

*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

April 2023

211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326
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HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday (April 2): 10 am Morning worship

Maundy Thursday (April 6): 6:30 pm Meal & Informal Service (meal provided)

Good Friday (April 7): Replaying of the Passion Play Online

Sonrise Service (April 9): 7 am Informal service at Boy Scout Lake, Small pavilion
May want to bring lawn chairs.

Easter Egg Hunt (April 9): 9:30 am Egg Hunt prior to the Easter Worship Service

Easter Festival Service (April 9): 10 am Traditional Easter Service with Communion

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

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

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APRIL 2023

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

Like most pastors in America, I emphasize that Easter is about so much more than the bunny or the eggs or the candies and the gifts. As Christians, we know that Easter is about the Resurrection of Christ, His triumph over the grave. However, we should admit, we like the triumph, but we tend to avoid what led to it. We focus our energy on Palm Sunday and Easter and will gladly gaze upon those days, but we give only a passing glance to Holy Week unless we have to stop and stare for a moment or two at Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.

I understand. Suffering and pain and death itself is avoided at all costs. We as a society spend great wads of wealth on potions and creams that keep our skin from sagging, make our wrinkles vanish, tuck our tummies, and ensure that our hairlines never recede. Even as children, we turned our heads when someone tended to the boo-boos on our elbows and knees.

Unfortunately, it's a reflex that remains with us into adult years. That's why ministries of mercy are often short-staffed. Who wants to visit a nursing home, AIDS patients, or the ICU of the children's hospital? Mission Trips force us to see poverty and need in our neighborhood, our country, and our world. Trust me, I'd rather go out for coffee with a friend than visit someone in prison, talk to a homeless person while sitting on the curb, or try to befriend a wayward youth.

Wouldn't life be grand if it were eternal summers, and rest and leisure kept us well fed, and health and vigor endured for all of us until old, old age? Like the hobos and tramps of old, I wish there was such a thing as **Big Rock Candy Mountain** (for those of you too young to remember, look that song up on YouTube). We all wish for comfort, tranquil days, and banquet tables covered with good food and drink.

It's hard to look at the other side. We love the Creation

story and seeing Adam rise from the dust and Eve coming forth from his side. We love to think about their comforting conversations with God in Garden, which gave rise to the popularity of the hymn ***In the Garden***. We even spend time thinking of God's providence even after the Fall for it portends the coming of Christ (**Genesis 3:15**). We sometimes point a finger at the foolishness of Adam and Eve for entertaining the serpent and tangling with him in a theological discourse.



"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." — Luke 9:22

However, we fail to stare too long lest we are confronted with the reality that their sin is our sin. Look to long, and you realize that their foolishness is our foolishness. Place us in Paradise, and our name would replace Adam's or Eve's in the biblical text. Given the

choice, we would eat the fruit for we have been and we have fallen short.

However much we wish to escape the ugliness of this world, it has a way of rearing its mug upon us.

If we do not see the Fall, we will never appreciate the Cross. However, we will never truly appreciate the Cross until we see the Savior battered and bruised, bloodied, and spat upon. He endured the humiliation of the Cross to set us free (**Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 12:2**). We love the freedom it brings, but we turn our heads because it was our shame that forced the exacting price upon Christ—His horror gave us our glory.

As always, we serve a generous God. Jesus' atoning death on the Cross was enough to free us from the penalty for our sins. However, the Father, in His infinite love, did not just want us to have standing before Him restored. As the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (**Luke 15**) extended grace upon grace to his wayward sons, so does our Heavenly Father do likewise for us. In

raising Jesus from the dead, He opened Heaven's gates for us that we may be with Him for all of eternity (**Romans 15:12-28**).

This year, Easter will take on a new significance for us as a church. I had hoped that body would have lasted in fairly good form for at least another decade. I knew at some point I would have to pastor through some ailment, but I never imagined cancer, especially this kind and this stage. I know it's hard for some to look upon me at times. Words don't always convey what is in our hearts, and Hallmark doesn't make a card that quite sums up what we are feeling.

