

*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**

October 2022

211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326  
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### **Trunk or Treat Maze—October 29**

**Trunk  
or Treat Maze**

**at St. John's Church!**



We are having a Trunk or Treat Maze on Saturday, October 29 from 3-5 pm in the bus barn in the south parking lot beside Kenton Times following the Halloween Parade. The maze will be set up in the bus barn with vehicles parked outside handing out treats. If you would like to help set up the maze, please contact Michele or Mark Sherman, or Heather Erwin. If you would like to participate in the Trunk or Treat, please have your vehicle parked in the south lot by 2:30 pm. We are also accepting candy donations. Thank you so much!

# 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)

OCTOBER 2022

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

As the calendar turns to October, I cannot help but think of the end of the month. For several years, we have hosted Trunk or Treat, and this year will be no different. It is a time when many people will pass by our church. It is an opportunity for us to greet our neighbors and to be kind to children. It is a time when we can demonstrate godly attributes like love and generosity. Our Trunk or Treat events have been a time of creating a good rapport with the community and to share our faith.

That's the good side of the end of the month of October. The other side is that the end of the month is All Hallows' Eve popularly known as Halloween. It has its origins in Samhain, a pagan Celtic celebration of the coming of winter and the mortality of humanity. The Christian Church has long had a tumultuous relationship with this holiday. The Church has been combative with it—trying to exterminate its celebration or anything akin to celebrating it. At other times, the Church has embraced it by trying to Christianize it by making the remembrance of mortality as the lead-in to a celebration of our immortality in Christ. On the Church calendar, All Hallows' Eve on October 31st gives way to All Saints' Day on November 1st.

For myself, I have, through my years, experienced all the mixed emotions of the Church. As a child, Halloween was for children—visiting family members and neighbors in a cute costume for a nice sweet treat (or a toothbrush or apple from that one neighbor!) As I grew older, I watched the times change. Halloween became an 'adult' holiday where people wore enticing costumes or used the occasion to party to excess.

Also, through the years, I have witnessed Halloween returning to its roots. Some

people have exploited its ties to paganism by playing up the Wiccan and Celtic aspects of this season. Horror movies have proliferated, and are often promoted in this season as more and more people celebrate the macabre facets of Halloween.

In the pagan thinking, the veil between life and death, the living and dead, was thinnest in this season. This was a time to seek comfort by communicating with dead relatives. It also was considered a time when demons and

other powers of darkness could be released. As I said before, people sought to exploit these beliefs, often for profit or personal gain.

These aspects go against the teaching of the Bible. In **Leviticus 19:31**, the people of God are prohibited from mediums (those who speak to those on 'the other side' of the veil of life and death) and necromancers (those who speak to the dead). As believers, we are prohibited from seeking to control any force of nature for our personal advancement. We are only to seek to do the Lord's will.

Still, there is an allure to spooky stories and the tales of the Dark. As Paul reminds us in **Ephesians 6:11-12**: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." In our souls, we know that there is more to this world than what we can see.

Even as Christians, when we think of death or the spiritual forces, we can choose to suppress such thoughts, deny their existence, or fear what they can do to us. Going the opposite extreme, we can overhype these powers, look for them around every corner, or claim spiritual victory over earthly things. Instead, we are called to be a people of the



Word and a people of faith in Christ (and in Him alone). That is why we are told to put on the armor of God. It is He who protects and helps us overcome. It is also He who puts us into the fray and calls us to fight the good fight.

How then do we fight these forces? We do so in a biblically sound way—not confident in our spiritual ability to manipulate reality nor in fear of what cosmic powers can do to us. We simply need Jesus. In **Acts 16:18**, we see Paul deliver a girl from possession because he "...said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour." We do not have to fear the spirit realm, but we have to be clad in the armor of God to utilize it when necessary.

In that description of the armor in **Ephesians 6:10-20**, the only offensive component is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (v 17) and then in verse eighteen it says that we should pray always in the Spirit to keep alert. How many times in the Gospel do we see Jesus praying? He showed us an example of praying in the Spirit. When Satan tempted Him in the wilderness, how did He rebuff him? He utilized scripture (see **Luke 4:1-13**).

