

*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**

March 2023

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)

### **VBS Planning Meeting—March 19**

A Vacation Bible School planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 19, following the worship service in the Chapel. Please plan to attend for more information and to let Michele know if you plan to volunteer. We are looking at the first week in June. We need to see if we have enough volunteers for that week. If you cannot make the meeting, please contact Michele directly. Thank you!



# 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)

MARCH 2023

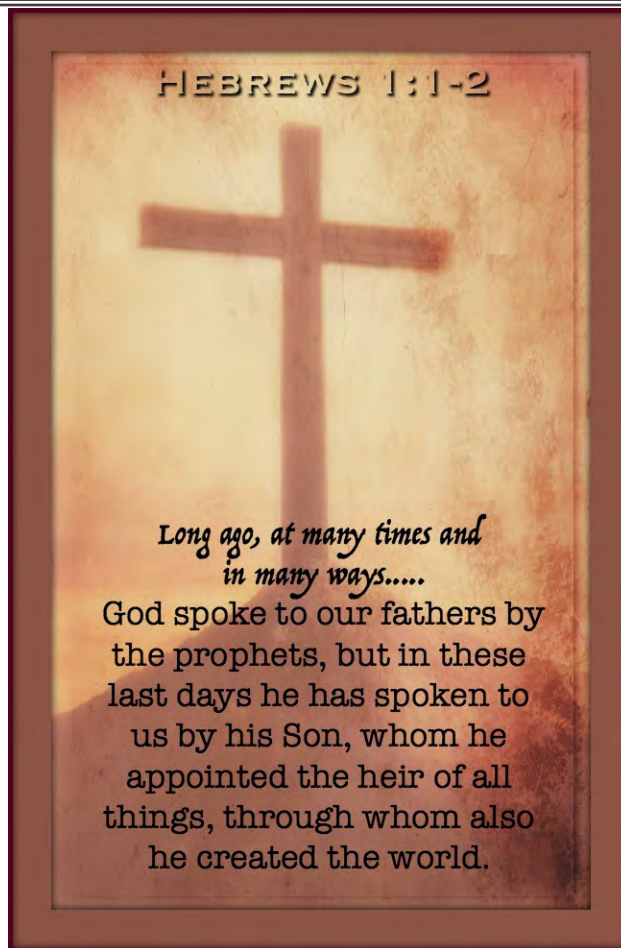
## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

As we enter the season of Lent, I often dwell on the phrase that I have repeated numerous times as I have imparted an ashen cross to the forehead of a fellow believer, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return..." Those words have taken on an added weight this year after having received a diagnosis that cancer has literally taken me by the throat. My days of returning to the dust may be closer than I dreamt. Still, when imparting the ashes, we do not end with returning to the dust. Rather, we emphasize, "...but the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever" (see **136th Psalm**).

In Lent, we are called to what is traditionally referred to as a penitent time. It is a time to be sorrowful for our sin. While we may have been born with original sin, we have continued legacy by continuing to sin—sometimes with joy and pride! Lent calls us to recall the consequences of our sin. Lent reminds us that if we had been alone in the garden, we too would have succumbed to temptation and bitten the forbidden fruit. Lent calls us to understand our sin more deeply and weep over it.

Until we plumb the depths of our sin, we will never understand our need for a great savior. And that is who and what Jesus Christ is to us. As the book of **Hebrews** begins, it reminds us that God gave us His only begotten Son to confront our sin and to free us from the bonds of death. He, the Creator of the world, has come to be its Redeemer. Jesus comes as a great High Priest and as the perfect sacrifice (**Hebrews 7-10**). He came as one who is able "to sympathize with our weaknesses" and "who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (**Hebrews 4:15**).



He is one of us and yet so very different from us. He comes to very clearly show us the way. The author of **Hebrews** (who is never identified) expertly ties the Old Testament to the New Testament. In the Old Testament, we see the shadows of what was to come—namely Christ and His salvation. Through Him we are freed from sin and death.

In chapter **11**, the author of **Hebrews** gives to us what has been referred to as the Hall of Fame of Faith. There, starting with Abel and going through the prophets, he shows how people lived, suffered and died without knowing the fulfillment of the Old Testament. As chapter **11** gives way to chapter **12**, we read, "Therefore, since we are

surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (**Hebrews 12:1-2**).



Like the believers in olden times, Jesus too died. For Him, it came with the shame of the Cross and the weight of our sins upon

His shoulders. The book of **Hebrews** lays out who Christ is to close with two chapters (**12-13**), which serves to exhort and encourage believers to endure difficult times and to suffer for the

greater good. Sometimes, God calls us to difficult times to discipline us and to sanctify us for continued service (**Hebrews 12:7-11**). Sometimes, as the previous chapter showed, we are called to offer our lives.