I say this not to garner your pity or to force you to look upon my weakness and sickness, which are the consequences of sin and the forerunners of death. Other people have trod the path that I now tread. Many have endured far worse ailments. Numerous people have lived much shorter lives and endured greater hardships. We should grant mercy to every single one of those who suffer.

But God has placed this burden upon me at this time. I cannot say that I have a full picture of what that is. However, I have seen people grow closer to God as they examine their lives. It has caused people to think of their own mortality and reconsider how they use their time upon this earth. For a few people, my ailment has created a spirit of thankfulness for their good health and the ability to enjoy their lives this year.

This year, Easter is going to be different for me. Hopefully, I will continue to proclaim the Gospel as I have for the past couple of decades—there may be moments where I grow a little more fervent or have a few more tears in my eyes. Holy Week and the Cross will be bound to my back with a little more weight. Once you hear the diagnosis of cancer, Death's icy hand can be felt a bit more acutely.



Sin and death is a little more real for me than I'd like to admit. In fact, I have hoped to escape it all and head straight to the beach, but I cannot. Easter and the Resurrection may seem a little more distant to me personally in April, but I will still teach its power and promise to us.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH:

MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

First and foremost, the Resurrection isn't an escape hatch for us but a call to go and to tell and to share. The Resurrection transformed the Disciples from students of Jesus into the leaders of the early Church. May we go and serve with fervor as they did. That message will never change.

More personally, I need the Resurrection in my life now more than ever. While it may seem a little more distant, I know it is my companion too. My time of affliction and treatment will stretch until the end of the month. My cross is scheduled to come in June. For me, my little resurrection will come in July when I emerge from this season in one shape or another. Whatever may come, I await it eagerly, for it will bring me closer to the Lord, and I hope it does the same for you.

I wish I could spare you the spectacle of watching your pastor waver between joy and despair and sometimes ping-ponging to those poles within a sermon or a short conversation. I wish I could be more Christlike and set my face like flint (**Isaiah 50:7**) toward the goal before me as Christ did with the Cross. Through it all, I hope to show you what it means to be human while facing monumental obstacles WHILE STILL holding onto Christ.

Most of all, I hope you see the power of Christ evident in all things, even our weaknesses (**II Corinthians 12:10**). I pray you know the power of the Cross and the joy of following Christ and being a servant in this world. Most of all, I want your faith and conviction that the day of Resurrection is coming for all of us, so that truth may empower you and this church.

Alleluia. Christ is risen, and so shall we be!!!

With Christ's eternal love,

Pastor Randall

Preaching Series

April opens by leading us directly into Holy Week and then Easter. In the Easter season, our messages will focus on enacting Christ's teachings and words (which we looked at in Lent). May we be emboldened by the Resurrection to go and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ into this world

02 April Palm Sunday
 Scripture **Psalms 147:1-6**
Matthew 23:37-24:8
 Sermon **Gathered Children**

06 April Maundy Thursday
 6:30PM with dinner
 in the Fellowship Hall
 Scripture **Isaiah 50:4-9**
Matthew 26:36-46
 Sermon **Into the Hands of Sinners**

07 April Good Friday
 No worship
 scriptures for meditation
 Scripture **Exodus 26:31-35**
Mark 15:33-41
 Meditation **The Eye of the Beholder**

Do you see Jesus as the Son of God even as He hangs crucified, bloodied and beaten upon the Cross as the centurion did (**Mark 15:39**)? How did Jesus manifest Himself to the centurion as He died?

Watch: The Passion Play online



He's Risen!

09 April Easter
 Sunrise: 7:00AM, Boy Scout Lake
 Scripture **I Corinthians 15:12-14,**
20-22, 53-57
 Message **Sweet Victory**

09 April Easter
 Festival Service at St. John's: 10am
 Scripture **Job 19:23-27**
Matthew 28:1-10
 Sermon **Encountering the Risen Lord**

alleluia!
Christ has Risen!