We need to follow Christ's example. We need to take seriously a spiritual realm. We need to be prepared to combat it. The more we grow in the light of God's love and the gift of His salvation, the more the spiritual realm and its prince push back against us. No matter what may befall us or what attack the Devil may scheme, we are made to be more than conquerors (see **Romans 8:31-39**, with the previous line appearing in verse 37).

Personally, I have been hexed by a witch, cursed by pagans, and attacked by spiritual forces. However, the more I pray in the Spirit, the more I know I am covered. At any moment, I know my victory is assured when I wield the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. At the mere vocalization of the name of Jesus, the Devil trembles and demons flee.



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

I have experienced this, and I share this not out of pride or some cocksure nature. I share this first and foremost because it is the Truth of God. I share this because it is the power of God evidenced in my life, and it can be the same for you. I share this because I am God's humble servant, and He laid it on my hear to impart this message to you.

Whatever your thoughts about the Halloween season, I pray that you will avoid fear of it and the pagan and dark spiritual powers that surround it. I equally pray that you will not simply embrace it as a cultural relic or harmless expressions. While you refrain from such things, I pray that you put on the whole armor of God and face it as you should—bathed in prayer and prepared to combat what truly needs to be fought.

At this time, our community is open to discussing spiritual matters in a way they wouldn't at most other times of the year. There are kids that are seeking candy, and families that enjoy a Fall day out. There are some in our community who fully embrace the pagan side of Halloween and have an interest in the cosmic powers. They all need to know of the love of God found in Christ Jesus, and how will they know of that love if we refuse to speak of it.

Whatever your feelings concerning this season, express them with truth in love, but also do not let those feelings constrain you from doing what is right and good in the eyes of the Lord. Use this time—as we should every time—to express God's love for this fallen world—even (if not especially) for those blinded by the darkness.

This season as much as every other needs the grace of God to redeem it. May we proclaim that message to our community and to our neighbors.

In Christian service,

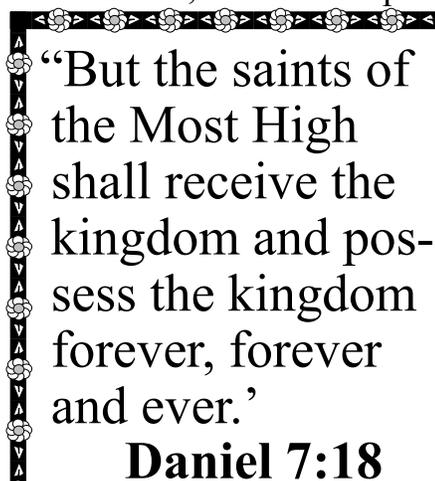
*Pastor Randall*

## Preaching Series

In October, I will be preaching through some topics that are near and dear to my. I will be preaching on what I have come to refer to as the back page of my monthly report to Council. In every church that I have served, God has laid specific topics on my heart that are to bless that congregation.

For St. John's Evangelical Church, God has given me three marks of the church that the congregation needs to pursue to grow into the church that God has called us to be. I believe these are areas that will strengthen the church and address some pressing needs that we have. I have shared these with Council for years, and now I will share them with the congregation.

The three areas are: recruitment, connection, and marketing (or to be less worldly promotion). As a church, we need help recruiting and retaining volunteers and leaders—matching spiritual gifts with ministry needs. Also, we need a deeper sense of connection to the church and to one another. To that end, we have had fellowship dinners this year, and I hope we find other



“But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.”  
**Daniel 7:18**

ways to grow our familial bonds here. Lastly, we need to market or promote the church in a way that is NOT self-seeking but allows the community to learn about who we are, what we do, and how they can be a part of what God is doing here.

After hearing about God's calling on our local church in October, it is only fitting that we end the month with a remembrance of the saints who have returned Home in the previous year and renew our faith that we will be reunited with them someday.

02 October

Scripture

**Galatians 6:1-10**  
**Mark 3:31-35**

Sermon

**Being the Family of God**

09 October

Scripture

**Acts 10:34-43**  
**John 1:35-51**

Sermon

**Recruitment:**  
**Seeking the Searching**

16 October

Scripture

**II Peter 3:14-18**  
**John 17:20-26**

Sermon

**Connection:**  
**Growing Closer Together**

23 October

Scripture

**Acts 16:6-15**  
**Matthew 5:13-20**

Sermon

**Marketing:**  
**Sharing Family Photos**

30 October

Scripture

Celebrating the Saints  
**Ephesians 1:11-23**  
**Luke 6:20-31**

Sermon

**Our Blessed Inheritance**

## Book Recommendation

Very rarely do I give a book recommendation. Rarer still is my recommending anything from Oprah Winfrey or Harvard University (my “school up north”), and yet here I am doing all of that.

