FUN with the  
**Good News Club**  
FUNdraiser... Non Stop FUN!!

**November 05, 2022**

St John's Evangelical Church  
211 E Carrol St, Kenton

Doors Open at 10:30  
Event 11:00am to 2:00pm

Silent Auction Participation FREE

Prepaid Spaghetti Lunch – \$10  
donation per person for tickets  
call Cheryl 740-262-0939



PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
GOOD NEWS CLUB OF WEST CENTRAL OHIO  
westcentralcef2022@outlook.com  
419.957.0403



## Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

November Birthdays on File:

We like to recognize members who are 80 years or older. Please contact the church office to add a name to our birthday list. Thank you so much!

\* No November Birthdays on File

**website: [stjohnskenton.org](http://stjohnskenton.org)**  
**Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio**  
**Youtube: St. John's Evangelical Church**





We know the holidays are a busy time for you and your family, so let us get straight to the point. Here is everything you need to know about our ministry this month!

**Here are a few things coming up in our ministry...**

**Wednesday Night-** Last month we learned about Daniel and all the scary and amazing stories that he went through. This month we will be looking at Esther. The most important part of any play is what happens “behind the scenes.” There’s lighting, wardrobe, casting, playwriting — so much must happen perfectly to bring the production together! In the story of Esther, there is a whole lot going on behind the scenes, too. In this four-week series, kids will discover the most important character in Esther’s story is not always center-stage, but can often be found behind the scenes **working, helping, giving support, and giving peace.** (Spoiler alert: It is God!)

**Hardin County Collective-** This month’s meeting will be November 13<sup>th</sup> at Walnut Grove Church. We will be playing our yearly game of Commando Church. Remember to wear dark colors! Wondering what Commando Church is? Youth will be dressed in dark colors. They will begin in the back of the Church where they will receive a Bible verse. They must memorize the verse and try to sneak to the front on the sanctuary before getting caught by the spotlight. If they get caught, they must begin in the back again and get a new verse to memorize.

**Sunday School-** For the month of November, class will be November 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. If these dates change, it will be sent out on the Parent Remind App.

**Volunteers NEEDED**

**Wednesdays-** We have separated into 2 classrooms!! YAY!! We have a class for kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade and then we have 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> next door. We would love to separate into 3 classes. We have the teachers, but we need more volunteers to be present in the classroom to follow safe sanctuary procedure. Please consider coming to just share the love of Jesus with these kiddos! 😊

***“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10***

---

**Thank you!**

**Wednesday Kids/  
Youth Volunteers**

If you are able to help on Wednesday Nights (even if you cannot be here every week or want to be a sub), please see Michele Sherman. Please prayerfully consider coming and sharing God's love with these Kids or Youth. Areas you can help: van driver/riders, teachers/helpers.



As I said in my monthly, I am grateful for all the cards, well wishes and gifts—I received many sweets, coffee-related gifts, and gift cards (which have already blessed my entire family). I want to especially thank the Women’s Ministry who go the extra mile. Toni Pfister surprised me. When she asked to share in the morning announcements, I thought there was going to be something added about Operation Christmas Child. It’s nice to know that I can still be surprised and that I am honored by so many dear Christian sisters and brothers. I am blessed, and I am thankful for your prayers and support. I pray that God blesses you—each and every one.

Pastor Randall



Well, another November has rolled around. It is a month so full of Thanksgiving. We give thanks for so many blessings we enjoy in this country. One of the most important is our freedom and we are eternally grateful for those who serve their country in the military. Veterans Day is celebrated every year on the 11<sup>th</sup> and this year we honor another of our own.



Dan Erwin's military career spanned 21 years, beginning with a 4-year hitch in the U.S. Air Force in 1959. He reenlisted in the U.S. Army in 1964 and he was in the Regular (aka the Real) Army until retirement in 1980 as a Staff Sergeant. As you can imagine military service, from basic Training at Fort Knox, he did a tour in Italy until returning to Fort Monmouth, N.J. for Signal training in 1969. Then he was sent to Vietnam, and then to Korea before returning to Fort Bragg, N.C. From there the travels continued with a tour in Germany before returning to Fort Campbell, KY in 1977. He retired from the service in 1980 and returned home to Hardin County.



Dan & Jo Ann, during his service, managed to have three children- Paul, Eric and Heather. St. John's was blessed by their membership and service over the years.

Jerry Pfister, Historian

St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Minutes  
Thursday, September 15, 2022  
6:00 PM

Call to Order - Anna LaWarre, Vice President  
Opening Prayer  
Leadership Development - Pastor Randall  
Officer Reports

Secretary's Report - August 11, 2022 minutes

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

#### REPORTS

1) Finance - Jerry Pfister

- Motion made and seconded to add \$800 to the custodial supplies from Misc. Building and Grounds. Motioned Passed.
- Motion made and seconded to move the money for the major project, H-Vac, in October from the Farm account and the other small account of \$150,000. Motioned carried.
- Motion made and seconded to do the final large room, the East Carrol Street entrance lightning of \$2600 out of maintenance. Motioned carried

2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman

3) Women's Ministry

- Women's Celebration will be November 29, 2022
- Operation Christmas Child

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser

6) Pastoral Relations - Anna LaWarre (chairperson)

- Next meeting: November 13 at 9 am

7) Trustees

1. Audio Visual—Jerry Pfister

2. Van—Shane Harkenrider—Shane will vacuum and wash the van

3. Farm—Greg Martin

8) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin

- Trunk or Treat—October 29 from 3-5 pm
- Toiletries bags

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

- Confirmation: Sacred Pathways: Nine Ways to Connect with God by Gary Thomas  
The Heidelberg Catechism

#### Old Business

- NCD Church Health Team Update

Jennifer September 18, 2022 @11

Jane's September 29, 2022 @5:30

Any questions check the Newsletter

- Safety of Church/Alice Program – has been address and can be removed from agenda

#### New Business

- Sign for church property Kathy will be checking into the insurance of what we are liable about signs.
- Jerry will be checking all outdoor electrical outlets
- NA Meetings (Fridays 7-8:30) Marvin Brown & Travis Bolen tabled for more information

Next Meeting: October 13, 2022 6:00 PM

Adjournment – Motion and seconded to adjourn, Council Vote, motion carried. Lord's Prayer