16 April
 Testimony Shane Harkenrider
 Scripture **Philippians 4:2-9**
John 21:15-25
 Sermon **Put Into Practice**



23 April
 Scripture **Hebrews 3:7-19**
John 6:60-71
 Sermon **Places to Turn**

30 April
 Scripture **Proverbs 10:8-14**
James 5:13-20
 Sermon **Confess to One Another**

Good Friday Meditation

Gathering verses **Psalm 22:1-3**

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Scripture **Exodus 26:31-35**

31 “And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. 32 And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold, on four bases of silver. 33 And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy. 34 You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place. 35 And you shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side.



Scripture **Mark 15:33-41**

The Death of Jesus

33 And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” 35 And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” 36 And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us

see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.” 37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His



last. 38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that in this way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

40 There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41 When He was in Galilee, they followed Him and ministered to Him, and there were also many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.



GOOD FRIDAY

Meditation **The Eye of the Beholder**

When Jesus died on the Cross, those who witnessed His death and its manner looked upon Him as an object of derision. Beaten and bloodied, gasping for breath, He quoted from the **22nd Psalm** and cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Seemingly separated from God, this Man who claimed to be the Anointed One, fell into what appeared to be the abandonment of God.



But what do you see? Do you only see Jesus as glorious on Easter Sunday and at His Ascension later on? Do you see, even on the

Cross, that Jesus is glorious and beautiful? What the world calls tragic is the place where God’s wondrous work takes place. Even though the results of brutal power and taken aggression were clearly seen in the body of Jesus, those powers are impotent. Apart from the story of Christ, many of those in power would have long been forgotten. However, Jesus’ name lives on. Why? Because, through loving service and self-sacrifice, He defeated those who would have dominion over Him and over you and me. By taking into Himself the sin and death that is our judgment, He broke their bonds. At His death, the curtain in the Temple was rent asunder (**Mark 15:38**), and the Spirit of God was soon to be poured out upon humanity. At the same time, we were enabled to draw near the throne of grace with confidence (**Hebrews 4:16**). By the blood sacrifice of Christ, we can now enter into the presence of God.

Now, we, like the centurion standing by the Cross, can behold something much differently than what the world sees. Now, we can proclaim even in the midst of pain and suffering and tragedy, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” (**Mark 15:39**)



Upcoming Events



Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

Our nursing home ministry at Blanchard Place is April 4 at 1 pm. We 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.



Maundy Thursday Meal & Informal Service

On Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall, we will share a soup and bread meal followed by an informal service with communion. All are welcome and food is provided.

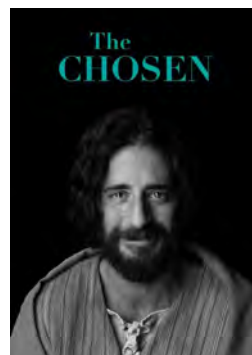
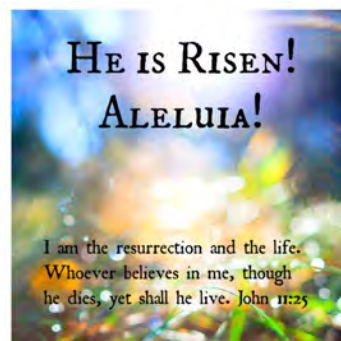


Community Sunrise Service

A Community Sunrise Service will be April 9 at 7 am at the small pavilion at Boy Scout Lake. You may want to bring your own chair. We will try to Facebook Live the service that morning.

Easter Sunday Festival Service

We will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with a traditional style service on Easter Sunday, April 9 at 10 am.



The Chosen Bible Study

We are gaging interest in starting a Bible Study in the fall on The Chosen Series. We have received permission to view the episodes at church. There are study guides available on Angel Studio's website on each season. We are looking at Saturday mornings from 8:30-10. It takes approx. an hour to watch an episode and 30 minutes for discussion. If you would be interested in this Bible Study, please contact Anna LaWarre or the church office.

Please join us for the First Annual Blessing of Bikes hosted by St. John's Evangelical Church and God's Thunder.