On one of my gatherings with national pastors, we were discussing working with “difficult” people. Someone recommended the book: **What Happened to You?** as a way to bring deep thoughts to a popular audience. It may help us as a church to understand behavior of some of the kids and youth and people in recovery to whom we minister. It may also provide insight into how some of our own members are still dealing with past trauma. A little understanding can go a long way to making us more sympathetic.

Feel free to pick up a copy. If you want, we can read it together or discuss what you glean. If you are dealing with these issues, please come see me. Most of all, try to apply these lessons to being more loving, kind, and gracious to those around you.

This brief review is from the Harvard Bookstore:

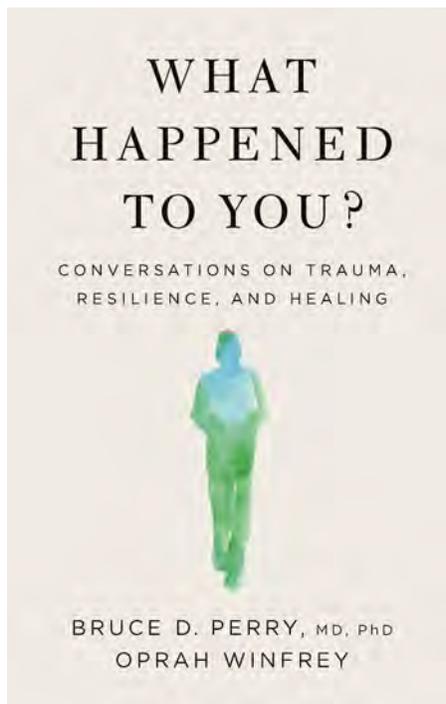
**Oprah Winfrey and renowned brain development and trauma expert, Dr. Bruce Perry, discuss the impact of trauma and adversity and how healing must begin with a shift to asking, “what happened to you?” rather than “what’s wrong with you?”**

Through deeply personal conversation, Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Perry explore how what happens to us in early childhood influences the people we become. They challenge us to shift from focusing on, “What’s wrong with you?” or “Why are you behaving that way?,” to asking, “What happened to you?”

Many of us experience adversity that has lasting impact on our physical and emotional health. ‘What happened to us’ in childhood is a powerful predictor of our risk for health problems

down the road, and offers scientific insights in to the patterns of behaviors so many struggle to understand.

Here, Winfrey shares stories from her own past, understanding through experience the vulnerability that comes from facing trauma at a young age. Joining forces with Dr. Perry, one of the world’s leading experts on childhood trauma, Winfrey and Dr. Perry marry the power of storytelling with science and clinical experience to better understand and overcome the effects of trauma.



In conversation throughout the book, the two focus on understanding people, behavior, and ourselves. It’s a subtle but profound shift in our approach to trauma, and it’s one that allows us to understand our pasts in order to clear a path to our future - opening the door to resilience and healing in a proven, powerful way.

Over the course of her esteemed career, **Oprah Winfrey** has created an unparalleled connection with people around the world. As host and supervising producer of the top-rated, award-winning *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, she entertained, enlightened, and uplifted millions of viewers for twenty-five years. Her continued accomplishments as a global media leader and philanthropist have established her as one of the most influential and admired public figures in the world today.

**Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D.**, a child psychiatrist and neuroscientist, is the principal of the Neurosequential Network, senior fellow of the ChildTrauma Academy and an adjunct professor of psychiatry at the Northwestern University School of Medicine in Chicago. He is the author, with Maia Szalavitz, of *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*, a bestselling book based on his work with maltreated children, and *Born for Love*, about the essential nature of empathy.

# Upcoming Events



The Women's Ministry Committee would like to announce that October is **Pastor Appreciation Month**. Thank you Pastor Randall for your continued service at St. John's Church!