All of this was written that we should not fear whatever may come. As chapter **13** lays out, we need to respond with faith and compassion and generosity. In spite of adversity, we are to live out our faith in the community of the church. We are to follow our leaders with joy

(**Hebrews 13:17**). Faith in Christ means living sacrificially to the point of giving ones life for God.



Shortly after learning of my diagnosis, some people believed that my thoughts had taken a rather dark and morbid turn. I shared my conviction

that Job's words to his wife are equally true of me: "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips" (**Job 2:10**).

My cancer is not the work of the Devil or some other nefarious source. Satan has no claim on me. I believe in the absolute sovereignty of God. Monotheism teaches me there is but One God. The Devil has no authority in my life as I have been bought by the blood of Christ. Whatever comes is due to the outworking of God's plan for my life. I will be healed if it is God's will. I will be called home to Glory when it is God's will. I live abiding in those promises.

Until those results are in, I will faithfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ from the pulpit and with my life. In Lent, I remember my sin, the sins of the world, and the consequences that have been wrought by those sins. I will also remember that the Father's love is greater than my sin, that Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for my salvation (and for everyone who calls upon His name), and that the Holy Spirit will guide us faithfully through the trials and tribulations of this life. In Lent, we look at the disease for which no human creates a vaccine, but for which there is a divine cure.

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH:

MAKING AND MATURING  
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

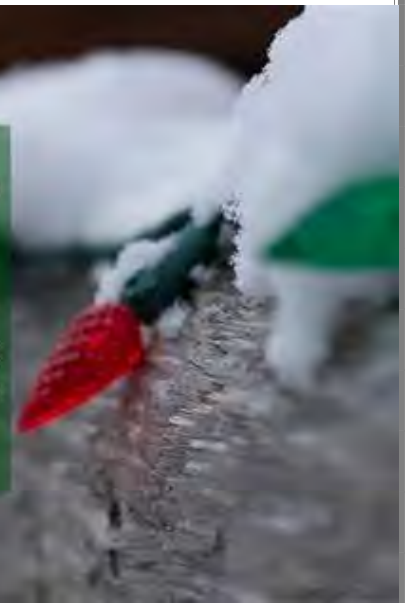
Having that cure does not deliver us from struggles or hardships. Having that cure does not guarantee us long life or prosperity. It does grant to us a fulfilled life and a good life. Having Christ, who is the Cure, gives us a way to live by faith. As the book of **Hebrews** teaches us: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (**11:1**).

Lent reminds us that we have too long lived for the things that we have seen. We have sought to possess worldly things and pleasures and squandered opportunities to cling to the unseen glory of the Kingdom of God. If we return in faith, we can find our way again in Christ. We can find satisfaction in the days we have, whatever their length. We find comfort in God, and the plan He has for our lives. May the benediction found in **Hebrews 13:20-21** (see below) comfort our souls as the Holy Spirit works in us what is pleasing to the Father through Jesus Christ the Son. May our lives point to His Glory Alone. May that be our assertion this Lent whatever our circumstances.

A fellow pilgrim on the way,

*Pastor Randall*

Now may the God of peace  
who brought again from the dead  
our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd  
of the sheep, by the blood of the  
eternal covenant, equip you with  
everything good that you may do  
his will, working in us that which is  
pleasing in his sight, through Jesus  
Christ, to whom be glory  
forever and ever. Amen.  
HEBREWS 13:20-21



## Preaching Series

Our Lenten journey this year focuses on Christ and His Church. Our theme is:

**Lent: Who is this Jesus?**

What Church do you want?

What Church do you need?

During this season, we were to ask ourselves if we are trying to build a church and ministry based on our wants and desires or if we are pursuing the heart of Christ, if we see and understand what Christ desires in His Church and if we watch how He lived and ministered on this earth. If we search for answers to those questions, hopefully we will seek to conform our desires to His and seek to build a Church in His image. Instead of building a church we want, we will build the church we need—one that glorifies God alone!

26 February

Scripture    **Revelation 7:9-17**  
                  **Matthew 9:9-13**  
Sermon    **Jesus, Friend of Sinners**

05 March

Scripture    **Numbers 22:7-14**  
                  **Matthew 5:1-12**  
Sermon    **The Blessed Life**

12 March

Scripture    **Luke 4:16-30**  
                  **Mark 6:1-6**  
Sermon    **Easily Offended**

19 March

Scripture    **Amos 5:18-24**  
                  **Luke 21:1-4**  
Sermon    **I Hate All Your Show**

26 March

Scripture    **I John 2:7-11**  
                  **John 15:1-11**  
Sermon    **Abide in Me**

02 April

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**  
Sermon    **The Eye of the Beholder**



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**

# Upcoming Events



## Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

Our nursing home ministry at Blanchard Place is March 7 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.