May 21, 2023

211 E. Carrol St., Kenton, OH

11:30 - Coffee and Donuts served

12:00 - Blessing of the Bikes

Open invitation to all to attend worship service beginning at 10am.

Sponsored by:

St. John's Evangelical Church and Christian Motorcycle Association, God's Thunder



Carl Lotz Scholarship

Purpose: To provide a scholarship to a Hardin County student or church member who plans to further their education and/or training for their career. Application, eligibility requirements, and procedure list is available online at <https://forms.gle/BxSY59hvCfpdEM2J6>. A copy of the application can also be found on the church website at www.stjohnskenton.org. Deadline to apply is April 28 (Must complete All 3 steps).

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.

April 7—Tony's (Findlay)

April 21—Kiyomi Sushi Steakhouse (Bellefontaine)

May 5—Casa Fiesta (Findlay)

May 19—Skinny's (Kenton)

June 2—Cranberry's (Indian Lake)

June 16—LaPizzaria (Indian Lake)

July 7—Luke's (Bluffton)

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

Youth Group (Grades 6-12): Wednesdays from 5-7 pm

Wednesday Night Kids (K- Grade 5): Wednesdays from 5-7 pm.

Wednesday Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:15 pm

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

Mission of the Month— SOUP

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 April and help warm the hearts and tummies of the truly needy in the county.

Church Office Hours

The 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.



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

April Birthdays on File:

April 12 DiAnn Weaver
c/o Blanchard Place
825 Richard Lane Room 107
Kenton, OH 43326

April 15 Dana Musser
363 N. Barron St.
Kenton, OH 43326

website: stjohnskenton.org
Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio
Youtube: St. John's Evangelical Church









It has been a fun year so far, but this month, we have got big plans for helping your kids grow closer to God like they never knew they could before.

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

March 29th- Wednesday Night Easter Party/Hunt 5-7PM

April 2nd- Hardin County Collective Event @ St. Johns Church 4-6PM

April 9th- Easter Egg Hunt 9:45am (kids can go to Church after or stay for Jr. Church)

Wednesday Night- The Bibles have been coming back each Wednesday with our kiddos/teens. They love looking up the Bible verses each week and even as a game to see who can find it first. We have heard amazing feedback, that they are reading them every night and some are reading them with their parents!! God is working in this group and they are learning they too can spread Gods love.

This month they will be looking into the New Testament on Easter. On a farm, life has a daily rhythm (for plants, animals, and people, too). "Life" is what this series is all about, because we are talking about Easter and Jesus' triumph over death! In this five-week series, kids will explore the stories leading up to and following Easter Sunday. Together, they will discover **we can stick with Jesus** even when our days are dark, and that because **Jesus is alive**, we can spend our days **meeting with Him**, trusting He's **there for us**, and **sharing His love** — not just today, but every day!

Youth Group- This group has out grown the upstairs classroom and has moved back down to the basement. They continue to invite their friends and help each week with the younger kids, anything from helping kitchen staff, calming down younger kids, helping with trays, these kids have really been a huge help this year and have really stepped up where needed. I know I say this probably every month, but I am so proud of each and every one of them.

Hardin County Collective- Last month we met at Kenton Christian Missionary Alliance Church for minute to win it games, there were some interesting games that were a lot of fun. If you would like to see more of what is happening with this group, there is a Facebook page. (Hardin County Collective) Our next event is here at St. Johns and we will be doing an Easter Escape room. The Youth will hear the story of Easter while also trying to escape. Dinner will be provided, as at each event.

Sunday School- We will have class after the Children's message on the 9th & 23rd.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

HCC Youth Texas Roadhouse

Peanut Fundraiser: The youth are selling Texas Roadhouse peanuts. They are \$5/bag plus a coupon for a free appetizer (with purchase of a meal). The proceeds will help with the cost of food each month and activities with include bowling, movies, swimming,



Operation Christmas Child:

A decorated box is located in the skylight room to place any items for this year's OCC shoe-boxes. See Toni Pfister with any questions.