## Chancel Choir

Choir will begin practicing the Wednesday prior to the first Sunday of the month starting September 28 at 7 pm for Sunday, October 2. All are welcome!



## Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

Our nursing home ministry at Blanchard Place is October 4 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.

## New Member Class

The church is organizing a new member 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](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com).



## New Member Reception & Luncheon

We will receive new members on Sunday, October 16 during the worship service with a provided meal for ALL members afterwards in the fellowship hall.

## 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 Gods love with these Kids or Youth. Areas you can help: van driver/riders, teachers/ helpers.



## 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

## Upcoming Dates—Mark your Calendar

Trunk or Treat Maze: October 29 from 3-5 pm  
Christmas Parade: November 22 at 6:30 pm  
Women's Celebration: November 29 at 6:30 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.

## Operation Christmas Child Thank You

Thank you everyone who has taken a shoebox and was eager to share in this ministry. Deadline to return shoeboxes is Sunday October 30th . Bring your boxes to church anytime and I will secure them for you. Any questions please call me 567-674-5059. Anyone wanting to help out this cause with a cash donation would be greatly appreciated. The children Operation Christmas Child helps were born into poverty through no fault of their own. A poverty worse than anything we have seen in America. Thank you for opening your hearts and billfolds to help innocent children. May God Bless you all!

Toni Pfister

# Trunk or Treat Maze

at St. John's Church!



**October 29, 2022**

**3:00—5:00 PM**

**St. John's Bus Barn**

**South Parking Lot—By the Kenton Times**

**Come out for a great time!**



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**St. John's Evangelical Church**

**211 East Carrol Street**

**Kenton, OH 43326**

**419-673-7278**

**[www.stjohnskenton.org](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)**

St. John's will be participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project this year. Shoeboxes, labels, and instructions will be available in the back of the church. You can use any cardboard shoebox you may have or you can also purchase a plastic one. Examples of completed shoeboxes will be on display. Please follow the instruction provided. A list of suggested gift items is also listed below. You may wrap your shoebox but do not seal it shut as Samaritans Purse adds material inside each box. Women's Ministry & Missions will cover the cost of shipping the box. We will be collecting the completed shoeboxes through Sunday, October 30. If you have any question, please contact Toni Pfister or the church office. More information can be found at [samaritanspurse.org/OCC](http://samaritanspurse.org/OCC).



## How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, **and don't forget to make it FUN!**

- 

**1 SHOEBOX**  
Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.  
**You can also use plastic shoeboxes.**
- 

**4 PRAY**  
Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child. **(optional)**
- 

**2 "WOW" ITEM**  
Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.
- 

**5 Women's Ministry & Missions will pay the \$10 shipping fee.**  
If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!
- 

**3 OTHER GIFTS**  
Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.  
**A suggestion list is provided for your convenience.**
- 

**6 DROP OFF**  
**Return your shoebox to St. John's church by Sunday, October 30.**

[SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC](http://SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC)

### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

PENS  
PENCILS & SHARPENER  
ERASERS  
CRAYONS OR MARKERS  
STAMPS AND INK PAD SETS  
WRITING PADS OR PAPER  
SOLAR CALCULATORS  
SCISSORS  
COLORING AND PICTURE BOOKS



### ACCESSORIES

T-SHIRTS  
SOCKS  
BALL CAPS  
SUNGLASSES  
HAIR ITEMS  
TOY JEWELRY  
WATCHES  
FLASHLIGHTS (WITH EXTRA BATTERIES)

### TOYS

SMALL CARS  
BALLS  
DEFLATED SOCCER BALL WITH PUMP  
PUZZLES  
DOLLS  
STUFFED ANIMALS  
KAZOOS  
HARMONICAS  
YO-YOS  
JUMP ROPES  
SMALL ETCH-A-SKETCH  
TOYS THAT LIGHT UP OR MAKE NOISE (WITH EXTRA BATTERIES)  
SLINKY

### YOUNGER CHILDREN

BLANKETS  
STICKER AND PICTURE BOOKS  
BLOCKS  
FINGER PUPPETS  
PAGES OF COLORFUL STICKERS

### OLDER CHILDREN

SMALL TOOLS  
TAPE MEASURES  
SEWING KITS  
FABRIC SQUARES OR YARDAGE  
DEFLATED BALLS WITH PUMPS AND NEEDLES  
SOLAR CALCULATORS  
RULERS  
SCISSORS  
JEWELRY  
DEODORANT

### NON-LIQUID HYGIENE ITEMS

TOOTHBRUSH  
MILD BAR SOAP (IN A PLASTIC BAG)  
COMB OR BRUSH  
WASHCLOTH  
DEODORANT FOR OLDER CHILDREN





# THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF A SIMPLE SHOEBOX GIFT BEGINS WITH YOU



## PACKING, COLLECTING & SHIPPING

People pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Churches and groups collect these boxes the third week of November. Then, thousands of volunteers inspect and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping.



## WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the Gospel and bless children.



## OUTREACH EVENTS

Churches around the world hand out shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is clearly presented. Christians also take gifts to orphanages, hospitals, and at-risk places to share the hope of Christ. Along with the gifts, we offer Gospel booklets called *The Greatest Gift* to help shoebox recipients learn about God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.



## DISCIPLESHIP & MULTIPLICATION

After receiving a shoebox gift, children have the opportunity to enroll in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, *The Greatest Journey*. As a result of what they learn, boys and girls grow in Christ and share Him with others. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed.



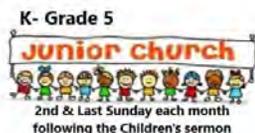
## Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign Up

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.

## Mission of the Month— SOUP (Some of Us People)

The "us" that is our fellow Hardin County citizens who have fallen on hard times and need meals to get them by. People will be served up a wonderful meal, overseen and prepared by a great team of volunteers. Please support S.O.U.P. as our special monthly mission for the month of October and help warm the hearts and tummies of the truly needy in the county.

## Nursery & Jr. Church News



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

Jr. Church will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

October 7—Homecoming Rest. (Bellefontaine)

October 21—Eagles (Kenton)

November 4—Beer Barrel Pizza (East Lima)

November 18—Our Place (Kenton)

December 2—Skinny's (Kenton)

December 16—Moose (Kenton)

## 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). The person with the winning bids may pick up their items at St. John's UCC in Bucyrus from Nov. 21-22. Call 419-562-8271 to set up a time.



## Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

### October Birthdays on File:

- October 6: Barb McQuown  
18677 SR 309 E  
Kenton, OH 43326
- October 7: Doris Heilman  
601 Madison Ave.  
Kenton, OH 43326
- October 27: Julie Pfeiffer  
10152 TR 215  
Kenton, OH 43326
- October 29: Shirley Bushong  
7280 Township Road 120  
Alger, OH 45812

website: [stjohnskenton.org](http://stjohnskenton.org)

Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio

Youtube: St. John's Evangelical Church





St. John's Family Ministry Happy October! This is not a trick, you should treat yourself to something spooky (but fun), sweet, or pumpkin flavored this month! You deserve it!

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

**Wednesday Kids-** We had a great first week back. The kids had so many things to share about their summer. This year we will be doing our lessons downstairs in the classrooms. Through October we will continue with the series from the Old Testament on Daniel.

**Wednesday Youth-** Our first night back was a success and exactly how we planned it to go. The Youth had their own time and then joined in with the younger kids. This was an awesome thing to experience. Watching the Youth work with the younger kids was just what we needed. We have a few younger ones that need one on one attention 24/7, we had a Youth step up without being asked and helped a little boy with his project and to follow the rules.

**Hardin County Collective-** We will be meeting October 23 at Camp Common Grounds in Dunkirk. After the New Year, we will be back on track with the first Sunday of each month. Watch the bulletin and Remind app for more updated information.

**Halloween Maze/trunk or treat-** October 29<sup>th</sup>. If there is anyone who would like to help set up or tear down, please get ahold of me. The plan this year is to put the maze down in the barn with cars parked outside for passing out candy. We will also still have the popcorn machine. This is still in the planning period. If you have any ideas to add or would like to be a part please reach out to me!

**Volunteers NEEDED**

**Sunday School-** we continue to have class the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month. This time is right after the Children's Message. We need some others who would be willing to take this class. Dates will be posted outside my office. All material and supplies will be given to you ahead of time.

**Wednesdays-** take a lot of Volunteers to make the nights run smoothly. Please prayerfully consider coming and sharing Gods love with these Kids or Youth. Our numbers are always low when we return from summer and then continue to grow here and there. Please come and see what this group is about.