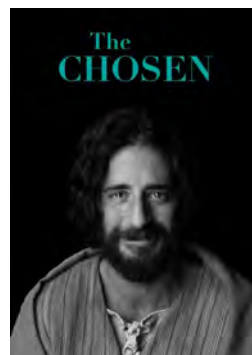
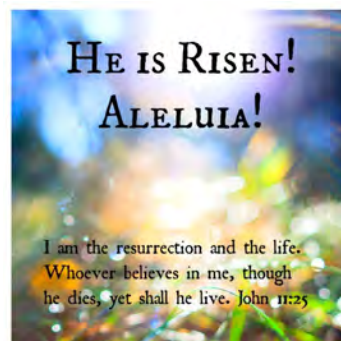


## Community Sunrise Service

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*



## 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.

March 3—Denny's (Findlay)

March 17—Beer Barrel Pizza (Lima)

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 7:30 pm

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

## 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.

## Mission of the Month— Child Evangelism Fellowship

# CEF

CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®

*Reaching children worldwide™*

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. For more information on their ministry, you can go to their website at: <https://www.cefofwestcentral.org/> or contact Jerry Pfister.

## 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)

### March Birthdays on File:

March 4	Walter Baughman 7692 SR 53 Kenton 43326
March 9	Nancy Rickenbacher 20551 SR 67 E Kenton 43326
March 31	Ethel Koch 522 N. Wayne St. Kenton, OH 43326

website: [stjohnskenton.org](http://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 kid grow closer to God like they never knew they could before.

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

March 5<sup>th</sup>- Hardin County Collective @Christian Missionary Alliance Church 4-6.PM

March- 19<sup>th</sup>- VBS Volunteer Meeting after Church service (Chapel)

**Wednesday Night-** This group of kiddos amaze me each week!! Before they headed home, they came and asked for their own Bibles. They told me they wanted to take them home, so they could read them every night!! How amazing is that?!! The young people are searching, they're wanting more. We ordered 30 Bibles, and each one of them went home with a new Bible. They will be bringing them back every Wednesday to use during their lessons.

Thank you to those who come each week and continue to pour into our Wednesday Night ministry. Without you, we would not be reaching the next generation here in Hardin County. If you would like to be part of this ministry, but are unable to attend, I ask you to pray for this group and the teams that are set in place.

**Hardin County Collective-** Last month we took the Youth out to Hillcrest Lanes for bowling. The Youth got pizza, drink and 2 games each. They all had a great time; we had a great turnout for this event. We have set the Calendar for upcoming events and we will be meeting the first Sunday of every month, if the event set in place allows.

**Sunday School-** We will have class after the Children's message on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

***"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."***

***Galatians 6:9-10***

Please feel free to come talk to me if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns. We can only better this ministry if we work together.

Many Blessings to you all this month, Michele ☺





Back in 1939 St. John's celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In the Memorial token which was distributed in 1940 was a paragraph I found well worth repeating as we find ourselves in similar unsettled times today.

### *The Church Beautiful*

*Since our church has taken on new beauty and dignity all members and friends should find it impelling and compelling to say with the Psalmist of old "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house; and the place where Thine honor dwelleth. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love Thee. Peace be within Thy wall and prosperity within Thy tabernacles. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity: Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God; who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven; and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. He hath showed thee, O man, what is good. And what doth the Lord require of thee but do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thy God?. And in conclusion, the words of our Savior: Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all Thy heart, with all they soul, and with all they might. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

*To the memory of the loyal workers of the past, to honor of the loyal workers of today and to the quickening of the spirit of those who are to follow us, we dedicate this booklet most gratefully and affectionately.*

Today we have so very much to be thankful for in our beautiful Church, but more importantly our Church family. As we strive to persevere in the faith, let us heed the example from our past and be unified in achieving our goal-"Making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ".

Peace and Grace be with you,  
Jerry Pfister, Historian



St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Minutes  
Thursday, January 12, 2023  
6:00 PM

Call to Order - Terry Hord, President

Present: Shane, LeVern, Heather, Pastor Randall, Jerry, Terry Guest: Dave Beazley

Opening Prayer

Leadership Development - Pastor Randall

Church Health Care – Dave Beazley

- Biblical Based Worship
- Worship Planning Team
  - Pastor Randall
  - Dave Beazley
  - Jennifer Whitaker
  - Jane Baker

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report - December 8, 2022 minutes

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

REPORTS

1) Finance - Jerry Pfister

- Updated Life Funds Policy from Tracy Strous
- Discussion of the 2023 proposed budget

2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman

3) Women's Ministry

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser

6) Pastoral Relations - Anna LaWarre

- Next meeting: February 12 at 11:15am

7) Trustees

1. Audio Visual—Jerry Pfister
2. Van—Shane Harkenrider
3. Farm—Greg Martin

8) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin

- CMA Bike Blessing: May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 with Donuts and Coffee

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

Old Business

New Business

- Members running for council (Greg Martin- can rerun 2<sup>nd</sup> term) Who will be on the ballot?

Correspondence

Next Meeting: February 9, 2023 6:00 PM.

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 is 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.