As you have read in many of these articles the Katterjohn family have been members of our congregation for over 100 years. Rev. Henry Katterjohn was our 19th Pastor serving from 1897-1914 responsible for the church growth that resulted in our present sanctuary. Many of you remember Jack Katterjohn who served as Superintendent of our Sunday School (remember the Sunday school bell?). Continuing their service to Christ is our own Richard Katterjohn who has spent time, talent and treasure in support of the ministries of St. John's. The following is an excerpt from a Kenton Times Article dated April 5th, 1985 titled

TV Services Bring Sanctuary to Shut-ins

This article begins:

"Shut-ins aren't shut out of church services any longer, thanks to the ingenuity of a handful of volunteers at two Kenton churches. Local church services, on a one-week delay, videotaped by members of each church, are being seen on Channel 7 Sunday mornings by Kenton cable subscribers. The project was initiated by the Rev. Scott Patterson, following a suggestion by the St. John's men's Sunday school class to buy a videocassette recorder to tape various programs in the church. That was in the fall of 1983 and St. John's first broadcast, using borrowed equipment, was the first Sunday in 1984....."

Richard Katterjohn, an Ohio State University Lima branch student interested in cinematography, learned to use the equipment from a church member, Helping him is high school student Mitch Brown, along with Tom Osborn, Bob Temple, Ike Wirbel, Dave Deever and John Wyomic....."

Katterjohn, who would like to be a movie editor someday, is happy for the opportunity to work on his skills. "I have a Super 8 and they're similar," said Katterjohn, who already was "running the projector for youth groups." The original VCR is now used in the Sunday school and Katterjohn and Brown use the church's newest VCR along with a second on loan from a church member. "We're trying to get fancy now", Katterjohn said. "We're experimenting with two cameras and flipping back and forth, and using a fade-in, fade-out technique – a little thing I worked out."

St. John's has started a videotape library now and also has film from youth activities as well as special services."

Credit Lenore Christopher, Kenton Times

This is how Richard's wonderful, dedicated ministry started at St. John's. It has continued now for over 39 years and progressed technically to provide so much more. He is still learning, growing and serving Christ as a key member of St. John's. We are so blessed by his faith, presence and work.

THANK YOU Richard for all that you do for us!

Jerry Pfister, Historian



In the booth

Richard Katterjohn (right) and Mitch Brown work on fine tuning the picture of the Rev. Scott Patterson on

a monitor during a practice taping at St. John's United Church of Christ. A crew of three regularly tapes church services for later viewing on cable television. (Times photo)

St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2023
6:00 PM

Call to Order - Anna LaWarre, President

Present: Anna LaWarre, Shane Harkenrider, Hal Elsasser, Kay Rush, Greg Martin, Jerry Pfister

Opening Prayer— Pastor Randall

Leadership Development - Pastor Randall

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report - January 12, 2023 And January 22, 2023 minutes approved

REPORTS

1) Treasurer's Report—Kay Rush

- Church Windows update experiencing issues—she is working to resolve
- Report was approved

2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman—written report submitted including upcoming events

3) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush

- Lamb Banquet—March 4; Sports Hall of Fame in June but using outside caterer; Church Social—July 11

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver—No report

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser

6) Pastoral Relations - Anna LaWarre

7) Trustees

1. Audio Visual—Jerry Pfister

2. Van—Shane Harkenrider

3. Farm—Greg Martin—rental check will arrive early March

- Painting: Greg has 2 bids for painting the basement window trim, porch ceiling & tower windows.

8) Missions, Evangelism - Jerry as Treasurer advised going forward all missions need a tax exempt status designated by the IRS. Copies of W-9's should be obtained prior to donation

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

Old Business—dishwasher needs servicing, a seal is loose and there are parts rusting

New Business—The freezer is making noise when it cycles and needs attention.

Discussion of both topics yielded a direction to Jerry to contact Hobart service to see if they would handle both issues on one service call. If not it will require using two vendors to handle separately

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



Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign Up

St. John's supplies a meal for Celebrate Recovery twice a month. The meals are 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.