*"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*

**Teach The Bible  
During School Hours**



LifeWise Academy is a Released Time Religious Instruction program which exists to reach students in public school with the gospel. Under little-known Released Time laws, students can be released from public school during the school day to attend religious classes, provided the program is off school property, privately funded and parent permitted.

Click this link to sign our list and then share with anyone else you know to get us to 50+ signatures! <https://lifewiseacademy.org/district/3910025/kenton-city>



Given what's happening in the World today, perhaps it is apropos to look back in time to the first part of the 1900s for a message of sweetness. If you're familiar with Hardin County history you have heard about the beginnings of Fig Newtons and R.E. Allen's candy business. The following is about a holiday many have forgotten about that we should begin to celebrate again.

Although Sweetest Day is sometimes perceived as a second Valentine's Day or a marketing gimmick to sell candy and greeting cards, this unofficial holiday with Cleveland roots was actually created to promote philanthropy and kindness (and candy).



The H. L. Runkle Candy Factory Kenton, OH 1916-1919

In 1916 the National Confectioners Association created "Candy Day," described as "The Sweetest Day in the Year." Despite a tepid public response, plans for a second Candy Day in 1917 were well under way until the U.S. Food Administration (led by future president Herbert Hoover) pointed out that the holiday ran contrary to government efforts to conserve sugar during World War I. The celebration was quickly cancelled. By 1921 Candy Day was a thing of the past, until a Cleveland advertising executive named Herbert Birch Kingston re-invented the day as a time to be kind and give treats to others. Eight Cleveland-area candy makers formed the "Sweetest Day in the Year" committee, and Sweetest Day was born.

That first Sweetest Day was celebrated on October 8, 1921. The October 2, 1921, issue of the Cleveland Plain Dealer included a four-page special section with article headlines such as "Climate Rules Sweets Taste," "Animals Crave All Sweetmeats," and "Makers of Candy Also Have Hobbies."

Silent film stars Theda Bara and Ann Pennington arrived in Cleveland to pass out treats at local theaters, and 10,000 boxes of candy were distributed to local orphanages, senior citizen homes, and other charitable organizations.

After the huge success of the first Sweetest Day, the holiday continued. Today it's celebrated on the third Saturday in October, primarily in the Great Lakes region. This year, let's take some inspiration from the 1922 Sweetest Day section in the Plain Dealer, which encouraged readers to "steal enough time from the turmoil of routine affairs to bring a bit of good cheer to those you love." Credits to Ohio History & Wikipedia

As Christians, we should amend that last quote to "to bring the love of Jesus to all in need of love".  
Jerry Pfister, Historian

St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Minutes  
Thursday, August 11, 2022  
6:00 PM

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

Secretary's Report - July 14, 2022 minutes

Motion to accept minutes and seconded, council vote, motion carried. Correction of the following information was made on July 14<sup>th</sup> Notes. *Social was very successful. Social made \$3361.50 Donated \$2700 to Recovery Court.*

REPORTS

1) Finance - Greg Martin

2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman

- Kids' Night Starting September 14<sup>th</sup> K-5: 5-7 and Youth 5:30-7:30

3) Women's Ministry

- Women's Celebration will be November 29, 2022
- Operation Christmas Child
- Fellowship Luncheon August 28
- New Member Reception October 16, 2022

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser

- Discussion about making Denny's pay a salary instead of hourly pay

6) Pastoral Relations - Anna LaWarre (chairperson)

- Discussed: Pastor Randall asked to have his contract changed from an opened ended contract to a 5- or 10-year contract. He is also planning for his studying leave for next year.
- Next meeting: November 13

7) Trustees

1. Audio Visual—Jerry Pfister

2. Van—Shane Harkenrider—still needs a first aid kit and fire extinguisher

3. Farm—Greg Martin

8) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin

- Toiletries bag/school supplies bags

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

Old Business

- NCD Committee Update
- Safety of Church/Alice Program - tabled
- Church inventory – Heather sent pictures

New Business

- Pastor Randall's Cell Phone Service is changing to Spectrum will raise price by \$5.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM (Please note: Changed due to the fair)

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

Lord's Prayer